



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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NOTIFICATION

Invitation to Potential Partners of the Benefit-sharing Fund

Dear Madam/Sr,

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture provides for a Funding Strategy, which aims to enhance the provision of financial resources for the implementation of the Treaty. The Funding Strategy includes a Benefit-sharing Fund which supports projects and programmes for the benefit of farmers and local communities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition who work towards maintaining and increasing the use of genetic resources for food and agriculture. At its Third Session, the Governing Body recognized the importance of making concrete progress in the operationalization of the Funding Strategy, welcomed the Strategic Plan for the implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund, and adopted a funding target of US\$ 116 million from 2009 to 2014.

The Secretary assists the Governing Body to establish and maintain cooperation with other relevant international organizations on matters covered by the Treaty, including their participation in the Funding Strategy. At its Third Session, the Governing Body requested the Secretary to continue collaborating with international mechanisms, funds and bodies, including the Global Crop Diversity Trust, in further operationalizing the Benefit-sharing Fund of the International Treaty.

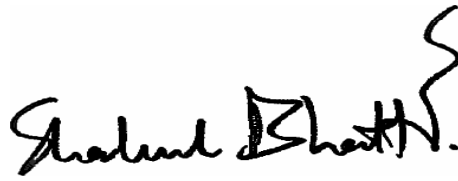
The Bureau of the Fourth Governing Body of the Treaty has requested the Secretary to survey “all possible options for the establishment of institutional arrangements to be put in place for the oversight and implementation of projects to be funded under the Benefit-sharing Fund”, for examination by the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy.

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I therefore have the pleasure to invite your organization to prepare a submission by filling the form annexed to this letter. It would be appreciated if your submission could be sent by e-mail to Dr Shakeel Bhatti, Secretary of the International Treaty at PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org by 10 August 2010.

If your organization is able to send the submission by 20 May 2010, it will be presented and considered by the fifth meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy of the Treaty, which will meet in Geneva on 26 and 27 May 2010. Following the guidance received from the Committee, the Secretary will further communicate with collaborating international organizations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shakeel Bhatti', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shakeel Bhatti
Secretary
Internacional Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture

SUBMISSION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE BENEFIT-SHARING FUND OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

SECTION 1: CONTACT DETAILS

Organization:
Address:
Country:
Telephone:
Fax:
Web page:
Contact Person:
Position:
Telephone:
Fax:
E-mail:

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND

Provide a brief introduction of the organization, its comparative advantages and approaches to support food security and rural sustainable development. Describe the work and portfolio of the organization relevant to the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Give a few examples which illustrate the range of the organization's work in this regard and its potential to mainstream plant genetic resources into major national and regional plans and programmes (food security, poverty alleviation, climate change, biodiversity). Describe the organization's networks and cooperation relevant to the Treaty (scientific community, policy makers, civil society and stakeholder groups,...). The suggested maximum length of this section is of 1500 words.

SECTION 3: OPERATIONS OF THE BENEFIT-SHARING FUND

SECTION 3.1: OVERSIGHT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS

Describe the institutional capacity of the organization to:

a) Identify and develop projects and project proposals

Checklist:

Evidence of institutional systems, procedures and policies for the identification and development of projects and project proposals.

b) Manage or oversee the execution of projects and programmes

Checklist:

Evidence of institutional systems, procedures and policies for managing or overseeing the execution of projects and programmes;

Experience in managing or overseeing the execution of projects and programmes for other bilateral or multilateral donors.

c) Undertake monitoring and evaluation

Checklist:

Evidence of institutional systems, procedures and policies for monitoring and evaluating projects and project proposals.

Refer to any supporting documentation from the organization and if possible provide web links to such documents.

SECTION 3.2: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF PROJECTS

Describe the institutional capacity of the organization to:

a) Produce forward-looking financial plans and budgets

Checklist:

Evidence of preparation of corporate budgets;

Experience of producing financial plans and budgets for donors or as implementing agency of other multilateral environmental funds.

b) Manage and disburse funds efficiently and with safeguards to recipients on a timely basis

Checklist:

Evidence that a control framework for managing and disbursing funds is in place, with define roles, identification of duties and procedures.

c) Accurately and regularly record transactions and balances in a manner that adheres to broadly accepted good practices, and are audited periodically by an independent firm or organization

Checklist:

Existence of internal and external auditing of transactions and balances, in accordance with international recognized standards;

Existence of capacity to produce reliable financial statements.

d) Manage procurement procedures which provide for transparent practices, including in competition.

Checklist:

Evidence of procurement policies and procedures, consistent with recognized international practices;

Existence of dispute resolution procedures.

Refer to any supporting documentation from the organization and if possible provide web links to such documents

SECTION IV: STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BENEFIT-SHARING FUND

Indicate possible areas and innovative approaches for partnerships between the organization and the Secretariat of the Treaty to support the further development of the Benefit-sharing Fund, including: technical support to further develop the programmatic approach of the Benefit-sharing Fund; strategic cooperation to integrate the Benefit-sharing Fund into broader multilateral agendas; investment into the calls for proposals of the Benefit-sharing Fund through co-financing of projects and joint resource mobilization.