

**Joint intervention by Farmers' and Civil Society Organisations to the Plenary of the
7th GOVERNING BODY (GB7) of the International Seed Treaty (IT PGRFA)**

**Intervention on Agenda 17.4:
cooperation with other international bodies and organizations including UPOV**

Thank you, Mr. Chair

I speak on behalf of farmers' organisations and civil society organisations present in this governing body.

We acknowledge the efforts made by the Secretary and the Bureau to organize the joint symposium on possible interrelations between the ITPGRFA and UPOV in October 2016, and we recognise the contribution of the Symposium to increase awareness of areas where the UPOV convention 1991 is contradictory to Farmers' Rights as established in article 9 and the preamble of the International Treaty.

We regret that farmers were not invited to share their experiences and perspectives in the symposium, which touched upon the most important resource for farmers – access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and diverse seeds.

Pursuant to the resolutions on Farmers' Rights during GB5 and GB6, we urge the governing body to direct the secretariat to take bolder initiatives in engaging with UPOV in the revision of the application rules of the UPOV

with the participation of Farmers' Organisations and Civil Society Organisations that are registered as observers in UPOV. We also invite Contracting Parties to encourage closer collaboration between the Focal Points of the Treaty and UPOV, respectively, to identify rules and policies of UPOV that impede or limit the implementation of not only Farmers' Rights, but the International Treaty as a whole.

Thank you chair