



Our Ref.: NCP GB7-004 Working Group

15 February 2016

NOTIFICATION

Fifth Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Open-Ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing

Invitation to send inputs and reports

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the honour to solicit relevant written inputs and reports as contribution to the work of the *Ad Hoc* Open-Ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing (Working Group), based on the following:

At its Sixth Session, the Governing Body decided to extend the mandate of the Working Group for the 2016-2017 biennium, through Resolution 1/2015, *Measures to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing*.

The Governing Body also requested the Working Group “to invite written inputs or reports from all relevant stakeholders where needed and/or to establish small *ad hoc* Friends of the Co-Chairs groups, where needed, e.g. on user categories, on crop categories, on legal modalities, on payment rates, and on a termination clause, at the request of the Working Group or its Co-Chairs; the small *ad hoc* friends of the Co-Chairs groups would be requested to provide written input to the Co-chairs.”

The Co-chairs of the Working Group have established three *ad hoc* Friends of the Co-Chairs groups, on User and Crop Categories, on Access Mechanisms and Payment Rates, as well as on a Termination Clause, respectively.

The purpose of this Notification is to invite Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, stakeholder groups and relevant international organizations to make available any information relevant to the agenda of the fifth meeting of the Working Group, including in particular on the subjects being discussed by the three *ad hoc* Friends of the Co-Chairs groups, as well as on the draft revised SMTA to be presented by the Co-Chairs at the fifth meeting of the Working Group, focusing especially on the development of a Subscription System.

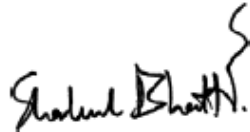


To facilitate the consolidation of such information in the documentation being prepared by the Secretariat for the fifth meeting of the Working Group, I would appreciate receiving such information by **15 April 2016** at PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org. All information received will be compiled in an information document and made available to the Working Group. I would highly appreciate if information related to the subjects being discussed by the ad hoc Friends of the Co-Chairs groups is submitted by the following dates:

- *User and Crop categories*: 15 March 2016;
- *Termination Clause*: 30 March 2016;
- *Access Mechanisms and Payment Rates*: 15 April 2016.

Should you need any additional information regarding the submission of the information requested above, please contact the Secretariat at PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org.

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



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