



### **SVANHILD-ISABELLE BATTA TORHEIM**

Ms. Svanhild-Isabelle Batta Torheim is a senior advisor in the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food (since 2013). She is the national focal point to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. For the biennium 2015-2017, she is the Vice-Chair from the European Regional Group in the Bureau of the ITPGRFA.

Ms. Torheim holds a Master degree in Political Science from University of Oslo. The thesis was analysing the negotiating process of the ITPGRFA and is available at <http://www.fni.no/pdf/FNI-R1304.pdf>. From 2005 to 2007 she worked for United Nation Environment Program (UNEP) in Nairobi, Kenya, mainly involved in the secretariat for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and sustainable land management projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). From 2007 to 2013, she was in charge of Development Fund's (a Norwegian environmental and developmental NGO) policy work related to agricultural biodiversity, including issues such as patents on seeds, plant variety protection, GMOs and Farmers' Rights. From 2008 to 2013, she was member of the Norwegian government's advisory board on biotechnology.