

11 March 2011

**Bali Ministerial Declaration on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

We, the Ministers responsible for the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, hereafter called “the Treaty”,

Having met in Indonesia, on 11 March 2011, in the context of the Fourth Session of the Governing Body of the Treaty, generously hosted by the Government of Indonesia, in collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the Secretariat of the Treaty,

- (i) **Deeply concerned** over current global challenges, in particular the continuing erosion of agricultural biodiversity, the threats posed by food insecurity, extreme poverty and the effects of climate change,
- (ii) **Recognizing** the importance and unique role of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in addressing these challenges,
- (iii) **Convinced** that the Treaty is vital for the achievement of Millennium Development Goals 1 (the eradication of extreme hunger and poverty) and 7 (ensuring environmental sustainability),
- (iv) **Acknowledging** the interdependence of all countries in regard to genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fundamental role of the Treaty,
- (v) **Highlighting** the important contribution of all stakeholders to the full implementation of the Treaty,
- (vi) **Recognizing** that climate change poses a serious risk to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture,
- (vii) **Acknowledging** that plant genetic resources are essential as a raw material for crop genetic improvement (whether by means of farmer selection, classical plant breeding or modern biotechnologies); in the development of new market opportunities, and in adapting to unpredictable environmental changes,
- (viii) **Welcoming** the role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations acting as Third Party Beneficiary of the Treaty,
- (ix) **Acknowledging** the importance to this Treaty of the *ex situ* collections of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture held in trust by the International Agricultural Research Centres (IARCs) of the Consultative Group on International

Agricultural Research (CGIAR), and the important work of the Global Crop Diversity Trust in this respect,

(x) **Recognizing** the Global Crop Diversity Trust as an essential element of the Funding Strategy of the Treaty helping implement vital areas of the Treaty with the focus on securing and making available important *ex situ* collections of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture,

(xi) **Acknowledging** that the International Regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing is constituted of complementary instruments, *inter alia*, the Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization,

(xii) **Recognizing** the importance of collaboration between the Secretariats and the Contracting Parties of the Treaty and the CBD,

(xiii) **Acknowledging** the importance of biological and cultural diversity and thus the opportunity to establish and maintain links between the Treaty and relevant international conventions and bodies,

(xiv) **Recognizing** that further review by the Governing Body of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing would enhance the effectiveness of the Treaty,

(xv) **Recognizing** the importance of the protection of traditional knowledge relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and enormous contribution that local and indigenous communities and farmers from all regions of the World, particularly those in centres of origin and crop diversity, have made and will continue to make towards the conservation and development of plant genetic resources that constitute the basis of food and agriculture production worldwide,

(xvi) **Recalling** the importance of implementing Farmers' Rights, in accordance with Article 9 of the Treaty,

(xvii) **Recognizing** that Contracting Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition may benefit from assistance to help them to fully and effectively implement their commitments under the Treaty,

(xviii) **Acknowledging** that benefits accruing from facilitated access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, which are included in the Multilateral System, will also be shared through non-monetary mechanisms, such as the exchange of information, access to, and transfer of technology, as well as capacity-building,

(xix) **Recalling** that the objectives of the Funding Strategy of the Treaty are to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement activities under this Treaty,

1. **Engage ourselves** to further enhancing the implementation of the Treaty to help meet the challenges of agricultural biodiversity erosion, food insecurity, extreme poverty and the effects of climate change, and in particular through:

- a. Embodying the objectives and provisions of the Treaty in our national policies for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources.
- b. In accordance with article 11.2 of the Treaty, include in the Multilateral System all plant genetic resources for food and agriculture listed in Annex I that are under the management and control of the Contracting Parties and in the public domain.
- c. According due priority to building national capacity in the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.
- d. Further improving the implementation of the Funding Strategy, including the Benefit Sharing Fund, to deliver international technical cooperation to developing countries.
- e. Contributing to the Core Administrative budget by all Contracting Parties, stressing that adequate voluntary contributions are critical to ensure an efficient and well-functioning Secretariat and Treaty.
- f. Considering the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture and their special role for food security in the development and implementation of domestic access and benefit-sharing legislation or regulatory requirements.
- g. Further review by the Governing Body of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing.
- h. Taking measures, as appropriate and subject to Contracting Parties' national legislation, to protect and promote Farmers' Rights in accordance with Article 9, *inter alia* through ensuring equitable participation in the sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

**2. Call upon:**

- a. All Contracting Parties, relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies to give due priority to activities within their mandates relevant to the implementation of the Treaty and in particular, the Multilateral System, the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and Farmers' Rights.
- b. Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and all other relevant stakeholders to mobilize more effective and timely contributions and to provide practical and meaningful support to the implementation of the Funding Strategy, including its Benefit-sharing Fund.

3. **Urge** all Governments that have not yet done so to accede to the Treaty and those that have already acceded to the Treaty to continue to intensively engage in its activities.

4. **Express** our deep gratitude to the Government of Indonesia for successfully hosting this Ministerial Conference and for hosting the forthcoming Fourth Session of the Governing Body of the Treaty, which helps to set an important milestone for the implementation of the Treaty.

Bali, Indonesia, March 2011