



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

RESOLUTION 12/2017

COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

PART I: INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling its Resolution 10/2015 and other previous relevant Resolutions and decisions;

Reaffirming the importance of maintaining and further strengthening cooperation with the relevant international organizations, institutions and partners in order to advance the objectives and implementation of the International Treaty;

Noting with appreciation the continued cooperation, collaboration and support provided by relevant international organizations during the current biennium;

Welcoming the active engagement of other relevant stakeholder groups, in particular civil society organizations, farmers' organizations and the seed industry, to support the implementation of the International Treaty and its relevant policy processes;

Cognizant of the importance of harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty with relevant instruments and processes especially at the national level, and noting the continued importance of assisting developing country Contracting Parties in this regard;

1. *Reaffirms* the need to continue the efforts necessary to ensure that the International Treaty's objectives and role in the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are recognized and supported by relevant international institutions, organizations and processes;
2. *Takes note* of the collaboration with the African Union Commission and welcomes its interest to promote the Treaty and support Contracting Parties from the African Region in the implementation of the Treaty and, as appropriate, to play a coordinating role for the delegates and representatives from the region, and *requests* the Secretary to continue strengthening this collaboration as well as to seek opportunities to establish cooperation with other relevant regional organisations and institutions for the promotion and implementation of the International Treaty;
3. *Takes note* of the collaboration with the Global Forum on Agricultural Research, and *welcomes* their support in particular to the implementation of the Joint Capacity Building Programme on Farmers' Rights;
4. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to take initiatives to strengthen the harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty and other relevant international instruments and

processes, in order to promote policy coherence and improve efficiency at all levels and implement their various goals and commitments in a coherent, clear, and mutually supportive manner;

5. **Requests** the Secretary to facilitate such initiatives upon request and subject to the availability of resources;
6. **Affirms** the need to expand the Joint Capacity Building Programme with Bioersity International and to ensure that the Secretary continue play an active role of coordination, monitoring and analysis of results and impacts, and **calls upon** Contracting Parties and donors to provide additional funding to support its continuation;
7. **Requests** the Secretary to continue and further strengthen and expand the collaboration with Bioersity International, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and other capacity building providers, in their support to Contracting Parties in implementing the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol in a harmonious and mutually supportive manner;
8. **Encourages** the members of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions to continue their collaboration in accordance with their respective mandates and, subject to availability of financial resources, **requests** the Secretary to continue participating actively in the relevant activities of the Biodiversity Liaison Group;
9. **Urges** Contracting Parties to take measures to enhance synergies in their implementation of or participation in 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 fulfilment of obligations under the biodiversity-related conventions;
10. **Requests** the Secretary to continue participating in the Information and Knowledge Management Initiative (InforMEA) being coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme and making information available to Contracting Parties and other stakeholders through the InforMEA Portal, including the publication of online training courses;
11. **Requests** the Secretary to continue participating in relevant meetings of UPOV and, the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of WIPO, as appropriate and subject to the availability of financial resources;
12. **Encourages** other relevant stakeholder groups, in particular civil society organizations, farmers' organizations and the seed industry, to further strengthen their engagement and cooperation to advance the implementation of the International Treaty;
13. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to report to the Governing on cooperation with other relevant international bodies and organizations, and related collaborative activities.

PART II: ARTICLE 15 INSTITUTIONS

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling the provisions of Article 15.1 of the International Treaty;

14. **Takes note** of the information provided in the reports by institutions that have concluded agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty and **commends** those institutions that submitted reports for the valuable contents, and **urges** them to continue to provide similar information to future sessions of the Governing Body;
15. **Invites** those institutions that have not submitted any report, to do so at the Eighth Session of the Governing Body and **requests** the Secretary to communicate this invitation to such institutions;
16. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to hold regular or periodic consultations with institutions that have concluded agreements under Article 15 of the

International Treaty, on implementation of the agreements and policy guidance, and report to the Governing Body at each Session;

17. **Takes note** of the ongoing efforts to secure the international collections whose orderly maintenance is at risk or threatened, and **requests** the Secretary to continue exercising his responsibilities under Article 15 of the International Treaty, in close collaboration with host governments, as applicable, and in partnership with other interested governments and relevant institutions that are capable of providing technical and other necessary support to these efforts;

18. **Invites** Contracting Parties, donors and other stakeholders to provide necessary financial and material support to facilitate these efforts;

19. **Requests** the Secretary to continue in his efforts to secure agreements with other relevant international institutions that meet the requirements of Article 15 of the International Treaty.

PART III: MANAGEMENT OF THE SVALBARD GLOBAL SEED VAULT

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Taking note of the report provided by the Government of Norway on the management of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault and the suggestions of the Bureau of the Seventh Session;

Recalling that the adoption of the International Treaty gave the impetus to the Norwegian government to proceed with the establishment of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault;

Reaffirming the strong linkages between the Seed Vault and the International Treaty;

20. **Commends** the Government of Norway for the establishment and its management of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault (Seed Vault) and **renews** its commitment and support to the Seed Vault following its first ten years of operation;

21. **Acknowledges** that the Seed Vault is an important element of the Global System for *ex situ* conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

22. **Welcomes** the invitation of the Government of Norway for the Chairperson of the Governing Body to act as the Chairperson of the Seed Vault's International Advisory Panel and **requests** the Chairperson of the Governing Body, for the time being, to carry out the functions as may be required by that role;

23. **Requests** the Secretary to further explore with the Government of Norway other practical means to further enhance the linkages between the International Treaty and the Seed Vault, and report to the Governing Body;

24. **Invites** Contracting Parties, international institutions and other relevant bodies to consider making use of the Seed Vault in their strategy for securing their important seed collections and for the purpose of long-term storage of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

25. **Invites** the Government of Norway to continue to update the Governing Body on the operations and management of the Seed Vault.