



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON  
ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING

Ninth meeting  
Cali, Colombia, 22-28 March 2010

**RESOLUTION 18/2009 ON “POLICIES AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACCESS AND  
BENEFIT-SHARING FOR GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE”  
ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE AT ITS THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION, ON 23  
NOVEMBER 2009**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

1. The Executive Secretary is pleased to circulate herewith, for the information of participants in the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, resolution 18/2009 on “Policies and arrangements for access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture” which has been brought to the attention of the Executive Secretary by the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Mr. Jacques Diouf.
2. The resolution is being circulated in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.

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**RESOLUTION 18/2009**  
**Policies and arrangements for**  
**Access and Benefit-sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

**THE CONFERENCE,**

**Reaffirming** the principle of sovereignty of states over their natural resources as reflected in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;

**Stressing** that genetic resources for food and agriculture are essential for achieving food security and the sustainable development of the food and agriculture sector;

**Recognizing** the interdependence of countries regarding genetic resources for food and agriculture, in that all countries depend on genetic resources originating elsewhere to address environmental, climate change, natural resource, sustainable development and food security challenges;

**Acknowledging** also that genetic resources for food and agriculture depend for their survival on the active cooperation among all stakeholders involved in the conservation, breeding and sustainable utilisation of these resources and benefit-sharing, including dynamic management by farmers, pastoralists and indigenous and local communities;

**Recalling** that the World Summit on Sustainable Development called for action to negotiate, within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, an International Regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources;

**Recalling** further that the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity has agreed to finalize the International Regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, for consideration and adoption, at its Tenth Meeting to be held in Japan in October 2010;

**Emphasizing** the important work undertaken in the past by the FAO and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture with regard to access to genetic resources for food and agriculture and benefit-sharing, in particular the adoption of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity;

**Emphasizing** that nothing in this Resolution in any way will prejudice or preclude the position of Member States in the negotiations of the International Regime under the Convention on Biological Diversity;

**THE CONFERENCE:**

**Reiterates** the need for FAO and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, in close collaboration with the Governing Body of the International Treaty, to contribute within their mandate to further work on access and benefit-sharing within the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity, for adequate treatment of genetic resources for food and agriculture in the International Regime;

**Expresses** its willingness to cooperate with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing using various available mechanisms;

**Invites** the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, to take into account the special nature of agricultural biodiversity, in particular genetic resources for food and agriculture, their distinctive features, and problems needing distinctive solutions; in developing policies they might consider sectoral approaches which allow for differential treatment of different sectors or subsectors of genetic resources, different genetic resources for food and agriculture, different activities or purposes for which they are carried out;

**Invites** the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing to explore and assess options for the International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing that allow for adequate flexibility to acknowledge and accommodate existing and future agreements relating to access and benefit-sharing developed in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity;

**Invites** the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity to work closely with the Commission on Genetic Resources and the Governing Body of the International Treaty regarding access and benefit-sharing in the area of genetic resources for food and agriculture in a mutually supportive manner in future years;

**Wishes** the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity a successful conclusion of the negotiations of an International Regime on access and benefit-sharing in Nagoya, in October 2010;

**Requests** the Director-General to bring this Resolution to the attention of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

(Adopted on 23 November 2009)