



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

## Item 17.1 of the Provisional Agenda

### SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Kigali, Rwanda, 30 October – 3 November 2017

### Report of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on Cooperation with the International Treaty

#### Note by the Secretary

This document contains an overview of recent developments under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing of relevance to the International Treaty, prepared by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the information of the Governing Body. Following the successful conclusion of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity brings to the attention of the Governing Body a number of outcomes from these meetings that are of relevance to the International Treaty. The report also provides an overview of the cooperative activities undertaken by the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty, a brief update on the status of implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and a list of planned meetings during the period 2017-2018. The report is given in *Appendix 1* of this document in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.



**OVERVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS UNDER THE CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ACCESS TO GENETIC  
RESOURCES AND BENEFIT-SHARING OF RELEVANCE TO THE INTERNATIONAL  
TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

1. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is very pleased to provide an update to the seventh session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) on recent developments under the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (Nagoya Protocol) as well as cooperative activities undertaken by the CBD Secretariat and the Secretariat of the ITPGRFA.

2. Section I of the document summarizes relevant outcomes of the UN Biodiversity Conference, held from 2 to 17 December 2016, in Cancun, Mexico and which encompassed the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP 13), the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 8), and the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (COP-MOP 2). Section II provides an overview of the cooperative activities undertaken by the CBD Secretariat and the Secretariat of the ITPGRFA since the previous session of the Governing Body. Section III provides a brief update on the status of implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. Finally, section IV provides information on planned meetings and activities during the 2017-2018 intersessional period.

**I. OUTCOMES OF THE UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE**

3. The UN Biodiversity Conference resulted in significant commitments for biodiversity, including the Cancun Declaration on mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for well-being<sup>1</sup>, which was adopted by the high-level segment of the Conference on December 3.

4. The present section summarizes outcomes of the UN Biodiversity Conference of relevance to the work of the ITPGRFA, namely: (a) key decisions from COP 13; (b) key decisions from COP-MOP 2; and (c) developments on the issue of digital sequence information<sup>2</sup> on genetic resources.

**A. Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

5. The thirteenth meeting of the COP to the CBD<sup>3</sup> adopted a total of 33 decisions, including a number of decisions relevant to the ITPGRFA.

***XIII/1. Progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan  
for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity  
Targets***

6. In decision XIII/1, COP 13 invited Parties to the CBD that have not yet done so to ratify the Nagoya Protocol and take steps towards its implementation. It also requested the Executive Secretary to continue providing technical assistance to support ratification and implementation of the Protocol

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<sup>1</sup> See document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/24, available online at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/official/cop-13-24-en.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Terminology is subject to further discussion and clarification.

<sup>3</sup> Document CBD/COP/13/25 contains the full report of the meeting, available as online at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/ccf8/86e1/258e841f696315c3212d9259/cop-13-25-en.pdf>

and to help Parties make relevant information available in the ABS Clearing-House. The COP also invited Parties and other Governments to take note of and to apply, as appropriate, the voluntary guidelines contained in the Elements to Facilitate Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-Sharing for Different Subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture<sup>4</sup> of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

7. The Conference of the Parties also addressed follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting, a proposal for a comprehensive and participatory preparatory process and timetable for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, providing for consultations among Parties, and with other Rio Conventions, other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, and inputs from indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders and sectors.

***XIII/3. Strategic actions to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including with respect to mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity within and across sectors***

8. In this decision, the COP recognized the role and relevance of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Nagoya Protocol as well as the ITPGRFA in contributing to sustainable food systems and agriculture. The decision also welcomed the Platform on Biodiversity and Agricultural Sectors “launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for governments, communities of practice and other stakeholders to build bridges between sectors, identify synergies, align goals and develop integrated cross-sectoral approaches to mainstreaming biodiversity in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors” (para. 6). Furthermore, in the section on mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture, the COP encouraged Parties and invited other Governments, as appropriate, to implement the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol in a mutually supportive manner (para. 41).

***XIII/21. The financial mechanism***

9. In decision XIII/21, COP 13 adopted strategic guidance for the next four-year replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which serves as the financial mechanism for the Convention. The four-year framework of programme priorities adopted by the COP guides the GEF in the development of its biodiversity strategy and its associated funding priorities for the 2018-2022 period. COP 13 also took note of the assessment of financial needs undertaken for the seventh replenishment which identified the need to double biodiversity allocation, and requested the Secretariat to transmit this assessment to the GEF.

10. In the decision, the COP also noted with appreciation the elements of advice received, inter alia, from the ITPGRFA, for consideration in the development of the four-year framework (para. 7). It noted that the elements of advice that fall within the mandate of the GEF are reflected at a strategic level in the four-year framework contained in annex I to the decision and that this will further enhance programmatic synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions.

11. Furthermore, the COP invited the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions, further to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of decision XII/30, to repeat the exercise described therein for the development of strategic guidance for the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund in time for consideration by COP-15. It emphasized that the elements of advice need to be: (a) in accordance with the mandate of the GEF and the Memorandum of Understanding between the COP

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<sup>4</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Rome, 2016, available online at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5033e.pdf>.

and the Council of the GEF as per decision III/8; (b) formulated at a strategic level; and (c) formally adopted by the governing bodies of the respective biodiversity-related conventions.

#### ***XIII/24. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations***

12. In decision XIII/24, the Conference of the Parties welcomed options for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level and a road map for actions at the international level from 2017 to 2020, each contained in annex I and II to the decision, respectively. The options for enhancing synergies and the road map are based on the consultative process undertaken in 2015-2016, the material presented to the COP in the related working document (UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15), and the discussions held during COP 13.

13. COP invited the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions to further strengthen cooperation and coordination at the global level within their respective mandates and enhance synergies among themselves, to encourage mutually supportive decisions, pursue their efforts to align their own strategies with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, where appropriate, and to support implementation of the options for action by Parties and the road map contained in annex to the decision. The COP also invited Parties and other governments to implement options for action at the national level and to establish or strengthen, at the national level, mechanisms to enhance the effective coordination among relevant authorities.

14. In the same decision, the Executive Secretary was requested, in consultation with the Liaison Group of Biodiversity related Conventions, to enter information missing from a table of desirable key actions associated with the road map for enhancing synergies at the international level from 2017 to 2020 contained in annex to the decision, specify a timeline for the various actions identified, and, where possible, undertake the actions described in the table. The Executive Secretary was also requested to transmit the road map to the relevant bodies of the other conventions through the members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions with a view to facilitating the implementation of the actions.

15. The Conference of the Parties further requested the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the bureau to establish an informal advisory group on synergies consisting of Party representatives to provide advice, as relevant, on further prioritization and implementation of actions in the table, towards which end it should involve relevant experts from other biodiversity-related conventions and organizations. The secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions were requested to facilitate the involvement of relevant experts in the work of the informal advisory group.

16. The Conference of the Parties, furthermore, invited the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, the governing bodies of the conventions, and the international organizations that provide the secretariats for these conventions and other relevant international organizations, to undertake, where appropriate and subject to the availability of resources, the actions foreseen in the road map.

17. The decision also called on the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions to continue to work to enhance cooperation and synergies among the conventions and to cooperate closely in this regard with relevant international organizations.

#### ***XIII/27. National reporting***

18. In this decision, the Conference of the Parties adopted the guidelines, including the reporting templates, for the sixth national report and requested the Executive Secretary to finalize the resource manual for the sixth national report, taking into account, among other relevant elements, guidance on common data sources, indicators and other relevant information provided by the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, and to make it available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and other means.

19. The Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions and Rio conventions, to explore options for enhancing synergy on national reporting among these conventions, including consideration of the following possibilities: (a) Common sets of indicators, where appropriate; (b) Common reporting modules on shared issues; (c) Interoperability of information management and reporting systems, and; (d) Harmonization of tools for national reporting.

***XIII/28. Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets***

20. In decision XIII/28, the Conference of the Parties welcomed an updated list of indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 contained in annex to the decision and invited biodiversity-related conventions to make use of the list of global indicators and to contribute to the further development of the indicators, inter alia, through the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership.

***XIII/29. Global Biodiversity Outlook and Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services***

21. In this decision, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a joint communication strategy with the secretariats of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and biodiversity-related conventions on the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and related reports and products and relevant deliverables of the Platform, and invited the secretariats of the Platform and the other biodiversity-related conventions to collaborate on this matter.

22. Other decisions of COP 13 that are relevant to the work of biodiversity-related conventions include:

- a. Decision XIII/22 on “framework for a communications strategy”;
- b. Decision XIII/23 on “capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and the clearinghouse mechanism” (described further in the context of decision NP-2/8, below);
- c. Decision XIII/31 on “key scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and related research”.

**B. Second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol**

23. The second meeting of the COP-MOP to the Nagoya Protocol<sup>5</sup> adopted a total of 14 decisions, many of relevance to the ITPGRFA. The International Treaty is explicitly mentioned in decisions related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 16, cooperation, the awareness-raising strategy, and the need for and modalities of a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism.

24. The 14 decisions adopted by the COP-MOP are listed in table 1 below. Summaries of the decisions most relevant to the ITPGRFA are also included hereafter. Links to the full text of the decisions are also provided.

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<sup>5</sup> Document UNEP/CBD/NP/COP-MOP/2/13 contains the full report of the meeting, available online at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/f855/789d/200667e78e1ed87395b2c896/np-mop-02-13-en.pdf>.

**Table 1. Decisions adopted by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol**

(Decisions highlighted in grey are summarized below.)

NP-2/1.	Review of progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 16 on the Nagoya Protocol
NP-2/2.	The Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and information sharing (Article 14)
NP-2/3.	Report of the Compliance Committee (Article 30)
NP-2/4.	Assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol (Article 31)
NP-2/5.	Cooperation with other international organizations, conventions and initiatives
NP-2/6.	Financial mechanism and resources (Article 25)
NP-2/7.	Use of the term “indigenous peoples and local communities”
NP-2/8.	Measures to assist in capacity-building and capacity development (Article 22)
NP-2/9.	Report on progress in the implementation of the awareness raising strategy
NP-2/10.	The need for and modalities of a global multilateral benefit sharing mechanism (Article 10)
NP-2/11.	Modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation
NP-2/12.	Integration among the Convention and its Protocols
NP-2/13.	Budget for the integrated programme of work of the Secretariat
NP-2/14.	Digital sequence information on genetic resources (see sub-section C for summary)

***NP-2/1. Review of progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 16 on the Nagoya Protocol***

25. In this decision, the COP-MOP urged Parties to take further steps towards the effective implementation of the Protocol at the national level and reiterated the need for capacity-building and development activities to help Parties in this regard. Furthermore, the decision invited Parties and other Governments to implement the ITPGRFA and the Protocol in a mutually supportive manner, as appropriate.

***NP-2/2. The Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and information-sharing (Article 14)***

26. In this decision, the COP-MOP recognized the need for more experience regarding the use of the internationally recognized certificate of compliance and checkpoint communiqué in a variety of circumstances and urged Parties to make available all mandatory information in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol – including on permits and their equivalents – on the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House (ABS Clearing-House). The decision also encouraged non-Parties, international organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant stakeholders to make relevant information available as soon as possible.

27. The decision requested the Executive Secretary to follow the indicative goals and priorities for future implementation and administration of the ABS Clearing-House as listed in the relevant pre-session document (UNEP/CBD/NP/COP-MOP/2/3). The Executive Secretary was also requested to

further refine the modalities of operation of the ABS Clearing-House (adopted by COP-MOP 1) and, as part of this exercise, to develop joint modalities of operation for the clearing-house mechanism of the CBD, the Biosafety Clearing-House and the ABS Clearing-House, in order to promote integration and enhance coherence in the implementation of the common elements of these mechanisms.

28. The COP-MOP further decided that the Informal Advisory Committee (established in NP-1/2) would hold at least one meeting, and informal online discussions as needed, before the third meeting of the COP-MOP and that the review of the implementation and operation of the ABS Clearing-House would take place as part of the assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol. COP-MOP decision NP-2/4 (summarized below) addresses the process for the first assessment and review.

***NP-2/4. Assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol (Article 31)***

29. Article 31 of the Nagoya Protocol requires the COP-MOP to undertake the first evaluation of the effectiveness of the Nagoya Protocol four years after its entry into force and thereafter at intervals determined by the COP-MOP. Decision NP-2/4 sets out the process and the elements for this first assessment and review of the Protocol which will take place during COP-MOP 3 in 2018.

30. The decision requested the Executive Secretary to prepare an analysis and synthesis of relevant information as the basis for the first assessment and review and a draft framework of indicators as a basis for measuring progress in achieving the objective of the Protocol for use in the second assessment and review and thereafter. The decision provides that the analysis and synthesis of information and the draft framework of indicators will be reviewed by the second meeting of Subsidiary Body on Implementation, taking into account the inputs from the Compliance Committee. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation will submit its findings and recommendations for consideration by COP-MOP 3.

***NP-2/5. Cooperation with other international organizations, conventions and initiatives***

31. Item 8 of the agenda for COP-MOP 2 addressed cooperation with other international organizations, conventions and initiatives. Under this item, the Executive Secretary prepared a note summarizing cooperative activities with, inter alia, the Secretariat of the ITPGRFA.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, COP-MOP 2 had before it an update on recent developments under the International Treaty of relevance to the Nagoya Protocol, which had been submitted by the Treaty Secretariat and made available as an information document.<sup>7</sup>

32. Under this item, the Parties also developed a decision on “cooperation with other international organizations, conventions and initiatives” which was adopted as decision NP-2/5. Among other things, the decision requested the Executive Secretary to undertake some work in the context of Article 4, paragraph 4, of the Protocol. Article 4(4) of the Protocol provides that the “Protocol is the instrument for the implementation of the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the Convention. Where a specialized international access and benefit-sharing instrument applies that is consistent with, and does not run counter to the objectives of the Convention and this Protocol, this Protocol does not apply for the Party or Parties to the specialized instrument in respect of the specific genetic resource covered by and for the purpose of the specialized instrument”. In decision NP-2/5, the COP-MOP requested the Executive Secretary to, among other tasks, conduct a study into criteria that could be used to identify what constitutes a specialized international access and benefit-sharing instrument in the context of Article 4(4) and what could be a possible process for recognizing such an instrument.

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<sup>6</sup> See paragraphs 5 to 11 of document UNEP/CBD/NP/COP-MOP/2/6, available online at : <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/abs/np-mop-02/official/np-mop-02-06-en.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Document UNEP/CBD/NP/COP-MOP/2/INF/10, available online: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/abs/np-mop-02/information/np-mop-02-inf-10-en.pdf>

This study is to be submitted for the consideration of the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the third meeting of the COP-MOP.

33. The decision also requested the Executive Secretary to continue to engage with relevant ongoing processes and policy debates, including in the ITPGRFA, among others, to collect information on current discussions on the relationship between the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources and access and benefit-sharing arising out of the utilization of genetic resources and to include relevant information gathered during these engagements in the information provided to the process on digital sequence information on genetic resources (see sub-section C for summary).

***NP-2/8. Measures to assist in capacity-building and capacity development (Article 22)***

34. Decision NP 2/8 took note of the report on progress made in the implementation of the strategic framework for capacity-building and development (adopted in NP-1/8) and invited Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to expand their efforts to implement this framework and further share information – including emerging experiences, best practices and lessons learned – on capacity-building initiatives through the ABS Clearing-House.

35. The COP-MOP also requested the Executive Secretary to, among other things, continue carrying out and facilitating capacity-building activities to support the ratification and implementation of the Protocol, as contained in the annex to the decision. These activities were also reflected in the Short term Action Plan (2017-2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, which was adopted by COP-13 in decision XIII/23.<sup>8</sup> Activity 92 is ‘to continue to contribute to capacity-building activities for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in a mutually supportive manner with the ITPGRFA, including through workshops and the development of materials’.

36. The COP-MOP further decided that the Informal Advisory Committee for Capacity-building would hold at least one meeting, and online consultations as needed, and provide advice on the following: (a) how experiences and lessons learned from capacity-building and development initiatives can best be packaged and disseminated; and (b) elements for the evaluation of the strategic framework.

***NP-2/9. Report on progress in the implementation of the awareness raising strategy***

37. In this decision, the COP-MOP requested the Executive Secretary to continue implementing the priority activities contained in the awareness-raising strategy for the Protocol (adopted in NP-1/9) in a way that ensures coherence between the awareness-raising and communication strategies of the CBD and its Protocols and to provide an update on progress in the implementation of the strategy to COP-MOP 3. The decision also welcomed the continued involvement of the ITPGRFA, among others, and other relevant organizations in raising awareness and called for coherence and synergy in awareness-raising approaches, in particular at the country level.

38. The COP-MOP also invited Parties, non-Parties and other relevant actors to implement awareness-raising activities in accordance with the priority activities described in the awareness-raising strategy, taking into consideration the framework for a global communications strategy adopted by the COP to the CBD, and to make any resulting strategies and resources available through the ABS Clearing-House.

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<sup>8</sup> Available online at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-23-en.pdf>.



***NP-2/10. The need for and modalities of a global multilateral benefit sharing mechanism (Article 10)***

39. In this decision, the COP-MOP invited Parties and indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) to provide information on the implementation of the provisions of the Protocol related to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources held by IPLCs through the interim national reports or, in the case of IPLCs, through submissions to the Executive Secretary. The decision requested the Executive Secretary to compile the information for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and COP-MOP 3.

40. The decision also invited Parties, other Governments, IPLCs and stakeholders, including ex situ collections, to submit: information on situations in which it is not possible to grant or obtain prior informed consent in relation to in situ or ex situ genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in accordance with the Protocol; and views on the way forward in relation to Article 10. The Executive Secretary is requested to compile the information and the views for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and COP-MOP 3.

41. Furthermore, the Executive Secretary is requested to synthesize information provided through the interim national reports and the ABS Clearing-House of relevance to Article 10 and to compile the information available on developments in relevant international processes and organizations to inform future discussions on Article 10 for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and COP-MOP 3.

42. The decision also requested the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to explore the need for a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism and make recommendations to COP-MOP 3.

**C. Key outcomes related to digital sequence information on genetic resources**

43. The issue of digital sequence information on genetic resources emerged as a cross-cutting issue during the UN Biodiversity Conference. The result was two decisions: one adopted by the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (decision XIII/16) and one adopted by COP-MOP to the Nagoya Protocol (decision NP-2/14). In these decisions, the Parties agreed to consider any potential implications of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources for the three objectives of the Convention and the objective of the Nagoya Protocol at the next meetings of the governing bodies of the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol, in 2018 (COP 14 and COP-MOP 3).

44. The decisions also established a coordinated and non-duplicative process for further work on this issue in the 2017-2018 period. This process includes the submission of views, the commissioning of a study to clarify terminology and concepts and to assess the extent and terms and conditions of use of digital sequence information, a meeting of an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group and consideration of this matter by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, which will make recommendations to COP 14 and COP-MOP 3.

**II. COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CBD AND THE SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY**

45. The focus of cooperative activities since the previous session of the Governing Body has been on projects for mutually supportive implementation of the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol. The Secretariat of the CBD and Secretariat of the ITPGRFA collaborated with a number of partners, including Bioversity International and the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, to undertake different activities including the following:

- a. A workshop on embedding mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA in the context of broader national policy goals, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 16-20 November 2015;<sup>9</sup>
- b. South and Southeast Asia workshop on mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA, held in Los Baños, Philippines, 27-30 March 2017;<sup>10</sup>
- c. Serving on the Expert Guidance Committee for the 2015-2018 pilot project on mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA in Benin and Madagascar;<sup>11</sup>
- d. The development of factsheets on mutually supportive implementation of the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol.

46. The CBD Secretariat has participated in meetings and ongoing processes under the Treaty including meetings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing and the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System of Article 17 of the Treaty. The CBD Secretariat also provided inputs to the Global Consultation on Farmers' Rights, co-organized by the Governments of Indonesia and Norway with support from the Secretariat of the ITPGRFA, held from 27 to 30 September 2016. Furthermore, the Secretariat of ITPGRFA organized an event under the theme "I have a seed" to mark the 2016 International Day for Biological Diversity. The Executive Secretary of the CBD made a statement during the event on the contribution of ITPGRFA to mainstreaming plant biodiversity.

47. The Secretariat of the ITPGRFA has also been engaged in discussions under the Nagoya Protocol. In particular, the Secretariat of the ITPGRFA delivered a presentation on the Global Information System of the Treaty to the first meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on the ABS Clearing-House, held from 28-30 October 2015 as part of continuing exchanges between the two Secretariats on the Global Information System of the Treaty and the ABS Clearing-House of the Nagoya Protocol to inform the development of both systems.

48. The Secretariat of the ITPGRFA has also played an active role in the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, which brings together the heads of the secretariats of the seven biodiversity-related conventions.<sup>12</sup> The Secretariat of the ITPGRFA will host the twelfth meeting of the Liaison Group on 28 September 2017 at the FAO premises in Rome, Italy. The Executive Secretary of the CBD issued a letter to the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions in January 2017 to provide information on relevant outcomes of the UN Biodiversity Conference.

49. Furthermore, the two Secretariats collaborated on the development of indicators as part of the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>13</sup> This work focused on indicator 15.6.1 which will assess progress towards Target 15.6 (to 'Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of

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<sup>9</sup> Organized in cooperation with the African Union Commission. For more information, see [https://www.biodiversityinternational.org/treaty\\_nagoya\\_workshop\\_2015/](https://www.biodiversityinternational.org/treaty_nagoya_workshop_2015/).

<sup>10</sup> Organized in cooperation with the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity and with the support of the Japan Biodiversity Fund. For more information, see [https://www.biodiversityinternational.org/treaty\\_nagoya\\_workshop\\_2017/](https://www.biodiversityinternational.org/treaty_nagoya_workshop_2017/).

<sup>11</sup> The project is managed by Biodiversity International. For more information, see [https://www.biodiversityinternational.org/darwin\\_benin\\_madagascar/](https://www.biodiversityinternational.org/darwin_benin_madagascar/).

<sup>12</sup> For more information, see <https://www.cbd.int/blg/>.

<sup>13</sup> The global indicator framework was adopted by the General Assembly in July 2017. See A/RES/71/313, available online at:

[http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A\\_RES\\_71\\_313.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_71_313.pdf)

genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed').

### III. STATUS OF THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL

50. The Nagoya Protocol has received 100 instruments of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance to date (31 July 2017) and additional ratifications are expected in the coming months as countries finalize their national processes.

51. Following guidance received from the Informal Advisory Committee on the ABS Clearing-House, an improved version of the ABS Clearing-House<sup>14</sup> was released in April 2016 with several functionalities and improvements. To date (31 July 2017), 85 internationally recognized certificates of compliance have been constituted through the ABS Clearing-House following the publication by five countries of information on national permits. The Secretariat provides technical assistance to countries and stakeholders to facilitate the use of the ABS Clearing-House and is also continuing to implement an outreach and engagement campaign to encourage countries to publish information in the ABS Clearing-House.

### IV. PLANNED INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES 2017-2018

52. The following meetings will take place in line with the decisions by COP 13 and COP-MOP 2:

- a. Third meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee to the ABS Clearing-House, 14-16 November 2017, as well as online discussions;
- b. The twenty-first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, 11-14 December 2017;
- c. The tenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 13-16 December 2017;
- d. A meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-building for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (tentatively first quarter of 2018), as well as online consultations as needed;
- e. A meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, to be held 13-15 February 2018;
- f. A meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Nagoya Protocol (tentatively second quarter of 2018);
- g. The twenty-second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, 2-7 July 2018;
- h. The second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, 9-13 July 2018;
- i. The fourteenth meeting of the COP to the CBD, the eighth meeting of the COP-MOP to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the third meeting of the COP-MOP to the Nagoya Protocol will be held concurrently from 10 to 22 November 2018 (tentatively) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

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<sup>14</sup> The ABS Clearing-House is available at: <https://absch.cbd.int>