



# 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 12/2013

#### MATTERS RELEVANT TO THE TREATY ARISING FROM THE FAO REFORM PROCESS

#### THE GOVERNING BODY,

- (i) **Acknowledging** the progress made so far in the governing bodies of FAO in relation to the review of Article XIV bodies;
- (ii) **Recalling** the decision of the FAO Council regarding the adoption of a differentiated approach towards bodies established under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution on the basis of their distinct statutory features and operational requirements;
- (iii) **Wellcoming** that customized arrangements will be made for those statutory bodies which have substantial functional autonomy, such as the Treaty;
- (iv) **Recalling** the provisions of Article 20 of the International Treaty on the functions and duties of the Secretary with regards to the administrative support to the Sessions of the Governing Body and the communication to Contracting Parties;
- (v) **Recalling** Article 20.5 of the International Treaty on the duty of the Secretary to cooperate with other organizations and treaty bodies, including in particular the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in achieving the objectives of the Treaty;
- (vi) **Noting** that the terms of reference of the Secretary as adopted by the First Session of the Governing Body specify that the International Treaty Secretariat shall enjoy functional autonomy and be technically accountable to the Governing Body;
- (vii) **Acknowledging** that the review of Article XIV bodies by the governing bodies of FAO represents an opportunity to enhance the functional autonomy of the International Treaty, while remaining within the framework of FAO;
- (viii) **Appreciating** the support provided to the International Treaty by the Director General of FAO;

Hereby **decides** to:

1. **Recognize** the support which FAO has provided under the leadership of the Director-General to the International Treaty;

2. **Request** the Bureau to facilitate contacts with the FAO Management for the recognition of the functional autonomy of the International Treaty, according to the criteria already identified by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters and the other governing bodies of FAO;
3. **Request** the Bureau of the Sixth Session to continue to review the list of the functional needs of the International Treaty on the basis of the elements already identified by past Bureaus and forward it for the consideration and adoption of the Sixth Session of the Governing Body;
4. **Request** the Secretary to continue engaging in the FAO reform process, as needed, in particular the implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework and the Medium Term Plan, as well as the review of the FAO statutory bodies and to report to the next Session of the Governing Body on matters of relevance to the International Treaty.