



Ref.: SCBD/STTM/MG/IA/33906

12 February 2003

### NOTIFICATION

#### **Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Expert Group on genetic use restriction technologies Montreal, Canada, 19 to 21 February 2003**

In paragraph 21 of its decision VI/5 on agricultural biological diversity, the Conference of the Parties decided to establish an *ad hoc* technical expert group on genetic use restriction technologies (GURTs) to further analyse the potential impacts of GURTs on smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities and on Farmers' Rights. In preparing its advice for consideration at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the expert group was requested to take into account relevant ongoing work being carried out by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), the Intergovernmental Committee of Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and other organizations, as well as comments from Parties, international organizations, and smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities.

The Secretariat is convening a meeting of the *ad hoc* technical expert group on GURTs from 19 to 21 February 2003, at the premises of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, Canada. The group will report to both the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

I am pleased to convey herewith the composition of the group of selected experts and the list of invited organizations (Annex I). The selection of experts was based on nominations by the Parties and organizations, as well as the CBD Roster of Experts, taking into account the participants' demonstrated expertise and experience in the field of biotechnology/biosafety, geographical distribution and gender balance.

The provisional agenda of this meeting is provided in Annex II and is available, together with the annotated agenda, on the Secretariat's website at [www.biodiv.org](http://www.biodiv.org). A list of documents for the meeting is provided in Annex III.

Sincerely yours,

To: All CBD National Focal Points



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Hamdallah Zedan  
Executive Secretary

## **Annex I**

### **Selected experts for the Expert meeting on genetic use restriction technologies**

#### **Africa**

Mr. Sem Shikongo (Namibia)  
Mr. David Hafashimana (Uganda)

#### **Asia**

Mr. Wajid Hussain Shah Pirzada (Pakistan)  
Mr. Kazuo N. Watanabe (Japan)

#### **Latin America and Caribbean**

Mr. Modesto Fernandez Diaz-Silveira (Cuba)  
Mr. Rodrigo Artunduaga Salas (Colombia)

#### **Central and Eastern Europe**

Mr. Maxim Melnichuk (Ukraine)  
Mr. Alexander Golikov (Russia Federation)

#### **WEOG**

Ms. Kirsten Finstad (Canada)  
Mr. Niels P. Louwaars (The Netherlands)  
Ms. Nancy N. Ragsdale (United States of America)  
Mr. Brad Sherman (Australia)

#### **SBSTTA Bureau**

Mr. Robert Andren (Sweden)

#### **Organizations**

##### **Smallholder Farmers, Local and Indigenous Communities Organizations**

Ms. Riya Sinha  
**National Innovation Foundation (India)**

Mr. Abou Thiam  
**Institut des Sciences de l'Environnement (Senegal)**

Mr. Alejandro Argumedo  
**Indigenous Peoples Biodiversity Network (Peru)**

Mr. Francisco Cali  
**Indigenous Program of the Legal Support Center for Human Rights (Guatemala)**

Ms. Debra Harry  
**Indigenous Peoples Council on Biocolonialism (United States of America)**

Ms. Marjana Dermelj  
**Umanotera, The Slovenian Foundation for Sustainable Development (Slovenia)**

Mr. Farhad Mazhar  
**UBINIG (Bangladesh)**

**UN Organizations**

Mr. Niels P. Louwaars  
**The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Mr. Makoto Tabata  
**The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)**

**Other Organizations**

Mr. Joel Cohen  
**International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR/CGIAR)**

**Non-governmental Organizations**

Ms. Hope Shand  
**ETC Group**

Ms. Tamara Dionne Stout  
**International Biodiversity Indigenous Forum**

**Private Sector**

Mr. Harry Collins  
**International Seed Federation/Delta & Pine Land Company**

## **Annex II**

### **DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
  - 2.1. Election of officers;
  - 2.2. Adoption of the agenda;
  - 2.3. Organization of work.
3. Reporting on ongoing initiatives requested by the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in paragraphs 21, 23 and 24 of decision VI/5 on agricultural biodiversity.
4. Further analysis of the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies (GURTs).
  - 4.1. Potential impacts on smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities.
  - 4.2. Potential impacts on Farmers' Rights.
5. Advice for consideration by the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report.
8. Closure of the meeting.

### Annex III

Documents for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Genetic Use Restriction Technologies

#### DOCUMENTS PREPARED FOR THE EXPERT GROUP

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-GURTS/1/1	Provisional agenda (English)
UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-GURTS/1/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda (English)

#### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
Decision COP VI/5	“Agricultural Biological Diversity”, CBD, April 2002. (English/French/Spanish/Chinese/Russian) <a href="https://www.biodiv.org/decisions/default.asp?lg=0&amp;dec=VI/5">https://www.biodiv.org/decisions/default.asp?lg=0&amp;dec=VI/5</a>
UNEP/CBD/COP/6/11/Add.1	“Report on the impacts of the application of genetic use restriction technologies on indigenous and local communities and farmers' rights”, CBD, Expert Consultation, Montreal, 3 February 2002. (English/French/Spanish/Arabic/Chinese/Russian) <a href="http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/cop/cop-06/official/cop-06-11-add1-en.doc">http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/cop/cop-06/official/cop-06-11-add1-en.doc</a>
Decision COP V/5	“Agricultural Biological Diversity”, CBD, May 2000. (English/French/Spanish/Chinese/Russian/ Arabic) <a href="https://www.biodiv.org/decisions/default.asp?lg=0&amp;dec=V/5">https://www.biodiv.org/decisions/default.asp?lg=0&amp;dec=V/5</a>
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/9/Rev.1	“Consequences of the use of the new technology for the control of plant genetic expression for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity”, FAO, June 1999 (English/French/Spanish/Arabic/Chinese/Russian) <a href="http://intranet.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-04/official/sbstta-04-09-rev1-en.doc">http://intranet.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-04/official/sbstta-04-09-rev1-en.doc</a>
CGRFA-9/02/17	“Potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies (GURTs) on agricultural biodiversity and agricultural production systems: follow-up to the first session of the Inter-Governmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the sixth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity”. FAO, September 2002 (English) <a href="http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/docs9.htm">http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/docs9.htm</a>
CGRFA-9/02/17 Annex	“Potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies (GURTs) on agricultural biodiversity and agricultural productions systems: technical study” FAO, September 2002 (English) <a href="http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/cop/cop-06/information/cop-06-inf-01-rev1-en.pdf">http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/cop/cop-06/information/cop-06-inf-01-rev1-en.pdf</a>
FAO Legal Paper Online #24	“A global instrument on agrobiodiversity: The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture”, FAO, January

	2002. (English) <a href="http://www.fao.org/Legal/default.htm">http://www.fao.org/Legal/default.htm</a>
[no symbol]	“The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture”, by H. David Cooper, in Review of European Community and International Environmental Law (RECIEL) 11 (1, 2002): 116. (English)
[no symbol]	“The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture”, FAO, November 2001 (English/French/Spanish) <a href="http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/itpgr.htm">http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/itpgr.htm</a> <a href="http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/Spanish/itpgr.htm">http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/Spanish/itpgr.htm</a> <a href="ftp://ext-ftp.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/iu/ITPGRf.pdf">ftp://ext-ftp.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/iu/ITPGRf.pdf</a>
CGRFA-9/02/18	“The status of the draft code of conduct on biotechnology as it related to genetic resources for food and agriculture: report on surveys of FAO Members and stakeholders”. FAO, June 2002 (French/English/Arabic/Chinese) <a href="http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/docs9.htm">http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/docs9.htm</a>
CGRFA-9/02/18/Annex CPGR/93/9	“Draft Code of Conduct on Biotechnology as it affects the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources, with a Preliminary Draft International Code of Conduct on Plant Biotechnology as it affects the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources”, FAO, 1992 (English/French, Spanish/Arabic/Chinese) <a href="http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/docs9.htm">http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/docs9.htm</a>