

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

between

THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

and

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

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereinafter referred to as “CBD Secretariat”) and the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as “International Treaty Secretariat”):

Recognizing the role of the Convention on Biological Diversity in promoting the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources;

Recognizing the role of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security; and *recalling* that the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture requires that its objectives be attained by closely linking the Treaty to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Recognizing that the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture mandates its Secretary to cooperate with other organizations and treaty bodies, including in particular the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Recalling that the Memorandum of Cooperation signed in May 2005 by the CBD Secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations establishes a framework for cooperation in the areas of biological diversity of relevance to food and agriculture with a view to promoting synergy, ensuring complementarity and mutual support, and better serving the Members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Recognizing that, in the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation signed in May 2005 by the CBD Secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the CBD Secretariat and the International Treaty Secretariat are willing to strengthen their specific collaboration in light of decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as well as in light of the work of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Recalling that, the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, in Resolution 8/2009, acknowledged the ongoing fruitful collaboration between the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Convention on Biological Diversity and requested its Secretary to continue enhancing the collaboration with other international organizations, especially the Convention on Biological Diversity, in regard to the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity, access to plant genetic resources

and benefit-sharing, and stressed the importance of collaboration during the negotiations on the International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing;

Recalling that the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, in Resolution 8/2009, stressing the need to exchange information and coordinate capacity-building initiatives, requested its Secretary to foster cooperation with other organizations and strengthen existing cooperative arrangements with a view to developing synergies and reducing inefficiencies in a manner consistent with their respective mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programmes, based on available resources;

Recalling that, in Decision VII/19 on Access and Benefit-sharing, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, adopted the Action Plan on Capacity-building for Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing;

Noting that Paragraph 10 of the Action Plan on Capacity-building for Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing states that, in view of the multiplicity of actors undertaking capacity-building initiatives for access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, mutual information-sharing and coordination at all levels should be promoted to encourage synergies and to identify existing gaps in coverage;

Noting further that, at the international level, the Action Plan on Capacity-building for Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing requires coordination with other relevant international regimes, in particular with capacity-building programmes under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, to ensure synergies and complementarities;

Noting that, in the negotiations of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing, several concepts reflected in the Action Plan on Capacity-building for Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing, including cooperation on capacity-building through existing global organizations, might be drawn into the text of the new international regime;

Recalling that, in Decision IX/12 on Access and Benefit-sharing, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity welcomed the agreements and other work relating to access to genetic resources and sharing the benefits arising out of their utilisation in various forums, and in particular the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

Recalling that, in Decision IX/27 on cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity underlined the important role of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions in exploring options for enhancing synergies, avoiding duplication of efforts and improving the coherent implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions;

Have reached the following understanding:

Article 1 Objective

The objective of the present Memorandum of Cooperation (hereinafter "the Memorandum") is to enhance cooperation between the CBD Secretariat and the International Treaty Secretariat (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Parties") in areas of mutual interest and within the respective mandates.

Article 2
Institutional Cooperation

1. The Parties undertake to cooperate in their respective activities, including capacity-building dealing with access and benefit-sharing as related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.
2. The Parties will mutually support one another in the undertaking and promotion of activities and projects relevant to their respective mandates, for instance in undertaking and promoting:
 - (a) workshops, seminars and other events, including on access and benefit-sharing, as related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
 - (b) coordination of technical assistance, including for implementation of access and benefit-sharing regimes, as related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, at the international, regional, sub-regional and national levels.
3. The Parties will, as far as possible, ensure the respective participation at meetings organized by them, including, as appropriate, making presentations at such meetings and providing their expertise and inputs in the preparation of documentation for such meetings.
4. The Parties will, subject to the approval of their competent bodies, undertake studies and provide other technical inputs in writing to the governing or other competent bodies of the requesting Party, as necessary for the advancement of their respective programmes of work, including on access and benefit-sharing, as related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Article 3
Exchange of Information

The Parties will exchange information regarding activities of relevance to their respective mandates and on joint activities undertaken within the framework of this Memorandum, and will notify each other of decisions taken by their respective governing and other competent bodies, as appropriate, on issues of mutual concern.

Article 4
Reporting and Further Guidance

1. The Parties will regularly assess progress with implementation of this Memorandum, at least annually, through joint Secretariat meetings.
2. The Parties will report to their respective governing and other competent bodies, as appropriate, on progress made in the implementation of this Memorandum and seek further guidance from such bodies, as appropriate, regarding their institutional cooperation.

Article 5
Financial Implications

1. Any ordinary expenditure relating to the implementation of this Memorandum shall be borne by the respective Party to the Memorandum within the agreed budgets of the respective Secretariats.
2. The Parties may, preferably jointly or separately, agree on cooperation with other organizations and agencies, including funding agencies, for implementation of activities under this Memorandum.


Article 6
Focal Points

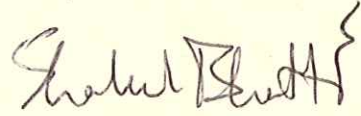
The Parties agree that focal points for the implementation of this Memorandum will be appointed by the respective Secretaries among their staff.

Article 7
Entry into effect, Review and Termination

1. This Memorandum will enter into effect upon signature by the Parties and remain in effect for a period of 5 (five) years thereafter.
2. This Memorandum may be amended by mutual agreement of the Parties in writing.
3. This Memorandum may be terminated by either Party giving a one-year notice in writing.

Signed this^{28th}..... day of^{October}..... 2010,


The Secretariat of the
Convention on Biological Diversity


FAO, on behalf of the Secretariat of the International
on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture