



# The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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## Item 19 of the Provisional Agenda

### FIFTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Muscat, Oman, 24-28 September 2013

## GENEBANK STANDARDS FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

*Note by the Secretary*

1. Article 15 of the International Treaty refers to *Ex Situ* collections of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture held by the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other International Institutions. International Centers and Institutions that sign agreements with the Governing Body:

*undertake to manage and administer these ex situ collections in accordance with internationally accepted standards, in particular the Genebank Standards as endorsed by the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.<sup>1</sup>*

2. At its Fourteenth Session (2013), the Commission endorsed the *Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*,<sup>2</sup> contained in this document. The Genebank Standards were originally endorsed by the Commission in 1993. In 2009, the Commission requested FAO to revise the Genebank Standards in cooperation with the relevant international organizations to ensure up-to-date conservation of plant genetic resources.

<sup>1</sup> Article 15.1 (d).

<sup>2</sup> See CGRFA-14/13/Report, paras. 102-104.

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