



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS

To Secretary General Ban Ki-moon  
c/o UNITED NATIONS  
New York  
USA

# **IFOAM\* Declaration to the United Nations for a World with the Option of Non-Genetically Engineered Food**

## **With reference**

to the declaration of the 64th UN DPI/NGO Conference, which took place September 3-5, 2011 in Bonn, Germany:

*“We move for the adoption of an intergovernmental mechanism or instrument to assess the environmental, health and socio-economic impacts of new and emerging technologies, in line with the precautionary principle. We call for the outright ban on technologies that put the planet at grave risk.”*

**We, stakeholders of the Organic World, including farmers, processing industry, trade and consumers and we, concerned citizens from all over the world marching for the “Right2know” from New York to Washington in October 2011,**

## **express**

our deepest concerns about expansion of genetically engineered food without transparency and participation of producers, consumers and citizens;

## **fear**

the fast expansion of genetically engineered food production including its health risks to societies and environments and its negative impacts such as cross pollination and contamination diminishing the options of farmers and consumers for sustainable development and consumption;

## **realize**

that biased agriculture policies, research and development agendas, and private sector strategies favor short-term individual profits, to the detriment of the long-term sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of all, causing unnecessary and unacceptable hunger, poverty, climate change and destruction of habitats and biodiversity for human beings and Nature;

---

\* IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) is, with its 750 member organizations in over 110 countries, uniting and leading the organic farmers and business sector worldwide. IFOAM was the coordinating NGO of the German Focal Group for the 64th UN DPI/NGO conference.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS

### **declare our conviction**

1. *that* we believe in the capacity of Nature to decently and healthily feed a growing human population, provided human beings honor the value of nature and establish strategies based on the intensification of naturally occurring ecological processes;
2. *that* respect for human beings and for all forms of domesticated and wild life has the power to establish a new culture of dialog and progress, thus creating unprecedented synergies between ecology and economy for the benefit of all;
3. *that* only farming that nourishes Nature and supports biological activities, efficient use of water, climate, seeds, breeds and naturally developed soils - rather than industrial agricultural that creates deserted monotonous landscapes and relies on external energy - can guarantee food for all, now and in the future;
4. *that* positive development requires a legal framework that prioritizes the right of rural communities and their people, regardless of their race, culture, religion, gender and age, to access their own local natural resources in order to provide for their needs and access relevant knowledge of traditional and science based ecological farming practices;
5. *that* the power of consumers in rural and urban areas worldwide can put the world on a path to sustainability, provided they have access to fully transparent information about the implications of food production for the health of their own families and for the health of all people and natural environment involved in the supply chain

### **and therefore demand**

1. *that* agriculture and food security policies of the United Nations aim for sustainability in development, including ecological biodiversity, social welfare for all and economic viability of systems.
2. *that* the United Nations urge the countries which threaten Nature and society by the extensive approval of high risk technology of Genetically Modifying Organisms in agriculture, to make genetic engineered food transparent to all through labeling
3. *that* the interests of Nature, of smallholders and landless rural populations, of domesticated species and of consumers are prioritized over profits of the proponents and patent-holders of genetic engineering.
4. *that* the United Nations ensure the free option for food producers to choose their own seeds and breeds and to practice their own production methods, such as organic farming, which are contaminated by the use of genetically modified varieties of others.
5. *that* the United Nations acknowledge the right to choose safe, healthy food for people and protects their right to know how their food is produced.
6. *that* the United Nations use their organizations, programs and conferences to enforce the right to produce and consume independently from undesired, risky technologies such as the Genetic Engineering of plants and animals.

Katherine Di Matteo  
IFOAM President

Markus Arbenz  
IFOAM Executive Director

Joseph Wilhelm  
Representing IFOAM Affiliates

Bernward Geier  
German NGO focal group  
coordinator