

Information session

History and existing work on Innovative approaches to mobilize income to the Benefit-sharing Fund: outcomes of the work undertaken by the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy

13 May 2014 12:00 – 13:30

Coffee/tea and biscuits will be served.

Salle 3, Centre International des Conférences Genève (CICG)

BACKGROUND

The Governing Body established the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System to continue and complete the work initiated by the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy from past biennia.

Established in 2006 by the Governing Body as the first inter-sessional Committee of the Treaty, the Advisory Committee has played a critical role in advising the Governing Body on measures to generate income to the Benefit-sharing Fund. The Advisory Committee developed the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund, that was welcomed by the Governing Body in 2009. At that time, the Governing Body already requested the Advisory Committee to consider innovative approaches to fund-mobilization. It emphasized again in 2011 the need to further explore innovative approaches, and requested the Advisory Committee to further advise on resource mobilization.

In the light of the short-fall in the contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund, the Advisory Committee reviewed the factors that were behind such short-fall and in particular the lack of user-based income. As requested by the Governing Body, it identified and explored a number of innovative approaches to mobilizing such income. These include the two innovative approaches that have already — successfully and practically — contributed to the Benefit-sharing Fund: the Norwegian Initiative and seed trait licencing platforms. As recognized by the Governing Body, the Advisory Committee held extensive formal and informal consultations with stakeholders on innovative approaches, including through formal dialogues in the Committee as a whole and informal inter-sessional consultations of the Co-chairs with the stakeholder groups. The experience gained from such cooperative effort provides the Working Group with best lessons learned to consult relevant stakeholder groups during this biennium.

The innovative user-based approaches which were identified by the Advisory Committee in the last biennium are the starting point for the Working Group in this biennium. This information event therefore reviews the work already undertaken during past biennia in an optional information session for those participants who may not have been part of those deliberations. It is also intended to offer participants an opportunity for exchange views on the existing and forthcoming work to develop the innovative approaches. It pays particular attention to the outcome of the deliberations of the Advisory Committee, which will now be taken up by this Working Group.

PROGRAMME

11.30 – 11.35 Welcome

Ms Sandra Aviles, Officer-in-Charge, Liaison Office in Geneva of FAO

11.35 – 11.45 Overview: the work of the Advisory Committee and its continuation in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group

Dr. Shakeel Bhatti, Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

11.45 – 12.05 The mandate, evolution and outcomes of the work of the Advisory Committee from 2007 as a basis for the work of the Working Group

Dr. Bert Visser, former Co-chair of the Advisory Committee

12.05 – 12.25 The work of the Advisory Committee on innovative user-based approaches in the 2012-13 biennium as a basis for the work of the Working Group

Dr. Modesto Fernandez, former Co-chair of the Advisory Committee

12.25 – 13.00 Questions and answers from participants

Discussion, dialogue and exchange of views among participants

Closing