



Draft Resolution on nanotechnology

Considering

That we are in a world in which science is advancing faster than society, a world driven by business profit where nanotechnology (NT) is launching products on the market before society has the opportunity to analyse their effects.

That civil society and social movements must embark on a broad debate on NT and its economic, environmental, social and health implications. We must not fall into the error of accepting that discussions of NT should be left in the hands of “experts”.

The 25th IUF Congress meeting in Geneva, March 19-22, 2007

Resolves:

1. To mobilize our affiliated organizations and urge them to discuss with the rest of society and governments the possible consequences of NT.
2. To demand that governments and the international organizations concerned apply the **Principle of Precaution**, prohibiting the sale of food, beverages and fodder, and all agricultural inputs which contain nanotechnology, until it is shown that they are safe and to approve an international system of regulation specifically designed to analyse these products.
3. To demand that the World Trade Organization (**WTO**) suspend the grant of patents related to nanotechnology in the food industry and agriculture, until the countries affected and social movements can carry out an evaluation of their impact.
4. To demand that the World Health Organization (**WHO**) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (**FAO**) update the *Codex Alimentarius*, taking into account the use of nanotechnology in food and agriculture.
5. To request the **WHO** to initiate short and long-term studies into the potential effects of nanotechnology - especially nanoparticles - on the health of the technicians and workers that produce them, users and consumers.
6. To request the International Labour Organization (**ILO**) to carry out an urgent study into the possible impact of nanotechnology on conditions of work and employment in agriculture and in the food industry. Following completion of the study, a Tripartite Conference on the subject must be convened as soon as possible.

Submitted by the 13th Conference of Rel-UITA