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**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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

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

Virtual meeting, 25–28 August 2020

REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. The third meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (Expert Group) was held remotely by electronic means, due to the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent national and international measures entailing restrictions on travel and gatherings. The decision to hold the meeting virtually followed consultations between the Co-chairs, the Bureau of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, the Secretary and Meeting Services of FAO.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. The third meeting of the Expert Group was opened by Mr. Kent Nnadozie, Secretary of the International Treaty. He welcomed all participants and thanked them for their flexibility to hold this meeting virtually, especially those participants who experienced inconveniences because of time zone differences or technical challenges. He also thanked the Governments of Italy and Norway for their generous financial support, which allowed the meeting to be conducted with simultaneous interpretation into Arabic, English, French and Spanish and working documents to be made available in all four languages. The Secretary recalled that the Governing Body in Resolution 6/2019 thanked the Expert Group for the significant progress made so far and decided to reconvene the Expert Group in order to complete its task based on its Terms of Reference originally established in 2017 and the provisions of Resolution 6/2019. He emphasized the importance of the work of the Expert Group for the implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty and expressed his confidence that the Expert Group would continue to work in the same constructive and fruitful spirit as in the last biennium, despite the special circumstances due to the ongoing global pandemic.

3. The Co-chairs, Ms. Svanhild-Isabelle Batta Torheim (Norway) and Mr. Rakesh Chandra Agrawal (India), welcomed all members and observers to the meeting. They emphasized the important opportunities that this virtual meeting offered to the Expert Group for making progress in its work, at the same time recognising the need for a physical meeting to complete its tasks before the Ninth Session of the Governing Body. The Co-chairs recalled the Terms of Reference of the Expert Group and its mandate to focus during this biennium on developing options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty. The Governing Body, at its last Session, had decided to expand the Expert Group with two more representatives of farmers' organizations particularly from the

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centres of origin and crop diversity. The Co-chairs particularly welcomed all new members to the meeting.

ITEM 1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

4. The Co-chairs presented the documents, IT/GB-9/AHTEG-FR-3/20/1.2, *Annotated Provisional Agenda and Timetable*, IT/GB-9/AHTEG-FR-3/20/Inf.2, *Note for Participants* as well as the Informal Supplementary Note on the Rules of Engagement prepared for this meeting, and explained how they intended to conduct the meeting, considering that it was a virtual meeting in preparation of the next, physical meeting of the Expert Group. Following the explanations of the Co-chairs, the Expert Group adopted its Agenda, as provided in *Appendix 1* to this Report, with the inclusion of an Online version of the Inventory as presented in document IT/GB-9/AHTEG-FR-3/20/Inf.4 under Any Other Business.

5. The list of participants of the meeting is contained in *Appendix 2*.

ITEM 2. OPTIONS FOR ENCOURAGING, GUIDING AND PROMOTING THE REALIZATION OF FARMERS' RIGHTS AS SET OUT IN ARTICLE 9 OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

6. The Secretariat introduced the document, IT/GB-9/AHTEG-FR-3/20/2, *Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty*.

7. The Expert Group recalled that the Governing Body welcomed the *Inventory of National Measures, Best Practices and Lessons Learned on the Realization of Farmers' Rights* (the Inventory), recognizing that it will be periodically reviewed and updated, as necessary, and that it took note of the outline of the *Options for Encouraging, Guiding and Promoting the Realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty* (the Options), which would form the basis for the completion of the task of the Expert Group.

8. It also recalled its work during the last two meetings and its agreement on the structure and elements of the Options as given in the report of its second meeting.

9. The Expert Group thanked the Secretariat for the document, IT/GB-9/AHTEG-FR-3/20/2, *Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty*, and agreed to use it as a basis for its work at its third meeting, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Expert Group, while noting the challenges posed by a virtual meeting.

10. The Expert Group provided general comments on the Options document and the introductory part, which were based on the outline agreed by the Expert Group at its second meeting.

11. The Expert Group exchanged views on the Options and discussed how to further develop them. It also asked the Secretariat to prepare a working document for the next meeting which will include the *Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty* (IT/GB-9/AHTEG-FR-3/20/2), the issues that may need further discussion, based on the exchange of views held during the third meeting, and proposals on possible ways to address those issues. The Secretariat will provide the working document to the Expert Group at least six weeks prior to its next meeting in all four languages. The Expert Group agreed to use it as basis for work at its fourth meeting, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Expert Group.

ITEM 3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12. The Secretariat briefly informed the Expert Group about the status of the work on the online version of the Inventory, as presented in the document, IT/GB-9/AHTEG-FR-3/20/Inf.4,

Online version (mock up) of the Inventory of national measures, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers ' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty.

13. The Expert Group thanked the Governments of Italy and Norway for their generous support that enabled the translation of the documents into other languages and the provision of interpretation services during the meeting.

ITEM 4. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

14. The Expert Group adopted this Report.

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda and timetable
2. Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty
3. Any other business
4. Adoption of the Report

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