**FORUM:** ECOSOC

**QUESTION OF:** The usage of Genetically Modified (GM) crops

**MAINSUBMITTER**: United Kingdom

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** China, Belgium, ROK and Pakistan

THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

*Emphasizing* the importance of an evidence-led and proportionate regulatory approach for Genetically Modified (GM) crops to unlock the technology’s benefits for human health, agriculture, and the environment;

*Recognizing* that GM crops now account for 10 percent of the lands used for agriculture, and has a market size of 23.6 billion dollars in 2024 with a CAGR of 5.7 percent, and the current dominance in the international GM crop seed market held by 4 major companies with over 60% of production;

*Realizing* the meaningful change GM crops have brought and may bring to agriculture and local food markets;

*Being fully aware* of enormous potential benefits of GM crops such as pest, disease resistance, enhanced nutrients, and greater yield per crop;

*Concerned* about potential irreversible damage on the environment and economy which will eventually affect not only the member states growing unverified GM crops but also the rest of humanity;

*Calls* for a careful and balanced measure to address the issues related to the use of GM crops to safeguard the ecosystem;

*Highlighting* the growing economic risks faced by LEDCs that are heavily dependent on primary industries like agriculture, particularly considering the monopoly of GM crop production within a few major companies;

*Requests* all member states to prioritize public health and preservation of the environment with restrictions on development, thorough assessment on safety, and long-term research, and monitoring to scientifically confirm the safety of each GM crop;

1. Encouraging member states with strict regulations on the production and release of GM crops and NGOs to make changes to existing regulations that prioritizes scientifically plausible risks associated with the GM crops by:

1. eliminating unnecessary regulatory burdens when no scientific evidence indicates environmental and human health harm:
2. establishing collaborative partnerships with experienced regulators to share insights on effective risk assessment methodologies,
3. creating a specialized regulatory pathway for GM crops exhibiting characteristics selected in traditional breeding,
4. instituting a periodic review mechanism for regulatory frameworks about evolving scientific knowledge and technological advancements made in GM crops including, but not limited to:
5. Sainsbury Lab's blight-resistant Maris Piper potato, which saves £50m annually for UK potato farmers,
6. Argentina's drought-resistant wheat, modified with sunflower genes, approved in multiple countries,
7. China’s production of varieties of genetically modified soybeans and corn for import that helps to improve food security and reduce imports.

1. Urging all member states and NGOs to make an assessment system for GM crops in ways including, but not limited to:
2. establishing a comprehensive safety assessment framework.
3. defining the safety assessment guidelines based on the potential risks (further mentioned in sub clause b clause 2)
4. conducting a long-term safety assessment on GM crops,
5. investing in safety-assessment facilities,
6. developing safety-assessment methodologies,
7. proposing environmental risk assessments for genetically modified organisms which shall include:
8. identify and evaluate the potential damage to the environment, whether direct or indirect, immediate, or delayed, which may arise from the release or commercializing of genetically modified organisms,
9. immediately abandon any GM that shows signs of causing unnecessary harm to humans, animals, or the environment
10. adding bibliographic references and indications of the methods used where applicable,
11. examining the risks of damage to the environment which may be posed by the deliberate release or marketing of those genetically modified organisms that might contain antibiotic resistance markers,
12. monitoring GM crops in the long term after they are released in ways including, but not limited to:
13. encouraging all member states to submit annual reports about the status of GM crops that have been released into farms.
14. organizing groups of experts from scientific, biological, and agricultural fields to continue the safety assessment for the GMO crops that are already released;
15. releasing information on data or results from any previous release of the GM crops or combination which has been carried out by the applicant that will include:
16. an environmental risk assessment prepared in accordance mentioned above,
17. the proposed conditions for the marketing of the product, including specific conditions of use and handling,
18. a proposed period for the consent which shall not exceed ten years,
19. a monitoring plan prepared in accordance with which may differ from the proposed period for the consent,
20. a proposal for labelling,
21. a proposal for packaging.

1. Calling for efforts to improve social awareness of users, farmers, and government officials on GM crops for fostering informed decision-making and public acceptance by:
2. educating about GMOs in the Education Curriculum:
3. incorporating information about GM crops into educational curricula of biology to provide a foundational understanding of the science, benefits, and potential concerns associated with genetically modified crops,
4. launching campaigns about GM crops on digital platforms and mass media:
5. implementing awareness campaigns on digital platforms and mass media,
6. engaging in the creation informative content, such as videos, articles, and interactive media to communicate their role in sustainable agriculture,
7. opening access to scientific data and findings to the public:
8. establishing accessible databases containing scientific data, research findings, and safety assessments related to GM crops to enhance transparency,
9. ensuring that experts from various fields have open access to relevant data to fosters collaboration and allows for diverse perspectives,
10. implementing clear and standardized labeling for GM crops and products that have undergone rigorous safety assessments mentioned in clause that promotes transparency in the market and allows individuals to make choices aligned with their preferences and values.

1. Requesting thathuman, animal health, and the environment be protected by introducing a restriction for careful measure of releasing GM crops including, but not limited to:
2. promoting 'deliberate release', the introduction of a GMO into the wider environment, a stringent evaluation criterion is applied by regional authorities which is specific to that authority's environment that encompasses:
3. individuals or businesses wishing to use GM crops must notify the relevant regional authorities and all nearby farmers within a certain area,
4. farmers wishing to use GM crops must undergo training to ensure that the crop does not contaminate the surrounding environment,
5. encouraging farmers to separate GM crops from other crops, to prevent the genetical pollution of non-GM crops,
6. restricting release of GM crops in reasonable and scientific ways including, but not limited to:
7.
8. giving member states the right to embargo GM crops,
9. prohibiting usage of GM crops which safety is not confirmed through multiple science investigations,
10. ensuring the sustainable method of growing GM crops ...
11. sanctions of using pesticides on GM crops,
12. researching for better ways to grow GM crops to ensure safety,
13. financially supporting research and development (R&D) projects.

1. Encouraging member states with regulation of GM to separate precision breeding from the regulation of GM crops by:
2. allowing farmers to grow crops which are drought and disease resistant, reduce use of fertilisers and pesticides, and help breed animals that are protected from catching harmful,
3. introducing a new science-based and streamlined regulatory system that will focus on facilitating greater research and innovation in precision breeding Food that will:
4. ensure that food Standards Agency will consult on new food and feed legislation and produce a new proportionate risk assessment for precision bred food and feed,
5. stress the important to recognise that there is a need to safeguard animal welfare in the new regulatory framework.

1. Promoting international cooperation involved with international organizations and scientific fields to relieve economic burdens and risks for LEDCs by:
2. promoting technology sharing from MEDCs in ways such as but not limited to:
3. encouraging the transfer of technological knowledge from MEDCs to LEDCs to foster development and innovation,
4. including sharing advanced agricultural technologies, manufacturing processes, and other relevant expertise,
5. proposing a merging of international regulatory authorities on GMOs, food and drugs such as the FDA and EFSHA into a single organization for greater cooperation and ease of information sharing
6. financially supporting GM Crops Research in LEDCs in ways such as but not limited to:
7. providing financial support for research facilities in LEDCs focused on genetically modified (GM) crops focused on boosting agricultural productivity,
8. contributing to the development of crops that are more resilient to pests, diseases, and adverse climate conditions, ultimately improving food security,
9. investing in research that led to the creation of genetically modified crops that require fewer resources, such as water and pesticides, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, helping LEDCs facing environmental challenges and resource constraints,
10. financially supporting LEDCs in GM Crops Implementation in ways such as but not limited to:
11. financial aid directed towards LEDCs can be utilized to build local capacity for the implementation of GM crops. This includes training farmers, establishing infrastructure, and ensuring the proper regulatory frameworks are in place for the responsible adoption of genetically modified technologies,
12. navigating international markets to open opportunities for economic growth and trade, reducing the economic disparities between nations,
13. ensuring that their GM crops meet international standards and regulations,
14. assisting the entry of LEDC's into the international GMO industry in ways such as but not limited to:
15. establishing testing apparatus, laboratories and creating affordable GM seeds specific to those local environments,
16. acknowledging the benefits of traditional agroecological practices and endeavoring to find compromise between the adoption of GM crops and traditional farming practices in ways such as but not limited to:
17. encourages genetic diversity of GM crops, having multiple cultures of GMs in a single crop for the benefits of increased resilience against pests, diseases, and changing environmental conditions,
18. implementing crop diversity to improve soil fertility and structure, reduce erosion, and enhance nutrient cycling, leading to healthier and more productive agricultural systems.

1. Calling upon member states that allows regular use of GM crops to address the dominance of Bayer, Corteva, ChemChina, and Lima grain in the GM crops seed market (over 60% market share), who annually compel farmers to purchase new GM crop seeds, causing financial strain and fostering excessive dependence on the limited offerings of the four major companies:
2. diversifying the GMO market to benefit consumers in ways such as but not limited to:
3. imploring companies with critical GMOs (such as golden rice and bananas that contain antigens for Hepatitis) to release their patents in return for government financial compensation, thereby reducing the prevalence of seed sovereignty,
4. proposing fair trade practices and regulations that maintain a competitive market while respecting the legal rights of companies, ensuring a balanced approach that benefits both consumers and GM crop producers,
5. gradually breaking monopolies by supporting colleges and new companies with money for researching crops and improving their facilities,
6. preventing companies abusing monopoly in steps such as but not limited to:
7. making annual inspections and reports on mergers,
8. punishing companies that are abusing monopoly by suspending and fining.

1. Strongly encouraging for a balanced approach of both GM crops and non-GM crops:
2. encouraging farmers to integrate both GM and non-GM crops in their cultivation practices in steps including, but not limited to:
3. highlight the ecological and economic benefits of a diversified approach, including soil health improvement and risk mitigation,
4. provide financial support and grants to farmers engaging in diverse crop cultivation,
5. establish funding programs that reward the adoption of balanced agricultural practices, such as grants for research on sustainable farming methods that incorporate both GM and non-GM crops,
6. develop a policy framework that explicitly supports the coexistence of GM and non-GM crops by:
7. ensuring that regulations and guidelines accommodate the cultivation of both types of crops,
8. addressing concerns related to cross-pollination, contamination, and market access.

1. Calling upon a construction of system to effectively associate with the emergency situations related to Genetically Modified crops:
2. making an effort in public health field to deal with issues related to Genetically Modified Crops in ways but not limited to:
3. developing allergy medicines and allergy test programs with collaborations with scientists,
4. creating inter-governmental communication systems to collect public health data/cases about GM crops,
5. promoting all member states to create systems to internally report the public health issues about GM crops,
6. supporting LEDCs financially to construct the system and respond to the public health cases related to GM crops,
7. establishing international collaborations for a coordinated response to potential emergencies arising from GM crop-related issues in ways such as but not limited to:
8. creating an international network that facilitates rapid information exchange and response coordination among member states in case of emergencies related to GM crops,
9. developing a funding mechanism that allows member states to contribute to a collective pool for emergency response efforts related to GM crops.
10. ensuring that financial resources are readily available to support timely and effective responses to emergencies.