



SIN MAÍZ NO HAY PAÍS

Press release

Statement by the National No Corn No Country National Campaign (CNSMNP) on the ruling of the USMCA Dispute Panel

Mexico City, December 20, 2024.- The National No Corn No Country Campaign (CNSMNP) expresses our position on the ruling issued today in relation to the Dispute Panel initiated by the United States government against the Presidential Decree issued on February 13, 2023 in the framework of the Treaty between Mexico, the United States and Canada (USMCA, or T-MEC). This Decree was preceded by another Decree issued in 2020 and by other policies promoted by the Government between 2018 and 2024.

We submit that both the T-MEC and the **ruling issued by the panel are primarily designed to protect the interests of transnational corporations**, rather than prioritizing the rights of the Mexican population or environmental sustainability. In this context, the controversy reveals a global concern: **the risk that genetically modified foods** pose to human and environmental health. For this reason, the Mexican government offered the U.S. a joint risk assessment that would cover the needs of both populations, which the U.S. refused to carry out, considering it unnecessary. It also shows the **risks posed by the fact that basic foodstuffs are part of trade agreements** and are considered as a commodity and not as a priority good for humanity.

In its conclusions, the Panel recognizes that **"Mexico is seeking to address genuine concerns in good faith"** and suggests that the country should go through the administrative process again, ensuring that the measures are effective and that the results are presented to the parties involved. Therefore, if Mexico decides to abide by the ruling, it should not modify its policy but focus on consolidating a solid administrative process that avoids future complaints. For almost 30 years, the effects of the use of biotechnology on food and on the biodiversity of our crops have been evident. Mexico has already compiled the necessary scientific information, which was presented and reiterated in the panel's resolution, in addition to having the relevant expert opinions. **What is at issue is not the merits or the measures, but a purely administrative aspect.** Moreover, for almost a decade (9 years), agribusiness has had the possibility to carry out all the scientific studies to evaluate the



health and environmental effects of planting GM corn in Mexico, under judicial and regulatory supervision. To date, it has refused to conduct any studies in Mexico.

The Panel is composed of three experts in international trade and legal aspects related to trade processes. **They are not scientists, nor specialists in public or environmental health.** Their work is limited to resolving the administrative dispute filed by the United States against Mexico, without considering the possible impacts of genetically modified corn on the country's health, biodiversity or environment. It should be remembered that Mexico, in addition to being a center of origin and constant diversification of corn, has this cereal as the basis of its diet and culture.

The process has led to significant progress in terms of information, thanks to the contributions of civil organizations, scientists and experts, whose analyses were incorporated into Mexico's arguments. **This debate has revealed deficiencies in the international systems for evaluating genetically modified organisms and their risks to human and environmental health.** These systems do not consider key factors, such as the forms of consumption, quantity and frequency with which Mexicans consume corn throughout their lives. Nor do they evaluate the implications for the diversity of maize that is fundamental to combating climate change phenomena.

Although the outcome of the Panel does not favor Mexico, **the country has reaffirmed its commitment to protect public health and the environment from the risks associated with transgenic corn.** This issue remains a priority on the national agenda. It is also essential for biotechnology companies to demonstrate that genetically modified corn is safe for human consumption in the Mexican dough and tortilla industry, and also for the U.S. Government to evaluate the safety of genetically modified organisms without any conflict of interest. It should be noted that while the Mexican Government presented a compilation of peer-reviewed scientific articles, the United States presented research financed by the industry itself and even advertising pamphlets.

Moreover, the accusations that the Decree hinders free trade are unfounded, since corn imports have grown in recent years, concentrating mainly on grain destined for animal consumption. This was made clear recently with this year's corn import figures.

In this context, **we maintain that a trade panel has neither the legitimacy nor the capacity to evaluate the measures adopted by a country to protect the health of its population, preserve its biocultural wealth and safeguard the genetic reservoir** of a crop that, due to its production volume and diversity of uses, is the most important in the world. Therefore, under no circumstances can a trade agreement be above Mexico's sovereignty.

To secure and strengthen our position, **it is crucial to elevate to constitutional rank the prohibition of the planting of genetically modified corn and its consumption as a staple food. Likewise, it is imperative to ensure that it is not released in the Mexican countryside to protect the right to adequate, healthy and culturally relevant food**, as ruled in August by a congressional legislative commission.

It should also be recalled that the class action injunction, which in fact legally prevents the planting of all genetically modified corn, such as transgenic corn, in Mexico, is still in force.

Commitment and call to action

The National No Corn No Country Campaign reaffirms its commitment to continue the struggle against GM corn and in favor of food sovereignty, biodiversity and the defense of native corn. We urgently call on civil society organizations, collectives and the more than 100,000 people who have expressed their support for Mexico's sovereign decision to protect its native corn and food, to disseminate this statement.

It is essential that we continue to demand that the Mexican government maintain its firm stance against GM maize in the face of transnational interests. We invite society in general to share this statement and to continue to raise our voices in defense of our sovereignty, our health and biocultural heritage.

Without Corn, No Country!

Mexico Without GMOs!

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