

**FORUM:** Economic and Social Council

**QUESTION OF:** Promoting local sustainability and providing benefits to small scale farmers

**SUBMITTER:** Colombia

**SIGNATORIES:** Sudan, Turkmenistan

The Economic and Social Council,

*Alarmed* by the current economic and social situation of many smallholder farmers in the world, who constitute the large majority of agricultural producers that operate in the world's most ecologically and climatically vulnerable landscapes,

*Fully believing* that, without urgent support measures, small producers not only will face negative consequences in terms of nutrition and health, but also will be limited in their contribution to agriculture and development,

*Bearing in mind* that agriculture is the main contributor to the development, food security and poverty reduction, particularly in the developing countries,

*Determined* to combat by all means the current global food crisis,

*Recalling* the Millennium Development Goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015,

*Taking into consideration* the extremely rapid increase of the world population, which will peak at about 9 billions by 2050,

*Aware of* the dramatic reduction of the arable land,

*Deeply convinced* that the climatic changes and the increasing pollution of our planet are leading to an arid climate,

*Fully alarmed* that the loss of biodiversity represents a threat to the society, habitat and economy,

*Recalling* that cooperation is one of the most effective forms of development for small producers,

1. **Encourages** Member States to grant innovative financial supports to small farmers to help them adopting new ecological production systems and technologies, to ensure that they will:
  - a) approach farming with a long-term perspective,
  - b) prioritize sustainable approaches to farming;
  - c) contribute to create a healthier environment;
2. **Emphasizes** the necessity to reduce transaction costs between farmers and other players within the supply chain, to:
  - a) help small holders to cut down production costs to be more competitive,
  - b) assist small holders to have an easier access to the product markets,
  - c) improve the effects of international trade liberalization on small farmers;
3. **Invites** MEDCs to further contribute to make agricultural trade liberalization more effective for the weakest economies, by, among the others:
  - a) reducing farm sector supports and border protections, such as:
    - i) income support measures,
    - ii) crop insurance subsidies,
    - iii) export subsidies,
  - b) opening national markets to LEDCs products;

4. **Recommends** Member States to provide clear land rights to the poorest communities, in order to, among the others:
  - a) restore or maintain environmental resources,
  - b) prevent land grabs by private entities, which would, among the others:
    - i) deprive the smallholders of their land,
    - ii) create an unstable environment,
  - c) create innovative agricultural programs aiming to provide environmental services;
5. **Supports** the creation and the consolidation of new local farmers' organizations, which can play a significant role in:
  - a) facilitating transfers of technologies,
  - b) helping the exchange of ideas and information among farmers,
  - c) improving the quality of agricultural education,
  - d) improving livelihood opportunities;
6. **Further invites** to create a special brand that certifies the high quality of the agricultural products to:
  - a) emphasize that the goods have been produced without damaging the environment,
  - b) facilitate small farmers to sell their products,
  - c) promote sustainable production techniques;
7. **Suggests** Member States to make a proper and effective use of the already existing funds and support programs financed by international organizations;
8. **Further requests** Member States to stimulate producers to adopt renewable and sustainable energy sources for their activities, through among the others:
  - a) granting financial support to producers who decide to adopt green energies,
  - b) providing benefits for market access,
  - c) promoting information campaigns about the importance of using renewable resources to preserve the environment;
9. **Reminds** National Governments and funding agencies to increase their support to agricultural research, bearing in mind that the objectives of the scientific research must be largely reshaped to give priority to:
  - a) protect biological and cultural diversity,
  - b) safeguard lands and their resources,
  - c) reduce environmental pollution;
10. **Requests** to include in the next session the item entitled "Promoting local sustainability and providing benefits to small scale farmers".