**FORUM:** GA3 (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural)

**QUESTION OF:** The production of Genetically Modified (GM) Foods

**SUBMITTED BY:** Slovakia

**CO-SUBMITTED BY:** Croatia, El Salvador, Slovenia, Greenpeace, Bolivia, Sweden, Ethiopia, Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Serbia. Denmark

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

*Recalling* the first commercial release of genetically modified (GM) crops in 2001,

*Acknowledging* the ever-increasing need for global food supplies,

*Concerned by* the evidence showing serious health and environmental concerns linked to GM foods,

*Stressing* the need for local seed supply, leading to agricultural self-sustainability of LEDCs,

*Observing* the reliance on GM foods of some developing nations such as Brazil, Argentina and India,

*Endorsing* the work of local farmers in El Salvador to fend off potentially hazardous GM seeds by using locally procured seeds to produce record crop yields,

*Noting* the potential negative effects on the ecosystems: other vegetation through pollination and wildlife through ingestion of GMO crops,

1. *Calls upon* nations to promote the work of NGOs in supporting local farming cooperatives to produce their own seeds by providing funds for individual research and development;
2. *Urges* nations to enforce stricter regulation procedures on biotech companies, to reduce health and environmental hazards caused by GM crops;
3. *Suggests* a maximum of 25 per cent of the world’s food supply should come from GM foods, reinforced until enough research has been done to ensure that all GM foods do not harm the environment nor the human body;
4. *Designates* all Member States to raise awareness of potential risks of GMO production as well as consumption on health and environment through implementing measures such as, but not limited to:
5. Creating TV campaigns
6. Creating radio campaigns
7. Including it in education programmes;
8. *Encourages* farmers to introduce labelling of animals that have been fed with GM foods, if they are intended for human consumption;
9. *Proposes* commencement of compulsory training courses as well as an introduction of a legal licence for biotech crop growers or all operators dealing with biotech crops;
10. *Urges* the patent companies to reduce the time period of the patent for GM seeds from 20 to 10 years, therefore opening the market of GM seeds for more competition and research;

1. *Suggests* that, in order to reduce the world food crisis and hunger, the funds for GM foods should be diverted from GMO research and put into developing more sustainable and natural solutions, such as but not limited to:
2. Donating African rice and pearl millet seeds, known to grow well in harsh environments, to countries which lack optimum farming conditions,
3. Rice Intensification Systems,
4. Building greenhouses on roofs of food producing industries in order to produce more food in a limited space;
5. *Calls upon* farmers and biotech companies to reduce the number of GMO farms nearby conventional farms in order to prevent the spread of GMO pollen that could mix with the conventional crops, resulting in hybrid crops and therefore violating the consumer rights;
6. *Suggests* that the current producers of GM foods should implement recognizable GMO symbols, ensuring that both literate and illiterate are made aware of the GMO content in their food, respecting their consumer rights.