



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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FIFTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Muscat, Oman, 24-28 September 2013

RESOLUTION 10/2013

DEVELOPMENT OF THE GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEM ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES IN THE CONTEXT OF ARTICLE 17 OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling that Article 17 of the Treaty calls for Contracting Parties to cooperate for the development of a global information system, based on existing information systems, on scientific, technical and environmental matters related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

Noting the work already done by the Secretariat in the establishment of information technology systems and tools in support of the Multilateral System of the Treaty;

Recognizing that such exchange of information will contribute to sharing of benefits in consistency with Article 13.2.(a);

Recalling that cooperation will be sought with the Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention of Biological Diversity;

Recalling that Contracting Parties shall cooperate with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the FAO in its periodic reassessment of the state of the worlds' plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

Hereby,

1. **Thanks** the Government of Spain for the contribution towards the establishment of the initiative CAPFITOGEN in the context of Article 17 and **requests** the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to make the tools accessible in other languages and in other regions;
2. **Welcomes** the ongoing collaborative efforts for the improvement of information systems documenting plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, based on existing information systems;
3. **Requests** the Secretary to continue strengthening collaboration with relevant FAO departments and all other stakeholders to facilitate their contribution to the continuous development of the Global Information System in the context of Article 17 of the Treaty and

to increase efforts for promoting greater access to relevant information systems by Contracting Parties and other relevant stakeholders;

4. **Stresses** the importance to build upon the experiences accumulated by the Convention of Biological Diversity in the establishment and development of the Clearing House Mechanism, and **requests** the Secretary to explore cooperation with the Secretariat of the CBD on information sharing and on studying new ways to promote free and open access to data and information for conservation purposes;
5. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to the available resources, to call for an expert consultation on the Global Information System of Article 17 with the terms of reference contained in the Annex to this Resolution and to report to the next Session;
6. **Requests** the Secretary to prepare, based on the inputs of the expert consultation, a vision paper to serve as the basis for a detailed and realistic work programme for the Global Information System in line with Article 17;
7. **Encourages** Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, relevant stakeholders and funding mechanisms to provide financial support for the development of the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

ANNEX

*CONSULTATION ON THE GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEM ON PGRFA IN THE
CONTEXT OF ARTICLE 17 OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY*

The Consultation on the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (COGIS-PGRFA) in the framework of Article 17 of the International Treaty is an international platform that gathers representatives from Contracting Parties of all regions, and experts from international organizations and networks working in this field, and other relevant stakeholders and recognized experts.

Composition

In addition to the staff of the Secretariat, the Consultation will be composed of 2 experts nominated by each region, up to 14, plus 11 additional technical experts, taking into account stakeholders and regional balance, and including representatives of FAO, the IARCs of the CGIAR, the Global Crop Diversity Trust, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the private sector and farmers' organizations.

All the members will serve in their personal capacity. Technical capacity should be the primary criterion for designating the technical experts to attend the consultation. The work of the consultation will be coordinated by the Secretariat.

Scope and Objectives of the Consultation

The Consultation advises the Secretary in the development of proposals for the effective establishment of the Global Information System to promote and facilitate the exchange of information on scientific, technical and environmental matters related to PGRFA. The Consultation will:

- (i) Facilitate the assessment of needs and advise the Secretary on the identification of activities and priorities for information exchange;
- (ii) Conduct a review of major ongoing initiatives, projects and programmes at national, regional and international levels of relevance for the development of Article 17 of the International Treaty;
- (iii) Identify information gaps on scientific, technical and environmental matters on PGRFA;
- (iv) Identify best practices and appropriate methodologies for the strengthening of an effective global information system;
- (v) Conduct and publish the necessary background study papers, in cooperation with Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders and subject to availability of resources, an online survey on the major components of the Global Information System;
- (vi) Advise the Secretariat in the drafting of the vision paper on the Global Information System referred to in Article 17 of the Treaty as a conceptual basis for a work programme to be presented to the Governing Body at its next session for its consideration.