

Diplomatic Conference to Conclude an International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources

Geneva, May 13 to 24, 2024

ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

prepared by the Secretariat

1. Since the meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude an International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources, when the list of invitees to the Diplomatic Conference was approved (GRATK/PM/4 and GRATK/PM/5 Rev. paragraph 12), the Director General has received requests from each of the following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for admission to attend the Diplomatic Conference as observers:

- (i) International Seed Federation (ISF);
- (ii) University of Aberdeen; and
- (iii) University of New South Wales (UNSW).

2. A short profile of each of the NGOs mentioned in paragraph 1, above – its headquarters, objectives and structure– appears in the Annex of this document. It is proposed that the NGOs mentioned in paragraph 1 be invited to the Diplomatic Conference as “Observers”.

3. *The Diplomatic Conference is invited to take a decision on the proposal appearing in paragraph 2, above.*

[Annex follows]

International Seed Federation (ISF)

Headquarters: ISF was founded in 1924 and has its headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland.

Objectives: ISF's vision is a world where the best quality seed is accessible to all, supporting sustainable agriculture and food security. The mission of ISF is to create the best environment for the global movement of seed and promote plant breeding and innovation in seed, always respecting the core values of ISF, these being integrity, innovation, collaboration and sustainability. Since the membership of ISF, being the plant breeding and seed sector, works exclusively with genetic resources and related technology, the safeguarding of strong and effective intellectual property rights is key.

Structure: The ISF Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day management of the work of the association. The main decision-making body of the ISF is its General Assembly which meets once a year and consists of all ISF members. ISF also has a Board of Directors.

University of Aberdeen

Headquarters: The University of Aberdeen was founded in 1495 and has its headquarters in Aberdeen, United Kingdom.

Objectives: The University of Aberdeen aims at education and research. The University's strategic vision "Aberdeen 2040", which was launched in February 2020, sets out a 20-year strategy to enable the University to continue to achieve its foundational purpose through education and research that have positive effects on Aberdeen, North East Scotland and the wider world. The University's education and research aims to be inclusive, interdisciplinary, international and sustainable and includes a focus on environment and biodiversity. Present initiatives include research, teaching and policymaking regarding traditional knowledge and genetic resources, intellectual property, human rights and climate change, intellectual property and health, technology transfer and capacity building.

Structure: The three pillars of the University's governance structure are the University Court, which is the governing body; the Senate, which directs the academic work of the University; and the Senior Management Team, which undertakes the operational running of the University.

University of New South Wales (UNSW)

Headquarters: UNSW was established in 1949 and has its headquarters in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

Objectives: UNSW aims at the promotion of scholarship, research, free inquiry, the interaction of research and teaching, and academic excellence. *Indigenous Knowledge Futures* project is an Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Project that is implemented by the Environment and Society Group at UNSW. The aim of this project is to conduct research on Indigenous knowledge in Australia and the Pacific, and to develop tools for protecting and promoting Indigenous knowledge (e.g., certifications, biocultural protocols, patent disclosure or origin mechanisms, access and benefit-sharing processes, and similar).

Structure: UNSW has an Executive which administers the affairs of the University (primarily research and teaching) and a University Council and Academic Board, which advise the Executive on the lawful, safe and efficient operation of the University.

[End of Annex and of document]