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ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda

SECOND MEETING OF THE AD-HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP TO ENHANCE THE FUNCTIONING OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM

Geneva, Switzerland, 9-11 December 2014

SYNOPTIC STUDY 3: AN ANALYSIS ON HOW TO ENHANCE MECHANISMS FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING, TECHNOLOGY-TRANSFER AND INFORMATION-EXCHANGE

Note by the Secretary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

18. The Governing Body provides policy direction and guidance for the implementation of the Treaty, and, in particular, for the operation of the Multilateral System, which includes mechanisms for information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building. To date, the guidance from the Governing Body regarding the Multilateral System has mainly focused on the core mechanisms to enable germplasm transfer through the Multilateral System, and the priority-setting and operation of the Benefit-sharing Fund. Within its mandate, the Working Group may develop measures for consideration by the Governing Body directed towards the enhancement of information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building, so as to better connect and strategically leverage the different benefit-sharing mechanisms under the Treaty. Following the request by the Governing Body, the Secretariat has prepared this synoptic study on the topic, for the consideration of the Working Group.

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Appendix 1: the mechanisms for information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building in the Multilateral System: Articles 13.2 (a),(b),(c)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Fifth Session, the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Treaty) established the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (Working Group). Within its mandate, the Working Group may develop measures for consideration by the Governing Body directed towards the enhancement of information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building in the context of the Multilateral System. Following the request by the Governing Body, the Secretariat has prepared this synoptic "study on how to enhance mechanisms for capacity-building, technology-transfer and information-exchange.[1]

2. This document summarizes the Treaty provisions and introduces a few general considerations. It provides information on initiatives under the Treaty, which have expressly targeted capacity-building, technology-transfer and information-exchange within the Multilateral System. In the final section, the document introduces possible measures that the Working Group may wish to consider in its recommendations to the Governing Body.

II. INITIAL CONSIDERATIONS: INFORMATION EXCHANGE, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND CAPACITY BUILDING UNDER THE TREATY

3. The main provisions relevant to information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building are contained in Article 13 of the International Treaty:

• The chapeau to Article 13.2 describes the scope of benefit-sharing under the Multilateral System and proposes three mechanisms for non-monetary benefit-sharing, all under the guidance of the Governing Body.

• Article 13.2(a) refers to exchange of information and links it to the Global Information System, described in Article 17 of the Treaty. Exchange of information is described as involving making available catalogues and inventories, information on technologies, results of research relevant to the plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) under the Multilateral System.

• Article 13.2(b) refers to access to and transfer of technology. A set of measures is proposed including access to materials and access to relevant technologies for the characterisation, evaluation and utilisation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Some of these measures could be provided directly by the Contracting Parties, while others would require the cooperation of the private and academic sectors.

• Article 13.2(c) provides for capacity-building. Priority is given to establishing or strengthening programmes for scientific and technical education and training, as well as facilities, for conservation and sustainable use, and to carrying out and developing

[1]Resolution 2/2013, *Implementation of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty*, para.23 (II).

capacity for scientific research.[2]

4. Article 17, which establishes the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources under the Treaty, sets out explicitly that the Global Information System established under Article 17 of the Treaty contributes to the benefit-sharing mechanism of information exchange:

- Contracting Parties shall cooperate to develop and strengthen a global information system to facilitate the exchange of information, based on existing information systems, on scientific, technical and environmental matters related to PGRFA, with the expectation that such exchange of information will contribute to the sharing of benefits by making information on PGRFA available to all Contracting Parties.

5. The following are some considerations that the Working Group may wish to take into account when recommending measures to enhance capacity building, technology transfer and information exchange to the Governing Body.[3]

6. ***The nature of information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building within the Treaty*** **-** Through the Treaty, Contracting Parties agree to take a number of concrete measures to facilitate the delivery of information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building. The Treaty provisions do not link these activities directly to access, or to individual genetic resources accessed from the Multilateral System. In other words, information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building are not directly linked to specific individual germplasm transfers in the Multilateral System. Measures to enhance these mechanisms should therefore not be focused only on improving the operation the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) of the Multilateral System.[4]

7. The Benefit-sharing Fund[5] is an essential financial mechanism to deliver, or to stimulate the delivery of, non-monetary benefit-sharing through its established funding priority relating to information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building. By defining information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building, i.e. the non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms of the Multilateral System, as the first funding priority of the Benefit-sharing Fund, the Governing Body has strategically linked monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing in the

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[2] The Treaty provisions non-monetary Benefit-sharing in the Multilateral System are provided in ***Appendix 1*** of this document.

[3] A number of general considerations described in this section and relating to non-monetary benefit-sharing within the Treaty were further developed in a background study paper published in 2004:

Bert Visser, Robin Pistorius, Rob van Raalte, Derek Eaton & Niels Louwaars. 2004. *Options for non-monetary Benefit-sharing: An Inventory*. FAO, Rome (Italy). ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/014/j6639e.pdf

The study discussed Treaty requirements regarding non-monetary benefit-sharing and provided an inventory of benefit-sharing arrangements, practices and models available at that time.

[4] There are nevertheless concrete measures to improve the delivery of non-monetary benefit-sharing through enhancing the operations of the Multilateral System. Such as (1) improving the availability of information within the SMTA related to characterization, evaluation and use of genetic materials in the Multilateral System, which would enhance information exhange; (2) expand the inclusion of genetic materials under development or fully developed products derived from plant genetic resources into the Multilateral System, which could also be seen as a major contribution to technology transfer.

[5] Article 18, *Financial Resources*.

Multilateral System.[6] The Treaty Contracting Parties have further operationalized this decision of the Governing Body in the Third Call for Proposals of the Fund, where they installed a window on "Co-development and transfer of technology" (Window 3).[7] This may contribute to the building of collaborations, initiatives and frameworks that will advance and further implement information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building.

8. What may be monetary at the aggregate level (i.e. the Benefit-sharing Fund), might become non-monetary at the user level, in the form of goods and services generated by the allocation of those funds. The reverse is also true. Multi-stakeholder international non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms created within the Treaty at the aggregate level, such as platforms, partnerships and consortia for open initiatives, may stimulate further individual investments.

9. ***The key role of Treaty stakeholders*** **-** The knowledge, information, data, technologies, methods and experience to underpin non-monetary benefit-sharing rest with a wide range of stakeholders, including the national research organizations, international research centers such as those within the CGIAR, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. Technology transfer, information exchange and capacity building related to PGRFA are occurring all the time, in many different ways, through international and national research institutions, through a variety of international projects, and through the private sector. Whereas the Contracting Parties are responsible for the implementation of the Treaty, including the non-monetary benefit-sharing aspects, they will not be able to deliver all aspects of non-monetary benefit-sharing. Hence, the need to provide strategic guidance and to focus on catalytic initiatives.

10. The consultations undertaken so far with stakeholder groups in the context of Synoptic Study 4[8] underscore the great interest by the stakeholders in information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building, and their willingness to contribute substantially to mechanisms created by the Treaty for this purpose, which will enhance the Multilateral System.[9] The Governing Body and Contracting Parties will need to consider ways and means to better involve stakeholders in order to ensure the practical and efficient delivery of information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building, for the benefit of the Treaty community as a whole.

11. ***The evolution of research and development in plant breeding*** **-** "Dematerialization" of the use of plant genetic resources is an increasing trend where the information and knowledge content of genetic material is extracted, processed and exchanged in its own right and with technology-intensive methods, detached from the physical exchange of the plant genetic material. Such dematerialization of the use of PGRFA results in knowledge management, rather than access to physical material per se, being a significant source of value. Thus, in order to enhance benefit-

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[6] IT/GB-2/07/Report, Appendix D.1

[7] Third Call for Propopsals of the Benefit-sharing Fund, Notification GB-6/024

[8] *Synoptic Study 4- Consultation with Stakeholder Groups: An analysis of the factors that influence the willingness of stakeholder groups to make contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund and to access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture from the Multilateral System*. http://www.planttreaty.org/content/second-meeting-ad-hoc-open-ended-working-group-enhance-functioning-multilateral-system-acces

[9] The CGIAR and the seed industry have repeteadly emphasized the importance of non-monetary benefits in plant breeding and the seed sector and their important role as providers of such benefits. At the time of preparation of this synoptic study, the CGIAR Consortium and Bioversity International were preparing a short note on Capacity building, technology transfer and information sharing supported by CGIAR Research Programmes to be submitted to the second meeting of the Working Group.

sharing, it is necessary to implement the governance of the Treaty not only "upstream", through, *inter alia*¸ the operation of the SMTA, but also "downstream" (meaning, subsequent to, or in conjunction with, the transfer of germplasm), to enable the exchange and use of germplasm-related information and technology.[10] In the relevant Treaty provisions, broad parameters to position the Treaty within the evolution of PGRFA exist, but are to be translated into practical guidance and assistance to users, and applied throughout the implementation of non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms.

12. ***Integrated approaches to deliver benefit-sharing*** **-** The Treaty describes each non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism as distinct processes. Nevertheless, in practice these processes occur in an integrated manner and cannot be categorically separated. While some activities targeted to information exchange and capacity building are very valuable even when conducted in isolation, technology transfer almost always is in the context of a packet of activities, or "technology transfer packets", which also include not only access to germplasm,[11] information exchange and capacity-building, but often require policy and infrastructural support.[12]

III. PROGRESS MADE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MECHANISMS FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND CAPACITY BUILDING

13. The Governing Body, at its Sixth Session, will have to consider how to enhance mechanisms for information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building within the Multilateral System. Despite the infant stage of such activities, some enabling concepts and high-potential initiatives are already in place in the context of the Treaty and form initial building blocks to strengthen this area of work. The Governing Body may wish to take into account the experiences of other multilateral agreements in the implementation of measures to encourage information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building.[13]

14. At its second Session, the Governing Body adopted priorities for the use of resources of the Benefit-sharing Fund. The Governing Body decided that first of the initial priorities for the Fund would be information exchange, technology transfer and capacity-building. Since then, the Governing has launched three funding cycles of the Benefit-sharing Fund that have supported and wide range of activities which have the potential to generate technologies, capacities and information that contribute to achieve the objectives of the Treaty.[14] Moreover, the third round of

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[10] IT/GB-5/13/Report, Appendix I.2, p. 4, 6.

[11] As recognized by the Treaty in Article 13.2 (b) i: "*some technologies can only be transferred through genetic material*."

[12] IT/GB-5/13/Inf.16. *Reports of meetings on the establishment of a Platform for the Co-development and Transfer of Technology*, page 3.

[13] In order to support the deliberations of the Working Group, the Secretariat of the Treaty partnered with Bioversity International to produce the research paper: Tom F. McInerny. 2014. *Experience involving technology transfer, capacity building, and information exchange relevant to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Agriculture*. This research was conducted by Thomas F. McInerney, Director of the Treaty Effectiveness Initiative, on behalf of Bioversity International.The target date of publication is 30 October 2014 at http://www.planttreaty.org/content/second-meeting-ad-hoc-open-ended-working-group-enhance-functioning-multilateral-system-acces

[14] Almost all of the completed projects have integrated different activities on technology transfer, capacity building, information exchange, and associated benefits and some projects have explicitly created a "packet" of integrated non-monetary benefit mechanisms, as in those projects carrying out co-development of technologies, i.e. participatory

the funding cycle has a dedicated, separate funding window, to support international cooperation in support the co-development and transfer of technologies which will enable the exchange of value added information about plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.[15]

15. More recently, the Governing Body has called for an expert consultation on the Global Information System. Based on the consultation, a vision paper will be prepared by the Secretariat as the basis for a detailed and realistic work programme for the Global Information System. The development of the Global Information System will underpin the delivery of information exchange under the Treaty, and may constitute the infrastructure to exchange information under the Multilateral System.[16]

16. There are also a number of voluntary initiatives undertaken by Contracting Parties and stakeholders, which have been endorsed by the Governing Body and which support the implementation of information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building under the Treaty.

> *Information exchange:* the Global Information System is to facilitate the exchange of information on crop diversity, with the expectation that such exchange will contribute to the sharing of benefits among Contracting Parties. Being based on existing information systems, the global system constitutes the umbrella for a unified but distributed system of interoperable networks of scientific, technical and environmental information related to PGRFA. Within the system, a specific area is dedicated to phenotypic and genotypic data under *DivSeek*, which has been launched by the Treaty Secretariat in cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust and other partners. *DivSeek* is a community-driven initiative of plant scientists, genebanks and users of plant genomic data to link large-scale sequencing and phenotyping data to publicly available germplasm accessions, through standards and best practices for data exchange, and an open access information and knowledge platform. Presently, the Global Crop Diversity Trust hosts and implements the *DivSeek* facilitation unit jointly with the Treaty Secretariat. CAPFITOGEN is a programme to improve the capacity of technical staff in GRULAC Contracting Parties in the use data management tools adapted to the needs of the national programs. The tools are based on eco-geography and geographic information systems (GIS) and are designed to improve PGRFA management in areas of high agro-biodiversity conditions and with limited human and economic resources.
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> *Technology transfer:* an open Platform aims to support technology co-development and transfer with capacity- and institution- building, through the establishment of a one-stop shop for germplasm- and information-intensive technology packets. The Platform considers that technology transfer is a means to deliver benefits to target beneficiaries, rather than an end in itself and that there is a wide range of approaches to technology

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variety selection or breeding. These endeavours combine diffusion and transfer of technologies and information, as well as capacity building for the different stakeholders involved and in some cases institutional strengthening to support the formation and operation of farmer groups. Technology-transfer activities are an important common denominator across all projects in the first two funding cycles.

[15] In order to support the deliberations of the Working Group, the Secretariat of the Treaty partnered with Bioversity International to produce the research paper: Gea Galluzzi, Isabel Lopez Noriega, Michael Halewood. 2014. *Non-monetary benefit sharing mechanisms within the projects funded by the Benefit-sharing Fund*. Research conducted by Bioversity International. The target date of publication is 30 October 2014 at http://www.planttreaty.org/content/second-meeting-ad-hoc-open-ended-working-group-enhance-functioning-multilateral-system-acces

[16] In accordance with article 6.9 of the SMTA "The Recipient shall make available to the Multilateral System, through the information system provided for in Article 17 of the Treaty, all non-confidential information that results from research and development carried out on the Material".

transfer, and a broad range of potential solutions, in responding to needs.[17] The Governing Body, at its Fifth Session, welcomed the establishment of the Platform, encouraged Contracting Parties and stakehoder groups to put the initiative on a long-term footing, and called for annual meetings of Platform's working and advisory partners.[18]

Pre-breeding initiative: Taking advantage of the data generated by information systems, pre-breeding can target the broadening of the crop genetic base. Public-private partnerships , and more generally partnerships in research and development, as those called for in Articles 13.2 (b) (ii) and (iii), are deemed essential to pre-breeding and a forthcoming workshop will bring together Treaty stakeholders to develop a methodology for private partnerships. This initiative has also been welcomed by the Governing Body, which intends to develop an action plan for forging partnerships between the public and private sector in pre-breeding as an expected result in the implementation of the programme of work on Sustainable Use.[19]

Training and capacity-building programme: The need for specialized training as a form of capacity development for the implementationof the International Treaty was stressed by the Governing Body at its Second and Third Sessions, and reiterated by the Contracting Parties and stakeholders of the Treaty in the Survey on Capacity-building Needs undertaken in 2008. The Treaty's Training Programme is being developed with recognized PGRFA training institutions at Universities and other centres of excellence to establish a coordinated framework for specialized training and to build upon previous work such as the Training Materials for the International Treaty and the Joint Capacity Building Programme, to deliver high-quality teaching on PGRFA and the Treaty through a network of internationally recognized training institutions.

Varieties for diversity: an initiative where private breeders from Germany have included varieties currently protected by plant breeder rights into the Multilateral System. The Governing Body in Resolution 1/2013 has invited Contracting Parties, and natural legal persons to consider this initiative when encouraging the inclusion of germplasm into the Multilateral System by natural and legal persons.

IV. POSSIBLE MEASURES TO ENHANCE INFORMATION EXCHANGE, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND CAPACITY BUILDING

17. The Governing Body provides policy direction and guidance for "the implementation of this Treaty, and, in particular, for the operation of the Multilateral System",[20] which includes the mechanisms of information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building. The guidance from the Governing Body regarding the Multilateral System has mainly focused until now on the core mechanisms to enable germplasm transfer through the Multilateral System, and the priority-setting and operation of the Benefit-sharing Fund.

18. The Governing Body may wish now to consider providing guidance in a more regular and systematized fashion on information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building to enhance the value and use of the Multilateral System. There is a need to consolidate and structure the existing, and possible additional, mechanisms for information exchange, technology transfer

[17] IT/GB-5/13/Inf.16. *Reports of meetings on the establishment of a Platform for the Co-development and Transfer of Technology*.

[18] See Resolution 2/2013, para.19, and , and Resolution 7/2013, Annex 1, Table 1, Part B

[19] See Resolution 7/2013, Annex 1, Table 1, Part B.

[20] Article 19.3 (a)

and capacity building through a coherent and priority-based programmatic approach, which allows these mechanisms to operate in synergy with the core mechanisms of the Multilateral System in place, while at the same time providing support and guidance to initiatives implemented by stakeholders and partners of the International Treaty. Such a programmatic approach will facilitate an integration of the product development chain for PGRFA, by connecting upstream and downstream stages of value addition to these resources.

19. The Working Group may wish to:

- Confirm the pivotal role of information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building as mechanisms for the enhancement of the Multilateral System and the achievement of the Treaty objectives;
- Acknowledge the crucial role played by stakeholders groups, including national genebanks and research centres, the CGIAR centres, non-governmental and farmer organizations and the seed industry in the delivery of information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building;
- Commend the various stakeholder initiatives taken so far, and emphasize the need to encourage further stakeholder initiatives to deliver non-monetary benefits efficiently;
- Recommend that the funding priority of the Benefit-sharing Fund on information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building be fully operationalized through the existing, or additional, funding windows which would enhance and financially support information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building;
- Recognize that the guidance from the Governing Body on the operationalisation of information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building needs to be a priority in the context of an enhanced Multilateral System.

20. The Working Group may wish to recommend to the Governing Body to initiate action on the development of information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building by adopting the following text as part of the Resolution related to the enhancement of the Multilateral System.

The Governing Body,

- Decides that, within its standing agenda items, it will regularly monitor the implementation of information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building to enable informed strategic guidance in this area.
- Decides to initiate policy direction and guidance on information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building mechanisms by establishing a multi-year programmatic approach, around a minimum set of activities and related outputs, in order to play a catalytic role in international cooperation in the area of information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building, for an initial period of four years as to ensure that, by its Eighth Session, of the Governing Body:
    - information systems on samples of PGRFA have been upgraded and further integrated, and PGRFA-related non-confidential information that results from research and development have been made available;
    - PGRFA under development are generated in collaborative ways and included into the Multilateral System, as well as commercial varieties, as a major contribution to technology co-development and transfer;

- through new partnerships, technology packets for the conservation, characterization, evaluation and use of PGRFA under the Multilateral System have been co-developed and transferred to developing country Contracting Parties, including in particular through the Platform for the Co-Development and Transfer of Technology Initiative;
- policy tools such as guidelines and best practices are available to develop partnerships in research and development and in commercial joint ventures under the Multilateral System, including for pre-breeding through the Public-Private Partnerships for Pre-breeding Initiative;
- a network of centres of excellence around the world is functioning to deliver programmes for scientific and technical education and training in conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture,, based upon common curricula.

- Underscore that the Benefit-sharing Fund is one catalyst funding mechanism to achieve the concrete delivery of information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building, and to develop the funding priority to achieve the outputs mentioned above.
- Calls upon Contracting Parties, donors, international organizations and multi-stakeholder initiatives to contribute to information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building mechanisms of Article 13 of the Treaty.

21. The Working Group may wish to request the Secretariat to further specify the elements of a possible programmatic approach on information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building within the Multi-Year Programme of Work to be considered by the Governing Body at its Sixth Session.

Appendix 1

NON-MONETARY BENEFIT-SHARING IN THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM: ARTICLES 13.2 (a),(b),(c)

13.2 The Contracting Parties agree that benefits arising from the use, including commercial, of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture under the Multilateral System shall be shared fairly and equitably through the following mechanisms: the exchange of information, access to and transfer of technology, capacity-building, and the sharing of the benefits arising from commercialization, taking into account the priority activity areas in the rolling Global Plan of Action, under the guidance of the Governing Body:

(a) Exchange of information:

The Contracting Parties agree to make available information which shall, inter alia, encompass catalogues and inventories, information on technologies, results of technical, scientific and socio-economic research, including characterization, evaluation and utilization, regarding those plant genetic resources for food and agriculture under the Multilateral System. Such information shall be made available, where non-confidential, subject to applicable law and in accordance with national capabilities. Such information shall be made available to all Contracting Parties to this Treaty through the information system, provided for in Article 17.

(b) Access to and transfer of technology

(i) The Contracting Parties undertake to provide and/or facilitate access to technologies for the conservation, characterization, evaluation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture which are under the Multilateral System. Recognizing that some technologies can only be transferred through genetic material, the Contracting Parties shall provide and/or facilitate access to such technologies and genetic material which is under the Multilateral System and to improved varieties and genetic material developed through the use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture under the Multilateral System, in conformity with the provisions of Article 12. Access to these technologies, improved varieties and genetic material shall be provided and/or facilitated, while respecting applicable property rights and access laws, and in accordance with national capabilities.

(ii) Access to and transfer of technology to countries, especially to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, shall be carried out through a set of measures, such as the establishment and maintenance of, and participation in, crop-based thematic groups on utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, all types of partnership in research and development and in commercial joint ventures relating to the material received, human resource development, and effective access to research facilities.

(iii) Access to and transfer of technology as referred to in (i) and (ii) above, including that protected by intellectual property rights, to developing countries that are Contracting Parties, in particular least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, shall be provided and/or facilitated under fair and most favourable terms, in particular in the case of technologies for use in conservation as well as technologies for the benefit of farmers in developing countries, especially in least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, including on concessional and preferential terms where mutually agreed, inter alia, through partnerships in research and development

under the Multilateral System. Such access and transfer shall be provided on terms which recognize and are consistent with the adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights.

(c) Capacity-building

Taking into account the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as expressed through the priority they accord to building capacity in plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in their plans and programmes, when in place, in respect of those plant genetic resources for food and agriculture covered by the Multilateral System, the Contracting Parties agree to give priority to

(i) establishing and/or strengthening programmes for scientific and technical education and training in conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture,

(ii) developing and strengthening facilities for conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in particular in developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, and

(iii) carrying out scientific research preferably, and where possible, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in cooperation with institutions of such countries, and developing capacity for such research in fields where they are needed.