



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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Our Ref.: GB7 – 018 Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group MLS

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NOTIFICATION

Sixth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing Rome, Italy, 14 to 17 March 2017

Participation of Observers

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the honour to make an announcement regarding the participation of Observers in the sixth meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Open-Ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing (Working Group).

The Terms of Reference of the Working Group, contained in Resolution 2/2013, as extended by Resolution 1/2015, stipulate that Contracting Parties which have no representatives in the Working Group may participate, upon request to the Secretariat, in the work of the Working Group in an observer capacity. In addition, two representatives from the following stakeholder groups are invited as observers: civil society organizations; the seed industry; farmers' organizations; and the CGIAR Centres.

At its first meeting, the Working Group invited a number of silent observers to follow the meeting and decided that silent observers had no speaking rights unless at the invitation of the Co-Chairs. The Working Group also decided that arrangements for participation of observers at its subsequent meetings should be similar to those followed for the first meeting. It distinguished the following categories for processing future requests: Contracting Party observers, Stakeholder groups, and silent observers, including non-Contracting Parties, Intergovernmental organizations, and the academic sector.

All requests from Contracting Parties or stakeholder groups to have additional observers present beyond the number of representatives invited according to the Resolution are to be considered as silent observers.

The Secretariat will need to receive a request from those wishing to participate in the sixth meeting of the Working Group in an observer capacity no later than 12 March 2017, in order to ensure that the appropriate arrangements can be made. Such requests should be addressed to PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org.

Observers from Contracting Parties should copy the National Focal Point or the permanent representation of the country to FAO.



The Governing Body has not envisaged funding to support the participation of Observers to the Working Group.

For any query or request for further information, please contact the Secretariat of the International Treaty at:

Dr. Kent Nnadozie
Secretary a.i.
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Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.



Kent Nnadozie
Secretary a.i.
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