**FORUM:** ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

**QUESTION OF:** ANIMAL LIVESTOCK FARMING

**MAIN SUBMITTER:** NORWAY

THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

*Recalling* previous relevant United Nations resolution 70/223 in which it reaffirmed the necessity of encouraging and supporting sustainable livestock, which would conserve land, water, plant and animal genetic resources,

*Noting with deep concern* the lack of United Nations resolutions that have been aimed specifically towards the question of livestock farming,

*Recognizing* the efforts made by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in relation to this issue,

*Acknowledging* the Interlaken Declaration, 19 February 2010 which states its awareness of the increasing demand for meat and animal products and recognizes that the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture will make a crucial contribution to achieving the goals set by the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, the World Food Summit Plan of Action, as well as the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal 1: eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, and Goal 7: ensure environmental sustainability, as well as helping to implement Agenda 21,

*Reaffirming* the FAO report, Livestock’s Long Shadow: Environmental Issues and Options, 26 November 2006, and the findings of which suggest that the livestock sector is one of the major contributors to many serious environmental problems on a local and global scale, and further findings propose that the livestock sector should be a main focus when approaching issues such as land degradation, climate change, air pollution, water shortage, water pollution and the loss of biodiversity,

*Pointing out* the statement made by Dr. Henning Steinfeld, senior U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization and head of the livestock and policy branch, the meat industry is “one of the most significant contributors to today’s most serious environmental problems’ and that “urgent action is required to remedy the situation”,

*Alarmed by* the increase of meat consumption at a rate of 5-6 percent p.a. and that of milk and dairy products at 3.4-3.8 percent p.a.,

*Draws attention to the fact that* livestock and their by products, including waste, are responsible for 51% of all worldwide greenhouse gas emissions,

*Further bearing in mind* the goals set out in paragraphs 21, 22 and points 2, 3 and 4 under paragraph 23, of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

1. Welcomes andsupportsinternational and organizational response to the pressing issue of the sustainability of livestock farming in all of its forms;
2. Calls uponinternational, regional and national efforts to recognize that increasing the sustainability of livestock farming is of paramount importance, by focusing on combatting these issues, but not limited to the following:
   1. Climate change, by means such as, but not limited to:
      1. Greenhouse gas emissions due to enteric fermentation
      2. Greenhouse gas emissions produced from animal food production and processing
      3. Greenhouse gas emissions produced from manure,
   2. Water pollution, by means such as, but not limited to:
      1. water pollution caused by animal waste run off
      2. water pollution caused by the leakage of manure and urine ‘lagoons’,
   3. Deforestation and lack of biodiversity, by the means such as, but not limited to: deforestation and lack of biodiversity caused by the need for new pasture,
   4. Land degradation and desertification;
      1. land degradation caused by the land being overgrazed
      2. land degradation caused by the land being overly compacted
      3. land degradation caused by land erosion.
   5. Decreasing the amount of carbon dioxide that is being obtruded by at least 3% per year, by methods such as, but not limited to:
      1. Usage of biogas generators and energy-saving devices, which help the global livestock sector to cut its outputs of global warming gases
      2. Improvement in the efficiency and sustainability of the production of food that is being made for the animals included in the livestock farming,
   6. Reducing the number of animals per square meter, to decrease the concentration of harmful gases, including, but not limited to the following gases:
      1. Nitrous oxide
      2. Methane
      3. Ammonia
      4. Hydrogen sulfide;
3. Draws attention to the fact that animal livestock farming is a significant contributor to many environmental issues and therefore calls for increasing awareness of these issues by means such as, but not limited to:
   1. The creation of the UN committee dedicated to this cause, whose role will include, but not be limited to:
      1. Ensuring member states do their utmost to prevent excessive livestock farming
      2. Increase the number of awareness campaigns in member states
      3. Creating digital campaigns notifying citizens of the consequences of livestock farming
      4. Surveying the use of livestock farming in member states, reporting the results back to this committee:
   2. The distribution of an UN funds to help the creation of multimedia campaigns whose goals include attempting to decrease livestock farming, including but not limited to the following forms of media:
      1. TV- Advertisements
      2. Posters
      3. Talk shows
      4. Internet campaigns;
4. Recommendsfor measures to be taken by a new UN committee dedicated to the improvement of the sustainability of livestock farming, such as, but not limited to:
   1. Decreasing land degradation and desertification as a consequence of livestock farming, by methods such as, but not limited to:
      1. controlling and regulating access to common pastures
      2. soil conservation
      3. livestock excluded from sensitive areas;
   2. Decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, by methods such as, but not limited to: improving animal’s diets, this reduces enteric fermentation, setting up biogas plant or such plants that will recycle manure
   3. Decreasing water pollution, by methods such as, but not limited to:
      1. improving the efficiency of irrigation systems
      2. using combined sewer collections
   4. Decreasing deforestation, by means such as, but not limited to:
      1. agriculture intensification
      2. forest conservation
      3. where deforestation has already occurred, steps could be taken to
      4. transform the area into a more sustainable agricultural area;
5. Urges all members of states to implement an emissions tax in their country, in which they will have to pay a certain sum of money per year in compensation for having an exceeding amount of greenhouse gas emission, this sum should be calculated by a separate working group of people based on their common practices;
6. Requests that countries provide access to good practices and technologies within the branch of livestock farming, also building the capacity to implement and act on them, this could mitigate the long term effects of livestock farming on the environment;
7. Endorsesresearch and development, necessary to build the evidence platform for mitigation intervention and further technologies, which could lead to effective mitigation plans and strategies;
8. Further endorses the use of a microfinance scheme for developing countries, promoted by the FAO, which allows lower end farmers in those areas to adopt new technologies and practices, with the following expectations, but not limited to an improvement in the sustainability of the technology used in the farming, to reduce the harmful gases obtruded, and the vast amount of water used;
9. Stresses the continuing need for livestock farming to be dealt with by each country as a high priority and an issue that needs to be dealt with care and strategy.
10. Calls for education of the people and farmers to aware them of the risk of eating a high amount of meat by methods, such as but not limited to:
    1. advertisement of free range of animal meat,
    2. reports about the conditions of the animals in livestock to the general public through methods such as but not limited to:
       1. tv reports/ documentaries on national tv,
       2. advertisements