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FOOD AND
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ORGANIZATION
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ORGANIZACION
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UNIDAS PARA
LA AGRICULTURA
Y LA ALIMENTACION

منظمة
الأمم
المتحدة
للزراعة
والغذاء

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

Facsimile: +39 0657053152

Telephone: +39 0657051

Our Ref.:

Your Ref.:

Rome, 19 May 2010

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Article 9 – Farmers' Rights

In Resolution 6/2009 (“*Farmers' Rights*”), the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty) at its Third Session encouraged Contracting Parties and other relevant organizations to continue submitting views and experiences on the implementation of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, involving, as appropriate, farmers' organizations and other stakeholders.

Article 9 of the International Treaty recognizes the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world, particularly those in the centers of origin and crop diversity, have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, which constitute the basis of food and agriculture production throughout the world.

Article 9 further provides that the responsibility for realizing Farmers' Rights rests with national governments. Contracting Parties should, in accordance with their needs and priorities, and subject to national legislation, take measures to protect and promote those rights, including the:

- protection of traditional knowledge relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
- right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
- right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The above provisions shall not be interpreted to limit any rights that farmers have to save, use, exchange and sell farm saved seed/propagating material, subject to national law and as appropriate.

In accordance with the request by the Governing Body, the Secretary of the International Treaty invites Contracting Parties and other relevant organization to submit views and experiences on Farmers' Rights.

To facilitate the consolidation of information by the Secretariat in preparation for the Fourth Session of the Governing Body (7-11 March 2011), I would appreciate if information could be sent by **31 July, 2010** electronically to PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org and in hard copy to:

Dr Shakeel Bhatti
Secretary
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06 5705 3554, Fax: +39 06 5705 6347

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shakeel Bhatti". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

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

