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Food and Agriculture
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The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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| Item 16 of the Provisional Agenda |
| SIXTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY |
| Rome, Italy, 5 – 9 October 2015 |
| DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR THE 2016-17 BIENNIUM – ADDENDUM 1 |
| Donor-supported activities under the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes: Projects proposed for further donor support |

Note by the Secretary

1. *Financial Rule VI.2b* makes provision for donors to be able to make available “special funds for agreed purposes”—outside any contributions they make to the Core Administrative Budget, in accordance with their obligations as Contracting Parties—to support project activities of value to the Treaty. Accordingly, at the Fifth Session of the Governing Body, the document IT/GB-5/13/25 Add.2 provided a brief description of projects and activities for the 2014-15 biennium which were considered to greatly increase the effectiveness of the overall implementation of the Treaty and welcomed by the Fifth Session of the Governing Body (Addendum 2 of the Work Programme and Budget for the 2014-15 biennium).

2. This document is an updated version of the document IT/GB-5/13/25 Add.2 which provides a brief updated description of continuing projects that reflects progress made during the current biennium and addresses the needs expressed by stakeholders during the inter-sessional period. It is accordingly proposed to invite donors from Contracting Parties, Inter-Governmental Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, and other entities to consider funding them, on an extra-budgetary basis, through the Special Funds.

3. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the proposed donor-supported projects, and should it so wish, suggest priorities to donors considering providing funds for project activities

1. This document is presented to the Governing Body as an addendum to the draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2016-17 biennium, and may also be read as an update of document IT/GB-5/13/25 Add.2 and a complement to document IT/GB-6/15/24, Financial Report on Progress of the Work Programme and Budget for the 2014-15 Biennium. The information provided in the document gives proper recognition to the actual role that has been played by the Special Funds in the implementation of the International Treaty, and provides basis for programming the future donor-supported projects, funded through the Special Funds.
2. The Special Funds have made substantial contributions during the current biennium, as in the past biennia, to advancing the Treaty and supporting effective implementation of its key functional systems and processes. Funding those supporting activities, the Special Funds have thereby leveraged and enhanced the impacts of core activities carried out under the Core Administrative Budget.
3. It should be recalled that moneys held in the Special Funds for Agreed Purposes (either on a multi-donor basis or as individual accounts) are not fungible with the Core Administrative Budget. The funds in the Core Administrative Budget are contributed by Contracting Parties to the collectively agreed biennial Core Work Programme, whereas individual donors provide special funds for specific agreed activities between them and the Secretary, outside the Core Work Programme.
4. As noted in the Financial Report, there remains a real probability that the Special Funds will be exhausted during the next biennium. It is therefore urgent that further donor funds become available, in order to maintain the momentum of the Treaty and sustain its growth and necessary evolution to be realized in the coming years. As it will be seen, all the programmes proposed are to extend on-going activities which were welcomed by the past Sessions of the Governing Body and have been playing critical supportive roles for the implementation of priority areas under the Core Work Programme, while updating activities to reflect the needs expressed by stakeholders during the current inter-sessional period. The Governing Body therefore wishes to recognize the generous contributions provided thus far, and urge donors to make further contributions for the activities presented in this document.
5. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the proposed donor-supported projects and, should it so wish, suggest priorities to donors considering providing funds for proposed activities.

DONOR-FUNDED PROJECTS FOR WHICH FUNDING WILL BE SOUGHT

6. The supporting activities proposed for donor-funding in the 2016-17 biennium and beyond include the following:
 - i) The Benefit-sharing Support Programme of the Treaty
 - ii) Harmonious implementation of the Treaty, and the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol
 - iii) Outreach, Awareness-raising and Promotion of the Treaty
 - iv) The Joint Capacity-Building Programme
 - v) Training programme on the Treaty
 - vi) The Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Article 17 of the Treaty
 - vii) Conservation, Sustainable Use of PGRFA and Farmers' Rights under the Article 5, 6 and 9 of the Treaty
- i) **The Benefit-sharing Support Programme of the Treaty**

Within a short period of time since its inception, the Treaty has been recognized as a world-leading instrument promoting innovative benefit-sharing mechanisms to support food security, climate change adaptation and agricultural biodiversity. Through its four mechanisms - monetary benefit-sharing, technology transfer, information-exchange and capacity-building - the Treaty has shown the effective way of implementing benefit-sharing principles for genetic resources globally. In particular, the Treaty's Benefit-sharing Fund has been established to substantially increase resources to invest in crop diversity, which would lead to increased food security for all. The Benefit-sharing Fund is investing on high-impact projects, focusing on helping vulnerable farmers and their communities enhance food security and adapt to climate change. The Benefit-sharing Fund's project investment values are transparency, accountability and impact. The increasing profile of the Treaty requires strengthening and supporting the operations of the Benefit-sharing Fund. In addition, the non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms, namely technology-transfer, information-exchange and capacity-building, need to be further developed and supported.

In order to keep up the momentum, and consolidate the Treaty as a key and solid international operational instrument for sharing the benefits arising from the use of genetic diversity, the project will:

- Continue to generate and disseminate information on results and success stories arising from Benefit-sharing Fund projects for future replication;
- Scale up the approach and thematic focus of the Benefit-sharing Fund, in order to develop a results-driven mid-term plan for the Benefit-sharing Fund;
- Complete the partnership architecture and arrangements for the operation of the Benefit-sharing Fund with high fiduciary standards and consult partners to develop innovative mechanisms for the use of funds available in the Fund;
- Continue to explore innovative approaches to mobilize resources for the Benefit-sharing Fund, engage with private sector donors, and customize funding proposals for multi-year commitments of philanthropists and other donors;
- Support the development of multi-stakeholder platforms on voluntary benefit-sharing schemes for the Fund, such as technology transfer, with the participation of the private sector;
- Continue to create and promote operational schemes for sharing non-monetary benefits under the Treaty (exchange of information; access to and transfer of technology; capacity-building) and share information and data arising from such schemes and other experiences, such as the Fund projects, through multi-stakeholders platforms; and
- Facilitate voluntary contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund and high-level discussions on monetary and non-monetary benefits, through the organization of High Level Round Tables on the International Treaty.

Timing: 2 years

Estimated Cost: USD 2 million

ii) **Harmonious Implementation of the Treaty, and the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol**

The objectives of the Treaty will be attained by closely linked with the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Governing Body has repeatedly stressed the need to enhance such links. The Convention's Conference of the Parties, in adopting the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, formally recognized the Treaty as one of the complementary instruments that constitute the International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing. The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing is widely recognized as the most advanced and operational international access and benefit-sharing system for any genetic resources.

Further to the progress made thus far, this project will continue to build upon the synergies between the Treaty and the Convention, for their harmonious implementation. This will be achieved through:

- Jointly hosting a forum for promoting coherence between the implementation of the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol and the Multilateral System;
- Joint capacity-building workshops for the national focal points and competent authorities of both agreements;
- Joint awareness-raising and technical activities at the national level;
- Technical and expert advice to governments for the harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol and the Multilateral System;
- Provision of support for achieving the objectives of the Strategic Plans of Contracting Parties, including the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in line with respective mandates of the two agreements;
- Provision of support in the revisions and implementation of updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAPs) to ensure that the objectives of the Treaty are fully taken into account as a matter of priority;
- Studies on the legal and technical aspects of the interfaces between the Nagoya Protocol and the Multilateral System;
- Joint development of training materials on the Nagoya Protocol and the Multilateral System, including the Benefit-sharing Fund; and
- Preparation of joint decision-support tools for relevant ministries in implementing the Nagoya Protocol and the Multilateral System, and joint development of specialized awareness-raising and outreach material on the Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol.

These activities aim at:

- Enhanced policy coherence between the implementation of the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol, and the International Treaty, in particular its Multilateral System;
- Improved structuring of the technical and operational interfaces between the functioning of the Multilateral System and the Nagoya Protocol on a day-to-day basis;
- Enhanced collaboration and coordination between the national focal points of the Treaty and their counterpart national focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity on all relevant processes;
- Exploring practical ways that identify and reinforce mutual coordinated support for the implementation of relevant Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the Governing Body and Conference of Parties to the CBD respectively, and the decisions of the MOP of the Protocol;
- Promoting communication between the COP, the COP/MOP and the GB, and their subsidiary bodies;
- More coherent and consistent mutually supportive implementation of both the Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level;
- Working, together with partners, to emphasize the need for Parties to provide better coverage of crop wild relatives through appropriate conservation measures, based on existing decisions of the CBD and the Treaty;

- Continued collaboration between the Secretariats to support synergies in the development and implementation of the Global Information System and the ABS Clearing House, in particular to facilitate the exchange of information, experiences and relevant developments;
- Exploring the development of joint projects proposals as well as the need for joint resource mobilization in this context;
- Better awareness about the Treaty among all stakeholders in the Convention process, in particular the Nagoya implementation process; better coordination between the Convention and the Treaty processes in the implementation of their complementary Access and Benefit-sharing systems; and
- Better awareness about the complementarity and synergies between the Protocol and the Treaty at international and national level.

Timing: 2 years

Estimated cost: 750,000USD

iii) Outreach, Awareness-raising and Promotion of the Treaty

In the rapidly changing environment surrounding the Treaty, there is a continuous and strong need for the Treaty community to raise greater public awareness and recognition by policy-makers in sectors related to food security, agriculture and biodiversity, but also in the environment and climate change areas. The increasing portfolio of the Treaty's Benefit-sharing Fund, following the implementation of the second project cycle, and field activities undertaken worldwide in support of conservation and sustainable use in collaboration with implementing partners, has been a key asset to generate media impact and recognition for the work of the Treaty community. To maximize this impact and increase resource mobilization efforts in order to further advance the Treaty implementation, enhanced outreach and dissemination of increased information must continue in the next biennium so as to achieve better publicity among various stakeholders and the public in general.

The following activities would sustain the Treaty's relevance, and especially capitalize the successful implementation of the projects of the Benefit-sharing Fund:

- Increase visibility of the Treaty's activities by: disseminating non-technical reports and information on events through press notes in several languages; information on progress made for resources mobilization and the establishment of new partnerships through the Treaty website (www.planttreaty.org); and reach-out through other media channels, such as articles and feature stories highlighting the impact on the lives of common people, television appearances, and other types of press coverage; the organization of pilot communication campaigns in five selected countries; the planned development of engagement with social media (public-to-public communication) and the maintenance of distribution databases.
- Continue to showcase the achievements of the Benefit-Sharing Fund projects through: systematically compiling, selecting and distributing multimedia material from field projects; provision of story ideas, updated background information and templates for customization and dissemination at the local level; facilitating public media and social media interviews with project managers, farmers, researchers and local beneficiaries; developing a short video – for donors and for the general public.
- Continue to showcase the achievements of the Multilateral System through: systematically compiling and distributing SMTA data, conducting case studies on the facilitated exchange of PGRFA under the MLS, the productive use of PGRFA for agricultural research and pre-breeding; facilitating public media and social media interviews with MLS users; developing a short video – for donors and for the general public.

- Update the Treaty Media Support Kit in all official languages to facilitate national communication campaigns and general awareness-raising in order to strengthen national outreach capacities; gather and share successful communications experiences and lessons from five selected countries; select high quality communications products on the Treaty made by partner organizations; expand collaboration with the FAO national teams.
- Establish an information network for National Focal Points to familiarize them with the Treaty's activities.
- Provide support for the Treaty's ratification campaigns to rapidly increase the Treaty's membership.

These activities aim at:

- Increasing capacity at the national level for participation in the on-going communication and awareness-raising efforts of the Treaty; and
- Increasing the capacity of stakeholders to convey key messages, elaborate communication materials, organize and coordinate social media campaigns and disseminate information on the implementation of the Treaty, including field activities of the Benefit-Sharing Fund projects.

Timing: 2 years

Estimated cost: USD 950.000

iv) **The Joint Capacity-Building Programme**

Capacity-building for Contracting Parties is a main operational component of the Treaty. It promotes and sustains the comprehensive and balanced implementation of the provisions of the Multilateral System by developing countries. The Joint Capacity-building Programme, established by the Treaty Secretariat, FAO, and Biodiversity International, has played a vital role in this regard, and, in the first two years of its existence, improved knowledge of the Multilateral System and its systems among stakeholders, and upgraded the relevant legal and administrative infrastructure in selected regional organizations and countries. Thanks to the funding provided by the Netherlands to Bioversity International, the programme has begun its second phase in eight countries.

The rapidly evolving international policy and legal environment, following the entry-into-force of the Nagoya Protocol, makes it imperative to maintain the Treaty's relevance and visibility through an augmented capacity-building function at regional and national levels, in coordination with wider access and benefit-sharing initiatives, in order to facilitate the implementation of the Multilateral System within, or in parallel with, new or upgraded access and benefit-sharing frameworks.

Under this project, FAO and Bioversity International, under the overall coordination of the Treaty Secretariat, and in cooperation on an *ad hoc* basis with other institutions, will deliver tailor-made technical assistance to regional organizations and developing country Contracting Parties in support of implementing the Multilateral System, including in the context of wider access and benefit-sharing frameworks.

The project will aim at facilitating policy dialogue and operative coordination between authorities responsible for the Treaty implementation and environmental authorities in charge for ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. It will also enable all Contracting Parties to document their plant genetic resources that are part of the Multilateral System, and put in place the legal and administrative measures required to provide facilitated access under Standard Material Transfer Agreements to such resources.

Timing: 4 years

Estimated Cost: USD 1 – 1.5 million per biennium

v) **Training Programme on the International Treaty**

In the previous biennia, the Secretariat has developed, published and distributed a set of training materials with the financial support from the Governments of Switzerland, Italy and Spain. Since early 2011, the Treaty Secretariat has published two modules *Introduction to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and *Conservation and Sustainable Use*. For the next biennium, the Secretariat foresees the finalization of the module on Farmer's Rights and the development of the one on the Multilateral System. Moreover, it plans to further disseminate and adapt these materials through the establishment of a network of partners such as universities, research and extension centres and academic networks operating in the field of direct education.

The Working Group on the enhancement of the Multilateral System discussed during the 2014-2015 biennium the need to increase capacity for the implementation of the Treaty's systems, in particular the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing and other components related to technology and information exchange, and suggested the establishment of a network of existing Centres of Excellence that provide relevant training. The members of this International Network of Centres of Excellence could collaborate for the development of a common curriculum and put together resources within their international fellowship training programmes. The first activity would be the organization of a scoping meeting during the forthcoming biennium.

To complement these training materials, the project also foresees the organization of a series of training workshops for stakeholders, including National Focal Points and project coordinators of the on-going project cycles of the Benefit-sharing Fund. The workshops will have three main elements:

- Increase the knowledge of the participants on the Treaty and its components;
- Strengthen their capacities on the functioning and use of the Multilateral System and the Standard Material Transfer Agreement; and
- Train participants about the different modalities for benefit-sharing and the operation of the Benefit-sharing Fund.

Timing: 2 years

Estimated Cost: USD 850,000

vi) **Article 17 and the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

Article 17 of the Treaty states that “*Contracting Parties shall cooperate to develop and strengthen a 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.*”

The Governing Body is expected to adopt the vision for the implementation of the Global Information System at its Sixth Session and also its first Programme of Work on this area. This programme will need support for all its objective during the 2016-2017 biennium and, in particular for:

- The establishment of a web-based platform with use-oriented entry points to PGRFA;
- The facilitated access to high-quality information sources on PGRFA;
- The organization of two meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee;
- The strengthening of human and institutional capacities, particularly in developing countries

- Provide tools to enable farmers and other stakeholders to manage, exchange and share their knowledge of PGRFA.

Timing: 2 years

Estimated Cost: USD 1,800,000

vii) Conservation, Sustainable Use of PGRFA and Farmers' Rights under the Article 5, 6 and 9 of the Treaty

Promoting sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, as described in the Treaty, requires the development and maintenance of a broad spectrum of policy, legal and technical measures and depends on the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders, including farmers and farmer's organizations, public and private institutions. This project, in partnership with relevant organizations and institutions, will take the leading role in the implementation of the activities contained in the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use.

The project aims to play a catalytic role in:

- Identifying a series of innovative supporting measures for Contracting Parties;
- Implementing the components of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use, as endorsed by the Governing Body, including its supporting components (e.g. the Platform for the Co-Development and Transfer of Technologies), in harmony with other Treaty systems and mechanisms (e.g. the Benefit-Sharing Fund);
- Provide a platform for stakeholders who are interested in investing on sustainable use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
- Utilize new characterization technologies for germplasm, such as phenomics, genomics and other omics, to facilitate the sustainable use of PGRFA; and
- To effect the above, promote partnerships and cooperative activities and international, regional and national levels.

Timing: 4 years

Estimated Cost: USD 1.5 million