



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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***SECOND SESSION OF THE
GOVERNING BODY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL TREATY
ON PLANT GENETIC
RESOURCES FOR FOOD
AND AGRICULTURE***

Rome, Italy, 29 October - 2 November 2007



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**REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON
PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

Second Session

Rome, Italy, 29 October – 2 November 2007

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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The documents of the Second Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture are to be found on the Internet at <http://www.planttreaty.org>

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on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Agriculture Department

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
00153 Rome, Italy

E-mail: PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org

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REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Second Session) met in Rome, Italy, from 29 October 2007 to 2 November 2007. The list of Participants is attached in *Appendix H*.

OPENING CEREMONY

2. An opening ceremony to celebrate the convening of the Second Session was held on 29 October 2007. Mr Godfrey Mwila (Zambia), Chair of the session, welcomed all Participants to the ceremony. Mr Mwila stated that the involvement of key stakeholders was a unique opportunity for the Governing Body to better understand what the Treaty means to them.

3. On behalf of Ambassador Silas Brasileiro, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply, Mr José Antônio Marcondes de Carvalho, Permanent Representative of the Federative Republic of Brazil to FAO, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to address the Governing Body. He stressed the importance of effective implementation of the Treaty, noting satisfaction for the process for establishing the Multilateral System on Access and Benefit-sharing. Integration of national and regional data and information systems in a transparent and accessible way, were essential in his view.

4. Mr Brasileiro emphasized the importance of the exchange of plant genetic resources to achieve food security worldwide. Brazil had much to offer to the Multilateral System, especially in its *Annex I* collections. He stated that international cooperation is a critical aspect of the Treaty, and that Brazil is collaborating with a number of countries to achieve food security. He stressed that it is essential that developed countries that are not yet Contracting Parties to the Treaty, become so to create an alliance among all countries, given the global interdependency on genetic resources for food and agriculture, and the common need to adapt to ever changing production conditions. Harmonization of the operational aspects of the Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity was desirable. Mr Brasileiro's speech is attached in *Appendix B.1*.

5. Mr Dean Oestreich, Pioneer President and DuPont Vice President and General Manager, indicated that he was honoured to participate in this opening ceremony, noting that as a farmer and plant breeder he had firsthand knowledge of the importance of access to the best breeding material. He stressed that the needs of future generations of farmers, and the societies that depend upon them, will be great. Yields of all crops must increase; crops must have the genetic potential to withstand increasing environmental stress; and the nutritional characteristics of crops must be maximized.

6. Mr Oestreich emphasized the need for the private sector and governments to work together, as no single nation was self-sufficient with respect to crop varieties or breeding materials. He underlined the importance of multilateral agreements to allow genetic resources to be available to plant breeders so that they, in turn, could help farmers improve their profitability. Mr Oestreich urged the addition of

other crop species to the Treaty's *Annex 1*, so that the conservation and use of all major crop species was assured, and underscored the need for equitable benefit-sharing and funding by governments at a level sufficient to ensure a vibrant and healthy Multilateral System. He stressed that the Treaty must be adequately funded, and encouraged his peers in the private sector to provide financial support to the Treaty. Mr Oestreich's speech is attached in *Appendix B.2*.

7. A joint presentation was made by Mr Sunda Ram Verma, a farmer and plant breeder from Danta Village, Rajasthan, India, and Mr Anil K. Gupta, Coordinator of the Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institution, Gujarat, India, on the Treaty and farmers' selection and breeding practices.

8. As a farmer, Mr Verma noted that several obstacles held back the development of plant varieties by farmers, such as the failure to recognize the potential of traditional varieties, the lack of capacity to characterize plant varieties and the shortage of resources to market and distribute new varieties amongst farmers. He stressed that the Treaty could positively contribute to diminish such obstacles.

9. Mr Gupta indicated the important contribution of farmers to both the innovation of plant varieties and the conservation of traditional varieties. He referred to the profits made by seed companies based on varieties developed by farmers, and stressed the need for national authorities to ensure that appropriate benefit-sharing mechanisms were in place. To promote Farmers' Rights, he recommended that several articles of the Treaty be strengthened. He particularly stressed the need for funding mechanisms to enable farmers to conserve local varieties and to develop, screen and select new varieties. Mr Gupta indicated that gene banks should not ignore farmers' knowledge on nutritional and other crop values. He called upon Contracting Parties to encourage the exchange of information, knowledge and experience amongst farmers dealing with public and private agencies. Mr Verma's and Mr Gupta's speeches are attached in *Appendix B.3*.

10. Ms Margaret Catley-Carlson, Chair of the Executive Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, expressed her appreciation for being asked to address the Governing Body, noting that the Trust had been recognized by the Governing Body at its First Session, as an essential element of the Funding Strategy of the Treaty, in relation to the *ex situ* conservation and availability of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. She highlighted some important Trust activities, including a programme to rescue and regenerate more than 150,000 distinct accessions held by developing countries within the Treaty's Multilateral System, supporting research to develop inexpensive conservation techniques, and the development of information technologies.

11. Ms Catley-Carlson stated that the Trust was assisting developing countries and international agricultural research centers to send back-up samples to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway. Later in the year, the Trust would make funding announcements concerning a number of crops included in *Annex 1* of the Treaty. She emphasized that the Trust valued its partnership with the Governing Body, and reiterated support for the Treaty and its goals. Ms Catley-Carlson's speech is attached in *Appendix B.4*.

12. Mr Guy Kastler, Via Campesina, expressed his gratitude for being invited to address the Second Session, stressing the need to have the effective participation of farmers at the country and international levels in the implementation of the Treaty. He noted that the majority of the world's farmers used traditional practices and did not buy seeds and other inputs from commercial sources. For traditional farmers, re-planting of harvested seeds and seed exchange among farmers renews and increases crop biodiversity.

13. Mr Kastler felt that the Treaty should ensure that all signatory countries maintained farmers' rights to save, use and exchange farm-saved seeds. Farmers should participate in making decisions and have access to plant genetic resources in public collections. He noted that these conditions were necessary to ensure the sustainable keeping and renewal of plant genetic resources using both *ex situ* and *in situ* measures. Mr Kastler expressed concern that some national laws contradicted the Farmers' Rights provisions of the Treaty, such as laws that protect intellectual property and obligations to register varieties with costs and criteria that prevented farmers from exchanging their seed. He called for modalities to facilitate the participation of farmer organizations in the work of the Governing Body. Mr Kastler's speech is attached in *Appendix B.5*.

14. Mr M.S. Swaminathan, Chair of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, India, expressed concern for the loss of the world's biodiversity as a result of overexploitation, and stressed that this situation had to be addressed by providing incentives for conservation. He noted that the Indian Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act contained provisions for according recognition and reward to farmers and farm communities for their invaluable contributions to the conservation of genetic resources and their improvement through selection, preservation and knowledge added.

15. Mr Swaminathan stressed the need for equity in benefit-sharing as fundamental to the retention and revitalization of *in situ* on-farm conservation traditions of rural and tribal families. Material and Information Transfer Agreements should safeguard the interests of those providing the material and benefit-sharing procedures would have to be developed at the individual and community levels. He noted that recognition of the importance of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities had in the past not been appreciated, but the situation was improving with the recognition of Farmers' Rights under the International Treaty as well as Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which called for the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices. Mr Swaminathan's speech is attached in *Appendix B.6*.

16. Mr Manfred Bötsch, State Secretary, Director General, Federal Office for Agriculture, Government of Switzerland, reported on the results of the first International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, held from 3 to 7 September 2007, in Interlaken, Switzerland. He stated that the Conference had been a resounding success resulting in the launch of the first *State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, and the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, which was adopted through the Interlaken Declaration.

17. Mr Bötsch reported that the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* addressed current and future challenges in relation to the characterization, inventory and monitoring; the sustainable use and development; and the conservation of animal genetic resources. The Declaration recognized the significant contribution that local and indigenous communities and farmers and pastoralists have made to the use and development of animal genetic resources, and called for prompt action to conserve breeds at risk.

18. Mr Bötsch expressed his wish that the Governing Body would welcome the Global Plan of Action on Animal Genetic Resources and the Interlaken Declaration as part of an overall framework for agricultural biodiversity, in consideration of the linkages among the various roles and values of animal and plant genetic resources, and that farmers and livestock keepers co-manage these resources within their agricultural landscapes. Mr Bötsch's speech is attached in *Appendix B.7*.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

19. Mr Godfrey Mwila (Zambia), Chair of the Second Session, welcomed all Participants to the Second Session of the Governing Body. He stressed the need for Contracting Parties to work together to achieve common views on key implementation aspects of the Treaty. He acknowledged FAO's support in the current Session.

20. On behalf of Mr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, Mr José María Sumpsi, Assistant Director General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, welcomed Participants to the current Session. He emphasized that the Treaty was highly beneficial to all countries. Some countries would provide unique plant genetic resources, while others would contribute technology and human and financial resources. Mr Sumpsi stated that bringing together all contributions from developing and developed countries in the implementation of the Treaty would contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Collaboration in the future would be of even greater importance in light of the new challenges of climate change that would demand the preservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources to enable adaptation.

21. Mr Sumpsi acknowledged the impressive transfer of genetic material under the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing of the Treaty, from the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. He noted that the Treaty was entering its implementation stage, and called on all Contracting Parties to provide the necessary funding, human resources and policy guidance for the effective implementation of all Treaty provisions, noting in particular the need for the Governing Body to establish the foundation for the practical operation of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, and to advance the Funding Strategy.

22. Mr Sumpsi welcomed Mr Shakeel Bhatti, the new Secretary of the International Treaty, and commended the work he and his team had done in spite of severe financial and human resource constraints. He stated that the FAO Management would do its best to provide both technical and financial support to the implementation of the Treaty, and expressed hope that the next FAO Conference would give priority to the Treaty in terms of budget allocation. Mr Sumpsi's speech is attached in *Appendix B.8*.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIR, VICE-CHAIRS AND *RAPPORTEUR*

23. During its First Session, the Governing Body elected its Chair and Vice-Chairs for its Second Session. Mr Godfrey Mwila (Zambia) was elected Chair. Six Vice-Chairs were elected: Mr Sugiono Moeljopawiro (Indonesia), Mr John Madden (Australia), Mr Campbell Davidson (Canada), Mr Modesto Fernández Díaz-Silveira (Cuba), Mr François Pythoud (Switzerland), and Mr Mohamed Khalifa (Egypt). In accordance with Rules of Procedure of the Governing Body (Rule II Bureau), Australia designated Ms Anna Somerville (Australia) to replace Mr Madden on the Bureau; and Egypt designated Ms Hanaiya El-Itriby (Egypt) to replace Mr Khalifa in the Bureau. Mr Campbell Davidson (Canada) was elected *Rapporteur*.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

24. The Governing Body adopted the Agenda, as given in *Appendix A*.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

25. A budget committee was established to prepare a budget for the period 2008-2009, for the consideration of the Governing Body. Mr François Pythoud (Switzerland) and Mr Aamir Ashraf Khawaja (Pakistan) were elected as Co-Chairs of the Budget Committee.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

26. The Governing Body elected seven Members of the Credentials Committee: Armenia, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Kiribati, Lebanon, Malaysia and Uruguay. Lebanon and Côte d'Ivoire served as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee.

27. The Credentials Committee was informed of Rule III of the General Rules of the Organization on “delegations and credentials” as well as the practice and criteria followed by the Organization with respect to the acceptance of credentials, in line with the practice of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the matter. In accordance with Rule III, paragraph 2 of the General Rules of the Organization, the Committee reviewed the credentials or other documents and information received by the Director-General regarding the composition of delegations. The Credentials Committee convened three times to examine the credentials of the representatives of Contracting Parties, and established two lists: List A, which includes 67 Contracting Parties that submitted their credentials in the form required by Rule III, paragraph 2 of the General Rules of the Organization; and List B, which includes 19 Contracting Parties whose credentials, while not submitted in due form, were considered as valid information on the composition of their delegations.

28. The Governing Body accepted the recommendation of the Credentials Committee that the credentials of the delegations on both lists be accepted, on the understanding that formal credentials of delegations referred to in list B would be communicated to the Director-General of FAO, as soon as possible.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

29. The Chair of the Second Session, Mr Mwila, introduced the main elements of his report to the Governing Body, as contained in the document, *Report of the Chairperson of the Second Session of the Governing Body*.¹ He noted that the Bureau had convened a number of meetings to carry out the tasks arising from the First Session, to identify candidates for the position of Secretary, and to provide guidance in preparation for the Second Session. Mr Mwila, on behalf of the Bureau of the Governing Body, presented the new Secretary, Mr Shakeel Bhatti, who the Bureau had selected and congratulated him for his appointment as the Secretary. He reported that the Bureau had agreed on four members to represent the Governing Body on the Executive Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, and that all of the nominees had agreed to serve on the Board.

30. The Chair then reported on what he considered were the main challenges for the successful implementation of the Treaty at this critical stage. He considered the implementation of the Multilateral System and the Funding Strategy to be the Treaty's key challenges, and stressed that the Governing Body may wish to consider what further actions need to be undertaken and what roles Contracting Parties and other stakeholders can play to this end. Mr Mwila expressed concern for the very low level of financial contributions that had been made by Contracting Parties to the Core

¹ IT/GB-2/07/4

Administrative Budget of the Treaty and to the Funding Strategy, highlighting the essential need for adequate contributions to enable the Secretariat to be operational. He observed that at the early stage of implementation, one particular challenge related to issues of governance and the role of the Governing Body and its Secretary. He reported that the Bureau had considered the issue of the functional autonomy of the Secretary of the Treaty, as affirmed at the First Session of the Governing Body, and had requested a report on modalities of implementing such functional autonomy from a practical point of view, which may address such issues as representation, correspondence, financial and human resource management, reporting, travel, administrative procedures, management and reform processes, and the executive authority of the Secretary. He indicated that the Bureau agreed that financial contributions by Contracting Parties to the Core Administrative Budget were necessary for the Secretary to achieve functional autonomy.

31. Mr Mwila indicated that he believed that the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing was a main attraction of the Treaty, and was essential to the Treaty's long-term sustainability. He underlined that it was vital for adequate resources to be made available, to encourage Contracting Parties and other stakeholders to put materials into the Multilateral System. Mr Mwila also noted the critical importance of the Funding Strategy, and stated that the Bureau had worked with the Secretary to facilitate the work of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy. He expressed gratitude for the excellent work of the Committee.

32. Mr Mwila expressed his appreciation to the Secretary of the Treaty and to FAO for preparing for the current session.

33. The Governing Body thanked the Chair for his comprehensive report and thanked all members of the Bureau for the excellent work. It congratulated Mr Bhatti for his appointment as Secretary, and expressed appreciation for the work undertaken to prepare for the Second Session. The Governing Body also thanked Mr Clive Stannard, Secretary of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, for acting as the Interim Secretary for the Treaty.

34. The Governing Body noted with concern, the low level of financial contributions made by Contracting Parties to the Core Administrative Budget, and called upon Contracting Parties to make adequate and timely contributions.

35. Some regions felt that more attention needed to be given to the implementation of the Benefit-sharing components of the Treaty and indicated that this could only be achieved if adequate funding was made available.

36. The Governing Body requested the Secretary to explore the possibilities of working with Norway and the Global Crop Diversity Trust to determine the possibility of designating the Svalbard Global Seed Vault as a World Heritage Site under the World Heritage Convention of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

37. The Secretary introduced his report as contained in document, *Report by the Secretary*.² He stated that the Treaty was at a critical stage of implementation, and that success would depend on the operationalization of the Multilateral System and the effective implementation of the Funding Strategy. As he had only recently assumed his position, he thanked the Commission on Genetic

² IT/GB-2/07/05

Resources for Food and Agriculture for ably acting as the Interim Secretariat of the Treaty, and for assisting with the smooth transition.

38. The Secretary noted that the establishment of the Multilateral System was complex and perhaps more complex than was foreseen when it was negotiated. He stated that the Multilateral System established day-to-day operations and, therefore, needed to function coherently. The SMTA was being used inconsistently in a number of jurisdictions, and there was currently no systematic, complete and reliable information on global developments within the system. The Secretary also noted that a large number of Contracting Parties were seeking basic advice and assistance for capacity building to implement the Treaty.

39. Mr Bhatti remarked that the operationalization of the Funding Strategy would be crucial for achieving the implementation of the Treaty. He stressed that resource mobilization, in accordance with Article 18.4a, is primarily the responsibility of the Contracting Parties. Mr Bhatti noted that resource mobilization discussions with several international mechanisms had been positive, however he stressed that fund-raising was highly competitive and indicated that the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy had recommended the desirability of engaging a professional fund-raiser.

40. Mr Bhatti indicated the urgent need for resources in light of the rapid increase of workload for the Secretariat, and stated that the Work Programme and Budget for the 2008-09 Biennium had been designed to address the Treaty's needs to achieve a fully functional, stable operating mode.

41. Mr Bhatti informed the Governing Body of the status of ratification of the Treaty. As of 29 October 2007, 116 instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession had been deposited with the Director-General of FAO. The list of Contracting Parties and Contracting States, as of October 29, 2007 is given in *Appendix C*.

42. The Governing Body took note of the Report of the Secretary and commended him for the achievements in the short time since his appointment.

FINANCIAL RULES OF THE GOVERNING BODY

43. The Governing Body considered document, *Financial Rules of the Governing Body*.³ It did not reach consensus on the need to finalize its Financial Rules at the current session, and decided to consider its Financial Rules at its Third Session.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUNDING STRATEGY OF THE TREATY

44. The Governing Body considered document, *Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy*,⁴ which was presented by the Chair of the *Committee*, Mr Bert Visser (The Netherlands). It thanked the Chair and the other members of the *Committee* for the excellent work.

45. The Governing Body adopted, as *annexes* to the Funding Strategy, Priorities; Eligibility Criteria; and Operational Procedures for the use of resources under its direct control, as contained in *Appendices D.1, D.2 and D.3*, respectively.

³ IT/GB-2/07/6

⁴ IT/GB-2/07/07

46. In relation to the further development of the operational procedures for the Funding Strategy, the Governing Body agreed that the Secretary closely collaborate with the Executive Secretary of the *Global Crop Diversity Trust*, to learn from the Trust's experiences.

47. The Governing Body decided to delegate responsibility for project approval between sessions to the Bureau, under exceptional circumstances and for smaller scale projects.

48. The Governing Body considered the document, *Implementation of the Funding Strategy*,⁵ recalling that the Governing Body had adopted the Funding Strategy at its First Session. The above document identifies possible actions described under five main activity areas.

49. Several Contracting Parties recalled Article 18.4(b) which specifies that *the extent to which Contracting Parties that are developing countries and Contracting Parties with economies in transition will effectively implement their commitments under this Treaty will depend on the effective allocation, particularly by the developed country Parties, of the resources referred to in this Article. Contracting Parties that are developing countries and Contracting Parties with economies in transition will accord due priority in their own plans and programmes to building capacity in plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.* They expressed their disappointment at the slow pace of implementation of the Funding Strategy, and noted linkages between the mobilization of financial resources and the compliance provisions of the Treaty, stressing the need for clear signals from developed country partners of their willingness to fulfil their agreed commitments under the Treaty.

50. The Governing Body stressed that the successful mobilization of adequate financial resources is essential to the implementation of the Treaty, and that the Funding Strategy was an essential element in this regard. It emphasized the need for Contracting Parties to provide financial resources for national activities for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in accordance with Article 18.4(d) of the Treaty, taking into account the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

51. The Governing Body generally agreed with the list of possible actions provided in the document by the Secretary, and in particular, Activity 1: Supporting Contracting Parties in Taking Measures to Ensure Effective Allocation of Resources for the Funding Strategy; and Activity 5: Reconvening of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy.

52. The Governing Body decided to reconvene the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy providing the terms of reference for its work, as contained in *Appendix D.4*, which include the development of a strategic plan for the implementation of the Funding Strategy. It noted that the Committee may, where appropriate, also promote implementation of elements of the strategic plan, prior to its consideration by the Governing Body at its Third Session, in consultation with the Secretary and the Bureau.

53. The Governing Body decided that support for the participation of representatives from developing countries in the meetings of the Committee should be provided from the *Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Developing Countries*. The Governing Body urged Contracting Parties to consider the provision of additional financial resources for this purpose. It suggested that the Committee should, whenever possible, be convened back to back with other FAO meetings.

⁵ IT/GB-2/07/08

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNING BODY AND THE GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST

54. The Executive Secretary of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, Mr Cary Fowler, introduced the main elements of document, Report of the *Global Crop Diversity Trust*.⁶ He thanked the Governing Body for the appointment of four members to the Executive Board of the Trust.

55. Mr Fowler informed the Governing Body that the significant funds received by the Trust were largely new and additional, but expressed caution that only 40 percent of the funds necessary to secure collections have been raised so far. He stressed the commitment of the Trust to the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources*, and noted that the conservation and availability of agricultural biodiversity would facilitate adaptation to, and mitigation of, the impacts of climate change.

56. Mr Fowler highlighted that activities of the Trust had primarily concentrated on regeneration of threatened collections of global importance for food security; the development of information systems to document reference collections at the institutional and global levels; and basic research on cryopreservation techniques for certain crops.

57. The Governing Body thanked the Executive Secretary of the Global Crop Diversity Trust for his presentation, and noted its appreciation for the significant contribution of the Trust to the objectives of the Treaty.

58. The Governing Body welcomed the activities being undertaken by the Trust as an essential element of the Funding Strategy, but expressed concern that contributions from other elements of the Funding Strategy were yet to become available for other activities, in particular *in situ* conservation; activities involving non-*Annex I* crops; as well as local and underutilized crops of importance for food security.

59. The Governing Body recognized the executive independence of the Trust, and stressed the need for closer and effective cooperation. It emphasized that guidance for the Trust was provided under Articles 5, 6, and 17 of the *Global Plan of Action* and Articles 5 and 17 of the Treaty.

60. The Governing Body appreciated the progress made in the establishment of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault for the long-term conservation of germplasm, as reported by the representative of the Government of Norway, and took note of the official inauguration of the Vault, which is scheduled for 26 February 2008. It further noted that the Chair of the Governing Body would be invited to participate as an *ex officio* member of the International Advisory Council of the Global Seed Vault.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING

61. The Governing Body considered document, *Draft Procedures for the Third Party Beneficiary*.⁷ It thanked the Director-General for having accepted in principle, its invitation for FAO to carry out, as the Third Party Beneficiary, the roles and responsibilities as identified and prescribed in the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, under its direction. It recognised that this acceptance was subject to formal approval upon review of the procedures to be established by the Governing Body.

⁶ IT-GB/2/07/10

⁷ IT/GB-2/07/12

62. The Governing Body requested the Secretary to prepare draft text setting out the procedures to be followed by FAO, when carrying out its roles and responsibilities as the Third Party Beneficiary, taking into account, in particular, FAO's role as specialized agency of the United Nations, its privileges and immunities. It invited Contracting Parties, other governments and international organizations to comment on the draft text.

63. The Governing Body decided to establish an *Ad Hoc* Third Party Beneficiary Committee, composed of seven representatives of Contracting Parties, with one representative nominated by each of the FAO Regions. The Committee's mandate is to consider the draft text prepared by the Secretary, and comments and submissions from Contracting Parties, other governments and international organizations. The *Ad Hoc* Committee shall prepare draft Third Party Beneficiary procedures to be submitted to the Governing Body at its next Session.

64. The Governing Body invited the Director-General of FAO to bring to the attention of the relevant bodies of FAO, the Governing Body's invitation, together with the procedures, once elaborated by the *Ad Hoc* Third Party Beneficiary Committee, and endorsed by the Governing Body.

65. The Governing Body considered document, *Progress in the Inclusion of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in the Multilateral System*.⁸ It requested the Secretary to continue gathering information on the assessment of progress in the inclusion of plant genetic resources in the Multilateral System, through cost-effective means, including gathering information from National Focal Points. Contracting Parties requested help to develop information packages on key elements of the Treaty as a means to enhance their implementation activities. The Governing Body noted with appreciation that almost 100,000 samples had already been distributed under the terms of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement by the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agriculture, within the first nine months of 2007.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE MATERIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT TO BE USED BY
INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTRES FOR PLANT GENETIC
RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE NOT INCLUDED IN ANNEX I OF THE
TREATY**

66. The Governing Body considered document, *Consideration of the Material Transfer Agreement to be used by International Agricultural Research Centres for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture not included in Annex I of the Treaty*,⁹ which contains the report on the outcomes of the consultation with the International Agricultural Research Centres (IARCs) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research on the implementation of Article 15.1(b) of the Treaty.

67. The unanimous preference of the IARCs was to have one instrument only, the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA), governing the transfer of both *Annex I* and non-*Annex I* material held by them, which would simplify procedures for the distribution of germplasm and hence reduce costs. The Centres noted that the SMTA made specific references to *Annex I* of the Treaty, and identified two possible options for providing clarification regarding the meaning to be given to these references in the context of non-*Annex I* material.

⁸ IT/GB-2/07/11

⁹ IT/GB-2/07/13

68. Recognizing that the application of the amended MTA would concern plant genetic resources for food and agriculture other than those listed on *Annex I* of this Treaty and collected before its entry into force that were held by IARCs, the Governing Body endorsed the option that an interpretative footnote or series of footnotes would be included to relevant provisions of the SMTA indicating that these provisions should not be interpreted as precluding the use of the SMTA for transfers of non-*Annex I* material, collected before the entry into force of the Treaty as detailed in option 2 of *Annex 2* (para 9 of IT/GB/2/07/13 rev.1). The interpretative footnote or footnotes should not be seen as amendments to the SMTA, so much as clarifications of its meaning. They would be included in all versions of the SMTA used by the IARCs under Article 15.1(b), and thus avoid the need for two versions of the SMTA. The Governing Body decided that it would review these measures during its consideration of the SMTA at its Third Session.

ADOPTION OF PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONAL MECHANISMS TO PROMOTE COMPLIANCE AND TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

69. The Governing Body considered the document, *Draft procedures and operational mechanisms to promote compliance and to address issues of non-compliance*.¹⁰ It welcomed the progress achieved by the First Session of the Governing Body on the issue of compliance, and stressed the importance of Resolution 3/2006, which established a Compliance Committee and provisional procedures on compliance. The Governing Body adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION 1/2007

Compliance

THE GOVERNING BODY,

- (i) **Decides**, pursuant to Article 21 of the Treaty, to consider and approve procedures and operational mechanisms on compliance at its Third Session, on the basis of the draft procedures and operational mechanisms to promote compliance and address issues of non-compliance, which are contained in *Appendix I* to the Report of the First Session of the Governing Body, and the submissions made by Parties and observers;
- (ii) **Requests** the Secretary to compile submissions by Contracting Parties and observers;
- (iii) **Decides** to put the issue of compliance high on the agenda of the next Session of the Governing Body; and
- (iv) **Decides** to establish, as appropriate, a contact group at its next Session, which shall commence consideration of the procedures and operational mechanisms to promote compliance and address issues of non-compliance.

(Adopted on 2 November 2007)

¹⁰ IT/GB-2/07/14

IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6, SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

70. The Governing Body considered the document, *Compilation and Analysis of Submissions by Contracting Parties and Other Relevant Organizations Concerning the Implementation of Article 6*,¹¹ and the information document, *Information Received from Relevant Organizations Concerning the Implementation of Article 6*.¹²

71. The Governing Body reiterated the high importance it attaches to the promotion of Article 6 for the successful implementation of the Treaty. It stressed that Article 6 should continue to be a component of its Programme of Work, and a standing item on its agenda. Capacity building, research and availability of financial resources were considered to be integral components for the implementation of Article 6.

72. The Governing Body requested the Secretary to prepare a comprehensive document at its next session covering the status of the implementation of Article 6, which includes information on policy and legal measures used to achieve the objectives of the Article. It invited submissions from Contracting Parties, other governments, and relevant institutions and organizations, and urged an improved process for information gathering on the sustainable use activities, including means such as surveys, conceptual frameworks, inter-sessional meetings and workshops.

73. The Governing Body stressed the need for Contracting Parties to cooperate with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for the periodic assessment of the state of the world's plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in order to facilitate the updating of the rolling *Global Plan of Action for the Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, as required by Article 17.3.

74. The Governing Body emphasized the importance of country-driven initiatives and programmes, as well as international cooperation and partnerships for the effective implementation of Article 6. It further acknowledged it had an important role to play in providing policy guidance and facilitating cooperation to support the successful implementation of the Article.

IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 9, FARMERS' RIGHTS

75. The Governing Body extended its appreciation to the Governments of Norway and Zambia for convening an informal international consultation on Farmers' Rights in Lusaka, Zambia, in September 2007, and for sharing the outcomes with the Governing Body.¹³ The Governing Body adopted the following Resolution:

¹¹ IT/GB-2/07/15

¹² IT/GB-2/07/Inf.8

¹³ *Implementation of Article 9 of the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Farmers' Rights* (IT/GB-2/07/Circ.1).

RESOLUTION 2/2007**Farmers' Rights****THE GOVERNING BODY,**

- (i) **Recalling** the recognition in the International Treaty of the enormous contribution that local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world have made, and will continue to make, for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources as the basis of food and agriculture production throughout the world;
- (ii) **Recalling** the importance of fully implementing Article 9 of the International Treaty;
- (iii) **Recalling** also that according to Article 9 of the International Treaty, the responsibility for realizing Farmers' Rights, as they relate to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, rests with national Governments;
- (iv) **Acknowledging** that there is uncertainty in many countries as to how Farmers' Rights can be implemented and that the challenges related to the realization of Farmers' Rights are likely to vary from country to country;
- (v) **Recognizing** that exchange of experiences and mutual assistance between Contracting Parties can significantly contribute to making progress in the implementation of the provisions on Farmers' Rights in the International Treaty;
- (vi) **Recognizing** the contribution the Governing Body may give in support of the implementation of Farmers' Rights;
- (vii) **Encourages** Contracting Parties and other relevant organizations to submit views and experiences on the implementation of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, involving, as appropriate, farmers' organizations and other stakeholders;
- (viii) **Requests** the Secretary to collect these views and experiences as a basis for an agenda item for consideration by the Governing Body at its Third Session to promote the realization of Farmers' Rights at the national level, and to disseminate relevant information through the website of the International Treaty, where appropriate; and
- (ix) **Appreciates** the involvement of farmers' organizations at this Second Session and affirms its commitment to continue to involve farmers' organizations in its further work, as appropriate, according to the Rules of Procedure established by the Governing Body.

(Adopted on 2 November 2007)

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNING BODY AND THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

76. The Governing Body received a report on *Mechanisms for cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*,¹⁴ which was prepared jointly by the Secretaries of the Treaty and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The report presented the outcomes of the Commission's discussions during its Eleventh Regular Session regarding this subject, and included a draft joint statement of intent for cooperation between the two bodies.

¹⁴ IT/GB-2/07/16

77. The Governing Body thanked the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for its support. It recognized the consistent and effective role that the Secretariat of the Commission had played throughout the long period of the negotiation of the Treaty, as the Interim Secretariat for the Treaty, and in the preparation of the Second Session of the Governing Body. In this regard, the Governing Body particularly thanked Mr Clive Stannard, Officer-in-Charge of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, for his dedication to the Treaty and wished him all the best in his future endeavours.

78. The Governing Body took note of the Commission's Multi-year Programme of Work, adopted at its Eleventh Session, June 2006, which foresees the presentation of the updated *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* at its Twelfth Session in 2009, and consideration of the updated *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Global Plan of Action)* for adoption, as well as a review of cooperation with the Governing Body, at its Thirteenth Session.

79. The Governing Body requested all Contracting Parties to cooperate in the updating of *The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, in order to facilitate the updating of the *Global Plan of Action*, as foreseen in Article 17.3 of the Treaty. The Facilitating Mechanism for the *Global Plan of Action* was also recognized as an important tool that could contribute to the identification of potential resources for the implementation of the Funding Strategy.

80. The Governing Body stressed the necessity of ensuring close and effective cooperation between it and the Commission. It requested its Secretary to continue to work closely with the Secretary of the Commission on a regular basis, on matters of common interest.

81. The Governing Body requested that the two Secretaries prepare a comprehensive paper identifying the repartition of their fields of intergovernmental work. The two Secretaries, in consultation with FAO's Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP), and the International Agricultural Research Centres and the Global Crop Diversity Trust, will collaborate to ensure the overall effectiveness of technical activities on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, thereby avoiding overlap and duplication, and ensuring the optimal use of resources.

82. The Governing Body revised and adopted the draft joint statement of intention, as contained in *Appendix E* to the current report, and invited the Commission to also adopt it at its next session.

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE GOVERNING BODY AND THE INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTERS OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

83. The Governing Body considered the document, *Report on the Status of Cooperation with Other International Organizations, Including Agreements between the Governing Body and the International Agricultural Research Centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and Other Relevant International Institutions*.¹⁵

84. The Governing Body recognized the importance of collaboration between the Secretary of the Treaty and the International Agricultural Research Centers in the implementation of the Treaty. It

¹⁵ IT/GB-2/07/17

expressed appreciation for the joint programme set up by FAO and Bioversity International to provide technical assistance to facilitate developing country implementation of the Treaty, and in particular, to initiate the Multilateral System.

85. The Governing Body called for continued collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity, especially in regard to the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity, and access and benefit sharing.

86. Recalling Article 18.4(a), the Governing Body acknowledged the important role of the Global Crop Diversity Trust in assisting the implementation of the Treaty, and stressed the need for mobilization of funds from other international mechanisms, including the Common Fund for Commodities and the Global Environment Facility.

87. The Governing Body requested that the Secretary participate in relevant meetings of the World Intellectual Property Organization, the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants and the World Trade Organization. It also requested the Secretary to report on relevant activities undertaken by international organizations, and consult with relevant private sector interests to identify potential areas for collaboration with the Treaty, in regard to plant genetic resources.

88. The Governing Body welcomed the proposal by the South Pacific Community Genebank and the International Cocoa Gene Banks, to enter into agreement under Article 15.5 of the Treaty, and requested the Director-General of FAO to enter into agreements with these genebanks on behalf of the Governing Body, and would welcome further agreements with other relevant institutions.

POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

89. The Governing Body considered document, *Possible establishment of a permanent Technical Advisory Committee*.¹⁶ The document presented four options for the consideration of the Governing Body.

90. The Governing Body agreed that the establishment of a permanent subsidiary body is premature. It decided that *ad hoc* technical bodies with focused, specialized and outcome-oriented terms of reference offer the best approach for the time being. The Governing Body noted the interest expressed by some Contracting Parties to consider, in the future, establishment of a joint technical committee with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

ADOPTION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR 2008/09

91. The Governing Body adopted the Programme and Work and Budget 2008-09, as contained in *Appendix F* to this Report, by the following resolution:

¹⁶ IT/GB-2/07/18

RESOLUTION 3/2007**Programme of Work and Budget 2008-09****THE GOVERNING BODY,**

- (i) **Adopts** the Core Administrative Budget for the biennium 2008-09, as indicated in *Annex 1 of Appendix F*;
- (ii) **Approves** a working capital reserve for the biennium 2008-09 at the level of 10 percent of the Core Administrative Budget, excluding the FAO contribution;
- (iii) **Recalls** that the FAO Governing Bodies have determined that the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is a priority FAO activity;
- (iv) **Recognizes** that the Treaty is at a critical stage of implementation;
- (v) **Expresses** its concern at the limited level of contributions by Contracting Parties to the Core Administrative Budget for the biennium 2006-07 to date;
- (vi) **Takes note** of the proposed contribution by FAO of US\$ 1,607,000;
- (vii) **Expresses** its concern as to the adequacy of the amount provided for the Treaty in the Regular Budget of FAO for the current biennium to cover the Core Administrative Budget of the Treaty, and **invites** the Governing Bodies of FAO to fund a significantly higher proportion of the Core Administrative Budget of the Treaty in future biennia, than in the biennium 2006-07;
- (viii) **Urges** all Contracting Parties and States that are not Contracting Parties, as well as intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other entities, to contribute to the Core Administrative Budget and the Special Funds of the Treaty;
- (ix) **Notes** the Secretariat staffing table for the biennium 2008-09 set out in *Annex 2 of Appendix F* to this Report, recognizing that the precise staffing arrangements are a matter of the normal executive authority of the Secretary;
- (x) **Decides** that the contribution of the FAO shall be used before any other source of income is used for the funding of the Core Administrative Budget;
- (xi) **Invites** Contracting Parties and States that are not Contracting Parties to provide in-kind support to the Secretary, including through the secondment, as appropriate, of staff, taking into consideration criteria of competence and regional balance in the staff;
- (xii) **Authorizes** the Secretary to transfer resources between the main appropriation lines of the Core Administrative Budget up to an aggregate of 15 percent of the Operating Budget, provided that no more than 25 percent of any main appropriation line may be transferred to another;
- (xiii) **Decides** that the meetings identified in the Core Administrative Budget, and other meetings agreed upon by the Governing Body, shall constitute the work programme for the Governing Body for the biennium 2008-09;

(xiv) **Requests** the Secretary to convene meetings of the *Ad hoc* Advisory Committee for the Funding Strategy, under the Special Funds referred to in Rule VI.2c of the Financial Rules of the Treaty;

(vx) **Decides** to create a “Coordinating Mechanism for Capacity Building” for the national implementation of the Treaty, subject to the availability of funds, whose operation shall for the 2008-09 biennium be funded from voluntary contributions to the Special Funds referred to in Rule VI.2b of the Financial Rules of the Treaty.¹⁷

(xvi) **Requests** the Secretary to provide to the Contracting Parties, within three months after the closure of this session, an estimate of the cost for:

1. Implementation of each of the activities to be funded under the Special Funds referred to in Rule VI.2b of the Financial Rules of the Treaty; and
2. Provision of support to developing country Contracting Parties and Contracting Parties with economies in transition, to be funded under the Fund referred to in Rule VI.2c of the Financial Rules of the Treaty for the biennium 2008-09.

(xvii) **Decides** that Contracting Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition, should be informed in a timely manner by the Secretary, before a meeting, of the availability of funding for their participation in that meeting from the Fund referred to in Rule VI.2c of the Financial Rules of the Treaty. Where such funding is limited, priority should be given to the least developed countries;

(xviii) **Requests** the Secretary to prepare and submit a Draft Programme of Work, including a Secretariat staffing table and a Draft Resolution on the Programme of Work and Budget, for the biennium 2010-11 for the consideration of the Governing Body at its Third Session, and to report on progress on income and expenditures, as well as any adjustments made to the budget for the biennium 2008-09;

(xix) **Requests** the Secretary, working with the Bureau, to prepare and submit a Business Plan for the implementation of the Treaty, for consideration by the Governing Body at its Third Session and decision at its Fourth Session.

(Adopted on 2 November 2007)

DATE AND PLACE OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

92. The Governing Body welcomed the generous offer of Tunisia to host the Third Session of the Governing Body in the first quarter of 2009. The Bureau would decide on the specific date for the session in consultation with the Secretary, and the Secretary will then notify all Contracting Parties.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRS OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

93. The Governing Body elected its Chair and Vice-Chairs for its Third Session. Mr Godfrey Mwila (Zambia) was elected Chair. Six Vice-Chairs were elected: Mr Sugiono Moeljopawiro

¹⁷ The Government of the Kingdom of Spain pledged substantial funds to cover this activity

(Indonesia); Ms Anna Somerville (Australia), Mr Campbell Davidson (Canada), Mr Modesto Fernández Díaz-Silveira (Cuba), Mr François Pythoud (Switzerland) and Ms Hanaiya El-Itriby (Egypt).

OTHER BUSINESS

94. The Governing Body acknowledged the important outcomes of the first International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, held in September 2007, in Interlaken, Switzerland: the *State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* as the first global authoritative survey of this essential resources; and the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, as a major component of the overall global framework for agricultural biodiversity. The Governing Body called for coordinated and collaborative management for the sustainable use, development and conservation of both plant genetic resources and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, and, in particular, in relation to forage and grassland genetic resources.

95. A representative from the Government of Switzerland noted that it is unclear as to what criteria or rationale is being used to determine when the Governing Body of the Treaty would use a Resolution rather than an operative paragraph in adopting its decisions, and requested the Bureau to consider this matter and provide its advice during the Third Session of the Governing Body.

CLOSING CEREMONY

96. The Secretary, Mr Shakeel Bhatti, stated that the Governing Body had achieved a major step towards the implementation of the Treaty. With the adoption of the Work Programme and Budget, the Governing Body had given the Treaty a vision for its future and for the implementation process that lay ahead. As the Secretary of the Treaty, he would ensure that the Treaty was implemented in accordance with the guidance that the Governing Body had provided and looked forward to working closely with Contracting Parties and the Bureau in that regard.

97. He thanked the Director-General of FAO for the keen interest he had shown in the Treaty, which was reflected not only in his presence at the First and Second Sessions of the Governing Body but also in the close attention he paid whenever the Secretary briefed him on the progress of the Treaty. Mr Bhatti also thanked the Interim Secretariat for its support to him and for the outstanding work it had done over many years in making the Treaty a reality.

98. Mr Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity, stated that it was an honour to address the Second Session of the Governing Body. He noted that, as stipulated in the text of the Treaty itself, the conservation and the sustainable use of plant genetic resources will be attained by closely linking the Treaty to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Mr Djoghlaif stressed that collaboration would strengthen and move both the Treaty and the Convention further along the path to full implementation.

99. Mr Djoghlaif emphasized that the Treaty is vital to ensuring the continued availability of the plant genetic resources that countries will need to feed their people. Biological diversity is essential for the development of crop varieties and the breeding of domesticated livestock, as well as supporting agricultural production through pollinators, soil organisms and the natural enemies of crop pests. He emphasized that the Treaty's implementation will significantly contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Work on Agriculture under the Convention, and that the Convention also welcomes the

Treaty's contribution to the cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition. Mr Djoghlaif's speech is contained in *Appendix G.1*.

100. Mr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, stated that it was a pleasure to address the Second Session of the Governing Body, and that he was extremely proud of the Treaty being the only global instrument for the international governance of genetic resources for food and agriculture. He stressed the importance of the Treaty's Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, which constitutes an innovative instrument to address major global challenges including: achieving food security in a fast changing environment due to climate change; undertaking agricultural development through improved equity in the exchange of genetic resources; recognition of Farmers' Rights; and reducing genetic diversity erosion.

101. Mr Diouf noted that at this moment, the Treaty depends on crucial investments of financial resources; coherence in the implementation of the Treaty at the national and international levels; adequate support to developing countries; and full implementation of the Multilateral System. He pledged to carefully follow the progress made in the implementation of the Treaty, and would ensure that FAO devoted the necessary effort to contribute to the success of the Treaty. Mr Diouf's speech is contained in *Appendix G.2*.

102. The Governing Body expressed its thanks to the Governments of Canada, Italy, Spain and The Netherlands, for their past contributions and their pledges for further contributions to both the Core Administrative Budget and various Trust Funds of the Treaty. It also noted the pledge by The Netherlands that it had made its own voluntary contribution and will make further voluntary contributions to the approved Budget, in accordance with an assessment based on the FAO scale of contributions.

103. Several representatives from developing countries expressed appreciation for the financial support received from a number of donors, which enabled their participation in the Second Session. The African Region expressed gratitude for the interpretation services that had been provided during regional consultations, noting that this had significantly facilitated the region's preparation for the Second Session. The African Region requested the Secretary to provide, in future, interpretation services for regional consultations through the duration of Sessions of the Governing Body.

104. Several regional representatives thanked the Chair for his leadership and calm and fair manner in which he had conducted the meeting. They also thanked the Vice-Chairs and *Rapporteur* for their dedicated work, which had led to a successful result. The representatives expressed gratitude to the Secretary and his team, and all those that had contributed to the preparation and conduct of the Second Session. They appreciated the high quality of documents, interpretation and translation services, as well as the professional conduct and friendly manner of all the support staff.

105. Mr Sumpsi, Assistant Director-General FAO, congratulated Contracting Parties on the agreement reached on the Work Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 and urged Contracting Parties to make their contributions to the Core Administrative Budget of the Treaty. Recognising the independence of the Treaty, he expressed his strong support for its implementation and his confidence that the Treaty would become a critical tool for improving food security of future generations.

106. A representative of Bioversity International, speaking on behalf of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, pledged to continue supporting the implementation of various elements of the Treaty.

107. The Governing Body paid tribute to Mr Clive Stannard, who was retiring from FAO. It recognised the many years of commitment and hard work he had dedicated to FAO and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as well as the Interim Secretariat of the Treaty. It thanked him for the invaluable intellectual inputs and strategic vision he brought to the processes that led to the adoption of the Treaty. It wished him well in his retirement and all future endeavours he might engage in.

108. The Chair expressed his gratitude for all the support he had received from members of the Bureau, the participants to the Second Session of the Governing Body, and the Secretariat. He noted with appreciation, the participation of Mr Diouf and Mr Djoghlaif, in the closing of the Second Session.

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APPENDIX A**AGENDA OF THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
2. Election of the *Rapporteur*
3. Appointment of the Credentials Committee
4. Establishment of a Budget Committee
5. Report of the Chair
6. Report of the Secretary
7. Adoption of the Financial Rules of the Governing Body
8. Implementation of the Funding Strategy of the Treaty
9. Relationship between the Governing Body and the Global Crop Diversity Trust
10. Implementation of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing
11. Consideration of the Material Transfer Agreement to be used by the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other relevant international institutions, for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture not included in *Annex 1* of the Treaty
12. Adoption of procedures and operational mechanisms to promote compliance and to address issues of non-compliance
13. Implementation of Article 6, *Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources*
14. Implementation of Article 9, *Farmers' Rights*
15. Relationship between the Governing Body and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
16. Report on the status of cooperation with other international organizations, including Agreements between the Governing Body and the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other relevant international institutions
17. Possible establishment of a permanent Technical Advisory Committee
18. Adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget for 2008/09
19. Date and place of the Third Session of the Governing Body
20. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Third Session of the Governing Body
21. Other business
22. Adoption of the report

APPENDIX B**OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE**

Rome, 29 October 2007

Speech of Ambassador José Antônio Marcondes de Carvalho, Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO, delivered on behalf of His Excellency Silas Brasileiro, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of the Federative Republic of Brazil

Mr Director-General of FAO, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

It had been the intention of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply and his Secretary for Agricultural and Cooperative Affairs to participate at this session, but unfortunately, for reasons beyond their control, they are unable to be with us today, so I shall read on his behalf the notes he prepared for this event.

The Government of Brazil presents its cordial greetings and hopes that by the end of the week we will have succeeded in approving the operational procedures and mechanisms needed to bolster the exchange and conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, for the benefit of farmers in all our countries and humanity as a whole.

I take this opportunity to highlight the work carried out by the *Bureau* of the Governing Body since the session in Madrid, and to thank its Chairman, Mr Godfrey Mwila, and all *Bureau* members. I should also like to congratulate Dr Shakeel Bhatti on his appointment as Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We are convinced that, with his energy and ability, he will inject the dynamic pace needed for the Treaty to achieve its objectives. We should also like to express our gratitude to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO, for hosting this Second Session of the Governing Body of the Treaty, in clear demonstration of its commitment to plant breeding, farmers' rights, food security and agricultural development throughout the world.

The Government of Brazil enthusiastically supports the International Treaty because it is an instrument that recognizes the special nature of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and because it deals with their specific needs.

Food security in our countries depends on our successfully and effectively implementing the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing established in the International Treaty, because of our interdependence on genetic resources originating in other regions and the ongoing need to overcome the factors limiting agricultural production.

Brazil has much to offer to the Multilateral System because of the many accessions of *Annex I* species in its collections and because of its research on tropical agriculture which cooperates increasingly with other countries, especially the least developed. By way of example, I should like to mention the very recent opening of an office of the Brazilian Agricultural Research Cooperation (EMBRAPA) in Accra, Ghana, to better understand and address the demands of the sector in the African continent. In fact, international cooperation is one of the most important elements of the Treaty that brings us together.

That is why we consider it essential for the developed countries and holders of some of the most important genebanks in the world to become parties to the International Treaty. We thus invite all countries that have not yet acceded to do so without delay and to join us in building a global partnership for crop diversity and food security.

We also urge countries to enact legal provision for recognition of farmers' rights, as a foundation for the effective realization of their rights under the Treaty, in addition to their human rights.

It is very important to emphasize the harmonization in aims and operational mechanisms of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In this connection, we wish to emphasize that the scope of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture extends to all plant genetic resources used for this purpose. We thus urge that countries, in the exercise of their sovereign right, consider the benefits of a comprehensive and effective Multilateral System, in which materials used for the specific purpose of breeding new varieties can be exchanged cheaply and easily. We could perhaps also reconcile the differences that prevent us from using this operational mechanism of access and benefit-sharing to other agricultural species.

We are happy with the process established for implementation of the Multilateral System, with the development of the information technology needed to integrate national and regional databases in a transparent and accessible manner. It is an honour to have been chosen to participate in initial actions to implement the System, which will be demonstrated here during the week. We consider it a priority to maintain this close collaboration for development of the System.

However the Government of Brazil is also aware of its role in the international commitments assumed on behalf of its citizens and will take every step to continue exchanging plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, always mindful of countries' sovereign rights over their genetic resources.

We need to recall that the most important contribution to result from the Treaty are the new plant varieties developed from accessions exchanged under the Multilateral System. These constitute the foundation for a more efficient and sustainable agriculture, adapted to human requirements and able to address the challenges of a growing world population and climate change, with the necessary empowerment of farmers, for the elimination of hunger and extreme poverty.

Our countries need to actively promote plant breeding and thereby ensure the availability of varieties adapted to local needs and a broadening of the crop genetic base, including through the establishment of technical cooperation and assistance networks at national and international level.

In this task we should remain focused and not dwell on issues unrelated to the pursuit of the clear and practical objectives of the Treaty, and should base our actions on well founded scientific information.

We wish to emphasize the central importance of a financial strategy for implementation of the Treaty. The effective allocation of financial resources will be essential to enable the developing countries to meet their obligations under the Treaty and to realize the potential benefits of their genetic resources.

In this way we will have succeeded in sharing the benefits and thereby achieving all the objectives of the International Treaty and, above all, ensuring the availability of genetic resources for future generations. This is the challenge we face, and I am sure that we will rise to the occasion during this Second Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty.

Thank you very much.

Opening Ceremony of the Second Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Rome, 29 October 2007

Speech of Mr Dean Oestreich, Pioneer President and DuPont Vice President and General Manager

I am deeply honoured to participate in this opening ceremony of the Second Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty. I understand that this is the first time in the history of the International Treaty that private industry has been directly invited to participate. Thank you for the invitation.

Let me first tell you about myself. I grew up on a small farm in Minnesota, in the north-central United States, and I learned early on the importance of high-quality seed. That knowledge led me to become a plant breeder, where I learned firsthand how important it is to have access to the best breeding material. During the course of my life, I have seen significant improvements in agricultural productivity as a direct result of the hard work of dedicated plant breeders.

From my work as a plant breeder and now as president of one of the world's largest seed companies, I have always placed the needs of farmers first and foremost in my mind. Commercial seed must make the lives of farmers better. It must reduce their risk and enable them to produce the highest yielding and best agricultural products. It must take into account total farming practices and good land management.

We must always approach the job of meeting the needs of farmers with a long-term perspective. The research, development and testing required to produce a new product commonly takes a decade, and most often longer. At Pioneer, we refer to this long-term perspective as the "Long Look." We are here today because FAO has approached the issue of access and benefit sharing for food and agriculture with just such a long look.

The needs of future generations of farmers, and the societies that depend upon them, will be great. Yields of all crops must increase; crops must have the genetic potential to withstand increasing environmental stress; and the nutritional characteristics of crops must be maximized. The technology exists today to meet these challenges, but we must work together to make this happen for all of the world's citizens. So, thank you to the United Nations and FAO for having the vision to develop the International Treaty and provide a framework where public and private sectors can work together to meet the needs of all the worlds farmers for many generations to come.

Pioneer, together with the American Seed Trade Association and the Biotechnology Industry Organization, has been and will continue to be a strong advocate for ratification of the International Treaty by the U.S. Senate. As the treaty is implemented, I hope that private industry and governments around the world will continue to work together to ensure that the Treaty fully meets the objectives of conservation, equitable benefit sharing and sustainable use in a manner that serves the needs of all stakeholders.

Multilateral agreements that ensure conservation and use with equitable benefits are crucial to allow genetic resources to be available to plant breeders so that they, in turn, can help farmers improve their profitability. The International Treaty, thereby, assures access to a broad array of germplasm for most crops of major importance for plant breeders in all signatory nations. I would like to see additional crop species added to the Treaty Annex so that the conservation and use of all major crop species is assured.

The implementation of the International Treaty must be adequately funded. Equitable benefit sharing and funding by world governments must be at a level sufficient to ensure that the multilateral system is vibrant and healthy for the needs of future generations. I encourage all of my peers in the private sector to provide financial support to the International Treaty.

Pioneer is working to improve crop productivity in developing as well as developed countries. We do business in 70 countries, and I have had the privilege to talk with farmers the world over. Whether I am with a wheat farmer in the U.S. West Central Plains' irrigation area; a soybean farmer in the Cerrados of Brazil; a dairy farmer in Italy's Po River valley; or a two-acre maize farmer in China or Kenya caring for his family, they all share common feelings. They passionately care about their livelihood; they are continually striving to improve their agronomic practices; and they are rapid adopters of seed and other agricultural technologies that improve their food and income security.

Agriculture transcends borders, and like the journeys all of us have made, crop varieties and hybrids have pedigrees that span the globe. No single nation is self-sufficient with respect to the crop varieties or breeding materials it will need to provide for its citizens or the economy. Agriculture creates a common bond, uniting all of us through the cultivated crops upon which we depend, both as individuals and as a society.

So, it is appropriate that we should meet here, under the auspices of the United Nations. Here we unite to witness our shared vision and affirm our work toward achieving the common goals of conservation, equitable benefit sharing and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for agriculture. Together we establish the genetic resources framework that generations of humankind will depend on for health, income security and a cleaner environment.

Opening Ceremony of the Second Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Rome, 29 October 2007

Speech of Mr Sunda Ram Verma and Mr Anil K. Gupta, Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions (SRISTI) and Honey Bee Network, India

In conformity with the preamble of the Treaty, a farmer and an advocate for their rights together present before you a case for strengthening various provisions of the Treaty such that the bridges between farmer breeders, institutional scientists, private seed companies and public bodies are built in a synergistic manner. It is true that much of the contribution of farmers forms the foundation of the development of the varieties by public and private institutions. And yet, not much benefit has flown towards the farmers so far. Honey Bee Network and SRISTI (Society for Research and Institutions for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions) have worked hard to give voice and visibility to the efforts of farmer innovators and traditional knowledge holders.

In the first part, Sunda Ram, a farmer breeder and a Honey Bee Network collaborator from Danta Village, District Sikar, Rajasthan, India will present his experience of developing varieties and articulate the expectation from the Treaty.

In second part, Anil Gupta, Coordinator, SRISTI, founder, Honey Bee Network and NIF (National Innovation Foundation) will share the policy alternatives. He will also make suggestions about the portfolio of monetary and non-monetary incentives which can be given to individual and communities engaged in conserving, augmenting and disseminating agro biodiversity.

Finally, some of the unresolved issues will be flagged so that the Treaty members can help advance the cause of farmers' rights. There is a tendency to spend far more resources and time on discussing the rights of growers and consumers of farmer varieties compared to the discussion on the rights of farmer breeders and conservators. In the interest of promotion of grassroots innovations by farmers, we need to balance our approach.

Part I

While cultivating six hectares of land in a semi arid region with rainfall of less than twenty inches annually, I have faced tremendous risk and uncertainty. I have developed many technologies including a method of growing trees which require only one litre of water once in their life time. Afterwards, almost 85 per cent of the seedlings survive through natural rainfall. One of my constant challenges has been to look for varieties of different crops that I grow, select potentially promising lines and find more productive, pest and disease resistant varieties. Having been a member of Honey Bee Network for over twelve years, while scouting for other innovators and traditional knowledge holders, I have noticed that many farmers are not aware of the potential that some of their traditional varieties may have. Through various selections of off-type plants which may have promising properties, I have selected many varieties. The most distinguished variety that I have developed is a variety of chilly (daanta selection). It has very high colour value and the buyers come to my farm to buy all the chilly that we grow. I have also developed a variety of gram (SR 1) which has the larger grain size, higher productivity and requires less water. In addition, I have developed new varieties of pulse and guwar, requiring less water having shorter duration and higher yield. I have also screened varieties developed by other farmers received by Honey Bee Network so that apart from the valuation done by the scientists, I can generate independent assessment through my own farm trials.

While doing various selections, I have faced several problems which prevent me from realizing my rights under the PPVFRA properly. For instance, I have characterized a variety in my own way but

unless it is also characterized by the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources or state agricultural university or department, it may not carry the same effect. Once the characterization is done, other farmers will have more trust in the claims.

Just as scientists get resources for screening varieties, farmer breeders like me should also get resources to screen varieties developed by other farmers and some times even by scientists. I appreciate the support given by NIF and Honey Bee Network for this purpose.

The varieties developed by institutional scientists are given opportunities of multi location trials, demonstration and see multiplication. But, the varieties that I developed do not often reach the other farmers in distant locations because I lack resources for the purpose. I cannot advertise my varieties and I cannot distribute samples for popularizing it. Therefore, the diffusion of my varieties even when they are better than the institutionally developed varieties does not take place as is possible. The food security is linked to the farmer's security. The International Treaty provides opportunity for benefit sharing and access to new varieties. Farmers do not mind sharing their varieties. I have never hesitated in giving seeds of my selection to other farmers. But, when seed companies or private traders or farmer traders came to know about my variety, they contacted me and I gave them seeds in good faith. Later, the traders and seed companies may have diffused my variety but I got no compensation or other durable benefits. The fact that I am standing before you and making a case for strengthening the Treaty shows that the promise of the Treaty is not hallow. It has already begun to recognize farmer breeders as well as conservators of agro biodiversity. I hope that Prof. Gupta would highlight the mechanisms both at national and international level through which farmers like me can have better options for protecting my rights.

Part II

When we started Honey Bee Network about two decades ago, we had not realized that creative potential of farmers, both individuals as well as communities was so rich and widespread. Out of about 70000 innovations and traditional knowledge documented by Honey Bee Network collaborators from over 500 districts of India and deposited with NIF, about 20000 are contributed by SRISTI. Large number of farmer breeders have been scouted who have developed varieties of cereals, pulses, oil seeds, plantation crops, and medicinal and aromatic plants. In one case, a variety of paddy popularly known as HMT developed by Dada Khobragade has diffused over a million hectares in several southern, central and western Indian states. In some of the districts of central India, it is the variety of first choice by the farmers. A recent doctoral research study has revealed that for a character like thinnest of grain, PPVFRA uses this farmer bred variety as a reference (Sinha, 2007, personal communication). Subsequently, this variety was taken up by the state agricultural university scientists to purify and then release as PKV HMT. However, the DNA finger printing studies at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) under the guidance of Dr. Ramesh Agarwal have revealed that PKV HMT is essentially the same variety as HMT (Sinha, 2007). Several seed companies have earned millions of dollars by selling the seed of his variety. But, the farmer continues to be very poor and got no benefit whatsoever from the prosperity it brought to thousands of farmers and dozens of seed companies. It is obvious that in such cases, the benefit sharing can only be facilitated by the national authorities.

The other varieties developed by the farmers which have provided unique properties. Morla variety of groundnut developed by Thakarshi bhai in Saurashtra had two particular characteristics not reported from the many national and international collections. One was a strong peg which meant that not many pods were left in the ground while digging it. Second, smooth surface of the pod, i.e., the absence of the ridges so that soil did not get deposited in the grooves making the pod heavier and thus liable to be left in the soil while digging the groundnut. Scientists did not pay much attention to these two peculiarities. Sunda Ram discovered another property in this variety: it does not suffer from iron deficiency. Large number of farmers' varieties get rejected either because of being compared on wrong parameters or with wrong reference points. It is very important that farmer breeding is seen not just as a yield improving exercise but also as an effort to tailor local diversity in the germplasm to suit

the specific needs. In a study on matching breeders objective with farmers choices (Gupta, 1984), I had shown that while scientists selected varieties in dry regions with higher harvest index, the farmers did the opposite. In the farmer's variety, there was more straw than grain. It was obvious that farmers being dependent upon livestock gave much more importance for the content and quality which most breeders somehow give less attention to. Farmers also identify sometime unique characters of which the real significance manifests after long time. For instance, Dulha bhai in Sabarkanta district of Gujarat, found two plants of pigeon pea having red colour and early bearing. The significance of the colour was that while yellow colour attracted lot of pests, the red did not. Such a finding has not come out of the large national and international programme till then. White flowered cardamom, dwarf jack fruit, less pungent and deep coloured chilly variety, viz., rasham patto of sarmath (Sinha, 2007) became a variety of choice for pickles for a long time.

The promotion of farmers' rights requires several articles of the Treaty to be strengthened and implemented much more strongly. Let me make some specific observation and suggestions about the importance of the Treaty for Honey Bee Network members and many other farmer rights leader groups.

- a. The multilateral system of access and benefit sharing provides certain norms for exchange of materials across countries. The tracking system of such exchange has to be developed so that farmers and their community can track as to whose material is being used in the breeding programmes in the public or private sector within or outside the country. A farmers rights based grassroots information system will have to be developed to inform and empower the communities and the individuals.
- b. For registration of the varieties with the National Plant Variety and Farmers' Rights Authority, considerable amount of data is required. It is not going to be possible for farmers to generate the data without the help of scientists. The Treaty must organize international fund to finance generation of data and ensuring or facilitating negotiations for benefit sharing.
- c. The benefit sharing can be monetary or non-monetary terms aimed at individuals or groups. A Portfolio of incentives has to be developed to suit cultural, social and economic diversity around the world. Honey Bee Network would like to cooperate and partner with CGFRA so that a roaster or a catalogue of farmers varieties for wider dissemination could be developed. It is seldom that a variety as such gets released elsewhere or directly used in the breeding programme. The derivative crosses pooling characteristics from many farmer varieties or land races are often used in developing new varieties in the formal research systems, tracking contribution of different farming communities and individuals is difficult but not impossible. We have to create examples of benefit sharing within and across the countries so as to reinvigorate the exchange of germplasm across the countries.
- d. One of the rights that farmers would prefer to exercise is to have access to the other farmers' varieties for testing, screening and value addition at their end. We have to create funding mechanisms for farmers who conserve local varieties of their regions at their farm, develop new varieties and for screening selections from other farmers. A parallel coordinated research programme of farmer breeders needs to be developed at the international level. Not only will it empower the innovations by farmer breeders but also generate new insights about the correspondence between ecological conditions and the shaping of agro biodiversity.
- e. Farmers have been quite aware of the food processing and nutraceutical properties of many of the varieties. However, the descriptors used by the gene banks around the world persistently ignore the data on such valuable knowledge provided by women and men.

The implication is that the food processing and the nutraceutical industry is not able to create market for such valuable land races and farmers varieties. Obviously therefore, benefits do not flow. This is particularly true for high fibre containing minor millets.

- f. The evaluation of farmers' varieties under very differently managed research farms, sometimes, does not allow full potential to manifest. Therefore, the proposed network of farmer breeders around the world on the pattern of Honey Bee Network would require institutional mechanisms of information exchange, technical and financial support for proper evaluation of the varieties and for submission of application to the national plant variety authorities. By restricting benefit sharing only to the use of unmodified germplasm, we are limiting the scope of the Treaty a great deal. Benefit sharing must take place if the characteristics identified and described by the farmers are incorporated in the varieties developed by private or public sector.
- g. *In situ* conservation by the farmer breeders and communities should receive as much attention if not more, as *ex situ* conservation. Global Diversity Trust has emerged quite rightly to focus on *ex situ* conservation, but what is the global thinking for *in situ* conservation. We regret that not even one per cent of total funds are allocated for the *in situ* conservation by farmer breeders and their communities. We need urgent action in this regard.

There are many other modifications that can be made to strengthen the Treaty and its objectives. The correspondence between the IPR laws and the new plant variety and seed legislations in many countries is not easy because the plant variety laws do not incorporate the concept of farmers' rights as done in India. The benefit sharing is to be encouraged and non-mandatory if the product is made available to other without restrictions for research. Wherever breeder exemptions are incorporated, the same conditions may apply. Rather than relying only on the legal instruments, the wider seed companies and other users of genetic diversity in biotech industry should be encouraged to contribute regularly to the gene fund.

SRISTI and Honey Bee Network are committed to advance the cause of farmers' rights and building of bridges between formal and informal science. The Treaty provides a viable platform forging such bridges. We hope that member countries will come forward and encourage farmer to farmer exchange of information, germplasm and knowledge and experience in dealing with public and private agencies.

Opening Ceremony of the Second Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Rome, 29 October 2007

Speech of Ms Margaret Catley-Carlson, Chair of the Executive Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust

Mr. Director-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is indeed an honor to address this first meeting of the Governing Body at its Second Session as Chair of the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

The Trust is a newcomer to the international stage. We were set up in 2004 and were recognized by the Governing Body at its First Session in 2006 as an essential element of the Funding Strategy of the Treaty in relation to the ex situ conservation and availability of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Since then the Trust has been busy helping you to build the kind of effective and sustainable system that the Treaty and the Global Plan of Action call for.

Specifically:

The Trust has initiated a program to rescue and regenerate more than 150,000 distinct accessions held by developing countries within the Treaty's Multilateral System.

We are supporting research to develop inexpensive conservation techniques for difficult to conserve orphan crops to reduce conservation costs and improve the security of these collections.

In the area of information technologies we will support two major initiatives designed to enhance conservation and to enable and promote use. Both efforts should produce substantial benefits at the national and global levels. First, we will fund development of a state-of-the-art genebank management software system designed for the common personal commuter. The system will be made freely available in multiple languages. Secondly, we will support creation of a global accession level information system bringing together information on some 4 million accessions held in genebanks around the world. This system should dramatically enhance access to and use of crop diversity, and thus support the goals of the Treaty while underpinning its benefit-sharing mechanism.

We have announced a competitive grants program for the evaluation of genetic resource collections with priority being given to screening for traits of importance to the poor in the context of climate change.

We are offering help to developing countries and international agricultural research centers to send a safety back-up samples to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault being built by the Government of Norway. Too frequently in recent years, collections in developing countries have been lost due to wars, civil strife and natural disaster. The Seed Vault will provide countries with a free insurance policy to protect distinct diversity against catastrophic or even accidental loss.

Finally, we have started providing long-term financial security to globally important collections. Later this year we will make funding announcements concerning a number of crops included in Annex I of the Treaty.

With all of these initiatives, we have relied very heavily on crop and regional strategies developed through a collaborative process directly involving more than 500 scientists from 120 countries. These expert groups have provided invaluable technical information, and guided us in the necessary but scientifically difficult task of identifying collections, materials and methodologies requiring attention.

Through measures such as those I have just outlined, we hope to lay the foundations for a rational, efficient, effective, and sustainable global system for the ex situ conservation and availability of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. We value the partnership we have with the Governing Body of the Treaty, and reiterate our support for the Treaty and its goals.

Our progress, we hope you will agree, has been rapid. The goal of the Trust, the permanent security and availability of crop diversity, is within reach. This comes not a moment too soon. Agricultural systems now face their most severe test in history— climate change. The conservation and use of crop diversity is a prerequisite for adapting to climate change. It is the very foundation of food security.

Underpinning this contribution of crop diversity to our own future survival and development is the International Treaty. Without the Treaty, there could be no coordinated international effort to conserve, make available and use plant genetic resources. Every country would be “on its own.” In the memorable words of Ambassador Fernando Gerbasi, your former chairperson and ours, it would be “jungle time.” Fortunately, we have a Treaty. The challenge now is to make it work. It simply must succeed. In this regard, the Trust is ready to play its part, and it is. Many of you have actively worked to help the Trust by securing funds, seconding staff, and cooperating in scientific matters. I thank you and hope that others will follow.

Before closing, allow me to mention one institutional matter. As you well know, the Governing Body appointed four members to the Trust’s Executive Board. I am pleased to report that one of those, Prof. Wangari Maathai, the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize laureate and a Member of Parliament of Kenya, was elected vice-chair of the Trust. The Executive Board has held two meetings this year, and will next meet in April 2008.

Let me close by saying that we sincerely value our partnership with the Governing Body. The common future we wish to create binds us together in ways that are even more profound than our formal Relationship Agreement might suggest.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this august body. And thank you for your support.

Opening Ceremony of the Second Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Rome, 29 October 2007

Speech of Mr Guy Kastler, Via Campesina

Peasant farming cannot develop only with seeds provided by industry and the fertilizer and pesticides needed to grow them. Most of the world's peasant farmers grow food crops and do not have the financial resources to purchase such seeds. Peasant farmers integrated into the market economy for agro-ecological or organic products do not use chemical products or GMOs. For these farmers, what institutional governance calls "plant genetic resource" is first and foremost a seed, their primary instrument of work after land. By replanting part of their previous harvest each year, they are constantly renewing crop biodiversity. Exchanges of seeds and farmer selection increase that biodiversity. They thus raise not only the number of varieties, but also the intra-varietal diversity of crops that is needed for them to adapt to diversity of soil, climate change and a changing pest and disease environment. Very recently in historical terms, the international community made arrangements to keep plant genetic resources in *ex situ* banks which the ITPGRFA supports in its global plan of action, while on-farm preservation is neglected. But the living world has never survived without renewing itself and diversifying to adapt to a constantly changing environment. That is why many plant genetic resources stored in banks face extinction from the lack of funds for their regular regeneration. Their integrity is also threatened by contamination from GMOs which are today penetrating the centres of origin and crop diversity and the collections in banks.

The seed industry of course uses those resources to propose new seeds, but the varieties it markets all come from the same genetic pools that depend on fertilizer and pesticides and that are incapable of adapting to soil diversity and climate change. Their vulnerability to new pests and diseases regularly causes disasters – all the bigger because of the huge cropped area each variety requires to obtain industrial economies of scale.

The ITPGRFA has a section on farmers' rights to save, resow, exchange and protect their seeds and to participate in policy-decisions on the management of genetic resources. But it subjects those rights to national legislations that do not respect them. The laws on the protection of intellectual property (patent and PVP) undermine the farmers' rights to replant their harvest. The requirement to register varieties in catalogues, at a cost and involving criteria that are inaccessible to peasant farmers, prevents them from exchanging their seeds and therefore having "facilitated access" to plant genetic resources. Consent and "benefit-sharing" are not respected by PVP which permits the appropriation of a "discovered variety", without obligation to state its origin, nor are they respected by the patent which obscures the origin in a single line lost among hundreds of pages of descriptive text. Genetic contamination by GMOs also threatens the integrity and survival of indigenous varieties and genetic resources kept in collections. Without rights to replant their harvest, without rights to exchange their seeds, peasant farmers can no longer save and renew their varieties, which are gradually disappearing, leaving an empty space for commercial seeds and the large farm holdings that have the technical and financial resources to grow them.

In the countries of the North, indigenous varieties have almost completely disappeared from fields, to the point where organic farmers no longer find traditional seeds adapted to their needs. As they cannot use commercial seeds that are too stable and uniform to instigate further breeding, they resort to existing *ex situ* collections. But their access to many of these is blocked, contradicting the principle of "facilitated access" in the ITPGRFA; either because no variety description is available apart from a code number without further reference, or under the pretext that they produce for the market and the law cannot accept that they also they engage in preservation and breeding.

This situation could be dramatic for the future of humanity were it to become generalized world-over. Industrial selection entails the brutal evolution of plants outside their natural environment in the field

where they no longer have the ability to adapt without ever greater chemical aids. Modern biotechnology replaces the endless multiplication of a single plant (lines and hybrids) by the multiplication of a single cell. This elimination of all intra-varietal crop diversity produces plants that are increasingly unable to adapt to change, in contrast to indigenous varieties that offer potential for diversity through renewal with each cycle in the field. Sustainable development can no longer expect to accompany profits of seed multinationals. Those profits only exist because the plants the multinationals commercialize are ever more ephemeral and incapable of reproducing beyond one or two generations.

That is why we expect from the ITPGRFA, not only for the peasant farmers we represent but especially for the future of humanity, that it will ensure that all signatory countries respect farmers' rights to save, resow, exchange and protect their seeds against biopiracy and genetic contamination, and their access to the resources of public collections. Only under such terms will we be able to guarantee a sustainable conservation and renewal of plant genetic resources based on the twin pillars of *ex situ* conservation and *in situ* dynamic management on farms and allotments.

We thank the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA for having invited Via Campesina to present its views to this meeting. We should however like to stress that, without the meaningful participation of peasant farmers in the management and control of genetic resources in each country and at world level, the ITPGRFA will remain an empty juridical instrument in the hands of industry and governments unable to halt the genetic erosion that is encroaching the fields and threatening the future of agriculture. We therefore call on you to determine the modalities to facilitate the involvement of farmer organizations in the work and life of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA.

**Opening Ceremony of the Second Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on
Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

Rome, 29 October 2007

**Speech of Mr M. S. Swaminathan, Chair of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation,
Chennai, India**

I am grateful to you, Mr Chairman, for this generous introduction. I am also grateful for the invitation to speak at this very important meeting of the Governing Body.

I want to highlight five points in this intervention. First, I think that this session of the Governing Body has a historic mission. I have been involved for the last sixty years in the search for new genes and for the use of genes in a sustainable and equitable manner - therefore I would like to add a historical perspective of the importance of this work. You are the historians of food, livelihoods and health security. We are very fortunate to meet in Rome. Two great Romans are the pillars of this particular session of the Governing Body. The first one is the roman philosopher Seneca, who wrote long ago, in roman times, "the hungry person listens neither to reason nor to religion, nor is he bent by any prayer". This is precisely the importance of food security for human security. The second pillar of this conference is the roman farmer Varro, he was a great farmer, like the two farmers you have heard earlier, because they understand what is sustainable agriculture. Varro said "all agronomic and agricultural practices must result in improvement of productivity in perpetuity", not up and down. Varros concept of productivity in perpetuity is what I later on termed as the evergreen revolution. The evergreen revolution I defined as improvement of productivity in perpetuity without associated ecological harm. This is now widely internationally accepted. So you have this important tracing back from Roman times.

The second point I want to make is FAO's historical and present role. FAO was the first among all the UN organizations to be set up after World War II. But before the end of the World War, Franklin Roosevelt organized in Hot Springs, Virginia, in May 1943, a meeting on how to avoid problems like the Great Irish Famine, the Irish potato famine, the Great Bengal Famine of 1942/43, where 3 million children, women and men died, and how to ensure food security at the end of World War II. This was the Hot Spring Conference, and this conference - meeting in the midst of the greatest war ever and in full confidence of victory - considered world problems of food and agriculture and declares its belief that the goal of freedom from want of food, suitable for the health and strength of all people, can be achieved. But unfortunately sixty years later, sixty-four years later - you know in July this year the United Nations published the midterm evaluation of the UN Millennium Development Goals, and then there is the FAO World Food Summit's own recommendation - we are far from achieving the proportionate advances between 2000 and 2015. Whatever we could have achieved - except for some countries, like China and Vietnam which have done good work - the world as a whole is far from achieving the MDGs. So, Ladies and Gentlemen, we have to remind ourselves that the task of ensuring adequate and healthy food for all is something which is exceedingly important for FAO. FAO from its inception had regarded plant genetic resources conservation as an important mandate. Dr Jose Vallega from Argentina, Sir Otto Frankel from Australia, Yerna Bennett from the United Kingdom, J.J. Hogs, from United Kingdom, all played an important part. I also happened to be member of those committees of FAO on plant genetic resources in the sixties and the late fifties. I must pay a tribute to Sir Otto Frankel, Yerna Bennett, Jose Vallega and all the others who participated. Even though originally people did not fully understand the importance of this work, they were working very hard at that time.

Then the third point is that, with the birth of the CGIAR in 1971, a new impetus was given particularly for *ex situ* conservation. You have already heard about that from Ms. Margaret Catley-Carlson and others. I happened to be the Vice Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee to the CGIAR in 1971 to 1977, Sir John Crawford of Australia was the Chairman. In the very first meeting I proposed that one of the initiatives of the CGIAR should be to set up an International Board for Plant Genetic Resources. I developed two proposals: one for a National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources for India, since I was the head of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research; and one for the international level. That proposal came through, over a period of time, and later on its name was changed to IPGRI and now Bioversity International. But it has played a very important role and Ms Margaret Catley Carlson has already mentioned the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the Svalbard International Seed Vault near the North Pole, set up by our Scandinavian colleagues.

Now, why is our Treaty very important? Apart from Farmers' Rights, the Multilateral System of exchange is, I think, the only way that two important purposes can be served: firstly, many developing countries can purchase time. You can purchase time, and time is very valuable, in terms of developing new varieties. Secondly, you can respond to emergencies. For example, a serious emergency is now threatening wheat, the UG 99 stem rust race coming from Uganda has now reached the Middle East. But there are resistant lines, it is all a matter of responding and exchanging genetic resources quickly. So, you can avoid emergencies and you can also purchase time – this is why the Multilateral System is important. We have no option except to produce more and more food from less land and with less water. That means you must improve productivity under Varro's principle of higher productivity without ecological harm. To illustrate the need, let me give you the pedigree of one of the new varieties of wheat, capable of about 10 tons per hectare. This particular wheat has a blend of Tetrastichon from Yugoslavia, Agrotriticum from Canada, Tetraploid Polonicum from Poland, Gigas from Israel, Moroccan wheat and wheats from India and Mexico and so on. It is a pyramiding of genes from a wide range of sources. This is possible only if you do not have a bureaucratic system of exchange, but a fairly fast system of exchange. This emphasizes the importance of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, enshrined in Articles 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

The fourth point I want to make is the ethics and equity in benefit-sharing, known as Farmers' Rights. This movement in FAO started in 1979, in Commission II, when I was chairing it. I requested that we must develop a method by which we create an economic stake in conservation. There is an economic interest in exploitation, but how do you create an economic stake in conservation? That means local people must have some recognition. Then came the whole series, the International Undertaking, the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, and finally the International Treaty where we are today. So, we have a framework now, a legal framework, both under the Convention on Biological Diversity and also under the International Treaty.

How do we go from the concept to the implementation? This is now my last point. We have a concept of Farmers' Rights, but how do you go for implementation? Some suggestions have already been made. This is also true for the Convention on Biological Diversity: Article 8(j) has to be implemented. There has been a series of dialogues, Keystone Dialogues, in which the Pioneer company has also participated. I must pay tribute to Pioneer, they were one of those, who supported very vigorously the concept of Farmers' Rights during the Keystone Dialogues and the CBD. The Marrakesh Agreement on the Establishment of the WTO asked all nations, either to have a *sui generis* system or the patent system in terms of protecting intellectual property in new plant varieties. For the 1996 Leipzig Conference we developed the proposal of an integrated legislation. A book is available in FAO, 1996 Leipzig, called "Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights". We thought farmers and breeders are a liaison that struggle for food security and livelihood security. Their rights should not be antagonistic, they must be mutually reinforcing - not one against the other, but both together. Unfortunately, only one country has so far implemented this, and that is my country. I am proud to say India is the only country which has a joint legislation for both breeder's rights and Farmer's Rights. I have got here a manual on Farmers' Rights, which I am going to give to Dr. Bhatti, how we

are implementing these Farmers' Rights in India so far. It is a learning experience, an uncharted territory. But the term "farmer" has been defined in our Act under three major roles: one is the cultivator of crops, feeder of the world; the other is conserver; the third is breeder. If you write legislation, it must address the multiple roles of the farmer, the farmer as the cultivator, the farmer as the conserver and the farmer as the breeder. And the breeder of course will have to conform to novelty, distinctiveness, uniformity and stability and so on. And what have we done to recognize and reward primary conservers? Many of them are women, most of them are women. In fact, we did two things: one is a Genome Saviour Award, in order to recognize the contributions of women and men, who have conserved plant material of great value. The first Genome Saviour Award was given in July this year, mostly to women from very tribal areas, or indigenous people as we call them. Then, there is a National Gene Fund.

Now, what is all this about? What does the Treaty mean? The Treaty means a paradigm shift from biopiracy to biohappiness. Biohappiness, coming from the sustainable and equitable use of all genetic resources. Otherwise, you will go on continuously accusing, 'somebody has taken my material, without giving credit'. This is the most important responsibility of all of you, how to generate the era of biohappiness, based upon the sustainable and equitable use of genetic resources. You have to provide very innovative instruments of helping farmers. For example in Orissa, which is a native home of rice, we are creating now a Biovalley. The Biovalley is to biotechnology what the Silicon Valley is to information technology. I have been requesting FAO to start a Biovalley in the Rift Valley of Africa, which is a mega-biodiverse area. That means you provide a lot of infrastructure to farmers to continue their *in situ* on farm conservation, use their genetic material sustainably, convert it into income and jobs. So what we need is not only some traditional methods of some reward and recognition, but innovative methods of stimulating and sustaining the conservation efforts for farming communities. They are the saviours of the world, we all live on this earth, I think when you eat your lunch, you will all remember this: we all live on this earth as the guests of the green plants, because they are the only ones which can use sun light, and of the farmers and farm women who cultivate them and feed us.

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

Opening Ceremony of the Second Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Rome, 29 October 2007

Speech of Mr Manfred Bötsch, State Secretary, Director General, Federal Office for Agriculture of Switzerland

International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture –
Chairman's report to the 2nd GB meeting of the IT-PGRFA

Dear Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

On the occasion of the first meeting of the Governing Body of the International Treaty, Switzerland and FAO announced the first International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. This Conference was held from 3 to 7 September in Interlaken in Switzerland. As the Chair of the Conference it is my privilege to report on its outcomes to the second meeting of the Governing Body. I do so in the context of our common efforts to maintain the vital heritage of biodiversity for food and agriculture and to achieve food security and sustainable development for all.

The Interlaken Conference was a resounding success. It was attended by delegations from 109 countries and by 42 organizations.

At the Conference, *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* prepared by FAO was launched. This country-driven report contains the first-ever authoritative global assessment of livestock biodiversity and will provide a basis for our efforts to promote the wise management of animal genetic resources for many years to come. It was prepared on the basis of 169 country reports, and inputs from international organisations and technical studies.

The main result of the Conference was the adoption of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*. The *Global Plan of Action* contains 23 strategic priorities, which address current and future challenges in the areas of characterisation, inventory and monitoring, sustainable use and development, and conservation of animal genetic resources. It also addresses the needs for policies, institutions and capacity building, at national level and through international cooperation.

- I. While the main responsibility for implementation rests with national governments, the *Global Plan of Action* calls upon governments of developed countries to “attach due attention, including funding, to the implementation of activities within the Strategic Priority Areas through bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation.” The Commission on Genetic resources is requested to develop a Funding Strategy and major multilateral and bilateral funding institutions were invited to examine contribution to support to the *Global Plan of Action*.

The *Global Plan of Action* was adopted through the *Interlaken Declaration*. The *Declaration* acknowledges that maintaining the diversity of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture is essential to enable farmers, pastoralists and animal breeders to meet current and future production challenges resulting from changes in the environment, including climate change; to enhance resistance to diseases and parasites; and to respond to changes in consumer demand for animal products. The *Declaration* recognizes the enormous contribution that local and indigenous communities and farmers, pastoralists and animal breeders have made and will continue to make for the sustainable use,

development and conservation of animal genetic resources. The *Declaration* notes the significant ongoing loss of livestock breeds and calls for prompt action to conserve animal breeds at risk, through the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*. Confirming their common and individual responsibilities in respect of conservation, sustainable use and development of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, the governments also recognize the interdependence of countries, regions and peoples regarding these resources. In the *Declaration* the governments recognize that the main responsibility for implementing the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* rests with national governments, and that they undertake to honour their commitments to taking the necessary steps to implement the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*, in accordance with their national capacities and resources.

The adoption of the *Global Plan of Action* and the *Interlaken Declaration* provide a major contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal 1: *eradication of extreme poverty and hunger*, and Goal 7: *ensure environmental sustainability*. It is a milestone for the livestock sector and a major building block in the development of a coherent international framework for the wise management of agricultural biodiversity.

As you are aware, neither animal nor plant genetic resources are managed in isolation. Farmers and livestock-keepers co-manage plants, animals and other genetic resources within agricultural landscapes, in order to provide the food and ecosystem services we all rely on. For instance, livestock depends on a diversity of forage crops & grassland species adapted to different environments, including mountain areas and dry lands, and vice versa. This essential feature of agricultural production requires that we adopt an ecosystems approach to the management of genetic resources and address cross-sectorial linkages.

Under the aegis of FAO, in particular through the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and, more recently, through the Governing Body of the International Treaty, our countries have been able to make great advances in our joint efforts to develop a coherent framework for the management of agricultural biodiversity. The seminal achievements in the area of plant genetic resources are now joined by the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*. Additionally, at its 11th Regular Session the Commission adopted a Multi-year Programme of Work, covering all components of genetic resources for food and agriculture, including the supporting components of the Treaty. The MYPOW will greatly facilitate the coordination of our work on the different components of agricultural biodiversity, benefiting the agricultural sector at large. The Interlaken Conference has invited the Commission to oversee the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* in the context of its MYPOW.

With the outcomes of the Interlaken Conference, we now have an opportunity to further develop the linkages between sectors and to embrace an ecosystems approach to genetic resources for food and agriculture: across and within the available instruments to further support sustainable agriculture. For example, the International Treaty and the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* re-enforce each other in the area of forage and grassland genetic resources.

The successful implementation of the *Global Plan of Action on Animal Genetic Resources* not only depends on the successful cooperation between animal and plant sectors. It hinges on the mobilization of adequate human and financial resources, in particular to assist developing and developed countries to develop and implement effective strategies to manage their domestic livestock diversity. The *Interlaken Declaration* calls for the support of all countries, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

Mr Chair, distinguished delegates,

The Governing Body may wish to welcome the *Global Plan of Action* and the *Interlaken Declaration* as important components of the overall international framework on agricultural biodiversity, and reiterate the essential role and value of genetic resources, including animal genetic resources, for food

and agriculture, in particular to achieve global food security and safeguard our natural resources for present and future generations;

The Governing Body may also wish to note the importance of the International Treaty for forage and grassland genetic resources, and thus for the successful implementation of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*.

In closing, I wish to invite you to a side-event presenting the outcome of the Interlaken Conference with a special focus on the linkage between the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and the International Treaty*. This side event, hosted by FAO and the Swiss Federal Office for agriculture will take place on Wednesday 31 October, at 1.00 pm in the Iran room.

Mr Chair, dear delegates,

Let me thank you for the opportunity to report on the Interlaken Conference and for your attention. I wish you full success in your work during this week.

Opening Ceremony of the Second Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Rome, 29 October 2007

Speech of Mr José M. Sumpsi Viñas, Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, FAO

On behalf of the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Dr Jacques Diouf, I am delighted to welcome you to the current Second Session. The International Treaty is entering its implementation stage and it is essential that the Treaty have the necessary financial contributions and political commitment from Contracting Parties.

I believe that the Treaty is highly beneficial to all countries. Some countries will provide unique plant genetic resources, while others will contribute technology and human and financial resources. By bringing together the contributions from developing and developed countries into the Multilateral System in fair and equitable manner the Treaty will significantly contribute to food security, now and in the future.

As you are aware, the Secretary has taken office only four months before this Governing Body session. I wish to welcome Dr Shakeel Bhatti as Secretary of the International Treaty and assure him and you of my full support throughout his work. With almost no staff and very scarce funding, Dr Bhatti was required to do a vast amount of work in his first few months and would like to thank him for the huge effort.

The Secretary has informed me that in the past eight months alone there have been almost 100,000 transfers of genetic material in the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing of the Treaty. While this is a spectacularly successful start-up of the System, it focused more in Access than in Benefit-sharing which in the long term should be one of the most powerful instruments of the Treaty's Funding Strategy. Moreover these transfers of genetic material are only transfers from International Agricultural Research Centres and the Secretary informs me that there is no reflection of Contracting Parties including material and taking active part in the System. Therefore, everything now depends on that all Contracting Parties will take an active part in the system and provide the necessary funding in the short term, human resources and policy guidance for the operation of the System and for the effective development of the Treaty provisions.

The implementation of the International Treaty is useful tool for contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, specifically of the Goal 1 (reduction of poverty and hunger) and Goal 8 (sustainable development). Besides this, facing the new challenges of climate change requests the preservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources in order to deal with future and unpredictable situations and again the complete implementation of the Treaty is the best way to do so.

Honourable Delegates, the crucial and hard task of this second session of the Governing Body is to lay the foundation for the practical operation of the two pillars of the International Treaty, namely the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing and the Funding Strategy of the Treaty. You will also have to decide on some complex legal and political issues, such as compliance procedures and measures in cases of non-compliance with the Treaty, the treatment of genetic material beyond Annex 1 of the Treaty and farmers right.

The coming two years will be a crucial period to show the usefulness and benefits of the Treaty and thus to ensure their survival and consolidation as a powerful mean for facing the new challenges and improving food security of the future generations. Whether the Treaty will be able to survive and be implemented in an effective way will depend on whether the Contracting Parties are willing to make

the necessary commitment to the International Treaty in the coming biennium- both in terms of financial resources and political commitment. On the part of FAO Management we will do our best to provide both technical and financial support to the implementation of the International Treaty. I strongly believe that International Treaty will be in the coming years a top priority for FAO and I hope that the next Conference will give us a clear message of this high priority in terms of budget allocation.

I would like to conclude with an expression of gratitude for Mr Bhatti, the Secretary of the International Treaty, and their small team, the AGP Division and the Commission of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, for their support to the preparation of this second session of the Governing Body of International Treaty.

I thank you for your attention and wish you best of success for your important deliberations this week.

*APPENDIX C***CONTRACTING STATES AND CONTRACTING PARTIES,
AS OF 29 OCTOBER 2007**

Afghanistan	Côte d'Ivoire	Guatemala
Algeria	Cuba	Guinea
Angola	Cyprus	Guinea-Bissau
Armenia	Czech Republic	Honduras
Australia	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Hungary
Austria	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Iceland
Bangladesh	Denmark	India
Belgium	Djibouti	Indonesia
Benin	Ecuador	Iran, Islamic Republic of
Bhutan	Egypt	Ireland
Brazil	El Salvador	Italy
Bulgaria	Eritrea	Jamaica
Burkina Faso	Estonia	Jordan
Burundi	Ethiopia	Kenya
Cambodia	European Community	Kiribati
Cameroon	Finland	Kuwait
Canada	France	Latvia
Central African Republic	Gabon	Lao
Chad	Germany	Lebanon
Cook Islands	Ghana	Lesotho
Congo (Republic of)	Greece	Liberia
Costa Rica		Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Lithuania
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Mali
Maldives
Mauritania
Mauritius
Morocco
Myanmar
Namibia
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Niger
Norway
Oman
Pakistan

Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Saint Lucia
Samoa
Sao Tome and Principe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Slovenia
Spain
Sudan
Sweden

Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United Republic of Tanzania
Uruguay
Venezuela
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

APPENDIX D
FUNDING STRATEGY
Annexes 1 to 3

APPENDIX D.1

DRAFT PRIORITIES

Annex 1 addresses Priorities for the Use of Resources under the Funding Strategy. In what follows, the *Ad hoc* Committee, as requested in Resolution 1/2006, paragraph 15, presents draft priorities for the allocation of funds under the direct control of the Governing Body, for the consideration of the Governing Body.

Taking the rolling Global Plan of Action as a framework, the Governing Body will use the funds at its disposal in the benefit-sharing fund strategically, to play a catalytic role in international cooperation in the area of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. It will:

1. Lay the basis for the coherent development of the Funding Strategy.
2. Augment its impact, improve its visibility, and increase transparency in the project selection process.
3. Focus on critical conservation and sustainable use activities in developing countries not adequately funded elsewhere.
4. Avoid duplication of work and take advantage of synergies, including synergies that mobilize greater resources in the overall Funding Strategy.
5. Develop its funding strategy in such a way as to attract voluntary contributions to the benefit-sharing fund.

Within the priority areas of the Global Plan of Action, the Governing Body will focus on achieving benefits, in a staged process, in the pressing priority areas, identified for a limited period of time. The next iteration of the rolling Global Plan of Action will be important in the identification of future priorities. Based on consultations with Contracting Parties, the initial priorities will be:

1. Information exchange, technology transfer and capacity-building (reflecting Global Plan of Action priority activities 15 and 19),
 - a. *Building strong national programmes is essential for capacity-building in developing countries and furthering the implementation of the Treaty. It is a prerequisite for sustainability of efforts to strengthen and develop national capacities in the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.*
 - b. *Expanding and improving education and training in developing countries is a sine qua non, in order to build capacity. Education and training is a long-lasting investment in the sustainable management of the diversity of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in developing countries.*

2. Managing and conserving plant genetic resources on farm (reflecting Global Plan of Action priority activity 2);
 - a. *Supporting on-farm management and conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture is the most direct way of reaching farmers, indigenous and local communities in developing countries to whom benefits should flow. It forms a strong contribution to the maintenance of on-farm diversity of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Only by strengthening these efforts can on-farm management of diversity complement ex situ conservation.*

3. The sustainable use of plant genetic resources (reflecting Global Plan of Action priority activities 9, 10, and 11);
 - a. *Expanding the characterization and evaluation of collections is necessary to promote and facilitate their use. More complete characterization and evaluation will increase the relevance of germplasm held ex situ and on farm for breeding.*
 - b. *Diversification of crop production, genetic enhancement and broadening the genetic base of crops will directly contribute to increasing the sustainability of agricultural production. This will lessen dependence on external inputs, increase productivity, and respond to the challenge of climate change.*

APPENDIX D.2

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE USE OF RESOURCES UNDER THE DIRECT
CONTROL OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

Projects must:

1. Meet the objectives of the International Treaty.
2. Fall within the priorities that will, from time to time, be established by the Governing Body.
3. Benefit Contracting Parties that are developing countries.
4. Be presented through the Contracting Party or Parties concerned.

APPENDIX D.3

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR THE USE OF RESOURCES UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF THE GOVERNING BODY

This *Annex* contains Principles, Project Cycle and Selection Criteria.

I. Principles

These operational procedures are based on the following principles:

1. Transparency and impartiality.
2. Simplicity and accessibility.
3. Efficiency and effectiveness.

II. Project Cycle

The project cycle (the period between the meetings of the Governing Body) will normally have a duration of two years and consist of:

1. Opening a call for proposals
 - a. issued by the Governing Body, in the official languages of the Treaty, and containing relevant information and procedures – priority areas;¹⁸ concept note and project documents format; eligibility, selection and approval criteria; timing and deadlines; expected funds available;
 - b. advertisement on the Treaty website and through the national focal points;
 - c. responsibility: prepared by the secretariat, under the guidance of the Bureau, and implemented on the decision of the Governing Body.
2. Submission of pre-proposals
 - a. in any of the Treaty languages plus a translation in either English, French or Spanish;
 - b. according to an agreed format and within agreed deadlines;
 - c. target: 2-3 pages;
 - d. addressing the selection criteria;
 - e. responsibility: Contracting Parties or legal or natural persons, in consultation with the Contracting Party or Contracting Parties in question. The formal submission should be by Contracting Party or Parties in question to the Secretary of the Governing Body;
3. Screening and response to pre-proposals
 - a. according to eligibility criteria;
 - b. according to other relevant criteria established as part of the call for proposals, e.g. budget parameters;
 - c. response to be provided within agreed timelines;
 - d. responsibility: Bureau, on the basis of preparatory work by the Secretariat. The Bureau might work through email, and make its final decisions in a regular meeting.

¹⁸ *The Governing Body may wish to address the following issues: whether moneys under the direct control of the Governing Body should, where applicable, only be applied to Annex 1 Crops; whether the germplasm resulting from projects funded by the Governing Body should be made available according to the terms and conditions of the Multilateral System.*

4. Submission of project proposals from approved pre-proposals
 - a. in any of the Treaty languages plus a translation in either English, French or Spanish;
 - b. according to an agreed format for project documents and within agreed deadlines
 - c. addressing the selection criteria;
 - d. recipient and channels of payment will be identified;
 - e. Contracting Parties to be responsible for making submissions;
 - f. list of submissions to be made public;
 - g. responsibility: Contracting Parties or legal or natural persons, in consultation with the Contracting Party or Contracting Parties in question. The formal submission should be by Contracting Party or Parties in question to the Secretary of the Governing Body.
5. Appraisal of project proposals
 - a. ranking of project proposals according to selection criteria;
 - b. portfolio of project proposals meeting the requirements prepared for approval within agreed deadlines;
 - c. portfolio to be made public;
 - d. responsibility: Bureau, on the basis of recommendations by a panel of experts designated by the Bureau in consultation with their Regions. The panel of experts will work without remuneration with resources provided under the core administrative budget for any meeting necessary.
6. Approval of projects for funding within the project cycle
 - a. according to the funds at the disposal of the Governing Body in that project cycle;
 - b. according to other possible considerations, such as geographical balance and relative regional needs, distribution across crops, types of activities (e.g. capacity-building and training, conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture), the duration of the Project;
 - c. projects not fundable within that year will be presented to donors for possible funding, or may be re-submitted in the following budgetary period;
 - d. responsibility: Governing Body, or, if delegated¹⁹, the Bureau.
7. Disbursement
 - a. transparent and secure procedures necessary;
 - b. responsibility: Secretary, according to procedures to be approved by the Governing Body.
8. Reporting and monitoring
 - a. use of standard reporting and monitoring procedures;
 - b. recipients will report according to a reporting schedule in the project document, and will assess progress at milestones identified in the project document;
 - c. further development of the monitoring procedures can be found in *Appendix II* to the document;
 - d. responsibility for project monitoring: The executing entity develops the monitoring products and deposits them with the Secretary, according to procedures to be approved by the Governing Body.
9. Independent Evaluation
 - a. use of standard evaluation procedures based on norms and standards of the United Nations Evaluation Group;

¹⁹ *The Governing Body may wish to delegate the possibility to approve projects between sessions, within an agreed ceiling and up to a limited percentage of the total budget available in the project cycle, and under which circumstances.*

- b. evaluation of the sustainable effects and impacts of projects or groups of projects, providing accountability on results and aiming at facilitating the further development of the Funding Strategy;
- c. evaluation of the components of the Funding Strategy addressed under this annex will be periodically commissioned by the Governing Body;
- d. responsibility for evaluation: the Governing Body.

III. Selection Criteria

1. Project relevance.
 - a. Are the priorities of the Funding Strategy and the strategic principles and priorities established by the Governing Body for the allocation of funds at its disposal clearly incorporated and represented in the proposed goals and expected outputs of the proposal?
 - b. Is the project contributing to a rational global conservation system? Is the project contributing to the Millennium Development Goals, in particular goals 1 and 7?
 - c. What is the relevance of the project to a country's or region's priorities in its plans and programmes for PGRFA? What information is available on such priorities?
 - d. Does the project duplicate activities already carried out or underway? Does the project complement activities already carried out or underway?
2. Feasibility
 - a. Is the proposed activity feasible in terms of resources and timing? In particular, is the budget adequate to fully cover the proposed activities and produce the expected results?
3. Effectiveness and efficiency
 - a. Are the anticipated project costs warranted against the expected project results and benefits?
 - b. Are the types of activities most effective towards achieving the project's net results, its outcome and impact?
4. Benefits and beneficiaries.
 - a. Who are the immediate beneficiaries?
 - b. Will the results of the proposed project, directly or indirectly, reach the proposed beneficiaries?
 - c. What is the potential contribution of the project to economic development?
5. Team composition and capacity.
 - a. Can the capacity of the team be considered sufficient? Does the team include partners with different disciplines?
 - b. Does the project proposal foresee use of available local expertise?
6. Collaboration.
 - a. What is the extent of collaboration promoted by the project proposal?
 - b. How does this collaboration contribute to the effectiveness and efficiency of the project?
 - c. Is there counterpart funding or input in kind by the applicant?
7. Planning and Monitoring.
 - a. Have proper milestones and indicators been incorporated in the project proposal?

-
- b. Does the proposal indicate how project progress will be monitored and its impact assessed?
 - c. To what extent is the expected positive impact measurable?
 8. Sustainability.
 - a. How sustainable are the activities and beneficial changes introduced by the project?
 - b. Is technology transfer and capacity building realized?
 - c. Has a training component been incorporated?
 9. Geographic extension.
 - a. How wide is the geographic scope and impact of the proposed project?
 - b. What is the global and/or regional importance of the project in achieving the objectives of the Treaty?
 10. Crop relevance.
 - a. What is the contribution of the crop or crops, for which activities are proposed, to global or regional food security and sustainable utilization?
 - b. What is the relevance of the crop or crops, for which activities are proposed, to the quality and diversity of the human diet or animal feed?
 - c. What is the contribution of the proposed project to conservation and utilization of the crop's or crops' gene pool?
 - d. Is the project addressing the conservation and/or utilization of a crop in one of its centres of diversity?
 - e. To what extent is the gene pool covered by the proposed project activities threatened at a national, regional or global level

APPENDIX D.4

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE *AD HOC* ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE FUNDING STRATEGY

The Committee will conduct its work based on relevant provisions of the Treaty and the following terms of reference:

1. The Committee will consist of representatives of Contracting Parties with up to two representatives nominated by each of the FAO regions.
2. The Committee will develop a strategic plan for the implementation of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty, in particular appropriate mechanisms for its operationalization and a fund-raising strategy, including the option of the involvement of a professional fund raiser, for the funds under the control of the Governing Body.
3. The Committee will refer, for its work, to resolution 1/2006 and the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the First Session of the Governing Body, and to the relevant activities and information contained in working document IT/GB-2/07/08, in particular the possible activities and measures for the implementation of the Funding Strategy contained in the *Annex* of that document.
4. The Committee will present estimates of the costs of any activities that will be included in the strategic plan.
5. The Committee will also elaborate *Annex 4* of the Funding Strategy (Information and Reporting Requirements).
6. The Committee will report on the progress of its work to the Bureau of the Governing Body and will present the results of its work in the next session of the Governing Body.

APPENDIX E

Draft**JOINT STATEMENT OF INTENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

Whereas the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (“the Treaty”) has as its objectives the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use,

Whereas the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (“the Commission”) is FAO’s inter-governmental statutory body addressing biodiversity for food and agriculture, with an internationally acknowledged competence in facilitating negotiations by governments of international instruments on aspects of biological diversity of relevance to food and agriculture,

Whereas the Commission facilitates and oversees cooperation between FAO and other international governmental and non-governmental bodies dealing with the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources, and seeks to develop appropriate mechanisms for cooperation and coordination in consultation with them,

Whereas the Governing Body establishes and maintains cooperation with relevant international organizations and treaty bodies, on matters covered by the Treaty, including their participation in the funding strategy,

Whereas the Commission keeps under continuous review all matters relating to the policy, programmes and activities of FAO in the area of genetic resources of relevance to food and agriculture, including their conservation and sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their utilization,

Whereas the Commission has developed and oversees a Global System on Plant Genetic Resources that includes a number of supporting components of the Treaty, in particular *The State of the World’s Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*,

Whereas the Treaty provides for a funding strategy for priority activities, plans and programmes, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, taking into account the *Global Plan of Action*,

Whereas the Treaty provides that Contracting Parties shall cooperate with the Commission in its periodic reassessment of the state of the world’s plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in order to facilitate the updating of the *Global Plan of Action*,

Whereas the Treaty provides that sessions of its Governing Body shall, as far as possible, be held back-to-back with regular sessions of the Commission,

The Governing Body of the Treaty [and the Commission]²⁰ intend[s] to cooperate as follows:

1. The Chairs of the one body will be invited to participate in sessions of the other body, when matters of common interest are being considered.
2. The Chairs of either body may request an item to be put on the draft provisional agenda of the other body.
3. The Chairs and, as necessary, the Bureaus of the two bodies will maintain contact between sessions, in order to promote synergy in the implementation of the programmes of work of the two bodies. By mutual agreement, the Bureaus may meet jointly to address matters of common interest.
4. The Secretary of the Commission will report regularly to sessions of the Treaty on the implementation of relevant components of the Commission's Multi-year Programme of Work, in particular regarding the supporting components of the Treaty that are under its aegis, including *The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and the *Global Plan of Action*.
5. Recognizing the importance that the Treaty gives to the *Global Plan of Action*, in the development and implementation of the Treaty's funding strategy, the Commission will consider comments, suggestions or requests from the Governing Body in relation to the updating and to the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*.

The Secretariats of the Governing Body of the Treaty [and the Commission] will cooperate as follows:

1. The Secretariats will meet regularly, in order to keep each other informed of relevant developments, to seek synergy and efficiency, and to promote coherence in the development and implementation of their respective programmes of work.
2. They will cooperate, as appropriate, in the preparation and management of meetings of the Commission and the Treaty.
3. They will consult each other in the development of relevant documents for meetings of their respective bodies, and any subsidiary processes.
4. Where relevant, they will coordinate fund-raising activities, and may develop joint projects and jointly seek donor support, as appropriate, including in the context of the Treaty's funding strategy.
5. They will endeavour to coordinate their participation in meetings of relevant international processes and bodies, such as in the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Trade Organization.

²⁰ Following acceptance of this draft joint statement by the Commission, the brackets in this text will be deleted

APPENDIX F

CORE ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE			
	2008	2009	Total
A. Secretariat Staff and Consultancy Costs			
-Module A	914 954	829 412	1 744 366
-Module B	50 000	229 466	279 466
-Module C	0	0	0
-Module D	589 866	720 948	1 310 814
Sub-total	1 554 820	1 779 826	3 334 646
B. Meetings			
Third Session of the Governing Body	-	630 000	630 000
Bureau Meetings (3)	24 000	12 000	36 000
Information Technology Consultations (3)	25 000	50 000	75 000
Third Party Beneficiary Committee (1)	0	25 000	25 000
Capacity-building Coordination Mechanism (2)	12 000	12 000	24 000
Sub-total	61 000	729 000	790 000
C. Other Costs			
Core staff duty travel	92 667	155 333	248 000
Publications	25 000	25 000	50 000
Supplies and equipment	40 000	29 000	69 000
Sub-total	157 667	209 333	367 000
D. General Operating Expenses (4% of A+B+C)	70 939	108 726	179 666
E. Operating Budget (A+B+C+D)	1 844 426	2 826 885	4 671 312
F. Project Servicing Costs (13% of E less FAO Contribution)	135 320	263 040	398 361
G. Core Administrative Budget before Working Capital Reserve (E+F)	1 979 747	3 089 925	5 069 672
H. Working Capital Reserve (10% of G less FAO Contribution)	117 625	228 643	346 267
I. Core Administrative Budget after Working Capital Reserve (G+H)	2 097 372	3 318 568	5 415 940
FAO Contribution (PE 2AP03)	803 500	803 500	1 607 000
Balance to be funded	1 293 872	2 515 068	3 808 940

Secretariat Staffing Table

Staff agreed for the Biennium 2006-07
D1
P5
P4
P3
P3
G5
G4
G3

Additional Staff agreed for the Biennium 2008-09
½ P4
P3

CLOSING CEREMONY

APPENDIX G**Closing statement by Mr Ahmed Djoghla
Executive Secretary
Convention on Biological Diversity**

Mr President,
Mr Director General of FAO,
Mr Executive Secretary,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was approved in 2001, major achievements have been made – advances that each one of you has contributed to in some way. I am honoured to be with you this afternoon to salute these achievements and your hard-work throughout this Second Session of the Governing Body. As stipulated in the text of the Treaty itself, the conservation and the sustainable use of plant genetic resources will be attained by closely linking the Treaty to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Your work supports that of the Convention on Biological Diversity; your accomplishments help strengthen our mandate and move both Treaty and Convention further along the path to full implementation. For that I thank you.

While there are many groups that have supported the development and implementation of the Treaty, I would like to pay tribute to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in particular to its Director-General Mr. Jacques Diouf, for his commitment and efforts to bring the Treaty to existence. Since its inception, the Food and Agriculture Organization has worked to alleviate poverty and hunger by promoting agricultural development, improved nutrition and the pursuit of food security. The birth of the Treaty and its operationalization is another tremendous contribution to this mission.

The Treaty is vital to ensuring the continued availability of the plant genetic resources that countries will need to feed their people. Biological diversity is essential for the development of crop varieties and the breeding of domesticated livestock, as well as supporting agricultural production through pollinators, soil organisms and the natural enemies of crop, pests. The Convention on Biological Diversity recognizes the Treaty's contribution to the implementation of the Programme of Work on Agriculture. The Convention also welcomes the Treaty's contribution to the cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition which aims to promote the sustainable use of biodiversity in programmes contributing to food security and improved human nutrition. Efforts to link biodiversity, food and nutrition issues are expected to contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Target 2 of Goal 1 - to reduce by half, by 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

Through the conservation of plant genetic resources, the Treaty also supports the Convention's Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, in particular target 9. Plants are universally recognized as a vital part of the world's biological diversity and an essential resource for the planet.

I wish to note the important contribution of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, which is an essential element of the funding strategy with regards to the *ex-situ* conservation and availability of plant genetic resources. The Global Crop Diversity Trust surely contributed to the success of the Treaty.

In a speech at a World Food Day ceremony in Rome, Mr. Diouf, you said that "Preserving biodiversity should be a joint effort involving farmers, commercial plant breeders and the scientific community". Likewise, we are also combining our efforts, to secure the conservation and sustainable utilization of the world's agricultural genetic diversity while ensuring that these resources remain available to all. As I already mentioned, the synergies between the Treaty, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the Convention on Biological Diversity are all vital to the programme of work of each group. One specific example of this mutual reinforcement is Article 9 of the Treaty and the comparable Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Both underscore the role of indigenous and local communities and farmers all over the world in the protection of traditional knowledge, and the fact that their right to participate equitably in benefit-sharing and in national decision-making is crucial for the conservation of plant genetic diversity.

Moreover, in 2002, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in Johannesburg, World Leaders called for action to negotiate, within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. As you will be aware, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention followed up on this request and mandated one of its subsidiary bodies to carry out and finalize this negotiation as soon as possible and no later than 2010. In this connection, it should be noted that the Conference of the Parties recognizes the important contribution of the Treaty in this negotiation. According to many observers, the Treaty could constitute an important component of the future international regime. I think the lessons learned from the operationalization of the Treaty are essential and can benefit the process of elaborating the new international regime.

In this regards, I want to congratulate the Governing Body of the Treaty for the progress made on compliance. As a truly modern answer to access and benefit-sharing, I am very pleased to see that the Treaty counts at this time 115 Parties, around 370 Standard Material Transfer Agreements, which together amount to approximately 40,000 plant samples. This is a testament not only of the operational success of the Treaty but also of global commitment to sustainable development. It is a commonly accepted fact that resilience and ability of ecosystems, including agricultural ones, to adapt is enhanced by high levels of biodiversity. Thus, bearing in mind the anticipated, yet not wholly predictable, impacts of climate change, the Standard Material Transfer Agreements are a vital step toward the conservation of plant genetic resources and, ultimately, future food security.

Additional congruencies are seen in each other's efforts to achieve the 2010 Biodiversity Target. I am very pleased to announce that next year's celebration of the International Day on Biodiversity under the theme of "Agriculture and Biodiversity" will be jointly celebrated with FAO, in Bonn, on 22 May. It will be the first time that such an event will be jointly celebrated with a sister agency and it will also be the first time that such an event will be celebrated during the proceeding of a conference of the Parties which will be held with the participation of Heads of State and Governments. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Treaty will also have a major contribution to make during the celebration in 2010 of the International Year on Biodiversity which will coincide with the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which the city of Nagoya, Japan, has offered to host.

Without biodiversity, food and agriculture cannot meet the needs of populations worldwide, and conversely, without adequate food and agricultural resources, populations will over-harvest wild resources and compromise not only biodiversity, but their own well-being as well. While our organizations cannot solve these problems independently, and each individual must do their part, together we can provide the leadership essential to reducing biodiversity loss.

Thus, continued cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity is important not only for the success of each organization's programme of work, but for the synergism these create together. Let us keep in mind, as Dante Alighieri said, that "from a little spark may burst a flame". May our organizations be these sparks, and our combined efforts the flames which will provide for human well-being.

The expected increased negative impact of climate change on agriculture and the recent increase in price of major cereals, as highlighted by the World Food Day celebrated early this month by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations highlight the need to enhance the cooperation between our two sister agencies. In this regard, I would like to pay tribute to Mr Jacques Diouf for his decision to second a staff member of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as for hosting, for the first time in the history of the Convention, the next meeting of the scientific subsidiary body of the Convention here in Rome, in February 2008, which will review the programme of work on forests and agriculture.

On behalf of the staff of the Secretariat of the Convention and the 190 Parties to the Convention, let me tell you, Mr Director-General, thank you and let me also congratulate again the Secretary of the Governing Body, Mr. Dr Shakeel Bhatti, for his latest appointment and reaffirm the commitment of the Secretariat of the Convention to work in harmony with the Treaty and his host organization.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Closing Statement by Mr Jacques Diouf
Director-General
Food and Agriculture Organization

Mesdames et Messieurs les Délégués,

Excellences,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

C'est avec un grand plaisir que je suis parmi vous aujourd'hui pour cette cérémonie de clôture de la deuxième session de l'Organe directeur du Traité international sur les ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Toutefois, si vous me le permettez, plutôt que de me lancer dans un exercice de célébration, habituel à l'issue d'une réunion comme celle-ci, je souhaiterais vous proposer plutôt un discours d'ouverture.

Je suis très fier que le Traité, et le secteur agricole et alimentaire qu'il représente, ait construit un mécanisme concret d'accès et de partage des avantages. C'est le seul accord global à ce jour, à y être parvenu. Il ne tient qu'à vous maintenant qu'il devienne effectif et de faire du Traité un élément central de la gouvernance internationale des ressources génétiques.

A ce moment de son existence, le Traité entre dans sa phase d'opérationnalisation qui marque en réalité le commencement de votre travail. Parvenir à un accord a indéniablement été un gros effort mais ce qui vous attend va en exiger sans aucun doute encore davantage.

Ces efforts seront nécessaires pour faire que ce Traité fonctionne et remplisse les objectifs ambitieux qu'il s'est fixé et je suis sûr que vous, membres de l'Organe directeur, saurez tout mettre en oeuvre pour cela.

Vous savez bien, le vrai pouvoir décisionnaire n'appartient pas à ceux qui rédigent la Loi mais à ceux qui l'interprètent et l'appliquent. En cela, le travail qu'il reste à accomplir est immense et nécessitera encore sans doute d'importants engagements de votre part, d'importants efforts, d'importants compromis pour rendre effectif ce qui a été mis sur le papier.

Le Traité doit établir en effet un ensemble de procédures fonctionnelles pour permettre de réguler efficacement des milliers de transactions quotidiennes entre un nombre élevé de pays aux systèmes administratifs et juridiques distincts, utilisant des langues différentes et faisant intervenir une grande diversité d'acteurs et d'institutions.

Déjà, pour les seuls sept premiers mois de l'année 2007, plus de 90 000 transactions dans le cadre du système multilatéral ont été répertoriées.

Cela illustre le fait que le Traité est déjà entré dans sa phase de démarrage et que celui-ci est très rapide. Un tel démarrage est encourageant et significatif du fait que le Traité répond à une demande réelle de la part des utilisateurs du système. Je sais que vous saurez donner l'impulsion nécessaire à cette phase et que vous saurez continuer à répondre à cette demande qui ne va cesser de croître. Et c'est du devoir du secrétariat de vous aider à accomplir cette tâche. Et c'est de mon devoir de lui apporter tout le soutien nécessaire et de créer l'environnement le plus favorable pour qu'il puisse accomplir au mieux cette importante mission.

J'ai récemment procédé au recrutement du premier secrétaire du Traité international, Monsieur Shakeel Bhatti, et je suis heureux de vous dire que vous avez la chance, pour cette période de démarrage et de mise en oeuvre du Traité, de pouvoir compter sur un nouveau secrétariat, jeune, dynamique et compétent.

Mais c'est à vous, membre de l'Organe directeur, de mettre le Traité en œuvre dans cette période cruciale. Pour cela :

- *il est essentiel* d'apporter dès maintenant les ressources financières et l'appui nécessaire,
- *il est essentiel* d'assurer la cohérence dans la mise en œuvre opérationnelle au niveau international et national sous la direction de vous, membres de l'organe directeur et de son secrétariat.
- *il est essentiel* d'inclure dès maintenant toutes les ressources génétiques concernées dans le système multilatéral.
- *il est essentiel* d'apporter l'appui nécessaire aux pays en développement pour qu'ils puissent prendre une part active au système multilatéral d'accès et de partage des avantages.

A travers son système multilatéral couvrant un large ensemble d'espèces agricoles et fourragères indispensable à la sécurité alimentaire, le Traité constitue en effet un outil novateur qui permet de répondre simultanément à de nombreux objectifs globaux cruciaux pour notre planète :

- la sécurité alimentaire dans un environnement évoluant de plus en vite sous la pression du changement climatique,
- le développement des agricultures du monde du fait d'une plus grande équité dans les échanges internationaux et de la reconnaissance du droit des agriculteurs,
- la lutte contre l'érosion de la diversité génétique,

L'interdépendance entre les pays ne va cesser d'augmenter du fait de l'importance accrue de ces défis planétaires tels que le changement climatique. Il est indispensable, pour y faire face, d'assurer l'opérationnalisation du système multilatéral. Je vous assure que je suivrai attentivement, avec le Secrétaire, les progrès réalisés et que la FAO mettra les efforts nécessaires pour contribuer à son succès.

Excellences,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Je voudrais remercier les États qui ont envoyé des représentants, et leur souhaiter d'œuvrer à leur niveau, pour continuer à bâtir sur l'important acquis que constitue ce nouveau Traité.

APPENDIX H

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working Documents

IT/GB-2/07/1	Draft Provisional Agenda
IT/GB-2/07/2	Draft Provisional Annotated Agenda and Time-table
IT/GB-2/07/3	Report of the Credentials Committee
IT/GB-2/07/4	Report of the Chair
IT/GB-2/07/5	Report by the Secretary
IT/GB-2/07/6	Financial Rules of the Governing Body
IT/GB-2/07/7	Report of the Chair of the <i>Ad Hoc</i> Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy: <i>Annexes 1, 2 and 3</i> of the Funding Strategy
IT/GB-2/07/8	Implementation of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty
IT/GB-2/07/9	Compilation and analysis of submissions by Contracting Parties and other relevant organizations concerning the implementation of the Funding Strategy
IT/GB-2/07/10	Report from the Global Crop Diversity Trust
IT/GB-2/07/11	Progress in the inclusion of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the Multilateral System
IT/GB-2/07/12	Draft Procedures for the Third Party Beneficiary
IT/GB-2/07/13.1	Consideration of the Material Transfer Agreement to be used by the International Agricultural Research Centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other relevant international institutions, for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture not included in <i>Annex I</i> of the Treaty
IT/GB-2/07/14	Draft procedures and operational mechanisms to promote compliance and to address issues of non-compliance
IT/GB-2/07/15	Compilation and analysis of submissions by Contracting Parties and other relevant organizations concerning the implementation of Article 6
IT/GB-2/07/16	Joint report by the Secretary of the Governing Body and the Secretary of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on matters concerning the relationship between the Governing Body and the Commission

IT/GB-2/07/17	Report on the status of cooperation with other international organizations, including Agreements between the Governing Body and the International Agricultural Research Centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other relevant international institutions
IT/GB-2/07/18	Possible establishment of a permanent Technical Advisory Committee
IT/GB-2/07/19	Report on progress of Programme of Work and Budget, 2006/7 and on actions taken by the Secretariat regarding decisions of the First Session of the Governing Body
IT/GB-2/07/20	Draft Programme of Work and Budget for the 2008/9 Biennium

Information Documents

IT/GB-2/07/Inf.1	List of documents
IT/GB-2/07/Inf.2	Delegates' Handbook
IT/GB-2/07/Inf.3	Draft Provisional List of Participants
IT/GB-2/07/Inf.4	Technology support for the implementation of the Multilateral System
IT/GB-2/07/Inf.5	Compilation and analysis of submissions made by Contracting Parties and observers on compliance.
IT/GB-2/07/Inf.6	The development of Farmers' Rights in the context of the International Undertaking and Article 9
IT/GB-2/07/Inf.7	Activities related to the supporting components of the Treaty
IT/GB-2/07/Inf.8	Information received from relevant organizations concerning the implementation of Article 6. Contribution from the IARCs of the CGIAR
IT/GB-2/07/Inf.8.1	Information received from relevant organizations concerning the implementation of Article 6. Contribution from FAO
IT/GB-2/07/Inf.9	Report by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) on its activities to support the implementation of the Funding Strategy of the Treaty
IT/GB-2/07/Inf.10	Statement of competence and voting rights submitted by the European Community (EC) and its member states
IT/GB-2/07/Inf.11	Experience of the centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) with the implementation of the agreements with the Governing Body, with particular reference to the Standard Material Transfer Agreement
IT/GB-2/07/Inf.12	List of observers who have requested approval to be represented at the Second Session of the Governing Body

IT/GB-1/06/Inf.7 (From the First Session of the Governing Body) Compilation of submissions and comments on the draft procedures and mechanisms to promote compliance and to address issues of non-compliance

Other Documents

Available, upon request, at the Documents Desk

Reports of previous meetings

GB-1/06/REPORT Report of the First Session of Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Background Study papers

Background Study Paper No. 29 (English only) Report on the Types of Funding and Assistance and Institutions with Relevant Mandates to the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Background Study Paper No. 31 (English only) Policy and criteria for the Funding Strategy for the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Other documents

CGRFA/IC/Inf.1 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties
Section 3: Interpretation of Treaties

Documents circulated at the request of Contracting Parties

IT/GB-2/07/Circ.1 (English only) Implementation of Article 9 of the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Farmers Rights. Submission by Norway and Zambia

APPENDIX I

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LIST DES PARTICIPANTS
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES**

Chair: Mr Godfrey MWILA

Président: (Zambia)

Presidente:

Vice-Chairs: Mr Sugiono MOELJOPAWIRO

Vice-présidents: (Indonesia)

Vicepresidentes:

Ms Anna SOMERVILLE

(Australia)

Mr Campbell DAVIDSON

(Canada)

Mr Modesto FERNANDEZ DIAZ-SILVEIRA

(Cuba)

Ms Hanaiya EL ITRIBY

(Egypt)

Mr François PYTHOUD

(Switzerland)

Rapporteur

Mr Campbell DAVIDSON

(Canada)

**CONTRACTING PARTIES
PARTIES CONTRACTANTES
PARTES CONTRATANTES**

AFGHANISTAN - AFGANISTÁN

Delegate

Mr Mohammad Aziz OSMANZAI
National Focal Point for the International
Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food
and Agriculture
Director
Agriculture Research Institute of
Afghanistan (ARIA)
Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and
Livestock
Karta-e Sakhi
Kabul
Phone: +93 20 700207045
Email: aosmanzai@yahoo.com

ALGERIA - ALGÉRIE - ARGELIA

Délégué

M Salah CHOUAKI
Chargé de recherche et responsable
Groupe Institutionnel Scientifique et
Technique sur les Ressources
Phytogénétiques pour l'Alimentation et
l'Agriculture
Institut National de la Recherche
Agronomique (INRAA)
Algiers
Phone: +213 71 372657
Fax: +213 21 521283
Email: chouaki_salah@yahoo.fr

ANGOLA

Délégué

Mme Elizabeth MATOS
Président
Comité national des ressources
phytogénétiques
Prédio CNIC-U.A.N.
Av. Revolução de Outubro
10043 (BG) Luanda
Phone: +244 222 325673 - 321688
Email: cnrf@ebonet.net;
fitogen@ebonet.net

Suppléant(s)

M Carlos Alberto AMARAL
Conseiller
Représentant permanent suppléant auprès
de la FAO
Ambassade de la République d'Angola
Via Druso, 39
00184 Rome
Italie
Phone: +39 0677254299
Fax: +39 06772695241 - 0677590009
Email: carlosamaral@tiscalinnet.it

ARMENIA - ARMÉNIE

Delegate

Mr Zohrab V. MALEK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation of the Republic
of Armenia to FAO
Via Camillo Sabatini 102
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 065201924
Fax: +39 065201924
Email: armambfao@virgilio.it

Alternate(s)

Ms Alvina AVAGYAN
Food Security Programme
Ministry of Agriculture
Government Building 3, Room 125
Republic Square
375010 Yerevan
Phone: +374 10 565746 - 521864 - 545740
Fax: +374 10 565746 - 521864 - 545740
Email: fspmoa@xter.net; alvinaav@mail.ru

AUSTRALIA - AUSTRALIE

Delegate

Ms Anna SOMERVILLE
Manager
Trade and Environment International
Division
Australian Government Department of
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
Phone: +39 61 26272 4504
Fax: +39 61 26272 4600
Email: anna.somerville@daff.gov.au

Alternate(s)

Ms Judy V. BARFIELD
Counsellor Agriculture
Alternate Permanent Representative to
FAO
Embassy of Australia
Via Antonio Bosio, 5
00161 Rome
Italy
Phone: +61 2 6272 4504
Fax: +61 26272 4600
Email: judy.barfield@dfat.gov.au

AUSTRIA - AUTRICHE

Delegate

Mr Johannes KRESBACH
Officer for FAO and OECD Affairs
Division III/3
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry,
Environment and Water Management
Stubenring 1
1012 Vienna
Phone: +43 1 71100 2753
Fax: +43 1 71100 2959
Email:
johannes.kresbach@lebensministerium.at

Alternate(s)

Ms Cosima HUFLER
Division V/9
International Environmental Affairs
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry,
Environment and Water Management
Stubenbastei 5
1010 Vienna
Phone: +43 1 51522 1611
Fax: +43 1 51522 7626
Email:
cosima.hufler@lebensministerium.at

Mr Paul FREUDENTHALER
Director
Institute for Potatoes & Plant Genetic
Resources
Austrian Agency for Health and Food
Safety GmbH
Wieningerstraße 8
4020 Linz
Phone: +43 50 555 41200
Fax: +43 50 555 41119
Email: paul.freudenthaler@ages.at

BANGLADESH

Delegate

Mr Abdul AZIZ
 Secretary
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Bangladesh Secretariat
 Building - 4
 Dhaka
 Phone: +880 2 7167474
 Fax: +880 2 7171555
 Email: aziz_ndc@yahoo.com

Alternate(s)

Ms Nasrin AKHTER
 Counsellor (Economic Affairs)
 Alternate Permanent Representative to
 FAO
 Embassy of the People's Republic of
 Bangladesh
 Via Antonio Bertoloni, 14
 00197 Rome
 Italy
 Phone: +39 068078541 - 068083595 -
 068078732
 Fax: +39 068084853
 Email: eco_counsellor@yahoo.com

BELGIUM - BELGIQUE - BÉLGICA

Délégué

M Hugo VERBIST
 Conseiller
 Représentant Permanent suppléant auprès
 de la FAO
 Ambassade de Belgique
 Bureau FAO, PAM et FIDA
 Via dei Monti Parioli, 49
 00197 Rome
 Italie
 Phone: +39 063609511 - 0636095135
 Fax: +39 063226935
 Email: romefao@diplobel.org

Expert(s)/Conseiller(s)

Mme Christine FRISON
 Conseillère juridique
 Service public fédéral (SPF) Santé
 publique, Sécurité de la Chaîne alimentaire
 et Environnement
 Place Horta 40
 1060 Bruxelles
 Phone: +32 473 88 68 73
 Fax: +32 10 472403
 Email: christine.frison@law.kuleuven.be

BENIN - BÉNIN

Délégué

M Aly DJIMA
 Sélectionneur, spécialiste des semences
 Point focal national des ressources
 phytogénétiques
 CRA-SB/INRAB
 P.O. 03
 Attogon
 Phone: +229 95067763
 Email: aldjim5@yahoo.fr;
djima.aly@coraf.org

BRAZIL - BRÉSIL - BRASIL

Delegate

Mr José Antônio MARCONDES DE
 CARVALHO
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative to FAO
 Permanent Representation of the Federative
 Republic of Brazil to FAO
 Via di Santa Maria dell'Anima 32
 00186 Rome
 Italy
 Phone: +39 066789353
 Fax: +39 0668398802
 Email: jamarcondes@brafao.it

Alternate(s)

Mr Renato MOSCA DE SOUZA
Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation of the Federative
Republic of Brazil to FAO
Via di Santa Maria dell'Anima 32
00186 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 066789353
Fax: +39 0668398802
Email: renatomosca@brafao.it

Mr Saulo Arantes CEOLIN
First Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation of the Federative
Republic of Brazil to FAO
Via di Santa Maria dell'Anima 32
00186 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 066789353
Fax: +39 0668398802
Email: ceolin@brafao.it

Mr Lidio CORADIN
Genetic Resources Programme
Ministry of Environment
Secretariat of Biodiversity Conservation
SCEN Trecho 02 B1H-IBAMA Sede
Setor de Clubes Esportivos Norte
70818-900 Brasilia
Phone: +55 61 40099578
Fax: +55 61 40099593
Email: lidio.coradin@mma.gov.br

Mr Pedro Aurelio Fiorencio CABRAL DE
ANDRADE
Advisor
Environment Division
Ministry of External Relations
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco H
Palácio do Itamaraty
Brasilia, D.F.
Email: pafca@mre.gov.br

Expert(s)/Adviser(s)

Ms Maria Jose SAMPAIO
Policy Advisor Research and Development
Brazilian Agricultural Research
Cooperation (EMBRAPA)
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and
Food Supply
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Block D
Brasilia DF
Phone: +55 61 4484553
Fax: +55 61 3471041
Email: zeze.sampaio@embrapa.br;
zezesampaio@yahoo.com

Mr Leontino REZENDE TAVEIRA
Advisor
Department of Intellectual Property and
Agriculture Technology
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and
Food Supply
Bloco D, Anexo A, sala 233
Brasilia DF 70043900
Phone: +55 61 32182921 32182361
Fax: +55 61 33220676
Email: leontino@agricultura.gov.br

Ms Leidiane FERREIRA
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and
Food Supply
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Block D
Brasilia DF
Phone: +61 3218 2637
Fax: +61 3224 5647
Email: leidianeferreira@agricultura.gov.br

Mr Márcio Antônio TEIXEIRA
MAZZARO
Lawyer
Legal Advisory Officer
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and
Food Supply
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Block D
Brasilia DF
Phone: +55 61 32182392
Fax: +55 61 32256097
Email: marcio.mazzaro@agricultura.gov.br

BULGARIA - BULGARIE

Delegate

Mr Stamen DIMITROV
Dus Head and Protocol Control Department
Executive Agency for Variety Testing,
Field Inspection and Seed Control
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
125 Tzarigradsko Shosse Blvd.
1113 Sofia
Phone: +359 2 8705120
Fax: +359 2 713635
Email: iasas@spnet.net

Alternate(s)

Mr Krassimir KOSTOV
Minister Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation of the Republic
of Bulgaria to FAO
Via Pietro Paolo Rubens, 21
00197 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 063224640/43 - 063213986
Fax: +39 063226122
Email: bgamb.roma@tin.it;
bulgariafao@yahoo.com

BURKINA FASO

Délégué

M Didier BALMA
Directeur de la Recherche Scientifique
Ministère des enseignements secondaire,
supérieur et de la recherche scientifique
01 B.P. 476
Ougadougou 01
Phone: +226 50308269
Fax: +226 50315003
Email: dbal@fasonet.bf

Suppléant(s)

M Boubakar CISSÉ
Conseiller économique
Représentant permanent adjoint auprès de
la FAO
Ambassade du Burkina Faso
Via XX Settembre, 86
00187 Rome
Italie
Phone: +39 0642010611
Fax: +39 0648903514
Email: bker_cisse@yahoo.fr;
ambabf.roma@tin.it

BURUNDI

Délégué

M Eliakim SAKAYOYA
Point focal national des ressources
phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et
l'agriculture
Directeur de la Protection des Végétaux
Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'élevage
B.P.114 Gitega
Bujumbura
Phone: +257 22 402036 - 79976214
Fax: +257 22402104
Email: sakayoyaeliakim@yahoo.fr;
dpvbdi@yahoo.fr

**CAMEROON - CAMEROUN -
CAMERÚN**

Délégué

M Abdou NAMBA
Directeur du Développement de
l'Agriculture
Ministère de l'agriculture et du
développement rural
B.P. 11 970
Yaoundé
Phone: +237 22 22 1595 - 99985819
Fax: +237 22 22 5091
Email: abdoumba@yahoo.fr

CANADA - CANADÁ

Delegate

Mr Campbell DAVIDSON
National Focal Point for the International
Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food
and Agriculture
Research Manager
Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research
Centre
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Box 1030, Swift Current
Saskatchewan S9H 3X2
Phone: +1 306 7787270
Fax: +1 306 7783186
Email: cdavidson@agr.gc.ca

Expert(s)/Adviser(s)

Mr Thomas BALINT
Senior Policy Advisor
Environment and Energy Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and
International Trade
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0C2
Phone: +1 613 944 5226
Fax: +1 613 995 9525
Email: thomas.balint@international.gc.ca

Mr Stephen RANDALL
Legal Officer
Environmental Law Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and
International Trade
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0C2
Phone: +1 613 992 6479
Fax: +1 613 992 6483
Email: stephen.randall@international.gc.ca

Mr Ken RICHARDS
Research Manager
Canadian Genetic Resources Program
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Canada Saskatoon Research Centre
107 Science Place
Saskatoon Saskatchewan S7N 0X2
Phone: +1 306 956 7641
Fax: +1 306 956 7246
Email: richardsk@agr.gc.ca

Mr Bryan HARVEY
Emeritus Professor
Plant Sciences Department
University of Saskatchewan
51 Campus Drive
Saskatoon SK S7N 5A8
Phone: +1 306 966 5795
Fax: +1 306 966 5015
Email: bryan.harvey@usask.ca

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC -
RÉPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE -
REPÚBLICA CENTROAFRICANA**

Délégué

M Jean Benoît MBORHOUL
Point Focal National du Traité International
sur les Ressources Phytogénétiques pour
l'alimentation et l'agriculture
Ministère du Développement Rural
BP 786
Bangui
Phone: +236 545298 - 084435
Email: rcaphytogenetique@yahoo.fr

COSTA RICA

Delegado

Sr Walter Paulo QUIRÓS ORTEGA
Presidente de la Comisión Nacional de
Recursos Fitogenéticos
Director Ejecutivo
Oficina Nacional de Semillas de Costa Rica
B González Lahman
P.O. Box 10309 (1000)
San José
Phone: +506 2235922
Fax: +506 2217792
Email: wquiros@ofinase.go.cr

CUBA

Delegado

Sr Modesto FERNÁNDEZ DÍAZ-
SILVEIRA
Funcionario
Dirección de Medio Ambiente
Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio
Ambiente (CITMA)
Capitolio y San José
Ciudad de la Habana
Phone: +537 8670598
Fax: +537 8670615
Email: modesto@citma.cu

Suplente(s)

Sra Zoila Margarita FUNDORA MAYOR
Especialista
Instituto de Investigaciones Fundamentales
de Agricultura Tropical (INIFAT)
Ministerio de la Agricultura
Phone: +537 6830098
Email: zfundora@infomed.sld.cu

CYPRUS - CHYPRE - CHIPRE

Delegate

Ms Androula GEORGIU
Senior Agricultural Research Officer
Agricultural Research Institute
P.O. Box 22016
Nicosia
Phone: +357 22 305101
Fax: +357 22 316770
Email: georgiou@arinet.ari.gov.cy

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Délégué

M Fataye AKAMOU
Point focal du traité international RPAA
Sous-directeur de la Défense des Cultures
Direction de la protection des végétaux, du
contrôle et de la qualité
Ministère de l'agriculture
07 BP 25
Abdijan 07
Phone: +225 20 22 84 79
Fax: +225 20 21 20 32
Email: afataye@aviso.ci;
fatakam@hotmail.com

**DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF KOREA –
RÉPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE
DÉMOCRATIQUE DE CORÉE -
REPÚBLICA POPULAR
DEMOCRÁTICA DE COREA**

Delegate

Mr Sun Won JONG
Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Democratic People's
Republic of Korea
Viale dell'Esperanto, 26
00144 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0654220749 - 065924034
Fax: +39 0654210090
Email: permrepun@hotmail.com

Alternate(s)

Mr Song Chol RI
Secretary
Embassy of the Democratic People's
Republic of Korea
Viale dell'Esperanto, 26
00144 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0654220749 - 065924034
Fax: +39 0654210090
Email: permrepun@hotmail.com

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE
CONGO –
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU
CONGO –
REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA DEL
CONGO**

Délégué

M Innocent MOKOSA MANDENDE
Ministre Conseiller
Représentant permanent adjoint auprès de
la FAO
Ambassade de la République démocratique
du Congo
Via Barberini, 3
00187 Rome
Italie
Phone: +39 0642010779
Fax: +39 0642903331
Email: mandmokosa@hotmail.com

**DENMARK - DANEMARK -
DINAMARCA**

Delegate

Mr Lars LANDBO
National Focal Point for the International
Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food
and Agriculture
Scientific Adviser
Skovbrynet 20
2800 Lyngby
Phone: +45 263649
Email: lbo@pdir.dk; sfs@pdir.dk

Alternate(s)

Mr Soren SKAFTE
Minister
Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO
Royal Danish Embassy
Via dei Monti Parioli, 50
00197 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 069774831/333 - 0697748327
Fax: +39 0697748399
Email: romamb@um.dk

ECUADOR - ÉQUATEUR

Delegado

Sr César Guillermo TAPIA BASTIDAS
Punto Focal Nacional para el Tratado
Internacional sobre RFPA
Jefe
Departamento Nacional de Recursos
Fitogenéticos y Biotecnología (DENAREF-
INIAP)
Estación Esperimental Santa Catalina
Panamericana Sur Km 1
Casilla 17-01-340
Quito
Phone: +593 22693359 - 092521219
Fax: +593 22693359
Email: denaref@ecnet.ec;
denareg@yahoo.com

Suplente(s)

Sra Mónica MARTÍNEZ MENDUIÑO
Consejera
Representante Permanente Alterno ante la
FAO
Embajada de la República del Ecuador
Via Antonio Bertoloni, 8
00197 Roma
Italia
Phone: +39 0645439007 - 0645439083
Fax: +39 068076271
Email: mecuroma@ecuador.it

EGYPT - ÉGYPTE - EGIPTO

Delegate

Mrs Hanaiya EL ITRIBY
President
National Gene Bank of Egypt
Agricultural Research Centre
Ministry of Agriculture and Land
Reclamation
9 Gammaa st.
Giza 12619
Phone: +202 572731 - 5727831
Fax: +202 5689519
Email: htriby@ngb.gov.eg

EL SALVADOR

Delegado

Sra Sonia Edith SOLÓRZANO PACHECO
Punto Focal Nacional para el Tratado
International sobre RFAA
Jefe
Laboratorio de Biotecnología
CENTA-MAG
San Andrés La Libertad
Carretera San Salvador - Santa Ana
885 San Salvador
Phone: +503 23020200 - 23020273
Fax: +503 23020241
Email: sonia.solorzano@gmail.com

Suplente(s)

Sra María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI
ONORI
Ministro Consejero
Representante Permanente Adjunto ante la
FAO
Embajada de la República de El Salvador
Via Gualtiero Castellini, 13
00197 Roma
Italia
Phone: +39 068076605
Fax: +39 068079726
Email: embasalvaroma@tiscali.it

ESTONIA - ESTONIE

Delegate

Mrs Külli KAARE
Chief Specialist
Research Development Department
Ministry of Agriculture
39/41 Lai Street
15056 Tallinn
Phone: +372 625 6554
Fax: +372 625 6200
Email: kylli.kaare@agri.ee

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (MEMBER ORGANIZATION) –
COMMUNAUTÉ EUROPÉENNE
(ORGANISATION MEMBRE) -
COMUNIDAD EUROPEA
(ORGANIZACIÓN MIEMBRO)**

Délégué

M Walter DE BACKER
Administrateur Principal
Biotechnologie et Santé des Végétaux
Direction Générale
Santé et Protection des Consommateurs
232 Rue Belliard, bureau 3/16
B-1040 Bruxelles
Belgique
Phone: +32 2 2950473
Fax: +32 2 2956043
Email: walter.de-backer@ec.europa.eu

FINLAND - FINLANDE - FINLANDIA

Delegate

Ms Tuula PEHU
National Focal Point for the International
Treaty on PGRFA
Senior Officer
Department of Agriculture, Research and
Extension
Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry
Hallituskatu 3 A
P.O. Box 30
FI- 00023 Government
Helsinki
Phone: +358 916052839
Fax: +358 916052203
Email: tuula.pehu@mmm.fi

Alternate(s)

Ms Susanna PAAKKOLA
Senior Administrator
Legal Affairs
Department of Agriculture, Research and
Extension
Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry
Hallituskatu 3 A
P.O. Box 30
FI- 00023 Government
Helsinki
Phone: +358 916052331
Email: susanna.paakkola@mmm.fi

FRANCE - FRANCIA

Délégué

Mme Marie-Anne VAUTRIN
Direction générale des politiques
économique, européenne et internationale
(DGPEI)
Ministère de l'agriculture et de la pêche
(MAP)
78, rue de Varenne
75007 Paris
Phone: +33 1 49554981
Fax: +33 1 49554784
Email: anne.vautrin@agriculture.gouv.fr

GABON - GABÓN

Délégué

M Patrice YEMBA
Secrétaire Général
Commission Nationale de la FAO
Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et du
développement rural
B.P. 551
Libreville
Phone: +241 760978 - 06262476
Fax: +241 763834

Suppléant(s)

M Raoul NDONG
Point focal du Traité International sur les
Ressources Phytogénétiques pour
l'alimentation et l'agriculture
Directeur de l'Agriculture
Direction Générale de l'Agriculture,
l'Elevage et du Développement Rural
BP 43
Libreville
Phone: +241 760055
Fax: +241 772674
Email: raoulndong@yahoo.fr

M Louis Stanislas CHARICAUTH

Conseiller
Représentant permanent suppléant auprès
de la FAO
Ambassade de la République gabonaise
Via San Marino, 36-36A
00198 Rome
Italie
Phone: +39 0685358970 - 0685304534
Fax: +39 068417278
Email: ambassadedugabon1@interfree.it

**GERMANY - ALLEMAGNE -
ALEMANIA**

Delegate

Ms Barbara WEBER
National Focal Point for the International
Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food
and Agriculture
Deputy Head of Division 226
Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and
Consumer Protection
Rochusstrasse 1
53123 Bonn
Phone: +49 1888 529 4378
Fax: +49 1888 529 3425
Email: barbara.weber@bmelv.bund.de

Expert(s)/Adviser(s)

Mr Frank BEGEMANN
Head of Division 513
Agency for Agriculture and Food (BLE)
Information and Coordination Centre for
Biological Diversity (IBV)
Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food
Deichmanns Aue 29
53179 Bonn
Phone: +49 228 6845 3239
Fax: +49 228 6845 3787
Email: frank.begemann@ble.de

Mr Siegfried HARRER
Agency for Agriculture and Food (BLE)
Information and Coordination Centre for
Biological Diversity (IBV)
Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food
Deichmanns Aue 29
53179 Bonn
Phone: +49 228 6845 3240
Fax: +49 228 6845 3787
Email: siegfried.harrer@ble.de

Ms Annette VON LOSSAU
Project Manager
Deutsche Gesellschaft
Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH
P.O. Box 5180
65726 Eschborn
Phone: +49 6 19679 1473
Fax: +49 6 19679 6103
Email: annette.lossau-von@gtz.de

Mr Andreas KRUG
Head of Department
Sustainable Land-Use, Biosafety
Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
(BFN)
Konstantinstr. 110
53179 Bonn
Phone: +49 228 8491 1810
Fax: +49 228 8491 1819
Email: andreas.krug@bfn.de

GHANA

Delegate

Mr Emmanuel OWUSU-BENOAH
Director-General
Council for Scientific and Industrial
Research
P.O. Box M.32
Accra
Phone: +233 244 772257
Fax: +233 21 777655
Email: eobenoah@ucomgh.com

Expert(s)/Adviser(s)

Ms Adelaide BOATENG-SIRIBOE
Minister Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of Ghana
Via Ostriana, 4
00199 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0686219307 - 0686217191
Fax: +39 0686325762
Email: info@ghanaembassy.it;
fao@ghanaembassy.it

GUATEMALA

Delegado

Sr Eduardo SPIEGELER QUIÑÓNEZ
Coordinador
Unidad de Normas y Regulaciones
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y
Alimentación
7a Avda. 12-90, Zona 13
Edf. Monja Blanca
01013 Ciudad de Guatemala
Phone: +502 2413 7000
Fax: +502 5202 5141
Email: eduardo.spiegeler@mag.gob.gt

Suplente(s)

Sr Arnoldo Roberto COBAQUIL GARCÍA
 Punto Focal Nacional para el Tratado
 Internacional RFAA
 Jefe del Área Fitozoogenética
 Unidad de Normas y Regulaciones
 Ministerio de Agricultura Ganadería y
 Alimentación
 7 Ave. 12-90, zona 13
 Ciudad de Guatemala
 Phone: +502 2413 7000 - 7469 - 7468
 Fax: +502 5202 5161
 Email: roberto.cobaquil@maga.gob.gt

GUINEA - GUINÉE**Délégué**

M Abdoulaye TRAORE
 Conseiller economique
 Représentant permanent suppléant auprès
 de la FAO
 Ambassade de la République de Guinée
 Via Adelaide Ristori, 9b/13
 00197 Rome
 Italie
 Phone: +39 068078989 - 80696467
 Fax: +39 068077588 - 0680690221
 Email: ambaguineerome1@virgilio.it

HONDURAS**Delegado**

Sr Rigoberto NOLASCO PEREYRA
 Punto Focal Nacional para el Tratado
 Internacional sobre los Recursos
 Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la
 Agricultura
 Dirección de Ciencia y Tecnología
 Agropecuaria (DICTA)
 DICTA/SAG
 Tegucigalpa
 Phone: +504 2356025 - 2326152
 Fax: +504 2320899
 Email: nolasco@sag.gob.hn

HUNGARY - HONGRIE - HUNGRÍA**Delegate**

Mr Péter TÉGLÁSY
 Deputy Head
 Department of Extension Services
 Ministry of Agriculture and Rural
 Development
 Kossuth Lajos-tér 11
 Budapest 1055
 Phone: +36 1 3014497
 Fax: +39 1 3014770
 Email: teglasyp@fum.hu

Alternate(s)

Mr László HOLLY
 Head
 Agrobotanical Centre of Tápiószele
 Kulsomezó 15 - ZIP
 Postcode: H-2766
 Tápiószele
 Phone: +36 53 380070/1
 Fax: +36 53 380072
 Email: lholly@agrobot.rcat.hu

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN
 Counsellor
 Permanent Representative to FAO
 Embassy of the Republic of Hungary
 (Office of the Permanent Representative)
 Via Luigi Lilio 59, c10
 00142 Rome
 Italy
 Phone: +39 065190116
 Fax: +39 0697256859
 Email: hufaorep@fastwebnet.it

INDONESIA - INDONÉSIE

Delegate

Mr Achmad SURYANA
National Focal Point for the International
Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food
and Agriculture
Director General
Indonesian Agency for Agricultural
Research and Development (IAARD)
Jl. Ragunan 29
Pasar Minggu
Jakarta Selatan
Jakarta
Phone: +62 21 7806205
Fax: +62 21 7800644
Email: suryana@deptan.go.id;
setaard@litbang.deptan.go.id

Alternate(s)

Mr Sugiono MOELJOPAWIRO
Senior Scientist and Plant Breeder
Indonesian Centre for Agricultural
Biotechnology and Genetic Resources
Research and Development
Member of National Committee on Genetic
Resources
Ministry of Agriculture
Jln. Tentara Pelajar 3A
Bogor 16111
Phone: +62 251 316897
Fax: +62 251 338820
Email: sugionom@indo.net.id

Mr Widi HARDJONO
Head
Cooperation and Public Relation Division
Indonesian Agency of Agricultural
Research and Development
Department of Agriculture of the Republic
of Indonesia
Phone: +6221 78831114
Fax: +6221 7880644
Email: widhs@litbang.deptau.go.id

Mr Machmud THOHARI
Board Member of National Committee on
Genetic Resources
Lecturer of Bogor Institute of Agriculture
Research Center for Bioresource and
Biotechnology (IPB)
Bogor
Phone: +62 081808173748
Email: mthohari@yahoo.co.id

Mr Erizal SODIKIN
Attaché
Alternate Permanent Representative to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
Via Campania 55
00187 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0642009150 - 064200911
Fax: +39 064880280 - 0648904910
Email: indorom@uni.net

**IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) –
IRAN (RÉPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D') -
IRÁN (REPÚBLICA ISLÁMICA DEL)**

Delegate

Mr Javad MOZAFARI HASHJIN
National Focal Point for the International
Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food
and Agriculture
Head of National Plant Gene Bank of Iran
Seed and Plant Improvement Institute
(SPII)
P.O. Box 31585-4119
Mahdasht Ave.
Karaj
Phone: +98 261 2701260
Fax: +98 261 2716193
Email: jmozafar@yahoo.com

IRELAND - IRLANDE - IRLANDA

Delegate

Mr Gerry DOHERTY
Agricultural Inspector
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and
Food
Raphoe Potato Lab
Co. Donegal
Phone: +353 74 9145488
Fax: +353 749145262
Email: gerry.doherty@agriculture.gov.ie

ITALY - ITALIE - ITALIA

Délégué

M Paolo DUCCI
Coordonnateur FAO/IFAD/PAM
Directeur de la Coopération multilatérale
économique et financière
Ministère des affaires étrangères
Piazzale della Farnesina 1
Rome
Phone: +39 0636911
Fax: +39 063222850
Email: paolo.ducci@esteri.it

Expert(s)/Conseiller(s)

M Mario MARINO
Fonctionnaire
Direction générale du développement rural
Ministère pour les politiques agricoles,
alimentaires et forestières
Via XX Settembre, 20
00187 Rome
Phone: +39 0646655060
Fax: +39 06484419
Email: m.marino@politicheagricole.it

Mme Lorenza COLLETTI
Fonctionnaire forestier - Division III
Ministère des politiques agricoles
Direction générale des ressources
forestières, de la montagne et des eaux
Via Giosué Carducci, 5
00187 Rome
Phone: +39 0646654035
Fax: +39 064814326
Email: div3@corpoforestale.it

M Danilo CECCARELLI
Chercheur
CRA-Centro di Ricerca per la Frutticoltura
Via di Fioranello, 52
00134 Rome
Phone: +39 0679348108
Fax: +39 0679340158
Email: danilo.ceccarelli@entecra.it

Mme Paola CORSARO
Chef du bureau
Affaires étrangères du C.R.A.
Via Nazionale, 82
00184 Rome
Phone: +39 0647836231
Fax: +39 0647836210
Email: paola.corsaro@entecra.it

Mme Petra ENGEL
Chercheur
CRA-Centro di Ricerca per la Frutticoltura
Via di Fioranello, 52
00134 Rome
Phone: +39 0679348109
Fax: +39 0679340158
Email: petra.engel@gmail.com

M Riccardo BOCCI
Chercheur
Biodiversity
Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare
Via A. Cocchi, 4
50131 Florence
Phone: +39 05550611
Fax: +39 0555061333
Email: bocci@iao.florence.it

M Fabrizio OLEARI
Directeur Général
Secrétariat national d'évaluation du risque
de la chaîne alimentaire
Département pour la santé publique
vétérinaire, la nutrition et la sécurité
alimentaire
Ministère de la Santé
Piazza G. Marconi 25
00144 Roma
Phone: +39 0659946115
Email: f.oleari@sanita.it

M Stefano MORICONI
Directeur médical
Secrétariat national d'évaluation du risque
de la chaîne alimentaire
Département pour la santé publique
vétérinaire, la nutrition et la sécurité
alimentaire
Ministère de la Santé
Piazza G. Marconi 25
00144 Roma
Phone: +39 0659946513
Email: s.moriconi@sanita.it

M Roberto LOMOLINO
Directeur vétérinaire
Secrétariat national d'évaluation du risque
de la chaîne alimentaire
Département pour la santé publique
vétérinaire, la nutrition et la sécurité
alimentaire
Ministère de la Santé
Piazza G. Marconi 25
00144 Roma
Phone: +39 0659946958
Email: r.lomolino@sanita.it

M Alessandro GASTON
Consultant
Direction générale pour la coopération
économique et financière multilatérale
Ministère des affaires étrangères
Piazzale della Farnesina 1
Rome

M Marco ALESI
Stagista
Affari Forestali Internazionali
Corpo Forestale dello Stato
Servizio II, Divisione 5
Roma

JAMAICA - JAMAÏQUE

Delegate
Mrs Yvonne Joy CRAWFORD
Senior Legal Officer
Ministry of Agriculture
Hope Gardens
PO Box 480
Kingston 6
Phone: +1 876 7023374 - 9271734
Fax: +1 876 9271258
Email: yjcrawford@moa.gov.jm

KENYA

Delegate
Mr Evans Olonyi SIKINYI
Manager
Plant Variety Protection Office
Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service
P.O. Box 49592
00100 Nairobi
Phone: +254 020 3536171/2
Fax: +254 020 3536175
Email: esikinyi@kephis.org

Alternate(s)
Mr Joseph A.W. OCHIENG
Assistant Director
Food Crops Research
Kenya Agricultural Research Institute
P.O. Box 57811
00200 Nairobi
Phone: +254 020 418330 - 418302
Fax: +254 020 4183344
Email: director@kari.org

Mr Zachary Kithinji MUTHAMIA
Head
National Gene Bank of Kenya
Kenya Agricultural Research Institute
P.O. Box 30148
00200 Nairobi
Phone: +254 020 2700462
Fax: +254 020 418344
Email: ngbk@wananchi.com

Mr John Keli WAMBUA
First Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of Kenya
Via Archimede, 164
00197 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 068082714 - 8082717/8
Fax: +39 068082707
Email: kenroma@rdn.it; agarome@rdn.it

Expert(s)/Adviser(s)
Mrs Jacinta NGWIRI
Agricultural Attaché
Alternate Permanent Representative to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of Kenya
Via Archimede, 164
00197 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 068082714 - 8082717/8
Fax: +39 068082707
Email: kenroma@rdn.it; agarome@rdn.it

KIRIBATI

Delegate
Mr Tianeti Ioane BEENNA
Principal Agricultural Officer
Ministry of Environment, Lands and
Agricultural Development
P.O. Box 267
Bikenibeu, Tarawa
Phone: +686 28096 - 28108 - 28080
Fax: +686 28121
Email: beenna_ti@yahoo.com

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC – RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE POPULAIRE LAO – REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA POPULAR LAO

Delegate
Mr Bounthong BOUAHOM
Permanent Secretary
Permanent Secretary Office
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Lane Xang Avenue
Vientiane
Phone: +856 21 412340
Email: bounthong@nafri.org.la

LEBANON - LIBAN - LÍBANO

Délégué
Mme Lamis CHALAK
Point Focal National sur le Traité
International pour les RFAA
Chercheur
Institut de Recherches Agronomiques
Libanaises (IRAL)
Département de biotechnologie végétale
P.O. Box 287
Tal Amara, Rayak
Zahlé
Phone: +961 08900037 - 08900047
Fax: +961 08900077
Email: lchalak@lari.gov.lb

**LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA -
JAMAHIRIYA ARABE LIBYENNE -
JAMAHIRIJA ÁRABE LIBIA**

Delegate

Mr Abdalla Abdulrahman ZAIED
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation of the Libyan
Arab Jamahiriya to FAO
Via Torquato Taramelli, 30 int. 10
00197 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0632609854
Fax: +39 063225438
Email: faoprly@yahoo.com

LITHUANIA - LITUANIE - LITUANIA

Delegate

Ms Regina GIRDVAINYTE
Attaché (Agricultural Affairs)
Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania
Viale di Villa Grazioli, 9
00198 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 068559052 - 068540482
Fax: +39 068559053
Email: comm@ltemb.it; info@ltemb.it

MADAGASCAR

Délégué

Mme Michelle ANDRIAMAHAZO
Point focal national du Traité International
sur les RPAA
Agricultural Engineer
Chargée d'Etudes au sein du Service de
l'Environnement
Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage et
de la Pêche (MAEP)
B.P 301 Anosy
Antananarivo 101
Phone: +261 22 355 69
Fax: +261 22 261 65
Email: samiandri@yahoo.fr;
ssenv.maep@wanadoo.mg

Suppléant(s)

M MONJA
Conseiller
Représentant permanent adjoint auprès de
la FAO
Ambassade de la République de
Madagascar
Via Riccardo Zandonai, 84/A
00194 Rome
Italie
Phone: +39 0636300183 - 0636307797
Fax: +39 063294306
Email: ambamad@hotmail.com

MALAWI

Delegate

Mr Alfred Philemon MTUKUSO
Focal Point for the International Treaty on
Plant Genetic Resources for Food and
Agriculture
Director
Agricultural Research Services
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
P.O. Box 30779
Lilongwe 3
Phone: +265 1 707398
Fax: +265 1 707374
Email: agri-research@sdp.org.mw

MALAYSIA - MALAISIE - MALASIA

Delegate

Mr Mohd Shukor NORDIN
Deputy Director
Strategic Resources Research Center
Malaysian Agricultural Research and
Development Institute (MARDI)
Ministry of Agricultural and Agro-based
Industry
P.O. 12301
General Post Office
50774 Kuala Lumpur
Phone: +603 8943 7391
Fax: +603 8948 7639
Email: dino@mardi.my

Alternate(s)

Mr Amri Bin ISMAIL
 Assistant Agricultural Attaché
 Alternate Permanent Representative to
 FAO
 Embassy of Malaysia
 Via Nomentana, 297
 00162 Rome
 Italy
 Phone: +39 068415808 - 068419296
 Fax: +39 068555040 - 068555110
 Email: mw.rome@embassymalaysia.it;
agrimoa.rome@ambasciatamalaysia.191.it

MALDIVES - MALDIVAS

Delegate

Mr Hussein RASHEED
 Director
 Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and
 Marine Resources
 Ghazee Building
 Ameer Ahmed Magu
 Malé 20-06
 Phone: +960 3322625
 Fax: +960 3326558
 Email: hussain.rasheed@fishagri.gov.mv

MALI - MALÍ

Délégué

M Adama TRAORE
 Secrétaire Exécutif
 Comité National de la Recherche Agricole
 (CNRA)
 B.P. E1911
 Bamako
 Phone: +223 2227165
 Fax: +223 2227165
 Email: adama.traore@afribone.net.ml;
adama.traore@cnra-mali.org

Suppléant(s)

M Modibo Mahamane TOURÉ
 Deuxième Conseiller
 Représentant Permanent suppléant auprès
 de la FAO
 Ambassade de la République du Mali
 Via Antonio Bosio, 2
 00161 Rome
 Italie
 Phone: +39 0644254068
 Fax: +39 0644254029
 Email: amb.malirome@tiscalinet.it

MAURITIUS - MAURICE - MAURICIO

Delegate

Mr Yacoob MUNGROO
 Senior Technical Officer
 Horticulture Division
 Plant Genetic Resources Unit
 Ministry of Agro Industry and Fisheries
 Labrasserie Road
 Curepipe
 Phone: +230 670 5694
 Fax: +230 4644857
 Email: yamungroo@mail.gov.mu

MOROCCO - MAROC - MARRUECOS

Délégué

M Mohamed AIT HMID
 Ministre plénipotentiaire
 Représentant permanent adjoint auprès des
 Organisations des Nations Unies à Rome
 Ambassade du Royaume du Maroc
 Via Lazzaro Spallanzani 8-10
 00161 Rome
 Italie
 Phone: +39 064402524
 Fax: +39 064402695
 Email: aithmid7@yahoo.fr

Suppléant(s)

M Amar TAHIRI
 Chef
 Service de Contrôle des Semences et des
 Plants
 Direction de la Protection des Végétaux,
 des Contrôles Techniques et de la
 Répression des Fraudes
 Ministère de l'agriculture et de la pêche
 maritime
 BP 1308
 Rabat
 Phone: +212 37771085
 Fax: +212 37779852
 Email: amar.tahiri@menara.ma

MYANMAR

Delegate

Mr Khin MAUNG THET
 Manager/Plant Breeder
 Myanmar Agriculture Service
 Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
 Thirimingalar Lane
 Kabaaye Pagoda Road
 Yankin, Yangon
 Phone: +95 1 662897
 Fax: +95 1 667991 - 666094
 Email: 2kmthet@gmail.com;
wmaster@mas.com.mm

NAMIBIA - NAMIBIE

Delegate

Ms Gillian MAGGS-KÖLLING
 National Focal Point for the International
 Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food
 and Agriculture
 Head of Institute
 National Botanical Research Institute
 Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
 Private Bag 13184
 Windhoek
 Phone: +264 61 2022020
 Fax: +264 61 253158
 Email: gmk@nbri.org.na

**NETHERLANDS - PAYS-BAS –
PAÍSES BAJOS**

Delegate

Mr Dirk DE JONG
 Policy Co-ordinator
 Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food
 Quality
 P.O. Box 20401
 2500 EK Den Haag
 Phone: +31 703784310
 Fax: +31 703786105
 Email: d.j.de.jong@minlnv.nl

Alternate(s)

Mr René J.M. LEFEBER
 Senior International Lawyer
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 P.O. Box 20061
 2500 EK Den Haag
 Phone: +31 703486486
 Fax: +31 703485128
 Email: rene.lefeber@minbuza.nl

Mr Bert VISSER
 Director
 Centre for Genetic Resources
 P.O. Box 16
 6700 AA Wageningen
 Phone: +31 317477184
 Fax: +31 317418094
 Email: bert.visser@wur.nl

NIGER - NÍGER

Délégué

M Baina DAN JIMO
 Point Focal National du Traité International
 sur les Ressources Phytogénétiques pour
 l'alimentation et l'agriculture
 Institut National de la Recherche
 Agronomique du Niger (INRAN)
 B.P. 429
 Niamey
 Phone: +227 20725389
 Email: inran@intnet.ne;
danjimo_baina@yahoo.fr; bdjaikr@refer.ne

NORWAY - NORVÈGE - NORUEGA

Delegate

Ms Grethe Helene EVJEN
National Focal Point for the International
Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food
and Agriculture
Senior Adviser
The Ministry of Agriculture and Food
P.O. Box 8007 Dep
N-0030 Oslo
Phone: +47 22 24 90 90
Fax: +47 22 24 95 55
Email: grethe.helene.evjen@lmd.dep.no

Alternate(s)

Ms Elisabeth KOREN
MS Adviser
The Ministry of Agriculture and Food
P.O. Box 8007 Dep
N-0030 Oslo
Phone: +47 22 24 90 90
Fax: +47 22 24 95 55
Email: elisabeth.koren@lmd.dep.no

Mr Tore SKRØPPA
Director
Norwegian Genetic Resource Centre
Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute
P.O. Box 115
1431 Ås
Phone: +47 64949067
Fax: +47 64 94 80 01
Email: tore.skroppa@skogoglandskap.no

Expert(s)/Adviser(s)

Ms Regine ANDERSEN
Research Fellow
The Fridtjof Nansen Institute
P.O. Box 326
N-1326 Lysaker
Phone: +47 67111900
Fax: +47 67111910
Email: regine.andersen@fni.no

Mr Tor SKUDAL
Programme Co-ordinator
Development Fund
Grensen 9b
0159 Oslo
Phone: +47 23109572
Fax: +47 23109601
Email: tor@u-fondet.no

Ms Svanhild-Isabelle BATTA TORHEIM
Programme Co-ordinator
Development Fund
Grensen 9b
0159 Oslo
Phone: +47 23 10 96 00
Email: bell@utviklingsfondet.no

Mr Magnus BREDELI TVEITEN
Project Manager
Directorate of Public Construction and
Property
P.O. Box 8106 Dep
N-0032 Oslo
Phone: +47 911 79 441
Email: matv@statsbygg.no

OMAN - OMÁN

Delegate

Mr Salim Saud Suleiman AL KINDY
Assistant Director General of Agriculture
and Livestock Research
Ministry of Agriculture
P.O. Box 50
121 Seeb
Phone: +968 26893131
Fax: +968 26893097
Email: research@omantel.net.om

PAKISTAN - PAKISTÁN

Delegate

Mr Zahoor AHMAD
National Focal Point for the International
Treaty on PGRFA
Deputy Director-General
Institute of Agricultural, Biotechnology and
Genetic Resources
National Agricultural Research Centre
P.O. Box 1031
Park Road
45500 Islamabad
Phone: +92 51 9255203
Fax: +92 51 9255201
Email: zahmad51@hotmail.com

Alternate(s)

Ms Aaisha MAHKDUM
TRIPs Specialist
Ministry of Food, Agriculture and
Livestock (MINFAL)
B Block, Pakistan Secretariat
Islamabad
Phone: +92 01779
Email: sowtoip@hotmail.com

PANAMA - PANAMÁ

Delegado

Sr Roberto MANCILLA
Miembro de la Comisión de Obtenciones
Vegetales (COPOV)
Funcionario
Departamento de Vigilancia Fitosanitaria
Dirección Nacional de Sanidad Vegetal
Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario
Calle Manuel E. Melo, 576
Apartado 5390
Panamá 5
Phone: +507 220 7979 - 220 0733 - 266
0472 (Ext. 13)
Fax: +507 266 2943
Email: rmancilla@mida.gob.pa

PARAGUAY

Delegado

Sr Jorge Luis Enrique FIGUEREDO
FRATTA
Embajador
Representante Permanente ante la FAO
Embajada de la República del Paraguay
Via Firenze, 43 Scala A, int 17
00184 Roma
Italia
Phone: +39 064741715
Fax: +39 064745473
Email: embaparoma@virgilio.it

Suplente(s)

Sra Liz Haydee CORONEL CORREA
Consejera
Representante Permanente Adjunto ante la
FAO
Embajada de la República del Paraguay
Via Firenze, 43 Scala A, int 17
00184 Roma
Italia
Phone: +39 064741715
Fax: +39 064745473
Email: embaparoma@virgilio.it

Sr Luis Enrique ROBLEDO
Funcionario Técnico
Dirección de Investigación Agrícola
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
Presidente Franco 479
Asunción
Phone: +595 21441036
Fax: +595 21449951
Email: luisenriquerobledo@yahoo.com

Experto(s)/Asesor(s)

Sra Sonia BIEDERMANN
Tercer Secretario
Representante Permanente Alterno ante la
FAO
Embajada de la República del Paraguay
Via Firenze, 43 Scala A, int 17
00184 Roma
Italia
Phone: +39 064741715
Fax: +39 064745473
Email: embaparoma@virgilio.it

PERU - PÉROU - PERÚ

Delegado

Sr Henry William VIVANCO MACKIE
Punto Focal Nacional para el Tratado
Internacional RFAA
Jefe
Subdirección de Recursos Genéticos y
Biotecnología
Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agraria
(INIA)
Ministerio de Agricultura
Av. La Universidad s/n
La Molina, Lima 12
Phone: +51 1 349 26 00 (ext. 313 - 315)
Fax: +51 1 349 26 00 313
Email: wvivanco@inia.gob.pe

PHILIPPINES - FILIPINAS

Delegate

Mr Joel S. RUDINAS
Director
Bureau of Plant Industry
692 San Andres Street
Malate, Manila
Phone: +63 2 525 7857
Fax: +63 2 521 7650
Email: jsrudinas@hotmail.com

POLAND - POLOGNE - POLONIA

Delegate

Ms Zofia BULINSKA-RADOMSKA
Head
National Centre for Plant Genetic
Resources
Plant Breeding and Acclimatization
Institute at Radzików
PL-05-870 Blonie
Phone: +48 22 7253611 - 7254215
Fax: +48 22 7254714 - 7254715
Email: z.bulinska@ihar.edu.pl;
postbox@ihar.edu.pl

Alternate(s)

Mr Wojciech HALDAS
Department of Plant Breeding and
Protection
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural
Development
Warsaw
Phone: +48 226232460
Fax: +48 226231781
Email: wojciech.haldas@minrol.gov.pl

PORTUGAL

Delegate

Mr Benvindo MAÇÃS
National Focal Point for the ITPGRFA
Plant Breeder Researcher
Instituto Nacional de Investigação
Agronomica e das Pescas
Ministry of Agriculture, Rural
Development and Fisheries
Estação Nacional Melhoramento de Plantas
Apartado 6
7350 Elvas
Phone: +35 1 268637750
Fax: +35 1 268629295
Email: benvindomacas@gmail.com

Alternate(s)

Mr Antonio DUARTE DE ALMEIDA
PINHO
Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Portuguese Republic
Viale Liegi, 21
00198 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 06844801219
Fax: +39 068417404
Email: adp@embportroma.it

Expert(s)/Adviser(s)

Ms Rita LOURENÇO
Technical Assistant
Embassy of the Portuguese Republic
Viale Liegi, 21
00198 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 06844801218
Fax: +39 068417404
Email: rl@embportroma.it

ROMANIA - ROUMANIE - RUMANIA

Délégué

Mme Silvia STRAJERU
Directrice
Banque des Ressources Phytogénétiques
str. 1 Decembrie 1918, n. 17
5800 Suceava
Phone: +40 23 0521016
Fax: +40 23 0521016
Email: genebank@suceava.astral.ro

Suppléant(s)

Mme Valentina NICÓLESCU
Coinseiller superieur
Ministère de l'agriculture et du
développement rural
B-dul Carol I, nr. 2, secteur 3
020921 Bucarest
Phone: +40 21 3072327
Fax: +40 21 3078627
Email: valentina.nicolescu@madr.ro

SAMOA

Delegate

Mrs Laisene S. SAMUELU
Assistant Chief Executive Officer
Crop Division
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
P.O. Box 1874
Apia
Phone: +685 22561
Email: ltuioti@samoa.ws;
lsamuelu@lesamoa.net

SENEGAL - SÉNÉGAL

Délégué

M Amadou FOFANA
Sélectionneur
Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles
(ISRA)
Ministère du développement rurale et de
l'agriculture
Route des Hydrocarbures Bel-Air
B.P. 3120
Dakar
Phone: +859 1719 - 1720
Fax: +859 2427
Email: dgisra@isra.sn

Suppléant(s)

M Adama BA
Deuxième Conseiller
Représentant permanent adjoint auprès de
la FAO
Ambassade de la République du Sénégal
Via Giulia, 66
00186 Rome
Italie
Phone: +39 066872353 - 066865212 -
066872381
Fax: +39 0668219294
Email: ambasenequiri@tiscali.it

M Alassane WELE
 Deuxième Conseiller
 Représentant permanent suppléant auprès
 de la FAO
 Ambassade de la République du Sénégal
 Via Giulia, 66
 00186 Rome
 Italie
 Phone: +39 066872353 - 066865212 -
 066872381
 Fax: +39 0668219294
 Email: ambasenequiri@tiscali.it

SEYCHELLES

Delegate
 Mrs Mermedah MOUSTACHE
 National Focal Point for the International
 Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food
 and Agriculture
 Director-General
 Crop Development and Promotion Division
 Dept of Natural Resources
 P O Box 166
 Victoria Mahe
 Phone: +248 378252
 Fax: +248 225245
 Email: pgr@intelvion.net

SIERRA LEONE - SIERRA LEONA

Delegate
 Mr Emmanuel Keifala ALIEU
 Chief Agriculturist
 Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
 1st floor, Youyi Building
 Brookfields
 Freetown
 Phone: +232 22 242136 - 242148
 Fax: +232 22 235047
 Email: lucy_alieu@yahoo.co.uk

SLOVENIA - SLOVÉNIE - ESLOVENIA

Delegate
 Mr Joze ILERSIC
 National Focal Point for the International
 Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food
 and Agriculture
 Phytosanitary Administration of the
 Republic of Slovenia
 Einspielerjeva 6
 SI-1000 Ljubljana
 Phone: +386 1 3094379
 Fax: +386 1 3094335
 Email: joze.ilersic@gov.si

SPAIN - ESPAGNE - ESPAÑA

Delegado
 Sr Ernesto RÍOS LÓPEZ
 Director
 Oficina Española de Variedades Vegetales
 Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y
 Alimentación
 Alfonso XII, 62
 28014 Madrid
 Phone: +34 608100608
 Fax: +34 91 3476703
 Email: oevv@mapa.es

Suplente(s)
 Sr Alberto LÓPEZ GARCÍA – ASENJO
 Consejero
 Representante Permanente Adjunto ante la
 FAO
 Embajada de España
 (Oficina de los Representantes Permanentes
 Adjunto y Alternos)
 Largo dei Lombardi, 21
 00186 Roma
 Italia
 Phone: +39 066878762 - 066869539
 Fax: +39 066873076
 Email: repfao@maparoma.191.it

Sr Luis SALAICES SÁNCHEZ
Jefe de Área
Registro de Variedades
Oficina Española de Variedades
Vegetales
Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y
Alimentación
Alfonso XII, 62
28014 Madrid
Phone: +34 91 3476712
Fax: +34 91 3476703
Email: luis.salaices@mapa.es

Sra Iciar RUIZ
Técnica
Representación Permanente ante la FAO
Embajada de España
(Oficina de los Representantes Permanentes
Adjunto y Alterno)
Largo dei Lombardi, 21
00186 Roma
Italia
Phone: +39 066878762 - 066869539
Fax: +39 066873076
Email: repfao@maparoma.191.it

Sr Luis AYERBE MATEO-SAGASTA
Director
Centro de Recursos Fitogenéticos
Instituto Nacional de Investigación y
Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria (INIA)
Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia
Autovía A2 km 36
Apdo 1045
28800 Alcalá de Henares
Madrid
Phone: +34 918819286
Fax: +34 918819287
Email: ayerbe@inia.es

Experto(s)/Asesor(s)
Sr José T. ESQUINAS ALCÁZAR
Profesor Titular
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
Dirección personal:
C/ Escultor Fernández Márquez, 10-1A
14012 Córdoba
Phone: +34 696387697
Email: jose.esquinas@upm.es

SWEDEN - SUÈDE - SUECIA

Sr Fernando LATORRE GARCÍA
Centro de Recursos Fitogenéticos
Instituto Nacional de Investigación y
Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria (INIA)
Autovía A-2, Km 36
Apartado 1045
28800 Alcalá de Henares
Madrid
Phone: +34 91 8819286 (Ext. 25)
Fax: +34 91 819287
Email: latorre@inia.es

Delegate
Mr Christer WRETBORN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of Sweden
Piazza Rio de Janeiro, 3
00161 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 06441941 - 0644194254/2
Fax: +39 0644194762
Email:
christer.wretborn@foreign.ministry.se

Sr Ángel OROZCO GÓMEZ
Agregado
Representante Permanente Alterno ante la
FAO
Embajada de España
(Oficina de los Representantes Permanentes
Adjunto y Alterno)
Largo dei Lombardi, 21
00186 Roma
Italia
Phone: +39 066878762 - 066869539
Fax: +39 066873076
Email: repfao@maparoma.191.it

Alternate(s)

Ms Ylva TILANDER
 National Focal Point for the International
 Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food
 and Agriculture
 Deputy Director
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Fredsgatan 8
 S103-33 Stockholm
 Phone: +46 8 4053091
 Fax: +46 8 4054970
 Email:
ylva.tilander@agriculture.ministry.se

Ms Christina TÖRSTRAND
 Senior Administrative Officer
 Legal Affairs
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Fredsgatan 8
 S103-33 Stockholm
 Phone: +46 8 4051107
 Fax: +46 8 4053608
 Email:
christina.torstrand@agriculture.ministry.se

Expert(s)/Adviser(s)

Mr Carl Johan LIDÉN
 Head of Department
 Swedish Board of Agriculture
 Jordbruksverket
 551 82 Jönköping
 Phone: +46 36 15 50 00
 Fax: +46 36 19 05 46
 E-mail: jordbruksverket@sjv.se

Ms Pernilla MALMER
 Senior Programme Officer
 Swedish International Biodiversity
 Programme (SwedBio)
 Bäcklösavägen 8
 Box 7007
 SE-750 07 Uppsala
 Sweden
 Phone: +46 18 671345
 Fax: +46 18 300246
 Email: pernilla.malmer@cbm.slu.se

SWITZERLAND - SUISSE - SUIZA

Délégué

M Manfred BÖTSCH
 Secrétaire d'Etat
 Directeur
 Office fédéral de l'agriculture (OFAG)
 Mattenhofstrasse 5
 CH-3003 Berne
 Phone: +41 31 3222501
 Fax: +41 31 3222634
 Email: manfred.boetsch@blw.admin.ch

Suppléant(s)

M François PYTHOUD
 Point Focal National du Traité International
 sur les Ressources Phytogénétiques pour
 l'alimentation et l'agriculture
 Responsable
 Section Agriculture durable internationale
 Office fédéral de l'agriculture
 Mattenhofstrasse 5
 CH-3003 Berne
 Phone: +41 31 3234445
 Fax: +41 31 3237164
 Email: francois.pythoud@blw.admin.ch

Expert(s)/Conseiller(s)

Mme Katharina JENNY
 Section Ressources naturelles et
 environnement
 Direction du développement et de la
 coopération
 Freiburgstrasse 130
 CH-3003 Berne
 Phone: +41 31 3235130
 Fax: +41 31 3259362
 Email: katharina.jenny@deza.admin.ch

Mme Claudia MUND
 Service juridique brevets et desgin
 Institut Fédéral de la Propriété
 Intellectuelle
 Stauffacherstr. 65
 CH-3003 Berne
 Phone: +41 31 3777241
 Fax: +41 31 3259362
 Email: claudia.mund@ipi.ch

M Hans-Jörg LEHMANN
 Ministre
 Représentant permanent auprès de la FAO
 Représentation permanente de la Suisse
 auprès de la FAO
 Viale Aventino, 89
 00153 Rome
 Italie
 Phone: +39 065756293
 Fax: +39 065756321
 Email: hans-joerg.lehmann@eda.admin.ch

M François MEIENBERG
 Membre
 Comité national suisse de la FAO
 Erklärung von Bern
 Case Postale
 CH-8026 Zürich
 Phone: +41 44 2777004
 Fax: +41 44 2777001
 Email: food@evb.ch

**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC -
 RÉPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE -
 REPÚBLICA ÁRABE SIRIA**

Delegate
 Mr Mohammad Walid AL TAWIL
 National Focal Point for the IT/PGRFA
 Deputy Director-General
 Agricultural Research Department
 General Commission for Scientific
 Agricultural Research
 Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian
 Reform
 P.O. Box 113
 Douma, Damascus
 Phone: +963 11 5744053
 Fax: +963 11 5757992 - 5744053
 Email: gcsa-dir@mail.sy;
micronour@yahoo.com

TOGO

Délégué
 Mme Hadyatou DANTSEY-BARREY
 Point Focal National du Traité International
 sur les Ressources phytogénétiques pour
 l'alimentation et l'agriculture
 Chargée des ressources phytogénétiques
 Institut Togolais de Recherche
 Agronomique (ITRA)
 B.P. 1163
 Lomé
 Phone: +228 2252148
 Fax: +228 9166189
 Email: itra@cafe.tg; hadyabarry@yahoo.fr

TUNISIA - TUNISIE - TÚNEZ

Délégué
 M Abdelhamid ABID
 Conseiller des Affaires Etrangères
 Chargé du dossier
 Représentant permanent suppléant auprès
 de la FAO
 Coopération de la Tunisie avec les
 Institutions Multilatérales établies à Rome
 Ambassade de la République tunisienne
 Via Asmara, 7
 00199 Rome
 Italie
 Phone: +39 0686215033 - 068603060/8
 Fax: +39 0686218204
 Email: at.roma@tiscali.it

TURKEY - TURQUIE - TURQUÍA

Delegate
 Mr Muzaffer KIZILTAN
 Deputy General Director
 General Directorate of Agriculture
 Research
 Istanbul Yolu Üzeri Bagdat Caddesi
 P.K. 78
 06171 Yenimahalle, Ankara
 Phone: +90 312 3435674
 Fax: +90 312 3153448
 Email:
muzaffer_kiziltan@ankara.tagem.gov.tr

Alternate(s)

Mr Vehbi ESER
Head of Department
Field Crops Research Department
General Directorate of Agriculture
Research
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Istanbul Yolu üzeri
Bagdat Cad. P.K. 78
06171 Yenimahalle, Ankara
Phone: +90 312 3435675
Fax: +90 312 3152698
Email: veser@tagem.gov.tr

Expert(s)/Adviser(s)

Ms Arzu UNAL
Expert Biologist
General Directorate of Agriculture
Research
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Istanbul Yolu üzeri
Bagdat Cad. P.K. 78
06171 Yenimahalle, Ankara
Phone: +90 312 3157623/288
Fax: +90 312 3152698
Email: aunal@tagem.gov.tr

Mr Alptekin KARAGÖZ
Head
Plant Genetic Resources Unit
Central Research Institute for Field Crops
P.O. Box 226
06042 Ankara
Phone: +90 312 2878957
Fax: +90 312 3272893
Email: alptekinkaragoz@yahoo.com

UGANDA - OUGANDA

Delegate

Mr John Wasswa MULUMBA
National Focal Point for the International
Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food
and Agriculture
Head
Plant Genetic Resources Center
Curator, Botanic Gardens
National Agricultural Research
Organisation
Berkeley Lane Plot 1-3
P.O. Box 295
Entebbe
Phone: +256 414 320638
Fax: +256 414 321070
Email: curator@infocom.co.ug

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES –
ÉMIRATS ARABES UNIS –
EMIRATOS ÁRABES UNIDOS**

Delegate

Mr Ali Hassan AL HAMOUDI
Director
Agricultural Protection and Quarantine
Department
Minsitry of Environment and Water
P.O. Box 213
Abu Dhabi
Phone: +971 2 6662781
Fax: +971 2 6654787
Email: ahhamoudi@moew.gov.ae

**UNITED KINGDOM - ROYAUME-UNI -
REINO UNIDO**

Delegate

Mr Martyn IBBOTSON
National Focal Point for the International
Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food
and Agriculture
Head of Genetic Resources Team
Department of Environment, Food and
Rural Affairs
Area 1B
Noble House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
Phone: +44 20 7238 1653
Fax: +44 20 7238 3297
Email: martyn.ibbotson@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Alternate(s)

Ms Jane BULMER
Legal Advisor
Department for Environment, Food and
Rural Affairs
Legal International and Biotech Division
Zone 4E
3-8 Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2HA
Phone: +44 20 3014 3124
Fax: +44 20 3014 3170
Email: jane.bulmer@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Mr Victor Charles Dunlop HEARD
First Secretary
Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation of the United
Kingdom to FAO
Via Monserrato, 48/1
00186 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0668400901/2/3/4
Fax: +39 0668400920
Email: f-pryce@dfid.gov.uk;
n-ciorba@dfid.gov.uk

URUGUAY

Delegado

Sr Tabaré BOCALANDRO YAPEYÚ
Ministro
Representante Permanente Adjunto ante la
FAO
Embajada de la República Oriental del
Uruguay
Via Vittorio Veneto, 183
00187 Roma
Italia
Phone: +39 064821776 - 064821777
Fax: +39 064823695
Email: uruit@ambasciatauruguay.it

Suplente(s)

Sra Ana BERRETTA
Punto Focal Nacional para el Tratado
Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos
para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
Presidente
Comité Nacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos
Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y
Pesca
INIA La Estanzuela
70006 Colonia
Phone: +598 2 23187
Fax: +598 2 2887077
Email: aberretta@dn.inia.org.uy

Sr Enzo BENECH
Presidente
Instituto Nacional de Semillas (INASE)
Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y
Pesca
Montevideo
Phone: +598 2 2887099
Fax: +598 2 2887077
Email: ebenech@inase.org.uy

Sr Federico CONDÓN
Representante
Instituto Nacional de Investigación
Agropecuaria (INIA)
Rto 50 Km 11
Colonia
Phone: +598 5748000
Fax: +598 5748012
Email: fcondon@inia.org.uy

**VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF) –
VENEZUELA (RÉPUBLIQUE BOLIVARIENNE DU) –
VENEZUELA (REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE)**

Delegado

Sra Margaret GUTIÉRREZ MULAS
Investigadora en Recursos Genéticos
Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones
Agrícolas (INIA)
Maracay
Estado de Aragua
Phone: +58 243 2402975 - 2404603
Fax: +58 2432471066
Email: mgutierrez@inia.gob.ve;
mgutierrez.margaret@gmail.com

Suplente(s)

Sra Achirana ALTUVE QUINTERO
Embajada de la República Bolivariana de
Venezuela
Via Nicolò Tartaglia, 11
00197 Roma
Italia
Phone: +39 068079797 - 068079464
Fax: +39 068084410
Email: embaveit@iol.it

YEMEN - YÉMEN

Delegate

Mr Ali Abdulla AL-SHURAI
National Focal Point for the International
Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food
and Agriculture
Director General
National Genetic Resources Centre
P.O. Box 3411 Hodeidah
Dhamar
Phone: +967 6423917
Fax: +967 6423917 - 6423914
Email: ngrc_yemen@yahoo.com;
shuraiaa@yahoo.com; shurai@y.net.ye

Alternate(s)

Mr Abdurahman BAMATRAF
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation of the Republic
of Yemen
Via Alessandro Malladra, 10b - Int. 10
00157 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 064504308
Fax: +39 064504308
Email: ambamatraf@yahoo.com;
yemenpermrep@yahoo.com

ZAMBIA - ZAMBIE

Delegate

Mr Imataa AKAYOMBOKWA
Director
Department of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
Mulungushi House, Room 370
P.O. Box 50291
Lusaka
Phone: +260 211 252869
Fax: +260 211 252869
Email: iakayombokwa@maff.gov.zm

Alternate(s)

Mr Godfrey MWILA
Expert
Principal Agricultural Research Officer
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Private Bag 7
Chilanga
Phone: +260 1 278380 - 966745604
Fax: +260 1 278130
Email: mwilagodfrey@yahoo.co.uk

Ms Catherine MUNGOMA
National Focal Point for the International
Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food
and Agriculture
Chief Agricultural Research Officer
Zambia Agriculture Research Institute
c/o Golden Valley Agricultural Research
Trust
P.O. Box 54
Fringilla
Phone: +260 21 1213829
Fax: +260 21 1213832 - 1278130
Email: maize@zamnet.zm

Mr Nathan PHIRI
Principal Seeds Officer
Seed Control and Certification Institute
P.O. Box 350199
Chilanga
Phone: +260 211 278236
Fax: +260 211 278170/836
Email: nathprm@yahoo.co.uk

OBSERVERS FROM FAO MEMBERS
OBSERVATEURS DES MEMBRES DE LA
FAO
OBSERVADORES DE LOS MIEMBROS
DE LA FAO

ARGENTINA - ARGENTINE

Delegado

Sra María del Carmen SQUEFF
Consejero
Representante Permanente Alterno ante la
FAO
Embajada de la República Argentina
Piazza dell'Esquilino 2
00185 Roma
Italia
Phone: +39 0648073345 - 0648073333
Fax: +39 0648906984
Email: faoprarg1@interfree.it

Sr Agustín ZIMMERMANN
Tercer Secretario
Representante Permanente Alterno ante la
FAO
Embajada de la República Argentina
Piazza dell'Esquilino 2
00185 Roma
Italia
Phone: +39 0648073345 - 0648073333
Fax: +39 0648906984
Email: faoprarg1@interfree.it

**AZERBAIJAN - AZERBAÏDJAN -
AZERBAIYÁN**

Suplente(s)

Sr Marcelo Edmundo FERRER
Recursos Genéticos
Instituto Nacional de Tecnología
Agropecuaria (INTA)
Estación Experimental Agropecuaria
Pergamino
Ruta 32, Km 4,5
C.C. 31 - 2700 Pergamino
Buenos Aires
Phone: +542477 439000 - 439073 - 439032
Fax: +54 2477 439000 - 439073 - 439032
Email: mferrer@pergamino.inta.gov.ar

Delegate

Mr Zeynal AKPAROV
National Coordinator on Genetic Resources
Director
Genetic Resources Institute of the
Azerbaijan
National Academy of Sciences
155, Azadlig ave.
Baku
Phone: +994 12 5629171
Fax: +994 12 4499221
Email: azgenres@box.az;
akparov@yahoo.com

BELARUS - BÉLARUS - BELARÚS

Delegate

Mr Sviataslau TANKEVICH
Director
State Inspection for Testing and Protection
of the Plant Varieties
90, Kazintza str.
Minsk 220108
Phone: +375 17 277 0421
Fax: +375 17 278 3530
Email: sotr@mshp.minsk.by

Alternate(s)

Mr Andrei LOZOVIK
Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of Belarus
Via delle Alpi Apuane, 16
00141 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0682081430/36/28
Fax: +30 0682002309
Email: italy@belembassy.org

Expert(s)/Adviser(s)

Ms Viktoria PARKHOTIK
Third Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of Belarus
Via delle Alpi Apuane, 16
00141 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0682081430/36/28
Fax: +30 0682002309
Email: italy@belembassy.org

CHILE - CHILI

Delegado

Sra Teresa AGÜERO TEARE
Encargada Ambiental, Bioseguridad y
Recursos Genéticos
Oficina de Estudios y Políticas Agrarias
(ODEPA)
Ministerio de Agricultura
Teatinos 40 - 8 Piso
Santiago
Phone: +56 23973027 - 23973039
Fax: +56 23973044
Email: taguero@odepa.gob.cl

Suplente(s)

Sr Ángel SARTORI ARELLANO
Asesor Internacional
División de Asuntos Internacionales
Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero (SAG)
Ministerio de Agricultura
Teatinos 40
Santiago

CHINA - CHINE

Delegate

Mr Wenxing LI
Deputy Division Director
Seed Administration Division
Department of Crop Production
Ministry of Agriculture
11 Nongzhanguan Nanli
Beijing 100026
Phone: +86 10 64192847
Fax: +86 10 64192815
Email: liwenxing@agri.gov.cn;
nyszcz@agri.gov.cn

Alternate(s)

Ms Wenfang GUO
Division Director
Legislative Affairs Office of the State
Council
Beijing

Mr Shumin WANG
Deputy Director
Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences
12 Zhong Guan Cun Nan Da Jie
P.O. Box 100081
Beijing
Phone: +86 10 68918567
Fax: +86 10 68975212
Email: smwang@mail.caas.net.cn

Mr Ming ZHANG
Second Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation of the People's
Republic of China to FAO
Via degli Urali, 12
00144 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 065919311
Fax: +39 0659193130
Email: chinamission@chinamission.it

Mr Yuliang PANG
Third Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation of the People's
Republic of China to FAO
Via degli Urali, 12
00144 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 065919311
Fax: +39 0659193130
Email: chinamission@chinamission.it

Ms Jing WANG
Officer
Department of International Cooperation
Ministry of Agriculture
11 Nongzhanguan Nanli
Beijing 100026

Ms Zhao LI
Officer
Department of Treaty and Law
State Intellectual Property Office
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2 Chaoyangmen Nandajie
Beijing 100701

JAPAN - JAPON - JAPÓN

Delegate
Mr Takahiro ASANO
Technical Official
Innovative Technology Division
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Research Council
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and
Fisheries
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki
Chiyouda-ku
Tokyo 100-8952
Phone: +81 3 3502 8111 (ext. 83734)
Fax: +81 3 3593 2209
Email: takaa@affrc.go.jp

Alternate(s)
Mr Tomotaro NISHIKAWA
Chief Resercher, Gene Bank
Division of Genome and Biodiversity
Research
National Institute of Agrobiological
Sciences
2-1-2 Kannondai
Tsukuba
Ibaraki 305-8602
Phone: +81 29 8387406
Fax: +81 29 8387408
Email: tomotaro@affrc.go.jp

Mr Masao OKAWA
Research Coordinator
National Center for Seeds and Seedlings
Fujimoto 2-2
Tsukuba-shi
Ibaraki 305-0852
Phone: +81 29 8386593
Fax: +81 29 8386595
Email: okawasan@ncss.go.jp

QATAR

Delegate

Mr Akeel HATOOR
Alternate Permanent Representative to
FAO
Embassy of the State of Qatar
Via Antonio Bosio, 14
00161 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0644249450
Fax: +39 0644245273
Email: info@qatarembassy.it

**REPUBLIC OF KOREA –
RÉPUBLIQUE DE CORÉE –
REPÚBLICA DE COREA**

Delegate

Mr Wan-Soon KIM
Research Scientist
Research and Development Bureau
Rural Development Administration
250 Seodundong
Suwon 441-707
Phone: +82 31 299 2270 - 299 2292
Fax: +82 31 293 9359
Email: wskim2@rda.go.kr

Alternate(s)

Mr Hac-Sung HWANG
Research Scientist
National Institute of Agricultural
Biotechnology
Rural Development Administration
250 Seodundong
Suwon 441-707
Phone: +82 31 299 2270 - 299 2292
Fax: +82 31 293 9359
Email: hae0323@rda.go.kr

Mr Jung-Bin KIM
Deputy Director
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Government complex Gwacheon
Jungang-dong 1, Gwacheon
Gyeonggi-do
Seoul
Phone: +82 2 21104010 - 211040000
Fax: +82 2 5037249
Email: bin386@maf.go.kr

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION –
FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE -
FEDERACIÓN DE RUSIA**

Delegate

Mr Mikhail S. BUNIN
Deputy Director
Science, Technological Policy and
Education Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Orlikov per., 1/11
107139 Orlikov
Phone: +495 9753748
Fax: +495 9755159
Email: m.bunin@polit.mcx.ru

**SLOVAKIA - SLOVAQUIE -
ESLOVAQUIA**

Delegate

Mr Pavol HAUPTVOGEL
Deputy Director
Gene Bank of the Slovak Republic
Slovak Center of Agriculture Research
Research Institute of Plant Production
Bratislavská cesta 122
921 68 Piestany
Phone: +421 33 7722311 - 722312 -
722326 - 7722327
Fax: +421 33 7726306
Email: hauptvogel@vurv.sk

THAILAND - THAÏLANDE - TAILANDIA

Delegate

Mrs Chutima RATANASATIEN
 Senior Agricultural Scientist
 Plant Variety Protection Division
 Department of Agriculture
 Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
 50 Phaholyothin Road, Lad Yao
 Chatuchak, Bangkok 10600
 Phone: +66 2 9407214 - 5614665
 Fax: +66 2 5614665
 Email: chutima_ratanasatien@yahoo.com;
chutimar@doa.go.th

Alternate(s)

Mrs Chanokwan MANNAK
 Policy and Plan Analyst
 Agricultural Technology and Sustainable
 Agriculture Policy Division
 Office of the Permanent Secretary
 Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
 Rajdamnern Nok Avenue
 Bangkok 10200
 Phone: +66 2 6298973 - 6298971
 Fax: +66 2 2801555
 Email: chanokwan_na@yahoo.com

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA -
 ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE –
 ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA**

Delegate

Mr David B. HEGWOOD
 Minister Counsellor
 Alternate Permanent Representative to
 FAO
 United States Mission to the United
 Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture
 (Permanent Representation to FAO)
 Via Sallustiana, 49
 00187 Rome
 Italy
 Phone: +39 0646743500
 Fax: +39 0646743535
 Email: usunrome@state.gov

Alternate(s)

Mr Daniel BALZER
 Senior Conservation Officer
 Office of Ecology and Terrestrial
 Conservation
 United States Department of State
 OES/ETC, Room 4333
 2201 C Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20520
 Phone: +1 202 6471804
 Fax: +1 202 7367351
 Email: balzerdk@state.gov

Ms June BLALOCK
 Technology Licensing Program
 Coordinator
 Office of Technology Transfer
 George Washington Carver Center
 5601 Sunnyside Avenue
 Room 4-1174
 Beltsville, MD 20705-5131
 Phone: +1 301 5045257
 Fax: +1 301 5045060
 Email: june.blalock@ars.usda.gov

Mr Matthew David BURTON
 Attorney Adviser
 Office of the Legal Adviser
 United States Department of State
 2201 C Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20520
 Phone: +1 202 647 3219
 Fax: +1 202 736 7115
 Email: burtonmd@state.gov

Mr Peter TABOR
 Trade Specialist (Biotechnology)
 Foreign Agricultural Service
 United States Department of Agriculture
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
 Room 4119 (Mail Stop 1092)
 Washington, DC 20250
 Phone: +1 202 6903328
 Fax: +1 202 6903316
 Email: peter.tabor@fas.usda.gov

REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES
REPRÉSENTANTS DES NATIONS UNIES ET INSTITUTIONS SPÉCIALISÉES
REPRESENTANTES DE NACIONES UNIDAS Y ORGANISMOS ESPECIALIZADOS

SECRETARIAT FOR THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
SECRETARIAT DE LA CONVENTION SUR LA SÉCURITÉ BIOLOGIQUE
SECRETARÍA DEL CONVENIO SOBRE LA DIVERSIDAD BIOLÓGICA

Mr Ahmed DJOGLAF
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
World Trade Center
413 St. Jacques Str., Office 800
Montreal, Quebec
Canada, H2Y 1N9
Phone: +1 514 288 2220
Fax: +1 514 288 6588
Email: secretariat@cbd.int

Mr Fernando CASAS CASTAÑEDA
Co-chair
Ad Hoc Open-ended
Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing
United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
Calle 28A No. 15-09
Bogotá, D.C.
Colombia
Phone: +571 323 0772
Fax: +571 323 0772
Email: fccasas@gmail.com

Mr Timothy J. HODGES
Co-chair
Ad Hoc Open-ended
Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing
United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
Place Vincent Massey
351 St. Joseph Blvd., 9th Floor
Gatineau, Qc K1A 0H3
Canada
Phone: +1 819 9569885
Fax: +1 819 9531765
Email: tim.hodges@ec.gc.ca

**WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE
ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DEL COMERCIO**

Ms Xiaoping WU
Counsellor
Intellectual Property Division
World Trade Organization
Centre William Rappard
Rue de Lausanne 154
CH-1211 Geneva 21
Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 739 51 11
Fax: +41 22 7314206
Email: enquiries@wto.org

OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
OBSERVATEURS DES ORGANISATIONS INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES
OBSERVADORES DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INTERGUBERNAMENTALES

COMMUNITY OF SAHEL-SAHARAN STATES
COMMUNAUTÉ DES ÉTATS SAHÉLO-SAHARIENS
COMUNIDAD DE ESTADOS SAHELO-SAHARIANOS

Mr Nuri Ibrahim HASSAN
Advisor to the Secretary General on Agriculture Issues
Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)
Aljazeera Square
P.O. Box 81824
Tripoli
Lybia
Phone: +218 91 313 1020
Fax: +218 21 444 0076
Email: general.sec@cen-sad.org

CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
GROUPE CONSULTATIF POUR LA RECHERCHE AGRICOLE INTERNATIONALE
GRUPO CONSULTIVO SOBRE INVESTIGACIÓN AGRÍCOLA INTERNACIONAL

Mr Emile FRISON
Director General
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057, Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Roma
Italy
Phone: +39 066118202
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: e.frison@cgiar.org

Mr Michael HALEWOOD
Head
Policy Research and Support Unit
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057, Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Roma
Italy
Phone: +39 066118294
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: m.halewood@cgiar.org

Ms Isabel LÓPEZ NORIEGA
Legal Specialist
Policy Research and Support Unit
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057, Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Roma
Italy
Phone: +39 066118307
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: i.lopez@cgiar.org

Mr Gerald MOORE
Honorary Fellow
Policy Research and Support Unit
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057, Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Roma
Italy
Phone: +39 066118280
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: g.moore@cgiar.org

Mr Toby HODGKIN
Director
Global Partnerships Programme
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057, Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Roma
Italy
Phone: +39 066118212
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: t.hodgkin@cgiar.org

Mr David WILLIAMS
SGRP Coordinator
c/o Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057, Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Roma
Italy
Phone: +39 066118202
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: d.williams@cgiar.org

Mr Jan ENGELS
Genetic Resources Management Advisor
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057, Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Roma
Italy
Phone: +39 066118222
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: j.engels@cgiar.org

Mr Paul BORDONI
Scientific Assistant
Global Facilitation for Underutilized Species
Global Partnership Programme
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057, Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Roma
Italy
Phone: +39 066118302
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: p.bordoni@cgiar.org

Ms Victoria HENSON-APOLLONIO
Senior Scientist, Project Manager
Central Advisory Service on Intellectual Property (CAS-IP)
c/o Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057, Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Roma, Italy
Phone: +39 066118300
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: v.henson-apollonio@cgiar.org

Mr Jean HANSON
Project Leader
International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI-CGIAR)
P.O.Box 30709
Nairobi 00100
Kenya
Phone: + 254 20 422 3000; +1 650 833 6660 (USA direct)
Fax: + 254 20 422 3001
Email: j.hanson@cgiar.org

Mr Ruairaidh SACKVILLE HAMILTON
Senior Scientist Evolutionary Biology
Head Genetic Resource Center
International Rice Research Institute (IRRI-CGIAR)
DAPO Box 7777
Metro Manila
Philippines
Phone: +63 2 580 5600
Fax: +63 2 580 5699
Email: r.hamilton@cgiar.org

Mr Edilberto REDOÑA
INGER Global Coordinator
International Rice Research Institute (IRRI-CGIAR)
DAPO Box 7777
Metro Manila
Philippines
Phone: +63 2 580 5600
Fax: +63 2 580 5699
Email: e.redona@cgiar.org

Ms Nicole DEMERS
Communications and Information Assistant
Global Partnerships Programme
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057, Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Roma
Italy
Phone: +39 066118386
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: nicole.demers@cgiar.org

Ms Teresa BORELLI
Consultant
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057, Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Roma
Italy
Phone: +39 0661181
Fax: +39 0661979661
Email: t.borelli@cgiar.org

**GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST
FOND FIDUCIAIRE MONDIAL POUR LA DIVERSITÉ VÉGÉTAL
FONDO MUNDIAL PARA LA DIVERSIDAD DE CULTIVOS**

Mr Cary FOWLER
Executive Director
Global Crop Diversity Trust
c/o FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0657053841
Fax: +39 065705609
Email: cary.fowler@croptrust.org

Ms Jane TOLL
Global System Project Manager
Global Crop Diversity Trust
c/o FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0657056276
Fax: +39 0657055609
Email: jane.toll@croptrust.org

Mr Luigi GUARINO
Senior Science Coordinator
Global Crop Diversity Trust
c/o FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0657056315
Fax: +39 065705609
Email: luigi.guarino@croptrust.org

Ms Mellissa WOOD
Director of Programme Development
Global Crop Diversity Trust
c/o FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0657055426
Fax: +39 065705609
Email: mellissa.wood@croptrust.org

Mr Julian LAIRD
Director of Development & Communications
Global Crop Diversity Trust
c/o FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0657055373
Fax: +39 065705609
Email: julian.laird@croptrust.org

Mr Geoffrey HAWTIN
Senior Advisor
Global Crop Diversity Trust
c/o FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome
Italy
Phone: +44 1305871083
Fax: +39 0657055609
Email: geoffrey.hawtin@croptrust.org

Ms Britta SKAGERFALT
Associate Professional Officer
Global Crop Diversity Trust
c/o FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0657056284
Fax: +39 0657055609
Email: britta.skagerfalt@croptrust.org

Ms Kijo WARUHIU
Associate Scientist
Global Crop Diversity Trust
c/o FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0657055142
Fax: +39 0657055417
Email: kijo.waruhiu@croptrust.org

Mr Ola WESTENGEN
Associate Professional Officer
Global Crop Diversity Trust
c/o FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0657054119
Fax: +39 0657055609
Email: ola.westengen@croptrust.org

Mr Colum STAPLETON
Global Crop Diversity Trust
c/o FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome
Italy

**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
UNION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA PROTECTION DES OBTENTIONS VÉGÉTALES
UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA PROTECCIÓN DE LAS OBTENCIONES
VEGETALES**

Mr Rolf JÖRDENS
Vice Secretary-General
International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)
Chemin des Colombettes, 34
CH 1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 3389155
Fax: +41 22 7330336
Email: rolf.joerdens@upov.int

**SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY
SECRÉTARIAT DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ DU PACIFIQUE
SECRETARÍA DE LA COMUNIDAD DEL PACÍFICO**

Mr Áleki SISIFA
Director
Land Resources Division
Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
Private Mail Bag
Suva
Phone: +679 3370733
Fax: +679 3370021
Email: alekis@spc.int

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
COMMUNAUTÉ DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DE L'AFRIQUE AUSTRALE
COMUNIDAD PARA EL DESARROLLO DEL ÁFRICA MERIDIONAL**

Ms Thandie J. LUPUPA
Head
Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC)
Southern African Development Community (SADC)
Private Bag CH 6
ZA 15302 Lusaka
Zambia
Phone: +260 1 233391/2
Fax: +260 1 233746 - 230515
Email: spgrc@zamnet.zm

OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
OBSERVATEURS DES ORGANISATIONS NON GOUVERNEMENTALES
OBSERVADORES DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES NO-GUBERNAMENTALES

ACTION GROUP ON EROSION, TECHNOLOGY AND CONCENTRATION
GROUPE D'ACTION SUR L'ÉROSION, LA TECHNOLOGIE ET LA CONCENTRATION
GRUPO DE ACCIÓN SOBRE EROSIÓN, TECNOLOGÍA Y CONCENTRACIÓN

Mr Patrick MOONEY
Executive Director
ETC Group
1 Nicholas Street
Ottawa
ON Canada K1N 7B7
Phone: +1 613 2412267
Fax: +1 613 2412506
Email: etc@etcgroup.org

COMMUNITY BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Ms Jean CHIUMIA
Community Biodiversity Conservation and Development (CBDC) - Malawi
Coordinated by Southeast Asian Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE)
29 Magiting Street
Diliman, Teachers Village
Quezon City 1101
Philippines

Mr Gracian Zibelu BANDA
Community Biodiversity Conservation and Development (CBDC)
Executive Director
Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy
1 Brereton Drive, Nyambadwe
P.O. Box 5062 Limbe
Blantyre
Malawi
Phone: +265 01 823793
Fax: +265 01 830587
Email: gracian@cepa.org.mw; gzbanda@yahoo.com

Ms Charity MAPIRA
Community Biodiversity Conservation and Development (CBDC) - Zimbabwe
Coordinated by Southeast Asian Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE)
29 Magiting Street
Diliman, Teachers Village
Quezon City 1101
Philippines

Mr Patrick KASASA
Community Biodiversity Conservation and Development (CBDC)
Box 7232
Harare
Zimbabwe
Phone: +263 912 863811
Fax: +263 4 589390
Email: patrick_kasaka@yahoo.com; patrick@ctdt.co.zw

Ms Estela CALAMBA
Community Biodiversity Conservation and Development (CBDC) - Philippines
Coordinated by Southeast Asian Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE)
29 Magiting Street
Diliman, Teachers Village
Quezon City 1101
Philippines

Mr Gabriel FERNANDES
Community Biodiversity Conservation and Development (CBDC) - Brazil (AS-PTA)
Rua das Candelária 9 - 6 andar
Rio de Janeiro
RJ 2001-020
Brazil
Email: gabriel@aspta.org.br

Ms Maria Elza GOMES
Community Biodiversity Conservation and Development (CBDC) - Brazil (CPT)
Av. Pedro Moreno Gondin 892
Gilliard II
Cajazeiras
PB 58900 - 000 Brazil

Mr Enrique GONZÁLEZ
Community Biodiversity Conservation and Development (CBDC) - Bolivarian Republic of
Venezuela (IPIAT)
Coordinated by SEARICE
29 Magiting Street
Diliman, Teachers Village
Quezon City 1101
Philippines
Phone: +58 4145585737
Email: ateneodesarinitas@yahoo.es

Mr Genovevo HERNÁNDEZ
Community Biodiversity Conservation and Development (CBDC)
ANAP
13 No. 206 e/H e I, Vedado
Ciudad de la Habana
Cuba
Phone: +537 8321727 - 8324541 (ext. 408)
Email: proyecto@anap.org.cu

Mr Segundo Juan CORVALÁN HUERTA
Community Biodiversity Conservation and Development (CBDC)
Secretario General
Confederación Nacional Sindical "Unidad Obrero Campesina" de Chile
Eleuterio Ramírez N. 1463
Santiago
Chile
Phone: +56 2 6966342
Email: corvalan57@gmail.com; uocchile@gmail.com

Mr Andrew MUSHITA
Community Biodiversity Conservation and Development (CBDC)
Community Technology Development Trust (C.T.D.T)
Box 7232
Harare
Zimbabwe
Phone: +2634 589382 - 589242 - 576091
Fax: +263 4 589390
Email: andrew@ctdt.co.zw; andrew@commutech.co.zw

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

Ms Tasmin RAJOTTE
Representative
Quaker International Affairs Programme (QIAP)
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)
574 Sommerset St. West, Suite 3
Ottawa
Ont. K1R 5K2
Phone: +1 613 231 7311
Fax: +1 613 231 7290
Email: qiap@quaker.ca

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS
FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES MOUVEMENTS D'AGRICULTURE
BIOLOGIQUE
FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE LOS MOVIMIENTOS DE AGRICULTURA
BIOLÓGICA**

Ms Cristina GRANDI
Liaison Officer to FAO and IFAD
International Federation of Organic Agriculture (IFOAM)
Via Piave 14
00187 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0645437485
Fax: +39 0645437469
Email: c.grandi@ifoam.org

Ms Rosario FLORIDDIA
Coordinamento Toscano Produttori Biologici
International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)
Via Piave 14
00187 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0587697184
Fax: +39 0587697184
Email: floriddia@libero.it

Mr Demeteris HALE
Intern
International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)
Via Piave 14
00187 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0645431485
Fax: +39 0645437469
Email: d.hale@ifoam.org

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Ms Elsa TSIOUMANI
IISD Reporting Services
Orfanidou 2
54624 Thessaloniki
Greece
Phone: +30 2310 535690
Fax: +30 2310 535695
Email: elsa@iisd.org

Mr Andrew BROOKE
IISD Reporting Services
212 East 47th St. 21F
New York NY 10017
United States of America
Phone: +1 646 536 7556
Fax: +1 646 219 0955
Email: andrew@iisd.org

Mr Reem HAJJAR
IISD Reporting Services
212 East 47th St. 21F
New York NY 10017
United States of America
Phone: +1 646 536 7556
Fax: +1 646 219 0955
Email: reem@iisd.org

Mr Stefan JUNG CURT
IISD Reporting Services
212 East 47th St. 21F
New York NY 10017
United States of America
Phone: +1 646 536 7556
Fax: +1 646 219 0955
Email: stefan@iisd.org

Ms Wagaki MWANGI
IISD Reporting Services
212 East 47th St. 21F
New York NY 10017
United States of America
Phone: +1 646 536 7556
Fax: +1 646 219 0955
Email: wagaki@iisd.org

Ms Ángeles ESTRADA
Digital Editor
IISD Reporting Services
212 East 47th St. 21F
New York NY 10017
United States of America
Phone: +1 646 536 7556
Fax: +1 646 219 0955
Email: angeles@iisd.org

Ms Nancy WILLIAMS
Logistics Coordinator
IISD Reporting Services
212 East 47th St. 21F
New York NY 10017
United States of America
Phone: +1 646 536 7556
Fax: +1 646 219 0955
Email: nancy@iisd.org

**INTERNATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY
COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE PLANIFICATION DES ONG/OSC POUR LA
SOVERAINETÉ ALIMENTAIRE
COMITÉ INTERNACIONAL DE PLANIFICACIÓN DE LAS ONG/OSC PARA LA
SOBERANÍA ALIMENTARIA**

Mr Antonio ONORATI
International Focal Point
IPC Secretariat
International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)
c/o Centro Internazionale Crocevia
Via Tuscolana n. 1111
00173 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0761306589
Fax: +39 0761306589
Email: mc2535@mclink.it

Ms Beatriz GASCO VERDIER
Liaison Officer
IPC Secretariat
International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)
c/o Centro Internazionale Crocevia
Via Tuscolana n. 1111
00173 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0761306589
Fax: +39 0761306589
Email: lo@foodsovereignty.org

Mr Luca COLOMBO
International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)
c/o Centro Internazionale Crocevia
Via Tuscolana n. 1111
00173 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0672902263
Fax: +39 0672907846
Email: colombo@fondazioneDirittigenetici.org

Ms Lorenza PAOLONI
International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)
c/o Centro Internazionale Crocevia
Via Tuscolana n. 1111
00173 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0672902263
Fax: +39 0672907846
Email: crocevia@croceviaterra.it

Mr Alessandro DESSÌ
International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)
c/o Centro Internazionale Crocevia
Via Tuscolana n. 1111
00173 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0672902263
Fax: +39 0672907846
Email: crocevia@croceviaterra.it

Mr Pierluigi BOZZI
International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)
c/o Centro Internazionale Crocevia
Via Tuscolana n. 1111
00173 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0672902263
Fax: +39 0672907846
Email: p.bozzi@yahoo.it

Mr Edoardo CALZA BINI
International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)
c/o Centro Internazionale Crocevia
Via Tuscolana n. 1111
00173 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0672902263
Fax: +39 0672907846
Email: crocevia@croceviaterra.it

Ms Maryam RAHMANIAN
Wescana (Iran)
International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)
c/o Centro Internazionale Crocevia
Via Tuscolana n. 1111
00173 Rome
Italy
Email: maryam@cenesta.org

Mr Joyson MAZAMO
IP (India)
International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)
c/o Centro Internazionale Crocevia
Via Tuscolana n. 1111
00173 Rome
Italy
Email: mkantha@rediffmail.com

Ms Alessandra COVRE
Farmers (Italy)
International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)
c/o Centro Internazionale Crocevia
Via Tuscolana n. 1111
00173 Rome
Italy
Email: aiab@aiab.it

Ms María CARRASCOSA
Red de Semillas (Spain)
International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)
c/o Centro Internazionale Crocevia
Via Tuscolana n. 1111
00173 Rome
Italy
Email: correo@redsemillas.info

Mr Juan Manuel GONZÁLEZ GUTIÉRREZ
Red de Semillas (Spain)
International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)
c/o Centro Internazionale Crocevia
Via Tuscolana n. 1111
00173 Rome
Italy
Email: correo@redsemillas.info

Mr Andrea MARKOS
International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)
c/o Centro Internazionale Crocevia
Via Tuscolana n. 1111
00173 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0672902263
Fax: +39 0672907846
Email: crocevia@croceviaterra.it

Mr Andrea FERRANTE
International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)
c/o Centro Internazionale Crocevia
Via Tuscolana n. 1111
00173 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0672902263
Fax: +39 0672907846
Email: crocevia@croceviaterra.it

**INTERNATIONAL SEED FEDERATION
FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DU COMMERCE DES SEMENCES**

Mr François BURGAUD
International Seed Federation (ISF)
7 Chemin du Reposoir
1260 Nyon
Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 3654420
Fax: +41 22 3654421
Email: isf@worldseed.org; francois.burgaud@gnis.fr

Ms Anke VAN DEN HURK
Senior Adviser
Biotechnology, Biodiversity and Organics
Plantum NL
Vossenburchkade 68
P.O. Box 462
NL-2800 Al Gouda
Phone: +31 182 688668
Fax: +31 182 688667
Email: a.vandenhurk@plantum.nl

Mr Kees NOOME
Regulatory Affairs
Intellectual Property
PR/PA Biotech
Limagrain - Advanta
Postbus 1
4410 AA Rilland
Van der Haveweg 2
4411 RB Rilland
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 113 557100
Fax: +31 113 552237
Email: kees.noome@limagrainadvanta.nl

**PRACTICAL ACTION
ACTION PRATIQUE
SOLUCIONES PRÁCTICAS**

Mr Patrick MULVANY
Senior Policy Adviser
Practical Action / ITDG
The Schumacher Centre for Technology and Development
Bourton On Dunsmore
Rugby
Warwickshire
CV23 9QZ
United Kingdom
Phone: +44 1926 634400
Fax: +44 1926 634401
Email: patrickmulvany@clara.co.uk; patrick.mulvany@practicalaction.org.uk

**RÉSEAU DES ORGANISATIONS PAYSANNES ET DE PRODUCTEURS AGRICOLES
D'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST**

Mr Ibrahim COULIBALY
(Mali)
Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs Agricoles d'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA)
09 BP 884
Ouagadougou 09
Burkina Faso
Email: i_ibracoul@yahoo.fr

Mr Adoulaye SAWADOGO
(Burkina Faso)
Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs Agricoles d'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA)
09 BP 884
Ouagadougou 09
Burkina Faso
Email: cpf@fasonet.bf

Mr Konan YOCOLI
(Cote d'Ivoire)
Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs Agricoles d'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA)
09 BP 884
Ouagadougou 09
Burkina Faso
Email: anopaci@yahoo.fr

SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGIONAL INITIATIVES FOR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Ms Wilhelmina R. PELEGRINA
Executive Director
Southeast Asian Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE)
29 Magiting Street
Diliman, Teachers Village
Quezon City 1101
Philippines
Phone: +63 2 4337182 - 4332067
Fax: +63 2 9216170 - 9226710
Email: didit_peregrina@searice.org.ph; searice@searice.org.ph

Mr Chrisgel Ryan CRUZ
Policy Officer
Southeast Asian Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE)
29 Magiting Street
Diliman, Teachers Village
Quezon City 1101
Philippines
Phone: +63 2 4337182 - 4332067
Fax: +63 2 9216170 - 9226710
Email: arcibaldcruz@gmail.com; policy@searice.org.ph; searice@searice.org.ph

Mr Candido BALDAPAN
Southeast Asian Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE)
29 Magiting Street
Diliman, Teachers Village
Quezon City 1101
Philippines
Phone: +63 2 4337182 - 4332067
Fax: +63 2 9216170 - 9226710
Email: searice@searice.org.ph

Mr Avelino SARINO
Southeast Asian Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE)
29 Magiting Street
Diliman, Teachers Village
Quezon City 1101
Philippines
Phone: +63 2 4337182 - 4332067
Fax: +63 2 9216170 - 9226710
Email: searice@searice.org.ph

VIA CAMPESINA

Ms María Tomasa ERRAZQUIN
(Argentina)
Via Campesina
Jl. Mampang Prapatan XIV No. 5
Jakarta Selatan
DKI Jakarta
Indonesia 12790
Email: sachayoj@gmail.com

Mr Derli CASALLI
(Brazil)
Via Campesina
Jl. Mampang Prapatan XIV No. 5
Jakarta Selatan
DKI Jakarta
Indonesia 12790
Email: dc_42@hotmail.com

Ms Morgan ODY
(Belgique)
Via Campesina
Jl. Mampang Prapatan XIV No. 5
Jakarta Selatan
DKI Jakarta
Indonesia 12790
Email: morganody@yahoo.fr

Ms Helen GROOME
(Spain)
Via Campesina
Jl. Mampang Prapatan XIV No. 5
Jakarta Selatan
DKI Jakarta
Indonesia 12790
Email: inguru@ehne.org

Ms Sylvette ESCAZEUX
(France)
Via Campesina
Jl. Mampang Prapatan XIV No. 5
Jakarta Selatan
DKI Jakarta
Indonesia 12790
Email: guy.kastler@wanadoo.fr

EXPERT SPEAKERS AT THE OPENING CEREMONY
CONFÉRENCIERS EXPERTS DE LA CÉRÉMONIE D'OUVERTURE
CONFERENCIANTES EXPERTOS DE LA CEREMONIA DE APERTURA

Mr Silas BRASILEIRO
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Block D
Brasilia DF
Brazil
Tel: +5561 2248098 - 2182257
Fax: +5561 2259918
E-mail: se@agricultura.gov.br

Ms Margaret CATLEY-CARLSON
Secretary General Advisory Board on Water
Global Crop Diversity Trust
Global Water Partnership
249th East 48th Str., 8A
NY 10017
New York
United States of America
Phone: +1 212 6883149 - 917 459 3239
Email: m.catley-carlson@cgiar.org

Mr Anil K. GUPTA
President
Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions (SRISTI)
Professor in Management Agriculture
Indian Institute of Management
Ahmedabad 380015
Gujarat
India
Phone: +91 79 26324927 - 26327341
Fax: +91 79 26307341
Email: anilg@iimahd.ernet.in; anilg@sristi.org

Mr Dean OESTREICH
President
Pioneer Hi-Bred International
(A DuPont Company)
7250 NW 62nd Ave.
Jonston, Iowa 50131-0552
United States of America
Phone: +1 515 2705939
Fax: +1 515 3346883
Email: dean.oestreich@pioneer.com

Mr M.S. SWAMINATHAN
Chair
M.S. SWAMINATHAN Research Foundation
21, Rathna Nagar
Teynampet
600 018 Chennai
India
Phone: +91 44 22542790
Fax: +91 44 22541319
Email: chairman@mssrf.res.in

Mr Sunda Ram VERMA
Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions (SRISTI)
Ahmedabad 380015
Gujarat
India
Phone: +91 79 27913293 – 27912792
Fax: +91 79 26307341
Email: info@sristi.org

Mr Guy KASTLER
(France)
Via Campesina
Jl. Mampang Prapatan XIV No. 5
Jakarta Selatan
DKI Jakarta
Indonesia 12790
Phone: +62 21 7991890
Fax: +62 21 7993426
Email: guy.kastler@wanadoo.fr

**SECRETARIAT OF THE FAO COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD
AND AGRICULTURE**

**SECRÉTARIAT DE LA COMMISSION DES RESSOURCES GÉNÉTIQUES POUR
L'ALIMENTATION E L'AGRICULTURE DE LA FAO**

**SECRETARÍA DE LA COMISIÓN DE RECURSOS GENÉTICOS PARA LA
ALIMENTACIÓN Y LA AGRICULTURA DE LA FAO**

Mr Clive STANNARD
Officer in Charge
Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0657054981
Fax: +39 0657053057
Email: CGRFA@fao.org

Mr Dan LESKIEN
Specialist Legal Adviser
Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1
00153 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0657054666
Fax: +39 0657053057
Email: dan.leskien@fao.org

Mr Álvaro TOLEDO CHÁVARRI
Programme Officer
Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1
00153 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0657054497
Fax: +39 0657053057
Email: alvaro.toledo@fao.org

**SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC
RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**SECRETARIAT DU TRAITE INTERNATIONAL SUR LES RESSOURCES
PHYTOGENETIQUES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE**

**SECRETARÍA DEL TRATADO INTERNACIONAL SOBRE LOS RECURSOS
FITOGENÉTICOS PARA LA ALIMENTACIÓN Y LA AGRICULTURA**

Mr Shakeel BHATTI

Secretary

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1

00153 Rome

Italy

Phone: +39 0657053441

Fax: +39 0657056347

Email: shakeel.bhatti@fao.org

Mr Selim LOUAFI

Senior Treaty Support Officer

Multilateral System

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1

00153 Rome

Italy

Phone: +39 0657053854

Fax: +39 06 57056347

Email: selim.louafi@fao.org

Mr Kent NNADOZIE

Treaty Support Officer

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1

00153 Rome

Italy

Phone: +39 0657052467

Fax: +39 06 57056347

Email: kent.nnadozie@fao.org

Mr Francisco LÓPEZ MARTÍN
Consultant
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1
00153 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0657056343
Fax: +39 06 57056347
Email: francisco.lopez@fao.org

Mr Syedahmed SHAMSIE
Consultant
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1
00153 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0657055739
Fax: +39 06 57056347
Email: Syedahmed.shamsie@fao.org

Ms Marie SCHLOEN
Associate Professional Officer
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1
00153 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0657056187
Fax: +39 06 57056347
Email: marie.schloen@fao.org

Mr Richard LAING
Consultant
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1
00153 Rome
Italy
Fax: +39 0657056347
Email: PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org

Ms Kim-Anh TEMPELMAN
Consultant
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1
00153 Rome
Italy
Fax: +39 0657056347
Email: PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org

Mr Luis BOMBÍN

Consultant

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1

00153 Rome

Phone:

Fax: +39 0657056347

Email: PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org

Mr Carlos M. CORREA

Consultant

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1

00153 Rome

Phone:

Fax: +39 0657056347

Email: PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org