

Third Session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA, Tunis

Agenda Item 14, 4 June 2009

RESOLUTION ON FARMERS' RIGHTS

The Governing Body,

- (i) **Recalling** the recognition in the International Treaty of the enormous contribution that local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world have made, and will continue to make, for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources as the basis of food and agriculture production throughout the world;
- (ii) **Recalling** the importance of fully implementing Article 9 of the International Treaty;
- (iii) **Recalling** also that according to Article 9 of the International Treaty, the responsibility for realizing Farmers' Rights, as they relate to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, rests with national Governments and is subject to national law;
- (iv) **Acknowledging** that there is uncertainty in many countries as to how Farmers' Rights can be implemented and that the challenges related to the realization of Farmers' Rights are likely to vary from country to country;
- (v) **Recognizing** that exchange of experiences and mutual assistance between Contracting Parties can significantly contribute to making progress in the implementation of the provisions on Farmers' Rights in the International Treaty;
- (vi) **Recognizing** the contribution the Governing Body may give in support of the implementation of Farmers' Rights;
- (vii) **Recalling** Resolution 2/2007 adopted by the Second Session of the Governing Body, in which Contracting Parties and relevant organizations were encouraged to submit their views and experiences on Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty;
- (viii) **Recalling** also that the Governing Body through Resolution 2/2007 decided to consider these views and experiences as a basis for an agenda item on its Third Session to promote Farmers' Rights at the national level;
- (ix) **Noting** that the number of contributions on views and experiences received by the Secretariat has been limited;
- (x) **Based** on the received views and experiences from Contracting Parties and other organizations;
- (xi) **Invites** each Contracting Party to consider reviewing and, if necessary, adjusting its national measures affecting the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, to protect and promote Farmers' Rights.
- (xii) **Encourages** Contracting Parties and other relevant organizations to continue to submit views and experiences on the implementation of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, involving, as appropriate, farmers' organizations and other stakeholders;

(xiii) **Requests** the Secretariat to convene regional workshops on Farmers' Rights, subject to the agreed priorities of the Programme of Work and Budget and to the availability of financial resources, aiming at discussing national experiences on the implementation of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, involving, as appropriate, farmers' organizations and other stakeholders;

(xiv) **Requests** the Secretariat to collect the views and experiences submitted by Contracting Parties and other relevant organizations, and the reports of the regional workshops as a basis for an agenda item for consideration by the Governing Body at its Fourth Session, and to disseminate relevant information through the website of the International Treaty, where appropriate; and

(xv) **Appreciates** the involvement of farmers' organizations in its further work, as appropriate, according to the Rules of Procedure established by the Governing Body.