



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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NOTIFICATION

Call for Funding of the Special Funds for Agreed Purposes and Special Fund for the Participation of Developing Countries in connection with Meetings of the Governing Body, the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System as well as Activities foreseen under the Work Programme and Budget 2014-15

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the honour to draw your attention to the Report of the Fifth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty (Muscat, Oman, 24-28 September 2013) and the decisions contained therein. In particular, reference is made to Resolution 13/2013 by which the Work Programme and Budget for the 2014-15 biennium was adopted¹.

The Core Administrative Budget includes an allocation of USD 240,000 in connection with Meetings of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System. This amount was intended to cover the initial meetings and from the outset it was acknowledged that additional funding would be required in order to support the full series of meetings envisaged. On the basis of the costs sustained for the first meeting, it is considered that the funding envisaged in the Core Administrative Budget may be able to cover also the second meeting, following which the allocation will be fully exhausted.

In paragraph 20 of the Report of the first meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group, Contracting Parties were urged ***“to provide support and financial resources for the third meeting”***. The third meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group will be hosted by the Brazilian government in May 2015 and an initial estimate of the costs to be borne by the Treaty is in the region of USD 210,000. This amount must be forthcoming from Contracting Parties if the meeting is to be convened as planned.

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¹ http://www.planttreaty.org/content/fifth_gb_resolutions



During the meetings of the Budget Committee of the Fifth Session of the Governing Body, Members of the Committee were informed of the serious depletion of resources that had occurred under the Special Funds for Agreed Purposes and the Special Fund for the Participation of Developing Countries during recent years. Detailed information was provided in the documentation for the Fifth Session and a Notification calling for funds was posted on the Treaty website in February of this year accordingly². In the meantime, only limited resources have been made available to the Special Funds for agreed purposes whilst only one Contracting Party has pledged a restricted amount to the Special Fund for the Participation of Developing Countries.

It must be stressed, once again, that many activities essential to the Work Programmes of the past two biennia and vital to the ongoing implementation of central Treaty systems will be inevitably affected by this lack of funds. In this context, it is foreseen that the essential activities envisaged in Addendum 1A and 1B to Annex 1 of the adopted Work Programme and Budget for 2014-15 may not be implemented.

Furthermore, the additional albeit essential depletion of funds imposed by the meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Special Fund for the Participation of Developing Countries will result in such scarcity of funds in this Trust Fund as to jeopardize the Treaty's ability to provide support to developing countries Contracting Parties for their participation in the Sixth Session of the Governing Body next year.

The purpose of this Notification is to inform Contracting Parties of the progressing depletion of funds and to invite them to make contributions to the Special Funds in support of the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System as well as the implementation of the Work Programme for 2014-15.

Contributions to the above-mentioned Trust Funds will be essential to allow for the planning of the implementation of the Programme of Work, as adopted by the Governing Body.

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



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

² Notification GB6-008.