



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



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

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Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Rome, 11 - 16 November 2019

Annotated Provisional Agenda and Timetable

INTRODUCTION

1. This Session of the Governing Body is convened under the provisions of Article 19 of the Treaty and is open to all Contracting Parties to the International Treaty, and observers.
2. In accordance with Rule 4.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Body, the Session is convened by the Chairperson, in agreement with the Bureau, and in consultation with the Director-General of the FAO and the Secretary. The meeting will be held from 11 to 16 November 2019.
3. In accordance with Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Body, the Secretary has notified those governmental or non-governmental bodies and agencies, which have informed the Secretariat of their wish to be represented at the meeting, so that they may be admitted as observers. A list of such bodies and agencies will be made available to the Governing Body for its consideration.
4. This document annotates the *Provisional Agenda*¹ and provides a proposed timetable for the consideration of the Governing Body.

Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body

5. At the end of its Seventh Session, the Governing Body elected Ms Christine Dawson (North America) as Chairperson of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body. Six Vice-Chairpersons were elected: Mr Charles Murekezi (Africa Region), Ms Svanhild-Isabelle Batta Torheim (Europe Region), Mr Javad Mozafari Hashjin (Near East Region), Ms Anna Willock (South West Pacific Region), Ms Mónica Martínez (Latin America and the Caribbean), and Mr Akio Yamamoto (Asia Region).
6. In accordance with Rule 2.1 of the *Rules of Procedure*,² the Government of Australia designated Ms Alison McMorrow, in place of Ms Willock, as the Vice-Chairperson representing the

¹ Document IT/GB-8/19/1, Provisional Agenda.

² *If a Bureau member resigns from his or her position or finds him or herself permanently unable to exercise his or her functions, the Contracting Party of that Bureau member shall designate another representative so that he or she may replace the said member during the remainder of the term.*



South West Pacific. Similarly, the Government of Rwanda designated Mr Claver Ngaboyisonga in place of Mr Murekezi, as the Vice-Chairperson representing Africa.

Opening of the Session

7. The Opening Session will begin at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 11 November 2019. The Governing Body will hear welcoming addresses by high-level representatives from Contracting Parties, as well as special addresses by the Director-General of FAO and invited expert speakers representing major stakeholders in the International Treaty.

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

8. Under this Section, the Governing Body is invited to consider organizational matters that pertain to the organization of the Eighth Session, including the adoption of the Agenda and the Timetable, election of the *Rapporteur*, the appointment of the Credentials Committee and the establishment of a Budget Committee.

9. Under the guidance of the Bureau, the Secretary has introduced a new numbering system for the documentation to make it easier to identify working and information documents related to the same agenda item. Both the working and information documents are numbered sequentially to correspond with the respective agenda items for ease of reference. In the document symbol, the relevant agenda item is listed after the year of the Session. The number “1” of the first working document for each agenda item is omitted from the symbol.

ITEM 1 Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

10. The provisional agenda was prepared by the Secretary under the guidance of the Bureau of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body, in accordance with Rule 5.1 of the *Rules of Procedure*. The agenda for this meeting has been organized in five parts, as follows:

- I. Organizational Matters
- II. Reports and General Policy Matters
- III. Implementation of the International Treaty
- IV. Programme of Work and Budget and Related Matters
- V. Administrative and Other Matters

11. The Governing Body is invited to consider the Provisional Agenda contained in the document, **IT/GB-8/19/1**, *Provisional Agenda*, and the provisional timetable proposed in this document, in order to adopt its Agenda and organize its work for this Session.

ITEM 2 Election of the Rapporteur of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body

12. In accordance with Rule 2.1 of the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Governing Body at its First Session, “*the Governing Body shall elect [...] a Rapporteur from among the delegates, alternates, experts and advisers of the Contracting Parties*”. The Governing Body is invited to do so, under this Item.

ITEM 3 Appointment of the Credentials Committee

13. Article 19.4 of the International Treaty provides that each Contracting Party shall have one vote and may be represented at sessions of the Governing Body by a single delegate, who may be accompanied by an alternate, and by experts and advisers. Alternates, experts and advisers may take

part in the proceedings of the Governing Body, but may not vote, except in the case of their being duly authorized to substitute for the delegate.

14. According to Rule 4.5 of the Rules of Procedure, “...*each Contracting Party shall communicate to the Secretary of the Treaty the name of its representatives on the Governing Body before the opening of each session of the Governing Body*”.

15. Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure further states that “*the provisions of the General Rules of the FAO shall apply mutatis mutandis to all matters not specifically dealt with under the Treaty or the present Rules*”. According to Rules 3.3 and 3.4 of the General Rules of the FAO, a Credentials Committee shall be established to examine credentials.

16. The Governing Body may wish to establish a Credentials Committee, comprising one representative per region, to examine the credentials at this Session and to report back to the Governing Body in Plenary.

ITEM 4 Establishment of the Budget Committee

17. According to Rule 2 of the *Financial Rules of the Governing Body* (Financial Rules), the financial period is two calendar years, coinciding with the financial period of FAO, and Rule 3.4 provides that the draft budget shall be prepared by the Secretary and circulated to Contracting Parties before regular Sessions of the Governing Body. The draft Work Programme and Budget for the biennium 2020-2021 is contained in document **IT/GB-8/19/17**, *Draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2020-2021 biennium*, and related documentation.

18. The Governing Body may wish to establish a Budget Committee, which may meet following Plenary proceedings, to translate the decisions taken by the Plenary into budgetary terms, review the draft budget accordingly, and recommend a draft Budget for the 2020-2021 Work Programme for the consideration of the Plenary.

19. In accordance with established practice, it is suggested that the Budget Committee consist of a maximum of two representatives per region acting as the spokespersons for their respective regions, and that all Contracting Parties be able to attend as observers. It is also suggested that there be two Co-Chairs, one from a developing country and one from a developed country.

II. REPORTS AND GENERAL POLICY MATTERS

20. Under this Section, the Governing Body is invited to consider reports on introductory and general policy matters. The Governing Body is invited to take note of these reports and provide any further guidance it considers appropriate.

ITEM 5 Report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body

21. At its Seventh Session, the Governing Body requested the Chair and the Bureau of the Eighth Session to undertake a range of tasks. Since the election of its members, the Bureau met twice and held several telephone conferences. The Chair will present her report on actions taken by herself and the Bureau in accordance with the requests of the Governing Body. The report of the Chair is contained in the document, **IT/GB-8/19/5**.

ITEM 6 Report of the Secretary of the Governing Body

22. In accordance with Article 20 of the International Treaty, the Secretary will report to the Governing Body on activities undertaken in accordance with the decisions of the Governing Body during the current biennium. The report of the Secretary is contained in the document, **IT/GB-8/19/6**.

ITEM 7 Celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the International Treaty

23. At its second meeting, the Bureau of the Eighth Session decided on the theme for the Session, celebrating the 15th anniversary of the International Treaty, and requested the Secretary to prepare a document that highlights the achievements of the International Treaty since its entry into force and looks its possible future directions. The Secretary has prepared the document, **IT/GB-8/19/7**, containing a draft resolution, which the Governing Body is invited to consider and adopt.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

24. Under this Section, the Governing Body will be invited to review and adopt resolutions on the major substantive issues arising in the implementation of the core systems, mechanisms and strategies of the Treaty. In accordance with Articles 19.3a and 19.3b, these resolutions will “*adopt plans and programmes for the implementation of this Treaty*” and will “*provide policy direction and guidance to monitor, and adopt such recommendations as necessary, for the implementation of the Treaty, in particular for the operation of the Multilateral System*”. Through the resolutions, the Governing Body also “*establish[es] and maintain[s] 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.*”, (Article 19.3g).

ITEM 8 The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing

8.1 Implementation and operations of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing

25. Under this item, the Governing Body is invited to consider issues related to the ongoing operations and general implementation of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing.

26. The Governing Body is invited to consider the document, **IT/GB-8/19/8.1 Rev.1**, *Report on the Implementation and Operations of the Multilateral System*, which provides an overview of developments in the operation of the Multilateral System during the 2018-2019 biennium. These include, *inter alia*, the availability of material in the Multilateral System, the operations of the Third Party Beneficiary and the reviews and assessments provided for in the International Treaty.

The Third Party Beneficiary

27. Under this agenda item, the Governing Body is invited to consider the biennial report from FAO, acting as Third Party Beneficiary, on the implementation of the related Procedures.³ The document, **IT/GB-8/19/8.1/2**, *Report on the Operations of the Third Party Beneficiary*, includes information on the status of the Third Party Beneficiary Operational Reserve and the technical implementation of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures through the operation of the Easy-SMTA Data Store. The document contains draft elements for a resolution.

Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Development

28. The document, **IT/GB-8/19/8.1 Rev.1**, also contains a summary of the submission made by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) in response to the request by the Governing Body at its Seventh Session, concerning the status of the implementation of the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets that relate to germplasm that the CGIAR Centres manage under the framework of the International Treaty. The full submission by CGIAR is contained in the document, **IT/GB-8/19/8/Inf.2**, *The Status of Implementation of the CGIAR Principles on the*

³ The Governing Body approved the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures at its Third Session, through Resolution 5/2009.

Management of Intellectual Assets: a Submission from the CGIAR to the Eighth Session of the Governing Body, which is before the Governing Body for its information.

29. The Governing Body is also invited to consider the relevant documentation and the draft elements contained in Appendix 3 to **IT/GB-8/19/8.1 Rev.1** for the adoption of a resolution.

8.2 Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing

30. The Governing Body, at its Seventh Session, extended the mandate of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System (Working Group) for the 2018-2019 biennium and requested it, with support from the Secretary, to:

1. develop a proposal for a Growth Plan to attain the enhanced Multilateral System;
2. revise the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, based on the report of the Working Group to the Seventh Session of the Governing Body;
3. elaborate criteria and options for possible adaptation of the coverage of the Multilateral System, taking into account, *inter alia*, proposals presented at the Seventh Session of the Governing Body;
4. make recommendations to the Governing Body on any other relevant issues; and
5. continue to liaise closely with the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization.

31. The Working Group held two meetings during the biennium, being its eighth and ninth meetings, in October 2018 and in June 2019, respectively, both in Rome, Italy. At its ninth meeting in June 2019, due to time constraints and in view of the significant progress made, the Working Group decided to suspend its meeting and to resume in October 2019, to finalize the package of measures for consideration of the Governing Body, focusing on the outstanding issues where consensus still needs to be reached.

32. The document, **IT/GB-8/19/8.2**, contains the *Interim Report of the Working Group to the Eighth Session of the Governing Body*, which was previously published as part of the Interim Report of the ninth meeting of the Working Group. The *Interim Report* comprises the interim package of measures, including a proposal for a revised Standard Material Transfer Agreement and a proposal for amending Annex I of the International Treaty, as well as a draft Resolution for adopting the package of measures.

33. The Working Group agreed that the *Interim Report* will be forwarded to the Governing Body, as a basis for further discussion, with the understanding that the final Report, along with any additional elements, will be presented to the Governing Body prior to the commencement of its Eighth Session. Upon conclusion of its resumed meeting, the Working Group will revise this Interim Report and adopt the final Report of its ninth meeting, containing the final versions of all the elements of the package of measures that it will recommend to the Eighth Session of the Governing Body for adoption. The final report of the Working Group will be published as document **IT/GB-8/19/8.2 Rev.1**.

8.3 Proposal for an Amendment of the International Treaty

34. Under Article 23 of the International Treaty, amendments may be proposed by any Contracting Party, for adoption at a session of the Governing Body. Under this item, the Governing Body is invited to consider the document, **IT/GB-8/19/8.3**, containing a Proposal by the Government of Switzerland for an amendment of the International Treaty transmitted to the Secretary on 21 April 2017. The proposal had been submitted in the context of the ongoing discussions on the enhancement

of the functioning of the Multilateral System. The Governing Body, at its Seventh Session, took note of the proposal by the Government of Switzerland and requested the Working Group to take into account, *inter alia*, proposals presented at the Seventh Session of the Governing Body when elaborating criteria and options for possible adaptation of the coverage of the Multilateral System during the biennium 2018-2019.

35. The Governing Body is invited to consider the proposed amendment of the International Treaty and may wish to consider the proposal either separately or in conjunction with the discussions on the enhancement of the functioning of the Multilateral System.

ITEM 9 The Funding Strategy of the International Treaty

9.1 Update on the Implementation of the Funding Strategy

36. The document, **IT/GB-8/19/9.1**, *Report on Implementation of the Funding Strategy*, invites the Governing Body to take note of the information provided on activities undertaken and developments relevant to the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty during the biennium, and to provide further guidance on its implementation. It reflects the programmatic and strategic approach taken to implement the Funding Strategy. The developments arising from the process of updating the Funding Strategy are highlighted, including those related to the extensive data gathering and analysis undertaken. It also provides information on other initiatives, partnerships and collaborations, and on related discussions in other relevant fora and processes.

37. Furthermore, the document provides a brief update on the progress made in the implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) project cycles during the biennium. A detailed progress report on the operations of the BSF is contained in the document, **IT/GB-8/19/9.1/Inf.1**, *The Benefit-sharing Fund: 2018-2019 Report*.

38. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the information provided in the document, **IT/GB-8/19/9.1**, on activities undertaken and relevant developments related the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty during the biennium, and to provide further guidance on the implementation of the Funding Strategy, taking into account the draft elements for a resolution contained in the Appendix to the document.

9.2 Enhancement of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty

39. At its Seventh Session, the Governing Body decided to reconvene the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Committee), with a revised mandate, in order to, *inter alia*, develop the updated Funding Strategy and related Annexes, for consideration and approval by the Eighth Session of the Governing Body.

40. The Committee held two meetings during this biennium, being its tenth and eleventh meetings, in September 2018 and in May 2019, both in Rome, Italy. The Report of Committee to the Eighth Session of the Governing Body is presented in document **IT/GB-8/19/9.2**. It describes the work undertaken for the updating of the Funding Strategy and its Annexes and contains a draft resolution for the consideration and adoption by the Governing Body.

ITEM 10 The Global Information System

41. At its Seventh Session, the Governing Body decided to reconvene the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of Article 17, to continue updating it on the progress with the Vision and Programme of Work on the Global Information System (GLIS) and to submit a progress report to the Governing Body at this Session.

42. Under this item, the Governing Body is invited to consider document **IT/GB-8/19/10**, which provides an update on the implementation of the Programme of Work on the Global Information

System during the 2018-19 biennium. The document includes references to the promotion and adoption of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs), the development of the GLIS Portal, the consideration by the SAC-GLIS of scientific and technical issues of relevance to digital sequence information / genetic sequence information, as far as it is generated from the use of PGRFA and related to the implementation of GLIS, the facilitation of training activities at regional and national levels, the mobilization of resources and the strengthening of partnerships and collaborations.

43. At the same Session, the Governing Body requested the Secretary to invite the DivSeek Initiative to report on the development and activities of the Initiative for the biennium 2018-19. The report from the DivSeek International Network is contained in document **IT/GB-8/19/10/Inf.2**.

44. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the progress report and other relevant documents, and provide any guidance it may consider appropriate for the further implementation of the Programme of Work on GLIS and related activities. The *Appendix* to document **IT/GB-8/19/10** contains elements for a possible resolution for the consideration by the Governing Body.

ITEM 11 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

45. Through Resolution 6/2017, the Governing Body endorsed the Programme of Work 2016–2019 and reconvened the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use. During the biennium, an electronic consultation among members and experts of the Committee was organized from 8 April to 5 May 2019, serving as its fourth meeting. The documents and report of the meeting are available on the website of the International Treaty, as is the list of participants.

46. Document **IT/GB-8/19/11** contains information on relevant activities related to the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use, as well as a synopsis of the outcomes of the electronic consultation, and the advice received from the Committee to the Secretary on the following issues: i) implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Supporting Initiatives; ii) cooperation with other international processes and institutions in the field of sustainable use of PGRFA; iii) 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.

47. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the activities undertaken to implement the Programme of Work 2016–2019, and to consider and adopt a new Programme of Work 2020–2023, which provides a more comprehensive linkage between ‘conservation’ and ‘sustainable use’, with a revised draft ‘Vision, Mission and Goals’, and a new table of components and outcomes.

48. In recognition that sustainable use should be closely linked to the conservation of PGRFA, the Governing Body is also invited to re-convene and rename the Committee as the *Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA*, taking into account the draft Terms of Reference included in the draft elements for a Resolution provided for its consideration in the *Appendix* to document **IT/GB-8/19/11**.

ITEM 12 Farmers’ Rights

49. The report on activities related to the implementation of Farmers’ Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, undertaken or facilitated by the Secretariat during the current biennium, is contained in document **IT/GB-8/19/12 Rev.1**. The document summarises the relevant aspects of the preparations for and the support provided to the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers’ Rights (Expert Group). It also provides information on other initiatives, partnerships and collaboration, and on related discussions in other relevant fora and processes.

50. The report of the Expert Group to the Eighth Session of the Governing Body is provided in the document, **IT/GB-8/19/12.2**, *Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights to the Eighth Session of the Governing Body*. The draft inventory prepared by the Expert Group is contained in the document, **IT/GB-8/19/12/Inf.1**, *Draft Inventory of National Measures, Best Practices and Lessons Learned from the Realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty*. The complete reports of the first and second meetings of the Expert Group are contained in the documents, **IT/GB-8/19/12/Inf.2**, and **IT/GB-8/19/12/Inf.3**, respectively.

51. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the information contained in these documents, and to provide guidance on the implementation of Farmers' Rights, taking into account the elements for a possible Resolution provided in the *Appendix* to document **IT/GB-8/19/12 Rev.1**.

ITEM 13 Compliance

52. The Compliance Committee held its third meeting from 31 January to 1 February 2019 in Rome, Italy. The meeting was convened in accordance with Section III.5 and Section V of the *Compliance Procedures*.

53. The document, **IT/GB-8/19/13**, *Report of the Compliance Committee*, describes the work undertaken by the Committee during the current biennium in exercising its function, in accordance with Section V of the *Compliance Procedures*, to assist the Governing Body in monitoring implementation by Contracting Parties of their obligations under the International Treaty, on the basis of reports provided by Contracting Parties. Accordingly, the Committee prepared a synthesis and an analysis of their findings, based on the reports received.

54. The Committee reviewed the Standard Reporting Format as contained in Appendix 3 to document **IT/GB-8/19/13**. The report also provides information on the composition of the Compliance Committee in *Appendix 5*, as the term of seven members will expire on 31 December 2019 and there is the need, according to Section III.4 of the *Compliance Procedures*, to elect new members for the period 2020–2023.

55. The Governing Body is invited to consider the Report of the Compliance Committee and the draft Resolution on Compliance prepared by the Committee, as contained in *Appendix 4* of the Report.

ITEM 14 Contribution of FAO to the Implementation of the International Treaty

56. The Bureau of the Eighth Session requested the Secretary to prepare a document describing the contribution of FAO toward the implementation of the International Treaty. The document **IT/GB-8/19/14**, *Contribution of FAO to the Implementation of the International Treaty*, has been prepared through the Office of the Assistant Director-General of the Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department.

57. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the activities described in the document and provide any guidance on it.

ITEM 15 Cooperation with International Instruments and Organizations

15.1 Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

58. The document, **IT/GB-8/19/15.1**, *Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, was prepared jointly by the Secretariats of the International Treaty and of the Commission and provides a brief update on the cooperation between the two Secretariats. The report from the Secretariat of the Commission is provided in the document, **IT/GB-8/19/15.1/Inf.1**, *Report from the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

59. The *Appendix* to document **IT/GB-8/19/15.1** contains elements for a possible Resolution for consideration by the Governing Body.

15.2 Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust

60. Under this agenda item, the Chair of the Global Crop Diversity Trust (the Crop Trust) will present a report from its Executive Board, which is contained in the document, **IT/GB-8/19/15.2/2**, *Report of the Global Crop Diversity Trust*. The Report is submitted to the Governing Body pursuant to Article 3 of the *Relationship Agreement with the Global Crop Diversity Trust*, and provides an update on the institutional and programmatic developments in the Crop Trust that occurred during the current biennium.

61. The document, **IT/GB-8/19/15.2**, *Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust*, provides a summary of collaborative activities and initiatives undertaken by the Secretariat with the Crop Trust in this biennium, in particular with regard to Resolution 10/2017, *Policy Guidance to the Global Crop Diversity Trust*.

62. The Governing Body is invited to review both documents and consider the elements contained in the *Appendix* to document **IT/GB-8/19/15.2**, and adopt a Resolution to provide policy guidance to the Crop Trust for the 2020–2021 biennium.

15.3 Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity, including its Nagoya Protocol

63. Under this agenda item, the Governing Body is invited to consider the document, **IT/GB-8/19/15.3**, *Report on Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity*, which provides a summary of key areas for decision-making by the Governing Body on cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including in relation to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; the Convention's Financial Mechanism - the Global Environment Facility; Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources; and synergies among the Biodiversity-Related Conventions. The document also describes recent developments in the continuing close relationship between the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the CBD.

64. The report of the Executive Secretary of the CBD on cooperation with the International Treaty is provided in the document, **IT/GB-8/19/15.3/Inf.1**, *Report of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on Cooperation with the International Treaty*. Furthermore, the document, **IT/GB-8/19/15.3/Inf.2**, contains the Revised Memorandum of Cooperation and Joint Initiative between the Secretariats of the CBD and the International Treaty.

65. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the reports and provide further guidance on the continuing close cooperation of the International Treaty with the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol, taking into account the elements for a possible Resolution provided in the *Appendix* to document **IT/GB-8/19/15.3**.

15.4 Cooperation with Other International Bodies and Organizations

66. In accordance with the provisions of the International Treaty and the Resolutions of the Governing Body, collaboration and partnerships with other international bodies and organizations is essential to support and advance the implementation of the International Treaty. The document, **IT/GB-8/19/15.4/1**, *Report on Cooperation with Other International Bodies and Organizations*, provides a summary report on cooperation and collaborative activities that have taken place during the current biennium.

67. The Governing Body is also invited to consider the document, **IT/GB-8/19/15.4/2**, *Report from Institutions that have Concluded Agreements with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the International Treaty*. This document contains additional information to the reports received from

institutions that signed Agreements under Article 15 of the Treaty on related activities conducted by the Secretary in accordance with the guidance of the Governing Body at its Seventh Session.

68. Furthermore, document **IT/GB-8/19/15.4/4** contains a report on the management and operation of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, as submitted by the Government of Norway to the Governing Body, including possible elements for a resolution.

69. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the information contained in these reports and to provide any further guidance it considers appropriate for the continued and effective cooperation with relevant international organizations and treaty bodies, taking into account the draft elements for a resolution contained in the relevant documents.

IV. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET AND RELATED MATTERS

70. Under this Section, and in accordance with Article 19.3d of the International Treaty, the Governing Body is invited to adopt the Work Programme and Budget of the International Treaty for the biennium 2020–2021 and to consider related matters, including a Multi-Year Programme of Work.

ITEM 16 Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty

71. The Governing Body is invited to consider document **IT/GB-8/19/16**, which contains the draft Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Governing Body 2018–2027, developed by the Bureau of the Eighth Session, and the elements for a resolution for adoption.

16.1 Consideration of Digital Sequence Information in accordance with Resolution 13/2017

72. By Resolution 13/2017, the Governing Body invited Contracting Parties, other governments, relevant stakeholders and individuals with relevant expertise to provide information regarding “digital sequence information” (DSI) on PGRFA. According to Resolution 13/2017, the purpose of the submissions is to facilitate the consideration by the Governing Body, at this Eighth Session, of the potential implications of the use of DSI on PGRFA for the objectives of the International Treaty, including exchange, access and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use. Document **IT/GB-8/19/16.1/Inf.1** contains the submissions of information and views that the Secretary received by 17 May 2019, in the form and language received. Any further submission(s) that the Secretary may receive, will be added to the information document prior to the commencement of the Session.

16.2 Consideration of Subsidiary Bodies and Intersessional Processes

73. The document, **IT/GB-8/19/16.2/Inf.1**, *Reference Note on Subsidiary Bodies and Intersessional Processes*, provides information on the subsidiary bodies and intersessional processes established or instituted by the Governing Body since its First Session in 2006. The document reviews the general provisions and practices on subsidiary bodies of the Governing Body and the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Body, as well as other relevant provisions establishing permanent or standing subsidiary bodies. The document contains a list of subsidiary bodies for the intersessional processes leading to this Eighth Session of the Governing Body, as well as the historical inventory of subsidiary bodies. Following the analysis of the information contained in the document, potential elements for the possible review of subsidiary bodies by the Governing Body are suggested in section VI of the document.

ITEM 17 Adoption of the Work Programme and Budget

74. Article 19.3 of the International Treaty provides for the Governing Body to develop plans and programmes for the implementation of the International Treaty and to adopt a budget for the

International Treaty. By Resolution 14/2017, the Governing Body requested the Secretary to prepare and submit the draft Work Programme and Budget for the biennium 2020–2021 at this Session.

75. The main working document is **IT/GB-8/19/17**, *Draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2020-21 biennium*. The document contains a Secretariat staffing table and elements for a Resolution for consideration by the Governing Body. In addition, there is an *addendum* to the document, IT/GB-8/19/17 Add.1, which provides a list and summary of possible supporting projects to be carried out during the next biennium with additional financial contributions outside the Core Administrative Budget.

76. Another relevant document submitted under this agenda item is document **IT/GB-8/19/17.2**, *Implementation Report of the Work Programme and Budget for the 2018–2019 Biennium*. It provides a summary report on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for the 2018–2019 Biennium (WPB 2018–2019). A financial report related to implementation of the WPB 2018–2019 is presented in the *Addendum* of this document, as requested in Resolution 14/2017, and contained in document **IT/GB-8/19/17.2 Add.1**, *Financial Report of the Work Programme and Budget for the 2018-2019 Biennium*. Together, these documents serve as a useful reference for the Governing Body in considering and deciding the Work Programme and Budget for the next biennium, 2020–2021.

77. The Core Work Programme, as presented in document **IT/GB-8/19/17** may be subject to variation, depending on the decisions taken by the Governing Body, particularly in relation to the “Core Implementation Functions”. Accordingly, the Budget Committee is invited to ensure that any eventual variations and the ensuing financial implications are correctly reflected in the Core Administrative Budget. In accordance with established practice, the Budget Committee evaluates the financial soundness of the variations in the revised Work Programme while maintaining the integrity of the decisions adopted by the Governing Body in Plenary.

78. Based on recommendations of the Budget Committee on the Core Administrative Budget, the Governing Body is invited to adopt the Core Work Programme and Core Administrative Budget for the 2020–2021 biennium.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER MATTERS

79. Under this Section, the Governing Body is invited to consider administrative and any other matters, and approve the Report of its Eighth Session, embodying “*its decisions, views, recommendations and conclusions*”.⁴ Matters under this Section relate to the appointment of the Chairperson, the Vice-chairpersons and the Secretary of the Governing Body, and the determination of the date and place of its Ninth Session. Under its final agenda item, the Governing Body is invited to approve its Report, which shall include all Resolutions adopted at its Eighth Session.

ITEM 18 Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

80. Under this agenda item, two separate issues are before the Governing Body for its consideration. The first relates to the approval, by the Governing Body, of the current appointment of the Secretary made by the Director-General of FAO. The second issue relates to the consideration and adoption of the long-term procedures for the selection, appointment, and renewal of the Secretary.

18.1 Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body

81. At its Seventh Session, the Governing Body approved the proposed appointment of Mr Kent Nnadozie as Secretary of the International Treaty for a period of two years. The Governing Body is

⁴ Rule 8.1, Rules of Procedure of the Governing Body

invited to consider the proposal contained in document IT/GB-8/19/18.1, *Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body*.

18.2 Procedures for Appointment and Renewal of the Secretary of the Governing Body

82. At its Seventh Session,

The Governing Body noted that the Secretary is appointed by the Director-General with the approval of the Governing Body, and that the Director-General and the Governing Body both have a role to play in the appointment and selection of the Secretary of the International Treaty. The Governing Body failed to reach a consensus on the proposed procedures due to concerns raised regarding the shared responsibility of the FAO Secretariat and the Governing Body on the Procedures for the Appointment and Renewal of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty. Therefore, it decided to revisit this issue at its Eighth Session and requested the FAO Secretariat to reconsider, in close consultation with the Bureau, the proposal for the selection and appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty to more appropriately reflect the concerns raised at this Seventh Session.

83. In this context, the FAO Secretariat wishes to inform Contracting Parties that the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (“CCLM”) at its 107th session (2018) examined the issue of the procedure for the selection and appointment of Secretaries of bodies established under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution and other entities hosted in FAO. The CCLM requested the Independent Chair of the Council (the “ICC”) to continue his efforts to find a lasting and equitable solution acceptable both to the concerned Article XIV bodies and to FAO Management, and which would be compatible with the Basic Texts of FAO, as well as the provisions of the constituent instruments of the concerned Article XIV bodies, namely, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (“IOTC”), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (“GFCM”) and the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

84. The Council at its 160th session requested the ICC to continue his consultations with the concerned Article XIV Bodies and the FAO Secretariat towards agreement on a proposal on procedures for the appointment of Secretaries to these Bodies by December 2019. The Council also agreed that the interim arrangements for the appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies, agreed on at its 155th Session and set out in document CCLM 107/3, be followed, until a lasting solution acceptable to the concerned Article XIV bodies and the FAO Secretariat is found.

85. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the information provided and adopt a resolution, as it considers appropriate.

ITEM 19 Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Ninth Session

86. In accordance with Rule 2.1 of its Rules of Procedure of the Governing Body,

the Governing Body shall elect a Chairperson and one Vice-Chairperson per FAO region other than the region of the Chairperson (hereinafter collectively referred to as “the Bureau”) and in addition a Rapporteur from among the delegates, alternates, experts and advisers (hereinafter referred to as “representatives”) of the Contracting Parties.

87. The Governing Body is invited to elect the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body. In accordance with Rule 2.2 of the Rules of Procedure, the term of office of the Bureau of the Ninth Session will commence with immediate effect upon the closure of this Eighth Session.

Any Other Matters

88. Before the adoption of its Report, the Governing Body may wish to consider any other matters of relevance for this Session.

ITEM 20 Date and Place of the Ninth Session

89. The Governing Body is requested to indicate the place and date of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body.

ITEM 21 Adoption of the Report

90. According to Rule 8.1 of the Rules of Procedure,

[a]t each session, the Governing Body shall approve a report embodying its decisions, views, recommendations and conclusions.

91. This final agenda item, therefore, provides for the approval of the Report of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body.

Appendix

Provisional Timetable

PLENARY			
Time	Agenda Item	Title	Documents
Monday, 11 November 2019			
Morning			
10:00-13:00	Opening Ceremony of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body		
	I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS		
	1	Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable	IT/GB-8/19/1 IT/GB-8/19/1.2 IT/GB-8/19/1.3 IT/GB-8/19/1/Inf.1 IT/GB-8/19/1/Inf.2 IT/GB-8/19/1/Inf.3
	2	Election of the <i>Rapporteur</i>	None
	3	Appointment of the Credentials Committee	None
	4	Establishment of a Budget Committee	None
	II. REPORTS AND GENERAL POLICY MATTERS		
	5	Report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body	IT/GB-8/19/5
	6	Report of the Secretary of the Governing Body	IT/GB-8/19/6 IT/GB-8/19/6.2 IT/GB-8/19/6/Inf.1
	7	Celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the International Treaty	IT/GB-8/19/7

Monday, 11 November 2019			
Afternoon			
15:00-18:00	III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY		
	8	The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing	
	8.1	Implementation and operation of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing	IT/GB-8/19/8.1 Rev.1 IT/GB-8/19/8.1/2 IT/GB-8/19/8/Inf.2 IT/GB-8/19/15.4/2
	8.2	Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing	IT/GB-8/19/8.2
	8.3	Proposal for an Amendment of the International Treaty	IT/GB-8/19/8.3
	9	The Funding Strategy of the International Treaty	
	9.1	Update on the implementation of the Funding Strategy	IT/GB-8/19/9.1 IT/GB-8/19/9.1/Inf.1
	9.2	Enhancement of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty	IT/GB-8/19/9.2 IT/GB-8/19/9.2/Inf.1
	Tuesday, 12 November 2019		
Morning			
10:00-13:00	10	The Global Information System	IT/GB-8/19/10 IT/GB-8/19/10/Inf.1 IT/GB-8/19/10/Inf.2 IT/GB-8/19/10/Inf.3 IT/GB-8/19/15.4/2
	12	Farmers' Rights	IT/GB-8/19/12 Rev.1 IT/GB-8/19/12.2 IT/GB-8/19/12/Inf.1

Tuesday, 12 November 2019			
Afternoon			
15:00-18:00	11	Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA	IT/GB-8/19/11
	13	Compliance	IT/GB-8/19/13
Tuesday, 12 November 2019			
Evening			
19:30-22.30	IV. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET AND RELATED MATTERS		
	16	Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty	IT/GB-8/19/16
	16.1	Consideration of “Digital Sequence Information” in accordance with Resolution 13/2017	IT/GB-8/19/16 IT/GB-8/19/16.1/Inf.1
	16.2	Consideration of subsidiary bodies and intersessional processes	IT/GB-8/19/16.2/Inf.1
Wednesday, 13 November 2019			
Morning			
10:00-13.00	14	Contribution of FAO to the Implementation of the International Treaty	IT/GB-8/19/14
	15	Cooperation with International Instruments and Organizations	
	15.1	Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	IT/GB-8/19/15.1 IT/GB-8/19/15.1/Inf.1
	15.2	Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust	IT/GB-8/19/15.2 IT/GB-8/19/15.2/2

	15.3	Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Nagoya Protocol	IT/GB-8/19/15.3 IT/GB-8/19/15.3/Inf.1 IT/GB-8/19/15.3/Inf.2
	15.4	Cooperation with other International Bodies and Organizations	IT/GB-8/19/15.4/1 IT/GB-8/19/15.4/2 IT/GB-8/19/15.4/4
Wednesday, 13 November 2019			
Afternoon			
15:00-18:00	III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY (cont'd)		
	8.2	Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing <i>Continued</i>	IT/GB-8/19/8.2
Thursday, 14 November 2019			
Morning			
10:00-13:00	III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY (cont'd)		
	8.2	Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing <i>Continued</i>	IT/GB-8/19/8.2
	9.2	Enhancement of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty <i>Continued</i>	IT/GB-8/19/9.2 IT/GB-8/19/9.2/Inf.1
	12	Farmers' Rights <i>Continued</i>	IT/GB-8/19/12 Rev. 1 IT/GB-8/19/12.2 IT/GB-8/19/12/Inf.1

Thursday, 14 November 2019			
Afternoon			
15:00-18:00	V. ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER MATTERS		
	18	Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	
	18.1	Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body	IT/GB-8/19/18.1
	18.2	Procedures for the Appointment and Renewal of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty	
	Consideration of draft Resolutions for adoption		
Friday, 15 November 2019			
Morning			
10:00-13:00	Consideration of draft Resolutions for adoption		
Friday, 15 November 2019			
Afternoon			
15:00-18:00	III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY (Cont')		
		Any other matters	
	19	Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Ninth Session	
	20	Date and place of the Ninth Session	
	17	Adoption of the Work Programme and Budget	IT/GB-8/19/17 IT/GB-8/19/17 Add.1 IT/GB-8/19/17.2 IT/GB-8/19/17.2 Add.1 IT/GB-8/19/17 Inf.1

Saturday, 16 November 2019			
Morning			
10:00-13:00	Preparation of the draft Report		
Saturday, 16 November 2019			
Afternoon			
15:00-18:00	21	Adoption of the Report	
		Closing of the Session	