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## NOTIFICATION

### **Outcomes of the Sixth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture relevant to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing**

Madam/Sir,

The Sixth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture ('International Treaty') was convened from 5 to 9 October 2015 at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, Italy. The report of the meeting is now available online in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish at: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/f9cc6aee-383f-44ab-bd29-c4baab79b999/>.

Given the close linkages between the International Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol, I am pleased to bring to your attention some of the outcomes of the meeting which are of particular relevance to the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol. Please find a summary of the relevant outcomes in the annex to this notification for your information.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias  
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

To : ABS National Focal Points (CBD National Focal Points where ABS National Focal Points have not yet been designated)



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Biological Diversity

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## Annex

### ***Resolution 1/2015: Measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing***

At the Fifth Session of the Governing Bodies, the Contracting Parties to the International Treaty had established an *Ad hoc* Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing ('Working Group') with the mandate of increasing user-based payments and contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund in a sustainable and predictable long-term manner and enhancing the functioning of the Multilateral System (MLS) by additional measures.

By Resolution 1/2015 adopted by the Sixth Session of the Governing Body, the Contracting Parties decided to extend the mandate of the Working Group. Among other things, the Working Group is requested to revise the Standard Material Transfer Agreement focusing in particular on the development of a subscription system and to elaborate options for adapting the coverage of the MLS.

### ***Resolution 3/2015: The Vision and the Programme of Work on the Global Information System***

By Resolution 3/2015, the Governing Body adopted the Vision and Programme of Work on the Global Information System (GLIS) on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the context of Article 17 of the Treaty, which requires, *inter alia*, that in implementing the GLIS, the cooperation of the clearing-house mechanism of the CBD be sought. The Governing Body established a Scientific Advisory Committee to provide guidance on the development and strengthening of the Global Information System. It is expected that the CBD Secretariat will be represented on the Committee.

### ***Resolution 4/2015: Implementation of Article 6, Sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture***

By Resolution 4/2015, the Governing Body endorsed a revised Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Supporting Initiatives. The Programme of Work acknowledges the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and a number of components of the Programme of Work foresee cooperation with the CBD. The Resolution also includes a request for the Secretary of the Treaty to collaborate with other relevant initiatives, in particular with regard to the CBD, on interaction between genetic resources, community and farmer led system activities and protected area systems. The Contracting Parties also decided to reconvene the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, of which the CBD Secretariat is a member.

### ***Resolution 5/2015: Implementation of Article 9, Farmers' Rights***

Resolution 5/2015 includes a number of invitations to Contracting Parties and others to take various actions concerning Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the Treaty. This includes invitations to consider developing national action plans and providing financial and technical support for the implementation of Farmers' Rights in developing countries.

The Resolution also requests the Secretary of the International Treaty to undertake a number of activities. These include: preparing a study on lessons learned from the implementation of Farmers' Rights; finalizing an educational module on Farmers' Rights and carrying out a Joint Capacity Building Programme with the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and other relevant organizations; and continuing to engage in a mutually supportive manner with UPOV and WIPO to finalize the process for the identification of possible areas of interrelations between the respective instruments. The Secretary is to report to the next session of the Governing Body on the implementation of the Resolution.

### ***Resolution 7/2015: Relationship with the Convention on Biological Diversity***

The relationship with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a standing item on the agenda of the Governing Body of the International Treaty. By Resolution 7/2015, the Governing Body, *inter alia*, commended the Secretariats of the Convention and the International Treaty for their cooperative efforts. The Resolution requests the Secretary of the International Treaty to continue exploring with the Executive Secretary of the Convention practical means and activities to further enhance cooperation and welcomes the efforts of the two Secretariats, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, Bioversity International, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and other partners, to bring together stakeholders and experts involved in the implementation of the Treaty, the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol.

The Governing Body noted the decisions of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP-12) and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol that are of relevance to the International Treaty. It requested the Secretary of the Treaty to continue participating in relevant processes of the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol. The Resolution also calls on the Parties to the Treaty to ensure their commitments under the Treaty are fully reflected as countries review and update their national biodiversity strategies and actions plans.

The Governing Body welcomed the decision of COP-12 on the Financial Mechanism (decision XII/30) to enhance programmatic synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and requested the Bureau of the Governing Body, with the support of the Secretariat of the International Treaty, to develop elements of advice for the Global Environment Facility concerning the funding of the objectives and priorities of the Treaty, consistent with the mandates of the Global Environment Facility. These elements of advice will be transmitted through the Executive Secretary of the CBD to COP-13 so that they may be referred to the Global Environment Facility.

The Governing Body also welcomed the decision of COP-12 (decision XII/6) to hold a workshop to explore ways for Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among them. It requested the Bureau of the Governing Body and the Secretary to facilitate the selection of representatives to participate in this workshop and report on the outcomes to the Seventh Session of the Governing Body.

### ***Resolution 10/2015: Cooperation with other international bodies and organizations***

By Resolution 10/2015, the Governing Body noted with appreciation the work of the biodiversity-related conventions to strengthen synergies among them and stressed the importance of supporting the conventions to improve collaboration, communication and coordination at all levels. The Governing Body invited the members of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions to continue their cooperation and coordination as a means to increase synergies in national implementation, in accordance with their respective mandates. It also urged Parties to take measures to enhance synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions to promote policy coherence, improve efficiency and enhance coordination and cooperation at all levels. The Secretary of the International Treaty is requested to continue collaborating with other conventions and relevant international organizations for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in particular the Sustainable Development Goals and targets that touch on the provisions of the Treaty.