**FORUM:** Economic and Social Council

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

**MAIN-SUBMITTER:** France

**CO-SUBMITTER:** India, Costa Rica, Côte D’Ivoire, Japan, Germany

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

*Recognizing* both the potential risks and benefits of genetically modified (GM) crops and that 80% of the world's food is containing GM crops,

*Noting* that a total of 26 countries, including France, Italy, Germany, and Russia, have officially banned the cultivation and use of GM crops because of the economic problem of GM crops,

*Recognizing* the potential benefits of genetically modified (GM) crops in increasing yields, producing healthier crops with more amount of nutrient, and reducing the usage of chemical pesticides,

*Noting* the potential drawbacks of the usage genetically modified (GM) crops, such as biodiversity loss, producing emissions, causing economic inequality between small and vulnerable farmers, and causing economic risks to Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs),

*Considering* that 4 major GM seed production enterprises, Bayer, Corteva, ChemChina, and Limagrain, are accounting for 60% of global seed supply, and are rapidly heading to the monopoly of the 4 companies,

*Taking into account* the importance of both food security, innovation in agriculture, and the economic impacts of genetically modified (GM) crops,

1. Encourages the member states to conduct annual investigations in order to find out the status and needs of LEDCs farmers regarding GM crops and other agricultural cultivations through ways such as but not limited to:
2. utilizing quarterly census evaluation conducted by reliable authorities and organizations that can provide relevant information including but not limited to:
	* 1. GM crops production status,
		2. Non-GM crops production status,
		3. crop yield and economic profit comparison between GM crops and non-GM crops,
3. implementing the use of digital platforms or hotlines for farmers to contact when they need urgent aid regarding their crop quality,
4. conducting monthly interviews with farmers in LEDCs to gather information on:
	* 1. current crop production status,
		2. changes in financial or economic status,
		3. thoughts on the need of GM crops;
5. Invites the United Nations and relevant organizations, such as The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and The International Food Policy Research Institute to actively provide LEDCs with necessary economic assistance to effectively reduce the dependence of GM crops in ways such as but not limited to:
	1. building a network for LEDCs and relevant organizations to exchange organized and valued information on economic consequences anticipated with the prolonged, uncontrolled usage of GM crops including such as but not limited to:
		1. professional analysis of performance of the nation’s economy related to the use of GM crops,
		2. past cases of overutilization of GM crops which led to an economic problem,
		3. market research on the anticipated price fluctuations on GM seeds,
		4. market research on the3 predicted economic value of produced GM crops,
	2. creating guidelines for farmers in LEDCs regarding economically and agriculturally sustainable farming including information such as but not limited to:
		1. recommended proportions of GM crops to non-GM crops,
		2. true data on the potential economic drawbacks related to dependence on GM crops,
	3. providing financial support farmers in LEDCs to use more of traditional seeds in ways such as but not limited to:
		1. free trainings for farmers on seed saving techniques, seed selection, and crop management,
		2. monetary support to farmers choosing traditional seeds in the form of subsidies or government assistance;
6. Encourages member states to collectively perform research on the positive and adverse characteristics of GM crops to provide a report to disprove false stigma, prove advantages, and publicize new findings that may provide a regional breakthrough of alternative agriculture by cooperating in ways such as but not limited to:
	1. promoting each nation’s domestic research on certain GM crops check for statistical significance compared to non-GM crops including criteria such as but not limited to:
		1. effective yield,
		2. nutritional benefits,
		3. potential health side effects,
		4. pesticide resistance rate,
	2. promoting cross-border collaborative research opportunities to develop and improve on technology to ensure safer and sustainable GM crop cultivation techniques in ways such as but not limited to:
		1. sharing new technological advancements in different nations and implementing the techniques into GM crop engineering,
		2. researching novel ways of safely engineering GM crops with less intervention but more effective outcomes,
	3. holding semi-annual worldwide seminars to report new findings regarding domestic GM crops and to develop related international protocols including such as but not limited to:
		1. restrictions on GM crops that propose harm to individuals or the environment,
		2. procedures of domesticating foreign GM crops that have been found to be safe, nutritionally superior, and efficient compared to non-GM crops especially to regions needing immediate remedies on the food shortages;
7. Request government to implement monetary and fiscal policies that encourages firms in LEDCs to produce more competitive GM crops production in ways such as but not limited to:
	1. supporting the development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises by implementing expansionary monetary and fiscal policies including such as but not limited to:
		1. financing assistance,
		2. streamline regulations,
		3. business development,
	2. increasing the number of GM crop production companies by conducting expansionary fiscal and monetary policy reforms fostering entrepreneurship and support start-ups businesses in ways such as but not limited to:
		1. creating certain start-ups business’s designated monetary welfare,
		2. providing certain amount of funds for start-ups business to encourage innovations,
		3. decreasing the interest rate of loans for start-ups business,
	3. operating a social dialogue between labor market and institutions to effectively hire new employees for start-up GM crops enterprises, such as but not limited to:
		1. minimum and maximum wage policies,
		2. worker protection measures,
		3. negotiation of whether wages include health, long term disability, and life support;
8. Calls upon member states to raise public awareness of citizens on the issue of the usage of GM crops and encourage the citizens to take part in enhancing the economy through ways such as but not limited to:
	1. publishing articles explaining the current and anticipated economic issues caused by GM crops in the nation and on media such as:
		1. government-affiliated website homepages,
		2. major online newspaper platforms,
		3. major print newspapers and magazines,
	2. spreading visual representations of the situations for more effective delivery and emphasis by presenting recent data trends and posters on media such as:
		1. television programs such as evening news,
		2. government-affiliated social media accounts,
		3. physical magazines, newspapers, banners, and flyers,
	3. holding physical campaigns and events to explain the current economic and environmental situation regarding GM crops and encourage citizens to participate in enhancing the situation by presenting information such as but not limited to:
		1. causes of economic inequality among farmers and LEDCs,
		2. problems caused by the economic inequality;
9. Requests member state’s ministry of commerce to inform consumers about the genetical material of the consumable agricultural products on the market through ways such as but not limited to:
	1. labeling all GM crops product on the market with clear information on packaging such as but not limited to:
		1. country and place of origin,
		2. modified gene and its agricultural effect,
		3. possible side effects,
		4. detailed nutritional information,
		5. potential allergens present in the product,
	2. providing clear identification of GM crops on advertisements about agricultural products containing GM crops;
10. Encourages the member states to provide informed education for the farmers to prevent the over-reliance on GM seeds due to the luring advertisements of GM seed production companies or other farmers by implementing methods such as but not limited to:
	1. accurate information on the types of GM seeds available and which seeds are suitable for growth if undeniably required for the sustaining of their lives,
	2. information on the common advertising techniques that may be used to attract the farmers including information such as but not limited to:
		1. marketing strategies,
		2. truth behind the numbers shown on advertisements,
	3. accurate scientific comparisons between non-GM crops and GM crops to eradicate the false beliefs of superior nutritional value for some GM crops,
	4. financial and market analysis results on GM and non-GM crops for the farmers to make informed decisions based on their status.