

TQO: Sustainable Farming

Main Submitter: Republic of Korea

Committee: Environment

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Defines “Sustainable Farming” as “a system of farming that strives to provide the resources necessary for present human populations while conserving the planet’s ability to sustain future generations,”

Recalls UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 (zero hunger) and 12 (responsible consumption and production), the link between unsustainable agriculture and food shortages, the measures taken up to this date to meet these goals as well as the plans in place to facilitate this,

Recognises the role of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in the coordination, support and tackling of this issue, but also acknowledges the efforts of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in support of UN initiatives,

Deeply Concerned that soil degradation, a key consequence of unsustainable farming, has reached thirty to thirty-five times its historic rate in the past few years according to the UN,

Aware of the critical importance of controlling and minimising the effects of desertification in order to protect and restore fertile farmland, hence recognising the efforts of the Great Green Wall project of the Sahara and the Sahel, which aims to create a belt of lush vegetation under the Sahara Desert to prevent its expansion, as well as the progress made by the Three-North Shelter Forest Program (Great Green Wall of China),

Realises the vital importance of controlling deforestation in order to achieve the goal of developing sustainable agriculture processes due to how trees can improve soil quality and protect biodiversity,

1. Calls for the creation of a new United Nations sub-body to operate under the FAO called the United Nations Organisation for Sustainable Agriculture (UNOSA), who will work in conjunction with UNWATER, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and relevant credible NGOs to achieve goals including but not limited to:
 - a) Creating multiple standardised educational courses for farmers, which would include differing information depending on its relevance with the local area, available resources, individual funding, climate, and type of farming, to include information including how to implement sustainable farming practices such as crop rotation and techniques mentioned in clause 1(b), which will be distributed and taught by UN vetted professionals and uploaded online for those unable to attend physical meetings under the conditions that resources for in person meetings will be prioritised for areas

- with poor or a lack of internet access, with most farmers receiving online education for logistical reasons, and that physical meetings will be held in local communities where possible, or otherwise more convenient locations such as larger towns within close proximity of large farming areas,
- b) Conducting research into new and existing farming processes, such as agroecology, climate smart agriculture, agroforestry, substitutes for unsustainable products and agricultural chemicals, finding more sustainable pesticides, and new climate change resistant crops, to find the most sustainable and efficient, which will be thoroughly tested before being implemented in select areas, then worldwide, and presenting available findings at COP30 in Belém do Pará, Brazil in 2025,
 - c) Liaising with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank to access and distribute funding for this resolution and the resources it will provide, and also overseeing that all funds are used for the correct purposes and investigating any instances of misuse of funds, possibly referring any guilty parties to the Security Council;
2. Recommends that UNOSA collaborate with UNWATER and the FAO to plan, construct, and maintain new UN irrigation schemes, which will be built in areas currently facing the greatest effects of soil degradation, soil erosion, and draught first, such as the Sahel Region of Africa, before then being assembled in areas facing the same issues in the near future, using water sources such as wells (which may require the construction of new wells by the UNOSA and UNWATER), rivers and lakes to provide reliable water to farmers, allowing the sustainable growth of their crops, as well as the maintenance of the soil fertility, while also preventing the degradation of fertile land in areas such as forests, grasslands, or national parks, to ensure the rate of drought and soil degradation is significantly slowed;
3. Promotes the creation of a grant scheme to help small farmers to buy their land outright, while also minimising gender inequality in agricultural land ownership by halting the denial of land rights for female farmers, to be overseen by UNOSA and funded by IFAD and the World Bank, and asks local governments, with the aid of UNOSA, to keep track of, record and validate the land ownership rights of farmland in their area to eliminate land grabbing, and as part of this initiative also requests:
- a) The erection of an online portal and physical postal address where farmers may report alleged instances of land grabbing without any cost, and for these reports to be thoroughly investigated by UNOSA with help from local law enforcement where possible,
 - b) The redevelopment of vacant state-owned fertile land to be distributed to local farmers, with subsistence farmers given priority, as well as introducing financial

- incentives for people to sell their unused fertile land at a fair price to farmers while furthermore introducing subsidies for the people purchasing the land,
- c) The immediate subsidisation of certain farming equipment that is proven to aid sustainable farming, and for a list of all machinery included in this scheme to be created by UNOSA and the FAO followed by the subsidisation of soil-rejuvenating minerals or other sustainable substances with the same effect;
4. Encourages the development of a mass media campaign with the aim of reducing food waste, which would highlight the average value of product wasted in various parts of the world to encourage people to become more conscious about their waste using a combination of physical and digital media methods such as online advertisements, billboards, television advertisements and radio advertisements;
5. Requests that international trade taxes and tariffs are lowered by up to 40% of their original value on agricultural products that are deemed by UNOSA to be sustainably sourced/produced to encourage individuals and organisations to cease the consumption of environmentally damaging produce and for the World Bank to temporarily cover any financial loss suffered by member nations as a result, and promotes the increase of taxes and tariffs on unsustainable products such as palm oil and agricultural chemicals, including artificial fertilisers and pesticides, by up to 20% of their original value, and for farmers who are negatively affected by these changes to receive temporary financial support from the World Bank and/or IFAD, as well as further support to begin growing more sustainable products, using sustainable substitutes to agricultural chemicals, possibly including any newly found substitutes as mentioned in clause 1(b), as well as farmers who choose to farm organically, without the use of any chemicals;
6. Asks for a conference to be held in Rome, Italy, which will congregate on a biannual basis until 2030, and then on an annual basis thereafter, to be attended by representatives from all member nations, UNOSA, the FAO, UNWATER, the UNEP, The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), any interested relevant, credible NGOs, and local agricultural bodies or communities, discuss topics such as but not limited to:
- a) Setting clear and achievable goals for all parties involved to meet, similar to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) associated with the Paris Agreement, and measures to take should any party fail to meet these goals, with lenience for parties who come suitably close but do not fully complete their objectives, to ensure that the problem at hand is effectively solved and that it remains as a priority in the coming years, and allowing parties to voice their opinions, concerns and suggestions

on the implementation of this resolution, the strategies being implemented as a result and the demeanour in which progress is made, allowing plans to be tailored to result in maximum effectiveness and efficiency,

- b) Creating a set of universal procedures to help reduce unsustainable deforestation which can include:
 - i) Implementing regulations about the number of trees allowed to be cut down per acre in recognised woodland areas and rainforests, private or state owned, which would be overseen and enforced UNOSA in conjunction with local governments,
 - ii) Reducing the deforestation of trees for activities such as cattle ranching by offering financial incentives such as grants or tax benefits for ranchers to set up or move their farms to areas that are more environmentally suitable, such as grasslands, and for the World Bank to offer compensation to any member nations who lose out on income as a result,
 - iii) Implementing a policy that all trees cut down for necessary operations must be replanted in a different area, and for a list of these recognised necessary operations to be agreed upon by the conference, and that UNOSA and local governments oversee this replanting,
 - iv) Putting a larger emphasis on cracking down on illegal logging operations in areas such as the Amazon, by requiring all operatives to apply for an International Logging License (ILL) which will be controlled by UNOSA and would require revalidation on a biennial basis, and sending out local law enforcement officers (with the permission of member states), to be accompanied by UN vetted personnel where possible, to carry out random checks on logging operations for their ILL, and referring those without a valid pass to relevant bodies including national judicial systems or the Security Council in extreme cases or under the condition that a national judicial system is not fit to take control of the case, with the permission of the Head of State or Government of the member state,
 - c) Involving small communities in the decision-making process, taking their ideas and reservations into consideration and protecting their culture and traditions, while also aiding them to transition to using more sustainable methods to grow their crops, in turn safeguarding their income and livelihoods,
 - d) Establishing a timeline for the implementation of this resolution on a clause-by-clause basis and reviewing progress and projections to adjust any deadlines which will require additional time as a result of unforeseen occurrences;
7. Proposes NGOs working on the Great Green Wall Programme, the Three-North Shelter Forest Programme, any similar large-scale projects, and a select few smaller scale initiatives, to allow and cooperate with UN intervention, which would bring each of these projects under the umbrella term the United Nations Desertification and Soil Degradation Project (UNDSDP), to be overseen and jointly run by UNOSA and the UNEP, which would aim to protect existing fertile agricultural land from degradation, safeguarding

income for farmers and food and water security for communities, and would include the following terms:

- a) Providing this project with UN resources, information, expertise, leadership, and funding that was not previously available to these programmes, further allowing them to grow and achieve their goals in a faster, more efficient and effective manner,
- b) Allocating UN-vetted desertification and soil degradation professionals and/or UN liaison officers to report and document the unique situation and needs of each branch of the project, allowing for UNOSA and the UNEP to correctly distribute funding and resources as required by each specific project,
- c) Working with local or national governments to consider their views, needs and ideas for the project, to acquire information about the local landscape, culture, and history, and to gain access to any resources or support mechanisms they are willing to provide,
- d) Having other UN bodies involved, such as UNWATER, report to UNOSA and the UNEP for direction, to ensure a smooth and unified approach to tackling the issue and preventing any contradictions in the implementation of the plan.