



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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NOTIFICATION

Nomination of regional experts to participate in the *Consultation on the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (COGIS-PGRFA)*

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the honour to draw attention to the Resolution 10/2013, *Development of the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources In The Context of Article 17 of The International Treaty*, adopted by the Fifth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty (Muscat, Oman, 24 – 28 September 2013), whereby the Governing Body:

Request[ed] the Secretary, subject to the available resources, to call for an expert consultation on the Global Information System of Article 17 with the terms of reference contained in the Annex to th[e] Resolution and to report to the next Session;

and stated that,

The Consultation on the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (COGIS-PGRFA) in the framework of Article 17 of the International Treaty is an international platform that gathers representatives from Contracting Parties of all regions, and experts from international organizations and networks working in this field, and other relevant stakeholders and recognized experts.

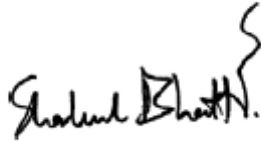
The purpose of this Notification is to inform you that the Secretariat is finalising an agreement with a donor country to secure funding for the global expert consultation in 2014 and to bring to your attention the need for regions to nominate two experts each.

.../...

All the experts will serve in their personal capacity. Technical capacity should be the primary criterion for designating the technical experts to attend the consultation. The meetings will be conducted in English. You can find the text with the scope and objectives of the Consultation in the *Annex* to this Notification. ...

Following the established practice the regional nominations will be communicated to the Secretary through the regional [Vice-chairs](#) of the Governing Body. To this end, National Focal Points and country representatives are encouraged to provide their respective Vice-chair with the name, contact details, and a short curriculum of the proposed candidates by 15 February 2014.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shakeel Bhatti', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

ANNEX

CONSULTATION ON THE GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEM ON PGRFA IN THE CONTEXT OF ARTICLE 17 OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

The Consultation on the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (COGIS-PGRFA) in the framework of Article 17 of the International Treaty is an international platform that gathers representatives from Contracting Parties of all regions, and experts from international organizations and networks working in this field, and other relevant stakeholders and recognized experts.

Composition

In addition to the staff of the Secretariat, the Consultation will be composed of 2 experts nominated by each region, up to 14, plus 11 additional technical experts, taking into account stakeholders and regional balance, and including representatives of FAO, the IARCs of the CGIAR, the Global Crop Diversity Trust, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the private sector and farmers' organizations.

All the members will serve in their personal capacity. Technical capacity should be the primary criterion for designating the technical experts to attend the consultation. The work of the consultation will be coordinated by the Secretariat.

Scope and Objectives of the Consultation

The Consultation advises the Secretary in the development of proposals for the effective establishment of the Global Information System to promote and facilitate the exchange of information on scientific, technical and environmental matters related to PGRFA. The Consultation will:

- (i) Facilitate the assessment of needs and advise the Secretary on the identification of activities and priorities for information exchange;
- (ii) Conduct a review of major ongoing initiatives, projects and programmes at national, regional and international levels of relevance for the development of Article 17 of the International Treaty;
- (iii) Identify information gaps on scientific, technical and environmental matters on PGRFA;
- (iv) Identify best practices and appropriate methodologies for the strengthening of an effective global information system;
- (v) Conduct and publish the necessary background study papers, in cooperation with Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders and subject to availability of resources, an online survey on the major components of the Global Information System;
- (vi) Advise the Secretariat in the drafting of the vision paper on the Global Information System referred to in Article 17 of the Treaty as a conceptual basis for a work programme to be presented to the Governing Body at its next session for its consideration.