



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Our Ref.: GB6 031 – Working Group (3) – Request for Input

14 January 2015

NOTIFICATION

Third Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Open-Ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing

Invitation to send input for the third meeting, as requested by the Working Group at its second meeting

I have the pleasure to refer to the Report¹ of the second meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Open-Ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing (Working Group), and in particular to the various inputs that the Working Group requested to be provided before its third meeting.

In its second meeting, the Working Group identified various options for increasing user-based payments and contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund in a sustainable and predictable long-term manner, and for enhancing the functioning of the Multilateral System by additional measures. It requested the working document of its next meeting to contain, wherever possible, textual elements by which the various options could be implemented.

For this purpose, the Working Group “*invited its Members to submit textual elements for compilation in the [working document to be prepared for its next meeting] to the Secretary, two calendar months before the meeting began, so that they might be circulated well beforehand.*”

Moreover, the Working Group also “*welcomed further analysis to be provided to its next meeting, elaborating the ways in which a subscription model could be implemented in the context of Art. 6.11 of the SMTA or beyond, bearing in mind the need to make such a model attractive to users.*”

The Working Group further agreed that an enhanced Multilateral System should minimize the administrative burden arising from the SMTA for users, while at the same time facilitating the functioning of the Third Party Beneficiary. It recognized that the seed sector and other users need legal certainty concerning access and benefit-sharing arrangements around plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

¹ The Report can be accessed at <http://www.planttreaty.org/content/second-meeting-ad-hoc-open-ended-working-group-enhance-functioning-multilateral-system-access>.

In this context, the Working Group recognized that it would be difficult to introduce a minimum incorporation threshold at this stage. However, it stated that it “*would still welcome proposals from the seed sector in this regard.*”

The purpose of this Notification is therefore to invite (1) Working Group Members to submit the above mentioned textual elements; (2) stakeholders of the seed sector to provide proposals for a possible minimum incorporation threshold; and (3) all interested stakeholders to share their analyses on the ways in which a subscription model could be implemented in the context of Art. 6.11 of the SMTA and beyond, bearing in mind the need to make such a model attractive to users.

To facilitate the consolidation of such information in the documentation being prepared by the Secretariat for the third meeting of the Working Group, I would appreciate receiving such information by 20 February 2015 at PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org.

For any query or request for further information, please contact the Secretariat of the International Treaty at:

PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org

Dr Shakeel Bhatti

Secretary

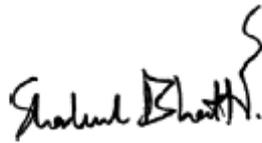
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Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.



Dr Shakeel Bhatti

Secretary

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