

Statement of the Alliance of International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Submitted at the second session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty, 29 October-2 November 2007, Rome

Agenda item 16: Report on the status of cooperation with other international organizations, including Agreements between the Governing Body and the International Agricultural Research Centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other relevant international institutions

(Reference document: IT/GB-2/07/17)

Mr. Chairman,

We have already made a lengthy statement concerning cooperation between the CG Centres and the Governing Body and its secretariat in the context of Agenda item 10 on the Implementation of the Multilateral System. I would just like to make three further points at this stage.

The first is that the CGIAR Centres operate within the framework of the International Treaty both literally and in spirit. We will do all in our power to cooperate fully with FAO and other institutions in ensuring that that framework works effectively and equitably in the cause of world food security and sustainable agriculture. To this end we are already cooperating fully in the Joint Project on Technology Support for the Implementation of the Multilateral System.

The second point is to draw attention to one particular manifestation of that cooperation referred to in paragraph 11 of document 17. This is the Joint Programme of technical assistance on the implementation of the Treaty and its Multilateral System now being developed by Bioversity International and FAO. In our information paper on the experience of the CGIAR Centres with the implementation of the Multilateral System, we drew attention to the need expressed by a number of developing countries for assistance in implementing the Multilateral System. Indeed a number of Centres are already working with national and regional partners to deliver such assistance. The Centres of the CGIAR System stand ready to work together with FAO in launching this Joint Programme. We believe that such broad-based cooperation between the CGIAR System and FAO can be an effective way of making available to countries that request it the experience that other countries and the CG Centres themselves have gained in implementing the Multilateral System.

The third point is to relay to the Governing Body the interest expressed by the International Cocoa Genebank located in Trinidad and Tobago (the ICG,T) in signing an agreement with the Governing body placing its collection of germplasm within the purview of the International Treaty. The Director of the Cocoa Research Unit has already written to the Secretariat of the Governing

Body expressing his genebank's willingness to sign such an agreement forthwith if the Governing Body is in agreement.

Thank you Mr. Chairman