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Farmers MGFC submission for areas of concern and discussion for ASC in anticipation of the UNEA-6 convening. Submitted to CSU by Co-Chairs A.G. Kawamura and Paul Temple

During these difficult global times, the term “conflict” often describes societal disruption caused by wars. Unfortunately the perpetual conflict that ‘farmers’ face with invasive pests, zoonotic diseases and changing climate are not addressed adequately across the various UN platforms. The undeniable negative effects to the environment from invasive species introduction and establishment can also generate some of the greatest real threats to humanity.

In order to better address the impacts of Invasive Species, targeted policy and methods of exclusion, detection, eradication and mitigation need to be constantly developed, implemented and maintained. This includes a more dynamic tool box of both science, technology, data collection and also, institutional knowledge and wisdom in dealing with our increasingly complicated and transnational activities. Experts have often noted that ‘invasive species’ know no borders. Invasive species represent a kind of natural pollution that can carelessly or intentionally be introduced or distributed because of poor phytosanitary protocols.

For farmers, ranchers, foresters and fisheries the impacts from invasive species can be immediate and severe, leading to animal, crop, tree and aquatic life loss at staggering numbers. The same can be said for the overall environment and the life systems that face similar negative impacts.

As a consequence, the various UN platforms from COP, FAO, UNEP, WHO and others should address in their deliberations, the increasing challenges presented by invasive species proliferation and resolve to direct time and resources to their impacts across the dimensions of human activity.