



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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:

I. 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;

II. 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;

III. 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;

IV. 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.