



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**



**International Treaty  
on Plant Genetic Resources  
for Food and Agriculture**

**INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**SIXTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON  
FARMERS' RIGHTS**

**Rome, Italy, 23—26 June 2025**

**REPORT**

**ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

1. The sixth meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (AHTEG-FR or Expert Group) was opened by the Co-Chairs, Ms Modester Kachapila-Millinyu (Malawi) and Ms Kim Van Seeters (the Netherlands). The Co-Chairs recalled the positive spirit and enthusiasm that prevailed at the last meeting of the Expert Group and expressed their hope for a similar atmosphere at this meeting. They thanked the Secretariat for organizing and preparing the meeting, as well as the Governments of Italy and Norway for their financial support.
2. The Secretary of the International Treaty, Mr. Kent Nnadozie, welcomed the Expert Group to FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. He emphasized the importance of the work of the Expert Group for food security, biodiversity and livelihoods of farmers, recalling the impact of the International Treaty at local level. He also highlighted the indispensable role of collective action and multilateral approaches in addressing global challenges. The Secretary wished the Expert Group a productive meeting and underscored that, together with his team, he remained at the service of the Expert Group for any additional support it may need.

**ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF  
WORK**

3. The Expert Group adopted its Agenda, as provided in *Appendix 1*. The list of participants of the meeting is contained in *Appendix 2*.

**ITEM 3. DRAFT ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF  
IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 9 OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
TREATY**

4. The Secretariat introduced the documents, IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-6/25/3, *Approach, methodology and main results of the Assessment of the State of Implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty*, and IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-6/25/3.1, *Draft Assessment of the State of Implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty*.
5. The Expert Group thanked the Secretariat for the comprehensive documents prepared within a such limited time. The Assessment was conducted in the most inclusive and participatory way, following the Outline endorsed by the Expert Group at its fifth meeting, held in June 2024.

6. The Expert Group noted, with appreciation, the multiple sources of data and information used to elaborate the Assessment and, after reviewing it, provided comments and advice for its finalization.
7. The updated draft Assessment, taking into account the comments and advice, will be presented to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body, for its consideration.

#### **ITEM 4. DRAFT STRATEGY ON HOW THE USE OF THE “*OPTIONS FOR ENCOURAGING, GUIDING AND PROMOTING THE REALIZATION OF FARMERS’ RIGHTS AS SET OUT IN ARTICLE 9 OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY*” CAN BE PROMOTED**

8. The Secretariat introduced the document, IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-6/25/4, *Draft Strategy on how the use of the “Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty” can be promoted.*
9. The Expert Group discussed the draft Strategy, provided inputs and comments, and proposed a more elaborated version of the draft Strategy, which includes a dedicated Action Plan (2026 – 2029).
10. The updated draft Strategy, incorporating the inputs and comments, will be presented to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body in a separate document, for its consideration and endorsement.

#### **ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS**

11. The Expert Group engaged in a discussion regarding the binding nature of Article 9 of the International Treaty in the context of relevant international human rights instruments, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP), as well as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly targets 22 and 23. The Expert Group underscored the importance of fostering exchanges that capitalize on the work already done by farmers and other stakeholders.
12. The Expert Group discussed the relevance of new technologies, including Digital Sequence Information /Genetic Sequence Data, in the context of Farmers’ Rights and their impact on the implementation of Farmers’ Rights. It agreed that this cross-cutting area could become part of future discussions by the Governing Body.
13. It also recommended that the Governing Body may wish to consider the use of the terminology, “Indigenous Peoples and local communities”, in relevant documents and decisions under the International Treaty, to bring it in line with the current usage in other United Nations’ and International bodies and processes.
14. The Expert Group requested the Secretary to inform the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization of its suggestion to incorporate in the upcoming calls for proposals of the Benefit-sharing Fund of the International Treaty the *Strategy on the “Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty”*.
15. The Expert Group discussed the possible future of the AHTEG. There was also a proposal from some experts that, should the Governing Body consider continuing the work of the AHTEG-FR, it be reconvened as Standing Committee on Farmers’ Rights
16. The Expert Group recommended that the Governing Body consider the proposal to explore the possibility for the establishment of an International Day of Observance for Farmers’ Rights related to crop genetic resources, and to encourage any interested Contracting Parties to take the lead in realizing this objective.
17. As part of future activities on capacity-building, it was suggested to work on a model provision on how to mainstream the implementation of Article 9 in the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).
18. There was also a suggestion that it could be worthwhile to engage with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food in future activities on Farmers’ Rights.

19. The AHTEG-FR was informed about a workshop held at Griffith University in Australia that examined the possible substance of Farmers' Rights based on a human rights framework.

## **ITEM 6. ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

20. The Expert Group considered the elements for a draft Resolution prepared by the Secretary and provided inputs and suggestions for its finalization. The draft Resolution will be presented by the Secretariat as part of the Report on the Implementation of Farmers' Rights for the consideration of the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body.

21. The AHTEG thanked the Secretariat for the excellent support it provided to the work of the Expert Group. It expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Italy and Norway for the financial support they provided, which enabled the participation of experts and the provision of translation and interpretation services. It also invited other Contracting Parties and donors, in a position to do so, to provide support for the continuation of the work on Farmers' Rights.

22. The AHTEG-FR adopted the Report of its Sixth meeting and its Report to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body (*Appendix 3*).

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*Appendix 1*

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<b>INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE</b>
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<b>SIXTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON FARMERS' RIGHTS</b>
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<b>Rome, Italy, 23—26 June 2025</b>
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<b>AGENDA</b>
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1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty
4. Advice to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body on the use and promotion of the Options for Encouraging, Guiding and Promoting the Realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty
5. Other matters
6. Adoption of the Report

*Appendix 2***LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

<b>Co-Chairs</b>	<p><b>Ms Kim VAN SEETERS</b> National Focal Point ITPGRFA Senior Policy Officer Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality <b>The Netherlands</b> Phone: +31 631002237 E-mail: <a href="mailto:k.vanseeters@minlnv.nl">k.vanseeters@minlnv.nl</a></p>
	<p><b>Ms Modester Kachapila MILINYU</b> Malawi Plant Genetic Resources Centre Chitedze Research Station, P.O. Box 158 Lilongwe, <b>Malawi</b> Phone: +265 886445798 E-mail: <a href="mailto:mauldyka83@gmail.com">mauldyka83@gmail.com</a></p>

**MEMBERS**

<b>AFRICA</b>	<p><b>Mr Mourtala ISSA ZAKARI</b> Point Focal National TIRPAA Chercheur spécialisé en génétique et amélioration des plantes Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique du Niger (INRAN) BP 429 Niamey, <b>Niger</b> Phone: +227 96498520 E-mail: <a href="mailto:issazakarym@yahoo.fr">issazakarym@yahoo.fr</a></p>
	<p><b>Ms Michelle ANDRIAMHAZO</b> Ingénieur Agro-Environnementaliste Service Environnement, Climat et Réponses aux Urgences Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Élevage et de la Pêche B.P. 301 Anosy Antananarivo <b>Madagascar</b> Phone: +261 340561031 E-mail: <a href="mailto:michelle.andriamahazo@gmail.com">michelle.andriamahazo@gmail.com</a></p>
	<p><b>Mr Arcadius Léandre ONDZALA MADZOU</b> Point Focal National TIRPAA Directeur Centre National des Semences Améliorées 6 Rue Tréchet <b>Brazzaville</b> <b>Congo</b> Phone: + 242 06 986 0160 / 05 572 1014 E-mail: <a href="mailto:ondzala.madzou@gmail.com">ondzala.madzou@gmail.com</a></p>

	<p><b>Mr Mamba Mamba DAMAS</b>  Point Focal National TIRPAA  Directeur Chef de Service de la Direction de Protection des Végétaux  Point de Contact Officiel de la Convention Internationale pour la Protection des Végétaux  Kinshasa  <b>République Démocratique du Congo</b>  Phone: +243 81 29 59 330  E-mail: <a href="mailto:damasmamba@yahoo.fr">damasmamba@yahoo.fr</a></p>
	<p><b>Mme Fatou FOFANA</b>  Chef du service juridique  L'institut sénégalais de recherches agricoles  Dakar, <b>Senegal</b>  Phone: +221 781630469  Fax: +39 0668219294  E-mail: <a href="mailto:fatou.fofana@isra.sn">fatou.fofana@isra.sn</a> ; <a href="mailto:foffatou24@gmail.com">foffatou24@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>ASIA</b></p>	<p><b>Mr Muhammad SHAFIE MD SAH</b>  Senior Research Officer  Agrobiodiversity &amp; Environment  Research Centre  MARDI Headquarters, Persiaran  MARDI-UPM,  43400 Serdang, <b>Malaysia</b>  E-mail: <a href="mailto:shafiems@mardi.gov.my">shafiems@mardi.gov.my</a></p>
	<p><b>Ms Sabnam SHIVAKOTI</b>  Joint Secretary  Agriculture and Livestock Business Promotion Division  Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development  Singha Durbar, Kathmandu - <b>Nepal</b>  Phone: +977 985 1244238  E-mail: <a href="mailto:shabaryal@yahoo.com">shabaryal@yahoo.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:shabnam.shivakoti@gmail.com">shabnam.shivakoti@gmail.com</a></p>
	<p><b>Mr Paul Ryan Alcantara</b>  National Seed Industry Council  NSIC Building, 692 San Andres Street  Malate, <b>Manila</b>  <a href="mailto:nsic@buplant.da.gov.ph">nsic@buplant.da.gov.ph</a></p>
	<p><b>Mr Dinesh K. Agarwal</b>  <b>Registrar -General</b>  Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority  Govt. of India, Ministry of Agriculture &amp; Farmers Welfare,  D/o Agriculture and Farmers Welfare</p>

	<p>Plant Authority Bhawan, Near NASC Complex, DPS Marg Opp. Todapur, New Delhi-110012, <b>India</b> <a href="mailto:rg-ppvfra@nic.in">rg-ppvfra@nic.in</a></p>
<b>EUROPE</b>	<p><b>Ms Regine ANDERSEN</b> Research Professor Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI) Fridtjof Nansens vei 17 1366 Lysaker, <b>Norway</b> Phone: + 47 95118037 E-mail: <a href="mailto:randersen@fni.no">randersen@fni.no</a></p>
	<p><b>Mr Riccardo BOCCI</b> Rete Semi Rurali ETS Piazza Brunelleschi, 8 50018 Scandicci Firenze, <b>Italy</b> Cell.: +39 328 3876663 E-mail: <a href="mailto:r.bocci@semirurali.it">r.bocci@semirurali.it</a></p>
	<p><b>Ms Christina Blank</b> First Secretary Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN Organizations in Rome Rome, <b>Italy</b> E-mail: <a href="mailto:christina.blank@eda.admin.ch">christina.blank@eda.admin.ch</a></p>
	<p><b>Mr James QUIRKE</b> National Focal Point ITPGRFA Agricultural Inspector, Crop Policy, Evaluation &amp; Certification Division <i>Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine</i> Backweston Farm, Leixlip, Co. Kildare, W23AE3V, <b>Ireland</b> Mobile : +353 (0)86 8142043 Phone : +353 (0)1 6302906 E-mail: <a href="mailto:James.quirke@agriculture.gov.ie">James.quirke@agriculture.gov.ie</a></p>
	<p><b>Ms Pétronille DELORME</b> Adjointe au chef de bureau des semences et des solutions alternatives Direction générale de l'alimentation Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation 251 rue de Vaugirard 75732 Paris Cedex 15 <b>France</b> Phone: +33 1 49 55 42 51 E-mail: <a href="mailto:petronille.delorme@agriculture.gouv.fr">petronille.delorme@agriculture.gouv.fr</a></p>
<b>GRULAC</b>	<p><b>Mr Fabio Ariston</b> Brazilian mission to the FAO Brasilia, <b>Brazil</b></p>

	<p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:fabio.ariston@itamaraty.gov.br">fabio.ariston@itamaraty.gov.br</a>; <a href="mailto:dbio@itamaraty.gov.br">dbio@itamaraty.gov.br</a></p> <p><b>Sra Teresa AGÜERO TEARE</b> Punto Focal Nacional para el TIRFAA Encargada asuntos ambientales, recursos genéticos y bioseguridad Oficina de Estudios y Políticas Agrarias, Ministerio de Agricultura Teatinos 40 - Piso 8 Santiago, <b>Chile</b> Phone: +56 223973039 E-mail: <a href="mailto:taguero@odepa.gob.cl">taguero@odepa.gob.cl</a></p> <p><b>Sr César TAPIA BASTIDAS</b> Punto Focal Nacional TIRFAA Responsable Departamento Nacional de Recursos Genéticos Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agropecuarias (INIAP) Panamericana Sur Km. 1 vía Tambillo, Cantón Mejía Quito, <b>Ecuador</b> Phone: +593 23006089 E-mail: <a href="mailto:denareg@yahoo.com">denareg@yahoo.com</a>; <a href="mailto:cesar.tapia@iniap.gob.ec">cesar.tapia@iniap.gob.ec</a></p> <p><b>Sr Roger Alberto BECERRA GALLARDO</b> Punto Focal Nacional para el TIRFAA Coordinador del Área de Acceso a Recursos Genéticos Instituto Nacional de Innovación Agraria - INIA Av. La Molina N° 1981, Distrito La Molina Lima, <b>Perú</b> Phone: + 511 240-2100, Anexo 355 Celular: 939269910 E-mail: <a href="mailto:rbecerra@inia.gob.pe">rbecerra@inia.gob.pe</a></p>
<b>NEAR EAST</b>	<p><b>Mr Khaled ABULAILA</b> National Focal Point ITPGRFA Botanist, Conservation Biologist Director/Directorate of Plant Diversity PO Box 639, Baqa'a, 19381, <b>Jordan</b> Phone: +962 64725071 Mobile: +962 796602987 Fax: +962 64726099 E-mail : <a href="mailto:kabulaila@gmail.com">kabulaila@gmail.com</a>; <a href="mailto:Khaled.Abulaila@narc.gov.jo">Khaled.Abulaila@narc.gov.jo</a></p>

	<p><b>Ms Laila SASI YOUNES</b> National Focal Point ITPGRFA Director Research and Studies Department Agricultural Research Center Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Marine Wealth Tripoli, <b>Libya</b> E-mail: <a href="mailto:laila_younes69@yahoo.com">laila_younes69@yahoo.com</a></p>
	<p><b>Ms Samia Gaafar Mohamed BITIK</b> National Focal Point ITPGRFA Directorate of Administration of Quality Control and Export Development Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Khartoum, <b>Sudan</b> Phone: +249 912246197 E-mail: <a href="mailto:samiabitik@yahoo.com">samiabitik@yahoo.com</a></p>
<p><b>SOUTHWEST PACIFIC</b></p>	<p><b>Mr Charles LAWSON</b> Professor Griffith University Queensland, <b>Australia</b> Phone: +61 (0)7 5552 7249 E-mail: <a href="mailto:c.lawson@griffith.edu.au">c.lawson@griffith.edu.au</a></p>

### Farmers' Organizations

<p><b>COORDINATION NATIONALE DES ORGANISATIONS PAYSANNES (CNOP)</b></p>	<p><b>Ms Alimata TRAORE (AFRICA)</b> Coordination Nationale des Organisations Paysannes (CNOP) Bamako, <b>Mali</b> Phone: +223 99 05 51 51 E-mail: <a href="mailto:alimaatou@yahoo.fr">alimaatou@yahoo.fr</a></p>
<p><b>COMMUNITY SEEDS BANKS ASSOCIATION OF NEPAL (CSB NEPAL)</b></p>	<p><b>Mr Pitambar SHRESTHA (ASIA)</b> Programme Advisor Community Seeds Banks Association of Nepal (CSB NEPAL) <b>Nepal</b> E-mail: <a href="mailto:pitambar@csbnepal.org">pitambar@csbnepal.org</a></p>
<p><b>ASOCIACIÓN DE ORGANIZACIONES DE LOS CUCHUMATANES (ASOCUCH)</b></p>	<p><b>Mr Sergio ALONZO (GRULAC)</b> Technical Manager Asociación de organizaciones de los Cuchumatanes (ASOCUCH) 9Av. 7-82 Zona 1 Chiantla, Huehuetenango, <b>Guatemala</b> Phone: +502 77645332 33 E-mail: <a href="mailto:alonzo.sergio@gmail.com">alonzo.sergio@gmail.com</a></p>

<b>AUSTRALIAN FOOD SOVEREIGNTY ALLIANCE (AFSA)</b>	<b>Ms Jessica POWER (SWP)</b> General Coordinator, AFSA Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance (AFSA) E-mail: <a href="mailto:coordinator@afsa.org.au">coordinator@afsa.org.au</a> M: 0403 795 670 <b>Australia</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL (IITC)</b>	<b>Ms Alicia SARMIENTO SÁNCHEZ</b> Member International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) Oaxaca, <b>Mexico</b> E-mail: <a href="mailto:alisarsan@hotmail.com">alisarsan@hotmail.com</a>

### Stakeholder Groups

#### Academia

<b>UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA BOLIVIANA - SAN PABLO</b>	<b>Ms Georgina M. CATAORA-VARGAS</b> Tenure professor and researcher Latin American Scientific Society of Agroecology (SOCLA) Av. 14 de Septiembre N° 4807, esq. calle 2, Obrajes La Paz, <b>Bolivia</b> Phone: +591 7640 6030 E-mail: <a href="mailto:g.cataora@gmail.com">g.cataora@gmail.com</a>
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### OBSERVERS

<b>FRIDTJOF NANSEN INSTITUTE (FNI)</b>	<b>Ms Viviana Meixner Vásquez</b> Researcher P.O. Box 326 1326 Lysaker Norway Tel: +47-97303118 E-mail: <a href="mailto:vmvasquez@fni.no">vmvasquez@fni.no</a>
<b>CGIAR Genebank Initiative/Alliance of Bioversity International &amp; CIAT's policy team</b>	<b>Mr Claudio CHIAROLLA</b> Legal Officer Headquarters – Rome, Italy Via Di San Domenico, 1 00153 E-mail: <a href="mailto:c.chiarolla@cgiar.org">c.chiarolla@cgiar.org</a>
<b>CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN AND INDIGENOUS RESEARCH (CNAIR)</b>	<b>Mr Reynaldo A MORALES</b> Northwestern University Assistant Professor

	<p>Medill School of Journalism and Media  Faculty Fellow Buffett Institute for Global Affairs  Affiliated to Center for Native American and Indigenous  Research CNAIR  E-mail: <a href="mailto:ramoralesc@northwestern.edu">ramoralesc@northwestern.edu</a></p>
<p><b>INTERNATIONAL  PLANNING COMMITTEE  FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY</b></p>	<p><b>Ms Anne Dena Berson</b>  JDH/COASP Bamako  Mali  E-mail: <a href="mailto:anneb.dena@posteo.net">anneb.dena@posteo.net</a></p> <p><b>Mr Stefano MORI</b>  Coordinator of the Activities  Crocevia Centro Internazionale (CIC)  Rome, Italy  E-mail: <a href="mailto:s.mori@croceviaterra.it">s.mori@croceviaterra.it</a></p> <p><b>Mr Francesco Panié</b>  Communication Officer  Crocevia Centro Internazionale (CIC)  Rome, Italy  E-mail: <a href="mailto:f.panie@croceviaterra.it">f.panie@croceviaterra.it</a></p> <p><b>Mr Antonio Onorati</b>  Crocevia Centro Internazionale (CIC)  Rome, Italy</p>
<p><b>UNIVERSITY OF  ABERDEEN</b></p>	<p><b>Ms Titilayo ADUNOLA ADEBOLA</b>  Lecturer and Theme Coordinator,  Intellectual Property Law  Room C47, School of Law, Taylor Building  University of Aberdeen  Old Aberdeen  AB24 3UB  <b>UK</b>  Phone: +44 (0)1224 272423  E-mail: <a href="mailto:titilayo.adebola@abdn.ac.uk">titilayo.adebola@abdn.ac.uk</a></p>

## **ITPGRFA SECRETARIAT**

### **Mr Kent NNADOZIE**

Secretary  
Secretariat of the International Treaty on  
Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome, **Italy**  
Phone: +39 06 570 53441  
E-mail: [kent.nnadozie@fao.org](mailto:kent.nnadozie@fao.org)

### **Mr Mario MARINO**

Technical Officer  
Secretariat of the International Treaty on  
Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome, **Italy**  
Phone: +39 06 570 55084  
E-mail: [mario.marino@fao.org](mailto:mario.marino@fao.org)

### **Ms Mary Jane RAMOS DE LA CRUZ**

Technical Officer  
Secretariat of the International Treaty on  
Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome, **Italy**  
Phone: +39 06 570 54273  
E-mail: [maryjane.ramosdelacruz@fao.org](mailto:maryjane.ramosdelacruz@fao.org)

### **Mr Tobias KIENE**

Technical Officer  
Secretariat of the International Treaty on  
Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome, **Italy**  
Phone: +39 06 570 56347  
E-mail: [tobias.kiene@fao.org](mailto:tobias.kiene@fao.org)

### **Ms Michela TUDINI**

Consultant  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome, **Italy**  
E-mail: [michela.tudini@fao.org](mailto:michela.tudini@fao.org)

### **Ms Barbara PICK**

Consultant  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

## **REPORT OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON FARMERS' RIGHTS TO THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. At its Tenth Session in 2023, the Governing Body decided to reconvene the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (AHTEG-FR or Expert Group) to:
  - i) Review and agree to the outline for the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, as contained in Annex 1 to this Resolution, considering the compilation of the submissions;
  - ii) Review the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, and provide conclusions for the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body; and
  - iii) Provide advice to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body on how the use of Options, as contained in the Annex to Resolution 7/2022 for the implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, can be promoted.
2. In reconvening the Expert Group, the Governing Body decided that, subject to the availability of financial resources, the Expert Group may hold up to two meetings in the biennium 2024-2025.
3. Pursuant to Resolution 7/2023, the Bureau of the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body appointed Ms Kim Van Seeters of the Netherlands and Ms Modester Kachapila-Millinyu of Malawi as the Co-Chairs of the AHTEG-FR. The Bureau further designated five representatives of farmers' organizations, particularly smallholder farmers from the centers of origin and crop diversity, and three representatives of relevant stakeholder groups, considering the gender and regional balance.
4. The Expert Group held its fifth meeting from 24 to 26 June 2024, and its sixth meeting from 23 to 26 June 2025, both at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy.
5. This report describes the work undertaken by the Expert Group during the biennium pursuant to its Terms of Reference.

### **II. ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 9 OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY**

6. At its Tenth Session, through Resolution 7/2023, the Governing Body took note of the annotated outline for the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, and of the request that the assessment also set out the measures limiting the realisation of Farmers' Rights.<sup>1</sup>
7. Following a request by the Governing Body at its Tenth Session, the Secretary issued an invitation to Contracting Parties and other interested stakeholders, especially farmers' organizations, to submit inputs and comments on the annotated outline contained in Resolution 7/2023, including suggestions on how measures limiting the realization of Farmers' Rights could be included. To facilitate the process of submission and analysis of inputs and comments, the Notification contained a short template.<sup>2</sup>
8. Prior to the fifth meeting of the Expert Group, an informal on-line briefing of the Expert Group had been organized in consultation with the Co-Chairs.
9. The Secretary prepared an updated version of the outline of the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty for the fifth meeting of the Expert Group,

<sup>1</sup> Resolution 7/2023, <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/6229063a-560e-4318-88a9-4803c50957eb/content>

<sup>2</sup> Notification NCP GB11-002, [www.fao.org/plant-treaty/notifications/detail-events/en/c/1677085/](http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/notifications/detail-events/en/c/1677085/)

incorporating the inputs and suggestions provided by Contracting Parties and stakeholders through their submissions.<sup>3</sup>

10. At its fifth meeting, the Expert Group agreed on the outline of the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, as given in Appendix 2 of the Report.<sup>4</sup>

11. Based on the outline endorsed by the Expert Group, the Secretary prepared the draft Assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, for the review and possible advice of the Expert Group at its sixth meeting.

12. The Secretariat prepared the document, IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-6/25/3, *Approach, methodology and main results of the Assessment of the State of Implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty*. The document first outlined the approach and methodology employed in undertaking the Assessment, including the data sources, the data analysis, and the limitations and challenges encountered in the preparation of the Assessment. It also contained the Executive Summary of the draft Assessment, highlighting key findings from the Assessment, structured by region, cognisant that some level of variation exists in countries within each region. The complete analysis was provided in the document, IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-6/25/3.1, *Draft Assessment of the State of Implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty*.

13. The Expert Group thanked the Secretariat for the comprehensive documents prepared within a such limited time. The Assessment was conducted in the most inclusive and participatory way, following the Outline endorsed by the Expert Group at its fifth meeting, held in June 2024.

14. The Expert Group noted, with appreciation, the multiple sources of data and information used to elaborate the Assessment and, after reviewing it, provided comments and advice for its finalization.

15. The updated draft Assessment, taking into account the comments and advice, will be presented to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body, for its consideration.

### **III. DRAFT STRATEGY ON HOW THE USE OF THE “OPTIONS FOR ENCOURAGING, GUIDING AND PROMOTING THE REALIZATION OF FARMERS’ RIGHTS AS SET OUT IN ARTICLE 9 OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY” CAN BE PROMOTED**

16. The mandate of the Expert Group included the task to “provide advice to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body on how the use of *Options*, as contained in the Annex to Resolution 7/2022 for the implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, can be promoted.”<sup>5</sup>

17. Based on an indicative list of activities prepared by the Secretary,<sup>6</sup> the Expert Group, at its fifth meeting, developed a draft list of possible activities to promote the Options, as contained in Appendix 3 of the Report.<sup>7</sup> It requested the Secretariat to organize the suggestions presented at the fifth meeting in the form of a simple draft strategy, to be further developed by the Expert Group at its sixth meeting.

18. At its sixth meeting, the Expert Group reviewed all elements of the document, IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-6/25/4, *Draft Strategy on how the use of the “Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty” can be promoted*.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>3</sup> IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/3.1, *Updated Outline for the Assessment of the State of Implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty*, <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/b6486524-2c07-4c6c-8fff-c115aa058707/content>.

<sup>4</sup> IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/Report, <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/b8571d8c-db9b-45ed-ab75-ee685001799b/content>.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution 7/2023, Annex 2.

<sup>6</sup> IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/4, *Elements of advice to the Governing Body on how the use of the “Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty” can be promoted*, <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/f0dfe274-6256-48f9-845f-291779cef01e/content>

<sup>7</sup> IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/Report, <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/b8571d8c-db9b-45ed-ab75-ee685001799b/content>.

<sup>8</sup> IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-6/25/4, *Draft Strategy on how the use of the “Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty” can be promoted*, <https://www.fao.org/3/nr600en/nr600en.pdf>.

19. “The Expert Group discussed the draft Strategy, provided inputs and comments, and proposed a dedicated Action Plan (2026 – 2029) to be presented in a table form”.

20. The updated draft Strategy, incorporating the inputs and comments, will be presented to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body, for its consideration.

#### **IV. RECOMMENDATIONS AND POSSIBLE FUTURE WORK**

21. The Expert Group discussed the relevance of new technologies, including Digital Sequence Information /Genetic Sequence Data, in the context of Farmers’ Rights and how they could impact the implementation of Farmers’ Rights. It agreed that this cross-cutting area could become part of future discussions by the Governing Body.

22. It also recommended that the Governing Body may wish to consider the use of the terminology “Indigenous Peoples and local communities”, in relevant documents and decisions under the International Treaty, to bring it in line with the current usage in other United Nations’ and International bodies and processes.

23. The Expert Group recommended to inform the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization to link the upcoming call for proposals on the benefit sharing fund of the International Treaty to implement the Strategy *on how the use of the “Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty” can be promoted.*”

24. The Expert Group discussed the possible future of the AHTEG. There was also a proposal from some experts that, should the Governing Body consider continuing the work of the AHTEG-FR, it be reconvened as Standing Committee on Farmers’ Rights.

25. The Expert Group recommended that the Governing Body consider the proposal to explore the possibility for the establishment of an International Day of Observance for Farmers’ Rights related to crop genetic resources, and to encourage any interested Contracting Parties to take the lead in realizing this objective. As part of future activities on capacity building, it was suggested to work on a model provision on how to mainstream the implementation of Article 9 in the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

26. There was also a suggestion that it could be worthwhile to engage with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food in future activities on Farmers’ Rights.

27. The Expert Group considered the elements for a draft Resolution prepared by the Secretary and provided inputs and suggestions for its finalization. The draft Resolution will be presented by the Secretariat as part of the Report on the Implementation of Farmers’ Rights for the consideration of the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body.

28. The Expert Group expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Italy and Norway for the financial support they provided, which enabled the participation of experts and the provision of translation and interpretation services. It also invited other Contracting Parties and donors, in a position to do so, to provide support for the continuation of the work on Farmers’ Rights.