



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



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

**E**

## DRAFT RESOLUTION \*\*/2025

### IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 9, FARMERS' RIGHTS

#### THE GOVERNING BODY,

**Recalling** 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 previous Resolutions 2/2007, 6/2009, 6/2011, 8/2013, 5/2015, 7/2017, 6/2019, 7/2022 and 7/2023;

1. **Takes note** of the Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights, and **thanks** the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group for fulfilling its tasks;
2. **Takes note** with appreciation of the Assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, and **thanks** the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group for reviewing the draft Assessment and the Secretariat for the significant work undertaken to prepare it, and **encourages** Contracting Parties and other stakeholder to take the findings into account in their further implementation of Article 9;
4. **Takes note** of the document "Draft Strategy (2026-2029) 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" requests the Secretariat to implement the activities envisaged in that Strategy, and encourages Contracting Parties, farmers' organizations and other stakeholders to carry out the activities that correspond to them, voluntarily as appropriate subject to national legislation; Again, **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, promote and realize Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, as appropriate and subject to national legislation;
5. **Encourages** Contracting Parties and other stakeholders to consider using *the Options for Encouraging, Guiding and Promoting the Realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty*, noting that the options under Category 10 are Co-Chairs' proposal, and **requests** the Secretary to increase awareness of *the Options*, and **encourages** Contracting Parties and other stakeholders to consider using *the Options* in encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights, in accordance with their needs and priorities, as appropriate, and subject to national legislation;
6. **Notes** that, at the fourth meeting of the AHTEG-FR, as set out in the Report from this meeting, the Co-chairs presented their proposal under Category 10. However, the Expert Group was not able to finalize its work on options under Category 10, and thus decided to annex a final version of the Co-Chairs's proposal for Category 10 to the Options to be presented to the Governing Body. At its Ninth Session, the Governing Body took note of the Options, noting that the options under Category 10 are Co-Chairs' proposal, and requested the Secretariat to publish the document.
7. **Takes note** of the outcomes of the Second Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights and **thanks** the Government of the Philippines for generously and successfully hosting the symposium, and **encourages** Contracting Parties to consider hosting future Symposiums as a platform for sharing experiences and learning from each other in the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty;

8. **Decides** to reconvene the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group for the biennium 2026–2027 with the Terms of Reference contained in the Appendix to this Resolution;
9. Again, **invites** Contracting Parties and relevant organizations to take initiatives to convene 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;
10. **Invites** Contracting Parties and other stakeholders, especially farmers' organizations, to continue submitting to the Secretary, for inclusion in *the Inventory*, views, experiences and best practices for national implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, or to update previous submissions, as appropriate, and subject to national legislation;
11. **Requests** the Secretary to facilitate such initiatives upon request and subject to the availability of financial and human resources, including through the facilitation of developing regional cooperation plans among the stakeholders involved, with emphasis on South-South Cooperation, with reference to Article 18.5 of the International Treaty;
- 14 **Notes** the United Nations' General Assembly declaration of the 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer, and **requests** the Secretary to contribute to and promote its observance as it relates to Article 9 of the International Treaty, including through collaborative activities, the organisation of appropriate events, and the development of promotional materials;
- 15 **Requests** the Secretary to update the Educational Module on Farmers' Rights, as appropriate, and to continue disseminating and promoting its use, and **invites** Contracting Parties and other relevant stakeholders to use it;
- 16 **Requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue outreach and communication on Farmers' Rights, including capacity development workshops, to relevant stakeholders as an important measure to advance the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty;
- 17 **Requests** the Secretary to strengthen, to the extent feasible, collaboration between the International Treaty and other units and partners that work for the promotion of Farmers' Rights within and outside FAO, and the broader United Nations including with international human rights bodies, in order to promote the realization of Farmers' Rights in accordance with Article 9 of the International Treaty;
- 18 **Recognizes** 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 Organizations;
- 19 **Reaffirms** the request to the Secretary to include the possible impact of Digital Sequence Information/Genetic Sequence Data (DSI/GSD) on Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, in the assessment of DSI/GSD foreseen in the Multi-Year Programme of Work;
- 20 **Thanks** the Governments of Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and the Philippines for their generous financial support in the activities related to the implementation of Farmers' Rights;
- 21 **Invites** Contracting Parties and other donors to continue providing financial resources to support the work on Farmers' Rights under the International Treaty and **calls upon** Contracting Parties to support the activities outlined in this Resolution;
- 22 **Requests** the Secretary to report to the Governing Body, at its Twelfth Session, on the implementation of this Resolution.

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## *Appendix*

### **Terms of Reference of Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights**

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights will, subject to the

availability of financial resources:

- i. Develop a draft action plan for the Governing Body to address identified gaps and needs from the assessment, to support Contracting Parties in the implementation of Farmers' Rights, as appropriate and subject to national legislation;
  - ii. Develop a framework/outline for two webinars, which will have a balanced representation from the regions and stakeholders, to be carried out by the Secretariat: one webinar on how seed marketing/certification regulation affect Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty with the view to understanding the difference between plant variety protection system and a seed distribution system, and one on how different plant variety protection systems impacts on Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty. Guide the Secretariat in utilizing the findings from these webinars in the refinement of the draft action plan, and developing the proceedings from these webinars and submitting these proceedings to the Inventory; and
  - iii. Explore the possibilities of establishing a Standing Committee on Farmers' Rights, including a potential mandate and workplan, to be presented to the Governing Body at the Twelfth Session.
2. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will comprise up to five members each from the Africa Region, Asia Region, the Europe Region and the Latin America and the Caribbean Region; three from the Near East Region; and two each from the North America Region and the South West Pacific Region; up to five representatives of farmer organizations, particularly smallholder farmers from the centers of origin and crop diversity, and up to three other stakeholders, one each from academia, civil society organizations, seed sector designated by the Bureau of the Twelfth Session of the Governing Body, taking into account regional and gender balance.
  3. The Bureau of the Twelfth Session of the Governing Body will appoint two Co-Chairs from the Contracting Parties of the International Treaty - one from a developing country and one from a developed country.
  4. The two Co-Chairpersons shall be in addition to the members of the Committee nominated by the Regions.
  5. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group may hold up to two meetings with possibility of virtual participation in the biennium 2026-2027, subject to the availability of financial resources.
  6. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will report back to the Governing Body on its work for further consideration at the Twelfth Session of the Governing Body.
  7. The Secretary will facilitate the process and assist the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group in its work.