SIXTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Rome, Italy, 5 – 9 October 2015

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Sixth Session
Rome, Italy, 5 – 9 October 2015

SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, 2015
The documents of the Sixth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture are on the Internet

They may also be obtained from:
the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
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# REPORT OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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REPORT OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

INTRODUCTION

1. The Sixth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Sixth Session) was held in Rome, Italy, from 5 to 9 October 2015. The list of delegates and observers is attached in Appendix J to this report.

OPENING CEREMONY

2. An opening ceremony was held on 5 October 2015. The Chair of the Governing Body, Mr Matthew Worrell (Australia), opened the ceremony and welcomed all participants.

3. Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), addressed the Session through video. He emphasized the dynamic governance role of the International Treaty in light of the rapid technological innovation in the use and management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. He indicated that FAO’s custodian role, which had historically safeguarded crop genetic material, would include digitalized information extracted from the genetic material, under the vision and guidance of the Governing Body. He affirmed FAO’s continued support to the Treaty and its operations.

4. Mr Ahmed Nasser Al-Bakry, Under-Secretary for Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Oman), addressed the Session on behalf of His Excellency Dr Fuad Bin Jaafar Al-Sajwani, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (Oman). He presented the outcomes of the Fourth High-Level Ministerial Round Table hosted by Oman in New York in 2014, which identified certain practical mechanisms for monetary and non-monetary benefits generated from the crop germplasm under the Treaty to support agricultural innovation and plant breeding in particular.

5. Mr Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), addressed the Session through video. He summarized the areas of continuous cooperation with the Treaty, as described in the document before the Governing Body, and expressed keen interest in the on-going process on the enhancement of the functioning of the Multilateral System. He also indicated that the Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the CBD to be held in Cancun, Mexico, in December 2016 would strengthen the mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity across relevant sectors, including agriculture and forestry. Mr Dias pointed to the partnership between the Treaty and the CBD as a model of mutual supportiveness between international instruments.
6. Mr Michael Keller, Secretary General, International Seed Federation (ISF), stated that ISF believes that the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources is vital to society and to the seed industry’s ability to develop improved crops adapted to the needs of growers, farmers and the environment. ISF fully recognizes that access to plant genetic resources must go hand-in-hand with benefit sharing and that the functioning of the Multilateral System needs to be enhanced. According to him, the ISF also believes that the Treaty is the best approach to guide access and benefit sharing for its sector, and as such, supports the efforts underway to address current challenges and to make the necessary changes to the Multilateral System. He assured Contracting Parties that the industry remains committed to cooperative engagement in this crucial work.

7. Mr Alejandro Argumedo, Program Director, Asociación ANDES and Cuzco Potato Park, Peru, stated that indigenous peoples and smallholder farmers are critical actors in the collective global responses to the challenges posed on food security and nutrition, especially in the context of climate change and that their knowledge of agro-ecosystems, their seed management and their resilience to the vagaries of weather conditions are critical to building powerful local to global responses. He informed the Governing Body that the Potato Park had deposited germplasm of local potato varieties in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, and intends to include the molecular characterization data and some of the traditional knowledge associated with potato varieties resulting from the project funded by the Benefit-sharing Fund of the Treaty in the Global Information System of the Treaty.

8. Mr Garlich von Essen, Secretary General, European Seed Association (ESA), stated that Europe’s breeders see the Treaty, with its Multilateral System and standardised approach to material transfer agreements, as the best available concept to successfully secure the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. He noted that ESA has and will continue to actively participate in the process of the Working Group on the Enhancement of the Multilateral System of the Treaty. It wishes to work proactively with the Treaty on finding solutions to improve the long-term financial base of the Treaty. ESA remains committed and engaged to maintain and improve this system, and will make a voluntary financial contribution to the Benefit Sharing fund in the sum of 300 000 Euros.

9. Mr Frank Rijsberman, Chief Executive Officer, CGIAR Consortium, informed the Governing Body that in 2012 the CGIAR Fund approved a major investment of $120 million in CGIAR’s collections held in its 11 genebanks for the period 2012-2016, which is implemented in partnership with the Global Crop Diversity Trust and that at its last meeting in April of 2015, the CGIAR Fund has approved a follow-on proposal to commit an additional $93 million for a second phase of this program for the period 2017-2021, thus ensuring that CGIAR collections will be maintained and operated to meet high performance standards. He announced that a CGIAR Genetics Resources Coordinating Platform is under consideration as a proposed coordinating mechanism for genetic resources policy initiatives across CGIAR as part of the next phase of CGIAR Research.
Programs and was of the view that this will enable CGIAR to strengthen and enhance its partnership with the Treaty.

10. Mr Robert Zeigler, Director-General of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), highlighted the multiple inter-linkages of conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture with food security. He reported on new initiatives for cooperation with the International Treaty and announced that, in furtherance of such cooperation, IRRI would make available through the Global Information System of the Treaty 3000 high-density genome maps of rice varieties included in the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing. This represented a practical implementation of the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources and of the custodian role of the International Treaty for digitized food crop genomes, as mentioned by Mr Graziano da Silva. IRRI looks forward to continuing collaboration with the Treaty as the Governing Body designs and develops the Global Information System under Article 17 of the Treaty.

11. The statements delivered at the Opening ceremony are contained in Appendix E.

CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS

12. At the end of its Fifth Session, the Governing Body had elected Mr Matthew Worrell (Australia) as Chairperson of the current Session of the Governing Body, and the following Vice-Chairpersons: Mr Ahmed Nasser Al-Bakry (Near East Region), Mr Clarito Barron (Asia Region), Mr Saulo A. Ceolin (Latin America and Caribbean Region), Ms Felicitas Katepa-Mupondwa (North America Region), Mr Thomas Meier (Europe Region), and Mr Yacoob Mungroo (Africa Region).

13. At the beginning of the present biennium, in accordance with Rule II.1 of the Rules of Procedure,1 Ms Paz J. Benavidez and Ms Clarissa Nina replaced Mr Barron and Mr Ceolin, respectively.

14. The Chairperson of the Sixth Session of the Governing Body welcomed all participants and opened the Session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

15. The Governing Body adopted the Agenda for the Session, as given in Appendix B. The List of Documents for the Session is contained in Appendix C.

PARTICIPATION OF OBSERVERS

16. The Governing Body took note of the observers who had requested to be present at the

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1 “If a Bureau member is unable to temporarily carry out any of his or her functions, the Contracting Party of that Bureau member may designate an alternate”.

Sixth Session\(^2\), and welcomed their participation.

**ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR**

17. The Governing Body elected Mr Nestor Altoveros (Philippines) as Rapporteur.

**APPOINTMENT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE AND VERIFICATION OF CREDENTIALS**

18. The Governing Body elected seven Members of the Credentials Committee from the following Contracting Parties: Canada, Cook Islands, Guatemala, Italy, Malaysia, Togo and Oman. Mr Rasmi Mahmoud (Oman) served as the Chairperson of the Committee.

19. The Credentials Committee recommended the acceptance of a total of 90 credentials according to the FAO rules. The number to establish a quorum for the meeting was set at 69, in accordance with Article 19.8 of the Treaty.

20. The Governing Body accepted the recommendation of the Credentials Committee on the credentials to be accepted. The list of Contracting Parties and Contracting States, as of 5 October 2015, is contained in *Appendix D*.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

21. The Governing Body considered the documents, *Financial Report on Progress of the Work Programme and Budget for the 2014-2015 Biennium*,\(^3\) *Draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2016-2017 biennium*,\(^4\) the *Addendum 1 Draft Programme of Work and Budget for the 2016/2017 biennium: Donor-supported activities under the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes*,\(^5\) and *Addendum 2: Proposed Indicative Scale of Contributions for 2016 and 2017*,\(^6\) and decided to establish a Budget Committee. The Committee was co-chaired by Mr Kailash Bansal (India) and Mr Francois Pythoud (Switzerland).

22. The Governing Body requested that working and information documents for the Programme of Work and Budget be provided to Contracting Parties well ahead of time.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

23. In his report,\(^7\) Mr Matthew Worrell highlighted the main achievements made by the Treaty community in the biennium, such as progress with the enhancement of the Multilateral System in

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\(^2\) IT/GB-6/15/3.
\(^3\) IT/GB-6/15/24.
\(^4\) IT/GB-6/15/25.
\(^5\) IT/GB-6/15/25 Add.1.
\(^6\) IT/GB-6/15/25 Add.2.
\(^7\) IT/GB-6/15/4.
In connection with the Funding Strategy, the development of the Global Information System and stakeholders’ initiatives on Sustainable Use and Farmers’ Rights. He reviewed future areas of development for the Treaty, including for improving the operation of the Treaty systems and initiatives along the entire value-chain of plant genetic resources. Mr Worrell highlighted the key role of the Governing Body Bureau in the preparation of this Session, in the conduct of the projects under the Second and Third Calls for Proposals of the Benefit-sharing Fund, and other relevant matters to be addressed in the inter-sessional period. He explained that connecting the value chain of plant genetic resources under the Treaty might lead to increased productivity and climate adaptation of food crops. The Governing Body commended and endorsed the extensive work achieved by the Chairperson and the Bureau of the Sixth Session.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

24. In his report, Mr Shakeel Bhatti, Secretary of the Governing Body, noted the continuous relevance of the Treaty in the global discourse on sustainable agriculture and food security, as witnessed by the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goal of maintaining the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and their related wild species. Mr Bhatti highlighted that it would be the responsibility of Contracting Parties to safeguard this achievement in the face of several major challenges ahead for the Treaty, such as the dematerialization of the use of plant genetic resources, the financing of the Benefit-sharing Fund and Funding Strategy and the place of the Treaty in the post-Nagoya era. Mr Bhatti called for new collaborative governance within the Treaty to address such challenges. The Governing Body commended the Secretary for the excellent work achieved and looked forward to the continued progress over the coming years.

REPORT AND FOLLOW-UP FROM HIGH-LEVEL INITIATIVES ON THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

25. The delegation of Indonesia reported on progress made, jointly with the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA), with one of the action points of the 2012 Rio Six-Point Action Plan for the International Treaty, namely the establishment of a Platform for Technology Co-development and Transfer. Indonesia presented the goals of the Platform in the upcoming biennium, such as expanding the network of technical institutions participating in the initiative, piloting a technology pool associated with germplasm in the Multilateral System and supporting the Global Information System of Article 17 of the Treaty and technology co-development and transfer projects of the Benefit-sharing Fund. The full report of the delegation is contained in Appendix F.1.

26. The Governing Body was further informed of two main High Level Meetings convened in the intersessional period under the leadership of the Sultanate of Oman: the Fourth High Level
Ministerial Round Table on the International Treaty entitled “The International Treaty, Climate Change and Food Security” which was held on the occasion of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly; and the High Level Task Force on “Delivering Resources for Continued Benefit-Sharing” held on 9 June 2015 in FAO Headquarters, which focused on the urgency of mobilizing financial support for the Benefit-sharing Fund to facilitate the opening of the Fourth Call for Proposals and discussed the involvement of circle of Good-will ambassadors and increasing media outreach and dissemination of impact of Benefit-sharing for mobilizing financial support. The Reports of the two High-level Roundtables are contained in Appendix F.2.

ENHANCEMENT OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING

27. The Governing Body considered the document, Report on the Operations of the Third Party Beneficiary, which included information on the follow-up to a case of relevance to the Third Party Beneficiary, as well as information on, and analysis of, the practice of CGIAR Centres and other Article 15 signatory institutions in relation to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture under development, and adopted the related elements of Resolution 1/2015, as contained in Appendix A.1.


THE FUNDING STRATEGY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY


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9 IT/GB-6/15/10.
10 IT/GB-6/15/6.
11 IT/GB-6/15/6 Add.1.
12 IT/GB-6/15/8.
13 IT/GB-6/15/9.
14 IT/GB-6/15/20.
15 IT/GB-6/15/11.
16 IT/GB-6/15/Inf.4.
second project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund,\textsuperscript{17} and adopted Resolution 2/2015, as contained in Appendix A.2.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**

30. Mr Theo van Hintum, Co-Chair of the Expert Consultation on the Global Information System, presented the major outcomes of the Consultation and the subsequent work to prepare the draft vision and the draft programme of work for the Global Information System.

31. The Governing Body considered the document, *Vision paper on the development of the Global Information System*,\textsuperscript{18} adopted Resolution 3/2015, as contained in Appendix A.3, which includes the Vision and the Programme of Work on the Global Information System and establishing a Scientific Advisory Committee to provide scientific and technical guidance for its implementation during the inter-sessional periods.

**THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON SUSTAINABLE USE**

32. Mr Francois Pythoud (Switzerland), Co-Chair of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable use, reported on the major recommendations of the Committee contained in the document *Implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.\textsuperscript{19} The Governing Body also considered the documents, *Development of a Toolbox for Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*,\textsuperscript{20} and *Report of the Third Meeting of the Platform for the Co-Development and Transfer of Technologies*.\textsuperscript{21}

33. The Governing Body adopted Resolution 4/2015, as contained in Appendix A.4, endorsing the revised Programme of Work on Sustainable use for 2016-2019, and reconvening the Committee.

**FARMERS’ RIGHTS**

34. The Governing Body considered the *Report and Review of Submissions on the Implementation of Article 9, Farmers’ Rights*,\textsuperscript{22} and *Compilation of Submissions on Farmers’ Rights for the Sixth Session*,\textsuperscript{23} adopted Resolution 5/2015, as contained in Appendix A.5.

**COMPLIANCE**

35. The Governing Body considered the documents, *Report on Compliance*,\textsuperscript{24} and

\textsuperscript{17} IT/GB-6/15/Inf.14.

\textsuperscript{18} IT/GB-6/15/7.

\textsuperscript{19} IT/GB-6/15/12.

\textsuperscript{20} IT/GB-6/15/Inf.3.

\textsuperscript{21} IT/GB-6/15/Inf.10.

\textsuperscript{22} IT/GB-6/15/13.

\textsuperscript{23} IT/GB-6/15/Inf.5 and IT/GB-6/15/Inf.5 Add.1.
Corrigendum to the Standard Reporting Format. It adopted Resolution 6/2015, as contained in Appendix A.6, which includes the list of the new members elected to serve in the Compliance Committee from January 2016, and approved the corrections to Question 19 of the Standard Reporting Format, as contained in Part III of the document Corrigendum to the Standard Reporting Format.

COOPERATION WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, INCLUDING THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL


COOPERATION WITH THE GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST

37. The Governing Body considered the Report from the Global Crop Diversity Trust, which was presented by the Executive Director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, and adopted Resolution 8/2015, as contained in Appendix A.8.

38. Norway invited potential depositors in all countries to explore making use of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in their strategy for securing their important seed collections.

COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

39. The Governing Body considered the document, Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. It took note of the Report from the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and of the information contained in the document, Additional information on financial and administrative implications related to the transfer or tasks from the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Governing Body adopted Resolution 9/2015, as contained in Appendix A.9.

24 IT/GB-6/15/14.
25 IT/GB-6/15/14 Add.1.
26 IT/GB-6/15/15.
27 IT/GB-6/15/Inf.15.
28 IT/GB-6/15/Inf.16.
29 IT/GB-6/15/18.
30 IT/GB-6/15/Inf.8.
31 IT/GB-6/15/Inf.9.
COOPERATION WITH OTHER BODIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

40. The Governing Body considered the document Report on Cooperation with Other International Bodies and Organizations.32 A number of international organizations reported on activities of cooperation with the Treaty, as well as initiatives in support of the implementation of the International Treaty. The statements are contained in Appendix G.

41. The Governing Body was informed of present threats to the collections of coconut genetic resources held under Article 15 of the Treaty and maintained in Côte d’Ivoire and Papua New Guinea. In this regard, the Secretariat will be making efforts to mobilize technical support, in cooperation with technical partners, for the orderly maintenance of the collections, in accordance with Article 15.1(g) of the Treaty. The Governing Body requested the Secretary to report on the matter at the next Session of the Governing Body.

42. The Governing Body adopted Resolution 10/2015, as contained in Appendix A.10.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FAO REFORM

43. The Governing Body considered the Report on the functional autonomy of the Treaty within the framework of FAO,33 and noted the relevant developments and decisions of the FAO Governing Bodies on this subject.

44. The Governing Body delegated to the Chairperson of the Seventh Session, in consultation with the Bureau, to follow up and discuss with the Director-General of FAO and the senior management of the Organization on any relevant issues and needs to continue implementing and further improving the functional and operational autonomy of the Treaty during the 2016-2017 biennium.

32 IT/GB-6/15/21.
33 IT/GB-6/15/23.
ADOPTION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2016/17 BIENNIUM

45. The Co-chairs of the Budget Committee presented the recommendations of the Committee with a proposed budget for the 2016-2017 Work Programme. The Governing Body adopted this Work Programme and Budget by Resolution 11/2015, as contained in Appendix A.11.

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK

46. The Governing Body considered the draft Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW), prepared for its consideration, and adopted Resolution 11/2015, as contained in Appendix A.13.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRS OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

47. The Governing Body elected its Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons for its Seventh Session. Mr Muhamad Sabran (Asia Region) was elected Chairperson of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body. Six Vice-Chairpersons were elected: Mr Francis Leku Azenaku (Africa Region), Ms Svanhild-Isabelle Batta Torheim (Europe), Mr Javad Mozafari Hashjin (Near East Region), Mr Michael Ryan (South West Pacific Region), Antonio Otávio Sa Ricarte (Latin America and the Caribbean Region), and Ms Felicitas Katepa-Mupondwa (North America).

48. The document Renewal of the Term of Office of the Secretary of the Treaty was introduced by the Legal Office of FAO. The Governing adopted Resolution 12/2015, as contained in Appendix A.12.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE SEVENTH SESSION

49. The Seventh Session of the Governing Body of the Treaty will be held in 2017. The Session will be convened by the Chairperson of the Governing Body, with the agreement of the Bureau and in consultation with the Director-General of the FAO and the Secretary. The Secretary will communicate the date and place of the Seventh Session to all Contracting Parties.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

50. The Governing Body paid tribute to Ms Elizabeth Matos and Mr Fernández Díaz-Silveira for their consistent and constructive contribution in the negotiation and implementation of the Treaty.

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34 IT/GB-6/15/22.
35 IT/GB-6/15/26.
In this regard, the Governing Body thanked and wished them all the best in their future endeavours.

51. The Governing Body acknowledged the generous contribution to the Benefit-sharing Fund of the Treaty announced by the Government of Italy and the European Seed Association, encouraged other Contracting Parties and stakeholders to make similar contributions. The closing statements from regional groups are contained in Appendix I.

52. The Governing Body adopted its report and all Resolutions as contained in Appendix A
**APPENDIX A**

RESOLUTIONS OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

**APPENDIX A.1**

RESOLUTION 1/2015

MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE FUNCTIONING OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling that, at its Fifth Session, it noted with concern the large shortfall of funding that had accumulated in the Benefit-sharing Fund in relation to the target established by the Governing Body, at its Third Session, for the period between July 2009 and December 2014;

Recalling Resolution 2/2013, by which it decided to establish the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (the “Working Group”), with the tasks of:

- (a) Increasing user-based payments and contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund in a sustainable and predictable long-term manner, and
- (b) Enhancing the functioning of the Multilateral System by additional measures;

Having considered the report of the Working Group on the results from its work, including the results of the fourth meeting, contained in document IT/GB-6/15/6 Rev.1;

Having heard the report of the Co-Chairs and thanking the Co-chairs for their leadership and commitment which facilitated the advances of the Working Group;

Welcoming the consultations that have taken place with a wide range of stakeholders, including the seed sector, in the Working Group;

Taking into account the possibility for the Governing Body to undertake the reviews and assessments foreseen in Articles 11.4 and 13.2.d(ii) of the Treaty;

1. **Welcomes** the important progress made by the Working Group in the biennium;
2. **Decides to extend** the mandate of the Working Group, for the 2016-2017 biennium;
3. **Requests** the Working Group:

   - To elaborate a full draft revised SMTA focusing especially on the development of a Subscription System and aiming to avoid the necessity of any other legal instrument primarily through a revision of Article 6.11 of the SMTA;
   - If a legal instrument would nevertheless be deemed necessary to develop an effective subscription system, to elaborate a complete proposal for an appropriate legal instrument, (including an amendment of or a Protocol to the Treaty);
   - To elaborate options for adapting the coverage of the Multilateral System based on different scenarios and income projections;
• To work on the basis of text proposals to be presented by the Co-Chairs, including a full draft revised SMTA for the first meeting of the Working Group;
• To invite written inputs or reports from all relevant stakeholders where needed and/or to establish small ad hoc Friends of the Co-Chairs groups, where needed, e.g. on user categories, on crop categories, on legal modalities, on payment rates, and on a termination clause, at the request of the Working Group or its Co-Chairs; the small ad hoc friends of the Co-Chairs groups would be requested to provide written input to the Co-chairs;
• To consult with existing and potential SMTA users on the attractiveness of the proposals referred to above and to obtain a realistic picture of the proposed changes;
• To submit the results of the Working Group discussions as referred to above at least six months in advance of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body, to allow for necessary consultations and preparations for the Seventh Session of the Governing Body within Contracting Parties;
• To consider the issues regarding genetic information associated with the material accessed from the Multilateral System;

4. **Requests** a commitment from all Contracting Parties to fulfil the mandate given to the Working Group, which is to develop a range of measures to secure increased user based payments and income to the benefit sharing fund in a sustainable and predictable long term manner and additional measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System;

5. **Calls** on the regions to review and secure that all necessary expertise is available in the Working Group;

6. **Urges** Contracting Parties to provide support and financial resources, as necessary, for the Working Group to be able to fulfil its mandate on schedule;

7. **Reiterates** the urgency of putting user-based income on a sound and predictable footing to achieve agreed targets, including through an effective Subscription System that reduces transaction costs and provides legal certainty for users, which has received considerable support from both Contracting Parties and stakeholders;

8. **Requests** the Working Group to liaise closely with the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy, which will undertake preparatory work for the review of the Funding Strategy, including on the link between increased user-based payments and exploration of proposals to develop a mechanism of contributions by Contracting Parties, in accordance with Article 18.4 of the Treaty;

**REVIEWS AND ASSESSMENTS UNDER THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM, AND OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF THE STANDARD MATERIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT**

9. **Decides** to again postpone the reviews and assessments foreseen under Articles 11.4 and 13.2.d(ii) of the Treaty to its Seventh Session;

**INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE THROUGH THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM**

10. **Recalls** its previous decisions on inclusion of material, particularly Resolution 1/2013, and urges Contracting Parties to notify the Secretary and cooperate financially and technically to make related
information available through the Online Inclusion Facility of the Global Information System, and also encourages natural and legal persons to make their materials available;

11. **Welcomes** the efforts by Contracting Parties to encourage natural and legal persons, including the seed sector, to make its materials available, and requests that the Secretary be notified of any such initiatives;

12. **Emphasizes** the importance of collections that are fully characterized and evaluated, including for specific traits, genomic and phenotypic characterization, and appeals to both Contracting Parties and natural and legal persons to make them available in the Multilateral System together with the relevant characterization information;

13. **Decides** to include in the agenda of the Seventh Session a general review of the availability of material in the Multilateral System including the new accessions during the biennium, and requests the Secretariat to prepare a document providing information on materials included in the Multilateral System by Contracting Parties and from natural and legal persons, both in Contracting Parties and in countries that are not Contracting Parties.

### OPERATION OF THE THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARY

14. **Recalling** that the Governing Body, at its Third Session, had approved the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures for the carrying out of the roles and responsibilities of Third Party Beneficiary as identified and prescribed in the Standard Material Transfer Agreement under the direction of the Governing Body;

15. **Recalling further** that, in accordance with Article 4.2 of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures, the Third Party Beneficiary may receive information on possible non-compliance with the obligations of the provider and recipient under a Standard Material Transfer Agreement from any natural or legal persons;

16. **Recognizing** that the Third Party Beneficiary will require adequate financial and other resources and that FAO acting as Third Party Beneficiary shall not incur any liabilities in excess of the funds available in the Third Party Beneficiary Operational Reserve;

17. **Notes** the Report on the Operation of the Third Party Beneficiary and further **requests** the Secretary and FAO to continue providing, at each Session of the Governing Body, such a report;

18. **Stresses the importance** for the effective functioning of the Third Party Beneficiary, of Article 4.2 of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures, according to which the Third Party Beneficiary may receive information on possible non-compliance with the obligations of the provider and recipient under a Standard Material Transfer Agreement from the parties under the Standard Material Transfer Agreement or any other natural or legal persons;

19. **Decides** to maintain the Third Party Beneficiary Operational Reserve for the 2016-2017 biennium at the current level of USD 283,280, and to review same at its Seventh Session, and **calls** upon Contracting Parties that have not done so yet, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other entities to contribute to the Reserve;

20. **Authorizes** the Secretary to draw upon the Third Party Beneficiary Operational Reserve as may be needed for the implementation of the functions of the Third Party Beneficiary;

21. **Welcomes** the functional and cost-effective information technology tools and infrastructure that the Secretary has developed to facilitate the submission, collection and storage of information in the
implementation of Article 4.1 of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures and requests the Secretary to apply adequate measures to ensure the integrity and, where required, confidentiality of information, while continuing the further development of the Treaty information technology tools and infrastructure.

THE PRACTICE OF CGIAR CENTRES FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE UNDER DEVELOPMENT

22. Recalling the provisions of Article 15.1 a) of the International Treaty;

23. Recalling further the provisions of Articles 6.5 and 6.6 of the SMTA;

24. Welcomes the use by CGIAR Centres of the SMTA for transfers of PGRFA under Development that: incorporate germplasm previously held “in trust” and placed within the purview of the Multilateral System under the Article 15 Agreements with the Governing Body; or incorporate germplasm received by a Centre under the SMTA or under another legal instrument that allows the Centre to redistribute the germplasm under the SMTA;

25. Requests the Secretariat, in cooperation with CGIAR Centres and other CGIAR relevant institutions and mechanisms, to: a) gather information on the content of additional conditions attached to the transfer of PGRFA under Development; b) explore ways of facilitating the implementation of the obligation of Article 6.5 of the SMTA to identify material received from the Multilateral System in Annex 1 to the SMTA; c) report back on the above to the Governing Body at its Seventh Session.
APPENDIX A.2

RESOLUTION 2/2015

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUNDING STRATEGY OF
THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling Articles 13.2, 13.3, 18 and 19.3f of the International Treaty;

Recalling previous Resolutions on the implementation of the Funding Strategy;

Recalling that, at its Fifth Session, it noted with concern the large shortfall of funding that had accumulated in the Benefit-sharing Fund in relation to the target of US$ 23 million annually established by the Governing Body, at its Third Session, for the period between July 2009 and December 2014;

Recalling Resolution 2/2013, by which it accordingly decided to establish the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System (the “Working Group”);

Having considered the report of the Working Group, and having heard the report of the Co-Chairs;

PART I: REVIEW OF THE FUNDING STRATEGY

1. Recognizes that the enhancement of the Multilateral System requires the enhancement of other mechanisms of the International Treaty, in particular the Funding Strategy;

2. Recognizes that an effective Funding Strategy is critical to the implementation of the Treaty, so it should be regularly reviewed by the Governing Body;

3. Agrees that, at its Seventh Session, it will undertake a review of the Funding Strategy with a view to enhance its functioning, and, in order to provide a basis for this review, decides to reconvene the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy in the 2016–2017 biennium, with the following Terms of Reference:

   a. Assess the results achieved by the Funding Strategy in view of its objective “to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement activities under this Treaty”;

   b. Assess the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund 2009–2014, and update it, including the development of a funding target for the Benefit-sharing Fund for the 2018–2023 period, taking into account a needs-analysis on the basis of such information sources, such as the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as well as the target for the endowment fund of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, and a scenarios-analysis on the possible impacts of the measures to ensure sustainable and predictable income to the Benefit-sharing Fund for the enhancement of the Multilateral System to be proposed by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System, as mandated in Resolution 1/2015;

   c. Taking into account these assessments, develop measures to strengthen the programmatic approach of the Benefit-sharing Fund, in order to make the Fund’s operations more attractive and predictable to prospective donors and recipients, including to:

   (1) Improve thematic coherence between individual projects, and over project cycles, including by reconsidering the current arrangements for project execution;

   (2) Develop a long-term investment strategy for the Benefit-sharing Fund, with objectives, expected results and indicators and an appropriate monitoring and evaluation system;
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(3) Promote synergy between the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Funding Strategy, of which it is a part;
d. Consider the development of other measures to strengthen the implementation of the overall Funding Strategy, including to ensure the sustainability and predictability in the provision of financial resources to elements of the Funding Strategy, other than the Benefit-sharing Fund;
e. Consider the possibility to welcome contributions with a regional or crop priority focus, taking into account the results of the exceptional arrangement contained in paragraph 14 below;
f. Advise on resource mobilization efforts during the biennium, and in particular to enhance cooperation with Official Development Assistance agencies;
g. Consider the link between increased user-base payments and exploration of proposals to develop a mechanism of contribution by Contracting Parties, in accordance with Article 18.4 of the Treaty;
h. Consider the resource mobilization opportunities in the implementation of the relevant provisions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in strengthening appropriate cooperation with entities such as, through appropriate channels, the Global Environment Facility, the Global Crop Diversity Trust, the CGIAR, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);

4. Requests Regional Groups to nominate, by 31 December 2015, their two regional representatives to the Committee through the Bureau of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body;

5. Requests the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy to liaise closely with the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System, in executing its work;

6. Emphasizes that the review of the Funding Strategy should strengthen the monitoring and facilitate the implementation of all elements of the Funding Strategy, as described in Art. 18.4 of the Treaty;

7. Requests the Secretariat, subject to the revision of the Funding Strategy, to undertake preparations for a donor conference in the biennium 2017–2019, in order to attract more funding to the Benefit-sharing Fund, subject to availability of resources.

PART II: SHORT-TERM MEASURES TO ENABLE RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR THE BENEFIT-SHARING FUND

8. Emphasizes the importance of continuing and strengthening resource mobilization for the Benefit-sharing Fund, in order to sustain immediate income;

9. Extends the Strategic Plan and all relevant provisions, on an ad hoc basis, for the 2015–2017 biennium to enable the continuation of the work on resource mobilization, communication, promotion and the Treaty’s branding and media presence, to enhance funding for, and the visibility of, the Benefit-sharing Fund;

10. Requests the Secretary to continue the mobilization of resources through the Strategic Plan, and make use of the mechanism of the High-level Task Force to continue mobilizing funding for the Benefit-sharing Fund;

11. Welcomes the financial contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund made by Indonesia, Italy, Austria, Norway and Sweden during the 2014-2015 biennium in support of the fourth round of the project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund;

12. Urgently calls on members of national, regional and international private sector associations, NGOs, as well as Contracting Parties and other donors, to make contributions on an exceptional basis, to
allow the launch of the fourth project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund for at least US$ 10 million, which was the funding level of the third project cycle, as it will support keeping momentum in the enhancement of the Multilateral System;

13. **Requests** the Bureau of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body to review regular updates by the Secretariat on donor prospects, and consider measures to promote the fourth project cycle;

14. **Decides**, on an exceptional basis, as a pilot project, to welcome contributions with a regional or crop priority focus, upon approval by the Bureau, for the next Benefit-sharing Fund project cycle;

15. **Welcomes** the contribution made by the European Seed Association to the Benefit-sharing Fund as the first collective contribution from actors of the European seed sector, and **appeals** to others in the seed sector and in the food processing industries to make similar contributions.
THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling its previous decisions on the Global Information System and particularly Resolution 10/2013,

Further recalling the interlinkages between the Global Information System of Article 17 and the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing as referred to in Article 13.2.a);

Mindful of the role of the International Treaty and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as caretakers of agro-biodiversity, including information related to PGRFA;

Acknowledging the need to facilitate the documentation and dissemination of PGRFA available in the Multilateral System and its associated information to facilitate research, plant breeding and training subject to applicable law;

Thanking the Government of Germany for the financial support provided for COGIS and the Government of Spain for their support to the PGRFA analysis tools during the 2014-2015 biennium;

1. Adopts the Vision and the Programme of Work contained in Annexes 1 and 2 respectively;

2. Decides to establish the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System of Article 17 with the terms of references contained in Annex 3. Subject to the availability of financial resources, the Committee will meet at least twice during the 2016-2017 biennium.

3. Requests the Secretary to implement the programme of work based on the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee, and further requests the Secretary to submit to the Governing Body a progress report at each regular session and a proposal for review of the programme of work when appropriate, based on the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee;

4. Invites Contracting Parties, other governments and stakeholders to provide the necessary resources to implement a set of pilot activities of the Programme of Work;

5. Notes that the Secretariat participates in the Joint Facilitation Unit of the DivSeek initiative, with the view to enabling synergies with the Global Information System in full respect of the provisions of the Treaty, and requests the Secretary to continue doing it;

6. Further requests the Secretary to invite DivSeek stakeholders to report on the implications for the objectives of the Treaty of the technologies underlying the DivSeek initiative and to compile a synthesis report on this for consideration by the Governing Body at its Seventh Session;

7. Requests the Secretary and the Contracting Parties to continue promoting initiatives to support national and regional programmes in the development and transfer of information technologies for, and data analysis of, PGRFA such as CAPFITOGEN and the Platform for Co-development and Transfer of Technologies in support of the programme of work as detailed in Annex 2.

8. Encourages the Secretary and the Contracting Parties to promote synergies and connections among existing information systems and national and regional information networks, as well as with the
operations of the Multilateral System and the projects funded by the Benefit-sharing Fund for the documentation of PGRFA, as long as they operate in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty;

9. **Requests** the Secretary to design a monitoring and assessment mechanism on the usefulness and effectiveness of the Global Information System according to Article 17.1, subject to availability of resources, based on the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee and present a draft to the next Session of the Governing Body;

10. **Requests** the Secretary to report on the above to the next Session of the Governing Body
Vision for the Global Information System on PGRFA

The Global Information System for PGRFA integrates and augments existing systems to create the global entry point to information and knowledge for strengthening the capacity for PGRFA conservation, management and utilization.

The development of a truly effective Global Information System as foreseen in the International Treaty involves, inter alia: strengthening existing systems and, where gaps remain, establishing new systems and initiatives; promoting inter-connectivity among systems; and providing overarching mechanisms to ensure ready access to the information and services provided. This translates into the following objectives:

1-To create a web-based platform with use-oriented entry points to PGRFA information;
2-To provide a comprehensive overview and facilitate access to sources of PGRFA and associated information;
3-To promote and facilitate interoperability among existing systems by providing clear principles, technical standards and appropriate tools to support their operations in accordance to the principles and rules of the Treaty;
4-To promote transparency on the rights and obligations of users for accessing, sharing and using PGRFA associated information and to establish ways to exercise those rights and obligations within the Global Information System;
5-To create and enhance opportunities for communication and international and multidisciplinary collaboration to increase knowledge about and add value to PGRFA;
6-To provide capacity development and technology transfer opportunities for the conservation, management and use of PGRFA and associated information and knowledge paying special attention to the needs of developing countries;
7-To create a mechanism to assess progress and monitor effectiveness of the Global Information System.
Annex 2

Programme of Work on the Global Information System (2016-2022)

The Programme of Work will cover an initial period of six years. It will be implemented through a phased approach and funded through extra budgetary contributions.

The value chain of PGRFA, illustrating the components of and linkages between the three elements of the value chain, namely the sources of PGRFA, adding value, and using PGRFA.

1-To create a web-based platform with use-oriented entry points to PGRFA information
   a. To set up the technical infrastructure needed for the development of the Platform;
   b. To engage with FAO, the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol and other organizations to build on the experience accumulated on the development of global portals;
   c. To define use case scenarios for target groups and set up mechanisms to get feedback from them;
   d. To create a prototype of the global portal able to receive feedback from the users on the SMTA material;

2-To provide a comprehensive overview and facilitate access to sources of PGRFA and associated information
   a. To create an index of sources of information, knowledge and other materials;
   b. To strengthen the capacity of genebanks and other providers to document their holdings using traditional and modern methods and to facilitate access to that information and to the genetic resources in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty;
   c. To enable recipients of PGRFA to make available to the MLS all non-confidential information according to applicable law that results from their research and development carried out on the material received, in compliance with their obligation under SMTA Art 6.9;
   d. To allow quick access to information on the material available in the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (MLS) at sample level;
   e. To strengthen capacity to develop national and regional inventories and information systems and networks.
3-To promote and facilitate interoperability among existing systems by providing clear principles, technical standards and appropriate tools to support their operations in accordance to the principles and rules of the Treaty;

   a. To develop a common standard for Permanent Unique Identifiers applied to PGRFA and an operational mechanism to promote the adoption of DOIs;
   b. To develop further training and capacity development material, including e-learning material, in collaboration with other relevant organizations;
   c. To recommend common standards for data and metadata and develop further standards (e.g. for phenotypic data) based on existing experiences in other sectors;
   d. To establish functional connections with other initiatives relevant for the adoption of open data and standards to PGRFA;
   e. To develop the technical standards required for interoperability between different PGRFA information management systems;

4-To promote transparency on the rights and obligations of users for accessing, sharing and using PGRFA associated information and to establish ways to exercise those rights and obligations within the Global Information System;

   a. To analyse the institutional, organizational, policy and legal factors for PGRFA information access, sharing and use in the context of the Treaty’s provisions, in particular Articles 12 and 13;
   b. To understand the applicability and impacts of models developed in other parts of the Treaty, such as the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing, and initiatives such as DivSeek.

5-To create and enhance opportunities for communication and international and multidisciplinary collaboration to increase knowledge about and add value to PGRFA

   a. To identify and create tools, mechanisms and opportunities for communication and collaboration with partners and users of the system (media, mailing lists, etc);
   b. To conduct focused surveys with a wide range of users and validation methods;
   c. To strengthen the linkages among stakeholders to concentrate research on high-priority germplasm jointly identified by them;

6-To provide capacity development and technology transfer opportunities for the conservation, management and use of PGRFA and associated information and knowledge paying special attention to the needs of developing countries

   a. To convey and support regional meetings and scientific conferences related to new technologies and themes;
   b. To provide access to training materials for capacity development;
   c. To support the training of staff in areas such as taxonomy, information management and bioinformatics in collaboration with relevant partners;
   d. To design mechanisms to promote training opportunities across institutions (training of trainers, match-making);
   e. To provide training for the genebank managers of the future;
   f. To facilitate transfer of relevant technologies to developing countries;
   g. To raise awareness among stakeholders in the Global Information System on traditional knowledge relevant to PGRFA in accordance with the Treaty’s provisions and in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity

7. To create a mechanism to assess progress and monitor effectiveness of the Global Information System
a. To implement a feedback system for the portal in order to allow assessments of the usefulness and effectiveness of the Global Information System;
b. To promote periodic consultations among Contracting Parties, and stakeholders, users and providers, about the usefulness and effectiveness of the Global Information System.
Annex 3

Terms of Reference for the Scientific Advisory Committee on Article 17

Objectives

The Governing Body provides guidance on the development and strengthening of the Global Information System, to facilitate the exchange of information, based on existing information systems, on scientific, technical and environmental matters related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA).

The Scientific Advisory Committee (Committee) shall advise the Secretary on:

- general recommendations on the development and deployment of the Global Information System and its components as adopted by the Governing Body;
- the discovery of new areas of work with potential impact on the System;
- the selection of pilot activities for the Global Information System and, upon request of the Secretary, other initiatives and actions to sustain the operation of the Global Information System, and the further update of the Programme of Work.

In particular, the Committee shall provide scientific advice to the Secretary on the following items:

1. the effectiveness and efficiency of the Global Information System as a mechanism to promote advice regarding scientific, technical and environmental cooperation on PGRFA matters;
2. the exchange of PGRFA-related information and the transfer of publicly available expertise, technology and scientific cooperation;
3. scientific and technical components of the Global Information Systems and its Programme of Work as recommended by the Governing Body;
4. cooperation with other relevant international and regional scientific and technical cooperation and technology transfer initiatives, including the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing House Mechanism of the Nagoya Protocol;
5. means to facilitate the implementation of the Global Information System at the national level and the establishment of a Stakeholder Platform;
6. scientific, technical and environmental cooperation and benefits of all the Treaty activities, including the Multilateral System and Access and Benefit-sharing and the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use

Subject to the availability of financial resources, the Committee will hold two meetings per biennium.

Composition

The Committee is composed of:

- up to 2 scientific experts from each Region, nominated by the Vice-chairpersons of the Governing Body of each respective Region;
- 10 additional scientific and technical experts appointed by the Secretary including experts suggested by the regions and relevant stakeholders, taking into account the required range of technical expertise and regional balance as appropriate.

The members shall be selected for their scientific expertise and understanding of the Global Information System and the International Treaty, taking into account the need for specialized and in-depth expertise including: bioinformatics and molecular genetics; the ‘omics’, in particular genomics, phenomics and proteomics; management of environmental and geo-spatial data about plant genetic resources; scientific, taxonomy, crop wild relatives and genebank management and ex situ, in situ and on-farm conservation of PGRFA, technical cooperation; capacity-building; system integration, information exchange and data sharing; fair and equitable benefit sharing and legal expertise in the relevant international law and
regulations; partnerships with other organizations, institutions and initiatives.

The Committee shall elect its Co-chairpersons from among the experts.

The Secretariat of the International Treaty will facilitate the work of the Committee and report to the Governing Body.

The mandate and the composition of the Committee may be renewed by the Governing Body at its Seventh Session.
APPENDIX A.4
RESOLUTION 4/2015
IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6, SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recognizing the pivotal role of sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) in addressing global challenges, including food security, biodiversity loss, climate change adaptation and the fight against poverty, especially for smallholder farmers;

Recalling Resolution 7/2013 and taking note of the Report of the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of PGRFA (ACSU);

Emphasizing the key role of sustainable use of PGRFA and the link between Farmers’ Rights under Article 9 and the provisions on conservation and sustainable use under Articles 5 and 6 of the Treaty;

Taking into account that the ACSU recommended to the Secretary to further structure and update the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PoW-SU) with additional areas for supporting initiatives by Contracting Parties and other stakeholders, and to create synergies within the Programme of Work and between the Programme of Work and other areas of work of the Treaty:

1. Endorses the revised Programme of Work as contained in Annex 1 to this Resolution and requests Contracting Parties and stakeholders to continue reporting on its implementation and acknowledges the contribution of these initiatives to the sustainable use of PGRFA;

2. Requests all Contracting Parties to promote, as appropriate, the access of all farmers including smallholder farmers, farmers organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities to PGRFA in the Multilateral System and the broadening of the genetic base of crops in use;

3. Requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Seventh Session to consider integration of the sustainable use objectives, tools and initiatives into the next round of the funding cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund, in particular for the wider use of diversity of varieties and species in on-farm management, and also requests it to further explore options on how the Benefit- Sharing Fund could support the implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use, in particular to address farmers’ needs;

4 Requests the Secretary, in collaboration with other stakeholders and subject to the availability of financial resources, to:

   a. Invite further inputs from Contracting Parties, other governments, farmers’ organizations, relevant stakeholders and experts to collect additional and prospective tools for the Toolbox and publish it in all the working languages of FAO;

   b. cooperate with all relevant entities within FAO and institutions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), as well as the private sector and NGOs, under the framework of the Treaty, for the effective implementation of activities in support of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of PGRFA;

   c. facilitate and monitor the activities carried out by Contracting Parties, stakeholders and International Organizations in support of that Programme of Work;
d. continue to invite and collect submissions from Contracting Parties, other governments relevant institutions and organizations, and stakeholders on how to promote and improve measures for the sustainable use of PGRFA;

e. convene regional meetings on advanced characterization and sustainable use of PGRFA, including the assessment of needs of local farmers and other relevant local stakeholders and identification of possible means to address those needs also through participatory approaches in the context of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use;

f. collaborate with other relevant initiatives, with regard to the Convention on Biological Diversity, on interaction between genetic resources, community and farmer led system activities and protected area systems;

g. further develop collaboration with CGIAR Consortium, in particular Bioversity International, and other relevant organizations, on training and capacity building on sustainable use of PGRFA, including through joint resource mobilization;

5. **Decides** to reconvene the ACSU, subject to the availability of financial resources, with the Terms of Reference contained in Appendix 1 to this Resolution.
APPENDIX 1

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AD HOC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

1. The Ad hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (hereafter the Committee) will provide advice to the Secretary on:
   a. implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Supporting Initiatives;
   b. cooperation with other international processes and institutions in the field of sustainable use of PGRFA;
   c. identification of additional activities and synergies within the Programme of Work and between the Programme of Work and other areas of work of the Treaty;
   d. elaboration of the current gaps in conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA through the support of Contracting Parties and donors;

2. The Committee will comprise up to two members for each Region and up to ten technical experts designated by the Bureau in consultation with the regions and all relevant stakeholders, in particular Farmers’ organizations, taking into account the required range of technical expertise, regional and gender balance. Two Co-Chairs from Contracting Parties of the Treaty will form part of the Committee, one from a developing country and one from a developed country. The Co-Chairs will be elected by the members of the Committee designated by the Regions.

3. The Secretary will keep a list of experts for further reference. It will be made available to Contracting Parties with a view to possibly develop a pool of experts on sustainable use.

4. The Committee will hold up to two meetings, subject to the availability of financial resources.

5. The Committee will prepare reports at the end of its meetings, which will be made available as soon as possible for written comments by Contracting Parties and relevant Stakeholders to be submitted to the Secretary who will compile them for information for the Seventh Session of the Governing Body.

6. The Secretary will report on the results of the work of the Committee to the Governing Body at its Seventh Session.
ANNEX I

THE VISION, MISSION AND GOALS OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND SUPPORTING INITIATIVES

(as adopted by the Resolution 7/2013)

VISION
Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are used sustainably in farming systems in accordance with Article 6, to enable more inclusive, sustainable and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels.

MISSION
To enhance the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture through effective measures that translate Article 6 of the Treaty into country-level impact.

GOALS

Monitoring, implementing and ensuring technical support

**Goal 1**: To provide support to Contracting Parties and stakeholders to implement the provisions of Articles 5, 6 and 9 of the Treaty that are relevant to the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, based on national priorities and needs.

**Goal 2**: To provide policy direction and guidance by monitoring the implementation of the Treaty in relation to sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

**Goal 3**: To continue monitoring the technical support and expertise provided by FAO in the area of sustainable use, as foreseen in Article 6 of the Treaty.

Cooperating and improving partnerships

**Goal 4**: To strengthen collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders participating in projects and programmes relevant to the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, taking into account the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

**Goal 5**: To implement the objectives of non-monetary benefit-sharing, and the Priority Activities of the Second Global Plan of Action, regarding the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.
Table 1: Components and expected results (2017/2019) of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Supporting Initiatives

(Subject to the availability of resources)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programmes</th>
<th>Expected Results</th>
<th>Expected Results</th>
<th>Possible Implementing Partners</th>
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<tr>
<td>Part A: agreed by the Governing Body</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Implementing the sustainable use of PGRFA, as per Article 6 of the Treaty</td>
<td>✓ Contracting Parties, stakeholders and international organizations implement and report on activities, projects and programmes for the achievement of sustainable use of PGRFA. The Secretariat of the Treaty monitors technical and policy developments. It will report back to the Governing Body.</td>
<td>✓ Contracting Parties, stakeholders and international organizations implement and report on activities, projects and programs for the achievement of sustainable use of PGRFA. The Secretariat of the Treaty monitors technical and policy developments, which are referred to the Governing Body for guidance.</td>
<td>Contracting Parties, FAO, CGIAR, CGFRA, GFAR, CBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA</td>
<td>✓ Information collected on additional elements for the expansion of the Toolbox</td>
<td>✓ An on-line webpage/portal with commenting possibilities will be established to collect and share experiences on the implementation of the Toolbox at national level</td>
<td>Contracting Parties, FAO, CGIAR, CGFRA, GFAR, CBD, NGOs, private sector and farmers’ organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part B: Supporting Initiatives undertaken by Contracting Parties and other stakeholders voluntarily</td>
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<td>3. Platform for the Co-Development and Transfer of Technologies within the context of non-monetary benefit-sharing</td>
<td>a. Convening of annual meetings of the Platform</td>
<td>f. Convening of annual meetings of the Platform</td>
<td>Working and advisory partners of the Platform; the Integrated Breeding Platform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Preparation of a study on innovation systems and technology cycles for the sustainable use of PGRFA</td>
<td>g. Further structuring and delivery of technology packets for different innovation systems</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Development of pilot technology packets for developing countries (selected crops)</td>
<td>h. Implementation of pilot partnerships for pre-breeding</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>i. Strengthening the linkages</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### 4. Training and capacity building on Farmers’ Rights\(^{36}\) and sustainable use

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>Implementation of relevant activities in the Resolution on Article 9 Farmers’ Rights as adopted at the 6th session of the Governing Body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>Implementation of relevant activities in Resolution on Article 9 Farmers’ Rights as adopted at the 7th session of the Governing Body</td>
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### 5. Raising awareness of the actual and potential value of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species of local and regional importance for food security and sustainable development

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>Joint research on Aichi Targets related to sustainability in agriculture and the linkages between in situ conservation/on-farm management and community-based initiatives and programmes for the sustainable use of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>Active outreach through workshops, publications and other appropriate means on sustainability in agriculture and the linkages between in situ conservation/on-farm management and community-based initiatives and programmes for the sustainable use of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{36}\) *In this Table, “Farmers’ Rights” refers to Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the Treaty.*
APPENDIX A.5

RESOLUTION 5/2015

IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 9, FARMERS’ RIGHTS

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling the recognition in the International Treaty of the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world have made, and will continue to make, for the conservation, development and use of plant genetic resources as the basis of food and agriculture production throughout the world,


1. Requests the Secretariat to engage Contracting Parties and relevant organizations to take initiatives to gather information at national, regional and global levels for exchanging knowledge, views, experiences and best practices on the implementation of Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty;

2. Invites each Contracting Party to consider developing national action plans for the implementation of Article 9, as appropriate, and subject to national legislation, in line with the implementation of Articles 5 and 6;

3. Invites each Contracting Party that have not already done so, to consider reviewing and, if necessary, adjusting its national measures affecting the realization of Farmers’ Rights, as set out in Article 9 in the International Treaty, to protect and promote Farmers’ Rights;

4. Invites each Contracting Party to engage farmers’ organizations and relevant stakeholders in matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and consider their contributions to awareness raising and capacity building towards this aim;

5. Invites Contracting Parties to enhance interaction and coordination, as appropriate, among the different institutions dealing with Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the Treaty and plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

6. Invites Contracting Parties and relevant organizations to take initiatives to convene regional workshops and other consultations including with farmers’ organizations, for the exchange of knowledge, views and experiences to promote the realization of Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the Treaty, and present results at the next session of the Governing Body;

7. Requests the Secretary to facilitate such initiatives upon request and depending on available resources;

8. Requests the Secretary, subject to availability of financial resources, to prepare a study on lessons learnt from the implementation of Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the Treaty, including policies and legislation; and invites Contracting Parties and all relevant stakeholders, especially farmers’ organizations, to submit their views and experiences to derive examples as possible options for national implementation of Article 9 on Farmers’ Rights, as appropriate and subject to national legislation. The study will be presented at the 7th session of the Governing Body;
9. **Decides** to consider at its next session success stories in the national implementation of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the Treaty with a view to invite Contracting Parties to consider how to promote them further at the national level, as appropriate and subject to national legislation;

10. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to launch and implement a Joint Capacity Building Programme with the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) and other relevant organizations on Farmer’s Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty;

11. **Requests** the Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau and subject to availability of financial resources, to finalize the Educational Module on Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the Treaty;

12. **Requests** the Secretary to continue engaging, in a mutually supportive manner with the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plan (UPOV) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to jointly, and including through a participatory and inclusive process, as appropriate and subject to availability of resources, finalize the process for identification of possible areas of interrelations between their respective instruments and the Treaty and report on the outcomes to the Seventh Session of the Governing Body;

13. **Appreciates** the participation of farmers’ organizations in its work and invites them to continue to actively participate in its sessions and in relevant inter-sessional processes, as appropriate and according to the Rules of Procedure, giving due consideration to the FAO Strategy for Partnerships with Civil Society;

14. **Invites** Contracting Parties and development cooperation organizations to consider providing financial and technical **support** for the implementation of Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the Treaty in developing countries, and to enable farmers and representatives of farmers’ organizations to attend meetings under the International Treaty;

15. **Requests** the Secretary to report on relevant discussions that relate to Farmers’ Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, within FAO fora;

16. **Encourages** the Secretary to conduct active outreach on the extent of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the Treaty to relevant stakeholders as another necessary measure to advance the implementation of these rights;

17. **Calls upon** Contracting Parties in a position to do so to support, including with financial resources, the implementation of the activities foreseen in this Resolution;

18. **Requests** the Secretary to report to the Governing Body, at its Seventh Session, on the implementation of this Resolution;
APPENDIX A.6
RESOLUTION 6/2015
COMPLIANCE

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling its previous decisions on compliance adopted at the Fourth and Fifth Sessions,

1. Requests Contracting Parties to submit their reports according to Section V of the Compliance Procedures in a timely manner, so that the Compliance Committee could consider them before the Seventh Session of the Governing Body;

2. Takes note of the Online Reporting System being developed by the Secretariat to streamline the reporting process through electronic means, and Requests the Secretariat to complete its work by the end of 2015 to place online the Standard Reporting Format and, subject to the available resources, to support Contracting Parties in fulfilling their reporting commitments under Article 5 of the Compliance Procedures.

3. Elects the members of the Compliance Committee for the 2016-2019 term in accordance with section III.4 of the Compliance Procedures as contained in the Annex;
## Annex

**MEMBERS OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Expiring on 31 December 2015</th>
<th>Expiring on 31 December 2017</th>
<th>1 January 2016 31 December 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFRICA</td>
<td>Ms Maria Antonieta Coelho</td>
<td>Ms Angeline Munzara</td>
<td>Mr. Konbate Koffi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIA</td>
<td>Ms Tashi Dorji</td>
<td>Ms Amparo Ampil</td>
<td>Mr. Sadar Uddin Siddiqui</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUROPE</td>
<td>Mrs Clare Hamilton</td>
<td>Mr René LeFEBER</td>
<td>Ms. Susanna PAAKKOLA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</td>
<td>Mr Armando Bustillo Castellanos</td>
<td>Ms Lianne Fernandez Granda</td>
<td>Mr Armando Bustillo Castellanos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEAR EAST</td>
<td>Mr Mustapha Ali Elagel</td>
<td>Mr Ali Chehade</td>
<td>Mr. Hojat Khadem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH AMERICA</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Felicitas Katepa-Mupondwa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH WEST PACIFIC</td>
<td>Mr Douveri Mavaru Henao</td>
<td>Mr Geoff Budd</td>
<td>Ms. Valerie TUIA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX A.7

RESOLUTION 7/2015

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Recalling Article 1.2 of the Treaty as well as Article 19.3 (g) and (l), which provides for the Governing Body to establish and maintain cooperation with, as well as take note of the relevant decisions of, the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the provisions of Article 20.5 that requires the Secretary to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Recalling Resolution 5/2013 regarding cooperation with the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, its subsidiary bodies and Secretariat;

Welcoming the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization (the Nagoya Protocol);

Acknowledging the need for continued capacity-building support to Parties, especially developing countries, for the mutually supportive implementation of the Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol;

1. Notes the decisions of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the first meeting of the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, that are of relevance to the Treaty;

2. Requests the Secretariat to continue monitoring and participating in the relevant processes related to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol and in order to promote practical, harmonious and appropriate interfaces among them, both nationally and internationally;

3. Calls on Contracting Parties, in the review and updating of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, to ensure that their commitments under the Treaty are fully reflected, especially through enhanced involvement of all relevant stakeholders;

4. Recalling Resolution 5/2013, welcomes the decision of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on the Financial Mechanism (decision XII/30) to enhance programmatic synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and, in this context, requests the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, to develop elements of advice for the Global Environment Facility concerning the funding of the objectives and priorities the Treaty, consistent with the mandates of the Global Environment Facility, and requests the Secretary to transmit the elements of advice, as developed, to the thirteenth meeting of Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, consistent with COP decision XII/30, so that they may be referred to the Global Environment Facility, and further requests the Secretary to include the elaboration of elements of advice to the Financial Mechanism of the Convention in the Agenda of future Sessions of the Governing Body, as appropriate;
5. ** Welcomes** the decision of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to hold a workshop to explore ways for Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among them, without prejudice to the specific objectives and recognizing the respective mandates and subject to the availability of resources of these conventions, with a view to enhancing their implementation at all levels, and **requests** the Secretary and the Bureau to facilitate the selection of the representatives to participate in this workshop and report on the outcomes to the Seventh Session of the Governing Body;

6. **Commends** the Secretariat for its efforts to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and, taking note of the Roadmap developed in the context of the Joint Initiative and the Memorandum of Cooperation entered into between the Secretary and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue exploring with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, practical means and activities to further enhance to this cooperation along the lines established in the Memorandum of Cooperation, the Joint Initiative, and Roadmap between the two Secretariats, and to report to the Governing Body;

7. ** Welcomes** the efforts of the Secretariats of the Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaboration with the African Union Commission, Bioversity International and ABS Capacity Development Initiative and other partners to bring together stakeholders and experts involved in the implementation of the Treaty, the Convention, and the Nagoya Protocol, and **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue facilitating such interaction on the mutual supportiveness, harmonious and appropriate implementation of the instruments, and report to the Governing Body the outcomes of such activities;

8. **Draws the attention** of Contracting Parties to the ongoing work regarding Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing and **urges** the Secretariat to consider engaging in it;

9. **Requests** the Secretary to continue reporting on the cooperation with the Convention at each Session of the Governing Body.
APPENDIX A.8
RESOLUTION 8/2015
POLICY GUIDANCE TO THE GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling that the Global Crop Diversity Trust (Trust) is an essential element of the Funding Strategy of the Treaty in relation to the ex situ conservation and availability of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

Recalling that pursuant to Article 1(5) of the Trust Constitution the Trust shall operate in accordance with the overall policy guidance to be provided by the Governing Body of the Treaty;

Recalling that pursuant to the Relationship Agreement, the Executive Board of the Trust shall submit an annual report on the activities of the Trust to the Governing Body;

Noting the adoption of the Multi-Year Programme of Work, which might enable, inter alia, to improve the cooperation with the Trust by focusing the policy guidance in a more coherent manner;

Takes note with appreciation of the Report from the Trust, which highlights the important contributions of the Trust to the implementation of the Treaty;

Welcomes the increased exchange between the Bureau of the Governing Body and the Executive Board of the Trust;

Provides policy guidance to the following key areas:

Resource Mobilization

Welcomes the organization of a Pledging Conference for the Crop Trust endowment fund, which has been scheduled for April 2016 in Washington D.C. (U.S.A.), recognizing that it will be a major milestone to support the realization of the Trust Fundraising Strategy and the Funding Strategy of Treaty; Welcomes the continuing support of the CGIAR Fund Council to the development of the global system for ex-situ conservation through the transition to funding of the Article 15 collections managed by the CGIAR fully from the Crop Trust endowment fund;

Takes note of the new Trust's Fundraising Strategy 2014-2018 to reach an endowment target of USD 850 million by 2018 in two phases: the first phase will bring the total endowment to the first target of USD 500 million, with most of the funding sought from Contracting Parties, to finance core operations of international collections under Article 15 of the International Treaty and the second phase intends to raise the endowment further, to a total size of USD 850 million, to fund selected national crop collections and other long-term costs, with most of the further funding sought from private donors;

Urges Contracting Parties and other governments and donors to provide financial support to enable a successful Pledging Conference, in order to mobilize sufficient funds to secure in perpetuity the core operations of international collections under Article 15 of the International Treaty, and in providing such support, to recognize contributions as being supportive to the realization of the Funding Strategy of the Treaty;

Invites the Trust to report back on the outcomes of the conference to the Seventh Session of the Governing Body, including on progress made to secure long-term funding for Article 15 collections;

Invites the Trust to support the work of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy during the next biennium to develop measures to enhance the functioning of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty, including to improve the complementarity between the different elements of
the Funding Strategy and the definition of funding targets for the Funding Strategy;

**Invites** the Trust to continue and expand cooperation with the Treaty on resource mobilization, in particular joint fundraising activities, to enhance complementarities, synergies and implementation of different elements of the Funding Strategy;

**Scientific and Technical Matters**

**Welcomes** the Trust support to the further implementation of the Treaty in the further development of an efficient and sustainable system of *ex situ* conservation defined in Article 5(e) of the Treaty, including the plans to fund selected national crop collections, and **recommends** that it continues to do so in a manner which is complimentary and mutually supportive to the support to such system being made through other elements of the Funding Strategy of the Treaty, and following regular guidance from the Governing Body;

**Appreciates** the Trust’s initiative to develop a system for continuously updating the Global Crop Conservation Strategies and **recognizes** that these are key guiding documents for an efficient and sustainable global *ex situ* conservation system in which genebanks of the Contracting Parties and the Art. 15 institutions are collaborating in a transparent and complementary manner; and **requests** that these strategies be publicized and highlighted by the Trust and the Treaty Secretariat through their respective information activities;

**Commends** the Trust for establishing minimum Quality Management Systems to be implemented in all genebanks receiving long-term support from the Trust and **welcomes** its commitment to support candidate genebanks to meet these standards;

**Encourages** the Trust to identify measures, including the aforementioned Global Crop Conservation Strategies, through which gaps in the existing system of *ex situ* conservation can be addressed, namely the inclusion of collections beyond the CGIAR genebanks, better advisory mechanisms, and a management and coordination structure following the expiration of the Genebank CGIAR Research Programme, and to include such measures in its report to the Seventh Session of the Governing Body and relevant intersessional processes;

**Recommends** that the Trust aims to enhance its collaboration and complementarity with the Treaty and to develop more programmatic and synergistic approaches on the project level;

**Global Information System**

**Commends** the Trust for its close collaboration with the Treaty Secretariat on the Global Information System, *inter alia* through the joint development of Genesys and the DivSeek Initiative, in accordance with the Treaty’s objectives and provisions, especially Article 17;

**Encourages** the Trust to support, in its activities, synergies and complementarities with the Programme of Work on the Global Information System in recognition of the mandate and standard setting capacity of the Governing Body and to continue close collaboration with the Treaty Secretariat on the joint facilitation of the DivSeek Initiative;

**Further invites** the Trust to appoint one expert to participate in the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Global Information System and to facilitate the implementation of its advice and recommendations in the relevant activities of the Trust;

**Communication and Outreach**

**Recommends** that the Trust continues to coordinate and jointly organize, as appropriate, with the
Treaty its outreach and communication activities, including in the context of highlighting the complementarity in the work of the Treaty and the Trust;

Invites the Chair and the Bureau of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body to continue facilitating the cooperation with the Chair and the Executive Board of the Trust following the practices established during the present biennium;

Invites the Trust to include in its report to the Seventh Session of the Governing Body:

progress made towards reaching the endowment target and plans for resource mobilization beyond 2018, as this information will be useful in defining the funding target for the Benefit-sharing Fund for the period 2018-2023 at the Seventh Session of Governing Body;

the contribution of the Trust to fill current gaps and needs in the development of an efficient and sustainable system of *ex situ* conservation defined in Article 5(e) of the Treaty, including in particular to fund selected national crop collections.
APPENDIX A.9

RESOLUTION 9/2015

COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling that the Governing Body has encouraged a close cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission);

Takes note of the additional information provided by the Secretary and the Secretary of the Commission at this Session related to financial and administrative implications on the transfer of tasks and activities between the Commission and the Governing Body of the International Treaty;

Agrees to keep the matter of the functional division of tasks and activities between the Governing Body and the Commission under review and requests the Secretary to regularly report any relevant developments in the cooperation with the Commission;

Notes that the Conference welcomed, at its Thirty-ninth Session, Elements to Facilitate Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-sharing for Different Subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ABS Elements) and that the Commission will continue elaborating subsector-specific ABS Elements, bearing in mind the on-going activities or processes under the Treaty, including the current process to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing and the on-going cooperation to support the harmonious implementation of the Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol, at various levels;

Welcomes the proposal of a global workshop jointly organized by the two Secretariats on Access and Benefit-sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, to be held during the next biennium, subject to the availability of the necessary extra-budgetary funds;

Welcomes the proposed study to be prepared jointly by the two Secretariats analysing the relevance of the Treaty’s information systems to support the monitoring of the implementation of the Second GPA and the preparation of the Third Report, and the relevance of WIEWS to support the Parties of the Governing Body in reporting on the implementation of the Treaty;

Requests the Secretary to continue strengthening collaboration with the Secretary of the Commission to promote coherence in the development and implementation of the respective programmes of work of the two bodies, and in particular with regard to:
access and benefit-sharing;
the preparation of The Third Report on the State of the World’s Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the consideration of the Third Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; and
the monitoring and implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, including further work on the development of Draft Technical Guidelines on National Level Conservation and Use of Landraces and on National Level Conservation of Crop Wild Relatives which the Commission’s Working Group and the Commission will consider at their next sessions, and on the Global network(s) on in situ conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.
**APPENDIX A.10**

**RESOLUTION 10/2015**

**COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

**THE GOVERNING BODY:**

*Cognizant* of the importance of developing and maintaining cooperation with the relevant international organizations, institutions and partners, whose work relate to the Treaty, in order to advance the Treaty’s objectives;

*Welcoming* the ongoing activities and initiatives undertaken by the Treaty Secretariat during this biennium, aimed at enhancing partnerships and collaborations with relevant international organizations;

*Noting* the continued significant support to the objectives of the Treaty by the International Agricultural Research Centers (IARCs) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR);

*Noting* the need to continue providing developing country Contracting Parties with assistance in the implementation of the Treaty and its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing in particular, and *further noting* the progress made during this biennium in the implementation of the Joint Capacity Building Programme;

*Recalling* the need to strengthen cooperation with other international organizations in order to enhance the implementation of the Funding Strategy and, especially, its Benefit-sharing Fund;

*Noting*, with appreciation, the work of the biodiversity-related conventions to strengthen synergies among them, and further *stressing* the importance of supporting the biodiversity-related conventions to improve collaboration, communication and coordination at all levels;

*Further taking note* of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the sustainable development goals, in particular targets 2.5 and 15.6 related to the conservation, access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources;

*Reaffirms* the need to continue the efforts necessary to ensure that the Treaty’s objectives and role in the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are recognized and supported by relevant international institutions, organizations and processes;

*Invites* Contracting Parties to take initiatives to strengthen the harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the Treaty and other relevant international instruments and processes;

*Requests* the Secretary to facilitate such initiatives upon request and depending on available resources;

*Requests* the Secretary to continue pursuing close cooperation with the CGIAR Centers and the CGIAR governing structures at the system level, in areas of mutual benefit and support, including for the implementation of the agreements concluded under Article 15 of the International Treaty;

*Thanks* the institutions that have concluded agreements with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the Treaty, which have submitted the reports and invite them to continue such a practice at the next Session;

*Requests* the institutions that have concluded agreements with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the Treaty to report to the next session of the Governing Body, specifically and in detail, on their transfers of non-*Annex I* materials under the SMTA;

*Resolves* that the Seventh Session of the Governing Body will conduct a review of this use of the standard material transfer agreement to transfer plant genetic resources for food and agriculture not listed in *Annex I* of the Treaty;
Invites the institutions, which have concluded agreements with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the Treaty, to continue engaging in non-monetary benefit-sharing activities, in furtherance of the objectives of the International Treaty;

Invites institutions, that have concluded agreements with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the Treaty to harmonise their distribution policies;

Invites other relevant institutions that have not done so, to conclude agreement with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the Treaty;

Requests the Secretary to continue the collaboration with other Conventions and relevant international organizations for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets that interface with the Treaty’s provisions;

Invites the members of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions to continue their cooperation and coordination as a means to increase synergies in national implementation, in accordance with their respective mandates and subject to availability of financial resources, and requests the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue to participate in and actively contribute to the relevant activities of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, where relevant;

Urges Contracting Parties to take measures to enhance synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions to promote policy coherence, improve efficiency and enhance coordination and cooperation at all levels and invites international organizations and donors to provide financial resources to support efforts that encourage synergies in policy development and the fulfillment of obligations under the biodiversity-related conventions;

Notes the results of the United Nations Environment Programme’s project on improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies;

Requests the Secretary to continue participating in the Information and Knowledge Management Initiative of UNEP (InforMEA) and in the InforMEA Portal and to follow the work of the expert meeting on interoperability between reporting systems for biodiversity data;

Requests the Secretary to continue to strengthen the partnership and collaboration with Global Forum for Agricultural Research on the basis of existing collaboration and its roadmap;

Requests the Secretary to continue to enhance partnerships with relevant organizations such as International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Global Environment Facility to support the implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund;

Requests the Secretary to continue participating in relevant meetings of the International Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties and World Intellectual Property Organization, in particular the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore;

Invites the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore to expedite and complete its work to prepare an international legal instrument or instruments to protect genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions;

Reaffirms the need to continue the Joint Capacity Building Programme, and calls upon Contracting Parties and donors, on a voluntary basis, to provide additional funding to support its continuation;

Requests the Secretary to continue and further strengthen collaboration with Bioversity International in the context of the implementation of Treaty benefit-sharing mechanisms and the Joint Capacity Building Programme.
THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling that the FAO Governing Bodies have determined that the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is a priority FAO activity, and that the FAO Conference has recommended that “statutory bodies and conventions will be strengthened, enjoying more financial and administrative authority within the framework of FAO and a greater degree of self-funding by their Members”;

Recognizing that the execution of the Work Programme is subject to adequate resources being available, in a timely manner, within the Core Administrative Budget, and that this will be essential to the future functioning, credibility and effectiveness of the Treaty;

Adopts the Treaty’s Work Programme and the Core Administrative Budget for the biennium 2016-17, as contained in Annex 1 to this resolution;

Adopts the indicative scale of contributions, in accordance with Financial Rule V.1b, as contained in Annex 2 to this resolution;

Urges all Contracting Parties to provide the resources required in the Core Administrative Budget, as adopted;

Urges Contracting Parties who made no, or only limited contributions in previous biennia, to make contributions to the Core Administrative Budget;

Commends the project proposals contained in the Addendum to Annex 1 to this Resolution to donor Governments and institutions, and invites them to provide the funding necessary for the implementation of these projects;

Invites States that are not Contracting Parties, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other entities, to also contribute to the Core Administrative Budget;

Takes note of the contribution from FAO of USD 2,000,000;

Confirms the level of the Working Capital Reserve at USD 400,000;

Requests Contracting Parties that have not done so, to contribute the balance of their voluntary contribution to the Working Capital Reserve;

Approves the Secretariat staffing structure for the biennium 2016-17 set out in Annex 3 to this Resolution, recognizing that the precise staffing arrangements are a matter of the normal executive authority of the Secretary;

Requests that the activities as prioritized and agreed in the work programme and budget be implemented ahead of activities subject to availability of extra budgetary resources;

Notes that any costs relating to activities funded on an extra-budgetary basis to support the implementation of the overall work programme of the Treaty, either under the “Special Funds for agreed purposes” or other bilateral Trust Funds, are self-supporting and provide for the human resources necessary to carry them out during the project lifetime;

Warmly thanks those Governments who have generously donated substantial funds for additional project activities, outside the Core Administrative Budget, thereby assisting the Treaty in establishing its operational systems and invites Governments to replenish the funds for project activities which will be critical for the continued successful implementation of the Treaty in the 2016-17 biennium;

Warmly thanks the Governments of Italy and Norway for the staff resources that they have made available to support and extend the activities of the Treaty;

Confirms that Contracting Parties that are developing countries and countries with economies in transition should be informed by the Secretary, in a timely manner before a meeting, of the availability of resources to support their participation in that meeting from the Fund to Support the Participation of Developing Countries, and that, where such funding is limited, other resources should be considered within the core administrative budget from eventual underspent categories, and priority should be given to the least developed countries;

Appeals to donors urgently to replenish the Fund to Support the Participation of Developing Countries;
Appeals to Contracting Parties urgently to contribute to the Trust Fund for Agreed Purposes to replenish resources required to support the implementation and further evolution of the Treaty in alignment with its 2016-17 Work Programme;

Requests the secretariat to facilitate the convening of regional consultations prior to the governing body and inter-sessional working group meetings, subject to regional requests and availability of funds;

Requests the Secretary to continue to seek opportunities to hold Treaty meetings back-to-back with other relevant meetings to save on travel costs;

Requests the Secretary to provide a detailed programme implementation and financial report for the biennium 2016-2017, including the report on progress on income and expenditures, as well as any adjustments made to the budget in the biennium 2016-2017, at least six weeks in advance, to the Seventh Session of the Governing Body;

Requests the Secretary to submit a draft Work programme and Budget for the biennium 2018-19, including a Secretariat staffing table and a Draft Resolution, at least six weeks in advance, for the consideration of the Governing Body at its Seventh Session.
## ANNEX 1:
Core Administrative Budget and Work Programme: 2016 – 2017 Biennium

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Core Maintenance Function</td>
<td>Core Implementing Functions</td>
<td>Core Administrative Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>A. Human resources</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.1 Established staff positions (with no variation)</td>
<td>4,442,986</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,442,986</td>
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<tr>
<td>A.2 Temporary posts</td>
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<td>422,703</td>
<td>422,703</td>
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<tr>
<td>A.3 Other consultancy costs</td>
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<td>241,500</td>
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<td><strong>Total A. Human Resources</strong></td>
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<td>664,203</td>
<td>5,247,589</td>
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<td><strong>B. Meetings</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>B.1 Governing body</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>650,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>B.2 Bureau</td>
<td>31,275</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>31,275</td>
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<tr>
<td>B.3 Compliance Committee</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>30,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>B.4 Panel of Experts for the appraisal of project proposals</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>B.5 Activity related</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total B. Meetings</strong></td>
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<td>245,000</td>
<td>956,275</td>
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<td><strong>C. Other costs</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>157,500</td>
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<td>C.2 Publications and communication</td>
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<td>2,500</td>
<td>69,069</td>
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<td>C.3 Supplies and equipment</td>
<td>51,207</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>51,207</td>
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<td>C.4 Contracts</td>
<td>52,231</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>C.5 Miscellaneous</td>
<td>20,483</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total C. Other Costs</strong></td>
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<td>60,000</td>
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<td><strong>Total A + B + C</strong></td>
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<td><strong>D. General Operating Services</strong></td>
<td>223,404</td>
<td>38,766</td>
<td>262,170</td>
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<td><strong>Operating Budget</strong></td>
<td>5,808,556</td>
<td>1,007,969</td>
<td>6,816,525</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>E. Project Servicing Cost</strong></td>
<td>228,509</td>
<td>60,482</td>
<td>288,991</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>6,037,065</td>
<td>1,068,452</td>
<td>7,105,517</td>
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### Funding of the Proposed Core Administrative Budget

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<th>Amount</th>
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<td>7,105,517</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Less:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. FAO contribution</td>
<td>[2,000,000]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net amount to be funded by Contracting Parties</strong></td>
<td>5,105,517</td>
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### Maintenance Functions in 2016 – 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treaty Article</th>
<th>Core Maintenance Function</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GB Doc reference</td>
<td>19-20 25, 25 Add.1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cost - USD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>A. Human resources</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.1 Established staff positions [1]</td>
<td>4,442,986</td>
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<tr>
<td>A.3 Consultancy costs</td>
<td>Treaty maintenance and Statutory meeting related</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total A. Human Resources</td>
<td>4,583,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B. Meetings - Statutory Bodies</strong></td>
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<td>B.1 Governing body [2]</td>
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<td>B.2 Bureau</td>
<td>31,275</td>
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<td>B.3 Compliance Committee [3]</td>
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<td>B.4 Panel of Experts for the appraisal of project proposals [4]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total B. Meetings</td>
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<td><strong>C. Other costs</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.1 Core staff duty travel</td>
<td>100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>C.2 Publications</td>
<td>65,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>C.3 Supplies and equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>C.4 Contracts</td>
<td>51,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.5 Miscellaneous</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total C. Other Costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total A + B + C</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>D. General Operating Services (4% of A + B + C)</strong></td>
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<td>Operating Budget</td>
<td>223,224</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>E. Project Servicing Cost (6% of Operating Budget less FAO contribution)</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Administrative budget</td>
<td>6,032,117</td>
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<tr>
<td>F. FAO contribution</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance to be funded by Contracting Parties</td>
<td>4,032,117</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**

[1] In accordance with approved Secretariat staffing table

[2] In accordance with Article 19 of The Treaty

[3] In accordance with Article 19.3 &21 of The Treaty

[4] In accordance with Step 5 of Annex 3 of the Funding Strategy as adopted by GB 2 Meeting of 14 experts for 3 days
### Core Implementing Functions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>CF-1</th>
<th>CF-2</th>
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<th>CF-4</th>
<th>CF-5</th>
<th>CF-6</th>
<th>CF-7</th>
<th>CF-8</th>
<th>CF-9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Related activity area</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core Implementing Functions</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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#### A. Human resources

**A.1 Established staff positions**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>CF-2</th>
<th>CF-3</th>
<th>CF-4</th>
<th>CF-5</th>
<th>CF-6</th>
<th>CF-7</th>
<th>CF-8</th>
<th>CF-9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### B. Meetings

**B.5 Activity related**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>CF-1</th>
<th>CF-2</th>
<th>CF-3</th>
<th>CF-4</th>
<th>CF-5</th>
<th>CF-6</th>
<th>CF-7</th>
<th>CF-8</th>
<th>CF-9</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### C. Other costs

**C.1 Core staff duty travel**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>CF-1</th>
<th>CF-2</th>
<th>CF-3</th>
<th>CF-4</th>
<th>CF-5</th>
<th>CF-6</th>
<th>CF-7</th>
<th>CF-8</th>
<th>CF-9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total C. Other Costs</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Total A + B + C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>CF-1</th>
<th>CF-2</th>
<th>CF-3</th>
<th>CF-4</th>
<th>CF-5</th>
<th>CF-6</th>
<th>CF-7</th>
<th>CF-8</th>
<th>CF-9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total A + B + C</td>
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<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### D. General Operating Services (% of A + B + C)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
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<th>CF-2</th>
<th>CF-3</th>
<th>CF-4</th>
<th>CF-5</th>
<th>CF-6</th>
<th>CF-7</th>
<th>CF-8</th>
<th>CF-9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### E. Project Servicing Cost (% of Operating Budget excluding IAD contribution on Maintenance Function)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>CF-1</th>
<th>CF-2</th>
<th>CF-3</th>
<th>CF-4</th>
<th>CF-5</th>
<th>CF-6</th>
<th>CF-7</th>
<th>CF-8</th>
<th>CF-9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>208,177</td>
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<td>208,177</td>
<td>208,177</td>
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### Appendix A, Page 38

IT/GB - 6/15/Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treaty Articles</th>
<th>10 - 13</th>
<th>18.4</th>
<th>18.4</th>
<th>18.13</th>
<th>5,13,15 &amp; 17</th>
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<th>21.5</th>
<th>5.6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All amounts in USD</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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ADDENDUM 1

POSSIBLE DONOR-FUNDED SUPPORTING PROJECTS FOR WHICH FUNDING WILL BE SOUGHT

The Benefit-sharing Support Programme of the Treaty  2,000,000

Harmonious implementation of the Treaty, and the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol  750,000

Outreach, Awareness-raising and Promotion of the Treaty  950,000

The Joint Capacity-Building Programme  1,000,000-1,500,000

Training programme on the Treaty  850,000

The Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Article 17 of the Treaty  1,800,000

Conservation, Sustainable Use of PGRFA and Farmers’ Rights under the Article 5, 6 and 9 of the Treaty  1,500,000
ANNEX 2

Indicative Scale of Contributions for the Calendar Years 2016-2017

(2014-15 scale is shown for comparison purposes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contracting Party</th>
<th>Scale $^{37}$ 2016-17</th>
<th>Scale $^1$ 2014-15</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>0.008%</td>
<td>0.008%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>0.015%</td>
<td>0.015%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>0.210%</td>
<td>0.211%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>0.015%</td>
<td>0.015%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>0.011%</td>
<td>0.011%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>3.184%</td>
<td>3.188%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>1.225%</td>
<td>1.227%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
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<td>Belgium</td>
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<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>0.001%</td>
<td>0.001%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>4.505%</td>
<td>4.510%</td>
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<td>0.072%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.005%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
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<td>0.001%</td>
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<td>0.006%</td>
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<td>0.018%</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
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<td>4.588%</td>
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<td>Congo, Republic of</td>
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<td>Cook Islands</td>
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<td>0.017%</td>
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<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>0.593%</td>
<td>0.593%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic People’s Republic of Korea</td>
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<td>0.009%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
<td>0.005%</td>
<td>0.005%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>1.036%</td>
<td>1.038%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>0.001%</td>
<td>0.001%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>0.068%</td>
<td>0.068%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>0.206%</td>
<td>0.206%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>0.025%</td>
<td>0.025%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

$^{37}$ Indicative Scale of Contributions for 2016-17 and 2014-15 based on the UN Scale of Assessments for 2013-15, as established by General Assembly Resolution 67/238 adopted on 21 December 2012
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Contracting Party</th>
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<th>Scale 7</th>
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<td>2014-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>0.001%</td>
<td>0.001%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>0.061%</td>
<td>0.061%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>0.015%</td>
<td>0.015%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>0.005%</td>
<td>0.005%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>0.797%</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>8.589%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabon</td>
<td>0.031%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
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<td>Ghana</td>
<td>0.021%</td>
<td>0.022%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
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<td>0.981%</td>
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ANNEX 3
2016-2017 SECRETARIAT STAFFING TABLE

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P4 (4)
P3 (3)

General Service:
G5
G4 (2)
G3
APPENDIX A.12

RESOLUTION 12/2015

SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The Governing Body,

1. **Notes** that the process for the appointment of a Secretary of the Governing Body of the Treaty under Article 20 thereof is set forth in Appendix J of the Report of the First Session of the Governing Body entitled “Terms of Reference of the Secretary of the Governing Body and Procedures for the Appointment of the Secretary” (Document IT/GB-1/06/Report Appendix J), hereinafter referred to as “the 2006 Procedures”.

2. With a view to implementing the 2006 Procedures, **decides** to include the following item on the Provisional Agenda of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body in 2017: “Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture”.

3. **Invites** the Director-General to extend the appointment of the current Secretary of the Governing Body of the Treaty until a new appointment of a Secretary has been made, following approval of the Governing Body, at its Seventh Session in 2017.

4. **Agrees** that the current Secretary of the Governing Body of the Treaty shall be allowed to apply for the position of Secretary of the Governing Body of the Treaty to be filled in 2017.

5. **Requests** the FAO Secretariat to prepare, in close consultation with the Bureau, a procedure for renewal of the appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the Treaty, for consideration and adoption by the Governing Body at its next session in 2017, as well as to propose any adjustments to the appointment procedure which would be necessary in response to the development of a renewal procedure of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the Treaty and which would apply to future selection processes. In preparing the renewal procedure consideration shall be given to defining a maximum term limit for the appointment of the Secretary.

6. **Requests** the Legal Office of FAO to examine, in the context of the work to be undertaken by the FAO Secretariat under paragraph 5 of this Resolution, the possibility that, subject to considerations of confidentiality, the list of applicants received under Paragraph 3 of the 2006 Procedures be circulated for information to all Contracting Parties.
APPENDIX A.13

RESOLUTION 13/2015

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY (2016-2025)

The Governing Body,

Welcomes the proposal contained in the documentation\textsuperscript{38} as the basis for the further development of a Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty.

Requests the Secretary to develop, with inputs from Contracting Parties, a MYPOW for 2018-2025 for consideration at the Seventh Session of the Governing Body. This should include expected outputs, outcomes and milestones and be prepared according to the principles of efficiency and cost-effectiveness. It should contain an indication of the donor-supported activities and expected additional financial and human resources required.

Requests the Secretary, under the guidance of the Bureau, to develop, as an interim measure, a document outlining expected outputs, outcomes and milestones for the implementation of the Treaty in the 2016-17 Biennium.

Agrees on the theme for the Seventh Session: “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Role of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture”.

\textsuperscript{38} IT/GB-6/15/22.
APPENDIX B
AGENDA OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS
Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
Election of the Rapporteur
Appointment of the Credentials Committee
Establishment of a Budget Committee

INTRODUCTORY AND GENERAL POLICY MATTERS
Report of the Chair of the Governing Body
Report of the Secretary of the Governing Body
Reports and Follow-ups from High-level Initiatives on the International Treaty

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY
Enhancement of Implementation
Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing

Monitoring the Implementation
The Funding Strategy
Development of the Global Information System
The Programme of Work on Sustainable Use
Farmers’ Rights
Compliance
Cooperating with International Instruments and Organizations
Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Nagoya Protocol
Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust
Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Cooperation with other International Bodies and Organizations

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET AND RELATED MATTERS
Matters Arising from the Implementation of the FAO Reform
Adoption of the Work Programme and Budget
Multi-Year Programme of Work

OTHER MATTERS
Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body
Date and place of the Seventh Session
Adoption of the Report
### APPENDIX C

#### LIST OF DOCUMENTS

**Working Documents**

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<td>Vision Paper on the Development of the Global Information System</td>
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<td>Report on the Implementation of the Multilateral System</td>
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<td>Reviews and Assessments under the Multilateral System, and of the Implementation and Operation of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement</td>
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<td>Report on the Operations of the Third Party Beneficiary</td>
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<td>Report of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on Cooperation with the International Treaty</td>
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APPENDIX D

CONTRACTING PARTIES AND CONTRACTING STATES
AS OF 5 OCTOBER 2015

INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

As of 5 October 2015, 136 instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession have been deposited with the Director-General of FAO.

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Angola
Armenia
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Australia
Austria
Bangladesh
Belgium
Benin
Bhutan
Brazil
Bangladesh
Cameroon
Canada
Central African Republic
Chad
Congo
Cook Islands
Costa Rica
Cote d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Democratic Republic of the Congo

Denmark
Djibouti
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Eritrea
Estonia
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland
France
Gabon
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APPENDIX E

OPENING CEREMONY STATEMENTS

Opening Ceremony of the Sixth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Rome, 5 October 2015

APPENDIX E.1

VIDEO ADDRESS BY DR. JOSÉ GRAZIANO DA SILVA, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FAO

It is a pleasure to address you today at the Governing Body of the International Treaty. In the coming years, we will need to produce more food, under increasingly challenging conditions. We will need to build more sustainable agriculture and food systems. We will need to develop new crops, that are more resilient and better able to cope with the impacts of climate change.

The Treaty plays a crucial role in that. It brings together farmers and scientists to develop the full potential of plant genetic diversity, which is the basis of our food. Farmers, scientists, governments and the private sector- you have come together this week to exercise governance over crop genetic resources.

Together you need to enhance the Treaty's instruments to make access and benefit sharing easy and fair for everybody. Your governance role is particularly important in light of the rapid evolution in the use and management of plant genetic resources and their components.

In the 1980s, FAO was requested to hold in trust humanity's pooled genetic material for food and agriculture. With technological innovation, FAO's custodian role will go beyond the safeguarding of crop genetic material, to include also the related digitalized information. Under your guidance and vision, the Treaty needs to ensure that this new public good will be available for the future of food security.

The Plant Treaty is advancing toward its goals, taking steps to enhance the Multilateral System and to develop a Global Information System. FAO is committed to fulfil its core goal of ending hunger and malnutrition. The Treaty is an important instrument to assist us in this mounting task. I wish you a productive meeting.
APPENDIX E.2

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF HE DR FUAAD BIN JAAFAR AL-SAJWANI, MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, SULTANATE OF OMAN

Your Excellencies, Heads of Delegates, Representatives of Stakeholders,

Secretary of ITPGRFA, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be here with you, on behalf of HE Dr. Fuad Bin Jaafar Al-Sajwani, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Sultanate of Oman, and Chair of the Treaty's High-Level Task Force for Resource Mobilization, and it is my honor to address you at this Opening Ceremony of the Sixth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty.

On this occasion, I am indeed very glad to recall that two years ago, Oman had the opportunity to host the Fifth Session of the Governing Body in Muscat, from 24-28 September 2013. This was preceded by a High-Level Ministerial Conference, organized by the Government of Oman on 21 September, and two days of regional consultations from 22 to 23 September.

Since then, all of us have been busy fulfilling the resolutions of the Fifth Governing Body and moving the Treaty forward. As we look back on the last biennium, we can see that so much has been done since the Fifth Session in Muscat. And as we look forward to the coming period, we can see that there is still more to be done.

As we know, agriculture is an ecosystem-based industry. Conservation and sustainable use of fragile agro-ecosystems are vital for the agriculture of today, and for ensuring the agricultural productivity of tomorrow.

Plant genetic resources are not only the most important assets we have for developing adaptation options. They are also key assets for addressing other challenges of global development such as: food security; soaring food prices; alternative sources of clean energy; sustainability of production; sustainability of environment; balanced diet & health issues; and bio-safety concerns.

Agriculture in the Near East and North Africa region has historically struggled with persisting water scarcity and drought in its development. And yet, our region is also known to have some of the world’s most valuable crop genetic diversity and immense traditional knowledge.

In fact, each of our countries has valuable resources and knowledge to share for the betterment of all.

As individual countries, we are all interdependent when it comes to plant genetic resources. That is what brought us together to establish the International Treaty in the first place. Climate projections indicate increasing climatic changes will likely result in an even greater interdependence between countries and regions for plant genetic resources.

In this global context, the International Treaty provides a sound multilateral solution to safeguard the world’s food crop biodiversity – through providing facilitated access to precious plant genetic material for sustainable use, and ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from that use. Only the full implementation of the Treaty can guarantee its full effectiveness and our future food security.

At the end of the last Governing Body Session, H.E. Dr Fuaad Al-Sajwani, said in his closing remarks: “We will work together to transform the outcomes of this meeting in measures that will preserve our plant genetic resources and will contribute to the enhancement of food security under climate change.” And we are happy to note the outstanding work done in the two short years since the Muscat Governing Body up to now. We commend everyone for their dedication and commitment to furthering the implementation and impact of this important International Treaty.

The 5th Governing Body launched an interessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance
the Functioning of the Multilateral System (MLS) of Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS). It also adopted a program of work on Sustainable Use and a resolution on Farmers’ Rights, all aimed at achieving significant progress in Treaty implementation.

Since the Fifth Session of the Governing Body in September 2013, several meetings have been held to meet the goals and resolutions of that session. Allow me to highlight some of the important actions decided in these meetings in chronological order:

The First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System (MLS), held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 14 to 16 May 2014, proposed the development of the innovative approaches under the Multilateral System, while the Fourth High-Level Ministerial Round Table hosted by Oman entitled “The International Treaty, Climate Change and Food Security” and held at UN Headquarters in New York on 24 September 2014 on the occasion of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, discussed how monetary and non-monetary benefits generated from the utilization of plant germplasm under the International Treaty can support agricultural innovation for breeding climate-adapted seeds and the impact of climate change on food crops through the Treaty systems.

The First Meeting of the Expert Consultation on the Global Information System (GLIS) on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, held in San Diego, USA, from 7 to 8 January 2015, was tasked with advising the Treaty Secretariat on the development of proposals for the effective establishment of the GLIS and the drafting of the GLIS vision paper for your consideration at this 6th session of the Governing Body.

The Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, held from 2 to 3 March 2015, in Rome, Italy, discussed a number of issues, including developing a toolbox for sustainable use of PGRFA, the promotion of public-private partnerships for pre-breeding, and the co-development and transfer of technology.

During the same period, the Second Meeting of the Bureau of the Sixth Session of the Governing Body was held from 5 to 6 March 2015 in Rome, Italy, and reviewed and discussed the steps taken by the Secretariat for the preparation of the 6th Session. This meeting approved funding of approximately 10 million USD for disbursement to 22 approved project proposals under the Benefit-sharing Fund. We also discussed providing guidance on the development of the first Multi-Year Program of Work and identification of interrelations with instruments administered by UPOV and WIPO.

The Third Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of The Multilateral System was held in Brasilia, Brazil from 2 to 5 June 2015, and reviewed the progress made during this biennium, in the development of the measures by which the functioning of the Multilateral System could be enhanced in terms of increasing the availability of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Lastly, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to emphasize here that during the course of the two years after the Fifth Session, between September 2013 and September 2015, the International Treaty has progressed in a positive direction and accomplished a lot, through its fruitful actions and activities, towards realizing its main goals. Oman has committed to supporting the ITPGRFA in all its actions and moves towards making the world food secure under present conditions of climate change.

At this juncture, before I conclude, I would like to appeal you all – Excellencies, Ministers, Country Representatives, Heads of Funding Organizations, NGOs, and Civil Society on behalf of our Minister HE Dr. Fuad Al-Sajwani, to please come forward to contribute directly or indirectly to the ITPGRFA’s Benefit-sharing Fund for realizing its objectives.

Thank you, one and all.
STATEMENT BY DR BRAULIO FERREIRA DE SOUZA DIAS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues,

I wish to thank you for this opportunity to address the Sixth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and offer my sincere regrets that competing obligations made it impossible for me to join you in person.

The two years since the previous session of the Governing Body have been very fruitful and the relationship between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty has continued to grow and deepen.

Much of our cooperation has focused on the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing. As you know, the Nagoya Protocol was adopted in 2010 to further the third objective of the Convention regarding access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use. We were very pleased when the Protocol entered into force nearly one year ago, on 12 October 2014, allowing the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to be held concurrently with the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in the Republic of Korea. The information document we have submitted to this meeting illustrates that the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol was very productive and adopted thirteen decisions on diverse issues such as capacity-building, compliance, awareness-raising and the ABS Clearing-House.

The momentum of the Nagoya Protocol continues to build. The Protocol now has 64 Parties with more ratifications expected in the coming weeks and months as countries finalize their national processes.

Of course, for those countries that are Parties to both the Protocol and the Treaty, implementation needs to be done in a mutually supportive manner. To this end, our two Secretariats are collaborating with Bioversity International and the ABS Capacity Development Initiative in order to increase the ability of national policy makers to implement both agreements in supportive ways. Together, we are undertaking a number of activities to identify clear, operable approaches to address the challenges of implementing these two instruments together.

Colleagues,

The CBD Secretariat has been following with interest the discussions on the enhancement of the functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing. I recall that the Treaty provides that its Multilateral System covers the plant genetic resources for food and agriculture listed in Annex I to the Treaty, established according to criteria of food security and interdependence. I trust that the solution you will find to enhance the functioning of the MLS will facilitate the relationship between our respective instruments rather than adding complexity. To this end, we stand ready to support this work, in particular by providing accurate and up-to-date information on access and benefit-sharing in the context of the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol to the discussions.

Distinguished delegates,

The joint interests of the Convention and the International Treaty also extend to broader aspects of the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. I would like to highlight our recent joint efforts, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Bioversity International, drawing attention to the need to strengthen the conservation of crop wild relatives. A notification co-signed by all four Secretariats involved has been issued to all our respective focal points providing further information including suggested actions at the national level.

To this end, I’m very pleased that the Parties to the CBD decided that the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties would address, among other things, the mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity across relevant sectors, including agriculture and forestry. COP-13 will be hosted by Mexico in December 2016 and the issue of mainstreaming will also be included as part of the High
Level Segment of the meeting. I thus look forward to working with FAO and Ministers of Agriculture from your countries to further this important initiative.

In this context, I am also very pleased that the CBD Secretariat has been able to host a staff member of the Treaty Secretariat for the past eighteen months. This concrete example of cooperation has been very fruitful in enabling coordinated action on everything from the Biodiversity Liaison Group to crop wild relatives.

Dear colleagues,

I believe that the partnership between the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity is a model of mutual supportiveness and synergy. The achievements under the Nagoya Protocol will contribute to strengthen the implementation of the Treaty, while the Treaty’s successes will support the CBD in the accomplishment of our mandate. I thus could not be more pleased with our cooperation to date and I look forward to many more opportunities for us to work together in the future as a contribution towards achieving global goals. I wish you all a very successful and productive meeting.

Thank you for your kind attention.
APPENDIX E.4

STATEMENT BY MR MICHAEL KELLER, SECRETARY GENERAL, INTERNATIONAL SEED FEDERATION (ISF)

Ladies, Gentlemen and Distinguished Guests,

It is an honour and a privilege to address the Sixth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. I would particularly like to thank Ministers Fuad bin Jafaar Al-Sajwani of Oman, Mr. Matthew Worrell, Chairperson of the Sixth Session of the Governing Body and Mr. Shakeel Bhatti of the International Treaty for the invitation to address this distinguished audience.

I represent ISF – the International Seed Federation, the voice of the global seed industry. As ISF Secretary General I would like to express the industry’s unequivocal support for an International Treaty that is both robust and transparent. After all, we know that a successful International Treaty will enhance the research, breeding and development of seed at a global level. And ultimately, this is what we are all striving for, isn’t it?

ISF’s membership spans 78 countries and represents 7,500 companies. As such, the International Seed Federation covers over 96% of the international trade in seed. Our plant breeders are actively working to produce improved seed that will help farmers around the world to produce more food, combat hunger and overcome the environmental challenges facing our planet. ISF members share a common vision for “A world where the best quality seed is available to all, supporting sustainable agriculture and food security.”

We believe that the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources is vital to society and to our industry’s ability to develop improved crops adapted to the needs of growers, farmers and the environment.

However, ISF fully recognizes that access to plant genetic resources must go hand-in-hand with benefit sharing. With an effective and efficient system of access and benefit sharing under the International Treaty we can ensure that the best seeds are available for farmers today and into the future. Importantly for this meeting, ISF has publicly stated that the Treaty is the best approach to guide access and benefit sharing for our sector.

However, we also recognize that the functioning of the Multilateral System needs to be enhanced. Facilitated access to plant genetic resources is not a global reality. Monetary benefits coming from users are being realized too slowly and the non-monetary benefits derived from commercial breeders are under-appreciated. As such, the ISF supports the efforts underway to address these challenges and to make the necessary changes.

To this end, ISF representatives have participated actively and transparently in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System. It is our hope that this important dialogue will result in recommendations for consideration by the Governing Body. It is our hope that this will lead to a more “user-friendly” system. ISF has galvanized the support of its members worldwide who share our commitment to making the Treaty’s Multilateral System ‘fit for purpose’, and harmonizing its SMTA with the business principles that underpin the diversity of companies engaged in commercial breeding around the world.

This means the SMTA must be flexible to the diverse members of ISF.

As you pursue your important work this week, let me remind you of some of the principles that we believe should underpin an enhanced Multilateral System:

- **Simplicity** with minimal administrative burden (no Track & Trace) and clear with regard to termination of payments;
- **Reinforce** that access to germplasm is the primary benefit of the MLS and witnessed by greatly increased use of MLS materials by more private sector breeders;
-**Predictability** of legal certainty for users; (the SMTA must be accepted as an internationally recognized certificate of compliance under the Nagoya Protocol);
-**Proportional** – in that it provides a level playing field to all industry users; and
-**Differentiated** – when providing material that will be available without restrictions for research and breeding.

Importantly, the mechanism will be functional only once simple changes are made to the SMTA that will ensure long-term, sustainable funding for the Treaty. Other important factors affecting the long-term functionality of the mechanism are:

- The Treaty better recognizes the value of in-kind benefits-sharing activity provided by the seed sector;
- Contracting Parties understand the value and importance of fulfilling their obligations to include material under their control into the MLS; and
- Extension of Annex I to include all plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

Let me state once again: the industry remains committed to cooperative engagement in this crucial work to enhance the MLS. We have contributed many hours of in-kind support to the development of studies on transaction costs and the factors influencing users to make payments into the Benefit-sharing Fund. We will also actively engage in future meetings of the Working Group to ensure that the views of our sector are made known, and so that we can listen to the views of other relevant stakeholders. We will continue to create opportunities for dialogue between industry and government representatives, and representatives of the Treaty as we have done during a round table organized at the World Seed Congress in Krakow 2015. Dialogue is key for mutual understanding!

In closing, I thank you once again for this opportunity to share the views of the international seed industry. With an effective and efficient Treaty, the world will realize the myriad benefits resulting from facilitated access to plant genetic resources and their utilization in breeding programs within ISF member companies.

The slogan of the ISF is “Seed is Life”. The seed industry recognizes its collective responsibility to address the current and future challenges: let us partner with other stakeholders to help build a system that allows everyone to realize and share in this success.

Thanks a lot for your attention
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am thankful for the opportunity given to me this morning to address the distinguished Governing Body of the International Treaty on the important role of local and indigenous smallholder farmers for the conservation and further development of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and the need to share relevant information and data for the effective use of these resources.

Indigenous peoples and smallholder farmers are critical actors in the collective global responses to challenges posed on food security and nutrition, especially in the context of climate change. Their knowledge of agro-ecosystems, their seed management and their resilience to the vagaries of weather conditions are critical to building powerful local to global responses.

Expressed as Farmers’ Rights, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture recognizes “the enormous contribution that local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world have and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources, which constitute the basis of food and agricultural production throughout the world”

More than 10 years ago since the International Treaty came into force, the operationalization of Farmers’ Rights has been quite slow. Yet still, Farmers’ Rights exist, claimed and sometimes implemented by local and indigenous communities throughout many parts of the world. For example, the Potato Park and ANDES cooperate with our brothers and sisters in Asia and Africa, through our global cooperation with SEARICE; CTDT; Oxfam; IFAD; The Netherlands Centre for Genetic Resources; and Sida. We work with governments, CG Centers, research organizations, UN agencies, and other stakeholders.

Our work confirms that indigenous peoples and smallholder farmers are adapting to climate change. They adapt by extending their traditional knowledge of weather predictions, plant genetic resources management and cropping calendars. Our baseline and end-line surveys confirm farmers’ seed systems are an important aspect for adaptation.

Drastic and complex situations such as climate change need innovative and diverse methods and partnerships. We have been effective in the sustainable use of traditional varieties in combination with (much needed) modern varieties.

I would like to inform you all that, last September, working with mutuality and respect with the International Potato Center, the Global Crop Diversity Trust, and the International Institute of Environment and Development with support of the Treaty Secretariat, the Potato Park has deposited germplasm of local potato varieties in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in the remote Artic Svalbard Archipelago for global human food security and welfare of humanity. This is a practical example of in-situ and ex-situ collaboration.

However, to achieve global food security the use of plant genetic resources, and not only the conservation of such resources, becomes crucial, including the use of valuable traits for further improvements and the development of new food crops. To enable the effective use of plant genetic resources, valuable relevant data and knowledge should be stored and made available through the Global Information System of the International Treaty.

Therefore, I am pleased to announce that the Potato Park also intends to include the molecular characterization data and some of the traditional knowledge associated with potato varieties resulted from the project funded by the Benefit-sharing Fund of the Treaty in the Global Information System of the International Treaty.

We are not the only ones who are asserting our Farmers’ Rights, as there are many more of such
initiatives worldwide. In this regards, we welcome the Joint Capacity Building Programme between the Treaty Secretariat and the Global Forum on Agricultural Research for the Implementation of Farmers’ Rights recently launched, as an important initiative supporting the implementation of Farmers’ Rights at the local and national levels.

Thank you very much for your attention.
The development of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) has been very much welcomed by the plant breeding community. The reason for this is twofold:

On the one hand, the Treaty is specific to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. It is therefore much more targeted and thus suitable for our sector -and more easily comprehensible- than the CBD and its ABS regime set out in the Nagoya Protocol.

Moreover, the Treaty was developed in a more direct discussion and with involvement of relevant stakeholders, with more understanding of the sector and its way of working.

It was therefore a truthful congratulation that I extended on behalf of the European seed sector to the Treaty at its 10th anniversary celebration last year.

Ever since the coming into force of the ITPGRFA in 2004, the European Seed Association has closely followed and contributed to its further development.

In fact, the ESA Working Group Biodiversity is the oldest Working Group in our organisation – which is only a little older than the Treaty itself. It was this Working Group, at the time chaired by Kees Noome whom many of you will remember and meanwhile probably recognise as a visionary, that specifically worked on what was to become one of the greatest achievements of the Treaty: its Multilateral System (MLS) with its specific implementing process and respective rules: the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA).

Ladies and gentlemen,

Europe’s breeders see this Treaty with its Multilateral System and standardised approach to material transfer agreements as the best available concept to successfully secure the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to the benefit of everybody: of researchers, breeders, farmers… - and of society at large.

But that does of course not mean that we think that all is perfect. In fact, if it was, you and I would probably not be here today.

Mostly and mainly, the lack of income into the Treaty’s Benefit-sharing Fund is seen as the main shortcoming of the Treaty and its MLS.

Consequently, in 2013, you established a specific Working Group to develop ideas for improving the situation. And in the respective resolution, you specifically invited breeders “to themselves develop […] innovative, user-based approaches to realising monetary benefit sharing […] that can contribute to an adequate and sustainable flow of resources to the BS fund”.

Over the past 2 years, ESA has very actively done just that.

Based on a respective resolution of the ESA Board, we have participated to the meetings of the Working Group, we have made proposals and drafted recommendations, and we have supplied formal responses to notifications, always in close cooperation with the International Seed Federation.

Our input was and is put forward with a clear commitment of the European seed sector to its responsibilities and our wish is to work proactively with the Treaty on finding solutions to improve the financial mechanism and, with that, an important part of the long-term financial base of the Treaty.

But foremost, it is based on the practical processes, economic realities and structural diversity of the plant breeding industry in Europe (and worldwide) and takes account of the fundamental differences of crop species, their breeding and variety development as well as their marketing and markets.

While we understood the dissatisfaction and even frustration of some regarding the financial situation
of the Access and Benefit-sharing Fund, we continued to underline that this lack of income was to some extent encoded in the current system, a system which links income to the point of commercialization of varieties - which generally is very far from the moment of initial access to the genetic material due to the quite lengthy process of plant breeding.

We therefore suggested to explore what financial mechanisms could be more adapted to the practicalities of the breeding and variety development process and its timeframe and made respective suggestions.

It is with great satisfaction that we saw many of these suggestions taken up in the discussion of the Working Group and now before you for further debate and decision.

But another important shortcoming in the Treaty’s practical implementation and utilisation is the lack of material available in the Multilateral System. It still is just a fragment of the material which should be there - and this causes a significant lack of scope and reach.

This shortcoming should be improved as quickly as possible, not least as it will lay the foundation for a much wider base for both - facilitated access and benefit sharing in the future.

This applies similarly to the coverage of the system. The extension of Annex 1 to all plant genetic resources remains a top priority for the plant breeding community worldwide. Here as well, this extension will also significantly contribute to achieve the overall goal of sustainable financing in the longer run.

Again, both elements have been part of the discussion over the past 2 years and it is our firm belief that much progress has been made, both on content as well as on mutual understanding of positions.

Expectations have become more realistic while responsibilities have been more clearly identified and also assumed.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As stated before, ESA remains committed and engaged to maintaining and improving this system, not only in the current discussions on its sustainable financing but much more generally as regards its desired impact and the different means to achieve it.

It is ESA’s well-known position that access to genetic resources for further breeding is the key precondition to enable plant breeders to continuously and successfully address the grand challenges of food security, environmental sustainability and climate change.

Only what is successfully preserved today may be utilised tomorrow - and may then create the benefits to be shared with and throughout the chain, from providers to consumers and with society at large.

ESA stands ready to further contribute its knowledge, its experience and its dedication to a successful conclusion of the ongoing negotiations regarding the further improvement of the Treaty and its financing, both during this Governing Body meeting and beyond.

In October 2014, at the ESA Congress in Lisbon, we underlined this commitment with the announcement of a voluntary financial contribution from the European seed sector to the Treaty’s Access and Benefit-sharing Fund.

Today, almost exactly 12 months later, it is my pleasure to inform you that we have been able to honour this commitment and that at our upcoming 2015 Congress in Vienna next week, ESA President Gerard Backx will hand a symbolic cheque of 300,000 EUR to Secretary Shakeel Bhatti.

ESA maintains its view that all Parties and stakeholders must take their respective responsibilities to contribute to a successful system. Contracting Parties need to acknowledge and take responsibility for the socio-economic benefits that access and use of PGRs underpin across all agri-food related economic sectors and for society as a whole. This acknowledgement must become manifest in a substantial and continuous financial commitment of all Contracting Parties.

The European seed sector is committed to supporting and further developing the Treaty, ready and committed to take financial responsibility, committed to stay proactively involved in and propose
solutions for shaping a future financing mechanism that provides sustainable, long-term income to the Benefit-sharing Fund, and ready and committed to provide ideas for additional measures to further enhance the Multilateral System.

In providing this voluntary financial contribution, ESA sends a strong political signal of support -and of trust and positive expectations!- to the Treaty and to this meeting.

We sincerely hope that it marks another important step in our relation and in our common work, for our common objective.

But it must be clear: the Treaty, its MLS and its SMTA cannot escape market forces and principal economic realities.

Only if all relevant material becomes available under this Treaty, under simple and adapted rules that promote rather than discourage access, that acknowledge that despite all efforts most individual breeding programmes do not result in blockbuster varieties but only form part of the step-by-step yet continuous improvement of what our farmers will be able to grow in the future, only if we understand the sharing of financial benefits as a desirable result that will become the more achievable the better the system is in sync with the needs of those that actually use it, will we be successful.

When prices are too high and rules of use too complicated, products tend to remain on the shelf. It is a simple truth we ought to keep in mind.

But I am convinced that with realistic and transparent expectations, good will and creativity on all sides, this Governing Body meeting will make important steps to further improve the system and with that in achieving our commonly shared objective: the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture – to the benefit of its proprietors, its users and of us all.

I wish you and us fruitful discussions, wise decisions, and much success.

Thank you for your attention.
APPENDIX E.7

STATEMENT BY MR FRANK RIJSBERMAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CGIAR CONSORTIUM

Increasing benefits from genetic resources held in trust by CGIAR

The CGIAR appreciates the opportunity to address the Governing Body of the Treaty at its 6th meeting and would like to take the opportunity to assure you of the very high priority that CGIAR places on the conservation and use of the plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in its collections as well as agro-biodiversity in situ, and the importance that we place on our partnership with the Treaty.

As you may be aware, in 2012 the CGIAR Fund approved a major investment of $120 million in CGIAR’s collections held in its 11 genebanks for the period 2012-2016, which is implemented in partnership with the Global Crop Diversity Trust. I am pleased to share with you that at its last meeting in April of 2015, the CGIAR Fund has approved a follow-on proposal to commit an additional $93 million for a second phase of this program for the period 2017-2021, thus ensuring that CGIAR collections will be maintained and operated to meet high performance standards.

CGIAR Centers are responsible for approximately 94 percent of all materials transferred globally using the SMTA. Since January 2007, CGIAR Centers have transferred 2,682,300 samples under 25,395 SMTAs to recipients in 158 countries. Approximately seventy three percent of the SMTAs were used for transfers to recipients in Treaty Contracting Parties. The vast majority of these transfers – approximately 94 per cent – were to public research organizations, universities, regional organizations, germplasm networks and other gene banks. One percent of transferred materials were non-Annex I crops.

Ten percent of all SMTAs issued by CGIAR Centers concern the transfer of Center improved materials, amounting to over a quarter of a million lines.

To appreciate the scale-up and impact potential of Center improved materials, consider IRRI’s work concerning flood-tolerant versions of high yielding local rice varieties, popular with farmers and consumers, known as ‘scuba’ rice for their ability to withstand up to 17 days of complete submergence. These varieties trigger a hibernation-like response when the plant is submerged in water, and also resumes growth when the water recedes.

Following the isolation of the gene responsible for submergence tolerance in 2006 at IRRI the project commenced farm field tests of the first Sub1 rice varieties developed by marker assisted backcrossing in 2007, and by 2009/10 improved varieties had been officially released in India, Indonesia, Philippines, and Bangladesh. Heavy flooding in 2011 led to increased awareness and distribution and in 2012 an estimated three million farmers in India received the scuba rice variety. Now in its second phase, the project aims to reach around 20 million farmers by 2018.

Successful scale-up and scale-out is measure of success not only for the CGIAR but also for the Multilateral System of the International Treaty. Pursuant to the agreements signed with the Treaty’s Governing Body in 2006, CGIAR Centers use the SMTA to distribute materials from their ‘in trust’ crop and forage collections as well as materials developed by Centers’ breeding and research programs that incorporate plant genetic resources from the Treaty’s Multilateral System.

CGIAR Centers also engage in a number of activities to develop and exchange information, transfer technologies, and strengthen the capacities of research partners and beneficiaries related to the sustainable use of genetic resources, with the particular objective of improving food security and livelihoods of the rural and urban poor. Accordingly, CGIAR is particularly supportive of, and an active participant in, projects funded by the Benefit-sharing Fund of the Multilateral System which are focused on non-monetary benefit sharing initiatives.

CGIAR notes the agenda item of the Sixth Session dedicated to Farmers’ Rights and reiterates CGIAR’s support for Farmers’ Rights, including the preservation of traditional knowledge.
For example, the Genebank and the Genetic Resources Unit of the International Potato Center has a longstanding collaboration with local farmer communities in the Andes region who are the guardians of the genetic diversity of potatoes, sweet potatoes and Andean roots and tuber crops. A collaboration by CIP with the Parque de la Papa, the Potato Park, in Pisac, Peru, fosters the exchange of information and knowledge between scientists and traditional farmers through which the repatriation of clean, virus and pathogen free germplasm is an example of direct benefit sharing with farmers.

Additional information concerning transfer practices and modalities of Center-improved materials, as well as Centers’ non-monetary benefit-sharing contributions, will be presented at the CGIAR side event on Tuesday evening.

CGIAR has been following very closely the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System and has a vested interest in improving the attractiveness to users of the system, which of course incentivizes greater use of CGIAR germplasm, and to increase monetary and non-monetary benefit sharing.

CGIAR stresses the importance of strengthening the international community’s overall capacity, and that of individual countries, to adapt to climate change. Every breeder and farmer knows that access to a diverse range new planting materials, or genetic resources for use in research, selection and breeding, is critical to adapting to the rapidly fluctuating biotic and abiotic stresses associated with climatic variability. The Treaty and the Multilateral System in particular are designed to help national programs, international research organizations, private companies and farmers access and use genetic diversity to respond to climate change, to contribute to system resilience, and food security.

I’d like to draw attention to CGIAR’s contribution to the functioning of the Multilateral System, beyond our core role acting as conservers and providers of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. It is also important to note that the CGIAR Centers are deeply engaged, with national partners, agricultural research institutions and companies in promoting sustainable use, as per Treaty Article 6, promoting Farmers’ Rights, Article 9, creating a Global Information System, as per Article 17, and information sharing, technology transfer and information exchange, as well as capacity building, as per Article 13.

To conclude, CGIAR Centers appreciate the special role they assume pursuant to Article 15 of the Treaty and are pleased to acknowledge a long history of working cooperatively and productively with the Treaty Secretariat. CGIAR looks forward to increased engagement with the Treaty Secretariat in the next biennium and beyond. To this end, we are pleased to announce that a CGIAR Genetics Resources Coordinating Platform is under consideration as a proposed coordinating mechanism for genetic resources policy initiatives across CGIAR as part of the next phase of CGIAR Research Programs. We believe this will enable CGIAR to strengthen and enhance its partnership with the Treaty going forward.
Your Excellencies,

As one of the International Agricultural Research Centers of the CGIAR, IRRI supports and affirms the comments made by the CEO of the CGIAR. IRRI places the highest priority on the safe conservation and sustainable use of the plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. We recognize the importance of the Treaty and of our partnership with the Treaty in working towards our common mission.

Like our sister centers, our mission and mandate is to improve the quality of life of the poor in developing countries, through partnerships with a broad range of stakeholders including the national agricultural research and extension agencies in developing countries, farmers’ and other civil society organizations, advanced research institutes, and the private sector. IRRI’s aim is to help rice farmers in developing countries across the world respond to the key challenges of our time, including climate change and malnutrition.

Everything we do starts with safely conserving rice genetic resources and making them available for use. But this marks just the beginning of a long and resource-intensive and carefully designed set of steps that is our pathway to impact. In addition to distributing accessions from the *ex situ* collection that is held under Article 15 of the Treaty, we create and facilitate access to improved breeding lines and varieties as appropriate to meet local needs. Dr. Rijsberman clearly described one transformational set of varieties targeting the poorest of the poor rice farmers in South Asia. As demonstrated by the statistics assembled by the Secretariat on the functioning of the Multilateral System, the demand for these improved materials is much greater than for genebank accessions, as they enable easier and faster development of local improved varieties in developing countries. We also invest heavily in sharing information as the foundation of effective partnerships.

We co-develop, provide access to, and transfer to developing countries, a range of technologies that contribute to the more effective conservation and use of genetic resources, including the management of genebanks and community seed banks, modern crop improvement technologies, information technologies, crop and landscape management technologies, and technologies for forecasting market needs and policy analyses. And of course we build capacity in developing countries to help them benefit from and use these technologies to enhance local impact.

The impact pathway just described encompasses the first four of the five benefit-sharing modalities recognized by Article 13 of the Treaty. Thus virtually everything we do brings benefits to developing countries in harmony with the Treaty.

At the same time, we recognize the critical importance of ensuring that plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are used responsibly and appropriately. They must not be misused, and the resulting benefits must be shared fairly and equitably.

We look to the Governing Body of the Treaty to provide guidance and set the internationally agreed framework that ensures fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

Effective partnership between the Treaty and the CGIAR centres is thus critical to helping developing countries. At IRRI, after signing the agreement with the Governing Body in October 2006, we invested hundreds of thousands of dollars over the space of just three months to develop and implement a system that enabled a smooth transition to use of the SMTA. From the first day that the treaty came in force and with zero delay in our work, IRRI complied fully with our obligations as a provider of material with SMTA, completing and documenting SMTAs correctly and making available the associated information as provided for in Article 5(b) of the SMTA. This symbolizes the nature of our commitment to the Treaty. Our mission to help developing countries is of critical importance, and we take pride in ensuring streamlined full compliance with the Multilateral System to
work effectively towards our mission without undue transaction costs.

Since then we have consulted and collaborated continuously with the Secretariat and the legal and technical experts who advise the Governing Body. We have worked constructively to resolve doubts. We have helped to design and build the Easy SMTA generating and reporting system, both in its simple and advanced forms. Now we look forward to continuing to collaborate as the Governing Body moves towards design and construction of the Global Information System called for under Article 17.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen...

The Treaty is at a critical stage in its evolution. Access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture under the Multilateral System must continue, and the system must achieve greater sharing of financial benefits. Building the Global Information System and revising the SMTA are two critically important issues to be addressed by the Governing Body at this session. We trust the Governing Body will be wise in its deliberations. We urge the Governing Body to take due account of the needs of all relevant stakeholders. It must be attractive to all stakeholders.

It must not impose impossible administrative burdens or other penalties that encourage would-be users to look outside the Multilateral System for other sources of material. It must facilitate and not disadvantage partnerships whose aim is to help developing countries.

We wish the Governing Body success and continuing good judgement in its deliberations.
APPENDIX F

REPORT FROM HIGH-LEVEL INITIATIVES ON THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

APPENDIX F.1

STATEMENT FROM INDONESIA ON THE PLATFORM FOR CO-DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

The Indonesian delegation would like to report on the initiative that we had taken with Brazil that is the “Platform for Co-development and Transfer of Technology” within the framework of non-monetary benefit-sharing of the Treaty. You may recall that at the Fifth session of the Governing Body we reported that Indonesia and Brazil, with some international organizations, had established the Platform for Co-development and Transfer of Technology in response to the recommendation of the Second High-level Round Table on the Treaty in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. This party-led initiative was welcomed by the Fifth Session of the Governing Body in Muscat, Oman in 2013 under Resolution 7/2013.

Major ideas underpinning the Platform initiative have been mainstreamed in Treaty activities by including a funding window focused on technology development in the 3rd project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund. This new window 3 also includes options for multi-country projects, whereby institutions with high competence in relevant fields could cooperate with other institutions to make modern technologies (including genomics) available in research and breeding activities. The target groups for such activities would be small-scale farmers in developing countries trying to adapt to climate change and other threats to food security.

Indonesia, through the Indonesian Agency for Agriculture Research and Development (IAARD) lead two multi-country project under such funding window namely the “Multi-country construction of a platform for the allocation of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) for rice germplasm linked with the infrastructure of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (MLS) of the ITPGRFA” and “Co-development and transfer of rice technologies”. These two projects will become the typical activities under the Platform.

Following implementing activities by Platform institutions in the biennium 2014-2015 Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development (IAARD), which took up the presidency of the Platform from EMBRAPA, convened the third meeting of the Platform, in Rome on 7 September 2015 to take stock of progress made, define the strategic focus of the initiative in the light of developments with other Treaty processes and expand the network of active institutions. The report of this meeting is presented in document IT/GB-6/15/Inf.10.

The focus of activities of the Platform in the next biennium are to expand its networks, pilot a technology pool associated with the MLS germplasm, and support the global information system and the Benefit-sharing Fund projects. In supporting those projects, the Platform will monitor and support the implementation of projects under window 3.b, i.e., the multi-country co-development and transfer of technology. It will also support the development of the programmatic approach to the Window 3 of the call for proposal in the next cycles.

The Platform will also contribute to adding value to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) through transparent and unambiguous information and data. The value-addition of PGRFA collection through transparent and unambiguous information and data, and its connectivity and interoperability with the Treaty data store will enhance the Multilateral System of access and benefit sharing and address the dematerialization of germplasm in the MLS.

We expect the support from the Governing Body for further implementation of the Platform.
APPENDIX F.2

STATEMENT FROM OMAN ON HIGH-LEVEL INITIATIVES ON THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY, IN PARTICULAR THE HIGH-LEVEL TASK FORCE ON RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND THE FOURTH HIGH-LEVEL ROUND TABLE

It is an honour for my delegation to report on two main high level meetings convened in the intersessional period under the leadership of the Sultanate of Oman:

1. The Fourth High Level Ministerial Round Table on the International Treaty entitled “The International Treaty, Climate Change and Food Security” which was held in United Nations building, in New York on 24 September 2014 on the occasion of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly with the main objectives to:

   i. facilitate discussion on how monetary and non-monetary benefits generated from the utilization of plant germplasm under the International Treaty can support agricultural innovation for breeding climate-adapted seeds;

   ii. discuss how to address the impact of climate change on food crops through the Treaty systems and their further development and

   iii. showcase the value of the Treaty’s Benefit-sharing Fund and its projects for climate adaptation of food crops

2. The High Level Task Force on "Delivering Resources for Continued Benefit-sharing" held on 9 June 2015 in FAO (Rome), which focused on the urgency of mobilizing financial support for the Benefit-sharing Fund to facilitate the opening of the Fourth Call for project proposals. It discussed the involvement of circle of goodwill ambassadors and increasing media outreach and dissemination of impact of Benefit-sharing for mobilizing financial support.
APPENDIX G

STATEMENT BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES

APPENDIX G.1

STATEMENT FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)

In addition to the working document on this item prepared by the Treaty Secretariat, we have submitted information on cooperative activities and outcomes from the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP-12) and the first meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (MOP-1). This is available as information document IT/GB-6/15/Inf.15

We would like to provide a few highlights of the outcomes from COP-12. The COP-12 was held in October 2014 in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea:

Decision on synergies and efficiencies (decision XII/6) that set up a process leading to the convening of a workshop to discuss ways to improve cooperation, synergies and efficiencies among biodiversity conventions. The governing bodies of the different instruments are invited to nominate participants to the workshop and we look forward to the participation of the Treaty and Treaty representatives in the workshop which is tentatively planned for January 2016.

Decision on the financial mechanism (decision XII/30) invites biodiversity conventions to provide suggestions of guidance to the Global Environment Facility by communicating to the Executive Secretary of the CBD information on funding priorities, which will then be included in documentation for COP-13. Relevant language on this matter has been included in the draft resolution for consideration by GB-6.

Decision on multi-year programme of work for CBD (decision XII/31) includes for consideration by COP-13 the area of ‘strategic actions to enhance national implementation, in particular through mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity across relevant sectors, including agriculture, forests and fisheries’. Possible strategic actions will be considered at the nineteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to be held from 2-5 November 2015 and 2-6 May 2016, respectively, in Montreal. Outcomes from these meetings could form the basis of a decision to be adopted at COP-13 and the issue is also to be part of the agenda for the High Level Segment to COP-13 in December 2016.

Regarding the Nagoya Protocol:

In his video statement shown during the opening of this meeting, the Executive Secretary of the CBD indicated that the Nagoya Protocol has received 64 ratifications.

I am happy to announce that in the three weeks since the video statement was recorded, the Protocol has received four additional ratifications from Croatia, Cuba, Djibouti and the Philippines

We are also very pleased that last week, the first internationally recognized certificate of compliance has been constituted through the ABS Clearing-House. It consists of a permit for access to traditional knowledge published in the ABS Clearing-House by India. This demonstrates that the tools and mechanisms under the Protocol are beginning to be put into practice.

Regarding the major highlights from Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (MOP-1):

The Nagoya Protocol entered into force in time for the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to be held concurrently with COP-12.
The Treaty Secretariat was an active participant in MOP-1 and reported on cooperative activities under the relevant agenda item, which was noted by the meeting.

MOP-1 adopted thirteen decisions and I would note that specific reference to the Treaty is included in the decision on capacity-building.

We are also very pleased to be engaged in a number of capacity-building activities in cooperation with the Treaty Secretariat and other partners including Bioversity International, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and the African Union Commission.

To conclude, I would like to make one comment regarding the draft resolution that is before the Governing Body on this matter. Paragraph 4 of the draft resolution refers to the COP-12 decision on the Global Environment Facility. For reasons I won’t go into here, it would be more accurate to describe it as the decision on the financial mechanism. I would thus like to invite the room to consider revising the resolution to replace the first reference to the ‘Global Environment Facility’ with ‘financial mechanism’.

I would also be very pleased to provide any further information in response to any questions that may arise during the discussions.
Mr Chair,
Distinguished Delegates.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour for me, as the Executive Director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, to present, on behalf of the Executive Board, the Crop Trust’s report to this Governing Body.

Slightly more than a week ago, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals were adopted. A groundbreaking global agenda for a sustainable world free of poverty – all based on enlightened self-interest.

Food security figures prominently. For obvious reasons. The Global Community is facing an enormous challenge: to feed larger populations in a changing climate, while maintaining our environment. Production of more and more nutritious food on less land, with less water, less fertilizer and less pesticides does not come automatically.

- And it can’t be achieved unless you go back to the building blocks of agriculture – to the diversity of crops. Target 2.5 under SDG number 2 on food security fully recognizes the importance of agricultural biodiversity.

- That is a prerequisite for food security.

All of us in the plant genetic resources community should rejoice! It is due time that crop diversity gets more of the recognition it deserves. Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are undoubtedly one of the world’s most important natural resources. A global common good.

The International Treaty on PGRFA is the framework under which this fundamentally important natural resource is managed globally. Its existence, and more importantly, its implementation is essential for the future of agriculture. The Crop Trust welcomes decisions by Governments to make the Treaty an even more effective and efficient instrument – in terms of crop coverage and benefit sharing mechanism, and welcomes activities to have more countries ratify the Treaty.

The politics of that process is not for the Crop Trust. Our job quite simply is to conserve and make available the diversity of crops ex situ. This is what we do – nothing more, nothing less.

Our mandate is ex situ conservation. This does not mean we are not equally concerned about in situ conservation. In situ and ex situ conservation should be seen as a complementary. It is not a question of either-or.

The Plant Treaty is essential for the Crop Trust’s work. It is the legal environment within which we operate. Our job is simply Treaty implementation.

At the operative level there is a division of work between us that needs to be understood and respected. But we also interface operatively. Let me take the Potato Park in Peru as an example.

The Treaty has supported the potato Park financially through the Benefit-sharing Fund. The Crop Trust has supported the Potato Park with project money. The Crop Trust also contributes to funding the International Potato Centre in Lima, CIP, that cooperates very closely with the Potato Park. 410 potato varieties have been repatriated by CIP to the Potato Park, and potato seeds from the Potato Park have recently been deposited in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault that the Crop Trust contributes to operate.

This example proves that we should not allow organizational considerations to limit our vision. We should develop more mutually supportive initiatives.
The Svalbard Global Seed Vault is one element of the Global System for ex situ conservation and use that the Crop Trust is mandated to develop, in partnership with the Norwegian Government and the Nordic genebank.

Personally, I find any seed deposit very touching, and I’m humbled by the occasion, but the Peruvian deposit that I just mentioned at the end of August was very, very special. There were more moist eyes than just mine when the representatives of the Potato Park spoke about the importance of potatoes for their culture and how they felt like leaving family members behind in the cold vault by depositing their seeds. But they also beautifully expressed how they saw the necessity of bringing seeds to Svalbard because their children might need them one day in a continuously changing world.

We are now in the phase of retrieving the first seeds from the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. ICARDA’s seed bank is unable to function as intended due to the war situation in Syria, and ICARDA has requested seeds back to re-establish the gene bank in Morocco and Lebanon. After the seeds have been regrown in their new homes, samples will be redeposited in the Vault.

We are sad that seeds have to be withdrawn since it reflects a crisis, but it is comforting to know that we are on the way to establish a solid global system for conservation of crop diversity that protects against some of the effects of war or natural disasters.

We encourage all national genebanks around the world interested in making use of the free-of-charge back-up facility to talk to the NordGen Representative who is present here or any of us from the Crop Trust.

You will see from our report that our technical work has continued unabated over the period from the last Governing Body meeting.

A major reason for the establishment of the Crop Trust was to ensure stable long term funding for the international collections managed by the CGIAR under Article 15 of the Treaty. These collections hold some of the most important material globally and constitute a central pillar of the global system for ex situ conservation. The Crop Trust is privileged to manage the CGIAR research program on genebanks. We work to help the international genebanks to achieve high standards of performance and introduce quality management systems - all in close collaboration with the genebanks themselves.

We are far from reaching the endowment target that is required to safeguard these and other globally important ex situ collections financially. But we are dedicated to the task and are working to transition the CGIAR genebank funding entirely to the endowment over the next years. To this effect, we will have a Pledging Conference on 14 April next year in Washington DC in conjunction with the IMG/World Bank Spring Meetings. We are grateful that the conference will be chaired by the Economic Cooperation and Development Minister from Germany and the Foreign Minister from Norway – and that the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations will give the keynote address.

We have invited more than 50 countries to attend this conference, including all G20 countries as well as other countries with the financial capacity to contribute to development aid. Selected private sector actors may also be invited if they commit to provide financial resources for the cause of crop diversity. We hope for a successful outcome and encourage countries to participate at a senior government level.

We will continue to support the development of the Genesys global portal on accession level data and support the deployment of GRIN-Global genebank data management software, developed in collaboration with USDA. Both contribute to the Treaty’s work on information systems.

With regards to our project on crop wild relatives, we would like to gratefully acknowledge the government of Norway for funding this important work in support of the Treaty. Under this project we are able to offer crucial financial and technical support to developing countries to collect crop wild relatives, following nationally applicable standards.

In many cases this material is threatened in the field and in urgent need of conservation. Species and localities are selected on the basis of the kind of gap analysis called for by the Global Plan of Action. We only support work on wild relatives included in the genera listed under Annex 1. Crop
Wild Relatives and which are being regularly shared under the MLS through the article 15 collections as well as many national collections.

Let me also inform you that a methodology, based on the crop conservation strategies, has been developed to help identify national collections of global significance that could be eligible for support by the endowment. We are working on finding the means to speed up the process of getting the work going.

With national collections identified, the main parts of the puzzle to develop a cost effective, rational global system for ex situ conservation and use, will be in place: The Plant Treaty is our policy framework, the Article 15 collections and additional national collections constitute the daily operations of the system, and the Svalbard Global Seed Vault serves as the back-up facility.

As easy – and complicated - as that.

Since we last met at Governing Body Meeting 5 in Oman, cooperation between the Plant Treaty and the Crop Trust has much improved. The Fifth Session of the Governing Body wisely agreed to a joint liaison position for the two organizations. The post was established, and we at the Crop Trust have been very satisfied with what it has achieved. We are now comfortable recommending that we find less resource-intensive mechanisms to continue to ensure close cooperation between ourselves and the Treaty Secretariat.

As you are aware, the Treaty Secretary is an observer to our Board with full access to our Board papers. We have also recently invited the GB Chair to our Board meetings on the same terms as the Secretary, and will continue to do so. We are committed to full transparency and we trust that the Bureau of the Treaty will be open to full reciprocity.

The Treaty Secretariat is also involved in all our projects and policy guidance is given on a continuous basis. Treaty and Crop Trust staff are in more or less daily contact and the Treaty Secretary and I speak regularly.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us celebrate that we have very valuable language in the SDGs related to plant genetic resources. But it is still a way to go until the PGRFA area gets the attention its importance should imply. Having been in the political arena for many years, it is my firm belief that one reason why the plant genetic resources in particular and agricultural science in general don’t get the political attention that they should, is the high organizational fragmentation in a relatively limited field. We need to help each other communicate clarity to political leaders.

Let us speak more to each other and less about each other. Let us work together and support each others’ work. Our business is too important not to – and there is plenty of work for all of us. Let us jointly celebrate each other’s success.

- And in terms of resources - which often is a sticky point - it is not a zero sum game between the Plant Treaty, the CGIAR and the Crop Trust – we can make the pie bigger as long as we deliver in a coordinated fashion and prove that we, as a system, deliver strong value for money.

Thank you.
APPENDIX G.3

STATEMENT FROM THE CGIAR CONSORTIUM

The CGIAR Consortium wishes to take this opportunity to reiterate its deep appreciation of, and support for, the Treaty. The CGIAR is committed to making whatever contributions it can to support the implementation of the Treaty. The CGIAR Consortium is represented at this meeting by representatives of the Consortium Office and seven of the 11 International Agricultural Research Centres that have signed agreements with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the Treaty.

We thank the Secretariat for putting together document 15/8 (re implementation of the Multilateral System) which provides details of the CGIARs distributions of materials under the Multilateral System of access and benefit-sharing, and for including descriptions in other information documents concerning CGIAR centres’ involvement in other key activities under the Treaty framework, including contributions to:

- the long term work plan on sustainable use,
- on-farm in-situ conservation with links to community, national and international gene banks,
- enhanced use of genetic diversity for climate change adaptation,
- development of a global information system,
- ongoing work of the WG EFMLS, national level implementation of the Treaty’s MLS, in mutually supportive way with the Nagoya Protocol, under the framework of the FAO/Treaty Secretariat/Bioversity Joint Program for capacity strengthening to support countries implementing the Multilateral System.

We also very much appreciate the space provided on Monday for presentations by the CEO of the CGIAR Consortium Office and the Director General of IRRI wherein they were able to present CGIAR activities and outputs that cut across a wide range of ITPGRFA articles and priorities.

The combined documents developed by the Secretariat, the CGIAR’s own report to this meeting (document 15/20), and the presentations made by CGIAR representatives earlier this week underscore that the CGIAR centres are important players in the functioning of the Treaty (with particular emphasis on the MLS) and that the Treaty is crucially important for the CGIAR and our network of research partners in the pursuit of food security. We won’t repeat all those points now.

That said we do want to highlight some facts associated with our performance pursuant to our article 15 agreements with the Governing Body. Since 2007, the 11 centres with such agreements have distributed approximately 2.3 million samples to recipients around the world. 37% of those samples were sent to recipients in Asia; 20% to recipients in Africa; 15% to Latin America and Caribbean, 11% to Near East, 10% to Europe and 4% to North America. Approximately ¾ of those materials have been improved by the centres. Those improved materials are usually transferred in the context of long term crop improvement projects with developing country national programmes, projects that also involve information sharing, capacity strengthening, and other forms of technology transfer, generating a broad range of benefits for our national partners. Impact studies confirm that the total value to the national economic development of developing countries from these programs – including the related PGRFA transfers -- runs into many billions of dollars per year.

While on the topic of relationships with international organizations, we would like to take this opportunity to recognize the critical importance of the support from the GCDT for the CGIAR gene banks contributing to their ability to conserve and make the material available as described above.

Thank you.

39Bioversity International, Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maiz y Trigo (CIMMYT), Centro Internacional de la Papa (CIP), International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), International Centre for Research and Agroforestry (ICRAF), International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
APPENDIX G.4

STATEMENT FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE GLOBAL FORUM ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (GFAR)

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

I would like to briefly inform the Governing Body on the cooperation activities undertaken this biennium by GFAR and included in the report of the Secretary of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research on the collaboration with the International Treaty in document IT/GB-6/15/Inf.11

Let me recall first Resolution 6/2013 of the Governing Body, which

- recognized the importance of enhancing synergies among relevant international organizations, institutions and partners, whose work or mandate relate to or impact the International Treaty, in particular at the national and local levels; and

- stressed the need to continue to explore areas of cooperation with other relevant international organizations to further develop synergies and mutual supportiveness in the overall implementation of the Treaty and ensure that the Treaty is taken into account in their processes.

Mr. Chair, at the same Session, the Governing Body requested the Treaty Secretariat to further develop the collaboration with GFAR and Bioversity International on training and capacity building for the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), including through joint resources mobilization.

At its Fifth Session, the Governing Body also endorsed the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Supportive Initiatives, which goals include references to implementing partners, including GFAR.

I am pleased to inform that during this biennium, GFAR Secretariat has undertaken activities and attended meetings in the framework of its partnership with the International Treaty, particularly supporting the implementation of Farmers’ Rights and the Sustainable Use of PGRFA.

Regarding GFAR’s support to Article 6 of the International Treaty and specially the development of the toolbox of the Work Programme on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, GFAR attended the Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held in Rome on March 2015, where GFAR reported on its activities and collaboration with the Treaty supporting the implementation of Articles 6 and 9 of the Treaty. The Committee recognized the value of the cooperation with other initiatives and processes, including with the Global Forum on Agricultural Research.

In addition, GFAR Secretariat, in cooperation with national and international partners, has supported developing countries increasing their capacity and awareness on Farmers’ Rights. GFAR support has been materialized in the development of capacity building materials on Farmers’ Rights for smallholder farmers, decision-makers and relevant stakeholders; national meetings on Farmers’ Rights; seeds and agrobiodiversity fairs; and capacity to improve legal and policy frameworks on seed regulations, to ensure the recognition of the informal seed system; Farmers’ Rights and their mutual support with Breeders’ Rights. Information about the support offered by GFAR to Contracting Parties and stakeholders, upon request, for the implementation of FR is available in GFAR’s website.

During this inter-sessional period, GFAR Secretariat has also participated at relevant international meetings, including the World Farmers’ Organization General Assembly in Buenos Aires, Argentina in March 2014; and the International Encounter “Family Farming and Research organized by CIRAD in Montpellier, France in June 2014, where GFAR submitted the document “Family Farming and Farmers’ Rights. GFAR Secretariat also co-organized with CIRAD the E-discussion on Rights of Farmers to Data, Information and Knowledge, with approximately 100 contributors from around the world.

Finally, Mr Chair, GFAR jointly with the International Treaty has developed a Joint Roadmap to
strengthen our collaboration and synergies for the next biennium. This joint roadmap ensures that cooperation and partnership between the International Treaty and GFAR is realized on the basis of common interest and mutual benefit. Information about the joint roadmap, and particularly the joint initiatives foreseen to be undertaken by the Treaty and GFAR, in the framework of our collaboration and partnership are included in Appendix 1 of information document 11.

Thank you very much for your attention.
STATEMENT FROM THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
(WIPO)

It is my pleasure to take the floor on behalf of the Secretariat of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

The Secretariat of WIPO is pleased to participate as an observer in the Sixth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty. Please allow me to highlight key aspects of WIPO’s work which are particularly relevant for the Treaty’s implementation.

First, WIPO’s normative work.

In 2000, WIPO Member States established an Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, known as the IGC. In 2009, they agreed to develop an international legal instrument (or instruments) that would give genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions effective protection. The IGC process is ongoing.

Substantively on genetic resources, WIPO members have consolidated a number of proposals into a single text on genetic resources. This text is currently available on our website. In particular, WIPO Members are considering whether, and the extent to which, the intellectual property (IP) system should be used to ensure and monitor compliance with applicable access and benefit-sharing obligations of users of genetic resources. One of the options under discussion is to develop patent disclosure requirements. These would require patent applicants to provide information regarding the source or origin of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, and also evidence of prior informed consent and a benefit-sharing agreement, if so required by national legislation.

As regards our normative work on traditional knowledge, it is important to highlight that Article 9.2 of the International Treaty provides for the protection of TK related to PGRFA held by farming communities in accordance with national laws and policies on Farmers’ Rights. The WIPO ICG Draft Articles on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge may have, therefore, important synergies with the International Treaty concerning, in particular, the realization of Farmers’ Rights. The Draft Articles represent the current state of play in the WIPO IGC’s negotiations among 188 WIPO Member States. At present, they provide a broad spectrum of options, including economic and moral rights, as well as individual and collective rights, relating to different beneficiaries and types of knowledge.

Second, information and orientation tools.

In 2015, WIPO organized two Seminars which complemented the normative work. The Seminars followed an innovative format, were well attended and widely praised. In particular, WIPO was pleased that the Secretariat of the ITPGRFA accepted its invitation to participate in the second Seminar, which was held in June 2015.

WIPO has also developed a number of practical tools in the area of intellectual property and genetic resources. These tools include a database of Biodiversity-related Access and Benefit-sharing Agreements and Draft Intellectual Property Guidelines for Access to Genetic Resources and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits arising from their Utilization. The latter are being revised and updated.
also worth mentioning that the Standard Material Transfer Agreement of the International Treaty is already included in the WIPO online database of contractual practices.

Finally, WIPO takes note of the proposed exercise concerning the identification of possible areas of interrelations between the respective instruments of WIPO and UPOV, and the FAO International Treaty, as requested by the Governing Body at its Fifth Session.

WIPO looks forward to continuing its excellent relationship with the Secretariat of the International Treaty and will continue to follow closely the work of the Treaty.
**APPENDIX G.6**

**STATEMENT FROM THE SADC PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES CENTRE (SPGRC)**

The SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC) – an intergovernmental institution of the Southern African Development Community based in Lusaka, Zambia – wishes to join other delegations in expressing our gratitude to the Treaty Secretariat for inviting us to this Session of the Governing Body of the Treaty and for the preparations leading to this meeting.

The Southern African Development Community fully supports the objectives of the ITPGRFA. Of the fifteen SADC member states, 12 are Parties to the Treaty. During the biennium, the Southern African Development Community adopted the Regional Agricultural Policy, which has identified the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture as one of its intervention areas. The Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2015 - 2020 also identifies the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA as a priority.

SPGRC has over the years made substantial progress in strengthening capacities of the SADC Plant Genetic Resources Network, particularly in terms of human resource and infrastructure development, collection, conservation and characterization of PGRFA in the region. SPGRC, however, realizes that with developments that have taken place in the global system of plant genetic resources conservation and utilization there are additional capacities required by countries within the network to enable them adequately meet their obligations with regard to the implementation of relevant global instruments such as the ITPGRFA. SPGRC is ready to partner and collaborate with international organisations in programmes and activities aimed at enhancing national capacities that contribute to the implementation of the Treaty, in particular the MLS.

In conclusion, we wish to express our support for the position of the African Group and the Group of 77 and China on the enhancement of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing of the Treaty, particularly the adoption of the Subscription Model.
APPENDIX H
REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON AND THE SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNING BODY

APPENDIX H.1
REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Introduction

I am delighted to be able to report to you today about the progress that has been made with the development and implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture over the past two years.

It has been an honour to serve as Chair of the Governing Body during this time, and to work with the Bureau, the Secretariat and contracting parties to make significant progress on major areas of work under the Treaty.

Key highlights during the biennium have been the rapid progress made in the development of the Global Information System, continued enhancements of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, and the Third Call for Proposals under the Benefit-sharing Fund.

We also celebrated the 10 year anniversary of the entry-into-force of the Treaty, at a special event in Geneva in July 2014.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Secretary of the Treaty, Dr Shakeel Bhatti, and the Secretariat team for their efforts, professionalism and hard work throughout the biennium.

Work of the Bureau

I would also like to thank the Vice-Chairpersons of this Session, my fellow Bureau members, for their dedication to making this Session a success. Their valuable contributions to our programme of work have made for a productive and effective Bureau.

As a Bureau, we have worked hard to ensure that this Session of the Governing Body can operate in the most efficient way possible.

We have also prepared a proposal for a Multi-Year Programme of Work, to help streamline our future discussions. I look forward to discussing this further with you at Agenda item 17.

We have closely followed the work of the various working groups and committees on the Multilateral System, the Global Information System and Sustainable Use. I appreciate the time and effort contributed by all representatives on these groups and I thank them for the progress they have made, which we will hear more about during the course of our meeting.

A major highlight for me during the biennium was the launch of the Third Call for Proposals in March 2014.

The Bureau played a very active role in the Call for Proposals and the execution of the third benefit-sharing cycle under the Benefit-sharing Fund.

As a result, over USD10 million was allocated to projects around the globe. I would like to thank all the donors that have made these projects possible through their voluntary contributions.

Funding was allocated under two windows: Immediate action, and Co-development and transfer of technologies. Projects range from Exchanging and Developing Biodiverse Potato Varieties in Peru, Nepal and Bhutan to Using modern biotechnologies to sustain food security in Pacific island countries.
The window on Co-development and transfer of technologies connects with the important work under the Treaty on the Global Information System and the Platform on Technology Transfer. We are helping to bring scientists and farmers together to address the needs of farmers who conserve and use plant genetic resources.

Following the success of the third round of funding, I would like to emphasise the critical importance of the Fourth Call for Proposals for the continued success of the Treaty and its further growth in all areas.

During this biennium, I have discussed a number of issues of relevance to the Treaty with the Director-General of the FAO, Dr José Graziano da Silva.

The Director-General has been very supportive of the Treaty and the decisions of the Governing Body. He has assured me of lending the FAO’s full support to the work of the Treaty Secretariat.

The Director-General is also very committed to the expansion of the membership of the Treaty. Earlier this year we jointly sent a letter to those countries that have not yet become Contracting Parties.

I am happy to report that we have had some success from our efforts to encourage additional membership. In addition to Japan and Sri Lanka which became Contracting Parties immediately after the Fifth Session of the Governing Body, six other countries have also joined the Treaty in this biennium.

I welcome Iraq, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Serbia, Swaziland and Tonga.

In October 2014, the Bureau also considered and agreed, in consultation with FAO, to renew the term of office for the current Secretary and the proposition to formalize a renewals procedure.

Finally, the Bureau provided guidance and decisions where they were needed to successfully complete or sustain inter-sessional processes requested by the Governing Body.

These included:

- the involvement of stakeholders in preparations for the first meeting of the Multilateral System Enhancement Working Group
- preparation for the Fourth Call for Proposals
- improved communication with, and policy guidance for, the Global Crop Diversity Trust, and
- the identification of interrelations between Farmers’ Rights and other instruments.

**Partnerships and collaborations**

The maintenance of strategic partnerships and collaboration with other international instruments, organizations and policy processes has been key to the Treaty’s success.

I am pleased to say that the cooperation of our Secretary with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity has been excellent during this biennium, based on our Memorandum of Cooperation and their Joint Initiative.

Contracting Parties are also undertaking initiatives to enhance synergies with the Nagoya Protocol and other conventions.

During this Session we will also have the opportunity to review the reports of other partner organizations and processes like the Global Crop Diversity Trust [the Trust], the Global Forum for Agricultural Research, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

The collaboration between the Treaty and the Trust has continued to grow during this biennium. I have represented the Treaty in the meetings of the Executive Board of the Trust, and the Chairperson and Executive Director of the Trust have participated in relevant elements of the Treaty Bureau meetings.

I also delivered a statement at the last session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to emphasize the need to further discuss and advance issues of common interest.
Contracting Parties have also collaborated and engaged in various initiatives and events, like the Fourth High-Level Round Table on the International Treaty that took place in New York in September last year that facilitated discussion on how benefits generated from the use of germplasm can support innovation for breeding climate-smart seeds.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank H.E. Minister Fuad bin Jafaar Al-Sajwani, Chairman of the High-level Task Force on Resource Mobilization and Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Wealth of Oman, for chairing these important meetings and for leading the High-Level Task Force.

I participated in the meetings of the Task Force and note that with his chairmanship and commitment the Task Force has taken a systematic and productive approach to raising awareness about the Treaty’s importance and financial needs.

One of the major recommendations from the Task Force and the Bureau is the need to make the Benefit-sharing Fund more flexible and more attractive for donors, and to reach out to overseas development aid funds.

More work is recommended on this in the 2016-17 biennium through the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy.

I have also participated in other meetings and initiatives supported by Contracting Parties.

These briefings and personal contacts have allowed me to develop a deeper appreciation of the importance and close connections between topics like Farmers’ Rights and conservation and sustainable use.

**Connecting the Treaty systems with the value chain**

During this biennium, I have worked with the Bureau and the Secretary to connect the mechanisms of the Treaty along the value chain of plant genetic resources.

The past Resolutions of the Governing Body have given us concrete guidance on how to further deploy the Treaty systems.

Based on this, we have implemented a series of activities to maintain and strengthen the practical relevance of the Treaty systems along the value chain.

Now I would like to touch on the major areas of work at each stage of the value chain.

The first stage is in situ and on-farm conservation and management. Two major achievements have been made in this area.

New information tools for on-farm management of crop genetic diversity have been created under the Global Information System.

And 22 projects to support farmers and scientists in the field have been approved in the third round of funding under the Benefit-sharing Fund.

The second stage is exchange of germplasm and related data through the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing.

Australia has provided funding during this biennium to support research on the economics of benefit-sharing, and I have followed with great interest the discussions on the enhancement of the System.

Within this process, Contracting Parties and stakeholders are collaborating to develop measures to increase income for the Benefit-sharing Fund.

They are also developing additional measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System, such as increasing the crop coverage of the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the Treaty.

Based on the outcomes of the third and fourth meetings of the Working Group, I hope that our Governing Body Resolution will send a positive message to the users of the Multilateral System and build confidence in the ongoing enhancement process.

The third stage relates to data on plant genetic resources.
Rapid progress has been made on the development of the Global Information System. There are new opportunities related to the fields of genomics, phenomics and other omics that will help us to improve the quality of the data and services available to plant breeders, farmers and the entire community.

Advanced data sets generated from germplasm under the Treaty need to be available and used for the global public good.

The Treaty is uniquely positioned to build and offer advanced characterization services and make data available through high quality germplasm information systems.

Within the Global Information System, a specific area is dedicated to phenotypic and genotypic data under the “DivSeek” Initiative.

Divseek is a community-driven initiative of scientists, genebanks and users of plant genomic data to link large-scale sequencing and phenotyping data to publicly available germplasm accessions.

DivSeek is facilitated by the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the Secretariat of the Treaty, with the input of the Global Plant Council and the Consortium Office of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

At Agenda item 10 we have the opportunity to consider the proposed vision and programme of work for the Global Information System.

The fourth stage of the value chain is pre-breeding, breeding and transfer of technologies.

The Treaty has facilitated partnerships and initiatives among stakeholders under its Programme of Work on Sustainable Use, through the Platform on Co-development and Transfer of Technology, and the Public Private Partnerships on Pre-breeding.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the countries and institutions involved for their contribution to the implementation of the Treaty.

The third round of projects under the Benefit-sharing Fund is already enhancing the downstream use of plant genetic resources under the Treaty for future food security.

The fifth stage is the material release of innovation, in the form of improved varieties, to farmers in the field.

Priority areas for action are a partnership approach to the scaling up of public sector technology, and support for the development of seed release policy and regulatory frameworks.

I hope that this important work will continue in the next biennium, through cooperation with technical institutions.

**Conclusion**

I would like to conclude by reiterating Australia’s commitment to the enhancement and full implementation of all the Treaty systems.

We are actively considering options for possible further contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund, potentially including the provision of annual contributions over a multi-year period.

We hope that this type of commitment would encourage similar contributions by other contracting parties and donors and help complement current efforts to increase user based payments.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Chair of the Governing Body.

I thank you all for your participation in, and support for, the Governing Body and the Treaty.

The successful continuation of the progress of the Treaty will depend on your decisions during this critical Session.

I am confident that, with your support and commitment, the Sixth Session will make an important contribution to shaping the international governance and operational architecture for plant genetic resources, not just for today, but for future generations.
APPENDIX H.2
REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Excellencies,
Dear Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Only a few days ago, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs, through which the international community has committed itself to the bold task of eradicating poverty, hunger and malnutrition by 2030. This most comprehensive international consensus on key issues of common concern has for the first time included goals and targets for seeds and agricultural plants, in its target 2.5:

“By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants … and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.”

2. Target 15.6 on the protection of biodiversity specifically stipulates to “Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.” In order to measure progress made with this Target, one indicator which has been proposed is the “number of Standard Material Transfer Agreements, as communicated to the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture”

3. There can be no stronger endorsement from the international community for your Treaty as the internationally agreed framework for access and benefit-sharing of cultivated plants. For you, its Governing Body, there can be no stronger endorsement of your responsibility for, and your governance role over, the global genetic diversity of seeds.

4. The targets 2.5 and 15.6 underline FAO and its Treaty’s commitment to, and core mandate in, implementing the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Agenda. FAO has been the pathfinder and the leader on these matters. Its achievement, in adopting the Treaty, with its balanced recognition of the roles of the science of breeding and Farmers’ Rights, was an early implementation of our Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva’s, vision of bringing science and farmers together. This recipe can optimise the use of the plant genetic diversity of seeds to achieve the SDGs, and the Organization’s mandate to ensure food security through its strategic objectives.

5. As Contracting Parties of this Treaty, and in order to achieve the development goals set by the UN General Assembly, it is your responsibility this week to safeguard the achievements of the Treaty, in the face of several major challenges ahead. In my report two years ago, I tried to identify major trends that I felt pose existential challenges to your Treaty. These were: the dematerialization of the use of genetic material; the financing of the Treaty Benefit-sharing Fund within the Funding Strategy; and the place of the Treaty in the post-Nagoya era.

6. I should like to pick up from where we left off, and briefly describe each of these: what we have done about it; how the ground — and thus the nature of these challenges — has shifted under your feet, with every step you took to address them in this biennium; and further steps needed to overcome relevant risks on the route towards full Treaty implementation.

Accelerating ‘dematerialization’

7. The subject matter of your Treaty is “plant genetic resources.”, i.e. “functional units of heredity” of plant origin with actual or potential value for food and agriculture. This definition of what
you govern combines at its very heart two dimensions embedded in plant genetic resources: “function” and “units” of heredity. With decreasing cost and increasing speed, new characterization techniques in genomics, phenomics, metabolomics, and other “omics”, are translating both function and the physical units of genetic material into digital data sets.

8. Following your guidance at the Fifth Session to prioritize the development and implementation of the Article 17 of the Treaty, we have been proactive in engaging this relatively new environment for the Treaty by developing a vision and a first set of facilities and activities of the Global Information System. Your Bureau has created an innovative financing Window in the Benefit-sharing Fund, which supports farmers and scientists to work together to address this historical and technological shift, to the benefit of farmers who conserve and sustainably use plant genetic resources. We also have expanded the community and advanced the implementation of the Co-development and Transfer of the Technology Platform. Most importantly, we have connected and combined all these Treaty delivery mechanisms into a unique global infrastructure that can harness the potential of these new techniques into accelerated genetic gain for breeding climate-resilient crops by breeders and plant scientists; increase benefit-sharing and self-governed knowledge management by farmers; support a more informed policy debate on the implications of new technologies and their optimal use for food security; and maintain a global public good in the digital environment.

9. This will achieve Dr Graziano da Silva’s vision, which he summed up as follows: “in the 1980s, FAO was requested to hold in trust humanity’s pooled genetic material for food and agriculture. With technological innovation, FAO’s custodian role will go beyond the safeguarding of crop genetic material, to include also the related digital information. Under your guidance and vision, the Treaty needs to ensure that this new public good will be available for future food security.”

10. As an example of this role, I am pleased to announce our partnership with the International Rice Research Institute, which has just placed 3000 high-density genome maps of rice within the Global Information System. IRRI’s data sets represent a scientific breakthrough in many respects — just to mention one, they have already led to the discovery of 18.9 million single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in rice. The dataset contains millions of genomic sequences which, when combined with phenotyping observations, gene expression, and other information, provide an important resource for establishing gene-trait associations, building predictive models, and applying these models for breeding new rice varieties needed by farmers under changing climatic and agronomic conditions. The Treaty’s Global Information System will facilitate the development and upgrading of the International Rice Informatics Consortium (IRIC), which is targeted specifically at scientists in the field of rice genomics, and provides a sophisticated set of data analysis tools. Substantial development is needed to make the data more readily intelligible, accessible, and usable by other communities, including farmers, genebanks, breeders, National Focal Points and other policy makers in the Governing Body. The upgraded versions of IRIC and IRRI’s International Rice Information System will serve as elements of the Global Information System, which will make available the 3000 rice genome maps as part of the Global Information System.

11. But, as I mentioned earlier, once we engage these new areas of implementation, we have realized that novelty comes with evolving challenges, and I would like to flag a few which, I believe, need to be tackled with priority to sustain the process. What has changed is the distance you have come to engage with new actors and new technological processes, which take place in a so far unregulated, inherently transnational space of exchange, production and distribution of data outside existing frameworks.

12. Concepts such as network governance and collaborative governance regimes, which, once filtered through the lenses of program-based intergovernmental cooperation, I would foresee, will prove tremendously useful, as we move forward with Treaty implementation, including but not limited to the Global Information System. By applying these models, the Treaty will be able to reach out to the new stakeholders, create continuity in all communities that operate along the value chain of plant breeding, and create new policy frameworks for these actors and farming communities. To deal with these questions in a practical manner, the Treaty will establish a Scientific Advisory Committee with participation of all stakeholders to advice on the development of the Global Information System.
Financing in the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Funding Strategy

13. One of the hardest challenges for you to solve is how to appropriately finance the Benefit-sharing Fund in a balanced, sustainable and predictable implementation of your Funding Strategy. In the current biennium, you have discussed extensively among Contracting Parties, users and other stakeholders, the sources from which this funding should come and what you might call ‘the sources of their absence’. At times this discussion appeared reminiscent of the story, where a customer enters a store and asks: “You probably don’t have butter, or do you?” The shopkeeper answers: “No, sorry, we are not the store which doesn’t have butter. We are the store which does not have sausages. The one which does not have butter is across the street.” This is rather like discussing whether the Benefit-sharing Fund should be fed by user-based income or non-user-based income, when you have neither.

14. There is a somewhat similar situation in Ernst Lubitsch's beautiful film Ninotchka, with Greta Garbo and Melvyn Douglas: the protagonist visits a cafeteria and orders a coffee without cream. The waiter replies: “I’m sorry, we have run out of cream. We only have milk. Can I then bring you coffee without milk?” So far, in terms of income for the Benefit-sharing Fund, you have not yet been able to identify sustainable and predictable income from either users or Contracting Parties, it is rather like discussing whether you do not have milk or do not have cream for your black coffee. Now you will need to have a more positive discussion and decide how, then, you will put together your caffe latte.

15. In this context, it is important to recall that the discussion on the shortfall began in the context of the Funding Strategy. From the Funding Strategy, your Ad Hoc Committee on the Funding Strategy embarked on the enhancement exercise of the Multilateral System, on the assumption that it would be possible to increase user-based income to the Benefit-sharing Fund, as a Funding Strategy element, through measures to enhance the Multilateral System.

16. Advancing the enhancement of the Multilateral System has been our first priority in this biennium and I am delighted to report to you that we have made extensive progress in the Open-ended Working Group which you created for this purpose. At its third meeting in Brasilia, the Working Group developed a package of ‘Proposed Tasks for Further Work’ which contains the building blocks to implement the following full enhancement package, which you would need to finalize and adopt this week:

- the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) will be revised to elaborate elements of a Subscription System/Model for user-based payments;
- within such revision, payment rates within the Treaty’s access and benefit-sharing mechanism will be reconsidered;
- a draft amendment of, or Protocol to, the Treaty will be prepared to extend its crop coverage, in conjunction with enhanced benefit-sharing provisions;
- a mechanism of contributions by Contracting Parties will be developed to ensure sustained and predictable income to the Benefit-sharing Fund;
- the target for income to the Benefit-sharing Fund for the 2018–2023 period will be set.

The Treaty in the post-Nagoya era

17. This enhancement package has allowed the Treaty to make substantial progress on the third challenge that I had raised two years ago, that is the Treaty in the post-Nagoya era. The process you are following is self-explanatory but I would just like to add that it has been shaped by the concrete and operational needs expressed by the Treaty community and not by an isolated legal reading of the interface between the Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol. This is an encouraging approach, one that this Governing Body may reconfirm and take further.

18. With the entry into force of the Protocol, several Contracting Parties that are also Parties to the Protocol are in the process of or contemplating the establishment of legislative, administrative or
policy measures for its implementation. There is a certain risk that if a comprehensive approach to access and benefit-sharing is not taken in so doing, countries could establish duplicative or even contradictory measures, which would be counterproductive and costly. Such a situation would certainly not aid legal certainty for users, which is a fundamental principle of both instruments.

19. Nevertheless, as has been previously noted by the Governing Body, I have been working very closely with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and with other partners to promote the harmonious implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the Multilateral System of the Treaty. However, there is only so much that we as your Secretariats can do in this regard. The preponderance of substantive work needs to be done by governments at the national level where the actual implementation takes place. Consequently, in order to build on the process already begun through the recognition of the Treaty in the text of the Protocol and the capacity building initiatives undertaken by the Secretariats and other partners, governments need take similarly positive steps to put in place policies and mechanisms that ensure mutually supportive implementation of both agreements.

20. In this context, it bears repeating by the Governing Body to urge Contracting Parties to continue to be conscious of the relationship between the Nagoya Protocol and the Treaty and to take proactive steps to ensure mutual supportiveness in their implementation, and correspondingly, to invite the Conference of Parties to the CBD to call on the Parties to the Protocol for a similar approach.

21. The choice you made was to try to fix the shortfall in the Benefit-sharing Fund through an enhancement of the Multilateral System and user-based income. As you have pursued this course and found that user-based income alone will not meet your targets, your Working Group has “recommended that all … sources be addressed together in a package of measures, taking into account that the Benefit-sharing Fund is part of the broader Funding Strategy of the Treaty”. As your exercise thereby returns to the Funding Strategy, it is now becoming clear that there can be no sustainable and successful enhancement of the Multilateral System without an enhancement of the Funding Strategy. In very plain words, this is your challenge for the next biennium. The Working Group has flagged the need that “this will require some far-reaching decisions by the Governing Body, on the basis of which new mechanisms can be developed.” A holistic and comprehensive approach to the revision of Funding Strategy may be a solution that this Governing Body will follow, for instance by including resources not under the direct control of the Governing Body. In this context, there has been much progress in our collaboration and joint work with the Crop Trust, which is an essential element of the Funding Strategy. This is encouraging and should be continued. With your guidance, we will now have a good basis to promote synergy in the implementation of your Treaty.

Farmers’ Rights

22. This biennium has not only been all about the enhancement process or the Global Information System. It has marked significant progress on another fundamental pillar of the Treaty, for many stakeholders the most fundamental pillar, namely Farmers’ Rights. Let me say that, in this regard, the Treaty community has made a quantum leap, initiated by your forward-looking Resolution on Farmers’ Rights at the last session in Oman.

23. We have now moved into the nitty-gritty of implementation at national level, and I believe this will now become a major task at national level for many Contracting Parties according to their own laws and policies. We have analyzed the numerous submissions gathered through a truly participatory process on views, experiences and best practices on each of the components of Farmers’ Rights that Article 9 suggests (traditional knowledge, benefit-sharing and participation in decision-making), which may now serve as the basis for deriving examples for national implementation, and as a basis for the agenda item on Farmers’ Rights of this session of the Governing Body. Moreover, we have animated discussions in relevant FAO fora, including the Committee on Food Security, and we have interacted with other Conventions. Countries such as Zambia, Ethiopia and Ecuador have advanced their domestic dialogues.

24. Finally, I am pleased to announce that we are about to create, with the Global Forum on
Agricultural Research, a joint capacity building programme that will serve these domestic processes and connect them to the continuous intergovernmental discourse, building on the solid foundation laid by our work on Farmers’ Rights so far. The joint capacity building programme will support smallholder farmers, farmers’ organizations and governmental authorities in developing countries to improve the implementation of Farmers’ Rights at local and national levels. It will support and facilitate dialogue and networking to share experiences and underwrite the role of farmers as both custodians of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and innovators of food crops relevant for food security. I am confident that the joint capacity building programme will become a cornerstone of the new phase of our work on Farmers’ Rights in the coming biennium.

New governance

25. The importance given to the Treaty by the UN General Assembly, in targets 2.5 and 15.6 of the SDGs, shows that the international community looks to the Treaty for governance of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. But the nature of the sector, of the science, and of farming societies, is changing so fast that the soil is perpetually shifting under your feet, and this even before you have put benefit-sharing on a sustainable and predictable basis.

26. At the last session, you asked the fundamental question of “what is the role and function of governance in our field?” As the last three words of the SDG targets 2.5 and 15.6 — “as internationally agreed” — sum up, I suggest that the Treaty provides the forum and mechanism where such agreement has been and can be reached. And there are huge challenges:

   First, an inherently transnational space for the exchange, production and distribution of the tools for, and products of, plant breeding. Many of these products and tools are now dematerialized, and governance no longer relates to germplasm itself, but to the digital information about germplasm.

   Second, the use of germplasm is no longer a simple question of interdependence: plant breeding and plant science now flow through inherently transnational utilization processes.

   Third, the actors themselves are inherently and increasingly transnational.

   Fourth, entirely new technological processes for the use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are emerging and evolving in a largely unregulated space, outside existing frameworks, and beyond your national control.

27. Each of these challenges invites you to reflect on your role as Governing Body. If you can maintain your momentum and address these questions collectively, “as internationally agreed”, your Treaty will retain and even enhance its relevance. But this, I suggest, will require the Governing Body to re-envision its governance role in a flexible and productive way, because you are no longer dealing with simple, exclusively state- and government-based processes.

28. I am convinced that effective governance in the future cannot be top-down, but must grow from the bottom up, through collaboration and partnerships. And there comes a point where the basic rules must be “internationally agreed”. The Treaty, if it is to survive, must provide the space for such agreement to be formed. This will keep it relevant to its clients and stakeholders, and provide frameworks for successful cooperation, real impacts and, most importantly, its adaptation to the next phase of changes in the use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture that will unavoidably follow. Only anticipating change, and collectively engaging with it, will keep the Treaty alive and relevant. I believe the biggest challenges for your Treaty are also its biggest opportunities.

29. Above all, I would like to thank our Director-General, Mr José Graziano da Silva, for his support to the Treaty and the inspiring vision which I referred to above. I would also like to thank especially Dr Ren Wang, our Assistant Director-General of the Agricultural and Consumer Protection Department, for his constant support and facilitation as we are fortunate to be hosted in his department.

30. The Treaty benefits from a large and vibrant community of users and beneficiaries: 6,221 recipients have been reported already in the Multilateral System; more than 10.1 million farmers will
have directly or indirectly benefitted from the three benefit-sharing cycles of the Benefit-sharing Fund. However, in practical day-to-day terms, the functioning of this Treaty relies on a very few individual human beings and their personal, daily commitment. For no one is this more true than for my staff, and, once more, I warmly thank them for their tireless dedication to the cause of the Treaty. In your Chair for this biennium, Mr. Matthew Worrell, you have found competence, commitment and professionalism, and I would like to thank him for his continuous efforts and guidance to keep the Treaty. He deserves all our thanks and full support during the coming week. I would also like to thank the outstanding Vice-chairs of the Governing Body and the Bureau for their competence in guiding the inter-sessional progress and preparations for this Session of the Governing Body.
GRULAC wishes to stress the importance of the results achieved at the Sixth Session of the Governing Body and highlight the importance of continuing to work to guarantee the success and implementation of the Treaty’s objectives, especially the efficiency of the Multilateral System, the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and Farmers’ Rights. We would therefore very briefly like to state the following.

GRULAC wishes to emphasize the importance of all substantive issues being treated in a balanced manner. We also wish to call on all Contracting Parties to promise that the Benefit-sharing Fund should function as conceived in the Treaty. We wish to applaud the commitment to the adoption of rules for the election and renewal of the term of office of the Secretary for the Seventh Session of the Governing Body.

The Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) also calls all parties to commit to advancing the reform process of the Multilateral System. GRULAC believes that it is important for there to be a balance in the participation of all stakeholders in the sessions of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA.

We would like to emphasize the significance given to the issue of Farmers’ Rights and highlight the fact that it is a very important issue for our region. GRULAC wishes to draw attention to the organization of the Governing Body’s work that should permit active participation by all parties, including the participation of countries with small delegations. This is especially the case with the current need to limit the number of contact groups that meet simultaneously and also the requirement for simultaneous interpretation throughout the course of the groups’ work.

We also request that the Secretariat and the Chair look at the best way in which to organize the work of the meetings of the Governing Body to guarantee, above all, the participation of all countries in the final results. GRULAC wishes to stress the importance of the availability of interpreting services for working groups meeting during intersessional gatherings.

Finally, Mr President, fellow delegates, we would like to express on behalf of our group our sincere gratitude for the work done in this session by the whole Secretariat project team. GRULAC renews the region’s commitment to the Treaty objectives and in particular celebrates Argentina’s progress in its ratification process.
Statement from Senegal on behalf of the African Region

Thank you Mr President, Mr President, I have asked for the floor to speak on behalf of the African Region, to invite the whole of the Governing Body to join us in paying tribute to a highly intelligent and humane person as she is about to retire. I would like to tell you who she is, as you will have already guessed, Ms Elisabeth Matos.

She is from the generation that designed, discussed, negotiated and launched the effective implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We are all indebted to her because she has worked tirelessly and without respite for the good not only of the continent that she so loves, I of course mean Africa, but also for the good of all the world’s peoples and the generation to come.

We know all about her capacity for work, her love for the development and wellbeing of rural people and farmers who are on the front line to protect and own the heritage of genetic resources on which the world depends for its food. Her work in Angola, in Africa, and our negotiations were always marked by a willingness for broad collaboration open to all. It is she who almost always took it upon herself to inform colleagues scattered across the vast continent that is Africa, including around fifty States, extending over 30 000 000 km2, where as you know, communications can often be difficult.

It was often thanks to her insight, her generosity and her capacity to create space for dialogue that we have been able to shape our views as a region. She is from this African group who for the first time formulated the idea of a subscription model, which is still present in Article 6.11 of the material transfer agreement. Elisabeth Matos has always looked for perfection in the interests of African populations.

Mr President, with Liz’s retirement we are losing a valuable person who has given so much, and to whom we owe so much. Once again, I invite you to join us in wishing her a happy, productive and very long retirement in good health.

Statement from Mauritius on behalf of the African Region

On behalf of the region, I would like to thank Ms Elisabeth Matos again and I would like, in fact, to reassure her that our Region will continue to build upon the foundation that she has already set and that she will always be a reference for us while dealing with pertinent matters building into plant genetic resources conservation.

The African Region would like to congratulate the Chair and the Secretariat for the successful running of the Sixth Session of the Governing Body. The active contribution of the Contracting Parties, the different working groups and contact groups also needs due recognition. The African Region welcomes the contribution made by the European Seed Association (ESA) to the Benefit-sharing Fund. We are looking forward for an increase in such contributions in the near future from other similar sectors and users following the good gesture made by ESA.

However our Region is disappointed by the lack of progress regarding Farmers’ Rights and appeals for more support to deal with these important issues at national and regional levels. The Region wishes to point out that the products from forest are important as food resources to the local community and warrant due consideration. This can address food security for the local community.

Finally, our Region takes this opportunity to congratulate the new Chairman and other board members for the Seventh Session of the Governing Body and I would like to wish them a good continuity in the Treaty implementation.
APPENDIX I.3

STATEMENT FROM EUROPE

I think we cannot let this opportunity pass without our region, Europe, wishing our distinguished colleague from Angola all the very best. There might have been differences in the approach in the various fora, but certainly she has our absolute respect and I think the way she spoke, was very straight and very honest. We would like to wish you the best for the future.

We are leaving this evening taking the words of the Secretary in his opening remarks: ‘this is our Treaty’, and it is our strong feeling that, based on the extra work that was carried out this week, the Treaty is stronger and more fruitful than it was when we came in at the start of the week. We have made so through very critical decisions.

We have adopted resolutions and work programmes that we think will actually strengthen the ability of the key elements of the Treaty to deliver on all of those aspects that maybe were not delivered fully in the past, for example in terms of Farmers’ Rights, the benefit sharing, the donations and we think we have now a mixed balance in the work programme that it has been agreed for the next biennium that will be much more positive in delivering on that. So, for that reason we feel much encouraged this evening.

We all know that there is more to do, there always is, but we think we are now in a more positive space with the Treaty. Some of those successes this week, I think– we will have to acknowledge –, is due to yourself and to your focus for the Group. You gave us very clear guidelines, you gave us very clear outputs and made sometimes challenging demands on our time and our ability to deliver. Thanks to that we have completed our work on time and I think with success on all of those points this evening, so we acknowledge that as reasonably.

I think it is very important to acknowledge one of the main successes for us delegates this week, interacting with all of the others, was the effectiveness of the contact groups, their focus and most importantly the selection of the Chair and Co-Chairs to those groups. In difficult times they addressed the specific problems, found solutions, found compromises and I think in all cases gave us resolutions that we can work with this evening, resolutions that are practical and will help to deliver on what we want.

The Secretariat and the Secretary himself were very supportive during the week, also in preparation of documentation while we were working. In facilitating the groups the members of the Secretariat were very supportive and were key elements of the success of our work this week as well, so we would very much like to acknowledge that.

I think perhaps just to finish up on that note with the exception last night, and this afternoon, we have discussed this issue. It is a very difficult issue for many colleagues in relation to the process but we feel that, within the next biennium, there is a period where we can reflect, where we can consider what the key issues are and that the issue may be resolved satisfactorily and successfully, provided the outcome of whatever decision is taken at the next Governing Body. I think appropriately it reflects the legitimate expectations of all the players and all the stakeholders. That is part of the success to moving forward. With that, Chairman, we want, once again, to acknowledge the success of the outcome.
APPENDIX I.4
STATEMENT FROM SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

On Behalf of South West Pacific, I would like to congratulate Ms Elisabeth Matos, from Angola, for her contribution and goodwill.

I also congratulate the Chair, the Bureau and the Governing Body for successfully concluding the meeting today and thanks to everyone for working in a spirit of collaboration and goodwill as we discussed a range of difficult issues.

The willingness to explore those issues and arriving to a consensus was notable, despite some significant differences. Wrapping out the meeting on time is an important outcome and it does reflect positively on the chairing, but also on the Governing Body members in general.

We do have a busy biennium ahead. Much of the work today has been invested in scoping the work to be done and there is now the need for developing concrete proposals in a number of areas, concretely around the enhancing of the Multilateral System, reviewing of the Funding Strategy and some other areas.

We look forward to the spirit of goodwill and cooperation that will enable that work. I would like also to thank the Secretary and the Secretariat for their work in supporting our deliberations.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Indonesia on their election to chairing the Seventh Session.
At the conclusion of this Sixth Session of the Governing Body, the Asia Group thanks the Secretariat for its skillful management, patience and guidance of all discussions which now translate into the various resolutions adopted by this Body.

The Philippines is always grateful for this opportunity of serving as Chair of the Asia Group and thanks all delegates from the Asia Region for their cooperation.

We take note that we spent too much time in the Plenary on issues that are not at the heart of the Treaty. Nevertheless, we appreciate the progress of the work on the essential elements of the Treaty.

We have all close to our hearts the enhancement of the Multilateral System, Farmers’ Rights, Sustainable Use and the Global Information System.

We look forward to make further progress in the discussions in the coming biennium under the leadership of our Asian colleague Mr Muhamad Sabran and, of course, with the support of the Secretariat.

Mr Chair, we are committed to the implementation of Farmers’ Rights, which is each country’s responsibility, but we understand the need for an intergovernmental process in the Governing Body where experiences can be shared regarding on-farm conservation and breeding.

Lastly, we would like to recognize all the efforts of the Secretariat and wish them more success in the future.
I would like to extend to you personally, my sincere thanks and congratulations and to my fellows, members of the Bureau, for the success of the activities of the Sixth Session of the Governing Body during the last biennium.

Under your leadership, Mr. Chairman, there were many challenges and difficulties faced by the Bureau, and thankfully, through your wise governance for the last period, we were able to overcome them, and perhaps during this week. Since the beginning of the Sixth Session of the Governing Body, there were many issues that we faced, and thanks to your management, in a wise and linger manner, and the consultation with the Contracting Parties and partners, we were able to overcome these difficulties.

On behalf of the Near East Group, I extend my sincere thanks to you for the good governance of the Bureau during the last biennium, and I congratulate you for the success of this session, and I do not forget to extend my thanks also to the Secretariat of the Treaty for what it has been achieved during the last two years since the Fifth Session -including the achievements of the Sixth Session-.

My thanks go also to Shakeel Bhatti, and I wish him a continued success during the next biennium and an added value to good achievements in serving this Treaty. Also on behalf of the Near East Region, I congratulate our colleague, Dr. Muhamad Sabran from Indonesia for the chairing of the Bureau during the next biennium, a representative of G77 and China.

The Near East Region also confirms its support to the Bureau for the best success, and congratulates Dr. Javad Mozafari, for his election to serve as representative of the Near East Region in the Bureau. He is one of the founders of this Treaty, he has demonstrated excellent competencies, and we wish that he be an added value to this work.

In conclusion, I wish for the fellow members of the Bureau all the best during the next biennium, and we look forward to further achievements, and our coming meeting at the Seventh Session of the Governing Body. And finally, I extend my sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the success of the session and also to the interpreters for their efforts and patience during this session.
APPENDIX I.7
STATEMENT FROM NORTH AMERICA

Let me begin by congratulating and thanking, really sincerely, Ms Elisabeth Matos for all the work she has done for the Treaty. I have been personally in a few committees with her and I admire her dedication to the Treaty. Rest assured that you have built a strong foundation upon which we will continue to work.

I would like to thank the Chair for his effective leadership of our Treaty and our Bureau since the Fifth Session of the Governing Body. Mr Chair, your leadership has been exemplary and it has been exercised with upmost integrity. Your effectiveness as a leader has been obvious throughout this period, especially through the chairing of the Sixth Governing Body, which has turned out to be extremely successful.

I would like also to thank fellow members of the Bureau of the Sixth Session for their hard work and dedication. This Bureau accomplished important tasks, as assigned to it by the Governing Body, and these tasks were accomplished with the utmost and unquestionable integrity.

Canada thanks the Secretary and his staff for all their hard work. Their commitment to the Treaty is demonstrated consistently and they are to be congratulated.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all the delegates of the Sixth session. We have concluded a very successful Session. We have demonstrated spirit of compromise and cooperation. It is clearly evident in all the opinions that we expressed, some of them not necessarily in harmony, that we are committed to the successful outcome of the implementation of the Treaty and you are to be congratulated.

Congratulations to Indonesia for the election as Chair of the Bureau. I look forward to the work with you in the next Biennium.
APPENDIX J
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