



Our Ref.: NCP GB8-09 - MLS Working Group

13 August 2018

NOTIFICATION

Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing – Invitation to send inputs and develop proposals

Dear Madam/Sir,

The purpose of this notification is to solicit input from Contracting Parties and stakeholder groups, as a contribution to the work of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing (Working Group).

At its Seventh Session, the Governing Body decided, through Resolution 2/2017, to extend the mandate of the Working Group for the 2018-2019 biennium. It requested the Working Group, with support from the Secretariat, to

- (a) Develop a proposal for a Growth Plan to attain the enhanced Multilateral System, taking into account the draft Growth Plan prepared by the Co-chairs, as appropriate;
- (b) Revise the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, based on the Report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System (IT/GB-7/17/7), and taking into account, *inter alia*, “the Co-Chairs’ Summary arising from [the Seventh] Session [of the Governing Body] and their proposed consolidated text for the revised Standard Material Transfer Agreement” and “further information or proposals that have been or may be submitted by Contracting Parties and stakeholder groups”;
- (c) Elaborate criteria and options for possible adaptation of the coverage of the Multilateral System, taking into account, *inter alia*, proposals presented at the Seventh Session of the Governing Body;
- (d) Make recommendations to the Governing Body on any other issues related to the process for the enhancement of the Multilateral System.

In their *Co-chairs’ Summary Arising from the Seventh Session of the Governing Body*, contained in Annex 2 to Resolution 2/2017, the Co-chairs identify five blocks of issues in relation to the revised Standard Material Transfer Agreement that may require further work:

- (a) Mechanisms to access PGRFA from the Multilateral System;
- (b) Withdrawal and termination;
- (c) Formulation of benefit-sharing in particular within the Subscription System;
- (d) Enforceability;
- (e) Digital sequence information in relation to the SMTA.

The text of a draft Growth Plan prepared by the Co-chairs is provided in Annex 1 to Resolution 2/2017.

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Furthermore, the Governing Body appealed to “*stakeholders who use plant genetic resources under the International Treaty to assist the Working Group in finalizing the process for the enhancement of the Multilateral System, including by continuing to develop concrete proposals regarding the finalisation of the revised Standard Material Transfer Agreement, the process for further expansion of the scope of Annex I of the International Treaty, and ways to attract additional voluntary funding for the Benefit-sharing Fund on a sustainable basis, for consideration of the Working Group.*”

I, therefore, have the pleasure to invite Contracting Parties, stakeholder groups and stakeholders who use plant genetic resources under the International Treaty to make available inputs and proposals on the above subjects being discussed by the Working Group.

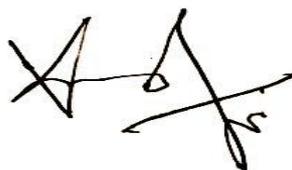
In case you provided written inputs and proposals to the Working Group during the previous two biennia and you consider them still to be valid, may I please request that you re-submit or reconfirm the relevant information as an input to the eighth meeting of the Working Group. Submissions previously submitted to the Working Group may be found, *inter alia*, in the documents, [IT/OWG-EFMLS-6/17/Inf.7](#), *Submissions from Contracting Parties and Stakeholders on matters to be discussed in the Sixth Meeting of the Working Group*, [IT/OWG-EFMLS-5/16/Inf.3](#), *Compilation of Submissions from Contracting Parties and Relevant Stakeholders*, and [IT/OWG-EFMLS-4/15/Inf.3](#), *Submissions received by the Working Group during the Biennium, in preparation for the Subscription System and the Draft Revised Standard Material Transfer Agreement*.

To facilitate the consolidation of such information in the documentation being prepared by the Secretariat for the eighth meeting of the Working Group, I would appreciate receiving such information by **26 September 2018** at PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org.

For any query or request for further information, please contact the Secretariat of the International Treaty at:

Kent Nnadozie
Secretary
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
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PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org

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



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