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**UN UPHOLDS MORATORIUM ON TERMINATOR SEEDS:
NO THANKS TO CANADA**

Pressure from Citizens and Developing Country Governments Turns the Tide

Ottawa March 24, 2006. The people have spoken. Thousands of citizens and farmers across the world claimed victory in Curitiba, Brazil today as a meeting of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) upheld a *de facto* moratorium on Terminator technology.

Terminator technology refers to the genetic engineering of plants to produce sterile seeds. The six-year UN moratorium was under serious threat at the CBD meetings, due to pressure from industry and a few OECD country governments, including Canada.

“The voice of the people has been heard,” said an elated Karen Pedersen of the National Farmers Union of Canada, who is at the meetings in Brazil, “Keeping Terminator out will mean that Canadian farmers, and the world’s farmers, will be spared this dangerous technology with enormous environmental and social costs.” As hundreds of farmers from Brazil and across the world protested outside, the Convention decided to uphold the moratorium.

Today, civil society organizations at the UN meetings presented the Canadian delegation with a Captain Hook Award, given annually to those considered to be "Biopirates" (having improperly profited from Indigenous knowledge) or for failing to protect biological diversity.

Although elated, delegates at the UN meeting are not letting down their guard. “There is still a week to go, and so much at stake with Terminator that anything can happen,” said Lucy Sharratt, Coordinator of the Ban Terminator Campaign, “The bottom line for industry is billions of dollars in profit, so you can bet they will try to attack this moratorium some other way,” she said.

Pat Mooney, Executive Director of ETC Group based in Ottawa, “Each government needs to translate the moratorium into a national legislative ban on Terminator. We will be working on this as soon as we get back from Brazil. Clearly a ban something that the majority of Canadians want.”

Recognizing the severe impacts of sterile seed technology on farmers’ livelihoods, developing country governments also fought hard to retain, and in some cases, strengthen the moratorium.

Percy Schmeiser, the Saskatchewan farmer who fought Monsanto all the way to the Supreme Court, expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the UN meetings. “I’m heartened to see the Canadian government listening to its people rather than to industry,” he said.

The Canadian Ban Terminator campaign was led by ETC Group, Inter Pares, National Farmers Union and USC Canada.