Dear Sir/Dear Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that, in the coming months, the Secretariat of the International Treaty will be facilitating four regional meetings in Africa, Asia, Near East, and Latin America to support preparations for the Eighth Session of the Governing Body that will take place in Rome from 11 to 16 November 2019.

The meetings will enable the preparations of and consultations among delegates that will be participating in the Eighth Session of the Governing Body. Thanks to the generous support of the Governments of Ireland, Italy and Norway, limited extra-budgetary resources are available to support the organization of the meetings and will enable the Secretariat to cover the costs of at least one delegate per Contracting Party.

The main objectives of the workshops are: (i) to provide an update and overview of the status and outcomes of intersessional processes under the Treaty, including results of the Working Group and committees (ii) to enable delegates to familiarize themselves with the issues on the Agenda, prepare and coordinate their positions for the Eighth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty.

In agreement with the Regional Vice-Chairs and host governments/institutions, the proposed dates and venues are:

**Latin America and the Caribbean**: Buenos Aires, Argentina – 10-12 September 2019  
**Near East**: Dubai, United Arab Emirates – 18-20 September 2019  
**Africa**: Kigali, Rwanda – 25-27 September 2019  
**Asia**: New Delhi, India – 8-10 October 2019

Formal invitations will be sent separately for each regional preparatory meeting. The Secretariat will also provide additional relevant information regarding logistical and other arrangements in due course.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Kent Nnadozie  
Secretary  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture