



Proposed resolution: to be adopted by the General Assembly at the 65th session

Ensuring food security through equitable access to seeds and farming innovation

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming its respect for and commitment to international law,

Recognizing access to food as a fundamental human right outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and various other international instruments,

Also recognizing the rights laid out in article 9 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture,

Acknowledging the urgent need for a coordinated international plan of action to increase food production by 70 per cent by 2050, in response to global hunger,

Also acknowledging the connection between food security and climate change,

Also acknowledging that solutions to hunger will need to be safe, effective and environmentally sustainable,

Also acknowledging the need to empower small farmers through access and sharing of resources,

- 1) Agrees to establish a *Global Seed and Farming Cooperative* that will work within Member States, under the leadership of the Committee on Food Security. Member States will collectively contribute an additional \$5 billion to fund the initial establishment and implementation of the cooperative. The Cooperative will sustain operations through the following ongoing funding sources:
 - a. A membership fee of 2 per cent of annual profits
 - b. Annual grants from the International Fund for Agricultural Development

By working through designated local organizations, the Cooperative will:

- i. Create an internationally-regulated, not-for-profit system for the safe and effective exchange of local seed varieties appropriate to local conditions and environments. The system will include standards for storage and cataloguing. Seed availability and quality will be tracked through a global database. The system will provide an alternative to commercial seed markets, while working with farmers to ensure patent laws are not violated.
 - ii. Develop and implement land-share and farmer field school programs through the purchase of local arable land. Local families will have the opportunity to purchase land from the cooperative. A portion of the land will be used for education programs.
 - iii. Maintain regionally-based research institutes for farming and seed innovation. The research institutes will work with local farmers and combine science, agro-ecology and experience to improve crop yields through farming and seed production innovation relevant to the local environment. Innovations will be tracked through the global database to facilitate knowledge sharing across regions.
 - iv. Maintain an online and print directory of local small-scale farmers. This directory will be accessible to retailers and humanitarian missions in need of food and supplies.
- 2) Agrees to amend national policy of Member States to allow for the implementation of the Cooperative, including:
 - i. provisions to allow for the Cooperative to operate within the country without interference from private organizations
 - ii. land reform policy to allow the Cooperative first-right-of-refusal on a pre-determined portion of available arable land