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The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Kigali, Rwanda, 30 October – 3 November 2017

Implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Executive Summary

Through Resolution 4/2015, the Governing Body endorsed the revised Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) 2016–2019 and reconvened the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use to provide advice to the Secretary, *inter alia*, on:

- implementation of the Programme of Work and Supporting Initiatives;
- cooperation with other international processes and institutions on sustainable use of PGRFA;
- identification of additional activities and synergies within the Programme of Work and between the Programme of Work and other areas of the International Treaty's work;
- elaboration of a report on the current gaps in conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA through the support of Contracting Parties and donors.

The Committee met once during the biennium and provided advice and recommendations. A number of other activities and initiatives were also carried out by the Secretariat, Contracting Parties and other stakeholders towards to the implementation of the Article 6 of the Treaty and related provisions.

Guidance Sought

On the basis of the advice provided by the ACSU, and the range of activities undertaken during the biennium, the Governing Body is invited to provide any further guidance it considers appropriate for the effective implementation of Article 6 and the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of PGRFA, taking into account the elements for a possible Resolution provided in the *Appendix* for its consideration.

These elements include reconvening the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of PGRFA and requesting the Secretary to explore the possibility of undertaking future activities to enhance the Programme of Work on the Sustainable Use of PGRFA.

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*APPENDIX : Draft Resolution **/2017 – Implementation of Article 6, Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

I. Introduction

1. Through Resolution 4/2015,¹ the Governing Body endorsed the revised Programme of Work on the Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its Supporting Initiatives for the period 2016–2019 (Programme of Work) and reconvened the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use.
2. At the third meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use, the Secretariat prepared an initial report on the progress of activities requested by the Governing Body,² and invited the Committee to appraise the activities and programmes carried out by Contracting Parties and different stakeholders, based on specific components of the Programme of Work.³
3. For each programme of the Programme of Work, the advice of the Committee and a brief report on the progress made since the Sixth Session of the Governing Body has been included in this document.

II. The Programme of Work on Sustainable Use and the supporting Initiatives

4. The Programme of Work aims “to provide support to Contracting Parties and stakeholders to implement the provisions of Articles 5, 6 and 9 of the Treaty that are relevant to the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, based on national priorities and needs”.
5. Significant progress has been made in the implementation of the Programme of Work, with the in-kind contributions and financial support provided by some Contracting Parties.⁴ Annex 1, Table 1 of Resolution 4/2015 summarizes different sets of activities carried out by stakeholders, divided into programmes agreed by the Governing Body (Part A), and supporting initiatives to be undertaken by Contracting Parties and other stakeholders on a voluntary basis (Part B).

Part A of the Programme of Work: Programmes agreed to by the Governing Body

1. Implementing the sustainable use of PGRFA under Article 6 of the International Treaty

6. On 4 April 2016, the Secretary issued the notification containing a summary of the relevant decisions of the Governing Body and invited Contracting Parties to provide information on any actions or activities that they had planned or undertaken in response to the invitations of the Governing Body, in order to report on those activities to the Seventh Session of the Governing Body.⁵ Some of the issues highlighted in the submissions from Contracting Parties, governments, institutions and organizations include: the role of local and organic plant breeding; public–private partnerships for pre-breeding; the release of farmers’ varieties and seed production; the value of the Multilateral System of the International Treaty; and the critical need for facilitated access to PGRFA.⁶

¹ Resolution 4/2015 on implementation of Article 6, Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bl143e.pdf>

² IT/ACSU 3/16/3 Implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Supporting Initiatives, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bq548e.pdf>

³ See the documents, IT/ACSU-3/16/Inf. 2 Progress in the Development of the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA; IT/ACSU-3/16/Inf. 3 Contribution of the Benefit-sharing Fund projects of the Treaty to the Sustainable Use of PGRFA; IT/ACSU-3/16/Inf. 4 Contribution of the Global Information System to the Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; and IT/ACSU-3/16/Inf.5 Activities implemented by International Organizations on Sustainable Use of PGRFA

⁴ Austria, Indonesia, Italy, Norway and Switzerland

⁵ Notification: *Submission of information relating to the implementation of Article 6 of the Treaty: Sustainable use of Plant Genetic Resources*, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bp417e.pdf>

⁶ Submissions by Contracting Parties, governments and relevant institutions and organizations of the implementation of Article 6, <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/sustainable-use/information-and-submissions/en/>

7. Lack of capacity and resources continue to be the main limiting factors for implementation of the Programme of Work, as highlighted in document IT/GB-6/15/Inf. 3.⁷ In addition, the Secretariat has also continued to receive communications expressing concerns about the persistent lack of extra-budgetary resources at the national level to support this thematic area of work.

8. Between April and June 2015, the Secretariat conducted an online stakeholder consultation, the results of which helped to foster a better understanding of the needs of a wide range of interest groups, organizations and individuals regarding the provision of support for their activities on sustainable use of PGRFA. These findings have also helped to identify bottlenecks in the PGRFA use system, including the critical need to address policy limitations in support of sustainable use activities. Other urgent requirements are capacity-building and access to plant genetic material and associated information. The consultation also confirmed that it is important to offer a wide range of resources to support the activities of stakeholders. It showed why specific types of resources are useful and practical, and identified additional resources that would be needed. In particular, stakeholders should be supported in their work on the sustainable use of PGRFA – including through extra budgetary resources – by providing training and capacity-building on sustainable use of PGRFA and Farmers' Rights, as foreseen in Annex 1, Table 1 of Resolution 4/2015.

9. As requested in Resolution 4/2015, the Secretariat continued to strengthen collaboration with the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) and would continue to do so in future. The aim is to promote coherence in the respective programmes of work, and ensure that financial and human resources aimed at capacity-building and awareness-raising are used in a more coordinated manner. Specific areas of such work include the monitoring and implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action (GPA) for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. This would also include cooperating in the work on draft technical guidelines for farmers' varieties/landraces and crop wild relatives; promoting global networking on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA; global targets and indicators; and in the preparation of the Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

2. Toolbox on Sustainable Use of PGRFA

10. Through Resolution 4/2015, the Governing Body requested the Secretary to continue developing the Toolbox for the Sustainable Use of PGRFA, in order to assist Contracting Parties in the implementation of Article 6 of the International Treaty. Specifically, it requested the Secretary, in collaboration with other stakeholders and subject to the availability of financial resources, to invite further inputs from Contracting Parties, other governments, farmers' organizations, relevant stakeholders and experts, so as to collect additional and prospective Tools for the Toolbox. In response, and with a generous contribution from the government of Italy, the *Expert Meeting on the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA* was convened in Volterra, Italy, 19–21 July 2016.⁸ The main objectives of the meeting were to define the required functioning and contents of the Toolbox according to different user groups, and to identify specific resources for inclusion.

11. At its Third Meeting,⁹ the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use welcomed efforts made by FAO and the Secretariat to work on the implementation of the Second GPA and reaffirmed the necessity of developing the Toolbox as a practical instrument to assist Contracting Parties with the implementation of Article 6 of the Treaty. The Committee acknowledged the progress made in defining the functions and contents of the Toolbox, while noting the need to move as swiftly as possible to the implementation phase. The Committee proposed that the Toolbox should initially focus on a few priority areas and be developed further over time to address all elements of the PGRFA use system. To this end, the Committee identified specific priorities under the thematic areas 'adding value to and sustaining the use of landraces/farmers' varieties' and 'seed systems', as well as the topic

⁷ IT/GB-6/15/Inf. 3: Development of a Toolbox for Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bb352e.pdf>

⁸ Expert Meeting on the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA: Report, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bq495e.pdf>

⁹ IT/ACSU-3/16/ Report Third Meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of PGRFA: Report, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bq804e.pdf>

‘participatory plant breeding’.¹⁰ The importance of providing support to countries in establishing collaborations and partnerships in these areas was underscored. The Secretariat was invited to prepare an information document for the Seventh Session of the Governing Body, after collecting and compiling all the relevant material in these thematic areas.¹¹

12. The issue of the responsibility for ongoing management and maintenance of the Toolbox was also raised. The Committee proposed launching a joint programme of work involving multiple multilateral organizations with an interest in the Toolbox, to ensure its continued support and sustainability.

13. The first version of the Toolbox will be published on the FAO server. It will provide users with access to guidance and resources related to implementation of Article 6, with a particular focus on three priority topics identified by the Committee.¹²

Part B of the Programme of Work: Supporting initiatives to be undertaken by Contracting Parties and other stakeholders on a voluntary basis

14. At its third meeting, *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use reaffirmed the relevance of the Supporting Initiatives of the Programme of Work for implementation of Article 6 of the International Treaty and the promotion of *ex situ*, *in situ* and on-farm conservation.

15. The Committee highlighted the importance of prioritizing regional activities for the sustainable use of PGRFA. These would create more opportunities for Contracting Parties and all relevant stakeholders to share experiences, exchange ideas and raise awareness on implementation of the conservation, sustainable use and Farmers’ Rights provisions of the International Treaty. The Committee recognized the opportunity and value of cooperation with other initiatives and processes.

3. The Platform for the Co-Development and Transfer of Technologies

16. Through Resolution 4/2015, the Governing Body requested Contracting Parties and other stakeholders to continue reporting on implementation of the Programme of Work and its Supporting Initiatives. The idea of the Platform for the Co-Development and Transfer of Technology (Platform) was initiated by interested institutions in 2011.¹³ In line with the provisions of the International Treaty, technology transfer under this initiative is a primary form of non-monetary benefit-sharing related to the management and use of PGRFA.

17. In September 2015, the third meeting of the Platform was convened in Rome, Italy, to define the strategic focus of the initiative, given developments in other International Treaty processes. The meeting also set out to expand the network of active institutions and report on progress at the Sixth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty. The Platform decided to continue operating as a functioning network of institutions, and agreed on a strategic programme of work as a supporting initiative of the Programme of Work.

18. The fourth meeting of the Platform was held in Vienna, Austria, on 22 October 2016. The meeting was attended by 28 participants representing different partner institutions, who shared their progress in the relevant programmes (e.g. Bean Adapt,¹⁴ Quinoa Project,¹⁵ Durum Wheat Project

¹⁰ See the document, IT/GB-6/15/Inf.3

¹¹ See document IT/GB-7/17/Inf.8

¹² Further details are provided in document IT/GB-7/17/Inf.8

¹³ The Platform contributes to the objectives of the International Treaty by:

- i) Empowering stakeholders to utilize technologies for the conservation, characterization, evaluation and sustainable use of PGRFA; and
- ii) Increasing opportunities for technology transfer, information sharing and capacity development

¹⁴ Bean Adapt: <http://www.beanadapt.org/site/>

¹⁵ Quinoa Project: <http://www.cirad.fr/en>

Initiative,¹⁶ the Benefit-sharing Fund project on Transfer of Technologies related to Rice¹⁷), and other technology packages.

19. A programme of work has been prepared in a strategy paper, which defines the programmatic approach of the Platform for the biennium 2018–19.¹⁸ This is based on a flexible and modular mechanism, so that the Platform can continue to operate as a functioning network with enhanced coherence and focus.

20. The Platform is closely linked to the activities of (i) the Benefit-sharing Fund, (ii) the Multilateral System and (iii) the Global Information System, in using PGRFA for research and breeding and promoting *in situ* and on-farm conservation. There is a recognition of the critical need to build further synergies between Platform activities and those of the relevant components of the Treaty, in order to realize the objectives of developing new varieties that can help to raise crop yields, improve resistance to pests and diseases, enhance the quality of agriculture, and address the challenges of climate change.

4. Training and capacity-building on Farmers' Rights and sustainable use of PGRFA

21. Through Resolution 5/2015, the Governing Body requested the Secretariat to facilitate the engage with Contracting Parties and relevant organizations, so as to gather information at national, regional and global levels for exchanging knowledge, views, experiences and best practices on the implementation of Farmers' Rights, as set out in the International Treaty. In response, a number of consultations were facilitated and/or organized in coordination and partnership with Contracting Parties and civil society organizations (CSOs).

22. Specific activities linked to training and capacity-building on Farmers' Rights and sustainable use were also facilitated through “partnerships and collaboration with CSOs and other organizations”.

23. As requested in Resolution 5/2015, an Educational Module on Farmers' Rights has been finalized, in consultation with the Bureau of Seventh Session of the Governing Body. The Module presents the conceptual foundation of Farmers' Rights and highlights the crucial role of farmers and indigenous local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA. It cites several examples that could stimulate understanding and promote innovative ways of putting Farmers' Rights into practice within various country-specific contexts. The module will be disseminated through the International Treaty website and sent to all the Contracting Parties and interested stakeholders.

5. Awareness-raising about the actual and potential value of underutilized species of local and regional importance for food security and sustainable development

24. Through Resolution 4/2015, the Governing Body requested the Secretary, in collaboration with other stakeholders and subject to the availability of financial resources, to undertake joint research on Aichi Targets related to sustainability in agriculture and the linkages between *in situ* conservation /on-farm management and community-based initiatives and programmes for the sustainable use of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species. The Secretary invited the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as a key partner in this joint research, to collaborate on drawing up a plan of work with a number of proposed objectives including:

- i) Collate a database of case studies, lessons learned and best practices in conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, which can be used to support countries in their efforts to achieve Target 13.

¹⁶ Durum Wheat Project Initiative: <http://www.wheatinitiative.org/>

¹⁷ BSF Rice Transfer of Technologies project: <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/benefit-sharing-fund/projects-funded/bsf-third-cycle/en/>

¹⁸ Document IT/GB-7/17/Inf.16 - Strategy paper on the programmatic approach of the Platform for the Co-development and Transfer of Technologies, for the biennium 2018/2019

- ii) Review potential synergies between actions undertaken to meet Target 7 on the sustainable management of areas under agriculture to ensure the conservation of biodiversity, and those undertaken to meet Target 13 on the conservation and sustainable use of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species.
- iii) Explore linkages between activities related to Aichi Targets 7 and 13 with regard to conservation and sustainable use of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species and the priority activities of the Second GPA, as well as with Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty (and any other relevant Articles), including opportunities for provision of support to nations through the International Treaty's Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA.

25. Further discussion with the CBD Secretariat has been initiated and the Secretary is seeking funding to support this research.

III. Other activities

1. The contribution of the Benefit-sharing Fund projects to the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of PGRFA¹⁹

26. Sustainable use is one of the three agreed priorities of the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) of the International Treaty. Recognizing the importance of agrobiodiversity to food security and climate change adaptation, the BSF has invested more than USD 20 million in projects addressing the development of appropriate strategies and actions that will ensure that PGRFA is conserved and sustainably managed at national and regional levels, including the following:

- i) During its second project cycle, the BSF funded 12 Strategic Action Plans (SAPs) in Mesoamerica, Asia, the Near East and Africa, which address the role of PGRFA in food security and adaptation strategies. Through advance planning, these articulate practical and effective actions and policy responses for the conservation and sustainable management of PGRFA, including the progressive build-up of skills, knowledge and information bases and technologies.
- ii) As part of the ongoing Third Call for Proposals, which consists of 22 projects executed in 44 developing countries, projects on the co-development and transfer of technologies are being implemented. These initiatives seek to promote international cooperation among research institutions across national boundaries for the co-development and transfer of key technologies. The projects will enable the generation, exchange, and utilization of molecular, phenotypic and genotypic information for the development of new varieties adapted to changing climate. In this regard, at least 30 PGRFA technologies are planned to be co-developed and transferred to more than 80 research institutions of Contracting Parties in the developing world, so as to enable integrated data analysis and interpretation of germplasm, genomic and phenotypic data.

27. The BSF projects address the development of appropriate strategies and actions to ensure that PGRFA is conserved and sustainably managed by implementing, inter alia, the following measures:

- i) National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and promotion of Diverse Farming Systems (Article 6.2a of the Treaty);
- ii) Research that enhances biological diversity for the benefit of farmers (Art 6.2b);
- iii) Evaluation, characterization and plant breeding (Art. 6.2c);
- iv) Broadening the genetic material available to farmers (Art. 6.2.d);
- v) The co-development and transfer of technology through the 3rd project cycle (Art. 5.1e. Window 3 of the Third Project Cycle).

¹⁹ The contribution of the International Treaty's Benefit-sharing Fund projects to the sustainable use of PGRFA, IT/ACSU-3/16/Inf.3: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bq546e.pdf>

2. Cooperation and partnerships for the sustainable use of PGRFA

28. Both the Governing Body and the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use recognize the necessity for and value of cooperation with other initiatives and processes. The document, IT/ACSU-3/Inf.5, prepared for the third meeting of the Committee, assembles the inputs received from a number of international organizations.²⁰

29. In addition, on 6 December 2016, a Memorandum of Understanding was finalized between the Secretary and the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR) “to establish a framework for cooperation on a range of activities related to access to and exchange of information and the sharing of expertise, by which the Secretariat of the International Treaty and the ECPGR Secretariat will collaborate in areas of mutual interest, with the aim of promoting synergy and the coherent implementation of Art.5, 6,16 and 17 and the objectives of the International Treaty.”

30. A workshop on the importance of community seed banks will be held at FAO Headquarters on 22 September 2017, co-organised by the Secretariat and the Rete Semi Rurali (the Italian Seed Network) with the support of Bioversity International. The workshop will seek to reach a common understanding of the different forms of community seed banks in Europe. It will also facilitate exchanges between members of the community seed banks and international institutions and networks such as FAO, Bioversity International and the ECPGR, in order to share experiences with important community seed banks initiatives from other regions, and to develop ideas for future collaborations to strengthen community seed banks and promote their positive impact.

IV. Future Activities to Enhance the Programme of Work on the Sustainable Use of PGRFA

1. Proposed regional training/capacity building workshops

31. To meet the expected results of the Programme of Work, and in harmony with the initial priority subject areas of the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA (see paragraphs 11–14), it is proposed to organize regional training/capacity building workshops to provide guidance and technical support to Contracting Parties in implementing the provisions of Article 6.

32. The workshops would also provide opportunities to raise awareness, as well as to provide guidance to Contracting Parties in implementing the cross-cutting provisions of the Treaty and other relevant policy instruments relating to the sustainable use of PGRFA.

2. Possible Joint Programme on biodiversity in agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA

33. At its Third Meeting,³ the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use invited the Secretariat to explore possibilities for setting up a joint programme on biodiversity in agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA, involving organizations such as the CBD Secretariat, FAO, GFAR, CGRFA, CGIAR and other stakeholders, and for such an initiative to be submitted for consideration by the Governing Body at its Seventh Session.

34. The Secretary has approached some potential partners to provide comments on initial ideas for a possible joint programme, suggesting that the components of the Programme of Work agreed by the Governing Body could provide the framework for its initial activities. In particular, the Secretariat proposed that the joint efforts of all the relevant organizations could:

²⁰ Bioversity International, FAO (Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department), GFAR, Global Crop Diversity Trust, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

- i) ensure the long-term viability of the Toolbox on Sustainable Use of PGRFA and Platform for the Co-Development and Transfer of Technologies;
 - ii) increase options for, and actions in the provision of training and capacity-building on Farmers' Rights and sustainable use of PGRFA; and
 - iii) enhance measures for raising awareness of the actual and potential value of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species of local and regional importance for food security and sustainable development.
35. Specific activities of such a joint programme could include:
- i) the organization of regional capacity-building workshops on topics such as participatory plant breeding, community seed bank development, Farmers' Rights, and promoting the value of farmers' varieties;
 - ii) provision of support to national programmes in policy development for sustainable use of PGRFA, and in building partnerships and mobilizing resources;
 - iii) development and ongoing management of additional Toolbox and Platform modules and functions, such as news feeds, discussion fora and a helpdesk;
 - iv) the organization of awareness-raising events at relevant national, regional and international conferences;
 - v) joint research to establish the effectiveness of measures to implement the cross-cutting provisions of the Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Global Plan of Action and other relevant policy instruments relating to agrobiodiversity and the sustainable use of PGRFA.
36. In the long term, a joint programme on biodiversity in agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA would provide the framework and impetus for greater cross-organizational efforts with a view to:
- i) increasing impact through coordination, combined knowledge and capacities;
 - ii) streamlining actions and resource use; and
 - iii) offering countries more opportunities and prospects of greater success in meeting their obligations under the relevant global, regional and national instruments dealing with biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, as well as with sustainable agricultural development and food and nutrition security.
37. Such a joint initiative would be developed with a view to extending the mission and goals of the Programme of Work beyond 2019, through the establishment of a long-term programme 2020/2030 involving different organizations and interested stakeholders.

V. Guidance Sought

38. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the activities undertaken to implement the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of PGRFA, and consider the proposed future activities taking into account the elements for a possible Resolution provided in the *Appendix* to this document.

Appendix

Draft Resolution **/2017: Implementation of Article 6, Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for food and Agriculture

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling Resolutions 7/2013, 4/2015 and 5/2015, and taking note of the Report of the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

Reaffirming the key role of the sustainable use of PGRFA and the link between Farmers' Rights under Article 9 and the provisions on conservation and sustainable use of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty:

1. **Requests** Contracting Parties and stakeholders to continue reporting on its implementation and acknowledges the contribution of these initiatives to the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
2. **Requests** the Secretary, in collaboration with other stakeholders, and subject to the availability of financial resources, to:
 - continue cooperating with all relevant units within FAO, other entities and institutions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and International Agricultural Research Centres, as well as the private sector and civil society, for the effective implementation of activities in support of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
 - cooperate with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in the finalization of the draft technical guidelines for farmers' varieties/landraces and crop wild relatives, and promoting global networking on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA, global targets and indicators, and in the preparation of the Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
 - explore the possibility of establishing a Joint Programme on biodiversity in agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA involving relevant international organizations and other stakeholders, with a view to enhancing the mission and goals of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use beyond 2019 through the establishment of a long-term programme 2020/2030, for consideration by the Governing Body at its Eighth Session;
 - facilitate and monitor the activities carried out by Contracting Parties, stakeholders and international organizations in support of that Programme of Work on Sustainable Use;
 - continue to invite and collect submissions from Contracting Parties, other governments, relevant institutions, organizations and stakeholders on the promotion of and how to further improve measures for the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
 - convene regional meetings on advanced characterization and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including the assessment of needs of local farmers and other relevant local stakeholders and identification of possible means to address those needs, including through participatory approaches in the context of the Programme of Work;
 - continue to collaborate with other relevant initiatives, in particular the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on the interaction between genetic resources, community and farmer-led system activities and protected area systems;
 - further develop collaboration with centres of the Consultative Group on Agricultural Research and other relevant organizations, on training and capacity-building on the sustainable use of PGRFA, including through efforts for joint resource mobilization.
3. **Decides** to reconvene the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, subject to the availability of financial resources, with the Terms of Reference contained in *Annex* to this Resolution.

Annex

Terms of reference for the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

1. The *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (hereafter the Committee) will provide advice to the Secretary on:
 - implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Supporting Initiatives;
 - cooperation with other international processes and institutions in the field of sustainable use of PGRFA;
 - identification of additional activities and synergies within the Programme of Work and between the Programme of Work and other areas of work of the International Treaty;
 - elaboration of a report on the current gaps in conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA through the support of Contracting Parties and donors.
2. The Committee will comprise up to two members for each region, and up to ten technical experts designated by the Bureau, in consultation with the regions and all relevant stakeholders, in particular farmers' organizations, taking into account the required range of technical expertise, and a regional and gender balance. Two Co-Chairs from Contracting Parties of the International Treaty will form part of the Committee – one from a developing country and one from a developed country. The Co-Chairs will be elected by members of the Committee designated by the regions.
3. The Secretary will continue maintaining and updating the list of experts for further reference. This will be made available to Contracting Parties with a possible view to expanding the pool of experts on sustainable use.
4. The Committee will hold up to two meetings, subject to the availability of financial resources.
5. The Committee will prepare reports at the end of its meetings, which will be made available as soon as possible for written comments by Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders. These are to be submitted to the Secretary, who will compile them as information for the Eight Session of the Governing Body.
6. The Secretary will report to the Governing Body at its Eight Session on the results of the Committee's work.