



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**The International Treaty**  
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## Item 20 of the Provisional Agenda

### SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Kigali, Rwanda, 30 October - 3 November 2017

### Selection and Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body

#### Executive Summary

This document relates to the selection and appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body following the selection process and the selection of a candidate by the Director-General FAO.

#### Guidance Sought

The Governing Body is invited to approve the candidate selected by the Director-General for the position of the Secretary of the Governing Body.



## I. Introduction and Background

1. Under Article 20.1 of the Treaty, the Secretary of the Treaty is appointed by the Director-General with the approval of the Governing Body.
2. At its 155<sup>th</sup> Session in December 2016, the Council of FAO considered the issue of the appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies and “*noted that under decisions of the Conference and provisions of treaties establishing Bodies under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution the Secretaries were appointed by the Director-General with the approval of the bodies concerned*”. The Council acknowledged the need to balance the functional autonomy of Article XIV Bodies with the responsibilities borne by the Organization for such Bodies. The Council stressed the urgency of filling the vacant position of Secretary of the Treaty and agreed, on an exceptional basis, on a process, based on FAO’s standard procedures for the appointment of senior staff, for the selection of the Secretary of the Treaty, with the inclusion of two representatives of Members of the Treaty in the Interview Panel.
3. In accordance with the procedure established by the Council, a vacancy announcement was issued for a period of 45 days from 12 December 2016 until 26 January 2017, for the position of Secretary of the Treaty. Applications were received and reviewed on the basis of the requirements and competencies set out in the vacancy announcement. An Interview Panel was established, comprising Messrs. René Castro-Salazar, Assistant Director-General, Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department (acting as Chairperson of the Panel), Ren Wang, Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, and Basharat Ali, Special Adviser, Human Resources Division. In line with the Council decision, Mr Muhamad Sabran, Chairperson of the Governing Body of the Treaty, and Ms Svanhild-Isabelle Batta Torheim, member of the Bureau of the Treaty, participated in the Interview Panel as representatives of the Parties to the Treaty. The Panel interviewed 12 candidates and, subsequently, it submitted a Report to the Director-General, recommending a short list of candidates for consideration for the post.
4. Following consideration of the Report, the Director-General decided to select Mr. Kent Nnadozie (a national of Nigeria) for the position. By letter of 22 June 2017, the Director-General informed Mr Muhamad Sabran, Chairperson of the Governing Body of the Treaty of the proposed appointment of Mr. Nnadozie. The curriculum vitae of Mr Kent Nnadozie is attached hereto.
5. In accordance with the decision taken by the Council of FAO at its 155<sup>th</sup> Session, the appointment is for two years subject to confirmation by the Governing Body of the Treaty.

## II. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

6. The Governing Body is invited to approve the proposed appointment of Mr Kent Nnadozie as the Secretary of the Treaty.

LEG-DG/17/

Dear Mr Sabran,

I wish to inform you of the decision I have taken regarding the selection of a candidate for the position of the Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the “Treaty”).

As you are aware, under Article 20.1 of the Treaty, the Secretary of the Treaty is appointed by the Director-General with the approval of the Governing Body.

At its 155th Session in December 2016, the Council of FAO considered the issue of the appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies and “*noted that under decisions of the Conference and provisions of treaties establishing Bodies under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution the Secretaries were appointed by the Director-General with the approval of the bodies concerned*”. The Council acknowledged the need to balance the functional autonomy of Article XIV Bodies with the responsibilities borne by the Organization for such Bodies. The Council stressed the urgency of filling the vacant position of Secretary of the Treaty and agreed, on an exceptional basis, on a process, based on FAO’s standard procedures for the appointment of senior staff, for the selection of the Secretary of the Treaty, with the inclusion of two representatives of Members of the Treaty in the Interview Panel.

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Mr Muhamad Sabran  
Senior Researcher  
Indonesian Centre for Agricultural Biotechnology  
and Genetic Resources Research and Development  
(ICABIOGRAD)  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Jakarta

I am pleased that, in line with the Council decision, you and Ms Svanhild-Isabelle Batta Torheim participated in the Interview Panel as representatives of the Parties to the Treaty. The Panel interviewed 12 candidates and, subsequently, it submitted a Report to the Director-General, recommending a short list of candidates for consideration for the post.

Following careful consideration of the Report, I have decided to select Mr. Kent Nnadozie (a national of Nigeria) for the position.

Mr Kent Nnadozie is currently serving as the Secretary ad interim of the Treaty. He holds a PhD in Law from McGill University, Montreal, Canada, with a focus on international relations and legal issues pertaining to genetic resources, as well as a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA). As you are aware, Mr Nnadozie has accumulated considerable experience in the course of the past ten years, both in the context of the Treaty and the Commission for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. I am confident that, as underlined by the Panel, Mr. Nnadozie will make an invaluable contribution to the objectives and activities of the Treaty.

The full curriculum vitae of Mr Kent Nnadozie is attached hereto.

I shall be referring this matter to the Governing Body of the Treaty, at its forthcoming Seventh Session, for its approval of the proposed appointment of Mr Kent Nnadozie as the Secretary of the Treaty.

Yours Sincerely,

**José Graziano da Silva**  
**(Director-General)**

## KENT NNADOZIE

### EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

#### McGill University, Montreal, Canada

- **Doctor of Civil Law (PhD)**. *International Law and International Relations*, with a focus on international systemic issues and international governance of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

#### Lagos Business School, Nigeria

- **Masters in Business Administration (MBA)**; awarded in conjunction with the International Graduate School of Management (IESE), Barcelona, Spain.

#### Nigeria Law School

- **BL**; Graduated Summa Cum Laude; Called to the Nigerian Bar as a Barrister and a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria.

#### University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria

- **Bachelor of Law (LL.B.) (Honours)**

### AWARDS, HONOURS AND GRANTS

- Best Result in Legal Drafting and Conveyancing in the Nigerian Bar Examination, June 1988.
- Winner of the Chief Ernest Sonekan Prize for Legal Drafting and Conveyancing, Nigeria Law School, 1988.
- PhD Grant Award under the Genome Canada Project – *Strengthening the Role of Genomics and Global Food Security & Health*; 2008 – 2012.

### SELECTED PROFESSIONAL/WORK EXPERIENCE

#### Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

*Secretary, ad interim, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, October 2016 – to date. Rome, Italy.

- Arranging for and providing administrative support to the Governing Body and its subsidiary bodies, including the preparation of all relevant documentation;
- Assisting the Governing Body, Contracting Parties and other stakeholders in implementing the Treaty,
- Cooperating with other organizations and treaty bodies and representing the Treaty in the relevant external meetings and events;
- Managing the human and financial resources of the Secretariat of the Treaty.

#### Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

*Senior Treaty/Technical Officer*, 2008 – 2016. Rome, Italy/Montreal, Canada.

- Promoting closer cooperation and synergies with international organizations, Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Secretariats, including the Global Environment Facility

(GEF), especially on sustainable use of biodiversity, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020;

- Providing training and technical support to assist National Focal Points to participate in the revision of their national strategies and action plans;
- Managing the processes and facilitating work on procedures to promote compliance with the provisions of the Treaty; organizing, coordinating and servicing the meetings of technical Committees, and the Treaty's Governing Body;

#### **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

*Consultant*, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal, Dec 2006 - Mar 2007.

- Consultancy to carry out an analysis on the legal status of genetic resources in national laws, including property law, in a selection of countries.

#### **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

*Consultant/Specialist Legal Adviser*, 2005 – 2006. Rome, Italy.

- Secretariat of the FAO Commission for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture during the negotiations for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, providing legal and technical support to the Organisation and member states on policy, legal and related matters.

#### **International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE)**

*Legal & Policy Unit*, April 2003 to May 2005, Nairobi, Kenya.

- Providing legal and policy support to the Centre, its Scientists and developing countries on agricultural, environmental, and development issues; oversaw the negotiation and preparation of Letters of Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding and Partnership Agreements with international institutions, partner organizations and governments; coordinated intergovernmental affairs and relationship with Host Government.

**Chief G. O. Sodipo & Co** (Legal Practitioners). *Partner* July 2001 – March 2003. Lagos, Nigeria.

- Energy and Environmental law, oil and gas, genetic resources, and agriculture; Provided advice and services on regulatory and policy issues on Environment, Health, and Safety (including Environmental Impact Assessments and ISO 14001 standards) to International agencies, public institutions, and private sector operators.

**Federal Government of Nigeria**. Abuja, Nigeria, December 2001 to 2003.

- Member of the Special Task Force to review Intellectual Property laws and prepare relevant draft bills. Member of the **Nigerian Delegation** to the 4th, 5th & 6th meetings of the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Bratislava, Slovakia, 4-15 May 1998; Nairobi, Kenya, 15-26 May 2000; and The Hague, Netherlands, 7-19 April 2002, respectively.

**Scientific, Technical & Research Commission of the African Union (AU)**. 1999 – 2004. Lagos, Nigeria/Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

- Consultant and member of the Expert Group on the implementation of the AU's Model Legislation on the Protection of the Rights of Local Communities, Farmers and Breeders, and for the Regulation of Access to Biological Resources, and on the review of the AU's draft African Model Legislation on Safety in Biotechnology (Biosafety).

**Bioresources Development and Conservation Programme** *Legal and Policy Affairs Officer* 1997 – 2000. Lagos, Nigeria & Washington DC, USA.

- Designed the framework, oversaw and raised funds for the establishment of the **Fund for Integrated Rural Development and Traditional Medicine** – A trust fund set up to address issues of access and benefit-sharing in Bioprospecting in Nigeria. The fund serves to receive and channel financial and other benefits resulting from the processing and commercialisation of drugs or other biotechnological products developed from local biological resources.

### **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (BOOKS & ARTICLES)**

“Old Wine in New Skin: Traditional Knowledge and Customary Law Under the Evolving Normative Environment in Kenya” (book chapter) in Tania Bubela & E. Richard Gold (eds.) *Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge: Case Studies and Conflicting Interests* (2012) Edward Elgar, Cheltenham, UK.

“Evolving Norms of Ownership and Access: Benefit-Sharing in a Global Context”, (book chapter) in Gold, Richard and Bartha Knoppers (eds) *Biotechnology IP & Ethics* (2010) LexisNexis, Canada.

“Giving Priority to the Commons: The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)” (book chapter) in Geoff Tansey and Tasmin Rajotte (eds) *The Future Control of Food: A Guide to International Negotiations and Rules on Intellectual Property, Biodiversity and Food Security*, (2008) Earthscan/IDRC.

Halewood, Michael and Kent Nnadozie. “*El sistema multilateral de acceso y distribución de beneficios del Tratado Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura*” in *Recursos Naturales y Ambiente*, Vol. 53. 2008. pp30-38.

*African Perspectives on Governing Access to Genetic Resources: A Handbook on Laws, Policies, and Institutions*, (2003) 366pp, with Robert Lettington, et al. (Eds.), Environmental Law Institute, Washington DC.

*Integrating African Perspectives and Priorities into Genetic Resources Regulations: A Resource Guide for Policymakers*, (2004), World Conservation Union (IUCN), Gland, Switzerland.

*International Treaties of Relevance to Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (2003) with R. J. L. Lettington. Meridian Institute, Washington DC.

*A Review of the Intergovernmental Committee on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)* (2003); with Robert Lettington, South Centre, Geneva.

“Environmental Regulation of the Oil and Gas Industry in Nigeria” in Chaytor, Beatrice & Kevin Gray (Eds.) (2003) *International Environmental Law and Policy in Africa*; Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, The Netherlands.

*Regulating Plant Genetic Resources in West and Central Africa* (2002) with Jean Marie Fondoun. International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), Nairobi, Kenya.

*Impacts of International Trade and Multinational Corporations on the Environment and Sustainable Livelihoods of Rural Women in Akwa-Ibom State, Niger Delta Region, Nigeria* (2002) (with Comfort Hassan & Janice Olawoye) Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team (NEST), Ibadan, Nigeria.

“Access to Genetic Resources and Intellectual Property Rights: Regulatory and Policy Framework in Nigeria” in Peter Drahos and Blakeney, Michael (Eds.) (2001). *IP in Biodiversity and Agriculture. Perspectives on Intellectual Property Volume 9*; Sweet & Maxwell, London.

*Plant Genetic Resources in Africa's Renewal; Policy, Legal and Programmatic Issues for the African Union* with D. Kiambi, P. Kameri-Mbote, K. Attah-Krah & J. Mugabe (2002). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), Nairobi, Kenya.

“Biodiversity Prospecting Trust Funds: Sharing Financial Benefits”, with Marianne Guerin-Mcmanus and Sarah Laird, in, Laird, Sarah A. (Ed.) (2002). *The Tools of the Trade in Biodiversity and Traditional Knowledge: Equitable Partnerships in Practice*; Chapman and Hall Publishers, London.

*The Convention of Biological Diversity: The Emergence of IPRs in the Field of Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing* (2002). International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), Geneva.

*Impact of International Trade and Multinational Corporations on the Environment and Sustainable Livelihoods of Rural Women in Akwa-Ibom State, Niger Delta Region, Nigeria* (2002) (with Comfort Hassan, & Janice Olawoye) Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team (NEST), Ibadan, Nigeria.

### **ADDITIONAL ATTRIBUTES**

- Strong computer skills and substantial experience with word processing, data processing, spreadsheets and the Internet.
- Ability to manage multiple tasks and cope well under pressure.
- Significant writing and communication skills and proficient research capabilities.
- Ability to work independently as well as with others in an international multicultural environment and ability to integrate in widely diverse communities.

### **LANGUAGES**

- Excellent command of English – spoken and written.
- Fair knowledge of French
- Ibo (mother tongue).