



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



The International Treaty  
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

**INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD  
AND AGRICULTURE**

**FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON  
FARMERS' RIGHTS**

**Rome, Italy, 11-14 September 2018**

**Annotated Provisional Agenda and Timetable**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. By Article 9 of the International Treaty,
 

*“Contracting Parties recognize the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world, particularly those in the centres of origin and crop diversity, have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources which constitute the basis of food and agriculture production throughout the world”.*
2. At its Seventh Session, the Governing Body of the International Treaty, through Resolution 7/2017,<sup>1</sup> decided to establish an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Farmers' Rights to:
  - i. produce an inventory of national measures that may be adopted, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty; and
  - ii. based on the inventory, develop options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty.
3. The Governing Body further
 

***Invite[d]*** Contracting Parties and all relevant stakeholders, especially farmers' organizations, to submit views, experiences and best practices as an example of possible options for national implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, as appropriate and subject to national legislation, in preparation for the inventory, and ***request[ed]*** the Secretary to compile and submit this input to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights.
4. The terms of reference of the AHTEG as contained in Resolution 7/2017 are provided in *Appendix 1*.
5. Pursuant to Resolution 7/2017, the Bureau of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body appointed Ms. Svanhild-Isabelle Batta Torheim of Norway and Mr. Rakesh Chandra Agrawal of India as the Co-chairs of the AHTEG. The Bureau further designated three representatives of farmer organizations, particularly from the centres of origin and crop diversity, and three other stakeholders, including the seed sector.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mv102e.pdf>

## I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

6. The first meeting of the AHTEG will be held at FAO headquarters (German Room), from 11 to 14 September 2018. The meeting will be opened at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 11 September 2018. Statements will be made by the Co-Chairs and the Secretary.

## II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

7. The list of documents for this meeting is contained in the document, IT/GB-8/AHTEG-FR-1/18/Inf.1, *List of Documents*. The documents are available on the website of the International Treaty at <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/1099122/>.

8. The meeting will be conducted in English language with simultaneous interpretation into French and Spanish.

## III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

9. The *Draft Provisional Agenda* was prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Co-Chairs, taking into account the terms of reference of the AHTEG. These Annotations to the *Draft Provisional Agenda* and the Timetable have been prepared to facilitate preparations for and organization of the work of the AHTEG.

10. The AHTEG will be invited to consider the Provisional Agenda and the provisional timetable contained in this document, so that it could adopt its agenda and organize its work for this meeting.

## IV. UPDATES ON THE DISCUSSION OF FARMERS' RIGHTS

11. Under this agenda item, the AHTEG will review the historical development of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty and to exchange views on the importance of Farmers' Rights, as well as to take stock of the development of discussions since the International Treaty entered into force.

12. The document, IT/GB-8/AHTEG-FR-1/18/3, *Overview of the historical developments and discussion of Farmers' Rights*, contains an overview of the historical development and discussion on Farmers' Rights.

## V. IMPLEMENTATION OF FARMERS' RIGHTS

### V.1 *Inventory of national measures that may be adopted, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty*

13. To prepare for the work of the AHTEG, the Secretariat issued a Notification to Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders inviting submission of "*Views, Experiences and Best Practices as an example of possible options for the national implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty*".<sup>2</sup> By the time of publication of this document, thirty two - submissions were received.<sup>3</sup>

14. The Document, IT/GB-8/AHTEG-FR-1/18/4, *Realization of Farmers' Rights: Experiences, Lessons Learned, and Best Practices*, provides a compilation and synthesis of the submissions received, for the consideration of the AHTEG.

15. With a view to provide available information and to further assist the AHTEG, the Secretariat has made the following information documents available (Submissions, Proceedings, and Report of Consultations):

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<sup>2</sup> NCP GB-8 05 Farmers' Rights "Invitation to submit views, experiences and best practices as possible options for the implementation of Farmers' Rights" (<http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/notifications/detail-events/en/c/1128388/>)

<sup>3</sup> New submissions received, as of 3 August 2018, are available at: <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/farmers-rights/submissions-by-the-contracting-parties-and-stakeholders/en/>

- IT/GB-8/AHTEG-FR-1/18/Inf.3: *Compilation of submissions of Contracting Parties and stakeholders*. This document presents all the submissions received to date.
- IT/GB-8/AHTEG-FR-1/18/Inf.4: *The Global Consultation on Farmers' Rights* organized in Indonesia from 27 to 30 September 2016. This document contains the proceedings of the Consultation conducted to seek common grounds for the understanding of Farmers' Rights, to share experiences through the exchange of best practices on their realization, and to gather ideas on how to strengthen their implementation.
- IT/GB-8/AHTEG-FR-1/18/Inf.5: *Reports from the Stakeholders' Consultations*. This document presents the outcomes of the "Stakeholders' Consultation on Farmers' rights – African Position Paper" organized by Community Technology Development Trust from 27 to 29 June, 2016 and three regional meetings organized by the Secretariat of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) on 2018 in Africa, Asia and Latin America and Caribbean..
- IT/GB-8/AHTEG-FR-1/18/Inf.6: *Results of the online survey made on 2016 to gather views and needs on the implementation of Farmers' Rights*. This report provided some views, perceptions, options, approaches and possible strategies for implementing Farmers' Rights. Survey respondents considered the realization of Farmers' Rights as fundamental for achieving the objectives of the International Treaty, albeit constrained by a number of challenges, such as limited or lack of awareness and understanding of the concept, lack of financial support, and inadequate capacity.
- IT/GB-8/AHTEG-FR-1/18/Inf.7: *Proceedings of the Symposium on Possible Interrelations between the ITPGRFA and the UPOV Convention*. This symposium referred to the objectives of both instruments and the need for interpreting and implementing them in a mutually supportive way, taking into account the particular context of each Contracting Party. It stressed the need to involve all stakeholders in such a process, and highlighted the support that may be necessary from the two organizations to promote this objective.

16. The item will be introduced by the Secretariat and will be followed by a number of presentations sharing experiences and some examples of national measures, best practices and lesson learned on the implementation of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the Treaty.

17. The AHTEG is invited to discuss and produce an inventory of national measures, best practices and lesson learned bearing in mind that for each provision of the Article 9 of the Treaty there are experiences made at legal, political, economic and technical levels. A tentative framework is included in the document, IT/GB-8/AHTEG-FR-1/18/4, as a basis of discussion.

## **V.2 Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty**

18. The AHTEG will discuss and reflect on the array of views, best practices and lessons learned submitted by the Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders, including the information gathered from the reports and proceedings of consultations.

19. The AHTEG will also develop, based on the inventory it produces, options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty.

## **VI. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

20. Under this agenda item, the AHTEG may consider any other business of relevance for this meeting.

## **VII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

21. This final agenda item provides for the approval of the Report of proceedings of the meeting.

**Proposed Indicative Timetable**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Working/Information documents</b>
<b>Tuesday, 11 September 2018</b>			
09:30-09:45	1	<b>Opening of the meeting</b>	
09:45-10:00	2	<b>Organizational matters</b>	
10:00-10:10	3	<b>Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable</b>	IT/GB-8/AHTEG-FR-1/18/2
10:10-11:00	4	<b>Updates on the Discussion of Farmers' Rights</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretariat of the Treaty</li> <li>• Presentations</li> </ul>	IT/GB-8/AHTEG-FR-1/18/3, <i>Overview of the historical developments and discussion of Farmers' Rights</i>
11:00-11:15		Coffee break	
11:15-13:00	4	<b>Updates on the Discussion of Farmers' Rights</b> Discussion	
13.:00-14:30		Lunch	
14:30-17:30	4	Discussion	
17:30		Closure	
<b>Wednesday, 12 September 2018</b>			
9:30-11:00	5	<b>Implementation of Farmers' Rights</b> 5.1 Inventory of national measures, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty  Introduction by the Secretariat of the Treaty  Presentations by experts on the provisions contained in the Article 9.1  Discussion  Presentations by experts on the provisions contained in the Article 9.2 a  Discussion	IT/GB-8/AHTEG-FR-1/18/4, <i>Realization of Farmers' Rights: Experiences, Lessons Learned, and Best Practices</i>  IT/GB-8/AHTEG-FR-1/18/Inf.3: <i>Compilation of submissions of Contracting Parties and stakeholders</i>
11:00-11:15		Coffee break	
11:15-12:30	5	5.1 Inventory of national measures, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers'	

		Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty  Presentations by experts on the provisions contained in the Article 9.2 b  Discussion  Presentations by experts on the provisions contained in the Article 9.2 c  Discussion	
12:30-14:00		Lunch	
14:00-17:00	5	5.1 Inventory of national measures, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty  Presentations by experts on the provisions contained in the Article 9.3  Discussion	
17:00		Closure	
<b>Thursday, 13 September</b>			
9:30-11:00	5	5.1 Production of the inventory  Discussion	
11:00-11.15		Coffee break	
11:15–12:30	5	5.1 Production of the inventory  Discussion	
12:30-14:00		Lunch	
14:00-16:45	5	5.2 Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty	IT/GB-8/AHTEG-FR-1/18/5, <i>Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty</i>
16:45-17:00	6	Any other business	
17:00		Closure	
<b>Friday, 14 September</b>			
13:00-16:00	7	Adoption of the Report of the Proceedings of the meeting.	

**Terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights**

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights will:
  - i) Produce an inventory of national measures that may be adopted, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty;
  - ii) Based on the inventory, develop options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty.
2. In the development of its work, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group may consider the proceedings from the Global Consultation on Farmers' Rights held in Bali, Indonesia, in 2016, as well as other relevant consultations.
3. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will comprise up to five members designated by each FAO region, up to three representatives of farmer organizations, particularly from the centers of origin and crop diversity, and up to three other stakeholders, including the seed sector, designated by the Bureau of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body.
4. The Bureau of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body will appoint two Co-Chairs from the Contracting Parties of the International Treaty - one from a developing country and one from a developed country.
5. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group may hold up to two meetings in the biennium 2018-2019, subject to the availability of financial resources.
6. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will report back to the Governing Body on its work for further consideration at the Eighth Session of the Governing Body.
7. The Secretary will facilitate the process and assist the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group in its work.