**FORUM:** General Assembly 3 – Social, Humanitarian and Cultural

**QUESTION OF:** The question of the production of Genetically Modified Foods

**SUBMITTED BY:** Russian Federation

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** Turkey, Israel, Kazakhstan, Vietnam, United Kingdom, Antigua and Barbuda, USA, Italy, Pakistan,Kenya, Spain, Australia, Mexico, Latvia, Chile, Rwanda, Turkey, Brazil

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

*Defining* genetically modified (GM) foods as foods derived from organisms whose genetic material (DNA) has been modified in a way that does not occur naturally,

*Noting,* the EU labeling regulation requires that any food containing GM ingredients or derivatives in an amount larger than 0.9% will have to be labeled,

*Pointing out* the Plant Biotechnology Consultation Program created in the 1990’s to cooperatively work with Genetically Engineered (GE) plant developers to help them ensure foods made from their new GE plant varieties are safe and lawful by evaluating the safety of food from the new GE crop before it enters the market,

*Recognising* the Federal Register of January 18, 2001, which issued a proposed rule that would require that developers submit a scientific and regulatory assessment of the bioengineered food 120 days before the bioengineered food is marketed,

*Viewing with appreciation* the extensive amounts of input by civil society organisations, as well as academia, on both the research and development of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs),

*Recognizing* the advantages that GM foods present against non-modified organisms, such as faster growth rate and the capacity to thrive in harsher environments,

1. Requests extensive reports for newly introduced Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), which must be approved by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) before commercial introduction, including but not limited to:
   1. a description of the genetic element inserted in the organism, both where it was isolated and when it was characterised,
   2. the portion of the genetic element inserted in the vector, including both its size and location,
   3. a thorough safety assessment on all GMOs intended for human consumption, on areas such as but not limited to:
      1. direct health effects regarding toxicity of the Genetically Modified Food (GMF),
      2. potential of the Genetically Modified Food to provoke or introduce (new) allergies,
      3. components in the Genetically Modified Food that are known to have toxic properties,
2. Encourages accurate and standardized labelling for GM products globally by including necessary information to the public that includes:
   1. biotech components if they exceed 0.9%,
   2. a recognizable logo, created by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), which states the product contains GM components,
   3. full disclosure of products present and any allergens found in the product that may not be expected to be present;
3. Endorses the education of GM Foods as a topic to provide the public with information on how to make an educated choice on whether to purchase GM or Non-GM products through;
   1. implementing a standardized teaching program aimed at children ages 13-18 to be part of their school curriculum,
   2. providing campaigns created by the WHO to promote awareness surrounding the topic of GM crops through unbiased means such as but not limited to;

News articles,

Internet Media,

Online Databases containing accurate information concerning GM Foods,

1. Recommends infrastructure to implement a system of traceability, that would be monitored by the WHO on companies involved in any stage of the production of GM foods that includes:
2. each stakeholder that produces or trades GM raw materials, ingredients, or foods to pass information onto subsequent stakeholders in the food supply chain,
3. legal documentation that declares the company handles GMOs which stays valid for 5 years,
4. accurate documentation of the route the GM Foods took from initial production in farms to the final product;
5. Invites further growth of GMOs industry to increase economic growth through means such as but not limited to:
   1. UN and locally funded research projects to explore and determine new variety of GM crops to further allow growth in the industry,
   2. increasing distribution lines of GM crops by increasing of retail buyers of GM products, which can be achieved by developing better relationships between the public and GM crops to assure safety;
6. Requests system to be implemented to farmers growing GM crops to decrease the percentage of genetic pollution from GM crops to non-GM crops through:
   1. creating buffer zones of 50 meters for GM crops of which their biotech components are 0.9% and 250m for any higher biotech components that will:
      1. create an isolated area between non-GM and GM products,
      2. creates an area that can be used for harvesting the pollen drift so that it can be destroyed,
   2. encouraging staggered plantings of crops if GM planters and non-GM planters are situated in a close distance less than 250 meters,
7. Further Invites the establishment of an UN Taskforce within the FAO to identify particular environmental risks and perform annual quality control and quality assurance assessments on areas such as farmlands or laboratories producing GM crops by:
   1. producing yearly reports from each country producing GM products of the assessment of post-market environmental monitoring that identify potential risks or uncertainties that can be mitigated through cultivation using sources such as:
      1. biodiversity monitoring networks,
      2. farming questionnaires,
   2. create a reporting center at member state level to ensure all information is attainable;
8. Supports the setup of international legislation dealing specifically with imposing penalties for those who are found to have violated the terms of the production of GM products and implementing compensation to farmers who have had their land contaminated by GMOs through:
   1. instigating retribution for violators, by means such as, but not limited to:
      1. fining the company,
      2. suspending companies trading,
   2. establishing monetary compensations for landowners of cross contaminated land;

1. Recommends further research on environmental risk assessments to stop events happening such as but not limited to:
   1. the decrease in (agricultural) biodiversity at Genetically Modified Food farmlands,
   2. the chance of Genetically Modified Genes to escape into wild populations;
2. Encourages member states to remain actively seized on the matter.