



Our Ref.: NCP GB8-016 MYPoW/DSI

Rome, 3 December 2018

NOTIFICATION

Invitation to submit views and other information on “Digital sequence information” (Deadline: 31 March 2019)

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the honour to draw your attention to Resolution 13/2017 of the Governing Body of the International Treaty, on the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Governing Body (MYPoW).¹

By the said Resolution, the Governing Body decided, *inter alia*, to consider, at its Eighth Session, the potential implications of the use of “digital sequence information” (DSI) on genetic resources for the objectives of the International Treaty,² and to consider it for inclusion in the MYPoW at that meeting.

In order to facilitate the consideration by the Governing Body of the potential implications of the use of DSI on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) on the objectives of the International Treaty, including exchange, access and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use, the Governing Body invited Contracting Parties, other governments, relevant stakeholders and individuals with relevant expertise on the matter to provide information to the Governing Body, including on:

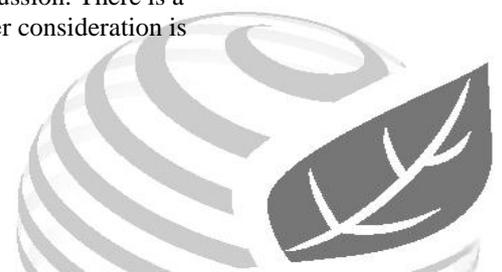
- terminology used in this area;
- actors involved with DSI on PGRFA;
- the types and extent of uses of DSI on PGRFA, such as: characterization; breeding and genetic improvement; conservation; identification of PGRFA;
- the relevance of DSI on PGRFA for food security and nutrition.

In order to enable me compile the views received and make them available to Contracting Parties to inform discussions on this topic at the Eight Session of the Governing Body, I would be grateful if all submissions could be provided as soon as possible, but no later than **31 March 2019** by email through: pgrfa-treaty@fao.org

As requested by the Governing Body in Resolution 13/2017, I will inform the Governing Body at its Eighth Session of the outcomes of the processes in the Convention on Biological Diversity and in the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as they relate to the potential implications of the use of “DSI” on genetic resources for the objectives of the International Treaty.

¹ The full text of Resolution 13/2017 is available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mv176e.pdf>.

² The term is taken from decision CBD COP XIII/16 and is subject to further discussion. There is a recognition that there is a multiplicity of terms that have been used and that further consideration is needed regarding the appropriate term or terms to be used.

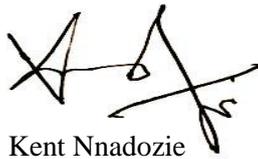


In relation to the above request by the Governing Body, you may wish to note that, pursuant to Resolution 5/2017, on the implementation of the Global Information System, the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System, at its third meeting of June 2018, considered “DSI”, as far as it is generated from the use of PGRFA and related to the implementation of GLIS. The report of the meeting is available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/CA0526EN/ca0526en.pdf> (see, in particular, paragraphs 19-26).

For any queries or request for further information, please contact the Secretariat of the International Treaty through: pgrfa-treaty@fao.org.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Kent Nnadozie
Secretary International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture

