STATEMENT OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY

EIGHT SESSION OF THE ITPGRFA GOVERNING BOPDY

International Planning Committee (IPC) for Food Sovereignty

Delmah Ndhlovu

9. Funding Strategy of the International Treaty

Good afternoon. My name is Delmah Ndhlovu, I am a small-scale peasant farmer from Zimsoff, a grassroots food producers organisation based in Zimbabwe, with more than 90,000 members.

My statement on the Treaty's funding strategy is made on behalf of the IPC.

The IPC is concerned that not all Contracting Parties have provided information on their efforts to implement the treaty. Where information has been provided, we note that the majority of national funding is directed to ex situ conservation and development of PGRFA by plant breeders and private industry. The same is the case with bilateral, multilateral and private sector funding. Little to no support is provided for in situ conservation, development, and sustainable use of PGRFA by the millions of small-scale food producers who are the main co-creators and stewards of agricultural biodiversity.

On the benefit-sharing fund, the IPC urges Contracting Parties to set concrete, mandatory payment targets, close loopholes that enable users to avoid payments, and fulfil their commitments to ensuring a straightforward, simple, transparent, and functional BSF.

Each access and transfer of material from the MLS, including DSI, should be publicly documented in an online database. The exact amount of each annual payment and its method of calculation must be a matter of public record, to ensure especially peasant farmers and developing countries are not short-changed.

The process for submitting proposals is overly technical and should be made more accessible to rural farmers. We peasant farmers provide PGRFA to the MLS, but we are not receiving the benefits to support our breeding and conservation efforts.

The IPC urges Contracting Parties to ensure fair and equitable contributions to the BSF and facilitate farmer access to the fund to support our peasant seed systems. Thank you.