

## COPMOP2018 - PRRI Statement on Pollinators

Thank you Madam Chair,

I speak on behalf of the PRRI delegation.

Madam Chair, we welcome work on the protection of pollinators, but we have concerns about the statement in the Annex relating LMOs and effects on pollinators.

There is no scientific justification regarding the alleged effect of genetically modified herbicide crops on pollinators. In fact, scientific evidence that is accumulated over more than 20 years clearly demonstrates that the use of insect resistant LMOs leads to a substantial reduction of applications of insecticides, thus benefitting pollinators.

We therefore propose that these references to LMOs be removed from the Annex I,

More in general, we note with concern a trend of policies and regulations that ignore scientific evidence.

We call upon the Parties to ensure that policies and regulations are proportionate and based on scientific evidence.

Thank you Madam Chair