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Food and Agriculture  
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Продовольственная и  
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منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# CONFERENCE

## Fortieth Session

Rome, 3-8 July 2017

### Observance of World Bee Day (Draft Resolution)

#### Executive Summary

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia, with the support of Apimondia, the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations made a proposal to establish the observance by the UN System of a World Bee Day to be celebrated on 20 May each year. The main objective of this initiative would be to raise awareness of the key role of bees for agriculture, the environment, biodiversity, livelihoods and food supply, and promote international action to protect them and their habitats, and to support sustainable development of beekeeping.

*Extract from CL 155/REP:*

12. The Council:

- a) endorsed the draft Resolution "Observance of World Bee Day" on 20 May [...] to be submitted to the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference for adoption.

#### Suggested action by the Conference

The Conference may wish to approve the draft resolution in Annex and to request the Director-General to transmit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider, at its next session, declaring 20 May as World Bee Day.

*Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:*

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**Annex**

**Resolution ../2017**  
**Observance of World Bee Day**

**The Conference,**

**Considering** the urgent need to address the issue of worldwide decline of pollinator diversity and the risks this implies for agriculture sustainability, human livelihoods and food supplies;

**Recalling** the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on pollination services for sustainable agriculture, and the leading role played by FAO in facilitating and coordinating the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators, established by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2002;

**Taking into account** the Thematic Assessment of Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production, released in February 2016 by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES);

**Noting** the dependence of global agricultural systems on pollination services and the significant contribution of bees and other pollinators to improving the production and yields of agriculture worldwide, and therefore their contribution to creating rural employment;

**Noting** the fundamental role and contribution of bees and other pollinators for sustainable food production and nutrition, thereby promoting food security for the world's growing population and contributing to poverty alleviation and hunger eradication;

**Noting** the contribution of the ecosystem services provided by bees and other pollinators to ecosystem health by safeguarding the state of biodiversity, species and genetic diversity, thereby promoting ecological and sustainable intensification of food production, and helping adaptation to climate change;

**Expressing concern** that bees and other pollinators are endangered by a range of factors, in particular due to the effects of human activities such as changes in land use, intensive agricultural practices and the use of pesticides, as well as pollution, pests and diseases and climate change, which threaten their habitat, health and development;

**Affirming** that bees and other pollinators are relevant to all three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, the economic, social and environmental dimensions;

**Cognizant** of the urgent need to raise awareness at all levels and to promote and facilitate actions for the protection of bees and other pollinators, in order to contribute to their health and development, bearing in mind that enhancing pollinator services is important for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the goals to eradicate hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, protect limited natural resources and stem biodiversity loss, as well as many other dimensions of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development;

**Recognizing** that the observance of a *World Bee Day* by the international community would contribute significantly to raising awareness at all levels of the importance of bees and other pollinators, and promote global efforts and collective actions for their protection;

**Stressing** that additional costs of activities arising from the implementation of the World Bee Day be met through voluntary contributions, including from the private sector;

**Requests** the Director-General to transmit this Resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider, at its next session, declaring 20 May each year as *World Bee Day*.

(Adopted on ... 2017)