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Statement submitted by Bäuerliche Erzeugergemeinschaft Schwäbisch Hall w.V., a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Agrarian Change is essential to meet the SDG's and to save our planet!

The prevailing agricultural systems within the industrialized western economies are not sustainable in relation to the UN SDG's due to the intensive use of pesticides, artificial fertilizer and genetic modified organisms. In particular the waste of natural resources such as water pollution, soil erosion and loss of biodiversity causes harmful climate effects and affects human health.

All these facts call for a change of agricultural policies from the chemic/technical approach towards organic farming methods that are in harmony with nature and protect the natural resources of mother earth.

To meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 13: Combat climate change and its impacts, an Agrarian Change is necessary. Organic farming, which is approved to be more resources efficient than the chemic/technical system (von Weizsäcker/Lovins: Factor 4), will be the only way that can lead to sustainable and future viable land use and agricultural production in accordance with the natural resources.

The future methods which have to be employed in a sustainable agricultural production and food processing will lead to a complete change of agricultural policies and systems based on new parameter and systems:

- Use of organic methods/avoid chemicals and pesticides
- Avoid harmful climate effects
- Avoid biodiversity loss
- Balance of energy input/output
- Taxation of external effects as pollution, biodiversity loss etc.
- Total balance of input/output leading to resources efficiency

This Agrarian Change has to go along with a green economy to meet Goal 8: to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. The following measures will lead to the eradication of poverty in rural areas as well as the rural exodus:

- Strengthening of the farming communities and support traditional family farming methods
- Establishing solidary business and community building at ground level
- Initiating knowledge transfer and capacity building at grass root level
- Enabling peasants and rural communities to organize themselves for cooperative production
- Building processing capacities along with value chain development in order to get a fair share of their products
- Promoting rural development to social-cultural life

The Agrarian Change to organic methods along with green economy will include not only the sustainable and environmental friendly production of agriculture goods and food, but it will lead to save our natural resources as water, soil and climate and will feed the world with peaceful means.

The methods for sustainable agriculture have to be developed further by focusing research resources on this area. Some states are already reacting. In India

the state of Sikkim has decided to convert its agriculture to produce 100% ecological and the state of Andra Pradesh will change to “Zero Budget Natural Farmin” and ban all agrochemicals until 2024.

The Agrarian Change to a sustainable agriculture will decelerate the climate change, reduce social inequalities and protect our Mother Earth.
