



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



FOURTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Bali, Indonesia, 14 – 18 March 2011

RESOLUTION 6/2011

IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 9, FARMERS' RIGHTS

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling the recognition in the International Treaty of the enormous contribution that local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world have made, and will continue to make, for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources as the basis of food and agriculture production throughout the world;

Recalling the importance of fully implementing Article 9 of the International Treaty;

Recalling that according to Article 9 of the International Treaty, the responsibility for realizing Farmers' Rights, as they relate to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, rests with national governments and is subject to national law;

Emphasizing the link between Farmers' Rights under Article 9 and the provisions on conservation and sustainable use under Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;

Recalling that Farmers' Rights is one of the important components of the International Treaty;

Acknowledging that there is uncertainty in many countries as to how Farmers' Rights can be implemented and that the challenges related to the realization of Farmers' Rights are likely to vary from country to country;

Recognizing that exchange of experiences and mutual assistance between Contracting Parties can significantly contribute to making progress in the implementation of the provisions on Farmers' Rights in the International Treaty;

Recognizing the contribution the Governing Body may give in support of the implementation of Farmers' Rights;

Recalling Resolution 2/2007 adopted by the Second Session of the Governing Body, in which Contracting Parties and relevant organizations were encouraged to submit their views and experiences on Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty;

Recalling also that the Governing Body through Resolution 2/2007 decided to consider these views and experiences as a basis for an agenda item at its Third Session to promote Farmers' Rights at the national level;

Noting that the number of contributions on views and experiences received by the Secretariat has been limited;

Recalling that Resolution 6/2009 called for regional consultations to be convened by the Secretariat, subject to the agreed priorities of the Programme of Work and the availability of financial resources;

Noting however, that the Secretariat was not able to convene the regional workshops called for in Resolution 6/2009, due to lack of financial resources and capacity;

Noting the results of the consultations on Farmers' Rights presented in document IT/GB-4/11/ Circ 1 submitted to the Secretariat by Ethiopia, that were carried out in response to the call for regional workshops in Resolution 6/2009;

1. **Invites** each Contracting Party to consider reviewing and, if necessary, adjusting its national measures affecting the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, to protect and promote Farmers' Rights;
2. **Encourages** Contracting Parties and other relevant organizations to, within the next twelve months, submit
 - views, experiences and best practices on the implementation of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, involving, as appropriate, farmers' organizations and other stakeholders;
 - proposals for ways and means through which these views, experiences and best practices can be exchanged between and among Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholder groups;
3. **Invites** Contracting Parties consider convening national and local consultations on Farmers' Rights with the participation of farmers and other relevant stakeholders;
4. **Requests** the Secretary to convene regional workshops on Farmers' Rights, subject to the agreed priorities of the Work Programme and Budget and to the availability of financial resources, aiming at discussing national 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;
5. **Invites** Contracting Parties and relevant organizations to consider providing financial and technical support for the involvement of farmer organizations and relevant stakeholders in the regional workshops referred to in paragraph 4 above;

6. **Requests** the Secretary to compile the submissions referred to in paragraph 2 above, and the reports of the regional workshops for consideration by the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use, and to disseminate relevant information through the website of the International Treaty, where appropriate;
7. **Appreciates** the involvement of farmers' organizations in the work of the Governing Body, as appropriate, according to the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Body;
7. **Encourages** each Contracting Party to closely relate the realization of Farmers' Rights as appropriate and subject to national legislation with the implementation of Articles 5 and 6, in particular the measures in Articles 5.1(c and d), and 6.2 (c, d, e, f, and g);
9. **Requests** the Secretary, where appropriate, to seek assistance from appropriate sources in the provision of financial and technical support to national governments in the realization of Farmers' Rights in relation to Article 9 and related provisions, in particular Article 6 of the Treaty;
10. **Encourages** Contracting Parties to engage the participation of farmers' organizations and relevant stakeholders in matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources through awareness raising and capacity building.