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**Food and Agriculture  
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United Nations**



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

**Item 14.4 of the Provisional Agenda**

**SIXTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

**Rome, Italy, 5 – 9 October 2015**

**Report on Cooperation with Other International Bodies and  
Organizations**

**Executive Summary**

This document contains a report on progress made, since the Fifth Session of the Governing Body, to cultivate, strengthen and maintain partnerships, synergies and cooperation with relevant international bodies and organizations. Collaborations and partnerships have increased in the current biennium and frameworks have been put into place to provide vision, milestones and agreed workprogrammes in the collaborations as summarized in the document. It also describes the arrangements made and lessons learned to make collaborations and partnerships concrete, coherent and efficient.

**Guidance Sought**

The Governing Body is invited to take note of this report, and to consider and adopt the draft resolution contained in the *Appendix* to this document.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. Article 19.3(g) of the Treaty provides that the Governing Body shall “*establish and maintain cooperation with other relevant international organizations and treaty bodies, including in particular the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, on matters covered by this Treaty, including their participation in the funding strategy.*”
2. At its Fifth Session, the Governing Body “stress[ed] the need to continue the efforts necessary to ensure that the Treaty’s objectives and role in the conservation and sustainable utilization of PGRFA are recognized by relevant international institutions, organizations and processes”<sup>1</sup>.
3. At the same Session, the Governing Body further “request[ed] the Secretary to continue to explore areas of cooperation with other relevant international organizations to further develop synergies and mutual supportiveness in the overall implementation of the Treaty and ensure that the Treaty is taken into account in their processes...”.
4. This document contains, in section II, an overview and reports on programmatic and policy aspects as well as activities undertaken in the partnerships and collaborations during the current biennium. Section III provides a brief overview of arrangements for partnerships and collaborations. Distinct programmatic and policy reports are contained separately in respective documents regarding the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the relevant documents are accordingly cross-referenced in section II.

## II. COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

### A. Bioversity International

5. During this biennium, the Secretariat has continued to strengthen the collaboration with Bioversity International, inter alia, by co-organizing, together with the Convention on Biological Diversity and ABS Capacity Development Initiative, a joint expert workshop for National Focal Points, on the International Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol in Rome in June 2014. The workshop aimed at advancing the mutually supportive implementation of the two instruments. The workshop reviewed stakeholders’ experiences at the intersection of the Protocol and the Treaty’s Multilateral System and highlighted examples of how national governments and regional organizations are addressing joint implementation.
6. At its Fifth Session, the Governing Body reaffirmed the need to continue the Joint Capacity Building Programme for the full biennium 2014-2015 and invited additional funding.<sup>2</sup> In the context of the second phase of the project “Genetic Resources Policy Assistance”, funded by the Government of the Netherlands, Bioversity International continued providing technical assistance and capacity building to several countries and institutions, in collaboration with the Treaty Secretariat. Relevant activities and products include training workshops, research and preparation of implementation tools and training materials.
7. Bioversity International provided multiple inputs into the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing. It gathered, analysed and synthesized information about the interests and demands of developing countries for combinations of capacity building, technology transfer and information sharing related to PGRFA. This research drew on experiences and insights from

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<sup>1</sup> IT/GB-5/13/Resolution 6, paragraph 1.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 6/2013, paragraph 7.

Treaty implementation work currently being conducted with partners in a number of countries supported by the FAO/Bioversity/Treaty Secretariat Joint Capacity Building Program, the Benefit-sharing Fund, and other sources. It furthermore convened a multi-stakeholder dialogue regarding innovative options for benefit-sharing and the enhancement of the Multilateral System and presented the results to the second meeting of the Working Group.

8. Bioversity International also provided inputs into the Expert Consultation on the Global Information System of Article 17, in the form of a joint input paper with Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT), Centro Internacional de la Papa (CIP) and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), titled “Global Information System for In situ Conservation and On-farm Management of PGRFA”.<sup>3</sup> The paper presented a case for developing collaboratively such a component of the global information system in order to provide information about PGRFA located in situ and on farm to meet the needs of target users such as custodian farmers, research organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national authorities and to monitor changes in this diversity, both of which will help and support decision-making processes by different target users.

9. Bioversity has also been cooperating with the Treaty Secretariat in providing information and technical inputs to relevant processes of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Integrated Approach program on “Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa”.

#### **B. Consortium Office of the International Agricultural Research Centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR Consortium Office)**

10. In the course of the current biennium, the Treaty Secretariat liaised with the CGIAR Consortium Office in the context of the Global Information System and DivSeek in particular, as well as of the Multilateral System.<sup>4</sup>

11. The Consortium Office has contributed to the joint facilitation of the DivSeek, including by referring to it in the context of a CGIAR Genebanks Options Paper, for the 13th meeting of the CGIAR Fund Council.<sup>5</sup> The paper describes CGIAR genebanks as the center of the opportunities provided by a rapidly evolving technological landscape where integration of information resources among partners inside and outside the CGIAR will be a critical trigger to strengthen global genetic-resource communities, develop more effective partnerships and exchange of services, and promote broad-based capacity-building efforts. The Consortium Office referred to DivSeek, in this context, as an instrument to build synergies and add value to already existing projects harnessing the genetic resources of specific crops, and as a prime opportunity to attract talent and train a new generation of scientists capable of applying emerging areas of genomics and ‘big data’ technologies to demand-driven agricultural research for development.

12. In regard of the Multilateral System, the same paper stressed the significance of CGIAR’s legal obligations with regard to the international collections through the agreements with the Governing Body, under Article 15 of the Treaty, both with respect to: distributing material in the collections and associated data under the terms and conditions of the Multilateral System; the management of the collections according to genebank standards; downstream legal obligations for CGIAR breeders who incorporate materials from the genebanks into improved germplasm they distribute. As the paper reported, implicit also in these obligations under Article 15 of the Treaty is the CGIAR genebanks’ role in leading the global community in terms of both conservation and sustainable use of crop genetic resources.

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<sup>3</sup> The paper is available at <http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/cogis1Inf4a3.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Document IT/GB-6/15/7 provides more details on DivSeek.

<sup>5</sup> The paper is available at [http://cgiarweb.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/CGIAR-Genebanks\\_OptionsPaper\\_6April2015\\_FC13.pdf](http://cgiarweb.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/CGIAR-Genebanks_OptionsPaper_6April2015_FC13.pdf).

13. Following the analysis of the relevant issues, the paper by the Consortium Office identified policy development and support as one core collective need of international genebanks. The paper indicated that continued failure to engage in policy at the system level exposes the CGIAR to a significant risk of liability claims. It also means the CGIAR would miss opportunities to positively influence policy development and implementation processes. The paper by the Consortium Office also recommended setting up a high-level policy unit, preferably in 2015, with appropriate capacity, authority and expertise to coordinate system-wide consideration of policy developments, developing technical contributions to international policy fora, and strengthening capacity within the system for compliance and full engagement. This institutional recommendation should also be considered in the context of the on-going reform of CGIAR governing and decision making structure, which was presented to the CGIAR Fund Council at its 13th meeting.<sup>6</sup>

14. The CGIAR Consortium Office is also facilitating contacts with the CGIAR data management community of practice in order for the Treaty Secretariat to explore CGIAR perspectives and practices on data management, which may be relevant for the development of the Global Information System of Article 17. The report from the CGIAR Centres and additional information is contained in the document IT/GB-6/15/20 *Report from Institutions that have signed Article 15 Agreements*.

### **C. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

15. The programmatic and policy aspects of the collaboration with the CBD are reported in document IT/GB-6/15/15. Practical arrangements for increasing collaboration in the current biennium are further described in Section III of this document.

### **D. Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR)**

16. The Treaty Secretariat has further developed its ongoing partnership with the GFAR during this biennium. GFAR has continued to contribute to the implementation of the Treaty, particularly in regard to the sustainable use of PGRFA, Farmers' Rights, and the co-development and transfer of technology. GFAR participated the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use (ACSU), in March 2015, and reported on its activities and collaboration with the Treaty Secretariat supporting the implementation of Articles 6 and 9 of the Treaty. The opportunity and value of the cooperation between the Treaty and the GFAR was well appreciated by the ACSU.

17. A common framework and workprogramme for the partnership with vision, milestones, joint activities and workplans has been established through a joint roadmap. It provides the framework for collaboration, synergies and full practical alignment of the partnership. The roadmap foresees the continuation of the existing collaboration and enhancement of joint work in the future, including communication and awareness raising, fundraising and implementation of a possible joint programme on capacity building for the implementation of Farmers' Rights. The report from GFAR on its cooperation with the Treaty is contained in the document IT/GB-6/15/Inf.11. Practical arrangements for increasing collaboration in the current biennium are further described in Section III of this document.

### **E. Global Crop Diversity Trust (GCDT)**

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<sup>6</sup> The working document for the CGIAR Fund Council is available at <http://cgiarweb.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Final-paper-Options-for-CGIAR-Governing-Structures-and-Decision-making-April-8.pdf>.

18. The programmatic and policy aspects of the collaboration with the GCDT are reported in document IT/GB-6/15/16. Practical arrangements for increasing collaboration in the current biennium are described in Section III of this document.

#### **F. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**

19. The Treaty Secretariat continues to develop its collaboration with IFAD. During the current biennium, IFAD continued its financial assistance for the second project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund by supporting a number of projects in Africa and Asia. This joint undertaking is now being finalised as the projects have been concluded with good results. IFAD regularly provides up-to-date information to the Treaty Secretariat on the implementation of their agro-biodiversity project-portfolio, which is implemented with institutions such as Bioversity International or Oxfam Novib.

20. IFAD and the Treaty Secretariat have also initiated a new phase of collaboration during this biennium. IFAD, as the lead agency, facilitated the participation of the Treaty in the process of defining the programme elements, funding priorities and the implementation of the GEF-Integrated Approach Pilot on *Sustainable and Resilient Approaches to Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa*. The management of crop genetic diversity is a critical component of this program, among others, to increase the sustainability and resilience of food production systems and the possible contribution by the Treaty's would be to provide advice on governance issues and other practical activities such as capacity building. This might in the future lead to funding for Treaty implementation and result in further co-benefits for the Treaty under related GEF-funded projects. The involvement of the Treaty Secretariat may also be considered as donor cultivation in a wider context of resource mobilization from institutional donors. This collaboration will continue developing in the next biennium.

#### **G. International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)**

21. The Governing Body, in Resolution 8/2013, "request[ed] the Secretary to invite UPOV and WIPO to jointly identify possible areas of interrelations among their respective international instruments". This work is well under way and a summary is given below in sub-section J. of this document.

22. A country-led initiative on plant breeding, biodiversity and food security has been initiated and promoted by the Netherlands and seeks to strengthen the harmonious implementation of the Treaty with the UPOV and the CBD. At the request of the Netherlands the Secretariat facilitated technical and logistical aspects of the initiative, following initial discussions with the Secretariat of the CBD and the Office of UPOV.

#### **H. Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)**

23. By Resolution 5/2013, the Governing Body noted the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and requested the Secretary to continue to participate and contribute in the work of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG).

24. At its twelfth meeting, the Conference of Parties to the CBD, "*without prejudice* to the specific objectives and recognizing the respective mandates of these conventions", called "on the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions to continue its work to enhance coherence and cooperation in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the

Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and to continue efforts to improve efficiency and reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication at all relevant levels among the biodiversity-related conventions".<sup>7</sup>

25. The BLG, in the course of the past biennium, coordinated closely to ensure that the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and sustainable development goals support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and that biodiversity is integrated and mainstreamed, in an appropriate way, into all relevant sustainable development goals, targets and indicators.

26. The BLG has served as a valuable mechanism to promote coordination and cooperation in the work of the secretariats of the respective conventions as well as helps promote coherence in measures towards the implementation of the conventions.

## **I. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

27. The Treaty Secretariat has been collaborating with UNEP on the implementation of a medium-sized project on the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing for the member countries of the Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC), which is supported by the Global Environment Facility. This collaboration is in accordance with Resolution 5/2013, calling on Contracting Parties to ensure that any legislative, administrative or policy measures taken for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity or its Nagoya Protocol are consistent and mutually supportive with the Treaty.

28. As part of the ongoing cooperation with the UNEP, the Secretariat has participated and made inputs in the UNEP project on improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies, including attending related meetings. The Project, which is funded by the European Union with additional support from the Swiss Government, seeks to promote coherence and synergy in implementing the global biodiversity-related conventions, including through the identification and sharing of best practice at the national level.<sup>8</sup>

29. In this regard, the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity invited the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to transmit to the Conference of the Parties of each of the biodiversity-related conventions the results of its project on improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies.<sup>9</sup> The report and additional information is contained in the document, IT/GB-6/15/Inf.12.

30. The Secretariat has also participated in several joint meetings of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and associated instruments in the context of the Information and Knowledge Management Initiative of UNEP, InforMEA. Among the main topics, this Initiative discussed the improvement of InforMEA ([www.informe.org](http://www.informe.org)), the joint portal that harvests governing bodies' decisions, news, meetings, membership, national focal points and reports organized by terms and agendas. Additionally, the Secretariat participated in the Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Efficiency and Effectiveness of MEA Implementation: Interoperability between Reporting Systems for Biodiversity Data. It was convened to explore joint efforts towards promoting common standards and formats in the context of different on-line reporting systems. In the coming months the group is expected to make recommendations on: 1) technical enhancements to the online reporting tools to improve usability and foster interoperability; 2) improve the understanding of how the data can be used more broadly to meet global targets; and 3) improve communication across MEAs and associated instruments to foster collaboration and encourage interoperability.

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<sup>7</sup> Decision XII/6, paragraph 3,

<sup>8</sup> The outcomes and products of this project are available at:

<sup>9</sup> Decision XII/6, paragraph 8.

## **J. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**

31. The WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) has advanced its work on the three draft texts relating to genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore, respectively, which were sent to the WIPO General Assembly. Since the 2014 WIPO General Assembly did not make a decision on the work programme of the IGC for 2015, WIPO organized two seminars for informal discussion of issues relating to intellectual property and genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore, which the Secretariat also attended.

32. As requested by the Governing Body at its Fifth Session, the Secretary “invite[d] UPOV and WIPO to jointly identify possible areas of interrelations among their respective international instruments.” For the implementation of the request, the Secretariat discussed the invitation with UPOV and WIPO, consulted the Bureau of the Sixth Session, and issued a notification to Contracting Parties and stakeholders on the invitation. Following the notification, the Secretary received a number of submissions from civil society organizations and the industry. These submissions were reviewed by the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ACSU) at its second meeting in March 2015 and forwarded them to UPOV and WIPO, together with a tentative list of possible issues of interrelations between the International Treaty and the relevant instruments of UPOV and WIPO. As a next step, a small team of experts will now be agreed amongst the institutions, which will prepare an initial outline for a joint report, taking into account the tentative list, the submissions received and the outcomes of the second meeting of the ACSU.

## **K. Plurilateral organizations of Contracting Parties**

33. The Treaty Secretariat and the African Union Commission (AUC), in cooperation with Bioversity International, are collaborating in a project for the implementation of the Multilateral System in Contracting Parties in the region and promote further ratification of the Treaty. The Secretariat has also actively participated in a separate project being undertaken by the African Union Commission, which led to the adoption of the African Union policy framework and guidelines for a coordinated approach to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Africa. The Secretariat will continue to collaborate with the AUC in the various aspects of their work on Access and benefit-sharing to ensure the mutually supportive implementation of the Treaty and other relevant instruments in the region.

34. The Treaty Secretariat has worked with the South Pacific Community (SPC) Secretariat to facilitate capacity building among the Contracting Parties of the region and to encourage non-Contracting Parties to consider ratification of the Treaty. It has also worked with the SPC Secretariat on implementing a Benefit-sharing Fund project in the region and explored synergies with other Treaty mechanisms, such as the Platform for Co-development and Transfer of Technology and the Global Information System.

## **III. ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS**

35. Cooperation and collaborations with the partner organizations of the Treaty have continued to increase in the past biennium. Existing partnerships have been further developed and new collaborations added to enhance the recognition and implementation of the Treaty by organizations with institutional alignment and relevance to the Treaty. Extensive experience has been gained and some modalities to enhance partnerships have worked well, whereas others have not, depending on the extent of institutional alignment and the ability of partners to bring envisaged cooperation into a coherent common framework of collaboration.



36. One customized arrangement among the membership of various partner Conventions, which was developed during the current biennium, concerns the BLG and the establishment of an Informal Advisory Group (IAG) by the Conference of Parties to the CBD, composed of the memberships of the conventions. Increased collaboration among membership of BLG conventions is being facilitated through the following arrangements:

- i) the CBD Secretariat has commenced the process of implementing the Decision of the CBD Conference of Parties, including through convening telephone conferences of the Informal Advisory Group established by the COP;
- ii) with the generous financial support of the Governments of Finland and Switzerland, a proposed workshop is likely to take place in January 2016, with the participation of a select number of Treaty Contracting Parties;
- iii) a Treaty Notification has been issued to seek views of Contracting Parties on how they wish to contribute to the work of the IAG and participate in the workshop together with the membership of the other BLG member conventions;
- iv) the feedback of Contracting Parties will be provided as input to the CBD Secretariat for further structuring the cooperation between the Treaty membership, the IAG, and the membership of other BLG member conventions.

37. Furthermore, three customized arrangements were established among Secretariats with specific partners in the current biennium, namely the CBD, Crop Trust and GFAR as follows:

- i) in the interest of further strengthening collaboration, the Treaty and CBD Secretariats proposed to establish a joint liaison position, which was accepted by the Governing Body at its Fifth Session. However, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD unfortunately did not include the position in the CBD budget for the current biennium. The Secretariats of the CBD and Treaty nevertheless established a joint roadmap and workprogramme and sought to explore alternative modalities and funding sources for the establishment of the joint position, but it proved to be administratively, legally and financially too complicated to establish a joint position. Instead, an officer was appointed as focal point for cooperation with the CBD, BLG and GEF. Together with the joint roadmap, this arrangement yielded excellent and highly productive results and cooperation with CBD Secretariat has further advanced towards successful implementation and results;
- ii) in the interest of further strengthening collaboration, the Treaty and Trust Secretariats proposed to establish a joint liaison position, which was accepted by the Governing Body. The position was filled and jointly funded for eight months during this biennium. In the meantime the ongoing collaborative activities between the Trust and Treaty have continued to produce numerous joint results and products and the communication at both executive and technical levels continue to be active and well maintained;
- iii) in the context of GFAR collaboration has been extensively strengthened and a common framework with concrete results has been established through a joint roadmap of collaboration. In order to implement the roadmap, a dedicated budget line was established for funding of the delivery of joint products and services foreseen. This arrangement has proven to facilitate efficient delivery of concrete results, products and services.

38. Many products and services have resulted from these and other collaborations and arrangements during the current biennium. Lessons learned include that in the next biennium the joint liaison positions proposed for the current biennium will be centralized and consolidated, together with other important cooperation and partnerships, into a single position of cooperation and partnerships for improved coherence and efficiency. Another lesson learned is that the

criteria for success of cooperation have proven to be that the partners have a common, agreed roadmap for programmatic collaboration.

39. The establishment of communication among the membership of the Treaty and that of other biodiversity-related conventions of the BLG will be reflected in the next biennium through the request to the Bureau of the Seventh Session to nominate Contracting Parties to work with the BLG, with a view to enhancing their involvement in the activities of the BLG. The nominated Treaty Contracting Parties would then report back to the Seventh Session of the Governing Body on how to enhance the partnerships and cooperation on Treaty implementation with the other member conventions of the BLG.

#### **IV. CONCLUSIONS**

40. Partnerships and collaborations with other conventions and organizations have continued to flourish in the current biennium. Cooperation with partner organizations is valuable to further develop and maintain an adequate positioning of the Treaty in relevant international policy processes. The Treaty has been widely recognized as playing an important role in addressing the global challenge of food security against climate change. During this biennium, existing partnerships have been further strengthened and several new collaborations added to advance Treaty implementation. As some modalities have worked better than others, extensive experience has been gained for effective partnership building, and improved arrangements for coherence and efficiency will be implemented for the next biennium.

41. A successful implementation of the Treaty also requires the harmonious implementation with other relevant treaties and conventions. The Treaty operates where other relevant mechanisms are in place, and our stakeholders look for the best solutions in this context. Partnerships with relevant mechanisms are key to achieve best synergies and complementarities for the harmonious implementation of the Treaty in relation to other relevant institutions.

#### **V. GUIDANCE SOUGHT**

42. The Governing Body is invited to take note of this report, and to consider and adopt the draft resolution contained in the *Appendix* to this document.

**DRAFT RESOLUTION \*\*/2015****COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS****THE GOVERNING BODY:**

**Cognizant** of the importance of developing and maintaining cooperation with the relevant international organizations, institutions and partners, whose work relate to the Treaty, in order to advance the Treaty's objectives;

**Welcoming** the ongoing activities and initiatives undertaken by the Treaty Secretariat during this biennium, aimed at enhancing partnerships and collaborations with relevant international organizations;

**Noting** the continued significant support to the objectives of the Treaty by the International Agricultural Research Centers (IARCs) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR);

**Noting** the need to continue providing developing country Contracting Parties with assistance in the implementation of the Treaty and its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing in particular, and **further noting** the progress made during this biennium in the implementation of the Joint Capacity Building Programme;

**Recalling** the need to strengthen cooperation with other international organizations in order to enhance the implementation of the Funding Strategy and, especially, its Benefit-sharing Fund;

**Noting**, with appreciation, the work of the biodiversity-related conventions to strengthen synergies among them, and further **stressing** the importance of supporting the biodiversity-related conventions to improve collaboration, communication and coordination at all levels;

**Further taking note** of the ongoing process under the United Nations General Assembly regarding the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals;

1. **Reaffirms** the need to continue the efforts necessary to ensure that the Treaty's objectives and role in the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are recognized and supported by relevant international institutions, organizations and processes;
2. **Invites** Contracting Parties to take initiatives to strengthen the harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the Treaty and other relevant international instruments and processes;
3. **Requests** the Secretary to facilitate such initiatives upon request and depending on available resources;
4. **Requests** the Secretary to continue pursuing close cooperation with the CGIAR Centers and the CGIAR governing structures at the system level, in areas of mutual benefit and support, including for the implementation of the agreements concluded under Article 15 of the International Treaty;
5. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to engage with the process on the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals in cooperation with the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-

- related Conventions to promote the further integration and mainstreaming of biodiversity in the post-2015 development agenda;
6. **Invites** the members of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions to continue their cooperation and coordination as a means to increase synergies in national implementation, in accordance with their respective mandates and subject to availability of financial resources, and **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue to participate in and actively contribute to the relevant activities of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, where relevant;
  7. **Urges** Contracting Parties to take measures to enhance synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions to promote policy coherence, improve efficiency and enhance coordination and cooperation at all levels and **invites** international organizations and donors to provide financial resources to support efforts that encourage synergies in policy development and the fulfilment of obligations under the biodiversity-related conventions;
  8. **Notes** the results of the United Nations Environment Programme's project on improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies;
  9. **Requests** the Secretary to continue participating in the Information and Knowledge Management Initiative of UNEP (InforMEA) and in the InforMEA Portal and to follow the work of the expert meeting on interoperability between reporting systems for biodiversity data;
  10. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to strengthen the partnership and collaboration with Global Forum for Agricultural Research on the basis of existing collaboration and its roadmap;
  11. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to enhance partnerships with relevant organizations such as International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Global Environment Facility to support the implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund;
  12. **Requests** the Secretary to continue participating in relevant meetings of the International Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties and World Intellectual Property Organization, in particular the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore;
  13. **Reaffirms** the need to continue the Joint Capacity Building Programme, and **calls upon** Contracting Parties and donors, on a voluntary basis, to provide additional funding to support its continuation;
  14. **Requests** the Secretary to continue and further strengthen collaboration with Bioersity International in the context of the implementation of Treaty benefit-sharing mechanisms and the Joint Capacity Building Programme.