



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

Mail: pgafa-treaty@fao.org

Facsimile: +39 0657056347

Telephone: +39 0657055430

Our Ref.: GB6 – 023 – CBD COP-12

25 September 2014

NOTIFICATION

Treaty-Related Side Events and Agenda Items Scheduled at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-12) *Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, from 6 to 17 October 2014.*

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the honour to draw to your attention to some of the side events of major relevance for the Treaty's Programme of Work during the upcoming Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-12) serving also as the First meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing. The meeting will take place in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, from 6 to 17 October 2014.

The Treaty Secretariat has selected five events, which are listed in *Annex 1* to this letter, in which the mutually supportive implementation of the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol on the one hand, and the International Treaty and its systems and programmes on the other, will be discussed from different perspectives. Delegates and other stakeholders from the Treaty community that will be participating in the COP are strongly encouraged to attend these events.

I would also like to take this opportunity to provide you with a summary of the major decisions taken at the Fifth Session of the Governing Body on the cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity and a short list of the corresponding items of the draft agenda for the COP-12. This information is contained in *Annex 2*.

For further information, please contact the Secretariat of the International Treaty at: PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org

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

**Detailed List of Events Relevant to the International Treaty
Scheduled at the Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-12)¹**

- 1) **Monday, 6 October 2014, Lunch-Time:** *Mutually Supportive Implementation of the CBD/NP and ITPGRFA/MLS: Capacity Building for Implementation*, jointly organized by Bioversity International and ABS Capacity Development Initiative, in collaboration with the Secretariats of the International Treaty and CBD.
- 2) **Thursday, 9 October 2014, Lunch-Time:** *Global Information System to Improve the Use of Plant Genetic Diversity under the International Treaty*, organized by the Treaty Secretariat.
- 3) **Friday, 10 October 2014, Evening.** *Synthetic Biology: Ecological Implications and the Impact of the Nagoya Protocol* (with comparison to the implications for the International Treaty), organized by the Woodrow Wilson Centre.
- 4) **Monday, 13 October 2014, Lunch-Time:** *Synergies and harmonious implementation of the Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol*, jointly organized by the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the CBD
- 5) **Thursday, 16 October 2014, Evening:** *Benefit Sharing Under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, organized by the Treaty Secretariat.

¹ The list of events is also available online at:

<http://www.planttreaty.org/content/treatys-related-side-events-during-cbd-cop-12-republic-korea>

Selected Key Issues and Agenda Items

The main recent guidance provided by the Governing Body of the International Treaty on the cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity is contained in Resolutions 5/2013 and 8/2013.

The Governing Body requested national focal points of the Treaty to enhance their collaboration and coordination with their counterparts for the Convention on Biological Diversity on all relevant processes, in particular in the review and updating of their National Biodiversity Action Plans (NBAPs).

One of the outcomes of the Fifth meeting of the CBD Working Group on the Review of Implementation (WGRI)² was a draft recommendation inviting the governing bodies of the other biodiversity-related conventions to provide elements of advice concerning the funding of activities within their respective mandates that may be referred to the financial mechanism (GEF) through the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. The COP also requested its Executive Secretary to propose, options for the form and content of a process to enhance coordination, coherence and national-level synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions.

The Treaty's Secretariat will inform the Governing Body if specific references are made to the International Treaty by the COP in relation to emerging issues such as the one on synthetic biology, the establishment of a formal relationship with the Nagoya Protocol, or in relation to the provision of funds under the COP budget to match the funds approved by the Governing Body for the Joint Liaison Position.

Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, from 6 to 17 October 2014.

The key agenda items of relevance to the International Treaty include:

- Mid-term review of progress towards the goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
- Review of progress in providing support in implementing the objectives of the Convention and the Strategic Plan;
- Resource mobilization;
- Guidance to the financial mechanism;
- Cooperation with other international organizations, conventions and initiatives;
- New and emerging issues: synthetic biology;
- Cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and stakeholders' engagement, including business;
- The programme of work for the biennium 2015-2016
- Full agenda (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-12/official/cop-12-01-rev1-en.doc>)

First meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing

Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, from 13 to 17 October 2014.

The key agenda items of relevance to the International Treaty include:

- Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House as part of the clearing-house mechanism under Article 18, paragraph 3, of the Convention;
- Model contractual clauses, voluntary codes of conduct, guidelines and best practices and/or standards;
- Guidance to the financial mechanism;
- Cooperation with other international organizations, conventions and initiatives;
- Measures to assist in capacity-building; awareness-raising;
- The need for and modalities of a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism.

Full agenda: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/abs/np-mop-01/official/np-mop-01-01-en.pdf>

² Draft Recommendation 5/7. Final Report UNEP/CBD/COP/12/4.
<https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-12/official/cop-12-04-en.doc>