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Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

Bangladesh: draft resolution

Use of natural fibres such as jute and sisal

The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹ the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,² the Paris Agreement,³ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030⁴ and the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),⁵

Recalling also its resolution [61/189](#) of 20 December 2006 on the International Year of Natural Fibres, 2009,

Recalling further resolution 3/2005 of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, adopted on 25 November 2005,

Noting that the diverse range of natural fibres produced in many countries provides an important source of income for farmers, and thus can play an important role in contributing to food security and in eradicating poverty and hence in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Emphasizing the need for collective efforts to promote sustainable development in its three dimensions in an innovative, coordinated, environmentally sound, open and shared manner,

Recognizing that eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development,

¹ Resolution [70/1](#).

² Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

³ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

⁴ Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

⁵ Resolution [71/256](#), annex.



Reaffirming the need to achieve sustainable development by promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources,

Emphasizing that the use of natural fibres such as jute and sisal is essential for sustainable development, poverty alleviation, improved human well-being and addressing environmental degradation and climate change,

Noting the Climate Action Summit, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 23 September 2019, which aimed at transformation to cleaner and more resilient economies in line with the Sustainable Development Goals,

Stressing the disadvantages of the use of plastic and artificial fibres, which are seen as major environmental, economic and social challenges for global sustainable development,

Stressing also the public health concerns arising from the use of plastic and artificial fibres,

Taking note of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/9 of 15 March 2019,⁶ in which the Assembly highlighted the disadvantages of single-use plastic products,

Recalling the ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session, entitled “Towards a pollution-free planet”,⁷

Recalling also the proclamation of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020), the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, 2011–2020, the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021–2030, the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028) and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030),

Recognizing that natural fibres such as jute and sisal are energy-efficient, easily recyclable, biodegradable, renewable and carbon-neutral, and thereby significantly contribute to the emerging green economy and sustainable development,

Stressing the need for cooperation, coordination and synergies in the work related to the production, distribution and use of natural fibres such as jute and sisal among relevant United Nations entities, according to their mandate,

Noting that political commitment is needed to generate the necessary transformational impact at all levels in order to promote the use of natural fibres such as jute and sisal to achieve sustainable development,

Noting also that the promotion of the use of natural fibres such as jute and sisal needs to be carried out in ways that balance social, economic and environmental objectives and with the engagement of relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society representatives,

Recognizing the crucial role that women and youth play in the production, consumption and conservation of natural fibres such as jute and sisal, and stressing the need for the full participation of women and youth at all levels of policymaking and implementation for promoting the use of natural fibres such as jute and sisal,

1. *Decides* to scale up efforts to raise awareness of the importance of the use of natural fibres such as jute and sisal;

⁶ UNEP/EA.4/Res.9.

⁷ UNEP/EA.3/HLS.1.

2. *Underlines* the importance of unlocking the commercial and environmental benefits of natural fibres, and encourages all stakeholders to maximize the use of natural fibres in all relevant areas and sectors;

3. *Recognizes* that the production, processing, application and export of natural fibres are vital to the economies of many developing countries and the livelihoods of millions of small-scale farmers and low-wage workers;

4. *Stresses* that the use of natural fibres such as jute and sisal contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹ as well as other related United Nations major outcome documents and multilateral environmental agreements, including the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,³ and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets⁸ and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

5. *Encourages* Member States:

(a) To foster political will, the mobilization of resources, capacity-building and momentum for the use of natural fibres such as jute and sisal at the global, regional, national and local levels, as appropriate;

(b) To mainstream the promotion of the use of natural fibres such as jute and sisal into policies and plans to address current national development priorities and challenges due to environmental degradation and climate change vulnerability;

(c) To develop and implement policies and plans, such as offering tax breaks, to incentivize the use of natural fibres such as jute and sisal and reduce the use of plastic and artificial fibres, in line with national laws and priorities, as appropriate;

(d) To build on and reinforce existing initiatives in order to scale up the use of natural fibres such as jute and sisal;

(e) To facilitate synergies among all stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, and a holistic view of how to achieve international commitments and national priorities on the issue of the promotion of the use of natural fibres such as jute and sisal;

(f) To share information and best practices, in particular leveraging the platform of South-South and triangular cooperation, regarding the multitude of innovative applications of natural fibres such as jute and sisal, with a view to promoting longer-term economic, social and environmental benefits for both producers and consumers;

(g) To foster scientific research and development and cooperation at the national, regional and global levels to ensure, in addition to traditional use, high-end, value-added and innovative use of natural fibres such as jute and sisal;

(h) To preserve indigenous knowledge and technologies associated with natural fibres such as jute and sisal and scale up their use;

6. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant agencies of the United Nations system to scale up efforts to promote the use of natural fibres such as jute and sisal, within their mandates and existing resources, and through voluntary contributions, as appropriate;

7. *Invites* Governments, international and regional organizations, the private sector, the business community and academia to foster an effective and enduring

⁸ See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/2.

international partnership to support research and development and technical know-how to promote various applications of natural fibres such as jute and sisal;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake an in-depth study on the opportunities offered by the use of natural fibres such as jute and sisal and the constraints and challenges faced, to share best practices and make recommendations on accelerating the use and application of natural fibres for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and to submit the study to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session for its consideration.
