



# The International Treaty

## ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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### NOTIFICATION

#### **Invitation to send information on interrelations between the International Treaty, especially its Article 9, and relevant instruments of UPOV and WIPO, pursuant to Resolution 8/2013**

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the honour to refer to Resolution 8/2013, *Implementation of Art. 9, Farmers' Rights*, adopted by the Governing Body at its Fifth Session in Muscat, Oman, in September 2013, whereby the Governing Body, *inter alia*, “request[ed] the Secretary to invite UPOV and WIPO to jointly identify possible areas of interrelations among their respective international instruments.”

Following inputs received from Contracting Party regions and civil society, as well as preliminary discussions with UPOV and WIPO, the Secretary consulted the Chair and Vice-chairpersons of the Sixth Session of the Governing Body and will proceed with the following steps:

The matter will be referred to the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ACSU), which has traditionally dealt with issues related to Farmers' Rights and which has a mandate to provide advice to the Secretary on “*cooperation with ... international processes and institutions in the field of sustainable use of PGRFA*”.

The Committee will meet in the first quarter of 2015 and the identification of interrelations between the Treaty and the relevant instruments will be added to the agenda of the meeting. The Committee includes a representative range of stakeholder participation, including in particular farmers and civil society representatives.

Following Resolutions 7/2013 and 6/2011 of the Governing Body, Contracting Parties and other donors are kindly invited to make financial contributions to enable the holding of a workshop on Farmers' Rights in conjunction with the next meeting of the ACSU. If adequate funding is received for it, such a workshop would be organized.

.../...



After the ACSU will have processed the identified interrelations, the Secretary will transmit the results to UPOV and WIPO. Based on the interrelations thus identified, jointly with UPOV and WIPO, a small team of 3-4 experts will be agreed and an initial outline for a joint report be prepared and made available for public comments by membership and stakeholders of the respective instruments.

After closing of the comments on the draft outline, the experts would be tasked to incorporate the comments and work on a draft report to the Governing Body. The draft report would again be made available for comments on the Treaty website and comments would be incorporated into the final version. In response to the Governing Body's request, the Secretary would then submit the final version to the Governing Body.

The purpose of this Notification is to invite Contracting Parties to share with the Secretariat any relevant information on the identification of interrelations between the International Treaty and relevant instruments of UPOV and WIPO pursuant to Resolution 8/2013. Such information will be compiled and forwarded to the ACSU for its consideration at the above mentioned meeting, together with any additional information received through the "Farmers' Rights Comment Submissions" webpage of the International Treaty. The webpage can be accessed at <http://www.planttreaty.org/content/farmers-rights-submissions>.

To facilitate the consolidation of such information in the documentation being prepared by the Secretariat for the meeting of the ACSU, I would appreciate receiving such information by 28 November 2014 at [PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org](mailto:PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org).

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



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