



# The International Treaty

## ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Our Ref.: NCP GB4 CFF-SF

1 November 2010

### NOTIFICATION

#### Call for Funding of the Special Funds for Agreed Purposes

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the honour to draw attention to the Report of the Third Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty (Tunis, Tunisia, 1-5 June 2009) and the decisions therein contained. I refer also to the Circular State Letter dated 24 September 2009 through which attention was drawn to specific decisions of the Governing Body requiring action by Contracting Parties.

The purpose of this notification is to bring to your attention decisions that are addressed to Contracting Parties **in relation to Contributions to the Special Funds of the International Treaty<sup>1</sup>**.

Contracting Parties will recall that the Special Funds were established in accordance with Financial Rule 3.3 b) for *agreed purposes* in accordance with guidelines established by the Governing Body, or for purposes specified by agreement between the contributor and the Secretary under Financial Rule 5.1 d)

The Core Administrative Budget adopted by the Governing Body at its Third Session covers only the cost of the statutory and overhead expenses required for the basic maintenance of the Treaty. Other activities originally proposed by the Secretary as part of the Work Programme for 2010-11 and essential to the implementation of vital Treaty systems are currently being supported by the Special Funds. In the absence of further contributions, it is foreseen that the Special Funds will be critically depleted or fully exhausted by the end of the current biennium.

Contributions to the Special Funds have in essence been received from only 3 out of a current 127 Contracting Parties since inception; Ireland, Italy and Spain. The implementation of a major part of the current Work Programme has only been possible thanks to the generosity of these donors and a major part of the work of the Treaty is, therefore, currently being run on a project basis.

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<sup>1</sup> Document IT/GB-3/09/Report, *Report of the Third Session of the Governing Body, Appendix A.1, paragraph 3*



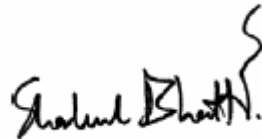
Accordingly, **Contracting Parties are invited to make contributions to the Special Funds** that may be used in support of the implementation of the Work Programme for 2012-13. It should be borne in mind that the Special Funds currently cover over 40 percent of the costs of implementation and other activities of the Treaty for a figure in excess of 2 million US dollars in the current 2010-11 biennium.

In the preparation of the draft Work Programme and Budget for the forthcoming biennium to be submitted for the consideration of the Governing Body at its next Session in March 2011, it is essential that I have a clear picture of the availability of resources under the Special Funds, taking into account also the expansion of the Treaty. In view of this, I would request your early response to this Notification.

Any query or request for further information should be addressed to:

Dr. Shakeel Bhatti  
Secretary  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
00153 Rome, Italy  
Tel: +39 06 5705 3554, Fax: +39 06 5705 6347  
E-mail: [PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org](mailto:PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org)

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



Shakeel Bhatti  
Secretary  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources  
for Food and Agriculture