



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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Our Ref.: GB6 – 014 Working Group – 1st meeting

8 April 2014

NOTIFICATION

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

Geneva (Switzerland), 14 – 16 May, 2014

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the honour to announce that the First Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Open-Ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing (Working Group) will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 14 to 16 May 2014. Arrangements are being made to allow delegates and stakeholders to hold regional and inter-regional consultations on 13 May 2014.

The Meeting is convened in accordance with the Terms of Reference adopted by the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, at its Fifth Session in September 2013, through Resolution 2/2013, *Implementation of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty*.¹ The up-to-date list of Members of the Working Group can be found here: <http://www.planttreaty.org/node/5838/>

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 is inviting up to two representatives from the following stakeholder groups, as observers: civil society organizations; the seed industry; farmers' organizations; and the CGIAR Centres. Others interested in attending this open-ended meeting should make a request to the Secretariat.

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¹ The Resolution 2/2013 is available at: <http://www.planttreaty.org/content/resolution-22013-implementation-funding-strategy-international-treaty>



The Meeting will be conducted in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish.

The Terms of Reference of the Working Group as well as the Provisional Agenda of the First Meeting and the other documentation can be downloaded, as they become available, from the International Treaty website at <http://www.planttreaty.org/node/5852/>

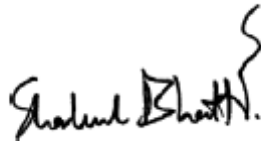
Participants are responsible for making their own travel arrangements, with the exception of those representatives from developing country Working Group Members. Support will be provided for the participation of nominated representatives of Working Group Members which are developing countries. The support will cover travel costs and full board accommodation for the representative of each developing country Working Group Member.

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

PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org

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



Dr Shakeel Bhatti
Secretary of the Governing Body
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture