

IOWA HIGH SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS
IOWA YOUTH SYMPOSIUM
Final Resolution (2013)
Adopted on: Wednesday, October 23, 2013
Resolution created by the Science Committee
Regarding: Biopiracy

Preambulatory

Realizing biopiracy is defined as: commercial exploitation or monopolization of biological or genetic material, usually without compensating the indigenous peoples or countries from which the material or relevant knowledge is obtained, and

Noting with grave concern that the monetary compensation of some indigenous groups undermines culture through commodification, and

Realizing also, that bioprospecting is limited to the search for species of plants and animals, from which medicinal compounds and other valuable or proprietary compounds can be derived, and

Noting further, biopiracy is “unauthorized extraction of biological resources and/or the patenting of processes based on the traditional knowledge from indigenous communities”, and

Noting further the positive consequences of compensation, as compared to the aforementioned negative consequences, must be realized, some of which include: respect to intellectual property rights, conservation of resources, and equality among people, and

Deeply disturbed by the threats to biodiversity, the environment and indigenous peoples that nefarious bioprospecting or, biopiracy pose, and

Keeping in mind that instilling regulations and mandating monetary compensation to indigenous groups may lead to arbitrary legal and bureaucratic boundaries that disincentivize commercialization of medically invaluable resources, and

Cognizant that while not wholly beneficial to the corporations, the rights of individuals, as expressed in the UN charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights cannot be ignored as the basis upon which the UN is based upon, and

Endorsing capitalistic culture, the U.S government needs to align itself with organizations that encourage responsible enterprise, such as CBD or ICBG, and

Confident in the Global Capitalist system to be responsible and treat indigenous cultures as equal and individual entities with guidance of the international community through a UN-sponsored international organization, and

Actuating

Recognizes that the US and UN must consider relevant parties, including all impact affecting indigenous groups, corporations, and general economic and public health, and

Endorses the encouragement of bioprospecting, however, the recognition of the rights of individual groups possessing the intellectual knowledge, meaning the just compensation must be given to the agreement of both involved parties, and

Further recommend that the compensation to the of the original owners of the intellectual property shall be based upon a case by case meeting with the corporation and the indigenous peoples to decide the magnitude, style, and necessity of the compensation, and

Authorizes the creation of a UN sponsored international organization or programme dedicated to the equal treatment of indigenous cultures as entities under their own jurisdiction, in addition this organization/programme would serve as the moderator between corporations and indigenous entities when discussing compensation, and

Calls upon the UN to hold an international convention for the prospect of creating a worldwide, all encompassing concrete definition of indigenous peoples, to be adopted by the new programme/ ae organization, or aforementioned, and

Reaffirming the United States' belief that natural raw materials can not be patented, only human processes and products that are distinct from natural processes and products.