

February 26, 2024

UNEA-6...Opening Plenary
Nairobi, Kenya

Farmers MGFC

Farmer Statement

Presented by Farmer Co-Facilitators, Paul Temple and Arthur G. Kawamura on Behalf of UNEP
MGFC

Your Excellencies, Honored Guests and Colleagues,

The Farmers MGFC seeks to improve their level of participation in the deliberations of the UNEP. The term “Farmers” represents all ‘farmers, ranchers, pastoralists, 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 species, zoonotic diseases, global trade disruptions and changing climate can generate some of the greatest real threats to humanity.

The Farmers MGFC will work to convey the importance of agriculture to UNEP and UNEA-6. Recently, in another UN platform, 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 our 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 Farmer MGFC values the use of good science and indigenous knowledge and its application in all forms of production as global Farmers of all sizes adapt, mitigate and seek transformation as they rise to the challenge of achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals.