

14 February 2014



# The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



## Bureau of the Sixth Session of the Governing Body

14 February 2014

### SUMMARY REPORT

#### I. THIRD CALL FOR PROPOSALS: CONSIDERATION, APPROVAL AND ISSUANCE

1. At its Fifth Session the Governing Body decided to launch the third Call for Proposals of the Benefit-sharing Fund as soon as possible. Since the beginning of the year, the Secretary had sent regular information updates about preparations for the issuance of the third Call for Proposals to the Bureau of the Sixth Session.

2. On 5 February, the Secretary submitted to the Vice-chairs the draft third Call for Proposals together with additional relevant documentation. The contents of the draft submitted to them reflects the advice of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy and was prepared using the standard expert advice.

3. The Bureau thanked the Secretariat, the Committee, its Co-chairs, and the especially donors, particularly the European Commission and Norway, for the work undertaken to make the third Call for Proposals possible. The Bureau discussed comments to the draft third Call for Proposals by the regional Vice-chairs that had been submitted in advance through email or that were made during the teleconference. Based on these comments, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to make a number of changes to the draft third Call for Proposals. With these changes incorporated, the Bureau approved the Call for issuance and requested the Secretariat to submit it to translation with a target date for its official opening on 7 March 2014. The Secretary will continue to send information updates on the progress and will contact the Vice-chairs once the translations to the third Call is available to facilitate its widest possible circulation to stakeholders and potential applicants.

4. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to circulate the *Policy on Conflicts of Interest and related Standards of Conduct for the Benefit-Sharing Fund*, adopted by the Governing Body at its Fifth Session. The *Policy* is available in Annex 2 of Resolution 2/013, *Implementation of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty*.<sup>[1]</sup>

#### II. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PANEL OF EXPERTS

5. The independent Panel of experts for the third Round will be designated by the Bureau of the Sixth Session from a Roster of experts in consultation with their regions. The independent Panel of

[1] [http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/RES2\\_2013\\_en.pdf](http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/RES2_2013_en.pdf)

Experts will work without remuneration with resources provided under the core administrative budget for any meeting necessary. The terms of Reference of the Panel are to be made public. The Bureau agreed on the following timeline for the establishment of the Panel of Experts:

- By 7 March 2014 (target date of the opening of the Call for Proposals), the Secretariat will have contacted experts currently in the Roster to see if they are still interested to be part of it. The Secretariat will distribute the new *Policy on Conflicts of Interest* to all existing experts. Any additional experts proposed by Vice-chairs will need to be communicated to the Secretariat by then.
- The establishment of the Panel of Experts will be finalized at the first meeting of the Bureau on 25-26 March 2014.

6. The Bureau of the Sixth Session also suggested that the Panel of Experts for the next project cycle will be established at the Sixth Session of the Governing Body.

### **III. THIRD FUNDING CYCLE: FUNDING AVAILABLE AND BUDGET**

7. The Bureau took note of the information presented by the Secretariat on contributions made by donors to the third funding cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund and the different budget lines of the provisional Total Budget.

### **IV. NEXT STEPS TO LAUNCH THE THIRD CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

8. The Bureau welcomed the preparatory work being undertaken by the Secretariat to launch the Third Call for Proposals. The Secretariat will publish a notification to make National Focal Points and all Treaty stakeholders aware of the Opening of the third Call. A number of communication materials are being prepared, including a press release and a flyer. The Secretariat will use a number of existing networks to disseminate the Call as well as receive support by its partners in the Call dissemination, including UNEP and the Secretariat of the CBD. The Secretary will keep the Bureau informed on the efforts made to disseminate and publicize the Third Call for Proposals as widely as possible.

### **V. OTHER MATTERS**

#### ***5.1. Remaining nominations for inter-sessional processes***

9. The Bureau agreed that the Vice-chairs would complete the nomination for inter-sessional processes by the end of the month.

#### ***5.2. Interactions with Stakeholder Groups prior to the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group for the Enhancement of the Multilateral System***

10. The Governing Body requested the Open-ended Working Group to consult with relevant stakeholder groups. For the Working Group's first meeting, the Bureau may invite up to two representatives from the following Stakeholder Groups, as observers: civil society organizations, the seed industry, farmers' organizations and the CGIAR Centres. For subsequent meetings more may be invited as appropriate. The Chairperson informed that a number of stakeholder groups have approached him and the Secretary with nominations for their representatives. The Secretary will now approach the remaining stakeholder groups through the standard channels of communication established with them in the past. The list of nominations will be submitted to the Bureau once ready, for discussion.

11. The Chairperson provided a summary of the on-going communications with Bioversity International and the Meridian Institute, which were considering to organize an informal multi-stakeholder dialogue and had organized a preparatory meeting in April 2013 and a phonecall in 2014. Different views were expressed with regard to the multi-stakeholder dialogue. Vice-chairs agreed that at this stage there were sensitivities and different views, especially around the timing of a possible dialogue in relation to the formation and first meeting of the Working Group. The focus should be to initiate the work of the Working Group and ensure that it is well-resourced and that all Regions and stakeholder groups are able to participate directly in the formal process.

12. The Bureau agreed to have a further phonecall at the beginning of March to discuss about preparatory work for the first meeting of the Working Group, including on dates, documentation, interactions with stakeholder groups prior to the first meeting and appointment of Co-chairs.

## **VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

13. The Chairperson requested the Secretariat to prepare a short summary of the phonecall to be circulated to the Vice-chairs.