



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

RESOLUTION 6/2019

IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 9, FARMERS' RIGHTS

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling the recognition, in the International Treaty, of the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world have made, and will continue to make, to the conservation, development and use of plant genetic resources as the basis of food and agriculture production throughout the world;

Recalling its Resolutions 2/2007, 6/2009, 6/2011, 8/2013, 5/2015 and 7/2017;

1. **Welcomes** the Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights, and **thinks** the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group for the significant progress so far made by it in fulfilling its tasks;
2. **Takes note** of the officials and members of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group appointed or designated by the Bureau of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body;
3. **Welcomes** the *Inventory of National Measures, Best Practices and Lessons Learned on the Realization of Farmers' Rights* (the Inventory), recognizing that it will be periodically reviewed and updated, as necessary;
4. **Endorses** the structure of the Inventory and the template for collecting information, as developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group for inclusion or for further updating of the information in the Inventory;
5. **Welcomes** the establishment of an online electronic version of the Inventory, and **requests** the Secretary to continue soliciting more information to be included or to update existing information in the Inventory;
6. **Takes note** of the outline of the *Options for Encouraging, Guiding and Promoting the Realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty*, which will form the basis for the completion of the task of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group in this regard;
7. **Decides** to reconvene the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group for the 2020–2021 biennium in order to complete its tasks based on the Terms of Reference established at the Seventh Session of the Governing Body and the provisions of this Resolution;
8. **Decides** to expand the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group with two more representatives of farmers' organizations particularly from centres of origin and crop diversity;
9. **Decides** that, subject to the availability of financial resources, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group may hold up to two meetings in the biennium 2020–2021, as currently constituted, and report to the Ninth Session of Governing Body on its work for further consideration;
10. **Requests** the Secretary to prepare the relevant documentation to facilitate the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group;
11. **Requests** the Bureau of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, working with the relevant region or stakeholder group, to fill any vacant positions that may arise in the membership of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group;

12. **Requests** the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group to present the results of its work at the Ninth Session of the Governing Body for its consideration;
13. **Thanks** the Governments of Italy and Norway for their generous financial support to the meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, and **appeals** to Contracting Parties and other donors to provide additional financial resources for the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, including to cover the costs of interpretation and the translation of documents into relevant languages;
14. **Invites** Contracting Parties to consider developing national measures, in particular within their seed policy and other agricultural policies, for the implementation of Article 9, as appropriate and subject to national legislation, in line with implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;
15. **Invites** Contracting Parties to engage farmers' organizations and relevant stakeholders in matters related to the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and to promote awareness-raising and capacity-building towards this aim;
16. **Invites** Contracting Parties to promote sustainable biodiverse production systems and facilitate participatory approaches such as community seed banks, community biodiversity registries, participatory plant breeding and seed fairs as tools for realizing Farmer's Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, as appropriate;
17. **Invites** Contracting Parties and relevant organizations to take initiatives to convene further regional workshops and other consultations with a broad range of stakeholders, including with farmers' organizations, particularly those in the centres of origin and crop diversity, for the exchange of knowledge, views and experiences on the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, and present the results at the Ninth Session of the Governing Body;
18. **Requests** the Secretary to facilitate such initiatives upon request and subject to the availability of financial and human resources;
19. **Invites** Contracting Parties and all relevant stakeholders, especially farmers' organizations, to submit or update views, experiences and best practices for national implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, as appropriate and subject to national legislation, for inclusion in the inventory, and **requests** the Secretary to collect them;
20. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to disseminate and promote the use of the Educational Module on Farmers' Rights, and **invites** Contracting Parties and other relevant stakeholders to use it along with the catalogue of measures contained in the Inventory, as appropriate;
21. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial and human resources, to consider organizing capacity development workshops and, to the extent feasible, in collaboration with relevant FAO units and other partners;
22. **Notes** the ongoing review process of the FAQ on the interrelations between the UPOV Convention and the International Treaty and exchange of experiences and information on implementation of the UPOV Convention and the International Treaty, and **requests** the Secretary to continue exploring how Contracting Parties to the International Treaty could further contribute to these processes, and to continue the dialogue with UPOV on these matters;
23. **Invites** each Contracting Party that has not already done so, to consider reviewing, and, if necessary, adjusting national measures that affect the realization of Farmers' Rights, in particular legislation concerning variety release and seed distribution, to protect and promote Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, as appropriate and subject to national legislation;
24. **Takes note** of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas by the United Nations General Assembly;
25. **Appreciates** the participation of farmers' organizations in activities to support the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, and **invites** them to continue to actively participate in Sessions of the Governing Body and in relevant intersessional meetings of

relevant subsidiary bodies established by the Governing Body, as appropriate and according to the Rules of Procedure of the International Treaty, and giving due consideration to the FAO Strategy for Partnerships with Civil Society;

26. **Encourages** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue outreach and communication on Farmers' Rights, to relevant stakeholders as an important measure to advance the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty;

27. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to follow processes of relevance to Article 9 of the International Treaty, within and outside FAO, in order to promote the consideration of Farmers' Rights;

28. **Calls upon** Contracting Parties to support the activities outlined in this Resolution, including through the provision of financial resources;

29. **Requests** the Secretary to report to the Governing Body, at its Ninth Session, on the implementation of this Resolution.