

**FORUM:** Environmental Commission Sub-Commission 2

**QUESTION OF:** Promoting advanced agricultural technology as a tool for achieving sustainable development

**SUBMITTED BY:** United States of America

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION,

*Aware of* the increased sustainability benefits and productivity of farms with the use of advanced agricultural technology,

*Recognizing* the notion of advanced agricultural technology in the future of agriculture and crop production across the globe,

*Fully aware of* the agreement made on the 25th of September 2015 by world leaders to set a 2030 agenda for 17 different sustainable development goals (SDGs) including SDGs set for sustainable agriculture,

*Pointing out* the need to support Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) to begin advances in sustainable agricultural technology and farming techniques and the inevitable financial aid that will have to be provided to such countries to make such adjustments,

*Noting further* the necessity to educate farmers around the world how to use advanced technologies and resources and the new techniques that will have to be implemented to make their farms more sustainable,

*Keeping in mind* the difficulties that may come with convincing civilian farmers to make adjustments towards more sustainable behavior and the regulations that may have to be set into place in order to ensure this,

*Viewing with appreciation* the work that has already been done by the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Program (WFP),

1. Invites all member states to sign and ratify the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture that was adopted by the Thirty-First Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on 3 November 2001 in order to minimize the harmful effects on nature;
2. Asks for the collaboration between financially and technologically capable and willing More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) which have more efficient, profitable, safer and more environmentally friendly agricultural practices, and LEDCs under the supervision of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) as well as the FAO in order to achieve the following developments:
  - a. the implementation of technological farming methods in rural communities, which increases productivity and decreases poverty

- b. reducing the negative impact on natural ecosystems by using information technologies which will decrease the alternative energy based small industries and rural areas to not only reduce carbon emissions but also to create more green jobs, apply green energy initiatives into societies, thus smoothing the transition from natural energy to alternative renewable energy, for higher crop productivity, increasing soil fertility and decreasing the usage of resources such as water, pesticides, and fertilizers
    - c. having expert guidance between MEDCs and LEDCs, in order to ensure the long term self-sustainability of LEDCs after the investment of social, economic, and industrial aid from MEDCs, providing a basic framework for the LEDCs to continue their development after the withdrawal of financial support by the willing MEDCs
    - d. stopping any form of non-sustainable agricultural activity within their borders and within the land belonging to agricultural companies officially registered and/or created within their national legislative system, so as to ensure a better conservation of the soil's capacity to continue producing for the next generations, and thus to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
3. Urges the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to work in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as well as World Bank in order to improve infrastructure and provide agricultural technologies in the agricultural rural areas of LEDCs by:
  - a. establishing an international fund for rural planning in cooperation with Ministries of Energy and Transportation to work on the construction and maintenance of rural roads, rural transport provision, accessibility and mobility, and infrastructure provision
  - b. implementing mobile banking systems and mobile transfer systems in order to make sure that the small-scale farmers have the chance to contribute to the agro-industry even further which will:
    - i. increase accessibility to the financial means to execute the contemporary and efficient arming methods
    - ii. allow for the payment of farm equipment, expose impoverished farmers to programs with low interest rates and financial support;
4. Encourages all Member States to emphasize the topic of the usage of technology in agriculture by:
  - a. organizing public events, such as talks and conferences
  - b. stressing the benefits of technology in agriculture through adding units to the curriculum of high schools in the Member States and some of the possible negative impacts of technology on environment, thus also explaining how they can be reduced

- c. collaborating with the media in order to show the harmlessness of technology;
5. Calls upon member states for the encouragement, promotion and, if lacking, the establishment of crowdfunding programs which will:
  - a. be both international and intraregional
  - b. allow fellow entrepreneurs to promote and support each other's ideas which will empower and promote the relationship between individual entrepreneurs and governments with providing such economic opportunities
  - c. create an environment for low income entrepreneurs and farmers to contribute to the country's national economics
  - d. establish solidarity associations between farmers and entrepreneurs;
6. Further recommends forming a research group that will include representatives such as professors, analysts and statisticians from willing member states providing the UN and the related institutions the vital information required to take initiatives in uplifting the agricultural industry through:
  - a. conducting regional research in areas where agriculture is the leading economic power to determine statistics
  - b. preparing annual research reports according to the information gathered and working on a 5 year plan for member states which are improving in this field in order to maximize the effectiveness of the agriculture sector, the reports will then be further discussed in an international summit in which representatives from the previously mentioned member states will discuss on issues such as but not limited to:
    - i. the effectiveness of administering the 5 year plans
    - ii. different initiatives that governments have taken to implement microloans into the agro-industry
    - iii. challenges that the regions and countries are still facing in reducing poverty through uplifting agribusinesses;
7. Urges all member states to collaborate with the UNEP in establishing or modifying existing policies and laws to implement environmental laws that focus on subjects such as but not limited to:
  - a. the implementation of stricter regulations in order to have the minimum usage of natural resources by using technology in ways such as, but not limited to:
    - i. decreasing the area of land used for agriculture by using technologies such as vertical farming
    - ii. requiring agricultural companies to provide monthly reports of resources used in their land to be examined by professionals
  - b. the strengthening of urbanization laws by:
    - i. shifting greater importance on fertile agriculture

ii. educating citizens as well as farmers on the importance of usage of technology in order to preserve the biological diversity in agricultural areas;

8. Calls for a team of experts on the field of advanced agricultural technology and economics to be set up by the FAO to educate farmers in the use of modern agricultural tools and technologies as well as the preservation of their land, the importance of sustainability and how to manage their finances accordingly by:
  - a. requesting LEDCs chosen by the FAO to have priority for this service followed by NICs and MEDCs
  - b. the funding of said group will be done by the UN with the interests of making sustainable and advanced farming techniques the global norm
  - c. this group will be under the control of the FAO and will consist of specialists in the field of agriculture from around the world;
  
9. Endorses all research done on the field of advanced agricultural technology and requests a trust fund to be set up by the UN to finance further research and development in the field of agricultural technology through:
  - a. all MEDC members of the UN can participate in said fund to be used by LEDCs to further sustainable agriculture
  - b. LEDCs wanting to finance their research department within the advanced agricultural technology field with the use of the trust fund (signed agreement for the use of trust fund) whereby countries making use of the money from the trust fund will be required to give a quarterly update
  - c. providing abundant outlays for the research development of pesticides with less harm to neighboring regions which can considerably increase yield per hectare so that the eco-environment won't be damaged due to the expansion of cultivated areas;
  
10. Invites all member states and organizations to:
  - a. increase agricultural trade (within the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO)) between other nations and neighboring nations in order to promote the production of agricultural products
  - b. encourage the setup of national and local micro-finance organizations in rural areas and areas of poverty giving finances at a low interest rate to give farmers the incentive to grow crops at a lower cost, higher efficiency and more effectively.

**FORUM** : Environment Commission, Sub-commission 2

**TOPIC** : Nuclear energy as a viable “clean energy” alternative to fossil fuels

**SUBMITTED BY** : Ghana

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION,

*Recalling* UN resolution 32/50 on the peaceful use of nuclear energy for economic and social development of 8<sup>th</sup> December 1977 as well as resolution 67/56 of 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012 on the issue of nuclear disarmament,

*Also recalling* the Charter of the United Nations which lays foundation to the moral duties of all member states,

*Recognizing* the increasing issues caused by climate change worldwide,

*Keeping in mind* that nuclear power is mostly used in industrialized countries, for example, 405 (or 91%) of nuclear reactors are located either in High Income Countries (HIC) or countries with economies in transition,

*Further recognizing* the need to reduce carbon emissions in order to limit global warming to a minimum of 2° Celsius above pre-industrial levels as agreed by the Paris Climate Accord,

*Convinced* of the use of nuclear energy as a carbon-free alternative to carbon heavy energy sources such as fossil fuels,

*Further convinced* of the enormous potential of nuclear fusion as a completely carbon-free and, sustainable and cost-effective energy source with lower waste production and operational hazards compared to nuclear fission,

*Reaffirming* the possibility of the use of nuclear energy as a stable, reliable energy source beyond fossil fuels,

*Fully aware* of the dangers posed by nuclear fission reactors and long-term storage of nuclear waste,

*Having considered* the dangers of proliferation,

*Approving* of the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure nuclear safety and progress of nuclear technology,

*Also approving* the work at CERN research center for nuclear physics in Switzerland as well as the ITER and W7-X nuclear fusion research reactors in France and Germany, which show promising results,

1. Declares that the use of nuclear energy is vital to the economic and social stability of many countries and:
  - a) every country has the right to freely access nuclear energy for civil purposes and as means of carbon free energy generation
  - b) the development of nuclear physics is hugely important, to the general scientific, economic and social development of many nations, regardless of immediate economic output
  - c) nuclear power plants should cause no damage to natural or cultural heritage;
2. Proclaims the need for the further education of teaching personnel and students in both developing and high income countries, construction of nuclear reactors and thus suggests:
  - a) sending special training staff to low income and developing countries, that train the local population and therefore providing more employment opportunities for locals in the positions of engineers or other types of nuclear power plant operators and ensuring safer use of nuclear power plants
  - b) establishing a fund for the construction of nuclear power plants in low income countries only in the case of country's ability to partially cover the costs and the presence of sufficient levels of the local specialists' knowledge in the area of nuclear industry, funded voluntarily by UN member states, international foundations and NGO's in exchange to access local trade markets as well as to fight climate change
  - c) education at secondary level about both the history and science of nuclear energy to allow objective decision making from an early age and fight prejudice by:
    - i. sending professional teaching staff from more developed countries, into rural areas and less developed countries to train teaching staff
    - ii. adjust curriculums in all countries, to allow room for education about nuclear technology;
  - d) funding an informative public advertisement scheme, to educate the general public about the real life dangers, risks and likelihoods of nuclear energy;
3. Encourages all nations to develop nuclear physics by means such as, but not limited to:
  - a) allocation of funds to universities and research institutions working on nuclear physics, in specific for the expansion of research facilities as well as for the addition of specialised research staff primarily in universities that are in need, working on the practical investigation of current and potential future scientific models, such as the ITER research reactor located in France or CERN in Geneva, Switzerland
  - b) special science fairs and events, encouraging students worldwide to engage in the development of nuclear physics, with special competitions, for innovative solutions to current issues, such as waste disposal or reactor safety, that aim to provide new and innovative solutions or that aim to work back towards previously abandoned ideas, that now show promise for the future such as molten salt reactors
  - c) special science meetings, by which the exchange of information is encouraged between scientists, and where new, innovative solutions can be presented,

discussed and collaboratively improved

- d) special research opportunities to maximise efficiency in existing nuclear technologies such as the fast neutron reactor systems, by increasing the efficiency of energy transfer and decreasing transfer losses;
4. Calls all member states to combine efforts in order to reduce the threat of nuclear warfare by means such as, but not limited to:
    - a) allowing the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to work freely to survey nuclear disarmament as well as the construction of nuclear reactors
    - b) combination of all political efforts to cause complete disarmament of all nations still in possession of nuclear weapons
    - c) conforming to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT)
    - d) special safekeeping procedures under surveillance from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to prevent theft of fissile nuclear fuel from nuclear power stations, including special security provided by federal police and/or military as well as private security staff
    - e) construction of special breeding reactors in high income countries with developed nuclear technologies, that convert weapons grade fissile elements, into civil use fuel;
  5. Emphasises the danger caused by inadequate use of nuclear technology and requests all member states to:
    - a) exchange technology aiming to prevent damage of nuclear reactors through hazardous events such as earthquakes and tsunamis, and rigorously investigate future nuclear sites to avoid seismically active regions
    - b) exchange research data vital to the functioning of nuclear reactors and their safety, including stress tests and emergency protocols
    - c) conform to international safety standards set by the IAEA in order to minimise the operational danger of nuclear reactors, under surveillance from the IAEA
    - d) review the safety standards within all nuclear facilities and adequately adapt emergency procedures in order to minimise the risk of nuclear accidents, especially with a review of cooling modules to prevent nuclear meltdown even under stress conditions
    - e) attempt application of modern technology within all nuclear reactors, with a special emphasis on those being built, in order to constantly conform to the newest advances in engineering in order to minimise the operational risks, with a special focus on the prevention of leaks of radioactive materials
    - f) build nuclear fuel reserves in multinational projects, establishing mined uranium and plutonium reserves to ensure a reliable long term supply of clean energy
    - g) further mechanise processes inside nuclear power plants in HIC's to reduce the hazard caused by human error;
  6. Encourages all member states to encourage advancements in nuclear fusion by means such as but not limited to:
    - a) drawing special attention to the potential use of nuclear energy as a completely 'green' energy alternative
    - b) special research funds for:
      - i. transnational projects such as the ITER and W7-X research reactors looking for clean energy solutions in nuclear fusion

- ii. expansion of the nuclear fusion research section at CERN institute in Switzerland
  - i) exchange of information between leading scientists and research institutes worldwide, in order to achieve maximum development in the area of nuclear fusion;
7. Draws attention to the underlying issue of storage of nuclear waste and suggests:
- a) preliminary storage of nuclear waste on site, where applicable until suitable long term storage has been found, for up to 10 years
  - b) investment into emerging technologies, such as new, less corrosive alloys, that can contain nuclear waste for longer, that provide both long term and short term solutions to waste disposal issues
  - c) allocation of special research funds and scientists to projects working on emerging technologies or nuclear reactors most significantly in developing countries, from national funds
  - d) special research to minimise nuclear waste produced in existing reactors, such as special generators that maximise efficiency in energy transfer;
8. Recommends the construction of long term depositories that:
- a) must be explicitly tested for their use as nuclear waste depository, by the IAEA
  - b) must conform to all safety standards set by the IAEA
  - c) must be fitted with sensors, which can detect: leaks of contaminated materials, moisture, tectonic hazards
  - d) must contain nuclear waste in specialised concrete, steel constructions, specially designed for long term waste storage and resilient to corrosion
  - e) must be chosen in areas that are socio-economically stable, and where no immediate, uncontrollable terroristic hazards are present
  - f) must contain special security safety features, to prevent theft or unauthorised access, including protection from federal police or military;
9. Encourages all nations to identify and research alternate, 'green' and sustainable energy sources, by:
- a) identifying alternative 'green' energy sources, suitable to a country's geological and meteorological situation
  - b) funding research into chosen alternative energy sources, to advance current technologies, minimise costs of these and improve on their efficiency
    - i. offer governmental incentives to private energy enterprises willing to expand upon renewable energy programs and establishments
    - ii. reinforce energy tax to discourage the reliance on fossil fuels
  - c) investing into the construction of renewable energy sites, where feasible, such as wind and solar farms;
10. Trusts all member states to remain actively seized in the matter as it proceeds.

**FORUM:** Environment Commission Sub-Commission 2

**QUESTION OF:** Managing the growth of protected species populations

**SUBMITTED BY:** Panama

**CO-SUBMITTED BY:** Liberia, Albania, Senegal, Iceland, Slovakia, DR. Congo, ESCWA, Portugal, Trinidad & Tobago, Cyprus, South Africa, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Ireland, Latvia, Botswana

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION,

*Recognizing* habitat loss as a main threat to 85% of all species described in the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources' (IUCN's) [Red List](#) according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF),

*Further recognizing* the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as a multilateral treaty drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN (The World Conservation Union) agreed to by 80 countries,

*Aware that* over 75% of the world's fish populations have been pushed to or beyond their biological limits,

*Bearing in mind* the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of 2002-2003 calling for the establishment of Marine Protected Areas and the protection of aqua-biodiversity and marine life,

*Recognizing and applauding* the initiatives and recent efforts taken by the World Wildlife Foundation regarding the further protection and establishment of MPA's,

*Affirming* the need for further repercussions for illegal trafficking, poaching, and trade of protected species populations,

*Supporting* the General Assembly's adoption of the Sustainable Fisheries Resolution,

*Recognising* that biodiversity loss and overpopulation are inevitably linked,

*Alarmed* that the number of protected species is still unknown, ranging from three to ten million of the tens of millions, therefore many of them have been lost forever without being noticed by science so the extinction rate may also be underestimated,

*Further noting* that many species help humans stay alive by purifying water and pollinating crops,

*Fully aware* the efforts of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA), the UN Office on Drugs and

Crime (UNODC), the International Association for the protection of civilian rights (IAPCAR) and the United Nations World Oceans Assessment (UNWOA),

1. Calls upon all UN member states to ratify the CITES treaty using it as a foundation to confirm that any legal international trade of specimen does not threaten their survival;
2. Further Calls for the official implementation of the UNWOA to:
  - a) supply experts in order make well-informed decisions on ocean based issues
  - b) monitor the world's oceans and the extent of boat traffic within them
  - c) create limitations on fishing equipment and industry regulation;
3. Encourages member states which seek assistance in identifying endangered species populations to take reference from, but not limited to:
  - a) the IUCN Red List
  - b) government authorized lists
  - c) the CITES Appendices
  - d) the UNODC World Wildlife Crime Report;
4. Asks for technical and financial assistance from member states to further enhance and strengthen criminal justice responses to wildlife crime, including the tracing and recovering of proceeds from crime by using undercover operations where the contraband is not immediately seized but is traced to its destination in order to apprehend all people involved;
5. Emphasizes the importance of ending wildlife trafficking by the year 2030 in order to protect endangered animal species by:
  - a) asking for countries to work together in sharing information of suspected trafficking routes in hope of breaking down on wildlife trafficking via a web-platform accessible to all representatives of all delegations
  - b) calling upon the UN to continue implementing commission regulation in regard to strict trade rules for endangered species;
6. Recommends that officials controlling import and export gateways, persons found producing fake documentation authorizing the movement of contraband in a market, and anyone directly involved in illegal wildlife trade to be subject to:
  - a) prosecution with reference to
    - i) prosecution policy and sentencing guidelines
    - ii) national laws
  - b) thorough investigation by the UNODC;
7. Requests awareness-raising methods by NGOs to educate the citizens and local governments about endangered species populations, how to protect them, and ways to prevent further harm such as but not limited to:
  - a) organized events

- b) service projects
  - c) social media
  - d) school programs;
8. Notes the need to eliminate wildlife crime, black market animal trade, and corruption by measures such as but not limited to;
- a) adopting an anti-corruption legislation, set by the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), that criminalizes a sequences of corruption offences which had facilitated illegal wildlife hunting and trading, including actions such as:
    - i) bribery of government officials and leaders of international organizations,
    - ii) concealment,
    - iii) abuse of function
  - b) reducing corruption in the public sector by:
    - i) improving certification and licensure systems according to international frameworks in order to prevent corrupt behavior that aims to speed up bureaucratic processes and discretionary decisions by public officials
    - ii) establishing a whistle-blower system, which will encourage disclosure of knowledge about malpractice and possible corruption, while providing legal protection to the whistleblower,
  - c) increasing transparency of judicial decisions by creating an online database with cases concerning environmental crime etc;
9. Suggests that all UN member states increase areas of nature reserves to recreate disrupted wildlife corridors and allow animal populations to continue to grow and spread through the use of but not limited to:
- a) reforestation
  - b) certified park rangers or guards to prevent poaching in the nature reserves
  - c) global nature protection NGOs such as the WCS and the IUCN;
10. Invites member states to meet in two years at the:
- a) conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity to discuss the growth of protected species populations and future protocol to be put into place in order to further preserve species
  - b) 72nd session of the UN General Assembly to build rapid response and make wildlife crime a serious issue in national legislation in all countries, as well as evaluate the effectiveness of the Wildlife Law Enforcement program;
11. Urges governments to include locals in projects that aim to incorporate protected species in ecotourism to promote the repopulation of protected species by offering jobs as an incentive for locals to refrain from illegal poaching, hunting, and fishing, which will be enforced by the Wildlife Law Enforcement program;

12. Further Encourages careful planning during urbanisation, for example infrastructure and residential projects, in an attempt to cause minimal disruption to the habitats of endangered species through the use of:
  - a) environmental advisors in city planning
  - b) environmental courses in urban planning and architecture.

**FORUM:** Environment Sub-Commission 2

**QUESTION OF:** The question of nuclear energy as a viable ‘clean energy’ alternative to fossil fuels

**SUBMITTED BY:** Japan

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION,

*Noting with deep concern* the high emissions of greenhouse gases, 60% of which are derived from non-renewable energy sources,

*Keeping in mind* the significant number of deaths caused indirectly by the usage of fossil fuels, as stated by NASA, in the form of particulates,

*Viewing with appreciation* the efforts undertaken by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the World Nuclear Association (WNA) to increase efficiency and safety of nuclear energy around the world,

*Recognizing* the three major incidents at Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima, involving nuclear energy production that have occurred over the past half-century,

*Further recognizing* the implementation of reactors that are able to consume reprocessed plutonium or thorium as fuel to reduce waste produced, use less resources and generate more energy, while decreasing the cost of the construction of such plants,

*Deeply disturbed* by the devastating effects of nuclear warfare and the ability of the Non-Proliferation Treaty to ensure operational transparency in relation to the development of Nuclear Weapons,

*Affirming* the advantages of nuclear energy as a lucrative industry,

1. Urges the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to recognize Nuclear Energy as a solution to the energy crisis, thereby including it in the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to provide funds for peaceful nuclear projects in developing countries for reasons such as but not limited to:
  - a. reduction in carbon emissions, and other particulate pollutants which would scale down the greenhouse gas effect
  - b. conserve transportation, handling and extraction costs
  - c. lowered emission of NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, and other particulates which will reduce the impact on the environment as well as trim health hazards of inhabitants;
2. Strongly recommends environmental and health organizations to begin campaigns on nuclear energy as an alternative ‘clean energy’ so as to prevent any misconceptions about nuclear energy from the general population with methods such as, but not restricted to:
  - a. utilizing social media sites to better spread awareness on the said issue
  - b. preparing public talks made by environmental organizations, Heads of State, or UN officials;
  - c. further promoting the teaching of concepts of fusion and fission as well as other general information about nuclear energy in schools and universities;
3. Designates holding biannual conferences where nations and nuclear groups will be able to:

- a. extend the exchange of scientific information for peaceful ends
  - b. discuss any issues or potential threats experienced in their nuclear projects
  - c. report their achievements and progress made in current goals towards the advancements in nuclear power as well as discussing possible new targets to be set
  - d. solidify details with member states;
4. Encourages all developed countries with experience in nuclear technology to cooperate with and support geographically-proximate developing countries that may benefit from the use of nuclear energy by promoting their expertise and equipment for the construction of a nuclear power plant;
5. Seeks the IAEA and the UNFCCC's GCF to help fund the maintenance costs of nuclear power plants in lesser economically developed countries (LEDCs) and ensure that the funding is used solely for the purpose of conducting analyses of the costs of repair and verifying if the country is unable to fund this;
6. Requests the UNFCCC's GCF and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to continue or increase the funding of groups leading projects aimed at advancing nuclear technology such as but not moderated by:
- a. organizations aimed at research and safe development of the nuclear industry
  - b. pioneering groups seeking to find new solutions or ideas
  - c. countries in charge of fusion reactor projects
  - d. groups carrying out scientific studies to expand knowledge on nuclear technology;
7. Expresses its hope for all countries to endorse the creation of the Convention of Nuclear Safety (CNS), managed by the WNA and the IAEA, aiming to ensure sustainable waste management prior to securing nuclear facilities including means such as, but not controlled by:
- a. quarterly examinations by the IAEA for all spaces known to contain significant amounts of radioactive substances to ensure that safety guidelines have been followed
  - b. guaranteed disposal of radioactive material in accordance with the internationally-agreed safety standards set by the regional and international organizations with nuclear energy responsibilities using the previously mentioned establishments
  - c. obliging all installations containing large amounts of nuclear substances to have the necessary security measures to protect the facility from theft or sabotage
  - d. checking that all projects involving the construction and usage of a nuclear reactor have a plan that conveys the following criteria:
    - i. protects human health and the environment
    - ii. includes all steps for fuel management
    - iii. can demonstrate it is economically and technologically viable to a practical extent
    - iv. answers to present demands without impeding future generations in any way
- a. incorporating the ensuing safety criteria on the location of the construction site of the nuclear plant and waste storage facility which will be assessed by engineers to be:
- i. low risk of natural disasters
  - ii. located in an area with a very low population density
  - iii. located in an area with little biodiversity and containing exclusive habitats;
8. Invites the IAEA, WNA, and any nuclear material safeguards such as European Atomic

Energy Community (EAEC) to set up guidelines in order to increase transparency and ensure peaceful usage of nuclear material through but not confined to:

- a. tracking all transfers and flow of material in nuclear facilities through but not restrained to:
  - i. sampling and analysis of the nuclear material
  - ii. inspections of the material and its concurrence with the reported information and statistics
- a. combatting the possible misuse of nuclear waste in the form of terrorism, such as manipulation of used radioactive fuel, through maintaining the said premises;

9. Promotes the integration of sustainable energy sources with other currently used energy sources in order to protect affected industries in gasoline, petroleum, and coal;

10. Supports increased research and investigation of expanding renewable energies, such as hydro and solar power, to ensure a sustainable future regarding the energy consumption of the next generations;

11. Wishes to remain actively seized on the issue.

**FORUM:** Environment Commission (EC) sub-commission 2

**QUESTION OF:** The impact of tourism on World Natural Heritage

**SUBMITTED BY:** United Nations World Tourism Organization

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE,

*Recognizing* the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme, which manages and develops sustainable tourism at cultural heritage sites by creating increased awareness and balanced participation in order to protect the cultural value of sites,

*Reminding* that a World Heritage Site is a significant location that is listed by UNESCO as of special or physical importance,

*Draws the attention* that tourism creates jobs and businesses, as 1:11 jobs are located in the tourism business which represents 9,8% of global GDP, with 1886 billion international tourist arrivals worldwide in 2015,

*Reaffirming* that tourism is beneficial for the preservation of World Natural Heritage, by raising awareness to the general public on landscapes, historic places, sites and built environments, as well as biodiversity collections, past and continuing cultural practices, knowledge and living experiences,

*Conscious* of our responsibility to safeguard World Natural Heritage sites valued for their beauty uniqueness and universality,

*Further reminding* that tourism can also be damaging for the World Natural Heritage by having major environmental impacts, notably on vegetation, soil compaction, water and animal species,

*Emphasizing* the list of World Heritage in Danger compiled by UNESCO through the World Heritage Committee according to Article 11.4 of the World Heritage Convention, which was established in 1972 to designate and manage World Heritage sites,

*Recalling* the fact that a “Red List” was created to inform the people on the critically endangered species and many World Heritage Sites seeking to aid these flora and fauna,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the resolution adopted by the 12th General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention (on the Global Strategy) (WHC.03/14.GA/INF.8),

1. Encourages Member States to inform the public and incoming tourists on visiting World Natural Heritage Sites by explaining the correct behavior to portray at certain locations, and to have locals, tourists, government organizations, and NGOs be

informed of the fact that the destruction or deterioration of such World Natural Heritage sites could harm the country and region, through means such as but not limited to:

- a) advertising correct methods of behavior in multiple languages and forms, such as:
    - i. pamphlets and posters in airports, train stations and tourist information centers
    - ii. television and radio advertisements
    - iii. social media posts
  - b) incorporating such information in the local school curriculum of the nation or region of the World Heritage Site;
2. Alarmed by the fact that a large portion of damage to cultural sites is caused by tourists, which can be dealt with by:
- a) implementing a small security force of trained professionals and/or trained volunteers to patrol the site, and to be equipped with:
    - i. tasers, handcuffs, etc to dismantle any civilians unwilling to cooperate with the rules implemented by UNESCO
    - ii. means of communication to the local government
    - iii. means of transportation
  - b) giving fines or proper punishments to civilians who have damaged the site or the protected species in any way, shape, or form
  - c) employing security at the entrance of the sight to see if anyone is bringing in a dangerous object that could harm the World Natural Heritage Sites;
3. Urges all member nations to protect the local Heritage Sites from phenomena such as but not limited to:
- a) cultural commodification, or the erosion of the cultural practices until they become meaningless in a tourism setting like a World Natural Heritage Sites, develops as people and their cultural symbols are treated as commodities that can be bought prevented by means such as but not limited to:
    - i. preventing the sale of stereotypical souvenirs created as opposed to locally made products
    - ii. preventing the illegal sale of cultural artifacts by unauthorized vendors
  - b) poaching or hunting practices in which the animal in question is harmed and/or dismantled for sport and/or money;
4. Calls for the investment with the help from UNESCO, UNWTO and other NGOs in programs aiming at the restoration and maintaining of biodiversity in very touristic sites through means such as but not limited to:
- a) inviting host countries to restore biodiversity by species reintroduction or translocation
  - b) encouraging the establishment of seasonal tourism, which would allow the sites to be left untouched during the off-season, allowing the restoration of a vegetation cover and the habituation of animal species;

5. Recommends the creation of a sustainable system project called Green Tourism, with help from UNESCO, UNWTO and other NGOs, which would aim to protect the World Natural Heritage sites from pollution and waste as a result of tourism, by means such as but not restricted to:
  - a) the implementation of a recycling system encouraged by placing multiple trash cans around the vicinity
  - b) the banning of smoking in the surrounding areas of any World Heritage Site to prevent smoke pollution, as specific areas for smoking can be indicated outside of the boundaries of the site with appropriate places for the waste to be thrown away
  - c) adopting stricter rules in regard to touristic activities practiced in or around sites such as:
    - i. the use of motor vehicles such as motorboats, which are highly polluting, also injure aquatic wildlife, and beach vehicles that favor erosion
    - ii. scuba diving in the aquatic environment; or hiking and camping in mountainous areas
  - d) recognizing the UNESCO's conference on tourism and culture by adding the following topics to their agenda:
    - i. the oceans and coral reefs
    - ii. the desert
    - iii. mountainous terrain;
6. Further Recommends the implementation of Green Tourism as local people will also benefit from this through means such as, providing a safe and clean environment for the local communities if vandalization, littering, or anything to harm the community occurs;
7. Declares that World Heritage Sites limit the number of people visiting the site at the same time as this is often the source of damage to the site, and will cause crowding which can be avoided through means such as but not limited to:
  - a) limiting the number of people who can enter the site at one time
  - b) prebooking is to be expected by the public for the site as this will ensure an easy way of tracking the amount of visitors touring the site daily
  - c) increasing ticket prices to a great amount for groups of a larger size, said size can be decide upon by the site itself;
8. Promotes sustainable tourism and stimulation of the local economy in combination with World Natural Heritage Sites through means such as, but not restricted to:
  - a) allowing local citizens to sell sustainable products near the World Heritage Sites
  - b) providing areas in which local citizens can sell locally grown and prepared foods near the site

- c) providing volunteer options for all locals wanting to gain work experience for possible future jobs that might occur
- d) recommending the reporting “on the legislative and administrative provisions they have adopted and other action which they have taken for the application of this convention, together with details of the experience acquired in this field,” (World Heritage Convention, Article 29)
- e) include investments into local small business to make them more economically proficient in order to sustain a healthy environment.

**FORUM:** The Environment Sub-Commission 2

**QUESTION OF:** The Impact of Tourism on World Natural Heritage

**SUBMITTED BY:** Serbia

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION,

*Defining* World Natural Heritage according to UNESCO's criteria for selection as a site that contains superlative natural phenomena, is an outstanding example representing major stages of earth's history and significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and contains the most important natural habitats for on-site conservation of biological diversity,

*Acknowledging* there are 203 Natural Heritage Sites according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),

*Noting with deep concern* 19 Natural Heritage Sites are on the List of World Heritage in Danger in accordance with Article 11 (4) of the World Heritage Convention,

*Keeping in mind* the often positive economic impacts of tourism but the typically detrimental impacts of tourism on Natural Heritage Sites,

*Recognising* irresponsible or badly managed tourism can cause biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation and negative impacts to local communities,

*Noting with satisfaction* 192 countries have ratified the World Natural Heritage Convention, whereby they agree to give details of how a property is protected and are expected to protect the World Heritage values of the properties inscribed,

*Acknowledging* the World Heritage Committee consisting of 21 voluntary State Parties,

*Noting further* 3 formal advisories to the World Heritage Committee include the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) which all participate in the implementation of the Convention,

*Further Recalling* the fact that tourism generates 12% of the world's total GNP, according to The World Travel and Tourism Council,

*Emphasizing* the protection and conservation of the features that are of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in World Natural Heritage Sites is of the utmost importance,

1. Recommends member states with World Natural Heritage in their legal territory to recognize, evaluate, and publish the impacts and threats towards each site, possibly biannually, including information such as but not limited to:
  - a) developing a detailed prioritised list of existing impacts and threats towards the site
  - b) determining which impacts are tourism-related
    - i) seeking advice of site staff, local guides, community leaders, hotel owners, tour operators and other related personnel
    - ii) differing to site staff on the priority of impacts according to their experience

- and judgments
  - c) examining the cause-and-effect relationship of the identified impacts, and further identifying the groups connected with the impacts
  - d) writing an overview description of the impacts, threats and measures to be taken and reviewing them with the advisory board of the site to be eventually submitted to UNESCO for evaluation;
2. Asks applicable member states to engage in sustainable tourism planning for Natural Heritage Sites, through ways such as but not limited to:
- a) developing sustainable tourists goals and a monitoring programme to ensure measures are effective, by referencing to the Visitor Experience and Resource Protection Process (VERP) when creating an ideal monitoring system
  - b) managing dangerously high numbers of visitors to the site through means such as but not limited to:
    - i) restricting entry or closing an area
    - ii) limiting large group sizes
    - iii) implementing a quota or permit system
    - iv) increasing visitation fees
  - c) preserving threatened areas through means such as but not limited to:
    - i) restricting the number of people and the length of their stay in threatened areas
    - ii) offering fewer facilities in threatened areas
    - iii) using promotion campaigns to influence and direct tourists to more resilient areas
  - d) improving the means of transport to popular sites by organizing public transport, in order to reduce heavy traffic, air, water, land and noise pollution;
  - e) managing potential human threats by implementing an international (online) tracking system, which will hold a record of tourist offenses, allowing World Natural Heritage sites to refuse their access.
3. Reminds applicable member states to ensure consideration for major stakeholders as well as local communities and local residents of Natural Heritage Sites through ways including, but not limited to:
- a) creating a preliminary list of the site's stakeholders and their concerns, and identifying where concerns are mutual between different groups
  - b) discussing with aforementioned parties the benefits and obstacles related to tourism planning and stakeholder interests
  - c) setting strategies for sustainable tourism by governments that provide leadership and coordination
  - d) incorporating socio-cultural values into the site's new management and development
    - i) inviting local community members to voice out opinions to the site's advisory board
    - ii) encouraging local community participation within the site
  - e) ensure that a proportion of tourism revenue remains in the community as a means of fostering local protection, conservation and restoration
  - f) providing stakeholders with the capacity to manage tourism effectively and sustainably by:
    - i) identifying the capacity needs
    - ii) further identifying existing tools
    - iii) developing tools based on the identified needs
    - iv) supporting linkage between stakeholders;
4. Calls upon member states to raise tourists' and locals' awareness regarding the conservation of

World Natural Heritage Sites and ecotourism through means such as, but not limited to:

- a) creating educational programmes which aim to teach visitors low-impact ways of visiting a site, such as but not limited to:
    - i) techniques for observing wildlife without disturbing or harming it
    - ii) respect and consideration for a site's resources and protection process
  - b) harnessing the Internet and social media platforms such Facebook to spread concern on the urgent matter of Natural Heritage Site conservation and ideal tourist practices in threatened areas
  - c) encouraging conservational NGOs to add the education of sustainable tourism to their agendas
  - d) creating services, with appropriately trained staff within the area of the Heritage, whom are responsible for the protection and presentation of the Site
  - e) organizing campaigns which promote social and cultural changes concerned with sustainable development in order to motivate citizens to take passive and active actions to:
    - i) reduce pollution
    - ii) be involved in the decision making concerning local Sites;
5. Further encourages members states to donate to the World Heritage Fund, which will in turn more actively invest in the protection of Natural Heritage infrastructure, abiding by the terms of the Convention, through means such as but not limited to::
- a) making the site's physical environment more resistant and less susceptible to damage e.g. creating footpaths to reduce soil erosion
  - b) relocating delicate infrastructure to more resilient and suitable areas which could be:
    - i) less populated
    - ii) less prone to erosion or rising sea levels
    - iii) less inclined to dramatic climate changes;
6. Suggests harsh penalties be instilled towards the managers of Natural Heritage which fail to undergo sustainable tourism management and to tourists who disrespect the sites by ways such as but not limited to:
- a) imposing a verbal warning at first toward the site's management department, followed by economic sanctions if first measure is ignored
  - b) increasing fines for tourists by a significant amount of money;
7. Requests the World Heritage Committee resolve disagreements with the IUCN regarding as to when a site should be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- a) notably with regard to the Committee deciding to remove properties from the List based on the progress of corrective measures being implemented, instead of identification of objectives in relation to the State of Conservation of a site/property has been achieved
  - b) ensure consistency in framing the use of the List of World Heritage in Danger between the committee's decisions and State of Conservation reports prepared by the IUCN
  - c) Suggests the Committee and the IUCN keep each other well informed on progress when collaborating on mutual issues;
8. Further Calls for UNESCO to collaborate with The Scottish Ten project that will 3D scan and digitally document all world natural heritage sites to improve its database, which can:
- a) record explicit information on the damage of sites caused by tourism
  - b) enhance the interpretation and access to heritage sites virtually
  - c) technologies used include
    - i) a geo-referenced registered point cloud
    - ii) 3D images and models
    - iii) animations;

9. Reminds that countries with heritage sites in transboundary properties develop a collaborative plan incorporating sustainable tourism (which fits the specific sites interest) where governments, local communities and all stakeholders cooperate with each other and UNESCO by:
- a) examining the connection between the particular site, the buffer zone, the surrounding area and the countries involved, foreseeing the development of sustainable tourism
  - b) analysing the environmental, geographic, ecological, social, political and economic aspects in order to find out how a location will evolve.

10. Suggests following the UNEP Green Tourism Economy Chapter in order to mitigate environmental harm through:

- a) the use of efficient water consumption by hotels from conventional water sources such as:
  - i. treated wastewater
  - ii. underground water
- b) the expansion of renewables and low-emission transport such as but not limited to:
  - i. electric trains
  - ii. hybrid cars
- c) investments in tourism waste management to allow for higher rates of waste collection and recycling;

**FORUM:** Environmental Sub-Commission 2

**QUESTION OF:** Promoting advanced agricultural technology as a tool for achieving sustainable development.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Algeria

THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION,

*Acknowledging* the recent improvements in the agricultural industry, beginning from the start of the Green Revolution; a time between the 1930s and 1960s that significantly increased the crop production, with the use of fertilisers, pesticides and crop varieties in developing countries,

*Viewing with appreciation* the progress made in Sub-Saharan Africa, where there has been significant yield increases from 20% to 60% in upland maize and 200% to 300% in irrigated rice with less fertiliser inputs,

*Recognising* food security, as defined by the United Nations' Committee on World Food Security, is the condition in which all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life,

*Reaffirming* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development established in 2015, specifically the twelfth Sustainable Development Goal, which is responsible consumption and production, therefore ensuring sustainable agriculture is met with sustainable consumption rates, while the second goal for Sustainable Development Goal aims to end hunger and secure access to food, ending all forms of malnutrition and working towards sustainable development, increasing productivity, income, and enhancing rural and agricultural investments,

*Aware of* the need for agricultural expansion in order to support rapidly increasing populations in developing countries, considering 83% of the global population will be living in developing countries by 2025,

*Fully aware of* two important UN resolutions, 'Agriculture development and food security, 28 March 2012 (A/RES/66/220)' and 'Agricultural Technology for Development, 22 November 2013 (A/C.2/68/L.38/Rev.1)', that are designed to increase sustainable development in agriculture,

*Alarmed that* poor nutrition causes nearly half (45%) of deaths in children under five, estimated at 3.1 million children each year,

*Further alarmed by* the fact that Sub-Saharan Africa is the region with the highest percentage of population facing hunger, where 204 million people are estimated to suffer from chronic malnourishment,

*Deeply concerned* that some 795 million people in the world do not have enough food to lead a healthy active life, averaging at about one in nine people on earth,

1. Recommends that countries work in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and World Food Programme (WFP) with the aim of boosting food

security, feeding future generations and reducing poverty through methods such as, but not limited to:

- a. developing young people's interest in agriculture, by introducing them to modern technology and its benefits, such as, but not limited to:
    - i. increased sustainability and production, the introduction of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in order to encourage biodiversity, and assisting the development of the country
    - ii. independence through modern agriculture, without reliance on weather and soil fertility but through contemporary methods, so as to help farmers realise the potential of farming
  - b. improving the image of agriculture to be more technologically-centered and business oriented, with the possibility of being commercially successful;
2. Encourages member nations to hold relevant agricultural campaigns in areas of arable farming, etc. with the purpose of educating farmers about:
- a. improved seed development and their broad dissemination and adoption through:
    - i. crop variants so as to avoid an entire strain of crop being unable to be harvested because it has been killed by one disease
    - ii. hybrids, i.e. offspring crops with the best traits and characteristics of their parent crops
  - b. soil and crop specific fertilisation, to improve the effectiveness of fertilisers
  - c. post-harvest handling and storage techniques and practices
  - d. the possibility of farmers, including small-scale, resource-poor farmers, to adopt the use of genetically modified crops and educate them on their benefits
  - e. the negative impact of deforestation and soil exhaustion in order to maintain soil sustainability and fertility;
3. Urges the use of appropriate government legislation with the assistance of the International Food and Agricultural Policy Council (IPC) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) with the purpose of:
- a. implementing relevant bilateral or multilateral trade agreements between countries, trade blocs or unions to minimise the issue of food security by ensuring the availability of food through several sources
  - b. subsidising small-holder farms with grants, capital, etc. in the hope of increasing the efficiency of cultivation and maintaining sustainability;
4. Strongly urges nations to address the issues that can arise from arid climate conditions, e.g. desertification, and implement methods to combat them, including:
- a. building glass greenhouses with proper microclimate management and technology,
  - b. water harvesting and usage techniques for increased agricultural production, for example:
    - i. the Bhungroo Innovative Water Augmentation and Management (BIWAM), which ensures the replacement of water used in a new project and can be mandated by law to protect existing water rights,
    - ii. PAVE Irrigation Technology (PIT) - injecting water collected from rainfall into the soil to prevent runoff and maximise the use of water;
5. Asks member nations, with the humanitarian assistance of United Nations (UN) experts, to hold occasional seminars or training programmes where the relevant agricultural departments can teach farmers possible techniques to improve their farming systems, including, but not limited to techniques such as:
- a. the concept of "leapfrogging", whereby intermediate steps are skipped by utilising advanced technology for their farms straight away, which can be:

- i. the latest machinery
- ii. the latest irrigation systems
- iii. mobile phones
- b. educating farmers on the idea of maintaining soil fertility with the use of effective fertilising technology, such as the Fertiliser Deep Placement (FDP) technology
- c. cultivation techniques, e.g. crop rotation or “Farming 4.0” with mechanisation and digitalisation
- d. Integrated Soil Fertiliser Management (ISFM) and soil management, which includes increasing soil organic matter and applying methods to reduce soil erosion;

6. Emphasises the need for member nations to strive for overall fair trade, that promotes sustainable development, by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalized producers and workers in developing countries through:

- a. inviting relevant fair trade organisations to hold campaigns and raise awareness in the public about the significance of fair trade, through bodies such as the World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO)
- b. reducing the bureaucracy or red tape and therefore cost for Fair Trade label certification as an incentive;

7. Deplores the use of hazardous or harmful fertilisers, pesticides or insecticides by any persons, particularly in larger farming systems in developing countries, due to the significant environmental consequences it entails, i.e. death of insects essential to the ecosystem, and thus recommends respective governments to take action in ways such as, but not limited to:

- a. substantial fines for individuals or corporations, proportionate to the extent of the use of these chemicals
- b. introducing government legislation which prohibits the import of these chemicals into their countries
- c. limiting the manufacture of similar chemicals through legislation in the country, including, but not limited to:
  - i. Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), that is known to cause cancer
  - ii. Diazinon, which can lead to brain and nerve damage
- d. introducing predators, such as barn owls, whose diet consists largely of agricultural pests, to curb the amount of pests in a certain farming system;

8. Invites relevant departments of member nations to contribute research and information in a combined global effort and create a mechanism under the umbrella of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), where:

- a. a platform or organisation can be provided for the collaboration of scientists, technologists and non-governmental organizations from member states, whose tasks include:
  - i. globally promoting research and development with the collaboration of the government of the member state in the field of agriculture including local methods of sustainable farming
  - ii. the exchange of such research information
  - iii. the testing of genetically modified crops by conducting field trials of biotech crops
  - iv. the sharing or trade of newly developed, advanced, effective agricultural technologies, potentially through a cloud-based network, exemplified by Kenya and Uganda
  - v. sharing the success of their current biotechnologies and GMO crops, whose seed may be sold or donated and distributed to developing economies

- b. a report by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), with the help of the IMF, is to be made regarding the status of sustainable development and food security in the state, as to:
  - i. suggest aims and objectives to the relevant departments of the government and provides an annual global report in collaboration with the UNEP-Global Environment Facility Coordination (GEF) on the fulfilment of such goals
  - ii. provide a clear, additional resource for the IMF and World Bank, of which they can determine countries most eligible for multilateral developmental assistance;

9. Further recommends willing respective agricultural departments of member nations to collaborate with the UNEP-GEF and FAO to:

- a. adopt a National Biosafety Framework (NBF) if not already done so, in accordance with the UNEP
- b. ensure that environmental legal concerns are being met
- c. prepare a report on the efficiency and quality of such crops, which can be provided to research organisations
- d. implement the Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), with the possibility of humanitarian developmental aid from the FAO or equivalent NGOs or international organisations, e.g. IMF or World Bank.