



American Model United Nations
General Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization

FAO/I/6

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

SUBMITTED TO: The General Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization

The General Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization,

1 *Recognizing* that the development of new plant genetic resources is an important part of ensuring the diversity
2 of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA),

3 *Noting* the importance of small farmers' contributions to the diversity of PGRFA,

4 *Recognizing* that developing member states lack the same level of resources as developed Member States,

5 *Understanding* that differing intellectual property rights among Member States make universal international
6 collaboration difficult to achieve,

7 *Acknowledging* the benefits of expanding the availability of PGRFA as a means of developing agricultural
8 sustainability,

9 1. *Encourages* the development of robust breeding programs to ensure diverse plant genetic resources exist
10 and are widely available:

11 (a) To ensure food security by developing strains that can survive challenges resulting from climate
12 change, diseases, diminishing resources and any other problems;

13 (b) By promoting collaborations between farmers, plant breeders and agricultural ministries to
14 evaluate and identify needs for plant genetic diversity and adjust breeding programs to prioritize those needs;

15 (c) Through the integration of modern techniques such as pre-breeding into plant breeding programs
16 in order to more easily identify desirable traits and genes from donor materials;

17 (d) By encouraging participatory plant breeding in which farmers have the opportunity to make
18 decisions at any point in the breeding process;

19 2. *Promotes* the development and commercialization of all plant varieties, primarily small farmers' varieties
20 and underutilized species:

21 (a) To better understand and maximize the full potential of these varieties, including their potential
22 to provide food, nutritional and economic security;

23 (b) Through the identification of all varieties that have the potential for increased commercialization
24 and sustainable use;

25 (c) By documenting local and traditional knowledge about all varieties in digital databases and any
26 other systems for information storage;

27 (d) By developing marketing methods for all varieties so farmers can distribute them in a broad
28 range of markets;

29 3. *Recommending* the formation of partnerships along Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)
30 guidelines between developed and developing Member States in order to:

31 (a) Alleviate the burden of potentially predatory or unbalanced relationships between developing
32 Member States and their plant genetic resource suppliers by leveraging a mediator with stronger negotiating power;

33 (b) Provide a security blanket to developing Member States' agricultural sectors so they have further
34 opportunities to implement measures regarding self-sustainability;

35 (c) Recommend partnerships whereby ratifying Member States provide the necessary technical ex-
36 pertise to developing member states to establish acceptable base conditions for sustainable agricultural development;

37 4. *Recommending* the formation of a committee dedicated to the mediation of relationships between devel-
38 oped and developing Member States:

39 (a) With the aim of protecting national sovereignty;

40 (b) To provide countries not yet committed to partnerships an avenue for partial participation or
41 full collaboration in the future.

Passed, Yes: 13 / No: 2 / Abstain: 4