



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda

### COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

#### Twelfth Regular Session

Rome, 19-23 October 2009

## DRAFT JOINT STATEMENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Paras.</i>
I. Introduction	1 – 4
II. Draft Joint Statement of Intent for Cooperation Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	5 – 7
III. Guidance sought	8
<i>Appendix I: Draft Joint Statement of Intent for Cooperation between the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	
<i>Appendix II: Resolution 7/2009: Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	



## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Governing Body and the Commission have repeatedly emphasized the necessity for close cooperation and coordination.
2. The Governing Body, at its First Session, stressed the need to develop close cooperation with the Commission, underlining the need to promote coherence and mutual supportiveness between the two bodies, including through the exchange of information.<sup>1</sup>
3. The Commission, at its Eleventh Regular Session, recommended that, in order to avoid duplication of efforts, and subject to the decisions of the Governing Body, a cooperation mechanism between the Commission and the Governing Body of the International Treaty be established, including in relation to work on the supporting components of the International Treaty. The Commission supported the development of a joint statement of intention regarding long-term cooperation between the two secretariats.<sup>2</sup> The Commission also adopted a Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) which foresees a review of the Commission's cooperation with the International Treaty for its Thirteenth Session (2010/2011).
4. In response to the Commission's request, the secretariats of the Governing Body and of the Commission jointly prepared a *Draft Joint Statement of Intent for Cooperation between the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Draft Joint Statement)*. The Governing Body, at its Second Session reviewed and adopted the Draft Joint Statement and invited the Commission to adopt it at its next Session.

## II. DRAFT JOINT STATEMENT OF INTENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

5. The Draft Joint Statement, as revised by the Governing Body, is given in *Appendix I*. It addresses, in its first part, areas and modalities of cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body. In its second part, the Draft Joint Statement lists fields in which the secretariats of the two bodies shall cooperate.
6. As part of the ongoing cooperation and coordination between the Governing Body and the Commission, the Bureaus of both Bodies held a joint meeting on 20 February 2008. Members of both Bureaus stressed the need for cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body and their Secretariats. In their conclusions, the Chairs of both bodies noted that "the Draft Joint Statement offers an appropriate basis for cooperation between the two bodies", and welcomed their Secretariats' decision to cooperate *ad interim* on the basis of the draft joint statement until both bodies have agreed on a Joint Statement." The Chairs also noted that "the Bureaus agreed to equally cooperate *ad interim* on the basis of the Draft Joint Statement."
7. The Governing Body, at its Third Session, in considering its cooperation with the Commission, requested its secretariat "to continue cooperating with the secretariat of the Commission *ad interim* on the basis of the Joint Statement pending its adoption by the Commission" and also encouraged the Bureaus of both bodies to hold, whenever possible, joint meetings to coordinate the agendas of both bodies. The Governing Body also encouraged a close

---

<sup>1</sup> IT/GB-1/06/Report, paragraph 43.

<sup>2</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraphs 75-76.

cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body that may gradually lead to an agreed functional division of tasks and activities between the Commission and the Governing Body with the Terms of the Treaty.<sup>3</sup> The Resolution on the cooperation of the Governing Body with the Commission, as adopted by the Governing Body, is given in *Appendix II*.

### III. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

8. The Commission is invited

- to review the Draft Joint Statement given in *Appendix I* with a view to adopt it; and
- to request its Secretary to inform the Secretary of the Treaty of the Commission's decision, and that such decision is made available to the Chair and Bureau of the Fourth Session of the Governing Body of the Treaty..

---

<sup>3</sup> IT/GB-3/09/Report, Resolution: *Cooperation with the Commission on genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

---

**APPENDIX I**

---

**Draft**

---

**JOINT STATEMENT OF INTENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

---

*Whereas* the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (“the Treaty”) has as its objectives the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use,

*Whereas* the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (“the Commission”) is FAO’s inter-governmental statutory body addressing biodiversity for food and agriculture, with an internationally acknowledged competence in facilitating negotiations by governments of international instruments on aspects of biological diversity of relevance to food and agriculture,

*Whereas* the Commission facilitates and oversees cooperation between FAO and other international governmental and non-governmental bodies dealing with the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources, and seeks to develop appropriate mechanisms for cooperation and coordination in consultation with them,

*Whereas* the Governing Body establishes and maintains cooperation with relevant international organizations and treaty bodies, on matters covered by the Treaty, including their participation in the funding strategy,

*Whereas* the Commission keeps under continuous review all matters relating to the policy, programmes and activities of FAO in the area of genetic resources of relevance to food and agriculture, including their conservation and sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their utilization,

*Whereas* the Commission has developed and oversees a Global System on Plant Genetic Resources that includes a number of supporting components of the Treaty, in particular *The State of the World’s Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*,

*Whereas* the Treaty provides for a funding strategy for priority activities, plans and programmes, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, taking into account the *Global Plan of Action*,

*Whereas* the Treaty provides that Contracting Parties shall cooperate with the Commission in its periodic reassessment of the state of the world’s plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in order to facilitate the updating of the *Global Plan of Action*,

*Whereas* the Treaty provides that sessions of its Governing Body shall, as far as possible, be held back-to-back with regular sessions of the Commission,

**The Governing Body of the Treaty [and the Commission]<sup>4</sup> intend[s] to cooperate as follows:**

1. The Chairs of the one body will be invited to participate in sessions of the other body, when matters of common interest are being considered.
2. The Chairs of either body may request an item to be put on the draft provisional agenda of the other body.
3. The Chairs and, as necessary, the Bureau of the two bodies will maintain contact between sessions, in order to promote synergy in the implementation of the programmes of work of the two bodies. By mutual agreement, the Bureau may meet jointly to address matters of common interest.
4. The Secretary of the Commission will report regularly to sessions of the Treaty on the implementation of relevant components of the Commission's Multi-year Programme of Work, in particular regarding the supporting components of the Treaty that are under its aegis, including *The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and the *Global Plan of Action*.
5. Recognizing the importance that the Treaty gives to the *Global Plan of Action*, in the development and implementation of the Treaty's funding strategy, the Commission will consider comments, suggestions or requests from the Governing Body in relation to the updating and to the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*.

**The Secretariats of the Governing Body of the Treaty [and the Commission] will cooperate as follows:**

1. The Secretariats will meet regularly, in order to keep each other informed of relevant developments, to seek synergy and efficiency, and to promote coherence in the development and implementation of their respective programmes of work.
2. They will cooperate, as appropriate, in the preparation and management of meetings of the Commission and the Treaty.
3. They will consult each other in the development of relevant documents for meetings of their respective bodies, and any subsidiary processes.
4. Where relevant, they will coordinate fund-raising activities, and may develop joint projects and jointly seek donor support, as appropriate, including in the context of the Treaty's funding strategy.
5. They will endeavour to coordinate their participation in meetings of relevant international processes and bodies, such as in the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Trade Organization.

---

<sup>4</sup> Following acceptance of this draft joint statement by the Commission, the brackets in this text will be deleted

---

**APPENDIX II**

---

**RESOLUTION 7/2009  
COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD  
AND AGRICULTURE**

---

**THE GOVERNING BODY,**

1. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to foster close cooperation with the Secretary of the Commission in the implementation of the Treaty, especially the Supporting Components and related activities;
2. **Requests** its Secretariat to continue cooperating with the Secretariat of the Commission *ad interim* on the basis of the Joint Statement pending its adoption by the Commission;
3. **Encourages** a close cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body that may gradually lead to an agreed functional division of tasks and activities between the Commission and the Governing Body within the terms of the Treaty;
4. **Recalls** Article 19.9 of the Treaty and the decision of the Commission at its Eleventh Regular Session requesting its Secretariat to organise sessions of the Commission, as far as practical, back-to-back with those of the Governing Body of the International Treaty; and **requests** the Secretary to explore with the Secretary of the Commission, the feasibility and modalities of holding the Fourth Session of the Governing Body back-to-back with the 13th Regular Session of the Commission, and any other future sessions of both bodies, and invite the Commission to direct its Secretariat accordingly;
5. **Encourages** the Bureaus of the Governing Body and the Commission, whenever possible, to hold joint meetings to coordinate the agendas of both bodies, as appropriate.

***The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture***

6. **Welcomes** the preparation of the draft updated *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and looks forward to its finalization;
7. **Invites** Contracting Parties to continue to actively participate in the process for the finalization of the updated *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, including, in particular, by providing any necessary additional information to FAO and comments on the draft prepared by FAO;
8. **Notes** that the Fourth Session of the Commission's Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture will review the first draft of the updated *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*;
9. **Invites** the Commission to include in future revisions or updates of *The State of the World's on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* information on the implementation of the provisions of the Treaty, in particular, Articles 5, 6 and 9 of the Treaty, and coordinate, as appropriate with the Governing Body;

***Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture***

10. **Notes** the need to ensure close collaboration between the Commission and the Governing Body with regard to the *Global Plan of Action*, **recognises** that the Governing Body has used the *Global Plan of Action* as a basis for priority-setting for the Benefit-sharing Fund and **invites** the Commission, in the revision of the *Global Plan of Action*, to take into account specific issues of relevance to the Treaty and to adequately reflect the provisions of the Treaty in the *Global Plan of Action*;
11. **Invites** the Bureaus of the two Bodies to hold a joint meeting to review the first draft updated *Global Plan of Action*;
12. **Invites** Contracting Parties to participate actively in the process for the updating of the *Global Plan of Action*, in particular, by providing any necessary information to FAO and comments on any draft prepared by FAO;
13. **Requests** Contracting Parties that are also Members of the Commission, in their discussions of the revision of the *Global Plan of Action* under the Commission, to ensure that issues of relevance to the Treaty and its implementation are adequately taken into account;
14. **Requests** the Secretary to continue coordinating with the Secretary of the Commission and FAO in the processes related to the updating of the *Global Plan of Action*.

***International Plant Genetic Resources Networks***

15. **Recognizes** the important role that International Plant Genetic Resources Networks can play in the implementation of the Treaty and decisions of the Governing Body;
16. **Requests** Contracting Parties to continue supporting the functioning of effective networks, and strengthening of collaboration among networks;
17. **Invites** relevant International Plant Genetic Resources Networks to continue to be involved in the implementation of the Treaty and all relevant processes;
18. **Requests** the Secretary to coordinate with the Secretary of the Commission to ensure that their respective activities in collaboration with the relevant networks maintain coherence and efficiency, and do not duplicate each other;
19. **Further requests** the Secretary to cooperate with the Secretary of the Commission in facilitating the involvement of International Plant Genetic Resources Networks, when necessary or relevant in the implementation of the Treaty, including through joint activities and programmes, technical support and capacity building.

***Genebank Standards***

20. **Invites** the Commission to commence and coordinate the process for the revision of the Genebank Standards, in collaboration with competent institutes, including the International Agricultural Research Centres of the CGIAR, the Global Crop Diversity Trust and other relevant organizations, taking into account relevant ongoing work and initiatives;
21. **Requests** its Bureau to coordinate with the Bureau of the Commission the agendas of the respective bodies for the purpose of discussing modalities for such revision and the ways and means for input of the Governing Body in the process.



### ***The Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture***

22. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to collaborate with FAO and other relevant stakeholders on information technologies to facilitate their contribution to the continuous development of the global information system in the context of Article 17 of the Treaty, in order to promote greater access to relevant information and information systems by Contracting Parties and other relevant stakeholders, and **requests** the Secretariat to develop a vision paper to be presented to the Fourth Session of the Governing Body to take stock of existing information systems and to outline a process for the development of this global information system.

### ***Other policy issues related to the specificity of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture or their uses***

23. **Notes** the major outputs and milestones that the Commission has adopted in the context of its Multi-year Programme of Work, including its decision to consider access and benefit-sharing issues at its Twelfth Regular Session;

24. **Invites** the Commission, in the context of its Multi-year Programme of Work, to collaborate with the Governing Body so that issues related to the access and benefit-sharing in plant genetic resources for food and agriculture may be dealt with in an integrated and harmonious manner, in order to ensure policy coherence, promote synergies and avoid duplication of efforts;

25. **Re-affirms** its willingness to continue cooperating with the Commission in matters of common interest, especially in the context of its Multi-year Programme of Work, in order to ensure that the distinctive features and problems of the plant genetic resources sector in general are duly addressed;

26. **Requests** its Bureau to coordinate the agendas of the Commission and the Governing Body for the purpose, *inter alia*, of initiating, as appropriate, processes for consultations on the relevant issues related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

### ***Funding Strategy***

27. **Invites** the Commission to continue monitoring progress made to develop the Facilitating Mechanism as necessary, and **encourages** Contracting Parties to take full advantage of the information made available through the Facilitating Mechanism;

28. **Requests** the Secretary to coordinate with the Secretary of the Commission to ensure that their respective activities of relevance to the Funding Strategy maintain coherence and efficiency, and avoid duplication of efforts;

29. **Notes** the development of the Funding Strategy for the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* by the Commission, and **requests** the Secretary to coordinate with the Secretary of the Commission, as appropriate, in order to maximize any synergies that may be available in the relevant practical aspects of the implementation of both Funding Strategies.

### ***FAO Reform***

30. **Invites** coordination of the Secretariats of the Commission and the Governing Body as well as between the Commission and the Governing Body to ensure that adequate attention is given to genetic resources issues, and that genetic resources issues are appropriately integrated into the FAO Regular Programme, Mid-Term Plan and Strategic Framework.