

Thank you, Mr Chair,

Norway would sincerely like to express our gratitude to the Government of the Sultanate of Oman for the generous hosting of the fifth session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on PGRFA. We would also refer our thanks to the Sultanate and their honourable Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries for organizing the important Ministerial Conference on the Contributions of the Treaty in facing agriculture challenges such as water scarcity and drought that preceded directly the Governing Body Session.

It is a great pleasure for the Norwegian delegation to formally inform the Governing Body that Norway pledges 40 Mill NOK or about 6,7 mill USD to the Benefit Sharing Fund of the International Treaty and in addition also donates 100 Mill NOK equal to about 16,7 mill USD to the endowment fund of the Global Crop Diversity Trust. We see the work of these two instruments, the support to in situ conservation in farmers' fields and to ex situ conservation in gene banks, as two sides of the same coin.

The crucial importance of crop diversity is why Norway gives high priority to the International Treaty and its objectives. Since 2008, Norway has annually provided a grant equal to 0.1 percent of the proceeds from seed sales in Norway to the Benefit Sharing Fund considering it's now pay back time to the communities where crop diversity originated.

Still the funds available through the Benefit Sharing fund are far from sufficient for meeting the needs. Due to the urgency of saving crops in farmers fields, Norway gives this additional contribution to secure the launching of the third cycle of projects.

The Trust provides sustainable funding to key collections of crop diversity found in gene banks globally. Norway's donation will contribute to the Trust's endowment fund that when complete, will provide funds that will secure these collections.

We note that both the Trust and the Benefit Sharing Fund have a strong emphasis on programs for adaptation to climate change, and we encourage a fruitful cooperation between the Treaty, the Trust and other relevant institutions.

In 2010 another International Instrument for Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources was adopted - The Nagoya Protocol. 20 countries have until now ratified the protocol. Norway will announce its ratification of the Protocol at the UN –Treaty Event later this month. The ratification of the Nagoya-Protocol will make the international treaty even more important. We are confident that countries will implement both the Nagoya Protocol and The International Treaty in mutually supportive ways where the integrity of both systems is respected, in order to ensure full compliance with both agreements.

This week's decisions of the Governing Body will be decisive for the future of the Treaty. To Norway it will be important to agree on a process to strengthen a sustainable flow of income to the Benefit-Sharing Fund. Mr chairman, in order to reach this vital goal we believe it is crucial with the full participation from all Contracting Parties as well as other stakeholders, including the seed industry.

Norway looks forward to fruitful discussions on these important topics.

Thank you for your attention