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The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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Item 19 of the Provisional Agenda

FOURTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Bali, Indonesia, 14 – 18 March 2011

ORGANISATION OF INTER-SESSIONAL WORK UNDER THE TREATY

Note by the Secretary

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- i) *At its previous Sessions, the Governing Body has established a number of Committees and inter-sessional mechanisms and processes, in order to address specific issues and carry out specific tasks.*
- ii) *At the request of the Bureau, this document reviews the different subsidiary bodies in place and outlines their terms of references, tasks and mandate, how they relate to each other and progress against the respective workplans. This might assist the Governing Body in considering how, in the next biennium, it might best organise its intersessional work, including through various committees, in order to further enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness.*
- iii) *The Governing Body is invited to consider options for the retention or reconfiguration of the committees, and to give any further guidance it considers appropriate.*
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its third meeting in February 2010, the Bureau of this Fourth Session of the Governing Body considered how, in the next biennium, the Governing Body might best organize its various committees in order to further enhance their efficiency and cost-effectiveness. It noted that it would be necessary to re-evaluate the work and meetings of the different Committees while taking into account the necessity for ensuring that relevant technical inputs continue to be provided to the relevant processes and work-tracks of the Governing Body, including the provision of specialized advice to the Governing Body and the different stakeholders of the Treaty.
2. The Bureau recommended that the Secretary prepare a document, for submission to the Governing Body at this Session, listing the different Committees and outlining their terms of references, their tasks and mandate, how they relate to each other and progress against the respective workplans. The Bureau also requested that the document provide possible options for the retention or reconfiguration of the committees.
3. This document responds to the requests by the Bureau. It should be read together with other documents for the Governing Body that make reference to possible intersessional work.

II. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL WORK OF THE GOVERNING BODY

4. Article 19.3 of the Treaty sets out the functions of the Governing Body, which include to:
 - (b) adopt plans and programmes for the implementation of the Treaty:
 - (e) consider and establish subject to the availability of necessary funds such subsidiary bodies as may be necessary, and their respective mandates and composition.
5. Article 19.9 of the Treaty provides that “the Governing Body shall hold regular sessions at least once every two years”.
6. Article 19.11 establishes the Bureau, which is composed of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons. In conformity with Rule II.2 of the *Rules of Procedures* adopted by the Governing Body at its First Session, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons shall “provide guidance to the Secretary with regard to the preparations for, and conduct of, sessions of the Governing Body”.
7. Subsidiary bodies may be either permanent/standing, or *ad hoc*. The Bureau, established by the Treaty, and the Compliance Committee established by the Governing Body at its First Session, are currently the only standing subsidiary bodies. However, the members of the Bureaus are elected at the end of each Regular Session of the Governing Body to serve until the following Session,¹ while the Compliance Committee is yet to be convened pending the finalization of the compliance procedures and operational mechanisms.
8. The practice of the Governing Body so far has been to establish subsidiary bodies on an *ad hoc* basis, hence with mandate spanning for only one intersessional period, which may or may not be extended by the Governing Body during a subsequent session, depending on a variety of reasons, including the need to complete unfinished or subsisting tasks or the assignment of new tasks by the Governing Body. The tasks of these *ad hoc* subsidiary bodies have been of a largely technical nature.

¹ Rule II.2 of the *Rules of Procedures of the Governing Body*.

III. SUBSIDIARY BODIES ESTABLISHED SINCE THE FIRST SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

9. The Governing Body, at its First Session, established two subsidiary bodies. By Resolution 1/2006, in the context of the Funding Strategy, it decided to establish an *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee, composed of seven representatives of Contracting Parties, with one representative nominated by each Region of the FAO. This Committee was mandated, in particular, to draft, on the basis of the preparatory work of the Secretariat and information provided by the Parties, priorities, eligibility criteria and operational procedures for the allocation of funds under the direct control of the Governing Body, for the consideration of the Governing Body. The meetings of this Committee were subject to the availability of funds.

10. By Resolution 3/2006 adopted at its First Session, the Governing Body also constituted the Compliance Committee pursuant to Articles 19.3e and 21 of the Treaty, which was to commence its work following the approval of cooperative and effective procedures and operational mechanisms on compliance.

11. Furthermore, at its First Session, the Governing Body

*requested the Secretary to consider further the possible establishment of a technical advisory committee, including aspects relating to terms of reference, composition and funding needs, and to report back to the Second Session of the Governing Body.*²

12. At its Second Session, the Governing Body reconvened existing and established new subsidiary bodies. In particular, it decided to reconvene the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy providing the terms of reference for its work, which included the development of a strategic plan for the implementation of the Funding Strategy. It noted that the Committee may, where appropriate, also promote implementation of elements of the strategic plan, prior to its consideration by the Governing Body, in consultation with the Secretary and the Bureau.³

13. The Governing Body also decided to establish an *Ad Hoc* Third Party Beneficiary Committee, composed of seven representatives of Contracting Parties, with one representative nominated by each Region of the FAO. The Committee's mandate was to prepare draft Third Party Beneficiary procedures to be submitted to the Governing Body at its next Session.⁴

14. The Governing Body further decided to create a "Coordinating Mechanism for Capacity Building" for the national implementation of the Treaty, subject to the availability of funds (Resolution 3/2007).

15. At the same Session, the Governing Body considered a number of options presented to it on the possibility of the establishment of a Permanent Technical Advisory Committee, and

*agreed that the establishment of a permanent subsidiary body [was] premature. It decided that ad hoc technical bodies with focused, specialized and outcome-oriented terms of reference offer the best approach for the time being. The Governing Body noted the interest expressed by some Contracting Parties to consider, in the future, establishment of a joint technical committee with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.*⁵

16. The following section outlines the subsidiary bodies that the Governing Body established or extended at its Third Session, with a summary of their respective mandates, and reviews the state of their work.

² IT/GB-1/06/Report, paragraph 18.

³ IT/GB-2/07/Report, paragraph 52.

⁴ IT/GB-2/07/Report, paragraph 63.

⁵ IT/GB-2/07, Report, paragraph 90.

IV. OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT SUBSIDIARY BODIES, MANDATES AND STATUS OF THEIR WORK

17. The Governing Body, at its Third Session, established or extended five subsidiary bodies, in the form of *ad hoc* committees/working groups.

(1) The *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Procedures and Operational Mechanisms to Promote Compliance and Address Issues of Non-Compliance

18. By Resolution 2/2009, the Governing Body established an *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Procedures and Operational Mechanisms to Promote Compliance and Address Issues of Non-Compliance. The Working Group was tasked with negotiating and finalising the compliance procedures and operational mechanisms, on the basis of the text contained in the *Annex* to the Resolution, with a view to their approval at this Fourth Session of the Governing Body. The working group was comprised of up to two representatives designated by each Region of the FAO in addition to the Co-Chairs.

19. The working group met twice and submitted draft compliance procedures and operational mechanisms for finalization and approval by the Governing Body at this Session.⁶

(2) The *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy

20. By Resolution 3/2009, the Governing Body reconvened the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy, with the following mandate:

- (a) to advise the Bureau and the Secretary on resource mobilization efforts, including on innovative approaches;
- (b) to advise the Bureau and the Secretary on the operation of the Benefit-sharing Fund, including on the disbursement and reporting procedures;
- (c) to address remaining issues within the full remit of the Funding Strategy, i.e. not only the Benefit-sharing Fund but also other elements of the Funding Strategy, in particular resources not under the direct control of the Governing Body;
- (d) to advise on the monitoring of the implementation of the overall Funding Strategy and on the assessment of its efficacy;
- (e) to report on the progress of its work to the Bureau of the Governing Body and to present the result of its work in the Fourth Session of the Governing Body.

21. The Committee comprised up to two members nominated by each Region of the FAO. Two Co-chairs, one from a developing and one from a developed country Contracting Party, were elected from the members of the Committee. The terms of reference are contained in *Appendix 1* to this document.

22. The Committee held two meetings, with a number of outcomes, including the following:

- (a) it contributed to resource mobilization and to profiling and branding of the Benefit-sharing Fund;
- (b) it supported the design and execution of the Call for Proposals 2010, including by reviewing the preparatory work for screening of pre-proposals, and advising on tasks and functioning of the helpdesk and the Panel of Experts for the appraisal of project proposals.
- (c) it advised on the development of partnership strategies to support the implementation of the Fund and emphasized the need of a strategic and result-driven mid-term programme for the Fund;

⁶ See Document IT/GB-4/11/7, *Report of the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Procedures and operational mechanisms to promote compliance and to address issues of non-compliance*.

- (d) it considered procedures and institutional arrangements for reporting, monitoring and evaluation of projects and disbursement of funds of the second round of the project cycle and recommended specific measures to develop cost-effective monitoring and evaluation;
- (e) it provided advice on the operation and general administration of the Benefit-sharing Fund.
- (f) it monitored the implementation of the full remit of the Funding Strategy and advised on collaboration relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies, including the Global Crop Diversity Trust, UNDP and IFAD.

23. In reflecting on future needs for intersessional work with regard to the Funding Strategy, at the end of its deliberations and conclusion of its tasks, the Committee identified three tasks that would need to be undertaken regularly during the next inter-sessional periods⁷, as follows:

- (i) oversight of the project cycles of the Benefit-sharing Fund, in particular project management, monitoring and evaluation;
- ii) oversight of the resource mobilization; and
- iii) the establishment and implementation of partnerships with relevant international institutions in the broader remit of the Funding Strategy.

(3) The *Ad Hoc* Advisory Technical Committee on the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and the Multilateral System

24. By Resolution 4/2009, the Governing Body requested the Secretary to convene an *Ad Hoc* Advisory Technical Committee on the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and the Multilateral System to advise the Secretary on implementation questions raised with him by users of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA). The Committee comprised up to two members designated by each Region of the FAO and up to five technical experts, including representatives of the CGIAR. The Committee was chaired by two Co-Chairs, one from a developing country and one from a developed country Contracting Party, who were elected from the members. The terms of reference are contained in *Appendix 2* to this document.

25. The Committee held two meetings, one kindly hosted and supported by the Government of Brazil.

26. The Committee considered and provided advice on a number of issues brought to its attention by the Secretary as well as additional issues which the Committee considered pertinent to the smooth and effective operation of the Multilateral System, including the following:

- (a) it advised on model provisions creating legal space for the Treaty in national legislation on access and benefit-sharing;
- (b) it developed criteria for identifying plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) that are under the management and control of Contracting Parties, and in the public domain;
- (c) it defined the possible content of incentive measures for incorporation of PGRFA in the Multilateral System by private holders, and developed guidelines for those incorporations;
- (d) it advised on the reporting obligations of parties under the SMTA, including through proposed updates to the Standard Material Transfer Agreement based on the decisions of the Governing Body;

⁷ See Document, IT/GB-4/11/, *Report of the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy*.

- (e) in the context of the Multilateral System, it advised on: non-food/feed uses of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; restoration of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; transfer of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to farmers for direct cultivation.

27. The Committee also identified a number of issues which it recommended that the Secretary brings to the attention of the Governing Body for further guidance or consideration.⁸

28. With regard to the implementation of the Multilateral System and the SMTA, the Committee found that the following tasks would still need to be carried out as future intersessional work⁹:

- i) Advice in response to issues raised by users of the MLS and the SMTA;
- ii) Consideration and analysis of technical issues related to the implementation of the MLS and the SMTA;

(4) The *Ad Hoc* Third Party Beneficiary Committee

29. By Resolution 5/2009, the Governing Body reconvened the *Ad Hoc* Third Party Beneficiary Committee, which had worked to prepare the draft *Third Party beneficiary Procedures* in the previous biennium, in order to review and finalize the operational guidelines for amicable dispute settlement and mediation proceedings.

30. The Governing Body, at its Third Session, considered the SMTA being used by the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other relevant international institutions, for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture not included in *Annex I* of the International Treaty. In this context, the Governing Body further requested the Committee to consider the issue of the application of the Third Party Beneficiary provisions and procedures to transactions related to non-*Annex I* material transferred with the SMTA and report to the Fourth Session of the Governing Body.

31. Due to lack of time, the Committee was unable to discuss this issue in detail or arrive to any conclusions. However, the Committee acknowledged that the issue was a very important one for which clear feedback would need to be given to the Governing Body, and proposed that the Secretary assess the availability of a date and facilities for the meeting to be continued and held back-to-back with this Fourth Session of the Governing Body.

32. The Committee's meeting was funded through the Core Administrative Budget. The Committee developed and finalized *Mediation Rules* for the Third Party Beneficiary, which are before the Governing Body at this Session for approval. The outcome of its deliberations on the question of non-*Annex I* material will be presented during the Session of the Governing Body.¹⁰

33. The Committee further agreed that at the continuation of its meeting, it will consider what future roles, if any, it might play in the implementation and further development of the Third Party Beneficiary mechanism so that the Governing Body might consider them in its deliberations.

(5) Capacity Building Coordination Mechanism

⁸ The Reports of the first and second meetings of the Committee are available for the information of the Governing Body as Documents, IT/GB-4/11/Inf. 7, *Report of the First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Advisory Committee on the Multilateral System and Standard Material Transfer Agreement*, and IT/GB-4/11/Inf. 8, *Report of the Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Advisory Committee on the Multilateral System and Standard Material Transfer Agreement*, respectively.

⁹ See Document, IT/GB-4/11/Inf. 8, *Report of the Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Advisory Committee on the Multilateral System and the Standard Material Transfer Agreement Information Documents*.

¹⁰ See Document, IT/GB-4/11/14, *Report of the Chair of the Ad Hoc Third Party Beneficiary Committee*.

34. By Resolution 8/2009, the Governing Body requested
“the Secretary to convene, in accordance with the terms of references appended to this Resolution, the second and third meetings of the Capacity Building Coordination Mechanism to exchange information and coordinate capacity building initiatives for implementation of the Treaty by relevant organizations and institutions as well as indicate areas where further guidance from the Governing Body may be required based on experiences and lessons learned”.
35. Although the Governing Body established the terms of reference for the meeting of the Capacity Building Coordination Mechanism, it is different in structure from other subsidiary bodies established by the Governing Body, as it serves only as a “platform” or forum for other independent organisations and institutions to coordinate their capacity-building activities related to the implementation of the Treaty, and to exchange ideas. The terms of reference are contained in *Appendix 3* of this document.
36. However, due to budgetary constraints and Secretariat workload, the Secretary has not been able to convene the meeting of the Coordinating Mechanism.

V. POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR ORGANISING INTERSESSIONAL WORK OF THE GOVERNING BODY

37. It is a useful exercise for the Governing Body to reflect on how it wishes to organize its inter-sessional work and processes, including by allocating tasks to various subsidiary bodies and Committees or by means of real-time online consultations/conferences or open-ended online fora, avoiding overlaps or duplication of efforts, ensuring cost-efficiency, and at the same time facilitating high-quality specialized technical intergovernmental work during the inter-sessional period for the implementation of the Treaty. Such an exercise should also take into account impacts on the human and financial resources for both the Secretariat and the regions
38. As the Governing Body’s sessions are held, in accordance with Article 19.9 of the Treaty, at least once every two years, certain intergovernmental discussions are undertaken during the intersessional period by subsidiary bodies (i.e. committees or working groups) with specific tasks. Such tasks may include the preliminary consideration of complex technical issues, and carrying out preparatory work like gathering information and the articulation of relevant issues to facilitate more expeditious consideration and informed decision-making by the Governing Body as the supreme decision-making body of the Treaty.
39. Some tasks were concluded by Committees during the past intersessional period. Other tasks, including providing advice to the Governing Body, the Bureau or the Secretariat, are linked to the ongoing implementation of core Treaty systems and therefore would also be relevant for future intersessional work.
40. The *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Compliance has completed its current tasks and has forwarded its outputs to the Governing Body for its consideration. If the procedures and operational mechanisms to promote compliance and address issues of non-compliance are adopted by the Fourth Session of the Governing Body, there will be no need for this group to reconvene.
41. The *Ad Hoc* Third Party Beneficiary Committee has also concluded the main task assigned to it by the Governing Body, the outputs of which are before the Governing Body. The outstanding issues on the Committee’s agenda will be dealt with at the Committee’s continued meeting to be held prior to and back-to-back with the current Session of the Governing Body. Once these issues have been dealt with, the Committee will have completed its current mandate.
42. Given current circumstances, the planned meetings of the Capacity Building Coordination Mechanism may or may not be held within the current biennium.
43. Once the procedures and operational mechanisms to promote compliance and address issues of non-compliance are approved, the Compliance Committee, which has a

standing/permanent status will be in a position to convene, in accordance with the procedures and operational mechanisms, and any other relevant decisions of the Governing Body. It will be responsible for implementing those procedures and operational mechanisms, with the assistance of the Secretariat.

44. The *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy has completed the concrete outputs that are required of it by its terms of reference, although other tasks relate to the operation of the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Call for Proposals, which are still ongoing. The Committee had also identified a number of issues that it recommended that the Secretary bring to the attention of the Governing Body.

45. The *Ad Hoc* Advisory Technical Committee on the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and the Multilateral System has similarly provided valuable advice to the Secretary in response to the issues raised by the users of the Multilateral System and the Standard Material Transfer Agreement. The Committee had also identified a number of issues that it recommended that the Secretary bring to the attention of the Governing Body.

46. In addition, the documentation of the current Session of the Governing Body envisages the potential to establish new subsidiary bodies on issues related to Articles 5 and 6 of the Treaty, the relationship with the CBD, or Article 9 on farmers' rights.

47. In terms of organising its inter-sessional work for the current and, possibly, future biennia with regard to the tasks to be undertaken by its subsidiary bodies, the options before the Governing Body will depend on the Work Programme it adopts at the end of the Session, but may include:

- i) Reconvene current subsidiary bodies to continue their tasks or carry out new tasks assigned by the Governing Body;
- ii) Create new subsidiary bodies to address any new area of work it might have adopted under the Work programme for the biennium;
- iii) Merge existing subsidiary bodies, taking into account the nature of issues they are tasked with, and the corresponding expertise and skills required to carry them out;
- iv) Making greater use of alternative ways of conducting meetings to ensure the widest possible participation, i.e. through real-time online conferences or open-ended online fora, as have already been used successfully in the context of multilateral organisations and agreements;¹¹
- v) a combination of (i) to (iv) above.

48. With regard to the possibility of merging existing subsidiary bodies, the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy and the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Technical Committee on the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and the Multilateral System have both produced significant outputs based on their respective terms of reference. They have dealt with a series of issues, some of which are of recurrent and on-going nature, given their immediate relevance to core Treaty mechanisms under the direct control of the Governing Body (i.e. the operation of the Benefit-sharing Fund; and the Multilateral System and the operation of the SMTA, respectively). Since the respective tasks and focus of these two Committees to date have been substantively different, and require substantially different types of expertise and skills it may not be expedient to merge them. However, this does not preclude tasks that were identified by these Committees from being taken up by other bodies or through means other than face-to-face meetings.

49. The Governing Body may, however, wish to not reconvene the *Ad Hoc* Third Party Beneficiary Committee with such a function and consider assigning any task if identified relating to the implementation and further development of the Third Party Beneficiary mechanism to other subsidiary bodies, as appropriate. This would seem logical since the Third Party Beneficiary will

¹¹ For example, in the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

continue to operate within the context of the Multilateral System and, more specifically, the implementation of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement.

50. The Governing Body may also wish to consider whether to establish at this time any standing/permanent subsidiary body with corresponding roles and functions as the current *ad hoc* subsidiary bodies or convert any of the existing *ad hoc* subsidiary bodies into a standing/permanent status. It might also wish to consider whether to assign additional tasks to the Bureau, either temporarily or permanently, as had been the case at previous occasions.

VI. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

51. The Governing Body is invited to consider the information provided in this document and assess the options for organization of its intersessional work, and the retention or reconfiguration of its subsidiary bodies.

APPENDIX 1

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE *AD HOC* ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE FUNDING STRATEGY

1. The Committee will comprise up to two members nominated by each Region. Two Co-chairs, one from a developing and one from a developed country Contracting Party, will be elected from the members of the Committee.
2. The Committee will hold two meetings.
3. The Committee will carry out the following tasks:
 - Advise the Bureau and the Secretary on resource mobilization efforts, including on innovative approaches;
 - Advise the Bureau and the Secretary on the operation of the Benefit-sharing Fund, including on the disbursement and reporting procedures;
 - Address remaining issues within the full remit of the Funding Strategy, i.e. not only the Benefit-sharing Fund but also other elements of the Funding Strategy, in particular resources not under the direct control of the Governing Body;
 - Advise on the monitoring of the implementation of the overall Funding Strategy and on the assessment of its efficacy;
 - Report on the progress of its work to the Bureau and present the result of its work in the Fourth Session of the Governing Body.

APPENDIX 2

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR
THE *AD HOC* ADVISORY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON THE STANDARD
MATERIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT AND THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM**

1. The *Ad Hoc* Advisory Technical Committee will advise the Secretary on implementation questions raised by users of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, which the Secretary brings to their attention on the basis of questions addressed and forwarded to the Secretary by Contracting Parties, international centres having signed agreements with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the Treaty and other users of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement. The *Ad Hoc* Advisory Technical Committee shall take into account implementation problems such as those identified at the First Meeting of Experts on the Standard Material Transfer Agreement.
 2. The *Ad Hoc* Advisory Technical Committee will comprise up to two members designated by each Region and up to five technical experts, including representatives of the CGIAR. In inviting these technical experts to a meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Technical Committee, the Secretary will have regard of the specific nature of the questions brought to his notice and the expertise needed to address these. Experts will be identified with due attention to the knowledge and skills required, understanding of the International Treaty and its Multilateral System, impartiality, and geographical balance. There will be two Co-Chairs, one from a developing country and one from a developed country Contracting Party, who will be elected from the members of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Technical Committee.
 3. The *Ad Hoc* Advisory Technical Committee will hold up to two meetings subject to the availability of funds.
 4. The *Ad Hoc* Advisory Technical Committee will prepare a report at the end of a meeting, with responses to matters brought to its attention, and, where necessary, opinions on specific questions. These reports will be made available as information documents to the Fourth Session of the Governing Body. Where necessary, the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Technical Committee should discuss and consider questions regarding the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and the Multilateral System that may need to be brought to the attention of the Governing Body through the Secretary.
- The *Ad Hoc* Advisory Technical Committee will report on the progress to the Secretary who will in turn report on this progress to the Fourth Session of the Governing Body.

APPENDIX 3

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SECOND AND THIRD MEETINGS OF THE
CAPACITY BUILDING COORDINATION MECHANISM*****Background***

The Capacity Building Coordination Mechanism (CBCM) is a platform of providers of capacity building. This platform serves organizations and institutions involved in capacity building activities for the implementation of the Treaty as a central point for information exchange and coordination on capacity building initiatives.

The platform includes the actual providers of capacity building for the implementation of the Treaty, i.e. staff from international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, bilateral development aid agencies, private foundations as well as other stakeholders in capacity building for implementation of the Treaty.

Scope and objectives of the CBCM meetings

Based on information gathered by the Secretariat on ongoing capacity building initiatives of relevance to Treaty implementation and Contracting Parties' needs and priorities for capacity building, the CBCM shall:

1. Facilitate the channelling of capacity building needs and priorities, as expressed by developing countries that are Contracting Parties to the Treaty, to capacity building providers;
2. Conduct a review of recent and ongoing capacity building projects and programmes undertaken by national, regional and international organizations and institutions;
3. Identify gaps in the geographic and thematic coverage of capacity building initiatives;
4. Identify best practices and refine appropriate methodologies for the coordination of capacity building activities for Treaty implementation; and
5. Report to the Fourth Session of the Governing Body on its activities and indicate areas where guidance from the Governing Body may be required.