**FORUM:** Third Committee of the General Assembly

**QUESTION OF:** Genetically modified foods (GMF)

**SUBMITTED BY:** South Korea

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

*Defining* Genetically Modified Food (GMF) as foods derived from organisms whose genetic material (DNA) has been modified in a way that does not occur naturally, e.g. through the introduction of a gene from a different organism,

*Recognizing* that monitoring the safety of GMF’s is a long-term process according to the World Health Organization (WHO),

*Reminds* all nations that GMF’s have cultural implication as certain religions prohibit the consumption of genetically engineered foods,

*Emphasizes* that the purpose of producing GMF commodities is to benefit producers through it’s low cost and durability, contrary to natural foods,

*Acknowledges* that GMF’s that have been securely tested by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and WHO can benefit the consumer, due to its nutritional value,

*Defining* a specific tax as a tax which is a fixed amount of money added on to the market price of a good or service to increase the producer and consumer burden of the commodity. Often implemented to discourage the consumption and production of a good or service and to create or increase government revenue,

*Reminding* members of state that the UN Tax Committee provides a framework for dialogue with the aim of enhancing and promoting international tax cooperation amongst national tax authorities and to assess how new and emerging issues could affect this cooperation,

1. Urges the FAO and WHO to further build on the Codex Alimentarius to ensure a good standard of safety and regulation, with regards to food guidelines, through methods such as, but not limited to;
   1. Setting up an international fund through an organization such as, but nominating the IFAD or the World Bank, based on GDP per capita, to strengthen the measures taken in regulating the safety of GMFs,
   2. Improve its current application for authorization which is to be sent to the WHO that meets the following requirements:
      1. detailed description of the methods of production and manufacturing employed,
      2. statements that the food will not raise ethical or religious conflicts burdening the consumer,
      3. include a copy of independent peer-review studies
2. Calls for the FAO to label all GMF commodities on the packaging to allow consumers an informed choice, in the hopes of avoiding cultural disputes, GMF commodities should be labeled accurately and comprehensively, specifying the following at a minimum:
   1. that a product is genetically modified,
   2. whether such left-over GMFs are to be released into the environment through regulations of the UNEP, illuminating the possible environmental implications of exposing the environment to such GMFs,
   3. name, type, use and entity that has genetically modified the organism;
3. Encourages member states to domestically monitor GMF-producing firms to enforce and ensure that the standard safety procedures which are omnipresent and all agreed upon are being adhered to, through the following means of regulation:
   1. regular checks by food safety department officials at productions sites,
   2. annual reports from the firms that show that food safety standards have been met,
   3. research on GMFs, funded by the UNEP, prior to being released into the environment or placed on the market for common consumption;
4. Endorses nations' right to invoke the safeguard clause, set-up by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), to temporarily ban the use or cultivation of GMF products in its domestic territory, the safeguard clause may only be utilized should the following criteria be met:
   1. if a nation can substantiate their actions with new or additional information that an authorized GMF can pose a threat to the environment or human health,
   2. if certain GMF commodities contain substances that do not abide by a country’s cultural practices, thus having the potential to cause social conflict;
5. Invites each member state to levy a specific tax, monitored by the UN Tax Committee, on GMF goods that are sold to consumers to compensate for potential environmental damages, which may be caused by:
   1. transport,
   2. environmental damage inflicted upon ecosystems and protected species of organisms when producing the GMF;
6. Calls for the creation of the UNFSAP (United Nations Modified Food Safety Awareness Program), a comprehensive communication program that informs citizens on the advantages and disadvantages of GMF’s through methods of, but not limited to:
   1. spreading information on social media platforms, such as Facebook, to inform the consumers of the advantages and disadvantages of GMF’s ;
   2. require every GMF-producing firm to have an information page on its website about nutritional and safety details regarding its commodities,
   3. requiring each nation who imports or produces GMF-commodities to further inform citizens by producing advertisements, run by its government body that is affiliated with media;
   4. readings to be held at in primary, secondary and university settings at least once a year to inform the younger generations of both benefits and detriments of GMF’s (Dom. Rep.);
7. Encourages members states to tighten trade barrier measures through quotas and tariffs on imports of GMF commodities large from nations who currently control large portions of the GMF market to ultimately;
   1. encourage domestic infant industries to grow and increase output, leading to a country’s overall economic growth,
   2. increase global competitiveness in the GMF market, leading to innovation and greater efficiency;
8. Urges all members states to stay actively seized on the matter.
9. Designates the UNFSAP to establish an annual conference, to be held in Zurich, where representatives from the WHO, the FAO and the UNFSAP will meet with representatives from all nations in order to discuss research, benefits and detriments of GMF’s;