

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	CPGR/85/3 Add.1 February 1985
	联合国粮食及农业组织	
	FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS	
	ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE	
	ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION	

السند ٣ من جدول الأعمال المؤقت

临时议程项目 3

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda
 Point 3 de l'ordre du jour provisoire
 Tema 3 del programa provisional

هيئة الموارد الوراثية النباتية

植物遗传资源委员会

COMMISSION ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
 COMMISSION DES RESSOURCES PHYTOGENETIQUES
 COMISION DE RECURSOS FITOGENETICOS

الدورة الأولى

第一届会议

First Session
 Première session
 Primera reunión

روما ، ١١ - ١٥ / ٣ / ١٩٨٥

1985年3月11-15日，罗马

Rome, 11-15 March 1985
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مدى استجابة البلدان والمنظمات الدولية للقرار ٨٣/٨

国家和国际机构对8/83号决议的反应

COUNTRY AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS' RESPONSE TO RESOLUTION 8/83
REPONSES DES PAYS ET DES INSTITUTIONS INTERNATIONALES CONCERNANT
LA RESOLUTION 8/83
RESPUESTAS DE LOS PAISES Y LAS INSTITUCIONES INTERNACIONALES A
LA RESOLUCION 8/83

تضم هذه الوثيقة مقتطفات من الردود التي وردت من البلدان والمنظمات الدولية على القرار ٨٣/٨ حتى تاريخ ١٩٨٥/٢/١٢ . وقد أدرجت المراسلات المحررة بلغات غير الانكليزية والفرنسية والاسبانية بعد ترجمتها الى الانكليزية أو الفرنسية . ولدواعي الاقتصاد لم تترجم النصوص الى لغات العمل الخمس في المنظمة .

本文件汇集了到1985年2月12日为止所收到的各国和国际机构对8/83号决议反应的摘录。所收到的非英、法和西班牙文的来函都备有英文或法文译文。为了节约起见，未能译成本组织所有五种工作文字。

This document gives extracts of responses received since 12 February 1985 and from countries and international institutions to Resolution 8/83. For correspondence received in languages other than English, French or Spanish, the English or French translation is provided. For reasons of economy translation into the five working languages of the Organization has not been possible.

Le présent document contient des extraits des réponses reçues au 12 février 1985 des pays et des institutions internationales à la résolution 8/83 de la Conférence. Les réponses reçues dans 'des langues autres que le français, l'anglais ou l'espagnol sont traduites en français ou en anglais. Pour des raisons d'économie il a été impossible de traduire les réponses dans les cinq langues de travail de l'organisation.

Este documento contiene extractos de las respuestas recibidas desde el 12 de febrero de 1985 de países e instituciones internacionales a la Resolución 8/83. Para la correspondencia recibida en idiomas distintos del español, francés o inglés, figura la traducción al inglés o francés. Por razones de economía, no ha sido posible realizar la traducción a los cinco idiomas de trabajo de la Organización.

بيان المحتويات

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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Telex of 7 December 1984

Ref.: MISC 1221, FAO Representative

"... Government of Antigua and Barbuda endorses Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources..."

BAHRAIN

Lettre du 17 avril 1984

Ref.: 639/13/23/84. Ministre du commerce et de l'agriculture

"... Je voudrais vous communiquer notre accord vis-à-vis de cet engagement étant donné l'importance des ressources génétiques végétales, leur conservation et leur utilisation sans entrave pouvant limiter leur disponibilité et comme contribution aux efforts fournis par la communauté internationale dans ce but..."

BANGLADESH

Letter of 26 June. 1984

Ref.: 385/AZ/84(Minister), Ministry of Agriculture

"... It is my pleasure now to confirm full support of the Government of Bangladesh to the Undertaking.

As regards operative paragraph 2 of the Resolution, expressing our interest in the Undertaking and assuring you of our intention to give general effect to the principles of the Undertaking, I wish to inform you that Bangladesh offers specifically to serve as base collection centre for jute, banana and aroids and also to serve as a duplicate centre for rice.

As regards operational paragraph 3 of the Resolution, Bangladesh is pleased to lend its support for, and to participate in, the international arrangements outlined in the Undertaking..."

BARBADOS

Letter of 1984-08-07

Ref. 15/B11/10/T1, Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Consumer Affairs

"... I wish to state that the Government welcomes the initiative taken by the conference in this area of FAO's activities. It is felt that the eventual adoption of the undertaking as proposed, would lead towards the much needed recognition by the international community of the importance of conservation and availability for exchange of plant genetic resources which rightfully should be considered the common heritage of mankind.

The Government is studying the possible impact of some of the operative paragraphs of the resolution. For example it considers Article 5 to be of vital importance. As you are aware, Barbados as a sugar cane producer carries a large range of plant genetic stocks developed by local breeding. In there are genetic resources or certain local fruitland vegetable crops.

We envisage that our examination of the resolution will be completed in the near future at which time we will communicate Government's endorsement or adoption of the resolution..."

Letter of 1985-01-01

Ref. 15/B11/10/T1, Ministry of
Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs

"... I am pleased to inform you that Barbados desires to be considered a member of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.

In this connection Barbados pledges to give effect to the principles of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources..."

Letter of 1985-01-16

Ref. 15/B1.1 Vol. 11, Ministry of Foreign
Affairs

"... Barbados has also promised to give effect, to the Principles of this Undertaking, and will take appropriate steps to do so ..."

BELIZE

Note No. 330 of 13 November 1984

Ref. FA/U/14/1/84(7), Ministry of Foreign
Affairs

"... The Government of Belize supports in principle the Undertaking which aims at the wider recognition of the importance of the conservation and free availability of plant genetic resources, as a common heritage of mankind for the benefit of present and future generations. However, due to financial, manpower and logistical constraints, Belize is not in a position to give effect to the principles contained in it..."

BOLIVIA

Letter of March 26, 1984

Comunicación del Representante Permanente
de FAO en Bolivia

"... In this respect, .hu Vice-Minister (of Foreign Affairs) informed me that the Bolivian Government would be interested l.n joining this Resolution since the preservation of this kind of resources is very important for the country..."

BURKINA FASO

Lettre du 26 déc. 1984

Ref. 01788 CNR/AGRI-EL/SG/DGA, Ministère
de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage

"... le Burkina Faso porte un réel intérêt à l'Engagement International sur les Ressources Phytogénétiques.

Aussi, je vous confirme la volonté de mon Gouvernement d'appuyer les Arrangements Internationaux qui y sont décrits et à participer aux activités dudit Engagement dans la limite de nos possibilités..."

CAMEROON

Lettre du 14 nod. 1984

Ref. VOL G/AGP-9 (G/X/AGP-9), Le Ministre
de l'Agriculture

"... J'ai l'honneur de vous marquer par la présente le soutien total du Gouvernement de la République du Cameroun à cet engagement. J'aimerais cependant attirer votre haute attention sur les futures zones d'implantation des Instituts et Centres de collecte et de traitement prévus dans l'accord qui devraient, à votre humble avis, trouver beaucoup plus leurs places dans nos pays en développement qui restent pour le moment presque les seules grandes sources de cultivars obsolètes et primitifs qu'on vise à développer et à vulgariser que dans les pays avancés. L'avantage ici est qu'il y a possibilité de suivre les cultivars simultanément dans leur état. naturel et dans les champs semenciers sans traverser les continents..."

CAPE VERDE

Lettre du 7 décembre 1984

Ref. N° 7545/063/21/84, Ministério dos
Negócios Estrangeiros

"... après avoir étudié la résolution 8/83 concernant l'Engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques, adoptée par la Conférence de la FAO à sa vingt-deuxième session, le Gouvernement Capverdien a très bien accueilli le contenu de ladite résolution et se manifeste très favorable à l'Engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques..."

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Lettre du 28 août 1984

Ref. N° 2513/84/CMRE/BTP 4 , Haut Commissariat
chargé du plan et de la coopération économique
et financière

"... J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que je donne mon accord sur les termes de référence de l'Engagement International sur les Ressources Phytogénétiques et souhaite par la même occasion que collections de base et actives dont le CIRP est responsable soient considérées comme faisant partie d'un réseau international de collection de base des banques de gène, sous les auspices ou la juridiction de la FAO.

Je profite de cette occasion pour vous renseigner sur la situation précise des activités nationales en faveur des Ressources Phytogénétiques. En effet, la République centrafricaine dispose de cinq instituts et Centres qui se chargent de la prospection, de la collection, de la conservation, de l'entretien, de l'évaluation, de la documentation, de l'échange et de l'utilisation des Ressources Phytogénétiques. Ce sont:

- le Centre National de Recherche Agronomique de Boukoko (café, cacao, poivre, hévéas, etc.);
- l'Institut centrafricain de Recherches Forestières du Km 22 (agrumes, bananes, avocats, ananas, etc.);
- l'Institut National de Recherches Textiles et Vivrières de Bambari;
- Station Principale Agricole de Grimari;
- la Station Principale Agricole de Soumbé-Bossangoa, ces trois derniers étant spécialisés dans le domaine du coton, de la roselle, de l'arachide, du maïs, du manioc, du riz, du sésame, du sorgho, du soja et autres cultures vivrières.

C'est dire que vu l'importance de la sélection végétale et la production semencière au niveau national pour le Développement présent et futur de l'Agriculture centrafricaine, le Gouvernement avait mis en place une structure de maintenance des ressources phytogénétiques après la réforme agraire de 1970. Aussi des efforts sont déployés présentement pour assurer la protection et la conservation des espèces tant cultivées que sauvages.

Mais, compte tenu des difficultés conjoncturelles que traverse la République centrafricaine à l'heure actuelle, les bâtiments de différents instituts et centres tombent en ruine, avec la majorité du matériel délabré.

C'est pourquoi, (le Gouvernement) souhaite que le CIRP (Centre International des Ressources Phytogénétiques) poursuive et étende aussi ses activités actuelles en

République centrafricaine, dans le cadre de son mandat, en liaison avec la FAO, afin de sauvegarder le patrimoine génétique qui est menacé d'appauvrissement et de disparition.

Par ailleurs, tout en donnant mon accord, je m'engage à donner effet aux principes de l'engagement, à appuyer les arrangements internationaux qui y sont décrits et à y participer..."

CHILE

Carta de 26 de Julio de 1984

Ref. N° 97/84, Representación Permanente de Chile ante la FAO

"... Chile no posee una institución responsable de velar por el valioso material fitogenético que es posible obtener en el país. Sin embargo, las actuales acciones efectuadas por instituciones como la Corporación Nacional Forestal, Universidad Austral, Universidad de Chile, Instituto de Investigaciones Agropecuarias, otorga la seguridad que bajo una adecuada coordinación, permitirá a Chile asumir los acuerdos implícitos a la adscripción del Compromiso Internacional.

Al respecto, y teniendo presente que los recursos fitogenéticos revisten gran importancia para Chile, por cuanto son la base del fitomejoramiento actual y sus proyecciones a futuro, y dado que la orientación del Compromiso Internacional es mancomunar los esfuerzos desplegados por los países para la recolección y la conservación de estos recursos viables de convertirse en patrimonio común de la humanidad, se ha consignado su suscripción..."

CHINA

Letter of June 26, 1984

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery

"... The adoption of the Resolution by FAO is a concrete step taken by the international community to realize the noble goal of mankind for the conservation and free availability of plant genetic resources. Hence it bears important significance for the promotion of the future development of world agriculture. The Chinese delegation to the 22nd Session of the FAO Conference held a positive stand on the general idea and principles of the Undertaking. We believe that to put into practice the specific stipulations of the Undertaking calls for the continued efforts by the international community. And the Undertaking cannot demonstrate its real value unless its idea and principles are generally recognized and accepted by the international community. We deplore the fact that some developed countries with rich genetic resources and advanced scientific devices still have reservations on the Undertaking.

As you may be aware, China in recent years has been striving to strengthen its legal system. After a few years' efforts, a Draft Law on Agricultural Crop Seeds of the People's Republic of China has been drawn up, and will be submitted to the National People's Congress for consideration and approval. Consequently, China's participation of the Undertaking can only be considered and decided upon after the Seed Law is officially promulgated. I hope this will meet with your understanding. Despite this, we shall still support the whole idea of the Undertaking, and wherever possible shall implement the relevant principles of the Undertaking adopted by the 22nd Session of the FAO Conference..."

COLOMBIA

Carta de 8 Jun. 1984

Ministerio de Agricultura

"... Es indudable que el contexto de la mencionada Resolución plantea un problema de relevante interés para la conservación, mejoramiento y protección de los recursos fitogenéticos en especies básicas para el uso alimenticio del mundo.

Por ello me permito manifestarle que desde el punto de vista técnico, social y humanitario, el Gobierno de Colombia ve con beneplácito y aplaude la larga serie de esfuerzos de la Comunidad Internacional que condujeron a la aprobación del Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos.

Sin embargo el Gobierno de Colombia se reserva su posición con respecto a la Resolución 8/83 y al texto del Compromiso propiamente dicho, en lo relacionado con el principio de "Libre Disponibilidad".

Lo anterior no excluye la cooperación científica internacional en esta área con base en una relación multilateral, que esté de acuerdo con las disposiciones vigentes en Colombia..."

CUBA

Carta de 3 de octubre de 1984

Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores

"... Después de haber consultado a las autoridades competentes del Gobierno de la República de Cuba, me complace informarle que, en nuestro criterio, dicho compromiso resulta de gran utilidad para la comunidad internacional en su conjunto y, en particular, para los países en vías de desarrollo, considerando, sobre todo, el importante papel que puede desempeñar en la limitación de las acciones de las corporaciones transnacionales que se dedican a la mejora y comercialización de semillas, con todas las consecuencias negativas que para los países del "Tercer Mundo" derivan las operaciones de tales empresas.

Estimamos que el Compromiso facilitará una mayor capacidad de intercambio de los recursos fitogenéticos en el entendido de que dichos recursos constituyen un patrimonio de la humanidad.

En la actualidad el Ministerio de la Agricultura de la República de Cuba emprende también la tarea de conformar los bancos de recursos fitogenéticos del país, por lo que somos de la opinión de que el Compromiso puede facilitar toda gestión que se emprenda en tal sentido.

Por las razones antes expuestas, la delegación cubana al 22 período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO brindó su apoyo a la Resolución 8/83 y al Compromiso adjunto a la misma.

En lo relacionado específicamente a los párrafos 2 y 3 de la parte dispositiva de la citada Resolución, me complace asimismo poner en su conocimiento que la República de Cuba estará en disposición de aplicar los principios contenidos en el Compromiso, sin perjuicio de las medidas que de manera particular nuestro país pueda adoptar para el intercambio de recursos fitogenéticos con países e instituciones en las condiciones que mutuamente se convengan..."

Carta de 22 de octubre de 1984

Comité Estatal Colaboración Económica

"... comunicamos nuestra adhesión a la Resolución 8/83 sobre el Compromiso internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos, cuyos principios generales sustentamos..."

CYPRUS

Note verbale of 5 June 1984

Permanent Representation of the
Republic of Cyprus to the Food and
Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations

"... the Government of Cyprus agrees and supports the ideas and principles included in the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. The Government of Cyprus would also like to indicate its willingness to continue its cooperation and participation in order to give effect to the principles contained in the Undertaking..."

DENMARK

Letter of 6 September 1984

Ref. P.R. III/E/461/84, Permanent
Representative of Denmark to FAO

"... The overriding objectives of the International Undertaking on the conservation and free availability of Plant Genetic Resources for the purpose of research and breeding has the full support of the Danish Government.

As to the definitions and scope of the Undertaking as contained in Article 2, the Danish Government is of the opinion that the material mentioned in Article 2.1 (a) (v) - (including elite and current breeders' lines and mutants) - should be excluded from forming part of the material to be included in national gene banks and freely available within the context of the Undertaking. The inclusion in gene banks of such material, which is not available for the Government is contrary to existing laws and regulations. Thus on this particular point the Danish Government is not in a position to give effect to the principles contained in the Undertaking.

I draw your attention to the fact that the Danish responsibility for preserving gene material of agriculture and horticultural plants is undertaken by the Nordic genebank operated jointly by the Nordic countries.

As regards the Danish position on the other elements of the Undertaking I would like to refer to the statements made by the Swedish representative on behalf of the five Nordic countries at the Twenty-second Conference.

With these comments and with the formal reservation as to Article 2.1. (a)(v), the Danish Government accepts the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and wishes to express its desire to become a member of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources..."

DOMINICA

Letter of 11th April 1984

Ref. A 1/349, Ministry of Agriculture

"... We are willing to comply with the undertaking as far as we are able. Already some studies are being undertaken by our Regional Institutions - U.W.I. and CARDI. Locally a project is being undertaken with the objective of collecting and documenting underutilized medicinal plants..."

EL SALVADOR

Carta de 30 de julio de 1984

Ref. ER. 178/84, Embajada de El Salvador en Roma

"... tengo él agrado de comunicarle la adhesión del Gobierno de El Salvador al Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos en cada una de sus partes, especialmente en lo que se refiere a los párrafos 2 y 3 de la parte dispositiva de la Resolución 8/83 aprobada por la Conferencia de la FAO en su 22^o período de sesiones..."

FIJI

Letter of 19 April 1984

Ref. No. 35/3-13 Ministry of Primary Industries

"... We recognise the importance of Plant Genetic Resources and the need for exploration, evaluation and preservation of such resources; and the resources should be freely available to all. The efforts by your Organization and other Institutions in this area should be commended. We understand that a lot more need to be done. We will continue to do our little bit within the available, limited resources.

My Government is interested in the Undertaking and will give effect to the principles of the Undertaking, i.e. to cooperate, support and participate in the international arrangements within available resources. I also wish to emphasise that we face considerable resources constraints and without outside assistance in terms of both funds and technical aspects, it would not be possible for us to participate effectively..."

FINLAND

Letter of 24 September 1984

Ref. No. 1419, Permanent Representative of Finland to FAO

"... I wish to inform you that the Finnish Government is ready to accept the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, to give effect to the principles of the Undertaking and to support and participate in the international arrangements outlined therein.

The Finnish Government makes, however, a reservation concerning the Special Genetic Stocks (including elite and current breeders' lines and mutants) (Annex, article 2.1.(a)(v)). The general, free availability, without restrictions, of special genetic stocks cannot be accepted as far as Finland is concerned..."

FRANCE

Lettre du 5 décembre 1984

N° 215/FAO, Représentation permanente de la
France auprès de l'O.A.A.

"... j'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître la position définitive de mon Gouvernement ce sujet. Le Gouvernement français:

1°/ - Approuve les principes de la Résolution 8/83 relative aux ressources phytogénétiques; ces ressources constituent un patrimoine commun qui doit être protégé, étudié et maintenu accessible à tous ceux qui veulent entreprendre des programmes de sélection;

2°/ - Déploie que l'Engagement ne fasse aucune mention de la Convention de Paris sur la Protection des Obtentions Végétales, dont les dispositions continueront à être respectées strictement par les institutions françaises; à ce titre, les matériels décrits à l'article 2.1 A (V) ne sauraient rentrer dans le champ d'application du présent engagement.

3°/ - Estime nécessaire que soit clairement définie l'articulation entre l'O.A.A. et les centres du GCRAI, et plus particulièrement le CIRP.

L'action de ces centres s'inscrit fidèlement dans les principes énoncés dans l'engagement international et la France tient à souligner la manière efficace dont ils s'acquittent de leur mission. Leur indépendance et leur souplesse doivent être préservées. Il est essentiel que l'O.A.A. n'entreprenne pas d'opérations venant faire double emploi avec celles menées au sein du GCRAI. Les déclarations en ce sens du Directeur Général de l'OAA, à l'ouverture de la réunion du GCRAI, le 23 mai dernier, doivent servir de base aux relations entre les institutions concernées par les ressources génétiques.

4°/ - Sous ces réserves, est disposé à adhérer à l'engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques.

5°/ - Appuie l'idée du développement d'un réseau international de collections et d'informations sur ces collections et souhaite que tous les pays, sans exception, d'une part soient admis à participer pleinement aux actions sur les ressources phytogénétiques conduites sous l'égide de l'OAA et d'autre part soient en mesure d'être effectivement associés au fonctionnement de l'organe intergouvernemental prévu par l'OAA afin d'assurer le suivi de ces actions.

6°/ - Craint que l'attention accordée à juste titre aux ressources phytogénétiques ne conduise à négliger leur valorisation. Il serait souhaitable que les actions de l'OAA évoquées plus haut consistent en priorité à aider les pays en développement à intensifier leurs propres travaux de sélection végétale et de production de semences en liaison avec l'amélioration des techniques agricoles: appui à la formation des sélectionneurs, soutien à des campagnes de prospection, d'étude et de conservation des races locales, et enfin fourniture de matériels de sélection préparés en collaboration avec des laboratoires de pays développés ou des centres internationaux de recherche.

7°/ - Organise la prospection, la protection et la description des ressources définies à l'article 3. Il assure le libre accès, sous réserve de réciprocité, aux échantillons des collections ainsi rassemblés ainsi qu'aux informations correspondantes. Il poursuivra sa participation aux actions internationales notamment à celles qui sont conduites par les instituts du CGRAI.

8°/ - Annonce que la France a récemment mis en place un bureau des ressources génétiques pour animer et coordonner les actions dans ce domaine et permettre ainsi un accès plus facile aux travaux réalisés sur le territoire national et au matériel végétal disponible. Cette création marque bien la volonté de la France d'encourager et d'appuyer tous les efforts concourant à un plus libre accès de tous aux, ressources phytogénétiques..."

GABON

Lettre du 9 mai 1984

No 0072/MAEFDR/COM.NAT.FAO, Ministère de
l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de l'économie
rurale

"... J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que le Gouvernement gabonais ne trouve aucune objection quant à son adhésion à cet engagement..."

GERMANY (Fed. Rep.)

Letter of 14 January 1985

Permanent Representative to FAO

"... The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has long attached great importance to the collection and conservation of plant genetic resources.. This is why many sites with endangered species have been protected and why we began years ago to build up a gene bank with which the Federal Republic of Germany actively participates in the work of the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR). The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is of the opinion that the work of the IBPGR has so far been very successful. It is, therefore, essential that the International Undertaking should not cause any duplication of/or overlapping with the work of the IBPGR.

Likewise, the Federal Republic of Germany is involved in the European Cooperative Programme for the Conservation and Exchange of Crop Genetic resources. Within the framework of this policy, the Federal Government is prepared to participate in the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources on the following understanding:

- The principle of unrestricted availability of plant genetic resources (Article 1 of the Undertaking) applies only in so far as it is not restricted by the Undertaking itself, including its Article 11.
- The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany starts from the fact that Article 5 of the Undertaking only covers such plant genetic resources which the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany can dispose of under German law. Article 7 (2) in particular is interpreted to mean that the base collections mentioned under this Article are those within the meaning of Article 5, that is, plant genetic resources which the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany can dispose of under German law. The decisions provided for in Article 7 (2) remain at the discretion of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.
- The varieties in current use or newly admitted varieties (Article 2 (1) (a) (1) are for reasons of cost normally not included in the base collections which the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany can dispose of within the meaning of the afore-mentioned paragraph. Such plant genetic resources have therefore to be obtained from traders; they cannot be provided from base collections at the disposal of by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.
- The base collections only exceptionally include special genetic stocks (Article 2 (1) (v), as they are current breeders' lines. These plant genetic resources - as far as they are not part of the base collections - are, therefore, not covered by the International Undertaking.
- The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany starts from the fact that the participation of the Federal Republic of Germany in the International undertaking will not bind it to decisions and recommendations of the envisaged Commission on Plant Genetic Resources (Article 9 (2) and that its right to examine them from case to case will not be affected.

- The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany points out that the Federal Republic of Germany is a member state of the European Communities and that it will participate in the fields covered by the Undertaking without prejudice to Community responsibilities falling within the sphere of competence of the Commission of the European Communities.
- The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany does not regard its declaration to participate in the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources subject to the above-mentioned restrictive conditions with regard to the legal nature of the Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources as accession to an agreement under international law.
- The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany starts from the fact that the participation of the Federal Republic of Germany in the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources will entail no additional financial commitment for the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany considers that Conference Resolution 8/83 as well as the decision of the FAO Council to establish a Commission on Plant Genetic Resources should be revised. It cannot be in the interest of intensive and comprehensive international co-operation if, for example, as in the present case, two countries like the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the German Democratic Republic, which play a major role in the field of plant genetic resources, are excluded. That is why, at the 22nd FAO Conference Session, a large number of member states were against the establishment of a special commission and suggested that the responsibilities in question should rather be assigned to the FAO Committee on Agriculture or to a working party of that Committee..."

GREECE

Letter of 8 October, 1984

Ref. 3322.8(3)/1156/613, Permanent
Representation to F.A.O.

"... Greece accepts the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, and supports Resolution N° 8/83 as adopted by the FAO Conference at its Twenty-Second Session, without reservation whatsoever..."

GRENADA

Letter of 29th October, 1984

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

"... The Ministry of Agriculture in Grenada welcomes the decisions taken at the Conference and is prepared to cooperate fully with the United Nations and all Agencies involved in the "Plant Genetic Resources" activities.

We in Grenada together with the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute have begun work on the Pigeon pea and other food legumes. It is our desire to expand this exercise and would therefore be grateful for any international help that may be forthcoming. The methodology and other internationally accepted format and procedures we would welcome..."

GUATEMALA

Carta de 3 de mayo de 1984

Número 10359/1-FAO, Ministerio de relaciones
Exteriores

"... el Gobierno de Guatemala está en la mejor disposición de ejecutar todas aquellas medidas de orden cuarentenario que sean necesarias para impedir la propagación de las plagas que afectan a la agricultura nacional..."

GUINEA

Lettre du 8 juin 1984

N° 289/MA/CAB, Ministère de l'agriculture

"... Mon Gouvernement, accordant une grande importance à la conservation du patrimoine végétal de la Guinée et reconnaissant la résolution 6/81 sur les Ressources Phytogénétiques accepte sans réserve la Résolution 8/83 et l'engagement international sur les Ressources Phytogénétiques.

La Guinée a les mêmes préoccupations que les autres Etats Membres de la FAO à ce sujet et envisage de réaliser des travaux de prospection, collection, conservation, entretien, évaluation et amélioration des Ressources Phytogénétiques qui constituent une des priorités de son programme de recherche. Leur mise en application permettra à mon gouvernement d'atteindre les objectifs du présent engagement auquel il s'intéresse beaucoup..."

HAITI

Télex du 11 décembre 1984

No T-4/576, Ministère de l'agriculture, des
ressources naturelles et du développement
rural

"AAA ... Ai honneur vous faire savoir Ministère agriculture considère ressources phytogénétiques comme patrimoine commun de l'humanité et doivent être utilisées à augmentation productivité agriculture Etats Membres, en particulier pays en développement, en vue assurer meilleurs revenus aux petits exploitants agricoles et partant améliorer qualité en milieu rural.

BBB Prends plaisir vous confirmer accord positif République d'Haïti à l'égard résolution 8/83 et de l'engagement international ainsi que toutes autres mesures prises par FAO pour leur renforcement, y compris l'intérêt manifesté qu'Haïti devienne membre de la Commission des ressources génétiques végétales.

CCC Toutefois, Ministère agriculture exprime sérieuses appréhensions en l'absence financement des activités essentielles intéressant ressources phytogénétiques et souligne nécessité de fournir, en l'occurrence, appui financier afin de permettre aux pays en développement d'appliquer actions et principes énoncés dans résolution 8/83 et engagement international."

HONDURAS

Carta de 5 de junio de 1984

Nota N° S-1360-84, Secretaría de estado en
él despacho de recursos naturales

"... me permito comunicarle que mi país ve con simpatía la adhesión al compromiso e igualmente estará dispuesto a aplicar los principios del mismo y apoyar los acuerdos internacionales señalados en él, y a participar en dichos acuerdos.

Sin embargo, antes de formalizar nuestra adhesión formal o suscribir el compromiso, le agradecería me suministrara mayores detalles sobre las reservas expresadas por Nueva Zelanda con respecto a los derechos de los genetistas y las expresadas por la República Federal de Alemania, Canadá, Estados Unidos de América, Francia, Japón, Reino Unido y Suiza, en relación al Convenio..."

ICELAND

Letter of 8 June 1984

Ministry for. Foreign Affairs

"... the Icelandic Government is interested in participating in the undertakings expressed in Conference Resolution 8/83 ...

The Government is in a position to give effect to the principles contained in the undertaking through its participation in the Nordic Genebank.

The Government feels, however, that some clarification is needed especially as to the activities currently being implemented by IBPGR and those outlined for the FAO Commission.

Furthermore, the Government would like the next FAO Conference to reconsider the membership of the intergovernmental body, that is to monitor the operation so that it will be more representative than that of the present Commission..."

INDIA

Telex of 23-X-84

FAO Representative in India

"... GOI agrees in principle to Resolution 8/83 of 22nd session FAO Conference with provision quote that plant genetic material would be supplied by India to other countries only on bilateral basis on mutually agreed terms and conditions on the lines envisaged Article five of undertaking unquote ..."

IRAQ

Letter of 20 June 1984

Permanent Representation of Iraq to FAO

"... I am pleased to convey the support of the Iraqi Government to the international Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.

Our Government has great interest in genetic resources, in view of the fact that Iraq is rich of these resources and is the original habitat of many field crops. We are always ready to cooperate in all field of interest ..."

JAMAICA

Letter of 19th November 1984

Ministry of Agriculture

"... My Government supports the Clauses and Provisions outlined in the Annex to Resolution 8/83 of the Undertaking. However, we do have some reservations on Article 5 which requires adhering Governments "to all access to samples of such resources, and to permit their export." You may know that some of our plant species, Pimenta dioica and Zingiber officinale for example, are restricted by certain regulations from distribution as living plant parts.

Accordingly, we would like to have strong assurances prior to access that such material would not be made available to potential competitor countries for purposes of commercial propagation, but that, on the contrary, the material made available would be used exclusively for scientific research ..."

KENYA

Letter of 19th June 1984

Ref. No RES/41 VOL. 1/79, Ministry of
Agriculture and Livestock Development

"... The Government of Kenya is fully committed to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources hence her support to the resolution during the Conference.

I now wish to confirm the Kenya Government stand on the matter and her desire to be considered along with the other member nations. We continue to support the operative paragraphs 2 and 3 and the objectives set out in the Articles 1 to 11 of the resolution unreservedly..."

KOREA

Letter of December 4 1984
KIT/FAO/84/241, Ambasciata della
Repubblica di Corea

"... the Government of the Republic of Korea supports the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources of the Resolution 8/83 adopted by the FAO Conference at its Twenty-second Session.

I firmly believe that the Undertaking will play a key role not only for the conservation and free availability of plant genetic resources, but for solving an ever-existing food shortage of mankind, particularly in the developing countries..."

KUWAIT

Letter of 26/12/1984
Ref. No 3/8/1, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

"... Concerning the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, we would like to inform you that these resources are considered the real legacy of mankind in general, that they should be properly conserved and utilized in plant breeding programmes, since they abound in many high quality genetic characteristics, including their high adaptability to the harsh ecological conditions, as well as their good resistance to most plant diseases. These resources have evolved through natural election over thousands of years. Nevertheless, they are vulnerable to extinction due to lack of attention for preserving them in their original habitats in most developing countries, hence they must be properly conserved..."

LEBANON

Letter of 4 September 1984
No 763, Embassy of Lebanon in Italy

"... I am pleased to inform you that the appropriate authorities in Lebanon have written to me showing interest in the above mentioned Resolution and Undertaking and have expressed their readiness to cooperate with FAO and other organizations in the implementation of the objectives of the two instruments.

The Lebanese authorities have also indicated that cooperation already exists with ICARDA's offices in Lebanon on a project concerning Plant Genetic Resources. We enclose herewith a study we received on Genetic Resources of chick-peas and its varieties in Lebanon (page 61) together with information on various other plants..."

MADAGASCAR

Lettre du 18 janvier 1985

AE/DRM/NU.3/FAO, Le Ministre des affaires
étrangères

"... Sur le fond et les objectifs, Madagascar ne peut qu'être intéressé par ledit Engagement, dans la mesure où il s'agit de promouvoir la prospection, la préservation, la conservation et l'évaluation des ressources phytogénétiques du pays.

Les articles 3 et 4 nous paraissent particulièrement intéressants: ils montrent en effet que les actions envisagées concernent les espèces présentant un intérêt économique et/ou social, qu'elles soient cultivées ou qu'elles se trouvent dans leur habitat naturel, qu'elles servent au développement agricole ou qu'elles soient utilisées comme source de matières premières (bois, médicament, etc...). La constitution de banques de gènes et de collection de plantes vivantes à des fins de recherche scientifique et de sélection est particulièrement avantageuse.

En outre, les aménagements internationaux exposés dans l'article 7 ont attiré notre attention.

- constitution d'un réseau coordonné au plan international de centres s'occupant des ressources phytogénétiques;
- amélioration des capacités en matière d'activités liées à la sélection végétale et à la multiplication des semences;
- amélioration des compétences professionnelles et des structures institutionnelles ainsi que de l'information sur les collections.

Toutefois, deux problèmes se posent concernant les échanges de matériel végétal, donc la disponibilité des ressources génétiques (article 5):

- l'introduction de matériel végétal est limitée par la faible capacité de la serre de quarantaine existante;
- le libre accès aux échantillons et l'utilisation intégrale des ressources phytogénétiques prospectées posent la question de savoir quelles sont les garanties concernant les espèces endémiques et les espèces menacées d'extinction..."

MALAWI

Letter of 13th December 1984

Ref. No 44/2/1/Vol. 1/17, Ministry of
Forestry and Natural Resources

"... I wish to inform you that we are keen to give effect to the resolution on International Undertakings on Plant Genetic Resources as this will strengthen our own commitment to genetic conservation at a national level..."

MALDIVES

Telex of 16/4/84

(G)25/84/31, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

"... I regret to furnish you with the fact that the agricultural sector in the Maldives will not be able to participate in the undertaking owing to the lack of a proper laboratory equipment and competent personnel ..."

MALI

Lettre du 26 déc. 1984

No 1197/MA-IER, Ministère de l'agriculture

"... J'ai l'honneur de vous notifier l'accueil favorable que le Gouvernement de la République du Mali réserve à l'engagement international sur les ressources phylogénétiques..."

L'adoption d'un tel engagement par la Communauté internationale pourra en effet préserver ce patrimoine commun dans l'intérêt des générations présentes et futures ..."

MAURITANIA

Télex du 22 mai 1984

Etat Minister Développement rural

"... Honneur vous informer adhésion République islamique de Mauritanie à l'engagement international sur les ressources phylogénétiques ..."

MAURITIUS

Letter of 6th June, 1984

Ref. No. 18570/46/132, ministry of External Affairs, Tourism and Emigration

"... The Ministry of Agriculture recognises that plant genetic resources are a heritage of mankind to be preserved, and to be freely available for use, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Government is interested in the undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and proposes to support and participate in the activities outlined by the IBPGR ..."

MEXICO

Carta de 9 de agosto de 1984

Ref. 0121/84, Delegación Permanente de México ante la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la agricultura y la alimentación

"... el día 22 de junio del presente año el Gobierno de México decidió adherirse al Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos. Asimismo le comunico que mi Gobierno interpreta el contenido de dicho Compromiso de la siguiente manera:

- Artículo 2.1.A.-IV.- El Gobierno de México entiende por "malas hierbas" las formas regresivas de plantas cultivadas.
- Artículo 2.1.A.- El Gobierno de México incluirá como subinciso VI "malezas de cualidades futuras insospechadas".
- Artículo 2.1.C.- El Gobierno de México entenderá propágulos en lugar de "semillas" por ser éste un término más genérico que incluye semillas.
- Artículo 2.1.D.- México entenderá que toda "institución" deberá contar con personalidad jurídica.
- Artículo 3.- México ha organizado y efectuado desde hace ya varias décadas misiones de prospección de recursos fitogenéticos en los términos especificados en el presente artículo. La adhesión del Gobierno de México al Compromiso estimulará la acción racional en este sentido,
- Artículo 4.- El Gobierno (le México ha desarrollado esfuerzos en ese sentido desde hace varias décadas. Dichos esfuerzos continuarán.
- Artículo 4.3.- El Gobierno (le México enti. ende por "Banco de Genes" Banco de Germoplasma, La distinción se estima necesaria con el objeto de no perpetuar este error.
- Artículo 5.- El Gobierno de México acordó:
 - Reafirmar y mantener el principio (le soberanía nacional sobre los recursos fitogenéticos.
 - El acceso a los mismos se sujetara a las disposiciones legales vigentes en la materia.
 - Entenderá por "instituciones adherentes" aquellas que adhieran al presente compromiso a través de los canales oficiales del gobierno del país al que pertenezcan.
- Artículo 6.A.- El Gobierno de México entenderá propágulos en lugar de "semillas". Asimismo comprenderá que el "objeto de permitir a todos los países aprovechar plenamente los recursos fitogenéticos en beneficio de su desarrollo agrícola" se refiere en especial a los países en desarrollo,
- Artículo 7.- El Gobierno de México interpretará las disposiciones del presente artículo en el mismo sentido que los principios que se señalan en el artículo 5 y considera que no debe existir un Banco Mundial en un solo sitio sino una red de bancos distribuidos en los centros de origen de las plantas cultivadas, los cuales serían manejados en forma conjunta por el país en donde se encuentra localizado el banco y FAO, de acuerdo con las leyes y normas jurídicas que rijan al respecto,

- Artículo 8.4.- El Gobierno de México estima que no se deben excluir los Recursos de los Fondos Regulares de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación.
- Artículo 10.- El Gobierno de México entenderá que el presente compromiso no excluye las medidas que tomen los gobiernos conforme a la Convención que se cita así como las disposiciones de la Legislación Nacional vigente.
- Artículo 11.- El Gobierno de México proporcionará el informe anual que se especifica, si es posible presentando el primero de ellos durante el primer período de sesiones de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos.

Por otra parte, con respecto a la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos el Gobierno de México desea que se le considere como miembro de la misma y juzga conveniente realizar la primera reunión a la brevedad posible. Asimismo, propone como temas a tratar en el seno de dicha Comisión los siguientes:

- Compromisos sobre financiamiento para la conservación de material vegetativo por los países en desarrollo.
- Creación del Banco de Germoplasma, de reservas biosféricas y de jardines botánicos.
- Elaboración de un patrón, a nivel mundial y por países, de variedades genéticas en peligro de extinción, variedades existentes, variedades con posibilidad de mejoramiento genético y variedades que han sido mejoradas, dando prioridad a las especies de alto valor alimentario humano.
- La necesidad de que las "instituciones que se adhieran" al compromiso que nos ocupa formalicen su personalidad jurídica a través de canales oficiales del gobierno del país a que pertenezcan.
- La posible utilización de los fondos presupuestarios de FAO en el establecimiento y funcionamiento de la red internacional.
- La vinculación entre el Codex Alimentarius y la Comisión de referencia..."

MOZAMBIQUE

Letter of 5 January 1985
1/GMA/85, Ministerio da
Agricultura

"... As a Member Nation of FAO, Mozambique regards the International Undertaking C-11 Plant Genetic Resources as extremely important. Our National Institute on Agronomic Research (INTA) has been given the mandate to be responsible for the exploration, collection, conservation, maintenance, evaluation, and exchange of plant genetic resources.

INIA has however no specialized branch in this field, but the program is diluted in the crop programs with minimal resources. Mozambique will need both technical and material assistance from international technical aid organizations to be able to sustain a program with some impact on the conservation of national genetic resources.

Concluding, the adoption of the Undertaking by Mozambique has been the very first step or the long road to its full implementation..."

NETHERLANDS

Letter of 31 July 1984

PV 8653/CL 4.2.8 LH/pg, Permanent Mission of
the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Food
and Agriculture Organization of the United
Nations

"... The Government of the Netherlands fully supports the objectives of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources adopted at the 22nd session of the FAO-conference and will give effect to its principles. In that connection it should be noted that in September 1983 the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries established a national genebank ("Gene Bank - The Netherlands" GNB) which is to function in the network of the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR). Its objective to contribute to the exploration, collection, conservation, maintenance, evaluation and documentation of genetic resources and to the exchange of them without restrictions for the benefit of plant breeding and scientific research coincides with the objective of the International Undertaking.

However, the Government of the Netherlands wishes to express its reservation on two issues.

1. Plant breeding in the Netherlands is largely carried out by private persons. Halfproducts created by them such as breeders lines and inbred lines usually do not come under Government control. It would be contradictory to the Dutch political and social principles to bring these products under control of the Government. For these reasons the Netherlands cannot apply the International Undertaking to the category "special genetic stocks" as meant under art. 2.1.a.V.

In our view, however, this contradicts in no way with free access to genetic resources since these are contained in original base material (as mentioned under art. 2.1.a. II, III, and IV) from which the above-mentioned half-products are derived. Such original base material will be stored in the genebank(s) and will be available.

2. The Dutch Government is satisfied that the IBPGR as a technical body adequately guarantees adherence to the principles as set out in the proposed International Undertaking. It noted with satisfaction the statements of the Director-General of the FAO at the opening of the CGIAR in Rome on May 23, 1984, that FAO would not duplicate any activity of the IBPGR nor would the International Undertaking affect the independent status of IBPGR within the CGIAR. The Dutch Government fully concurs with those views. Although it questioned the need for setting up an additional intergovernmental body, it has realized that the issue of Genetic Resources is not just technical, but has gained political relevance. An intergovernmental body may indeed provide a forum to further help strengthen the will of national governments to support activities aimed at safeguarding genetic resources and making them freely available for the benefit of mankind. In this spirit article 9.2 of the International Undertaking is interpreted. The Netherlands Government will follow further developments with great interest.

The Government of the Netherlands does not consider its adherence to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources as adherence to an agreement under International Law.

It therefore reserves the right to cancel its adherence at any time, with no financial liability whatsoever..."

NEW ZEALAND

Letter of 11 January 1985

Ref. 32/2/13, New Zealand Embassy Rome

"... I have the honour to advise you that the New Zealand Government supports the principles in the Undertaking and will to the extent possible give effect to them subject to the following exceptions:

- 1) The New Zealand Government considers that all States should be eligible to fill elective offices on the proposed FAO Inter-governmental body.
- 2) The New Zealand Government is not able to accept the principles in the Undertaking with respect to elite and current breeders' lines and mutants described as "special genetic stocks".

Finally, I have the honour to advise that the New Zealand Government reserves the right to withdraw its support for the Undertaking..."

OMAN

Letter of 20.6.84

Ref. 2/7/84/269, Embassy of Sultanate of Oman Rome

"... the appropriate authorities in the Sultanate have certain reserves on this Undertaking as follows:

- 1 - It does not include an article with provisions to safeguard the rights of plant breeders.
- 2 - When samples of species are collected in Oman the individuals who made the collection are required to share each sample of each variety collected locally half and half between themselves and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. They are also required to send to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries copies of any studies they undertake on such varieties..."

PANAMA

Carta de 22 Nov. 1984

Ref. DGOCTI/DOI/3250,
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

"... el Gobierno panameño está "de acuerdo con el contenido y propósito de dicho documento, (Resolución 8/83 relativa al Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos) y le satisface sobre manera el pronunciamiento sobre un tema de actualidad y de tanta importancia, como es asegurar la prospección, conservación, evaluación y disponibilidad para el mejoramiento de las plantas y para fines científicos de estos recursos de interés económico y/o social, particularmente para la agricultura y la alimentación mundial".

En cuanto a la puesta en práctica de los principios contenidos en la referida Resolución, el Gobierno informa que el "Instituto de Investigación Agropecuaria de Panamá (IDIAP), mantiene un intercambio de reproducción, con Organismos Internacionales y Regionales, tales como el Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT) y el Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE)..."

PARAGUAY

Telex of 6 Dec. 1984

Ref. MISC1307, UNDP Representative

"... Minister Agriculture has requested Minforeign Affairs to endorse Resolution 8/83 regarding International Commission on Plant Genetic Resources..."

PERU

Carta de 28 de enero de 1985

Of. No RE(CTF): 7-7-F/8, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

"... Sobre el particular, me es grato comunicarle la decisión de mi Gobierno en el sentido de aplicar los principios planteados en el mencionado Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos, así como apoyar los acuerdos internacionales señalados en él, toda vez que los objetivos referidos en dicho Compromiso están en estrecha relación con las actividades del Ministerio de Agricultura del Perú..."

PHILIPPINES

Letter of 5 April. 1984,

Office of United Nations and International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

"... This resolution called for an International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources to be carried out by a New Commission under FAO. 'I believe we should welcome this decision because the conservation of genetic resources is imperative for the success of future plant breeding programs. However, we must advise FAO of the established programs of the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) an agency operating under the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) to avoid unnecessary and wasteful duplication of activities. The terms of reference of the new FAO Commission overlaps with some existing responsibilities of IBPGR. Perhaps we can encourage the FAO Commission to direct its thrusts on political issues where it has greater influence over member governments and advise IBPGR to put emphasis on scientific and technical aspects of plant genetic programs..."

POLAND

Letter of 17.07.1984

Ref. N°44-5-84, Ambasciatore della Repubblica
Popolare di Polonia

"... Poland is interested in enlarging the international cooperation in the field of collection and utilization of plant genetic resources and that the following scientific institutes are fulfilling the leading function in Poland in the exploration, collection, conservation, maintenance, evolution and utilization of plant genetic resources:

1. Institute of Plant Breeding and Acclimatization, Department of National Plant Genetic Resources/Instytut Hodowli i Aklimatyzacji Rolin, Krajowy Zakład Zasobów Genowych, 09-870 Radzików k/Warszawy/. This Institute is collecting the main plant genetic resources in the Department of National Plant Genetic Resources and in the cooperating Units. The Department is conducting the exchange of plant genetic resources with the Institutes in other countries;

2. Institute of Cultivation, Fertilization and Soil Sciences/Instytut Uprawy, Nawożenia i Gleboznawstwa - 24-100 Pulawy/. This Institute is conducting the collection of agricultural microbiological seedling;

3. Institut of Fermentative Industry /Instytut Przemysłu Fermentacyjnego ul. Rakowiecka 36, 02-532 Warszawa/ - is conducting the collection of seedling of industrial microbiology;

4. Institute of Herbs Processing Industry /Instytut Przemysłu Zielarskiego ul. Libetta 27, 61-707 Poznan/ - is conducting the collection of medical and spice herbs..."

SENEGAL

lettre du 27 mars 1984

Ref. N° 212 ASR/REP. FAO, Ambassade de la
République du Sénégal à Rome

"... Je vous fais parvenir, ci-joint, l'instrument d'acceptation par le Gouvernement du Sénégal du texte révisé de la Convention internationale pour la protection des végétaux, adopté à Rome, le 28 novembre 1979..."

SEYCHELLES

Letter of 20th July 1984

Ref. MND/007/38, Ministry of National
Development

"... my Government supports fully the principles of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.

But through the unavailability of funds and qualified personnel, my Government would not be in a position to give effect to the principles contained in the undertaking..."

SPAIN

Carta del. 8 de Agosto de 1984

Ref. N°106, Embajada de España en Italia

"... Nuestro Gobierno que ha apoyado la Resolución 8/83 está interesado en el. Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos, siendo su voluntad política aplicar los principios en él contenidos, apoyar los acuerdos internacionales en él señalados y participar en dichos acuerdos, en la medida en que no exista contradicción con otros acuerdos internacionales ya suscritos. Considera asimismo que, para el establecimiento efectivo de un sistema global de Recursos Fitogenéticos dentro del espíritu de la Resolución 8/83, es esencial el desarrollo de una red internacional de colecciones base en bancos genéticos bajo la jurisdicción de la FAO. Por lo que, en la medida que pueda servir de impulso o estímulo para la construcción de esta red internacional, reitera su oferta de poner bajo la jurisdicción de la FAO las colecciones base del Banco de Germoplasma Vegetal del Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación, en los términos precedentes expresados por el Excmo. Sr. Ministro de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación, en su carta dirigida al Excmo. Sr. Director General de la FAO con fecha 28 de julio de 1983..."

Carta de]. 28 de Julio de 1983

El Ministro de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación

"... Deseo también manifestar a V.E. que mi Gobierno vería con agrado que la oferta hecha por nuestra delegación ante el citado Grupo de Trabajo sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos, y anteriormente en las reuniones del COAG y del Consejo, fuese recogida en su informe como propuesta de un ensayo piloto conducente a establecer, bajo el sistema de las Naciones Unidas, unas garantías objetivas, que permitan asegurar un orden internacional más justo en materia de recursos fitogenéticos.

Consideramos que el ejemplo español tiene un valor simbólico y manifiesta una voluntad política que puede abrir camino al, establecimiento de una red internacional de colecciones básicas de germoplasma que, bajo la égida de la FAO, garanticen la libre disponibilidad de los recursos fitogenéticos en el futuro.

La oferta española consiste, como V.E. conoce, en poner bajo la jurisdicción y el control del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas el germoplasma de semillas ortodoxas existente en el Banco de Germoplasma Vegetal de este Ministerio (encomendado a nuestro Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agrarias), de aquellas especies que se determinen, y en hacerse cargo a sus expensas este Ministerio de su conservación y de la de aquellos duplicados documentados que puedan ser remitidos a nuestro banco, bien entendido que siempre con el carácter de colecciones básicas..."

SRI LANKA

Letter of 17 July 1984

My No. FAO/Misc, Embassy of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Rome

"... The Government of Sri Lanka is in agreement with the contents of the above resolution and would extend fullest co-operation within its means to give effect to this undertaking..."

SWEDEN

Letter of 1984-09-05

Swedish Ministry of Agriculture

"... The overriding objectives of the International Undertaking on the conservation and free availability of Plant Genetic Resources for the purpose of research and breeding has the full support of the Swedish government.

As to the definitions and scope of the Undertaking as contained in Article 2, the Swedish Government is of the opinion that the material mentioned in Article 2.1(a)(v) - (including elite and current breeders' lines and mutants) - should be excluded from forming part of the material to be included in national gene banks and freely available within the context of the Undertaking. The inclusion in gene banks of such material, which is not available for the Government, is contrary to existing laws and regulations. Thus on this particular point the Swedish Government is not in a position to give effect to the principles contained in the Undertaking.

I also wish to draw you attention to the fact that the Swedish responsibility for preserving gene material of agricultural and horticultural plants is undertaken by the Nordic gene bank operated jointly by the Nordic countries.

As regards the Swedish position on the other elements of the Undertaking I would like to refer to our statement on behalf of the five Nordic countries at the Twenty-second Conference.

With these comments and with the formal reservation as to Article 2.1(a)(v), the Swedish Government accepts the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources..."

SYRIA

Letter of April 1984

Minister of State for Planning

"... We would like to inform you that we approve of the proposed undertaking, cognizant of the significance of this undertaking in the field of international cooperation, and particularly in the areas of exchange of information on genetic resources, as well as their exploration, conservation, documentation and proper uses, to further the objectives of agricultural development throughout the world..."

TONGA

Letter of 13 April 1984

F.35/4/5, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

"... I have the honour to refer to your letter G/AGP-9 of 22 February 1984 covering the decision on International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources in accordance with Resolution 8/83 which was adopted at the FAO Conference during its Twenty-Second Session.

I have further the honour to convey the Government's support of operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Resolution..."

TUNISIA

Lettre du 8 mai 1984

N° 0188, Représentant permanent de la
Tunisie auprès de la F.A.O.

"... Sur instruction de mon gouvernement, j'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que l'engagement en question rencontre l'agrément de la Tunisie..."

TURKEY

Letter of 27/9/1984

Ref. EIGM/EIUE-IV 733.116/3578--73:3 Ministry
of Foreign Affairs

"... The Resolution in question has been examined by the Turkish Authorities. The Turkish Authorities find it difficult to accept Article I and Article 7(a) which refers to the "Principle of Unrestricted exchange" since the Turkish national legislation does not permit the full application of this principle.

Therefore the Turkish Government reserves its position on this question. The Turkish authorities also reserve their position on article 7(b) of the same resolution ..."

UNITED KINGDOM

Letter of 31 January 1985

Ref: 22/7, British Embassy, Rome

"... I have been asked to inform you that Her Majesty's Government have agreed that the United Kingdom should adhere to the FAO International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources subject to a reservation on Article 2.1(a)(v) and to the points of interpretation indicated in the annex attached to this letter.

... I wish to assure you that the United Kingdom Government intends to adopt a positive attitude towards the Undertaking in line with that of other Member States of the European Community and in accordance with assurances given to the British Parliament."

ANNEX

"In declaring its intention to adhere to the Undertaking annexed to Resolution 8/83 the UK Government expresses its reservations over Article 2.1(a)(v). The category of "special, genetic stocks" specified in this Article seems to be intended to include any plant genetic material not covered by categories (i)-(iv). The genetic material that may fall into this classification includes that in the course of development by breeders ("advanced breeding lines"). It is impossible to apply many of the principles enshrined in the Undertaking to such material for a number of reasons:

a. vast quantities of material are screened for selection by breeders. For instance a typical breeding programme might involve some 7-8000 pairs of parents in initial crosses to produce around 2-3 million F2 plants from which two or three varieties may eventually be selected some 12 years after the initial cross. Preservation and documentation on this scale would be impracticable.

b. the material is often genetically mixed or unstable which also renders preservation and documentation impracticable.

c. particularly in the later stages of a development programme the material is commercially sensitive. Its release would benefit a breeder's competitors who could reap the benefit of the original breeder's investment while the original breeder would lose the incentive to maintain his investment in breeding work to the detriment of agriculture.

It should be stressed that these difficulties do not necessarily imply that valuable germplasm is being withheld. The initial material used in crosses to produce the breeder's working material is generally available and such material would contain all the genes available in any derivatives from that material. Once a new variety is developed it is available and can be used without restriction for further breeding work.

In addition the UK Government wishes to make the following observations on the interpretation of Resolution 8/83 and the Undertaking annexed to it:

Article 1

It is considered that the objective of the Undertaking applies without prejudice to the restrictions recognised by the Undertaking itself.

Article 4

While the UK fully endorses the aims expressed in this Article it must be borne in mind that resources are finite. The objectives of the Article are an ideal, in reality it may never prove possible fully to document and evaluate the world's genetic resources.

Article 5

It is the policy of all UK state active collections to supply samples of material, if available, in response to genuine requests from those engaged in scientific research, plant breeding or genetic resource conservation. By definition, base collections are designed for long-term storage and only distribute samples where there is a special need. Material held by other institutions within the UK, such as private companies, and material held on the behalf of other countries, are not of course under Government control. However, provision generally exists to exchange or provide such material.

Articles 6-9

As with Article 4 although we endorse the objectives of this section it must be borne in mind that resources are finite.

Article 7.1

Paragraph (a) is ambiguous in that it is not clear whether the words "under the auspices or the jurisdiction of FAO" applies to the entire internationally coordinated network or simply to the "international network of base collections in gene banks" further described in Article 7.2. It is understood from discussions at Conference that the latter interpretation is correct. This is supported by the wording at Article 7.2.

In paragraph (g) it is noted that IBPGR will continue to pursue and develop its activities within its terms of reference, in liaison with FAO. Thus IBPGR will continue to operate under the aegis of CGIAR and the UK intends to continue its support for this work. It will be essential, to avoid any duplication of activities between IBPGR and any new arrangements instituted by FAO. In particular any global information systems (Article 7.1(e)) or international network of base collections under FAO auspices or jurisdiction (Article 7.2) should not unnecessarily duplicate existing facilities.

Article 7.2

It is understood that the decision whether or not to include a base collection within an international network should remain entirely within the unfettered discretion of the Government concerned.

Article 9.2

It is understood that adherence to the Undertaking and participation in the intergovernmental body involves no obligation to accept any measure which might be adopted by that intergovernmental body. The UK Government reserves the right to examine each such measure individually with a view to its possible acceptance.

Finally the UK Government draws to the attention of the Director-General the fact that its country is a member State of the European Communities and has various other international obligations. Its adherence is therefore without prejudice to any exercise by any of the Communities of its competence in the fields covered by the Understanding, to other international obligations and to national and international intellectual property rights legislation."

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Letter of 31 January 1985

United States Mission to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture

"... The United States reserved on the resolution concerning the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources adopted at the November 1983 meeting of the FAO Conference. Our objections to the Undertaking and the associated Commission were made known at the time and have not changed. The United States will not participate in the Undertaking but will attend the first Commission meeting as an observer. We request that our comments on the Undertaking be incorporated in the analysis of responses to the FAO resolutions on the Undertaking and Commission.

The United States is committed to the free exchange of germplasm for research purposes. It is the intention of the United States that all accessions within the National Plant Germplasm system be freely available. The United States has always been firmly committed to the free and unrestricted exchange of germplasm to all nations.

In the U.S., plant variety protection laws protect privately developed inbred lines used for producing hybrids and elite breeding material. Under U.S. plant variety protection laws, as well as the UPOV Convention (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants), use of a protected variety by anyone for bona fide research does not constitute an infringement of the owner's rights under the law. The Undertaking, however, includes improved elite varieties and breeding lines within the definition of plant genetic resources which should be made available without restriction. Thus the Undertaking's principles are inconsistent with U.S. law and practice.

The U.S. Plant Variety and Protection Act and other such laws in other countries encourage private investment in plant breeding and variety development. The U.S. suggests that other nations encourage private investment in plant breeding so that their societies may benefit more directly from private sector breeding.

To the extent the Undertaking's principles were widely adopted in national legislation, and private breeding materials, (including protected varieties) were made freely available without restrictions as to purpose, such private investment would be discouraged to the eventual detriment of farmers and consumers worldwide.

The United States supports the current international system coordinated by the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) and the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

The IBPGR has established a strong base of international scientific support and cooperation. Scientific priorities guide the activities of the IBPGR as is appropriate. We consider the IBPGR the primary coordinating body at the international level for plant genetic resources and any improvement of the total system should be made within the existing system.

The U.S. concern is that the Commission could duplicate the work of the IBPGR. The agenda of the first meeting of the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources appears duplicative of the work properly belonging to the IBPGR. The internationally coordinated network of centers and the global information system overlap and might duplicate the work set out by the IBPGR and authorized for it by the donor nations through the CGIAR.

The U.S. is concerned also that implementation of the Undertaking might involve considerable extra-budgetary-financing on a large scale and commit adhering governments to heavy costs.

Even though the Undertaking does not constitute a legally binding set of obligations, the U.S. has consistently opposed the Undertaking for the above reasons. The agenda of the commission confirms the U.S. position that the commission also might raise these concerns.

Finally, the FAO Undertaking conflicts with out plant variety protection and patent laws and is inconsistent with plant breeders' rights - a view shared by many other nations.

We assure you, Mr. Director-General that the United States is proud of its commitment to the free exchange of germplasm for research purposes and will continue to support the current system coordinated by the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) ..."

VANUATU

Letter of 14 May 1984

Ref. FA/14/8/2/RM/lh, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

"... It would be appropriate for Vanuatu to support this important undertaking as it would show that the country recognises the importance of the conservation and free availability of plant genetic resources for benefit of present and future generations.

However, at present it is unlikely that Vanuatu can make any constructive progress in this matter without inter-national co-operation and overseas aid. If Vanuatu arranged to work together with other island nations in the region on a co-ordinated basis, this would greatly improve the chances of success and avoid wasteful duplication of effort..."

YEMEN (PDR)

Telex of 3 December 1984

MISC3618, UNDP Representative

"... Government PDRY agreed to international undertaking on plant genetic resources ..."

ZAMBIA

Letter of 18 April 1984

Ministry of Agriculture and Water
Development

"... As you may be aware, my Government is very supportive of the need for the creation of a Gene Bank for Plant Genetic material of the Third World. My delegation supported the establishment of a Gene Bank during the 1983 FAO Conference. I am pleased, therefore, to inform you that the Government of Zambia supports the "International Undertaking of Plant Genetic Resources..."

ZIMBABWE

Letter of 1st November 1984

Ref. J/13/6 (35), Ministry of Agriculture

"... While we are in general agreement with the undertaking, we feel 2.1(a) (i) and (v) categories of plants cannot be freely collected and distributed without impinging on plant breeders rights. We have no other reservation on the undertaking except those areas which refer to free of charge distribution of developed varieties, elite breeders lines and mutants..."

ردود الدول غير الأعضاء في المنظمة

非粮农组织成员国的反应

RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM NON-FAO MEMBER NATIONS
REPONSES RECUES DES ETATS NON MEMBRES DE LA FAO
RESPUESTAS RECIBIDAS DE ESTADOS NO MIEMBROS DE LA FAO

LIECHTENSTEIN

Lettre du 7 mars 1984

Office pour les relations internationales

"... Cet Office a été chargé de vous informer que les autorités compétentes de la Principauté apporteront à la Résolution 8/83 toute l'attention qu'elle mérite..."

SINGAPORE

Letter of 5 May 1984

MFA/RE/312/84 Ministry of Foreign Affairs

"... I have been directed to inform you that as Singapore's Primary Production Department does not have any programme on plant genetic resources, Singapore will not be participating in the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources..."

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Letter of 26 September 1984

FA. 14|7|3, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
International Trade

"... The Ministry of Industry, Commerce and National Development is in sympathy with the ideas expressed and endorses the views subject to any future legislation which may take account of plant breeders rights ..."

ردود منظمات الأمم المتحدة

联合国机构的反应

RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM UN ORGANIZATIONS

REPONSES RECUES D'ORGANISATIONS DES NATIONS UNIES

RESPUESTAS RECIBIDAS DE ORGANIZACIONES DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

Letter of 12 July 1984

Ref. PRO 350, Executive Director of UNEP

"... In this connection, I have the pleasure to draw your attention to section V of decision 12/12 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) adopted in May 1984. The text of section V of decision GC.12/12 is enclosed for your information and urgent consideration. It is a follow-up to decision 11/7 (Part Six) adopted at the previous UNEP Governing Council in May 1983.

As you know, UNEP has a long standing interest in promoting the conservation and rational utilization of genetic resources. High priority is given to the continued collection, preservation and registration of crop plants and tree genetic resources and related wild relatives. UNEP is actively engaged with FAO and IBPGR in activities concerned with exploration, collection, evaluation, conservation and documentation of plant genetic resources and making it available to all users for the benefit of the present and future generations.

Plant genetic material of the developing countries is essential for genetic improvement of cultivated plants and agricultural development and access to advanced breeds and the technical know-how is of critical importance to the developing world. This is why accessibility to plant genetic resources has now become a major issue of great international concern. It can be dealt with effectively only through international action and co-operation.

I take this opportunity to draw your attention to paragraph 4 of section V of decision 12/12 as adopted by the Governing Council by which the Executive Director was authorized to establish a close and active co-operation with FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources with regard to the implementation of the Undertaking. In order to be in a position to cooperate with the Commission, I would greatly appreciate at an early date, any information you could provide on the proposed work programme and meeting schedule.

For its part, the UNEP is fully prepared in accordance with its mandate to co-operate with the Commission and will spare no effort in support of the implementation of the Undertaking..."

ENCLOSURE

"... V. Genetic resources

1. Notes the progress made in the implementation of decision 11./7, part six; 33/
2. Urges Governments and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to co-operate fully with the Executive Director in this exercise;
3. Welcomes the adoption of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources by the twenty-second Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
4. Urges Governments which have not yet done so to adhere to the Undertaking, and to support and participate in the international arrangements outlined therein;
5. Authorizes the Executive Director to establish close, and active co-operation with the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources of the Food and Agriculture Organization with regard to the implementation of the Undertaking ..."

UNESCO

Letter of 20 April 1984

DG/7.6/2.0/341, The Director-General

"... I should like to inform you that Unesco, in co-operation with the International Cell Research Organization (ICAO) organizes each year a training course on plant genetics..."

These courses deal with the application of recently developed "Plant tissue culture methods" for plant breeding purposes.

Details of the three successive courses held in China (1981), Tunisia (1982) and Argentina (1983) are attached.

I should like to stress that co-operation between our two Organizations in this programme would be most fruitful..."

ردود المؤسسات الدولية

国际机构的反应

RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
REPONSES RECUES D'INSTITUTIONS INTERNATIONALES
REPUESTAS RECIBIDAS DE INSTITUCIONES INTERNACIONALES

CENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE AGRICULTURA TROPICAL (CIAT)

Letter of 3 August 1984

Ref. DIR-631, Director General of CIAT

"... I wish to assert CIAT's agreement in principle with the overall objectives of the undertaking. I am confident that the CIAT staff and Board of Trustees fully adhere to the principle that the large germplasm collections of beans, tropical pastures, and cassava in the CIAT Genetic Resources Unit are indeed the heritage of all mankind held in trust by the Center, and that these should be judiciously preserved, effectively evaluated, and made freely available without reservations to all organizations or individuals requiring them. In fact, that has been the policy of CIAT and all requests so far received for germplasm had been honored to the extent that the material was available in sufficient quantity.

While I can make these general statements of principle with full confidence that they reflect the views of both the management and Board of CIAT, adherence to all aspects of the undertaking would of course require approval of CIAT's Board of Trustees. By copy of this letter I am asking the Chairman of CIAT's Program Committee to place this on the Agenda for the next meeting of that Committee, which will be held in early 1985, so that Committee can make a formal recommendation to the Board for its May 1985 meeting.

I also wish to point out that CIAT has not been acting independently with relation to our germplasm collection. The various committees of the IBPGR related to the species we hold have given specific recommendations regarding priority areas for collection, which we have followed. CIAT respects the excellent accomplishment which has been achieved by the International Board of Plant Genetic Resources in cooperation with FAO and hopes that any change in this area will only enhance the effectiveness of this relationship.

Finally, I wish to commend you and your colleagues in the FAO, as well as the Conference, for the initiatives taken in this important area. The focusing of attention on this important subject should help mobilize additional resources which are badly needed to more adequately collect, preserve and evaluate genetic resources. Establishing of mechanisms for prompt, efficient, and rapid intervention system to safeguard plant genetic resources which may be in jeopardy as well as developing a global information system on genetic resources are very important activities in which FAO no doubt has a very important role. If a network to achieve these goals is organized under the auspices of the FAO, CIAT will certainly wish to participate in it..."

INTERNATIONAL POTATO CENTER (CIP)

Letter of 14 August 1984

Ref. L-468-CIP-84, Director General of CIP

"... My answer is still from the Director General and does not represent necessarily the opinions of CITES Board of Trustees who must determine the final policy for this institution.

At the present time, CITES responsibility is for one commodity: potatoes, Solanum Tuberosa. A principal responsibility of CIP is to collect, classify, maintain and exploit the genetic resources of potatoes for the benefit of all mankind. Since only a small portion of potato germplasm has been utilized up until now, much of the material we are maintaining is for future mankind. This material is freely available to all countries.

Since the potato is multiplied vegetatively, a major responsibility of CIP has been to develop cleanliness procedures which would permit the distribution of tuber material without encountering major problems of quarantine. There is a need for a global information system on plant genetic resources which would help the distribution of clean material. Inadequate information is a major problem at present with the distribution of vegetatively propagated plants. We would welcome any effort of FAO to correct this problem.

I would like to recognize the excellent working relationship which we have had with IBPGR. We have cooperated closely in many ventures and we certainly hope that any venture involving genetic resources by FAO would recognize and maintain the particularly important* role that IBPGR is now playing within the system in liaison with FAO ..."

CENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE MEJORAMIENTO DE MAIZ Y TRIGO (CIMMYT)

Letter of 24 July 1984

Ref. RDH-210/84, Director General of CIMMYT

"... please consider the comments below as an official but interim CIMMYT response.

First, allow me to commend the FAO Conference for focusing its attention upon this important subject. Undoubtedly, this attention will result in additional resources and more informed discussion being devoted to this issue. To the extent that the above will result in a more appropriate collection, classification, preservation and utilization of genetic resources, the conference will have served an extraordinarily useful purpose.

For the record, there should be no doubt that CIMMYT fully concurs as to the desirability of adequate conservation and free exchange of plant genetic materials. The international testing and free exchange of germplasm remains one of our principal reasons to exist. As you may know, each year CIMMYT distributes germplasm related to wheat and maize to over 120 countries worldwide for evaluation. The CIMMYT Board of Trustees has consistently held that, commensurate with prudent preservation of existing genetic resources no legitimate claim for reasonable amounts of plant genetic materials should be denied. That policy and practice continues, to guide our activities.

CIMMYT staff and trustees fully recognize that plant genetic resources are and must remain the common heritage of mankind and that their judicious preservation may well be essential to the future wellbeing of the human race.

CIMMYT respects the excellent accomplishments which have been achieved by the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources in cooperation with FAO, and hopes that any change in this area will only enhance the effectiveness of this relationship. We support, in principle, the need for a global information system on plant genetic resources and believe that FAO could provide a very useful service in coordinating that system. In addition, we believe that FAO may indeed have a special role to play in mobilizing the resources for a prompt, efficient and rapid intervention system to safeguard plant genetic resources which may be in jeopardy. In regard to the above, CIMMYT would be pleased to participate in such a network under the auspices of FAO."

INTERNATIONAL BOARD FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES (IBPGR)

Letter of 17 September 1984

Chairman

"... At the outset the IBPGR wishes to express its appreciation for the remarks which you made about the Board to the CGIAR at its meeting in Rome in May 1984 and the spirit of mutual cooperation which those remarks reflect. This response is made in precisely the same cooperative spirit.

It is a basic principle of IBPGR that countries should accept responsibility for conserving crop genetic variability, agree to the free exchange of plant genetic resources, and of related information, and take responsibility for long-term storage of germplasm collections. Implementation of this principle makes for equal partnership among countries, and increases opportunities for crop improvements through effective plant breeding.

The Board's mandate requires it to "promote and support the collection, characterization, documentation and utilization of germplasm, to coordinate the global network of activities and to provide scientific leadership through the encouragement of and support to specific research". For 10 years the IBPGR has been working in close collaboration with FAO to implement these objectives and to promote active cooperation among countries. The Board has already established an international network of base collections as required by its mandate and it intends to continue and to expand its present technical and scientific activities, acting as an autonomous entity under the auspices of the CGIAR.

IBPGR intends also, to maintain and to strengthen its cooperative links with FAO. For such cooperation to be effective, however, overlapping functions must be avoided. This is particularly important in view of the proposed functions of the new FAO Commission which include continuing activities of the IBPGR such as the establishment of the world network of genebanks and the development of associated information systems. The IBPGR cannot operate both under the authority of the CGIAR which established, the Board and of which the Board is an integral part and also under the monitoring of the Commission insofar as this implies any form of control.

The IBPGR has been informed that one of the principal functions of the FAO Undertaking is to increase national awareness among governments about the importance of, and the main principles applicable to, the preservation of plant genetic resources and the free exchange of such material. This is plainly a useful and necessary activity and governments should be encouraged to provide sufficient funding and other resources to strengthen their national capabilities and to guarantee the preservation of plant variability for the benefit of posterity.

The Board invites attention to the fact that the FAO Undertaking includes aspects of plant introduction and exchange of materials which go beyond widely accepted concepts of genetic resources. The Board believes the main function of genebanks is to store the basic genetic variability of important crops and that for practical and economic reasons, efforts must be made to limit base collections to materials which can provide maximum genetic diversity and which therefore can be fully justified on scientific grounds. Accordingly genebanks should concentrate on old cultivars, landraces and their wild relatives. The Board further believes that breeder's lines normally fall outside the responsibility of base collections but recognizes that in addition to the categories mentioned above, genetic stocks of exceptional scientific interest, might well be included as special cases..."

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN THE DRY AREAS (ICARDA)

Letter of 9 October 1984

Director General of ICARDA

" .. ICARDA would like to commend the FAO Conference for taking this important and timely initiative to streamline and enhance germplasm resources activities on a global basis. The proposed arrangements as outlined in Resolution 8/83, provides a suitable framework for developing and further strengthening genetic resources work. We do recognize the need for a global information system and we believe that FAO can undertake a key role in further developing and coordinating such a system.

The principle of the availability and unrestricted exchange of germplasm is fundamental to ICARDA's work. Each year our Crop Programs distribute germplasm of wheat, barley, chickpeas, lentils, faba beans and forage crops for evaluation to about 132 countries on a worldwide basis, but primarily within this region. As a result, national programs have been able to utilize our germplasm to identify and select useful materials some of which are being developed as cultivars. The collection, testing, enhancement, conservation and utilization of germplasm are fundamental activities at ICARDA.

ICARDA fully agrees that it is important that genetic resources work should be coordinated globally for a more effective distribution and utilization of crop germplasm. We at ICARDA would, in principle, support the key activities of Resolution 8/83.

ICARDA recognizes the remarkable achievement of the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR). We expect that IBPGR will maintain its status quo and continue to play a leading role in genetic resources work. Should FAO need further elaboration on any of the above points I shall stand ready to respond..."

INTERNATIONAL CROPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR THE SEMI-ARID TROPICS (ICRISAT)

Letter of 24 April 1984

Director General of ICRISAT

"... We take this opportunity of commending the FAO Conference on according such importance to the subject of plant genetic resources and believe that this will result in greater attention to the collection and preservation of these resources throughout the world.

Your letter and the accompanying resolution were discussed by the Governing Board of ICRISAT at its meeting of 22-24 March 1984. I am pleased to inform you that the Board considers that the international understanding is in principle stating a policy which ICRISAT, as an International Agricultural Research Center, has adopted and followed since its inception with respect to its mandate crops of sorghum, pearl millet, pigeonpea, chickpea and groundnut and more recently with respect to the six minor millets of finger millet, foxtail millet, proso millet, little millet, barnyard millet and kodo millet.

ICRISAT recognises and supports the special relationship that IBPGR holds in liaison with FAO. Our Institute cooperates closely with IBPGR in ensuring the availability and exchange of germplasm, and has developed an excellent record in releasing material freely to national programs throughout the world."

INTERNATIONAL-LIVESTOCK CENTRE FOR AFRICA (ILCA)

Letter of 5 May 1984

Ref. 2890 DIR/602, Director General of ILCA

"... The adoption of these resolutions by the 22nd FAO Conference is an important step forward in, increasing international awareness and greater commitment to conserving PCR and I warmly welcome this initiative.

The mechanism proposed of an international undertaking appears pragmatic and workable and ILCA will gladly support the four key activities proposed namely:

- a) an internationally coordinated network of centres holding collections of PGR
- b) a global information system on PGR under the coordination of FAO
- c) a prompt and efficient rapid intervention system to safeguard PGR material at risk
- d) an FAO role in continually reviewing the international situation regarding PGR.

In making these comments I assume that these new functions of FAO will be closely integrated with the work of the IBPGR, and that IBPGR will maintain its status of independence and importance within the CGIAR system. An overlap of functions must be avoided. It is my understanding that the *ex officio* representation of FAO in the IBPGR as well as the location and responsibility of IBPGR within FAO will ensure a most effective partnership in the important tasks defined by resolutions 6/81 and 8/83..."

THE INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (IRRI)

Letter of 10 March 1984

Ref. G/AGP-9, Director General of IRRI

"... We fully support the provisions of the Undertaking and will be happy to extend full cooperation to FAO in the collection, conservation, distribution and utilization of rice genetic resources ..."

WEST AFRICA RICE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (WARDA)

Letter of 29 March 1984

Ref. AOA/000542/84, Executive Secretary WARDA

"... I perfectly agree with the text of the resolution. In fact I see no conflict whatsoever between it and WARDA's current germplasm programmes. Moreover, we maintain good contacts with IBPGR, IRRI, IITA, IRAT as well as with national programmes in West Africa. I therefore hereby confirm WARDA's support to the undertaking..."

CENTRO AGRONOMICO TROPICAL DE INVESTIGACION Y ENSEÑANZA (CATIE)

Carta de 11 de junio de 1984

Ref. D-1206, Director del CATIE

"... El Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE) está muy interesado en el Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos. Este Centro ha participado en la prospección de recursos fitogenéticos con énfasis en los puntos (a) y (b) del artículo 3 del Compromiso.

En cuanto a la aplicación de los principios indicados en el artículo 4, el CATIE estaría en condiciones de aplicar los principios del aparte 3 para algunos géneros de plantas alimenticias, medicinales e industriales del trópico húmedo bajo.

La Dirección del CATIE considera que este Centro está en condiciones para practicar el principio señalado en el artículo 5 del Compromiso y que trata de la disponibilidad de los recursos fitogenéticos.

Además, está en condiciones de practicar la cooperación internacional principalmente para la región del trópico americano; y con el auxilio de centros regionales de otras partes del mundo, estaría dispuesto a realizar actividades para el trópico de otras regiones.

El CATIE desea que las colecciones base que actualmente tiene a su cargo, sean reconocidas como parte de la red internacional de colecciones base de la PAO.

El CATIE desea manifestar su apoyo para la política expresada en el artículo 8 del documento de Compromiso.

Esta Dirección está en proceso de definir prioridades en cuanto a las plantas que recibirán la atención por parte de nuestra Unidad de Recursos Fitogenéticos. Esta priorización se debe a que los recursos del Centro no permiten dar igual grado de atención a todos los géneros y especies que el CATIE tiene en su banco y colecciones..."

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (IUCN)

Letter of 26 June 1984

Director General of IUCN

"... IUCN welcomes the Undertaking as a step in the right direction for the conservation of plant genetic resources.

IUCN is, by its very nature, not in a position to implement the principles contained in the Undertaking, but is, as far as possible, ready to support and participate in international arrangements currently being established.

I would also like to take this opportunity to draw to your attention the fact that IUCN is currently preparing a contribution to the Secretariat Note, which FAO's Forestry Department will prepare, for the First Session of the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources (May 1985).

However, at this point, I would like to emphasize that IUCN considers that the Undertaking should be supplemented by further action at international level, especially with a view to ensuring *in situ* conservation of all genetic resources (animal and plant).

Wild plant and animal species constitute a large and virtually untapped reservoir of innumerable genetically controlled processes and characteristics which could be of immense value to man kind in the future. IUCN is convinced that the preservation of this heritage can best be obtained by *in situ* conservation.

A resolution on genetic resources will be presented to the 16th Session of the IUCN General Assembly in Madrid, Spain, 5-14 November 1984, aimed at preparing a preliminary draft for a global agreement on the conservation of the world's wild genetic resources.

IUCN considers that efforts towards a global binding agreement to ensure *in situ* conservation of genetic resources should continue in parallel with the implementation of the International Undertaking..."