



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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NOTIFICATION

Additional Reports of Committees

Dear Madam/Sir,

Following the notification issued on 13 March on the same topic, I have the honour to draw attention to the reports of the following recent meetings:

- Resumed fourth meeting of Ad Hoc *Technical Advisory Committee on the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and the Multilateral System* (12 April 2013);
- Resumed seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc *Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy* (26 – 27 March 2013);
- First meeting of the Compliance Committee (20 – 22 April 2013).

Attached to this communication you can find three cover notes summarizing the major outcomes of the above meetings and containing links to the online reports and records.

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

Shakeel Bhatti
Secretary of the Governing Body
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture

**RESUMED MEETING OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
THE STANDARD MATERIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT AND THE MULTILATERAL
SYSTEM**

The Report can be downloaded in electronic format from the website of the International Treaty:
http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/AC_SMTA_4_Res_Report.pdf

At its Fourth Meeting in November 2012, the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Technical Committee on the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and the Multilateral System (Committee) had considered, among other agenda items, options for reflecting clarifications or interpretation of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA). In light of the need for more consultations within regional groups regarding the options, the Committee had agreed to suspend the meeting and resume it at a later date.

At the resumed meeting of 12 April 2013, the Committee:

- considered the option of incorporating all the clarifications or interpretations into the text of the SMTA, either into the main text or in the footnotes (Option 1); examined the proposed clarifications to and interpretations of the text of the SMTA, including its footnotes; developed the text of Option 1, as in *Appendix 1* to the Report;
- considered the option of reflecting the clarifications or interpretations in explanatory notes accompanying the SMTA (Option 2); examined the text of the explanatory notes and revised it, keeping in brackets text where there was not agreement within the Committee as to the content; developed the revised text of the explanatory notes to the SMTA, as in *Appendix 2* to the Report;
- proposed, in addition to Options 1 and 2, an Option 3 according to which clarifications to or interpretations of the SMTA could go in a Schedule to the SMTA; developed the text of Option 3, as in *Appendix 3* to the Report.

***RESUMED MEETING OF THE SEVENTH AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
THE FUNDING STRATEGY***

The Report can be downloaded in electronic format from the website of the International Treaty: http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/ACFS-7b_Report%20FINAL.pdf

The meeting was held from 26 to 27 March 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland. The terms of reference are contained in part IV of Resolution 3/2011. The Committee advises the Governing Body on resource mobilization efforts, the operation of the Benefit-sharing Fund, and the monitoring of the implementation of the overall Funding Strategy. The Committee dealt mainly with agenda item 4 on resources mobilization with a particular focus on innovative approaches.

The Committee:

- further considered innovative approaches for resource mobilization for the Benefit-sharing Fund, including through presentations of proposals made by various regions.
- reviewed progress made to develop a proposal for vegetable seed trait licensing through a vegetable licensing platform and agreed to mandate the Co-chairs to continue working on the proposals with the Co-leads of the Vegetable Industry Group; the Committee adopted a roadmap for finalizing the proposal;
- identified and approached various options to increase the flow of funds to the Benefit-sharing Fund in a predictable, immediate and reliable manner, based on the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, namely: revisiting Article 6.11 of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA); revisiting Article 6.7 of the SMTA; promoting regular seed-sales based contributions by Contracting Parties, expanding coverage of the Multilateral System; promoting novel ways to attract industry to volunteer funding; enhancing legal certainty for users of the Multilateral System germplasm;
- advised the Governing Body to address innovative options to increase the flow of funds to the Benefit-sharing Fund at its Fifth Session, and made a number of follow-up considerations in preparation for the Session to facilitate the deliberations of the Governing Body;
- revised the standard steps for establishing and monitoring partnerships for the Benefit-sharing Fund, and basic criteria for approval of partners.

FIRST MEETING OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

The Record of the meeting can be downloaded in electronic format from the website of the International Treaty: http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/IT-CC1-13-Record_en.pdf

The meeting was held from 20 to 22 April 2013 in Rome, Italy. At its Fourth Session, the Governing Body assigned a number of tasks to the Compliance Committee for the intersessional period and made interim arrangements for the membership of the Committee, with a view to electing members for full terms at the Fifth Session (Resolution 2/2011).

The Committee:

- made recommendations to the Governing Body concerning the staggering of terms of the members of the Committee that the Governing Body will elect at its Fifth Session;
- developed the draft *Rules of Procedure of the Compliance Committee*, for consideration and approval by the Governing Body at its Fifth Session. The draft Rules of Procedure, developed pursuant to the request of the Governing Body, include provisions on confidentiality, decision-making, conflict of interest, electronic decision-making, replacement of members and the format of submissions by the Governing Body;
- made progress on the development of the reporting format pursuant to Section V.1 of the Compliance Procedures, and agreed on a process for the members of the Committee to further develop, review and finalise such format with the aim of submitting it to the Governing Body at its Fifth Session for its approval;
- made recommendations to the Governing Body concerning the costs of the meetings and related activities of the Committee.