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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)
Subject:	Attendance of the Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System, Norway and Switzerland at meetings of the Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture (Genetic Resources) during the second half of 2023 - <i>Approval</i>

The Presidency intends to invite the following third parties to the Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture (Genetic Resources) on 16-17 October 2023:

- the Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
- the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System.

The aim is to inform the Working Party about the preparation of the 10th Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty, and about the Co-Chairs' proposals and other issues related to the negotiation process on the Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System.

The Presidency further intends to invite the following third parties to the Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture (Genetic Resources) on 8-9 November 2023:

- representatives of Norway;
- representatives of Switzerland.

The aim is to exchange views with non-EU countries that are highly active within the European Regional Group, in view of regional coordination before the Session.

The Presidency considers that those invitations are in the interest of the Council and comply with the framework applicable to the occasional presence of third parties at meetings of the Council or its preparatory bodies, as set out in the comments on the Council's Rules of Procedure.

In this context, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to approve the attendance of the above mentioned third parties at the said meetings of the Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture (Genetic Resources).
