



# The International Treaty

## ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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Our Ref.: NCP GB3 Bureau

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### NOTIFICATION

#### Designation of Mr Modesto Fernández as the new Chair of the *Bureau*

Dear Madam/Sir,

At its Second Session the Governing Body elected its Chair and Vice-Chairs for its Third Session. Mr Godfrey Mwila (Zambia) was elected Chair. Six Vice-Chairs were elected: Mr Sugiono Moeljopawiro (Indonesia), Ms Anna Somerville (Australia), Mr Campbell Davidson (Canada), Mr Modesto Fernández Díaz-Silveira (Cuba), Mr François Pythoud (Switzerland) and Ms Hanaiya El-Itriby (Egypt).

By letter dated 11 July 2008, Mr Mwila communicated to the members of the *Bureau* his unavailability to continue with the duties as Chairman of the Governing Body and his decision, after consultation with all the members of the *Bureau*, of designating Mr Modesto Fernández Díaz-Silveira to act as the Chairperson. Mr Fernández accepted the designation by letter issued on 23 July.

Mr Modesto Fernández is a long-standing delegate to the International Treaty processes and was intimately involved in the negotiation of the Treaty, the Financial Rules of its Governing Body and its Standard Material Transfer Agreement. Mr Fernández chaired the Open-Ended Working Group on Compliance, the Funding Strategy and the Rules of Procedure and the Financial Rules of the International Treaty in 2005. He also chaired the Working Group on Agriculture and Land Planning of the Commission on Sustainable Development in New York in 2000 and the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Plant Genetic Use Restriction Technologies in the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal.

By letter issued on 20 August 2008, the Government of Zambia communicated to the Secretary of the International Treaty the appointment of Ms Catherine Mungoma as the new Vice-Chair for the Africa Region, replacing Mr Mwila.

I am confident that with these changes of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, the Bureau will continue to guide the Treaty successfully through its current formative stage of rapid and expanding implementation.

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

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

