

November 19, 2023

International Consultation for Major Groups and Stakeholders...before the 10th Annual Subcommittee Meeting (10th ASC) in preparations for UNEA-6.

Farmers MGFC: DRAFT Statement for inclusion in deliberations

Presented by Farmer Co-Chairs, Paul Temple and Arthur G. Kawamura

The Farmers MGFC seeks to improve their level of participation in the deliberations of the UNEP. The term “Farmers” represents all ‘farmers, ranchers, foresters and fishers’ who increasingly face both old and new conflicts in their endeavors. The term “conflict” often describes disruption caused by wars, but the perpetual conflict that ‘farmers’ face with invasive pests, zoonotic diseases and changing climate can generate the greatest real threats to humanity.

The Farmers MGFC will work to convey the importance of agriculture to UNEP and UNEA-6. Recently, an international “call to action” document emerged that quietly replaced the terms “agriculture” and “farmers” with “food system” and “front line actors”. The following is a ‘feedback’ reply that provides a more straightforward framework for the Farmer’s narrative:

“A reliable food supply has never been more essential for humanity to be able to live and thrive on earth. Agriculture, in all of its many dimensions and forms produces that supply, day after day, against a long list of challenges, disruptions and misunderstandings by those who often feel entitled to have access and control of it and its distribution. Farmers are not “actors” on the stage of humanity. Farmers have built the stage that allows humanity to exist and act out the tragedy, drama or enlightenment of our existence.”

The MGFC values the use of good science and its application in all forms of production as global Farmers adapt, mitigate and rise to the challenge of achieving Sustainable Development Goals.