



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



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 11 of the Provisional Agenda

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Kigali, Rwanda, 30 October – 3 November 2017

Implementation and Operations of the Multilateral System

Executive Summary

This document provides an overview of developments during the 2016-2017 biennium regarding the implementation and operation of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing with particular emphasis on the support provided to users to facilitate the generation of Standard Material Transfer Agreements, the reporting activities and the coverage of the Multilateral System. It also contains an update on material in the Multilateral System notified to the Secretary and an analysis of some of the data, at an aggregated level, contained in the International Treaty's Data Store. Furthermore, it provides a brief overview of the reviews and assessments provided for in the International Treaty in relation to the Multilateral System.

Guidance Sought

The Governing Body is invited to take note of this report on the implementations and operations of the Multilateral System, including the reviews, and provide any considers appropriate for the further implementation of the Multilateral System, taking into account the elements for a Resolution provided in the Appendix to this document.

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I. Introduction

1. This document provides a report on the implementation and operation of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (MLS or Multilateral System) from August 2015 to August 2017. It provides an update on the new notifications of material in the Multilateral System received by the Secretary, and on the support activities undertaken to assist users with the use of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) and with the reporting.
2. This document deals mainly with the basic and daily operations of the System. The mandate assigned to the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System (the Working Group), including on emerging policy issues, such as genomic information, is considered separately under Agenda Item 8. The document also provides a brief overview of the reviews and assessments foreseen in the International Treaty in relation to the Multilateral System.
3. During this biennium, the Secretariat continued to utilize the existing consolidated advice and recommendations on the Multilateral System from the Governing Body to stakeholders, in order to facilitate the reporting process under the SMTA by Contracting Parties and other users through electronic means.
4. The Secretariat continued to make available online statistics, at aggregated level, on the transfer of materials and managed the Data Store operations on a daily basis. Additionally, a number of information and statistical products have been generated to enhance the understanding of the Multilateral System for this Session, in collaboration with the Centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR Centers). Selected sets of this information and data are given in *Appendix 1* of this document, while some highlights are provided in Section IV, *Analysis of the Data Store*.
5. *Appendix 2* of this document contains elements for a draft resolution on the operations of the Multilateral System. The Governing Body may wish to consider the elements of guidance included in other documents that were prepared under this Agenda Item 11, for possible incorporation into the draft resolution.¹

II. Availability of material in the Multilateral System

6. The Governing Body has repeatedly invited the Contracting Parties that have not done so to report on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture under their management and control, and in the public domain, that are in the Multilateral System, in accordance with Article 11.2 of the International Treaty, and to take measures to make information on these resources available to potential users of the Multilateral System.²
7. At its Sixth Session, the Governing Body urged Contracting Parties to notify the Secretary and to cooperate financially and technically to make related information available, and also encouraged natural and legal persons to make their materials available.
8. Furthermore, the Governing Body

Decide[d] to include in the agenda of the Seventh Session a general review of the availability of material in the Multilateral System including the new accessions during the biennium, and request[d] the Secretariat to prepare a document providing information on materials included in

¹ See the documents, IT/GB-7/17/25 Add.1, *Report from Norway on the Management of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault*, IT/GB-7/17/10, *Report on the Operations of the Third Party Beneficiary*, IT/GB-7/17/11, *Report on the Practices of the CGIAR Centers for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Development*.

² Particularly Resolution 1/2013, Paragraph 12 and Resolution 1/2015 paragraph 10 onwards.

the Multilateral System by Contracting Parties and from natural and legal persons, both in Contracting Parties and in countries that are not Contracting Parties.

The Secretariat has prepared an information document that presents and analyses all the notifications and information received, including the nine notifications received from Contracting Parties during the current biennium up to 10 August 2017.

9. Some of the recent Contracting Parties, including the United States of America which holds some of the largest public and best-documented crop gene bank collections in the world with more than 576,600 crop accessions, have indicated that are in the process of identifying the material that is in the Multilateral System and will soon provide relevant information including on how the material may be accessed.³

10. Regarding the availability of material in the Multilateral System, it is to be noted that the national reports on the implementation of the International Treaty submitted during the biennium under the Compliance Procedures contain useful information on available material and on measures taken by Contracting Parties to encourage natural and legal persons to make material available under the standards of the Multilateral System.⁴ Although still limited in number, these reports may constitute a complementary source of information in future assessments and analyses.

11. During the biennium, the Secretariat continued to update the "Notification Facility" in the form of PDFs published on the International Treaty's Website.⁵

12. Similarly, the advancement in the implementation of the Global Information System with the setting up of the Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) offers the Governing Body the possibility of obtaining more detailed information on the material available in the Multilateral System. DOIs were designed to become a new mechanism for Contracting Parties, and natural and legal persons to inform about material available in the Multilateral System in an accurate and reliable way and following internationally agreed standards. As reported in 2015,⁶ the second version of the FAO-Biodiversity multi-crop passport descriptors included a new descriptor for holders to document whether or not a particular germplasm sample is available under Multilateral System conditions.

13. Such a multi-crop descriptor has also been included, as voluntary information, in the registration of DOI descriptors. As a consequence, the Governing Body may wish to encourage Contracting Parties and other holders of material to declare the status of the material with respect to the Multilateral System when obtaining a DOI.⁷

14. To further facilitate the identification of the material included in the Multilateral System, the Secretariat has planned to update the Easy-SMTA in order to enable the assignation of a DOI to the Material transferred with Click-Wrap SMTAs generated through Easy-SMTA.

15. Furthermore, Easy-SMTA will be updated to accept DOIs as one of the identification methods that providers can apply for the reporting of the Material transferred. It would simplify the reporting as the DOI contains already the minimum information that is needed to identify the material.⁸

³ See document IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 4.

⁴ See the document, IT/GB-7/17/18, *Report of the Compliance Committee*.

⁵ At <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/the-multilateral-system/collections/en/>.

⁶ IT/GB-6/15/8, *Report on the Implementation of the Multilateral System*, paragraph 16.

⁷ The registration of material in the Global Information System through the DOIs is a voluntary process. In this context, should the Governing Body wish to examine accession level information on the material available while keeping the DOI reporting process as voluntary, it could simply encourage Contracting Parties and other users to use the descriptor 'MLS Status' of the DOI.

⁸ This information includes crop or genus and the local number given to the material in the local collection which could be, for example, the accession number or the breeding number.

III. Strengthening the operations of the Multilateral System

A. Support to Contracting Parties and users of the Multilateral System

16. During the biennium, the Secretariat continued providing support to users of the Multilateral System through its Multilateral System Help-desk using email and videoconference, as well as one-on-one training on the occasion of other meetings and workshops.

17. During the biennium, the Secretariat received increasing number of requests from Contracting Parties, particularly developing countries, for the provision of information and direct support in the form of national training programmes and workshops. However, due to the lack of funding, some requests could not be met.

18. During this biennium, the Secretary continued to strengthen collaboration with Bioversity International, in particular for the implementation of the Joint Capacity Building Programme.⁹ To this end, the Secretary has undertaken a number of capacity-building activities together with Bioversity International, to support Contracting Parties in the effective implementation of the Multilateral System at national level, including joint resource mobilization.

19. The collaboration included the support to a five Contracting Party developing countries in two regions with support to the implementation of the International Treaty over a period of five years through a project funded by the Government of The Netherlands.¹⁰ The beneficiary countries generated national reports on the implementation of the Multilateral System and sent information on available materials to the Governing Body.¹¹

20. At present, comprehensive information material on the SMTA and the Multilateral System that is up-to-date and available in all the official languages, has not been developed yet. To address this gap, the Secretariat has planned for the development of the Educational Module on the Multilateral System in the International Treaty's series. The Module will include the experiences and best practices accumulated during the first decade of implementation through frequently asked questions and also integrate the advice provided by the *Ad Hoc* Technical Advisory Committee on the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and the Multilateral System.¹²

21. Based on received requests for assistance, the Secretariat has identified the need for increased support to Contracting Parties and users of the Multilateral System for the next biennium, subject to the availability of resources, through the following means:

- Continuing the help-desk function on the operations of the Multilateral System;
- Organising regional training workshops to support Contracting Parties in the strengthening of the operations of the Multilateral System, including on the identification and notification of material available in the Multilateral System, and on the operations of the SMTA;
- Finalising the Educational Module IV on the Multilateral System;
- Continuing collaboration with other organizations on training activities and workshops for multiple target audiences;

⁹ As requested by the Governing Body in Resolution 10/2015.

¹⁰ Strengthening national capacities to implement the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (GRPI 2).

¹¹ Available at: <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/compliance/compliance-reports/en/>

¹² After the finalization of Module V on Farmers' Rights under the supervision of the Bureau in 2017, Module IV on the Multilateral System is the only module not yet published.

- Collaborating on the drafting and review of publications, training modules and outreach material, upon request.

B. Institutions that concluded agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty

22. At each Session of the Governing Body, institutions that manage international germplasm collections under the auspices of the International Treaty report on their use of the SMTA and, more in general, on practices related to research on and development of the germplasm. For this Session, the information on the collections managed by the CGIAR Centers is contained in the document, *Reports from Institutions that have Concluded Agreements with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the International Treaty*, to be considered under this Item 11 of the Provisional Agenda.¹³

23. The document also contains information on the status of the collections held under Article 15 and under the management of non-CGIAR institutions. Following a notice from the management of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) of its intention to discontinue the maintenance of certain collections under its custody, due to lack of resources, the Secretary and the host government have established an expert task force to explore options for continued maintenance or relocation the collection. The Governing Body may wish to note that, according to the Data Store, CATIE has distributed and reported 3,025 samples of 31 crops through 87 SMTAs to recipients located in 15 countries.

24. As noted in the document, IT/GB-7/17/24, the Secretary is also assessing the status of the collections of coconut genetic materials maintained under Article 15 of the Treaty in Côte d'Ivoire and Papua New Guinea. The Secretary expects to continue consultations and joint efforts with managing institutions and host countries and collaboration with technical partners, for the implementation of the provisions of agreements concluded under Article 15.

25. The Governing Body will also consider the document, *Report on the Practice of the CGIAR Centers for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Development*, which it requested at the Sixth Session. The document contains some elements of relevance for the operations of the Multilateral System that the Governing Body may wish to take into account for the provision of guidance in the context of the Multilateral System operations.¹⁴

26. Draft elements for the draft Resolution are contained in both documents, *Reports from Institutions that have Concluded Agreements with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the International Treaty*, and *Report on the Practice of the CGIAR Centers for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Development*.

C. Other collections

27. During the biennium, based on reports received in the Data store, the World Vegetable Center (AVRDC) continued to use the SMTA to distribute germplasm, and also implements highly relevant research partnerships with developing country institutions. The collections of AVRDC have been distributed with the SMTA, on a voluntary basis, through a publicised policy and following a decision by its Board.

28. Since May 2014 and up to early August 2017, AVRDC has reported the transfer of 11,122 accessions through 353 SMTAs, to the Governing Body. AVRDC is the main user of the click-wrap function of Easy-SMTA.

¹³ IT/GB-7/17/24.

¹⁴ IT/GB-7/17/11.

D. The Svalbard Global Seed Vault

29. In 2007, the Government of Norway established the Svalbard Global Seed Vault (SGSV) with the long-term objective of providing a safety net for the international conservation system of plant genetic resources, in line with the provisions of the International Treaty.

30. The Government of Norway has submitted a report for the consideration of the Governing Body under Item 17.4 of the Provisional Agenda.¹⁵ To date, 73 institutes deposited more than 930.000 seed samples for long-term deposit in the Vault, which has the capacity to store up to 4.5 million seed samples. The Report contains draft elements for a Resolution to be considered under Agenda Item 17.4.

E. Third Party Beneficiary

31. In accordance with Article 9 of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures and as requested by the Governing Body at its Sixth Session, the Secretariat has prepared the document, *Report on the Operations of the Third Party Beneficiary for the biennium 2016-2017*.¹⁶

32. The Report includes information on the status of the Third Party Beneficiary Operational Reserve and the technical implementation of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures through the daily operations of the Easy-SMTA Data Store.

IV. Analysis of the Data Store

A. Overview

33. Since the Sixth Session of the Governing Body, the Secretariat has further improved the module that generates statistics on germplasm distribution within the Multilateral System. The Secretariat also makes available online tables, charts and maps with aggregated data generated from Easy-SMTA, the on-line tool for the generation, use and reporting of SMTAs. The Data Store has been receiving this information since 2011.

34. During the 2016-2017 biennium, the on-going collaboration with Contracting Parties and the Article 15 Institutions has improved the quantity and the quality of available information. A selection of information products is contained in *Appendix 1*. The analysis of the aggregated data contained in the Data Store has also been considered useful for the discussions of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System.

35. As of 10 August 2017, the Data Store has recorded 58,971 SMTAs from providers located in 42 countries, distributing material to recipients based in 179 countries. This figure represents an increment of 31,637 SMTAs or 53.6 % since May 2015. Out of those SMTAs, 47,367 were sent to recipients in Contracting Parties, while 11,604 SMTAs were sent to recipients not located in Contracting Parties to the International Treaty. The statistical module indicates an average of 38 SMTAs reported per day since May 2015.

36. The analysis of the data contained in the Data Store confirms and consolidates two important trends. The number of SMTAs has constantly increased from the setup of the Multilateral System until 2011, with a plateau phase following between 2011 and 2013. Since then, the average numbers increased sharply and the reporting figures more than tripled between 2014 and 2016 as displayed in Figure 1 below. The reporting figures signify an improved uptake of the SMTA infrastructure and processes and provide a clearer picture of the flow of material in the Multilateral System.

¹⁵ IT/GB-7/17/25 Add.1, *Report from Norway on the Management of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault*.

¹⁶ IT/GB-7/17/10.

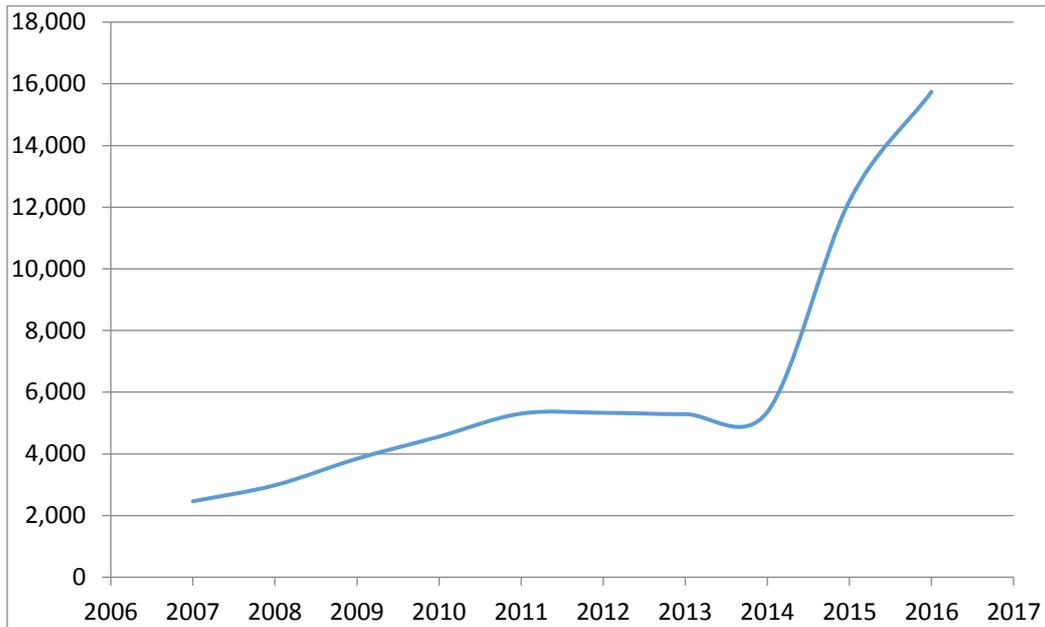


Figure 1. Trend in the reporting of SMTAs since the establishment of the Multilateral System from 2007 to end of 2016 (average figures used).

37. As of early August 2017, more than 4.1 million samples of PGRFA had been transferred and reported. From the total amount of material transferred, 6 % was distributed by Contracting Parties, 93.7% by Article 15 Institutions and 0.3 by users in Non-Contracting Parties.

38. The statistics also indicate that 4 % of the material transferred with the SMTA belongs to crops not under *Annex I* of the Treaty, as in the previous biennium. Further analysis from 2007 up to August 2017 reveals that 2,589 agreements transferred non-*Annex I* material to recipients in developing countries and 6,132 to recipients in developed countries. The number of non-*Annex I* materials distributed to developing countries amounted to 59,363 accessions and to developed countries 111,214 accessions. It is to be taken into account that many of the reported transfers by non-developing countries are domestic transfers.

39. May 2017 marked a milestone for the Data Store with the 4 millionth PGRFA reported. This figure doubles the amount reported by May 2015. The statistics at crop level show that 46 % of the material reported belong to wheat, 20% to rice, 8% to maize, 6% to barley, 4% to chickpea. Figure 2 below shows the distribution of these percentages.

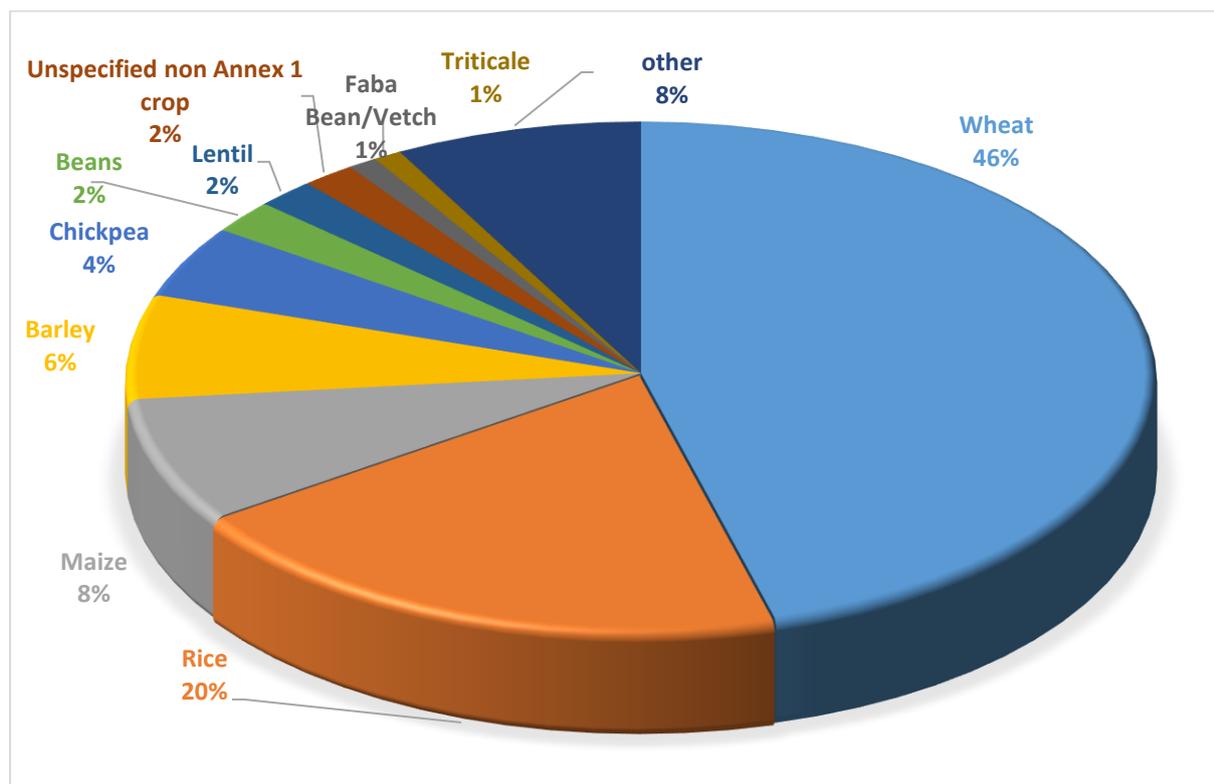


FIGURE 2. PERCENTAGES OF MATERIALS OF TOP CROPS REPORTED IN THE DATA STORE AS OF 10 AUGUST 2017

B. Users of Easy-SMTA

40. Since the last Session of the Governing Body, the Easy-SMTA System has more than doubled the number of registered users with 1,557 entries.¹⁷ As many as 248 users registered during the first months of 2017 alone. It is to be noted that the percentage of users registered in Easy-SMTA since 2011 as individual users is 59% (917), while the remaining 41% of users are organizations (640). As of the same year, 55 organizations and individuals reported as Providers.

41. During the biennium, the Secretariat has discussed with some large scale providers that hold information on the type of recipients, in particular some Article 15 Institutions, the possibility of improving the gathering of information on the type of recipients for statistical purposes (e.g. genebank, national breeding programmes, CGIAR or non-CGIAR, etc.). Such aggregation could be reported, on a voluntary basis, during the current reporting process in the form of an additional field.

42. The Secretariat has also initiated consultations with some CGIAR Centers to play an outreach role during the transfer of materials. A general communication from the Centers and other large-scale recipients of the Multilateral System to their providers, issued on a voluntary basis, on the existing options to report through Easy-SMTA could improve the overall performance of the System in generating important statistics.

¹⁷ It had 261 users at the end of June 2013 and 665 at the end of April 2015.

C. PGRFA under Development

43. As of 10 August 2017, 18,811 SMTAs out of the 58,971 SMTAs reported transferred PGRFA under Development, which represents 31.9 % of the transfers, with an increment of more than 21 points since May 2015.

44. Most of the SMTAs issued for the transfer of PGRFA under Development since 2007 had an Article 15 Institution as the provider and only 62 were issued by Contracting Parties. In total, 1.18 million materials under development have been transferred and reported. Table 1 below provides information on the distribution of PGRFA under Development, by crop.

PGRFA under Development by crop	
Rice	427,262
Wheat	241,334
Barley	224,780
Chickpea	138,790
Lentil	73,072
Faba Bean/Vetch	29,271
Pearl Millet	14,368
Cassava	11,766
Potato	7,512
Beans	4,992
Sorghum	3,525

Table 1. List of PGRFA under Development by crop in the Data Store as of 10 August 2017

V. Reviews and assessments required by the International Treaty regarding the Multilateral System

A. Assessment of progress in the inclusion of material by natural and legal persons and decision on continued facilitated access for natural and legal persons - Article 11.4

45. Article 11.4 of the International Treaty provides that:

Within two years of the entry into force of the Treaty, the Governing Body shall assess the progress in including the plant genetic resources for food and agriculture referred to in paragraph 11.3 in the Multilateral System. Following this assessment, the Governing Body shall decide whether access shall continue to be facilitated to those natural and legal persons referred to in paragraph 11.3 that have not included these plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the Multilateral System, or take such other measures as it deems appropriate.

46. According to Article 11.3 of the International Treaty:

Contracting Parties [...] agree to take appropriate measures to encourage natural and legal persons within their jurisdiction who hold plant genetic resources for food and agriculture listed in Annex I to include such plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the Multilateral System.

47. The Governing Body has repeatedly urged natural and legal persons to include their plant genetic resources for food and agriculture listed in *Annex I* to the International Treaty in the Multilateral System. It has also urged Contracting Parties to take appropriate incentivizing measures, in accordance with Article 11.3 of the Treaty.¹⁸

48. The *Ad Hoc* Technical Advisory Committee on the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and the Multilateral System (Committee) issued an opinion on legal and administrative measures to encourage natural and legal persons to voluntarily place material in the Multilateral System. In this opinion, the Committee stated that “*the decision on what measures to establish under Article 11.3 of the International Treaty is left to the discretion of Contracting Parties. Those measures may include, but are not be limited to, financial or fiscal incentives to holders of material (e.g. eligibility for public funding schemes). They might also consist of policy and legal measures, administrative actions setting up domestic procedures for inclusions, or awareness raising efforts (especially at the level of farmers).*”¹⁹

49. The Governing Body has repeatedly postponed the assessment and decision under Article 11.4 of the International Treaty.

50. The information on material currently known to be available from natural and legal persons is contained in the document, IT/GB-7/17/Inf.4, *Report on Availability of Material in the Multilateral System*.

B. Review of payment levels - Article 13.2d(ii)

51. Article 13.2d(ii) of the International Treaty provides that

The Governing Body may decide to establish different levels of payment for various categories of recipients who commercialize such products; it may also decide on the need to exempt from such payments small farmers in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition. The Governing Body may, from time to time, review the levels of payment with a view to achieving fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

52. The Governing Body originally decided to review the payment levels periodically, starting from its Third Session, but subsequently postponed such review repeatedly.

53. During the last two biennia, the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System discussed various options for reviewing the payment levels currently contained in the SMTA, as well as for establishing possible additional differentiations, such as categories of recipients or crops. The status and outcomes of such discussions is contained in the documentation prepared for Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda.

C. Assessment of whether the mandatory payment requirement shall be extended - Article 13.2d(ii)

54. Article 13.2d(ii) of the Treaty also provides that the Governing Body

may also assess, within a period of five years from the entry into force of this Treaty, whether the mandatory payment requirement in the MTA shall apply also in cases where such

¹⁸ Resolution 2/2006, para. 7; Resolution 4/2009, para. 10; Resolution 4/2011, para. 5; Resolution 1/2013, paras. 14, 16; Resolution 1/2015 paras. 10, 11 and 12.

¹⁹ IT/AC-SMTA-MLS 1/10/Report, Appendix 4.

commercialized products are available without restriction to others for further research and breeding.

55. The Governing Body has not undertaken such an assessment to date. Instead, it has postponed it repeatedly, starting from the fifth year period following the entry into force of the International Treaty.

56. The Working Group has also discussed the possibility of making voluntary payments in the SMTA mandatory. The status and outcomes of these discussions are reported in the documents, IT/GB-7/17/7, *Report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System*, and IT/GB-7/17/31, *Co-chairs' Proposal from the Outcomes of the Meetings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System*.

VI. Guidance Sought

57. The Governing Body is invited to consider the information provided in this document. Possible elements for a Resolution are contained in *Appendix 2*. In particular, the Governing Body is invited to provide guidance on the availability of material in the Multilateral System, on the modalities of assistance to Contracting Parties and other users of the Multilateral System, and on any other aspects related to the operations of the Multilateral System that the Governing Body may consider as relevant.

58. Taking into account the ongoing process and discussions for the enhancement of the functioning of the Multilateral System, the Governing Body may wish to again postpone the reviews and assessments foreseen in Articles 11.4 and 13.2d(ii) of the International Treaty, to the next Eighth Session.

Appendix 1: Data reported through the Data Store

Data Store as of 10 August 2017.

SMTAs reported by	CPs	Art.15	Non CPs	Total
Total	10,811	47,846	314	58,971
With PGRFA under development	62	18,749	0	18,811
Number of recipient countries per category	94	174	60	-
Total number of recipient countries				179
With recipients in Contracting Parties	10,225	36,968	174	47,367
With recipients in non-Contracting Parties	586	10,878	140	11,604
Average SMTAs distributed per day since January 2007				15
Average SMTAs distributed per day since May 2015				38

Table 1: SMTAs reported

PGRFA distributed by	CPs	Art.15	Non CPs	Total
Total	250,216	3,915,063	11,033	4,176,312
<i>Annex I</i> crops	127,669	3,871,247	6,798	4,005,714
Non- <i>Annex I</i> crops	122,526	43,816	4,235	170,577
Non- <i>Annex I</i> crops distributed to recipients in developing countries	16,831	39,489	3,043	59,363
Non- <i>Annex I</i> crops distributed to recipients in developed countries	105,695	4,327	1,192	111,214
PGRFA under development (PGRFAuD)	480	1,187,017	0	1,187,497
Non-Annex 1 PGRFAuD	14	2,789	0	2,803

PGRFA distributed by	CPs	Art.15	Non CPs	Total
To recipients in Contracting Parties	217,741	3,102,889	7,451	3,328,081
To recipients in non-Contracting Parties	32,453	812,073	3,505	848,231
Average PGRFA distributed per day since 2007				1,078

Tables 2A and 2B: PGRFA distribution

Registered users of Easy-SMTA	
Total	1,557
Registered before 2017	1,309
Registered between 2011 and 10/08/2017	248
Number of organizations registered since 2011	640
Number of individuals registered since 2011	917
Number of Recipients	6,075

Table 3: Registered users of Easy-SMTA

Source Region	By CPs	By Art.15	By non CPs	Total	
Africa		53	16,236	4	16,293
Asia		268	10,847	304	11,419
Europe		9,406	990	0	10,396
Latin America and the Caribbean		14	19,739	0	19,753
Near East		11	0	0	11
North America		1,059	0	6	1,065
Southwest Pacific		0	34	0	34

Table 4: Regional distribution of SMTAs by source region reported by Contracting Parties, Article 15 Institutions and by non-Contracting Parties

Destination Region	Total
Africa	9,233
Asia	17,044
Europe	13,893
Latin America and the Caribbean	7,605
Near East	7,543
North America	3,157
Southwest Pacific	496

Table 5: Regional distribution of SMTAs by destination region

Source Region	By CPs	By Art.15	By non CPs	Total
Africa	1,110	920,418	4	921,532
Asia	1,978	816,458	10,303	828,739
Europe	214,008	57,116	0	271,124
Latin America and the Caribbean	363	2,120,264	0	2,120,627
Near East	30	0	0	30
North America	32,727	0	726	33,453
Southwest Pacific	0	807	0	807

Table 6 Regional distribution of PGRFA by source region and type of reporting provider

Destination Region	Total
Africa	800,514
Asia	1,299,594
Europe	565,354
Latin America and the Caribbean	627,424
Near East	607,514
North America	224,965
Southwest Pacific	50,947

Table 7: Regional distribution of PGRFA by destination

Income level of Provider's country	Total
High income: non-OECD	8
High income: OECD	11,083
Low income	2,570
Lower middle income	24,916
Upper middle income	20,394

Table 8: Distribution of SMTAs by income level of Provider's country

Income level of Recipient's country	Total
High income: non-OECD	575
High income: OECD	16,072
Low income	6,787
Lower middle income	22,287
Upper middle income	13,250

Table 9: Distribution of SMTAs by income level of Recipient's country

Income level	Total
High income: non-OECD	27
High income: OECD	255,505
Low income	111,804
Lower middle income	1,636,532
Upper middle income	2,172,444

Table 10: Distribution of PGRFA by income level of Provider's country

Income level	Total
High income: non--OECD	56,886
High income: OECD	731,294
Low income	665,381
Lower middle income	1,695,704
Upper middle income	1,027,047

Table 11: Distribution of PGRFA by income level of Recipient's country

Country	Total
India	567,161
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	196,739

Country	Total
Mexico	174,172
Kenya	161,087
China	153,019
United States of America	150,207
Pakistan	139,158
Turkey	125,927
Egypt	124,116
Argentina	96,350

Table 12: Top 10 destination countries as indicated in the SMTA by number of PGRFA

Top 10 crops distributed by number of PGRFA	
Wheat	1,911,809
Rice	821,212
Maize	330,709
Barley	277,536
Chickpea	191,904
Beans	88,549
Lentil	77,407
Unspecified non-Annex I crop	70,885
Faba Bean/Vetch	38,941
Triticale	37,582

Table 13: Top 10 crops distributed by number of PGRFA

Center	SMTAs	PGRFA	PGRFAUD	From	To
AfricaRice	483	46,440	28,494	2007-03-05	2017-01-05
Bioversity	386	6,109	653	2007-01-24	2016-12-22
CIAT	2,547	246,650	36,034	2007-01-05	2017-05-05
CIMMYT	18,127	1,986,228	0	2007-03-16	2016-12-28
CIP	570	15,479	10,189	2007-01-19	2017-08-15
ICARDA	12,977	779,390	698,110	2007-02-13	2016-12-14
ICRAF	154	679	0	2011-09-03	2016-12-04
ICRISAT	3,885	159,362	34,313	2009-11-11	2017-01-19
IITA	728	29,792	0	2007-03-07	2017-04-28
ILRI	777	9,390	0	2007-02-22	2016-11-30
IRRI	7,186	635,090	379,491	2007-01-04	2017-05-18

Table 14: Distribution of SMTAs, PGRFA, PGRFAuD by CGIAR Centers and as of 17 August 2017, with indication of the reporting period for each Center

Appendix 2: Draft Resolution **/2017, Operations of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing

The Governing Body,

Recalling previous Resolutions on the operations of the Multilateral System;

Recalling the need to provide regular guidance to Contracting Parties and institutions that have concluded Agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty for the effective and efficient operations of the Multilateral System;

Recalling the provisions of Article 15.1 a) of the International Treaty;

Recalling further the provisions of Articles 6.5 and 6.6 of the SMTA;

Noting the continuing relevance of the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets to implementation of the obligations of CGIAR Centers pursuant to the agreements concluded with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the International Treaty;

A. Availability of Material in the Multilateral System

1. *Welcomes* the information provided on the availability of material in the Multilateral System and *thinks* the Contracting Parties that have identified at accession level the material that is available under the Multilateral System;
2. *Emphasizes* the importance of collections that are fully characterized and evaluated, and *appeals* to both Contracting Parties and natural and legal persons to make them available in the Multilateral System together with the relevant characterization and evaluation data;
3. *Encourages* Contracting Parties and other holders of material to use, on a voluntary basis, the Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) of the Global Information System as one of the methods for the identification of material available in the Multilateral System;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to update, for the Eighth Session of the Governing Body, the report on availability of material in the Multilateral System, including the new accessions notified during the biennium by Contracting Parties, and made available from natural and legal persons.

B. Operations of the Multilateral System

5. *Takes note* of the progress made during the 2016-2017 biennium with Easy-SMTA and the Data Store;
6. *Emphasizes* the need to provide adequate support to Contracting Parties and users of the Multilateral System and *requests* the Secretariat to maintain the help-desk function on the operations of the Multilateral System and to finalise the Educational Module IV;
7. *Invites* Contracting Parties and relevant international organizations to make available resources and collaborate with the Secretariat in the organization of training programmes and workshops on the Multilateral System;
8. *Further requests* the Secretariat to organise regional training workshops to support Contracting Parties in the strengthening of the operations of the Multilateral System, including on the identification and notification of material available in the Multilateral System and on the operations of the SMTA, including the reporting of transfers;

9. **Requests** the Secretary to continue the collaboration with Bioversity International in particular for the implementation of the Joint Capacity Building Programme and in support of Contracting Parties.

10. **Requests** the Secretariat to continue work with the CGIAR Centers to build capacity among a wider range of providers, including natural and legal persons, to implement the Multilateral System and to report on SMTAs.

C. Collections held by Institutions that concluded agreements under Article 15

[See elements for a Resolution provided in Appendix 1 to IT/GB-7/17/24, *Reports from Institutions that have Concluded Agreements with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the International Treaty*]

D. Practice of the CGIAR Centres for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Development

[See elements for a Resolution provided in Appendix 1 to IT/GB-7/17/11, *Report on the Practice of the CGIAR Centers for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Development*]

11. qualify as restricted use or limited exclusivity agreements pursuant to the CGIAR Principles.

E. Third Party Beneficiary

[See elements for a Resolution provided in Appendix 1 to IT/GB-7/17/10, *Report on the Operations of the Third Party Beneficiary*]

F. Reviews and Assessments under the Multilateral System and of the Implementation and Operation of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement

12. **Decides** to postpone the reviews and assessments foreseen under Articles 11.4 and 13.2d(ii) of the International Treaty, to its Eighth Session.

G. Further Policy Guidance on the implementation of the Multilateral System

[The Governing Body may wish to provide further guidance, as it may deem necessary, on policy and technical aspects of the Multilateral System that have been considered in the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System]