

AE- 04/2023

The Permanent Representation of the Argentine Republic to FAO, IFAD and WFP, presents its compliments to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations -Office of the Deputy Director General, Ms. Maria Helena Semedo- and is pleased to indicate its intention to start the procedure for the renovation of the designation of the Argentine National Advisory Commission for Agricultural Biotechnology (CONABIA) as FAO Reference Centre on Biosafety.

On this note, it is important to underline that CONABIA was opportunely designated as FAO Reference Centre on Biosafety on October 27<sup>th</sup> of 2014 in accordance with article 12, subsection 4, of the Additional Protocol between Argentina and FAO. Subsequently, on April 1<sup>st</sup> of 2019, this designation was renewed by the signature of an amendment of the aforementioned Protocol.

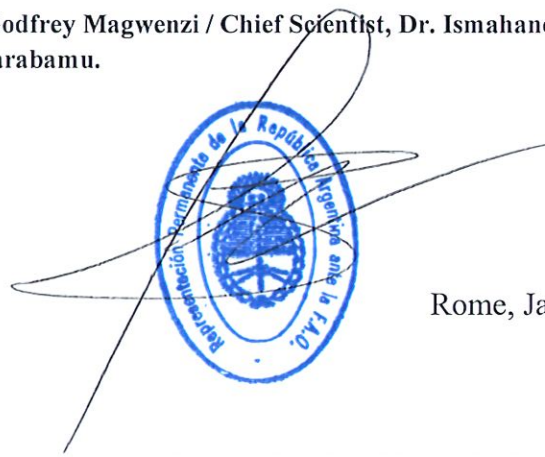
In this vein, given that the force of CONABIA's designation will expire next March 31<sup>st</sup> of 2023, Argentina would like to express its profound interest in renovating the appointment of CONABIA as FAO Reference Centre on Biosafety for an additional term of four years in light of its successful performance in promoting biotechnology regulation and biosafety mechanisms within Latin America and the Caribe (description contained in the Annex).

Consequently, we would like to appeal to FAO's guidance and support on the procedure and actions required in order to promptly renew the designation of CONABIA as the FAO Reference Centre on Biosafety.

The Permanent Representation of the Argentine Republic to FAO, IFAD and WFP takes this opportunity to renew to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations -Office of the Deputy Director General, Ms. Maria Helena Semedo- the testimony of its highest consideration.

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations -FAO-  
Office of the Deputy Director General Maria Helena Semedo**

C/C: Director of Cabinet, Mr. Godfrey Magwenzi / Chief Scientist, Dr. Ismahane Elouafi /  
Legal Counsel, Dr. Donata Rugarabamu.



Rome, January 10th, 2023