



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



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

Item 16 of the Provisional Agenda

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Kigali, Rwanda, 30 October - 3 November 2017

Draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2018-19 Biennium: Donor-supported activities under the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes

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Note by the Secretary

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 Sixth Session of the Governing Body, the document, IT/GB-6/15/25 Add.1 provided a brief description of projects and activities for the 2016-17 biennium which were considered to increase the effectiveness of the overall implementation of the Treaty. It was welcomed by the Sixth Session of the Governing Body (Addendum 1 of the Work Programme and Budget for the 2016-17 biennium).

This document is a revised version of the document IT/GB-6/15/25 Add.1 and provides a brief updated description of continuing projects reflecting 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.

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, which is a revision of document IT/GB-6/15/25 Add.1, is presented to the Governing Body as an addendum to the draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2018-19 biennium, and may also be read as a complement to document IT/GB-7/17/27, Financial Report on Progress of the Work Programme and Budget for the 2016-17 Biennium. The information provided in the document gives appropriate recognition to the effective role that has been played by the Special Funds in the implementation of the International Treaty, and provides a 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 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.
5. The Governing Body is therefore invited to recognize the generous contributions provided thus far, and urge donors to make further contributions for the activities presented in this document. The Governing Body is further 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, as set out below.

DONOR-FUNDED PROJECTS FOR WHICH FUNDING WILL BE SOUGHT

6. The supporting activities proposed for donor-funding in the 2018-19 biennium and beyond include the following:

- i) The Benefit-sharing Support Programme of the Treaty (\$500,000)
- ii) Joint Capacity-Building Programme for the harmonious implementation of the Treaty, and the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol (\$600,000)
- iii) Outreach, Awareness-raising and Promotion of the Treaty (\$550,000)
- iv) Training programme on the Treaty (\$460,000)
- v) The Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Article 17 of the Treaty (\$1.1m)
- vi) Conservation, Sustainable Use of PGRFA and Farmers' Rights under the Article 5, 6 and 9 of the Treaty (\$500,000)

i) The Benefit-sharing Support Programme of the Treaty

7. The Treaty has been recognized as a leading global instrument promoting innovative benefit-sharing mechanisms to support food security, climate change adaptation and agricultural biodiversity. In particular, the Treaty's Benefit-sharing Fund was established to substantially increase resources to be invested in crop diversity for increased food security for all. Now in its third project cycle, and about to launch the fourth, the Benefit-sharing Fund has delivered significant results for vulnerable farmers and their communities in enhancing food security and adapting to climate change.

8. There is an urgent need to invest in giving greater visibility to the Fund, to communicate the results achieved and demonstrate the unique value that the Benefit-sharing Fund offers. The Benefit-sharing Fund is a critical element of the Funding Strategy and there are increasing opportunities to enhance synergies of the Fund with other funding mechanisms relevant to the International Treaty, as foreseen in the process for the updating of the Funding Strategy.

9. In order to keep up the momentum, and to support the further updating of the Funding Strategy of the Treaty and to strengthen the programmatic approach of the Benefit-sharing Fund, activities of the project will include:

- Analysis for setting funding targets for both the Funding Strategy as a whole and for the Benefit-sharing Fund, to inform the updating of the Treaty's Funding Strategy. The analysis will take into account targets from different multilateral funding mechanisms such as the Global Crop Diversity Trust or the Global Environment Facility together with funding available at national level for national and bilateral programmes.
- Enhancing the programmatic and partnership approach of the Benefit-sharing Fund, through the Fourth project cycle by funding global and regional workshops to bring Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) partners together to strengthen the design of individual projects and the programme more broadly, improve knowledge-sharing and develop joint communication activities to promote the work of the programme and give visibility to donors and the Fund. Analysis on of the benefits of the Treaty, particularly in areas of interest to donors such as economic development, women, farmers and climate change, for use in the Benefit-sharing Fund and in the continued review of the Funding Strategy.

- Developing a theory of change for the Benefit-sharing Fund and the impact pathways to enable such change, so that Treaty stakeholders share a common storyline on how the Fund generates benefits from the local to the national and global levels.
- Testing innovative interventions to leverage further resources and action for Treaty implementation, in particular, at the national level through documenting best practice and developing tools for mainstreaming PGRFA, focused on institutional development and building local capacity of Treaty champions.
- Strengthening linkages between different funding sources and partners, by pursuing co-sponsoring opportunities through undertaking analysis to identify the appropriate channels and undertaking activities to mobilise co-funding resources.
- Generating and disseminating information on results, impact and success stories arising from Benefit-sharing Fund projects for future replication;
- Showcasing the achievements of the Benefit-Sharing Fund projects through project partners and national focal points at the national and local level; facilitating public media and social media interviews with project managers, farmers, researchers and local beneficiaries.
- Continuing 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;
- Supporting 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;
- Continuing 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
- Facilitating 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 500,000

ii) Joint Capacity Building Programme for the Harmonious Implementation of the Treaty, and the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol

10. The Joint Capacity-building Programme was established as a project by the Treaty Secretariat, FAO, and Biodiversity International in 2009. Under the programme, knowledge of the Multilateral System and its systems has been improved among stakeholders in developing countries, and the relevant legal and administrative infrastructure have been upgraded in selected regional organizations and countries. The governments of Sweden and The Netherlands have supported the programme in its two phases, from 2009 to 2012 under the management of FAO and from 2012 onwards under the management of Bioversity International.

11. The objectives of the International Treaty are attained by close linkages with the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Governing Body has repeatedly stressed the need to enhance such linkages. 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. Following the entry-into-force and start up implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, augmenting capacity-building at regional and national levels is necessary to maintain the relevance of the International Treaty in the context of wider access and benefit-sharing initiatives, and promote the implementation of the Multilateral System within, or in parallel with, new or upgraded access and benefit-sharing frameworks.

12. This new phase of the programme will continue to build upon the synergies between the Treaty and the Convention, for their harmonious implementation. Further to the progress made so far, the overall aim will be to strengthen, on a wider scale, policy dialogue and operative coordination between authorities responsible for the International Treaty and environmental authorities in charge of the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. This will be achieved through:

- 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 International Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol.
- Capacity-building workshops for the national focal points and competent authorities of both agreements;
- Studies on the legal and technical aspects of the interfaces between the Nagoya Protocol and the Multilateral System;
- Technical and expert advice to governments upon request for the harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the Multilateral System and the Nagoya Protocol.

13. By linking the programme to the Strategic Framework for Capacity Building and Development for the Nagoya Protocol, a coherent and coordinated approach to capacity-building and development will be pursued in order to integrate the programme into wider ABS experience sharing and lesson-learning for the efficient utilization of available resources and expertise.

Timing: 2 years

Estimated cost: USD 600,000

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

14. In the dynamic environment surrounding biological diversity, there is a continuous and strong need for the International Treaty community to increase 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 International Treaty's Benefit-sharing Fund and field activities undertaken worldwide in support of conservation and sustainable use in collaboration with implementing partners, have been key assets in generating interest in and recognition for the work of the International Treaty. To maximize this impact, increase awareness and support resource mobilization efforts in order to further advance the implementation of the International Treaty, enhanced outreach and dissemination of relevant information must continue in the next biennium so as to achieve better visibility among various stakeholders and the public, in general.

15. Furthermore, the current global focus on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offers a unique opportunity to demonstrate a clear link between the International Treaty and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 2 (ending hunger and promoting sustainable agriculture),¹ and SDG 15 (halting the loss of crop biodiversity).² Specific communication products will need to be developed to highlight these links, as well as International Treaty participation in SDG-related events. This includes partnering and collaborating with other organizations, including other biodiversity-related Conventions, and participating in relevant events in order to raise the overall profile of biodiversity.

¹ End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg2>

² Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg15>

16. The following activities would help sustain the International Treaty's relevance, capitalize on the successful implementation of the projects of the Benefit-sharing Fund, demonstrate the International Treaty's contribution toward the achievement of the SDGs, and strengthen collaboration with other organizations, including other biodiversity-related conventions:

- Increase visibility of the International Treaty's activities by: disseminating non-technical reports and information on events through press notes in several languages; information on progress made on establishing of new partnerships through the International Treaty website (www.fao.org/plant-treaty); and reach out through other media channels, such as articles and feature stories highlighting the impact on the lives of people, media interviews, and other types of press coverage; the development of engagement with social media (public-to-public communication); and the maintenance of distribution databases.
- Continue to raise awareness about the importance of plant genetic resources for farmers and the role of the BSF by highlighting BSF achievements through: development of communication products showcasing BSF projects, including short films, interviews, articles and other outreach material for stakeholders and the general public.
- Continue to showcase the achievements of the Multilateral System through: systematically compiling and distributing SMTA data about how the MLS is distributing PGRFA around the world, and the importance of such distribution for food security, through: developing infographics, written material and short videos, transforming this information and demonstrating the achievements in a simple manner and demonstrating the productive use of PGRFA for agricultural research and pre-breeding; facilitating public media and social media interviews with MLS users.
- Update the International Treaty Media/Communication Support Kit and training in all official languages for partners and National Focal Points to facilitate national communication campaigns and general awareness-raising in order to strengthen national outreach capacities; gather and share successful communication experiences and lessons; select high quality communication products on the International Treaty produced by partner organizations; expand collaboration across FAO.
- Continue to strengthen partnerships and collaboration with other biodiversity-related conventions, particularly in the development of a global communication strategy in collaboration with the Biological Diversity Liaison Group (BLG).
- Continue to ensure the visibility of the International Treaty at relevant global events, such as International Biodiversity Day and World Food Day through the development of easily accessible communication products and activities.
- Provide support to promote the universal membership of the International Treaty by offering information on the benefits of membership and clear information on the ratification process.

These activities aim at:

- Increasing capacity at the national level for participation in the on-going communication and awareness-raising efforts of the International 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 International Treaty, including activities of the Benefit-Sharing Fund.

Timing: 2 years

Estimated cost: USD 550,000

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

17. During the 2016-2017 biennium, the Secretariat developed and published the Educational Module on Farmers' Rights, included in a set of training materials and educational with the financial support from various donors. For the next biennium, the Secretariat foresees the finalization of the module on the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing. 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.

18. Developing Contracting Parties have also requested support to improve reporting on the implementation of the International Treaty following the Compliance Procedures and using the new online reporting system. The project foresees the organization of a series of training workshops for National Focal Points in developing countries to help to understand the reporting requirements and the mechanisms in place. 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 reporting on the implementation of the International Treaty through the online reporting systems.

Timing: 2 years

Estimated Cost: USD 460,000

v) Article 17 and the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – Support to Contracting Parties and stakeholders for the adoption of DOIs

19. 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.”

20. The Governing Body adopted the vision for the implementation of the Global Information System (GLIS) at its Sixth Session and also its first Programme of Work on this area. This programme has already benefited from the generous support of Euro 1.1million of extra-budgetary funds from the Government of Germany for the period 2017-2019 but will continue to need additional support for all its objectives during the 2018-2019 biennium and, in particular for:

- The further development of the GLIS portal under the guidance of the Scientific Advisory Committee and in collaboration with the Information Technology Division of FAO;
- The facilitated access to high-quality information sources on PGRFA from third-party system and partner organizations;
- The organization of at least one meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee, possibly in Rome;
- The organization of at least three regional workshops for strengthening of human and institutional capacities, particularly in developing countries, to upgrade the information and documentation system to report to GLIS;
- Development of training materials on the Digital Object Identifiers to enable genebanks managers, plant breeders and other PGRFA documentarists.

Timing: 2 years

Estimated Cost: USD 1.1million

vi) Conservation, Sustainable Use of PGRFA and Farmers' Rights under the Articles 5, 6 and 9 of the Treaty: Joint Programme on biodiversity in agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA

21. 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 farmers' organizations, public and private institutions. Through a specific project the possibilities for setting up a joint programme on biodiversity in agriculture for the sustainable use of PGRFA will be explored.

22. Specific activities of such a joint programme would include:

- The organization of regional capacity-building workshops on topics such as participatory plant breeding, community seed bank development, Farmers' Rights, and promoting the value of farmers' varieties;
- Provision of support to national programmes in policy development for sustainable use of PGRFA, and in building partnerships and mobilizing resources;
- Development and ongoing management of additional Toolbox and Platform modules and functions, such as news feeds, discussion fora and a helpdesk;
- Organization of awareness-raising events at relevant national, regional and international conferences;
- Joint research to establish the effectiveness of measures to implement the cross-cutting provisions of the Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Global Plan of Action and other relevant policy instruments relating to agrobiodiversity and the sustainable use of PGRFA.

23. In the long term, a joint programme on biodiversity in agriculture for the sustainable use of PGRFA would provide the framework and impetus for greater cross-organizational efforts with a view to:

- Increasing impact through coordination, combined knowledge and capacities;
- Streamlining actions and resource use; and
- Offering countries more opportunities and prospects of greater success in meeting their obligations under the relevant global, regional and national instruments dealing with biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, as well as with sustainable agricultural development and food and nutrition security.

24. Such a joint initiative would be developed with a view to extending the mission and goals of the Programme of Work beyond 2019, through the establishment of a long-term programme 2020/2030 involving different organizations and interested stakeholders.

Timing: 2 years

Estimated Cost: USD 500,000