Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the pleasure to make an announcement regarding the participation of Observers in the Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ACSU).

As in the first meeting of the ACSU, held in Rome on 8 and 9 November 2012, the decision to admit Observers will be taken by its members after the election of the Co-Chairs.

The Secretariat has been receiving requests by different stakeholder groups, in particular Non-Governmental Organizations which would like to attend the upcoming meeting of the ACSU as Observers. They are asking if they can be admitted or not in order to reserve their travel and accommodation.

In order to facilitate the participation of each interested stakeholder, the Secretariat will need to receive their requests no later than 6 February 2015, in order to ensure that the appropriate arrangements can be made, including in relation to registration to enter into the FAO’s premises. Such requests should be addressed to PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org.

The Secretariat will forward all requests received to the members of the ACSU. If there are any objections by the members of the ACSU, the Secretariat will inform the respective stakeholder accordingly.

Observers from Contracting Parties should copy their National Focal Point or the permanent representation of their country to FAO. Should further issues arise or further potential clarifications become necessary regarding the participation of Contracting Parties as Observers, the Secretary will take the liberty to approach the permanent representations in Rome.
The Governing Body has not envisaged funding to support the participation of Observers to the ACSU.

For any query or request for further information, please contact the Secretariat of the International Treaty at:

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Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Dr Shakeel Bhatti
Secretary
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture