



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



E

Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda

FIFTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Muscat, Oman, 24-28 September 2013

Implementation of the Article 6 Sustainable Use of Plant genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document:

1. Reports on the work of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in the biennium;
2. Identifies ongoing and planned activities, by Contracting Parties, stakeholders and the Secretariat in collaboration with FAO and other international Organizations, of relevance to sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
3. Reports on a consultation of stakeholder, solicit views on possible elements of a *Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*; and
4. Describes plans for the development of a *Toolbox for the Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*;

The Governing Body is invited to:

1. Consider the information contained in this document, and give any further appropriate guidance for the effective implementation of Article 6 of the International Treaty;
2. Adopt the draft Resolution contained in *Appendix 3*, and with it the proposed *Programme of Work on Sustainable use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, contained in *Table 1* of this document; and
3. Reconvene the *Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of PGRFA*, subject to the availability of financial resources.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture is, with conservation, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits, one of the Treaty's objectives. Article 6 engages "*Contracting Parties [to] develop and maintain appropriate policy and legal measure that promote the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture*". Article 6.2 specifies a series of measures that Contracting Parties may take, in carrying out this engagement.
2. At its Fourth Session, the Governing Body, through Resolution 7/2011, *Implementation of Article 6, Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources*, recognized "*the pivotal role of the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in addressing global challenges, including food security, biodiversity loss, climate change adaptation and poverty alleviation for small-holder farmers*". It accordingly established the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (hereafter "*the Committee*"). The Committee met at FAO in Rome, Italy, from 8 to 9 November 2012.
3. The Committee's Terms of Reference included the following tasks:
 - The identification of needs and opportunities to facilitate the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
 - The development of a Toolbox on the Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, in order to assist Contracting Parties in the implementation of Article 6 of the Treaty;
 - The elaboration of a draft Programme of Work on the Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; and
 - Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Global Crop Diversity Trust, the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, and other international processes and institutions in the field of the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.
4. The full report of the meeting is available as document IT/GB-5/13/Inf. 5. This document summarizes of the major outcomes of the Committee's deliberations. These include:
 - Agreement on a provisional draft of the Vision, Mission and Goals of the Work Programme for the implementation of the Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, in accordance with Article 6 of the Treaty (*Appendix 1* of the present document);
 - The development of a Toolbox on the Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as a one-stop shop, with a common and comprehensive set of measures, upon which institutions and individuals can draw, in order to tailor solutions to their specific needs;
 - Review of a Stakeholder Consultation on views, experiences and best practices regarding the implementation of Farmers' Rights.

II. ACTIVITIES OF RELEVANCE TO THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

5. With Resolution 7/2011, the Governing Body reiterated "*the pivotal role of sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in addressing global challenges, including food security, biodiversity loss, climate change adaptation and poverty alleviation for small-holder farmers*". Resolution 7/2011 stressed the importance of cooperation with a range of other institutions, with which the Secretary should work.
6. A *Joint Initiative between the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity on Sustainable Development, Technology Transfer and Capacity-building* was launched during the Second High-level Roundtable on the Treaty, on 21 June 2012,

in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in the context of the existing Memorandum of Cooperation between the two organizations.¹ The Joint Initiative includes a number of elements that address the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, which will be implemented in the context of the enhanced collaboration between the two secretariats, as described in documents IT/GB-5/13/14, IT/GB-5/13/25 and IT/GB-5/13/25/Add.1.

7. In cooperation with a number of other organizations, the Treaty has contributed to the establishment of the ***Diversity for Development Initiative***, with the goal of supporting collaborative action to strengthen the recognition of the value of agro-biodiversity and the importance of sustainable use.² The initiative focuses mainly on neglected and under-utilized crops.

8. The Treaty Secretariat is collaborating with the Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building (GIPB), where a group of stakeholders is working to establish a **Public-Private Partnership for Pre-breeding**, in response to Resolution 4/2011 of the Governing Body, which “invite[d] Contracting Parties and other relevant stakeholder to explore innovative benefit-sharing measures within the purview of Articles 13.2a, b, and c of the Treaty”, and as called for by the *Rio Six-point Action Plan for the International Treaty*.³ A first multi-stakeholder team has been constituted and an expert consultation was held on May 2013 in Rome, Italy.

9. Also in response to Resolution 4/2011, and in follow-up to the *Rio Six-Point Action Plan*, a group of stakeholders is working to establish a ***Platform for the Co-Development and Transfer of Technologies***, within the context of non-monetary benefit-sharing under the Treaty. The stakeholders envisage the Platform as a cooperation activity where institutions with relevant skills and mandates, including technical bodies and donor institutions, could work together to structure and promote practical technology co-development and transfer. The Committee was briefed on the Platform initiative by the stakeholders and the Committee “considered the initiative appropriate and timely, and suggested that a link should be established between the Platform and the Programme of Work on sustainable use of PGRFA.”⁴

10. In December 2012, a number of national and international institutions organized an international seminar on “***Crops for the XXI Century***”. The ***main goal of the Seminar was to contribute to the fight against world hunger and rural poverty***, by drawing attention to the potential of under-utilized and promising crops. The main outcomes were the ***Cordoba Declaration on Promising Crops for the XXI Century and a Global agenda for advancing on the sustainable conservation and use of neglected and under-utilized species***.⁵

11. In 2012, FAO, in consultation with the Treaty and other relevant partners, held a consultation ***to explore means and opportunities for the establishment a Global network for the in situ conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture***. FAO reported the recommendations resulting from of the workshop were an input from FAO to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, at its Fourteenth session in April 2013.⁶ The Commission requested FAO to develop a concept note, with the possible structure and functions of such a Global network, including financial implications.

In 2012, a task force was established to support the GEF-funded project on “**Conservation and adaptive management of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)**”, in which the Treaty Secretariat has participated. Collaboration with GIAHS represents a strong additional action framework for the dynamic conservation of plant genetic resources for food and

¹ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/health/cop-11-17-en.pdf>.

² <http://www.globalhort.org/network-communities/agrobiodiversity/d4d/>.

³ http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/HLRT2_Final_Report_1.pdf.

⁴ See document IT/ACSU 9/12/Report, paragraph 16.

⁵ <http://www.planttreaty.org/content/cordoba-declaration-promising-crops-xxi-century>.

⁶ http://typo3.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/documents/PGR/Reports/Report- Technical_workshop_131112.pdf.

agriculture, in the context evolving traditional agricultural systems and their associated biodiversity, livelihoods, knowledge systems, cultures and landscapes. The goal of GIAHS is a long-term programme to support globally important agriculture heritage systems and to enhance global, national and local benefits derived through their “dynamic conservation”, sustainable use and management, and enhanced viability.

12. The GIAHS partnership and its work in relation to the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture was presented to the two-day Workshop on the International Treaty convened in Quito, Ecuador, from 24 to 25 July. The workshop recommended to forward and expand the collaboration between the Treaty and the GIAHS initiative. This can be implemented by developing programmatic and structural linkages with the GIAHS initiative in the coming biennia.

III. THE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

13. The Committee first established a format for an online questionnaire, with which to gather information on possible elements of a *Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (“Programme of Work”). The questionnaire was despatched to almost 700 stakeholders, in four official languages, on 19 December 2012. The consultation closed on 31 March 2013.

14. The questionnaire was structured in three sections:

1. Basic information on respondents;
2. Views on possible measures to promote the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, within the context of the Programme of Work, including relevant priorities of the *Second Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (“*Second Global Plan of Action*”), the provisions of Article 6, and linkages between the Programme of Work and Farmers’ Rights, as well as the protection of indigenous and traditional knowledge; and
3. Views with regard to the monitoring and evaluation of the Programme of Work.

15. The main outcomes of the consultation are the following:⁷

- All priorities of the *Second Global Plan of Action* of relevance to sustainable use were considered important;
- The most frequently suggested measure is to facilitate access to the widest possible range of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
- The need to:
 - Introduce incentives to promote the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and to strengthen capacities for this purpose, including local plant breeding capacity, by promoting participatory plant breeding and supporting small breeder organizations and seed companies;
 - Promote the use of local varieties and under-utilized species; and
 - Review relevant strategies and regulations, in order to introduce flexibility into national seed regulations, to allow for the registration, commercial release and distribution of local and farmer-developed varieties.

⁷ The analysis of the Stakeholder Consultation is contained in the document IT/GB-5/13/Inf. 07. Other useful elements are contained in IT/GB-5/13/Inf. 8, *Compilation of submissions by Contracting Parties and other relevant organizations, and the reports of regional workshops on the implementation of Article 9*, and IT/GB-5/13/Inf. 6, *Compilation and analysis of submissions sent by Contracting Parties, other governments and relevant institutions and organizations on the implementation of Article 6*.

16. The Committee took the results of the consultation, and submissions on the Farmers' Rights relevant to the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, into account, to prepare the updated proposal for the Programme of Work, that is contained in *Table 1*.

Table 1: Programme of Work on Enabling Sustainable Use of PGRFA

<i>Programmes</i>	<i>Expected Results GB 6th (2015)</i>	<i>Expected Results GB 7th (2017)</i>	<i>Implementing Partners</i>
Part A: agreed by the <i>Ad Hoc</i> Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of PGRFA (ACSU)			
1. Activities for Implementing the Sustainable Use of PGRFA, as per Article 6 of the Treaty (See Appendixes 1 and 2)	✓ Activities will be implemented by Contracting Parties, stakeholders and international organizations. The Secretariat of the Treaty will facilitate, coordinate and monitor the activities carried out by Contracting Parties, stakeholders and International Organizations . They will be reported back to the Governing Body	✓ Activities will be implemented by Contracting Parties, stakeholders and international organizations. The Secretariat of the Treaty will facilitate, coordinate and monitor the activities carried out by Contracting Parties, stakeholders and International Organizations. They will be reported back to the Governing Body	Contracting Parties, AGP, FAO, CGIAR, CGRFA, GIPB, Right to Food, GFAR, GIAHS, CBD
2. Toolbox on Sustainable Use of PGRFA.	✓ To convene one meeting of experts, to synthesize the set of prospective tools, subject to the availability of resources	✓ Publications of the Toolbox in all the working languages of FAO .	Contracting Parties, AGP, FAO, CGRFA, CGIAR, GIAHS, GIPB, Right to Food, GFAR, CBD, CSOs and NGOs
Part B: Supporting Initiatives			
3. Platform for the Co-Development and Transfer of Technologies within the context of non-monetary benefit-sharing under the Treaty	✓ Convening of annual meetings of the platform	✓ Convening of annual meetings of the Platform	Working and advisory partners of the Platform,
4. Public-Private Partnerships for Pre-breeding	✓ To convene one additional meeting of experts aiming to develop a plan for establish the public and private partnerships in pre-breeding ✓ To convene an International Symposium on pre-breeding	✓ To develop an action plan for forging partnerships between the public and private sector in pre-breeding	Contracting Parties, AGP, FAO, CGRFA, CGIAR, GFAR, GIAHS, GIPB, CSOs and NGOs
5. To raise awareness of the actual and potential value of underutilized species of local and regional importance for food security and sustainable development	✓ Supporting the Cordoba Declaration on Promising Crops for the XXI Century organizing specific events with the partners	✓ Publications in all the working languages of FAO about the relevance of the neglected and underutilized species.	Contracting Parties, AGP, FAO, GFAR, GIAHS, Right to Food, CBD, CGIAR, CSOs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implementing the Joint initiative between the Secretariats of the Treaty and the CBD and other partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Joint research and publication on Aichi target of sustainability in agriculture in all the working languages of FAO about the relevance of the neglected and underutilized species. 	and NGOs
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IV. ELEMENTS FOR THE DEFINITION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

17. As stipulated in Resolution 7/2001, the rationale for the establishment of a Programme of Work on the Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is to:

- Identify a series of supporting measures for Contracting Parties;
- Position the Treaty adequately *vis-à-vis* other relevant international processes and mechanisms in terms of governance and technical implementation;
- Provide a perspective for stakeholders who are interested in supporting sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

18. The Programme of Work therefore identifies tasks that fall within the scope of the Treaty, specifically of Article 6. It seeks to complement and enhance the utility of other activities aimed at the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, particularly in cases where the Treaty has a comparative advantage with respect to other partners.

19. The Committee adopted the statement of the *Vision, Mission and Goals of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, which is contained in *Appendix 1*.

20. *Appendix 2* lists “*specific activities that may form part of the Treaty’s Programme of Work*”, as identified by the Committee, taking into account the results of the Stakeholder Consultation. They range from benchmarking situation analysis, through capacity enhancement, workshops, and the development of templates for strategies, policies and legislations, to pilot activities for the validation of existing tools that facilitate the management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

21. The tentative Programme of Work in *Table 1* has been prepared in two parts, with an identification of the stakeholders to whom it is addressed.

- Part A lists the activities agreed by the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use, including for the further development of the Toolbox.
- Part B lists particularly relevant initiatives which are being undertaken, or are planned to be undertaken, by Contracting Parties and other stakeholders directly and on their own initiative, which have an important role to play in promoting the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. These include the *Platform for the Co-development and Transfer of Technologies*, a *Public-Private Partnership on Pre-Breeding*, and a range of activities intended to raise awareness of the actual and potential value of under-utilized species of local and regional importance for food security and sustainable development, such as the *Cordoba Declaration on Promising Crops for the XXI Century*.

22. The Programme of Work on Sustainable Agriculture covers the next four-year period, 2014-2017. This timeframe is synchronized with the implementation of the *Second Global Plan of Action*, and thus fully aligned with the preparation of the *Third Report on the State of the World’s Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. In preparing the proposed Programme of

Work, the Committee suggested that a link should be established with FAO's new *Reviewed Strategic Framework 2010-2019*.

23. In accordance with the provisions of Article 6 of the Treaty, the responsibility for implementing the individual activities within the Programme of Work lies with Contracting Parties, who "shall develop and maintain appropriate policy and legal measures that promote the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture". A number of relevant stakeholders and institutions, as foreseen in the Treaty text itself and in the discussions of the Committee, implement a variety of initiatives on their own responsibility, which support the Treaty and its objectives in this field.

24. Two such initiatives implemented by stakeholder groups, within the context of the Treaty's strategy for non-monetary benefit-sharing, are the *Platform for the Co-Development and Transfer of Technologies*, and the *Public-Private Partnership on Pre-breeding*, both of which respond to a request of the Governing Body in Resolution 4/2011, and which were called for at the Second High-level Roundtable of the Treaty, held on the occasion of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in the *Rio Six-point Action Plan for the International Treaty*. Progress in both initiatives was reported to the Third High-level Roundtable on the International Treaty, held in Bandung, Indonesia in July 2013.

25. The initial discussions of the stakeholder group for the development of the *Platform for the Co-Development and Transfer of Technologies* were reported to Contracting Parties through two notifications,⁸ and the Governing Body will be informed of progress in establishing the *Platform* and its plans at its forthcoming session.

26. Similarly, a group of representatives of institutions with direct experience in pre-breeding, and in implementing public-private partnerships for this purpose, has initiated a process to establish a *Public-Private Partnership on Pre-breeding*, and a Declaration of Intent will be reported to Governing Body at its forthcoming session.

27. A variety of actors and stakeholder groups are also addressing the important question of actual and potential value of under-utilized species of local and regional importance for food security and sustainable development.

28. It must be explicitly noted that the Secretariat will not undertake any technical work for the direct implementation of the activities contained in the Programme of Work. The Secretariat's role is limited to the transmission of the Governing Body's guidance, the facilitation and coordination of, in particular, the key activities listed in *Table 1*, the gathering of information on progress from the actors, and the preparation of reports to Governing Body at its regular Sessions. The Secretariat's work in this regard will be funded by extra-budgetary resources, and will be limited by the effective availability of such resources.⁹

V. A TOOLBOX FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

29. The Committee welcomed the concept of the Toolbox as a "*one-stop shop from which institutions and individuals can draw selectively for a common and comprehensive set of instruments to tailor solutions to specific needs*", and supported its further development. The Committee "*invited the Secretary to continue preparing the Toolbox*".¹⁰

30. The Toolbox will provide Contracting Parties and stakeholders with a comprehensive set of resources, including technical information, policy options, regulatory guidelines, training

⁸ http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/NCP_GB5_TTW-Brasilia2012_en.pdf, and http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/NCP_GB5_techtrans_en.pdf

⁹ An estimation of extra-budgetary resources, based on the experience of the Secretariat in organizing similar meetings, and by the project cycles of the Benefit-sharing Fund, has been elaborated and reflected in the doc. IT/GB-5/13/25 Addendum 1

opportunities, decision tools, and others materials that – used in customized combinations or as stand-alone resources – can enhance the effectiveness of activities promoting the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Several of these tools already exist and are ready to be deployed, and others will need validation, while some still need to be adapted from current forms to deployable formats. Many still have to be developed.

31. The Toolbox may be organized in different modules, each containing a set of interventions critical for attaining sustainable use addressing enhanced crop productivity, supporting on-farm management, and promoting the use of local varieties and under-utilized and neglected crops. Each module will address constraints that affect the capacity of national and regional programmes to use plant genetic resources for food and agriculture sustainably, namely policy, capacity-building, access to germplasm, access to technology, and access to information.

32. The development of a workable toolbox will involve key stakeholders in a processes of development, validation and dissemination:

- **An expert consultation** will bring together the set of possible tools and technical advice needed.
- **Validation and Dissemination.** The elements of the Toolbox will be validated through workshop, and disseminated widely through publications in appropriate media. Follow-up activities envisaged include support in mainstreaming the use of the Toolbox in decision-making.

VI. PARTNERSHIPS

33. Implementing and monitoring of the implementation of Article 6 will mainly devolve on Contracting Parties. It will require a significant investment in human and financial resources, to provide support to the actions that will need to be taken at national and regional level, for each of the provisions of Article 6.

34. In practical terms, the activities proposed in *Table 1* will involve a wide range of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. In its task of facilitating and coordinating key activities in *Table 1*, the Secretariat is strengthening and deepening its collaboration with key partners, including relevant FAO units, other UN agencies, regional organizations, academic and research institutions, civil society and the private sector. In addition to partners already involved in activities, programmes and projects on sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, collaboration with other respondents to the Stakeholder Consultation may in the future become increasingly important. This is consistent with the emphasis on partnerships in the Treaty's Programme of Work and Budget, 2014-2015.

VII. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

35. The Contracting Parties are invited to:

1. Endorse *The Mission, Vision and Goal of the Plan of Work on Sustainable Agriculture* that was adopted by the Committee;
2. Consider the draft *Activities for Implementing the Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, pursuant to Article 6 of the Treaty, contained in the *Appendix 2* and adopted by the Committee;
3. Adopt the Programme on Enabling the Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture contained in *Table 1*;
4. Confirm the continuation of the *Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of PGRFA*, subject to the availability of financial resources in the Core Administrative Budget, and adopt its terms of reference for the next intersessional period
5. Advise the Secretary on the enhancement of cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity and other partners and international processes and institutions in the field of sustainable use;
6. Thank and encourage the stakeholder groups that are creating and implementing initiatives within the context of the Treaty, peculiarly as non-monetary benefit-sharing and in support of the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

36. The draft enabling Resolution is contained in *Appendix 3*, for consideration for approval by the Governing Body.

Appendix I

The Vision, Mission and Goals of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**Provisional Draft**

TENTATIVE 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.

TENTATIVE 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.

TENTATIVE 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.

Appendix 2

**Activities for Implementing the Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture, pursuant to Article 6 of the Treaty**

Draft

Article and Provisions	<i>Global Plan of Action</i> Relevant Priority Activities	Support to national level actions, in the <i>Programme of Work</i>
<p>Art. 6.1: <i>The Contracting Parties shall develop and maintain appropriate policy and legal measures that promote the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.</i></p>	<p>Priority Activity 3: Assisting farmers in disaster situations to restore crop systems.</p> <p>Priority Activity 11: Promoting development and commercialization of all varieties, primarily farmers' varieties/landraces and under-utilized species.</p> <p>Priority Activity 12: Supporting seed production and distribution.</p> <p>Priority Activity 13: Building and strengthening national programmes.</p> <p>Priority Activity 14: Promoting and strengthening networks for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.</p>	<p>Inventorying existing mechanisms of PGRFA-related national and regional policies and legislations and adopt templates for national policies and legislations.</p> <p>Development of templates for National PGRFA Strategy specifying action plans, governance, capacity strengthening, partnerships.</p>
<p>Art. 6.2a: <i>Pursuing fair agricultural policies that promote, as appropriate, the development and maintenance of diverse farming systems that enhance the sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and other natural resources.</i></p>	<p>Priority Activity 2: Supporting on-farm management and improvement of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.</p>	<p>Benchmark existing agricultural development and/or biodiversity conservation policies and legislations relating to diversification of farming systems and develop templates for such policies.</p>
	<p>Priority Activity 11: Promoting development and commercialization of all varieties, primarily farmers' varieties/landraces and under-utilized species.</p>	<p>Inventory existing mechanisms for the recognition of farmer's innovations and traditional knowledge and develop best practices for integrating them in PGRFA-related legislation and policies.</p>

<p>Art. 6.2b:</p> <p><i>Strengthening research which enhances and conserves biological diversity by maximizing intra- and inter-specific variation for the benefit of farmers, especially those who generate and use their own varieties and apply ecological principles in maintaining soil fertility and in combating diseases, weeds and pests.</i></p>	<p>Priority Activity 8:</p> <p>Expanding the characterization, evaluation and further development of specific collection subsets to facilitate use.</p>	<p>Promoting the implementation of the genebank standards as they apply to the sustainable use of PGRFA;</p> <p>Establish or support research strategies to strengthen characterization and agronomic evaluation of plant genetic resources for the benefit of farmers;</p> <p>Support and strengthening of characterization in gene banks that are in the public domain;</p>
<p>Art. 6.2c:</p> <p><i>Promoting, as appropriate, plant breeding efforts which, with the participation of farmers, particularly in developing countries, strengthen the capacity to develop varieties particularly adapted to social, economic and ecological conditions, including in marginal areas.</i></p>	<p>Priority Activity 9:</p> <p>Supporting plant breeding, genetic enhancement and base-broadening efforts.</p>	<p>Develop the elements for the toolbox for crop improvement program as a component of the Toolbox on sustainable use.</p> <p>Implement, once finalized, the Planning and Assessment Tool for Crop Improvement Programs under Global Initiative Partnership on Plant Breeding (GIPB).</p> <p>Provide information and develop guidelines for farmers and breeders to develop and strengthen participatory evaluation and participatory plant breeding.</p> <p>Encourage the development of public-private partnerships.</p>
	<p>Priority Activity 12:</p> <p>Supporting seed production and distribution.</p>	<p>Make new varieties available to farmers and to make suitable germplasm <i>ex situ</i> available for multiplication and distribution to farmers to fulfil their needs for sustainable crop production.</p> <p>Increase the availability of high-quality seed of a wider range of plant varieties, including improved and farmers' varieties/landraces.</p> <p>Support seed production of farmers' varieties/landraces generated in conservation-oriented plant breeding programs.</p>

<p>Art. 6.2d:</p> <p><i>Broadening the genetic base of crops and increasing the range of genetic diversity available to farmers;</i></p>	<p>Priority Activity 10:</p> <p>Promoting diversification of crop production and broadening crop diversity for sustainable agriculture.</p>	<p>Organize regional training programs on pre-breeding;</p> <p>Facilitate public–private partnerships in pre-breeding.</p> <p>Promote and develop best practices in multi-stakeholder pre-breeding activities.</p> <p>Implement national and regional pre-breeding programmes.</p> <p>Strengthening mechanisms for participatory evaluation of PGRFA among and between crops, including for adaptation to climate change.</p>
<p>Art. 6.2e:</p> <p><i>Promoting, as appropriate, the expanded use of local and locally adapted crops, varieties and under-utilized species.</i></p>	<p>Priority Activity 11:</p> <p>Promoting development and commercialization of all varieties, primarily farmers’ varieties/landraces and under-utilized species.</p>	<p>Development of an inventory of existing mechanisms for promoting the increased cultivation and use of locally adapted crops varieties and under-utilized species, including their farming systems, and development of templates for policies and measures.</p> <p>Strengthen mechanisms to enhance local varieties.</p>
<p>Art. 6.2f:</p> <p><i>Supporting, as appropriate, the wider use of diversity of varieties and species in on-farm management, conservation and sustainable use of crops and creating strong links to plant breeding and agricultural development in order to reduce crop vulnerability and genetic erosion, and promote increased world food production compatible with sustainable development.</i></p>	<p>Priority Activity 2:</p> <p>Supporting on-farm management and improvement of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.</p>	<p>Develop and test a toolkit for on-farm management of PGRFA in farming systems, in partnership with farmers’ and peasants’ organizations¹¹ and other relevant partners.</p> <p>Promote the knowledge and sustainable use of plant genetic resources in plant breeding programmes on-farm and to explore new markets for these products.</p>
<p>Art. 6.2g:</p> <p><i>Reviewing, and, as appropriate, adjusting breeding strategies and regulations concerning variety release and seed distribution.</i></p>	<p>Priority Activity 13:</p> <p>Building and strengthening national programmes.</p>	<p>Develop tools for a crop improvement program for farmers’ varieties/landraces as part of the sustainable use toolbox.</p>

¹¹ The use of the term, “farmers’ and peasants’ organizations”, has to be decided by the Governing Body.

Appendix 3

RESOLUTION **/2013

IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6

SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

The Governing Body:

- (i) **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 poverty alleviation for smallholder farmers;
- (ii) **Recalling** that, in accordance with Article 6 of the International Treaty, the Contracting Parties shall develop and maintain appropriate policy and legal measures that promote the sustainable use of PGRFA;
- (iii) **Recalling** that the Governing Body requested the Secretary to assist countries in the design of measures to promote sustainable use in order to come to a common understanding with regard to such an instrument;
- (iv) **Emphasizing** the key role of the sustainable use of PGRFA and the link between Farmers' Rights under the Article 9 and the provisions on conservation and sustainable use under Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty ;
1. **Requests** the Secretary, in collaboration with FAO technical units and other stakeholders, and subject to the availability of financial resources and the priorities of the Work Programme and Budget agreed by the Governing Body, to continue to develop a toolbox on sustainable use of PGRFA in order to assist Contracting Parties in the implementation of Article 6 of the Treaty;
 2. **Endorses** the Programme of Work on the Sustainable Use of PGRFA as contained in table 1 and requests Contracting Parties and stakeholders to report on their implementation activities to the Governing Body for consideration at its Sixth and Seventh Sessions;
 3. **Requests** all the Contracting Parties to fully implement measures and activities that promote the sustainable use of PGRFA, as contained in the Programme of Work on Enabling Sustainable Use;
 4. **Requests** all the entities and institutions, namely FAO (in particular AGP, CGRFA, GIAHS, GIPB, Right to Food) CBD, CGIAR, GFAR, CSOs and NGOs, to cooperate, under the framework of the Treaty, for the effective implementation of activities in support of the Programme of Work on Enabling Sustainable Use;
 5. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to facilitate, coordinate and monitor the activities carried out by Contracting Parties, stakeholders and International Organizations;
 6. **Requests** the Secretary to work with networks and partners to promote the expanded use of local and locally adapted varieties, underutilized crops knowledge systems, cultures and associated landscapes in order to better meet sustainable development objectives.
 7. **Requests** the Secretary to further develop the collaboration with GFAR and Bioversity International on training and capacity building for the sustainable use of PGRFA, including through joint resource mobilization, in order to achieve a wider implementation of Articles 5, 6 and 9 of the Treaty;
 8. **Requests** the Secretary to further expand collaboration with the GIAHS initiative on conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA by establishing programmatic and structural linkages

with the initiative, including, as appropriate, by formalizing the partnership, so as to strengthen the GIAHS framework as a tool for *in-situ* and *on-farm* conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

9. ***Requests*** the Secretary to continue to invite and collect submissions from Contracting Parties, other governments and relevant institutions and organizations on how to promote and improve measures for the sustainable use of PGRFA;

10. ***Decides*** to reconvene the *Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of PGRFA*, subject to the availability of financial resources, with the Terms of Reference contained in the *Annex* to this Resolution.

*Annex to the Resolution **/2013*

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:
 - The coordination of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of PGRFA by the Secretary;
 - Cooperation with the CBD and other international processes and institutions in the field of sustainable use of PGRFA;
 - The development of the Toolbox on sustainable use of PGRFA in order to assist Contracting Parties in the implementation of Article 6 of the Treaty.

2. The Committee will comprise up to two members designated by the vice chairs of the Bureau of the Sixth Session for each Region and up to ten technical experts. Each member of the Committee can be replaced with a new one designated for each Region by the vice chairs of the Bureau. In inviting these technical experts to the meetings of the Committee, the Secretary will have regard of the balance of knowledge and skills. 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 *Ad Hoc Technical Committee* will hold up to two meetings, subject to the availability of financial resources.

4. The *Ad Hoc Technical Committee* will prepare reports at the end of its meetings, which will be made available as documents to the Sixth Session of the Governing Body.

5. The Secretary will report on the results of the work of the *Ad Hoc Technical Committee* to the Governing Body at its Sixth Session.