

Commission: UN CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Session : 6<sup>th</sup> Zonal MUN 2019

Sponsors. : Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Chad, China, Denmark, Ghana, India, Israel, Netherlands, Russian Federation, South Africa, United States of America

QUESTION OF: **PROMOTING BIO-TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN BIODIVERSITY-BASED SECTORS AS A MEANS TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The General Assembly,

Taking into account that consumerism leads to overexploitation of resources producing erroneous disposal of excessive waste materials affecting biodiversity,

Deeply concerned by the global rise in total carbon emissions of 38.2 billion tons that has prompted countries to overlook the dire consequences being posed to endangered species, forestry, marine life and crops leading to global warming,

Alarmed by the impact accelerated urbanization is having on preserving biodiversity and the rising demand for goods and services due to a growing global population,

Considering that globalization enhances the free movement of people and resources, tourism has posed a threat to preserving the flora and fauna of different environments,

Having considered that there are numerous questions such as the attainability of the SDGs, it is often reflected upon whether all countries can achieve the 17 goals,

Recognizing that economically rewarding projects such as infrastructure development and manufacturing do not necessarily work in coordination with making biodiversity-based sectors a key pillar of the economy, thus not achieving the desired sustainable development goal,

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Having studied that biopiracy involves indigenous knowledge of nature being used by more powerful stakeholders for profit motive without their authorization or compensation questions the principles of bio-trade,

Noting that Non-tariff measures (NTMs) are most of the time harmful to the trade of biodiversity-based products in the food, personal care and Phyto-pharma sectors,

1. Encourages the BTI set up by UNCTAD in 1996 to further progress with its works in integrating trade and development strategies through technical assistance, knowledge creation and enhanced collaboration;
2. Urges the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) to further implement the Aichi Biodiversity targets for 2011-2020 as a means of boosting international trade in a fair and sustainable manner;
3. Requests member states to ratify the Nagoya protocol and compliment other international agreements which have been set up to promote biodiversity;
4. Reiterates all states to harmonize their environmental and industrial policies through committing to the SDGs 2,7, 13 and 15, thus ensuring the creation of a green economy;
5. Calls upon governments to enforce a mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for all companies to comply with, in order to respect principles of bio-trade;
6. Stresses the importance of raising awareness amongst communities about the values of biodiversity, the protection and promotion of bio-products, and how one's ecosystem should be preserved, or else future generations may not have such a variety of flora and fauna;
7. Recommends reduction in subsidising greenhouse gas emissions and in the fishing industry by promoting other alternatives such as:
  - (a) Eco-tourism and preservation of natural resources,
  - (b) Use of renewable and green energy,
  - (c) Use of Use of renewable and green energy;

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8. Further requests states to take a more liberal approach and reduce trade barriers such as import tariffs which prevents interdependence;
9. Endorses the creation of a global custom union for green energy where countries can join free trade agreements;
10. Encourages governments to invest in appropriate technology such as R&D which allows for the digitalization of trade especially in developing countries;
11. Appeals the prohibition of CFC's products and promote the use of biodegradable plastic, recyclable/ocean-friendly products and eco-friendly pesticides.