



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



COMPOSITION, STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING FOR THE *AD HOC* OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP TO ENHANCE THE FUNCTIONING OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING

Each Region shall nominate, by the end of the Fifth Session of the Governing Body, or at the latest by December 2013, the Contracting Parties which shall be Members of the Working Group. The Members will then nominate their representatives.

The Working Group shall be composed of up to twenty-seven representatives from the following regions:

- Up to 5 from Africa;
- Up to 5 from Europe;
- Up to 5 from Asia;
- Up to 5 from Latin America and the Caribbean;
- Up to 3 from the Near East;
- Up to 2 from North America;
- Up to 2 from Southwest Pacific.

Officers

The Working Group shall elect two Co-Chairpersons from among the representatives of the Members of the Working Group. The Co-Chairpersons shall preside over the meetings of the Working Group, and exercise such other functions as may be required to facilitate its work.

Sessions

Sessions of the Working Group shall normally be of three days duration, preceded by a day of regional consultations. The Working Group should aim to have two sessions in the 2014/15 biennium with any further necessary sessions to be covered by extra-budgetary funds.

Observers

Contracting Parties which have no representatives on the Working Group may participate, upon request to the Secretariat, in the work of the Working Group, in an observer capacity.

For the Working Group's first meeting, the Bureau may invite up to two representatives each from the following groups, as observers:

- Civil society organizations;
- The seed industry;
- Farmers' organizations; and
- The CGIAR Centres.

For its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may invite pertinent observers, and experts, as it feels appropriate.

Regional balance will be taken into account in inviting these observers. All observers and experts will speak at the invitation of the Co-chairs.

The Working Group may also choose to meet in a format of Contracting Party representatives, to make decisions which are of a governance nature.