



The International Treaty  
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



FOURTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Bali, Indonesia, 14 – 18 March 2011

RESOLUTION 7/2011

IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6, SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

- (i) **Recognizing** the pivotal role of sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in addressing global challenges, including food security, biodiversity loss, climate change adaptation and poverty alleviation for small-holder farmers;
- (ii) **Recalling** that, in accordance with Article 6 of the International Treaty, the Contracting Parties shall develop and maintain appropriate policy and legal measures that promote the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
- (iii) **Recalling** that the Governing Body, at its Third Session, noted that in many regions the implementation of Article 6 is lagging behind in comparison to other elements of the International Treaty, and that further financial resources, capacity building and technology transfer are required;
- (iv) **Acknowledging** that there is uncertainty in many countries as to how sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture can effectively be achieved, and that an integrated approach to sustainable use needs to be facilitated;
- (v) **Recalling** that the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture addresses sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the the rolling *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Global Plan of Action)* and its National Information Sharing Mechanisms, *The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, the Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building (GIPB), and work on seed systems;
- (vi) **Recalling** that the Governing Body, at its Third Session, requested the Secretary to clarify the notion of a toolbox to assist countries in the design of measures to promote sustainable use in order to come to a common understanding with regard to such an instrument and submit it to the Contracting Parties at this Fourth Session;

- (vii) **Considering** that the development of the toolbox may be useful to the development of a work programme on sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and that such a work programme should be developed in a participatory manner and in coordination with other relevant international processes and fora, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR);
- (viii) **Recalling** that the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity deals with sustainable use of biodiversity as a cross-cutting issue and that at its Tenth meeting, the Conference, in decisions X/32 (sustainable use of biodiversity), has requested collaboration with the Secretariat of the International Treaty to compile information on how to improve sustainable use of biodiversity;
1. **Requests** the Secretary, in collaboration with FAO technical units and other stakeholders and subject to the availability of financial resources and the priorities of the Work Programme and Budget agreed by the Governing Body, to further explore the development of a toolbox on sustainable use of PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE in order to assist Contracting Parties in the implementation of Article 6 of the Treaty;
2. Requests the Secretary, in further exploring the development of a toolbox, to identify, *inter alia*:
- existing efforts in the area of sustainable agriculture that can contribute to the sustainable use of PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, in order to avoid duplication of costs and efforts;
  - areas of work where the International Treaty might add value to existing activities, such as modelling climate change and farmers' choices in variety adoption and use;
  - mechanisms to ensure effective cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) and its activities related to sustainable use of PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE;
  - a methodology to categorize and organize tools for sustainable use of PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE and to report back to the Bureau on the results of this work;
3. **Requests** the Secretary to develop, based on the rolling *Global Plan of Action*, steps on how to implement those elements of *Global Plan of Action* addressing sustainable use to support further actions at national, regional and international level for the consideration of the Governing Body at its Fifth Session and, mindful of the need to devise such a work programme in a participatory manner representing all stakeholders groups, in consultation with the Bureau;
4. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources and the priorities of the Work Programme and Budget agreed by the Governing Body, to convene a stakeholders' consultation, preferably by electronic means, to gather information to devise and elaborate elements of a work programme, in collaboration with relevant international organizations and key actors engaged in sustainable use of PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE;

5. **Requests** the Secretary to invite submissions from Contracting Parties, other governments and relevant institutions and organizations on how to improve sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including on sectoral policies, and best practices for sustainable agriculture;
6. **Requests** the Secretary to work with the networks and partners brought together in the Global Forum on Agricultural Research to promote the expanded use of local and locally adapted crops and underutilized crops in order to better meet sustainable development objectives;
7. **Establishes**, subject to availability of financial resources, an *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, according to the terms of reference as contained in the *Annex* to this Resolution, taking into account Resolution 6/2011 on Farmers' Rights.

*Annex*

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE *AD HOC* TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

1. The *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee will advise the Secretary and the Bureau on:
  - Identification of needs and opportunities to facilitate the sustainable use of PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
  - Development of a toolbox on sustainable use of PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE in order to assist Contracting Parties in the implementation of Article 6 of the Treaty;
  - Elaboration of a draft work programme on sustainable use of PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, based on elements generated by stakeholder consultations;
  - Cooperation with the CBD, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Global Crop Diversity Trust, the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, and other international processes and institutions in the field of sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.
  
2. The *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee will comprise up to two members designated by each Region and up to ten technical experts representing all stakeholder groups. In inviting these technical experts to the meetings of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee, the Secretary will have regard of the balance of knowledge and skills. There will be two Co-Chairs, one from a developing country and one from a developed country Contracting Party, who will be elected from the members of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee that are designated by the Regions.
  
3. The *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee will hold up to two meetings, subject to the agreed priorities of the Work Programme and Budget and to the availability of financial resources, and will search for ways to make the operations of the Committee as cost-effective as possible, *inter alia*, by making optional use of electronic communications;
  
5. The Secretary will report on the results of the work of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee to the Governing Body at its Fifth Session.