



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



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

Item 15.3 of the Provisional Agenda

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Rome, 11 – 16 November 2019

Report on Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity

Executive Summary

This document responds to the provisions of the International Treaty, as well as to the request from the Governing Body to the Secretary, to report on cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at each Session. Specifically, the document reports on actions taken during the biennium in following up on decisions made by the Governing Body through Resolution 9/2017. The document highlights the outcomes of the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 14) to the CBD and the 3rd meeting of COP serving as the Meeting of Parties (COP-MOP 3) to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (Nagoya Protocol) that are relevant to the International Treaty.

The document also provides a summary of key areas for decision-making by the Governing Body on cooperation with the CBD, as well as of recent developments in the continuing close relationship between its Secretariat and Secretariat of the CBD. A revised Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariats was recently signed as provided in document IT/GB-8/19/15.3/Inf.2, *Revised Memorandum of Cooperation and Joint Initiative between the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty*.

The report of the Executive Secretary of the CBD on cooperation with the International Treaty is provided in 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*.

Guidance Sought

The Governing Body is invited to take note of the report and provide further guidance on the continuing close cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol, taking into account the elements for a possible Resolution provided in Appendix to this Document.

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Other documents can be consulted at <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/1111365/>



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Appendix: *Draft Resolution*

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Article 1.2 of the International Treaty stipulates that its objectives “will be attained by closely linking this Treaty to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and to the Convention on Biological Diversity”. In addition, Article 20.5 requires the Secretary, *inter alia*, to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in achieving the objectives of the International Treaty. Article 19.3 (l) further provides that the Governing Body shall take note of the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD. As a result, the Governing Body decided to retain the relationship with the CBD as a standing item on its Agenda at every Session.¹

2. Cooperation with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, its subsidiary bodies and the Secretariat has continued to develop and expand in recent biennia, particularly following the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (Nagoya Protocol), for which the COP serves as the Meeting of Parties. In Section II, this document describes cooperation between the Governing Body and the Conference of the Parties to the CBD. In Section III, it reports on cooperation between the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the CBD during the current biennium.

II. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TREATY’S GOVERNING BODY AND THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CBD

3. The 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 14) to the CBD and the 3rd meeting of COP serving as the Meeting of Parties (COP-MOP 3) to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (Nagoya Protocol) were held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, between 17 and 29 November 2018. Both meetings adopted a number of decisions of immediate relevance to the International Treaty, many of which relate to matters already addressed by the Governing Body through Resolution 9/2017.

A. THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

4. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which was adopted by COP 10, has provided during the last decade an overarching framework on biodiversity, not only for the biodiversity-related conventions, including the International Treaty, but for the entire United Nations system and all other partners engaged in biodiversity management and policy development. In 2020, the COP 15 that will be held in Beijing (China) will adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that will follow up to the Strategic Plan.

5. The Conference of the Parties, at its fourteenth meeting, adopted the preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (decision 14/34) and established an open-ended intersessional working group to support the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to support the process. In this decision, the Conference of the Parties:

- Urged other international agreements such as the International Treaty to actively engage and contribute to the process of developing a robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework in order to foster strong ownership and support. It also urged them to facilitate dialogues on the post-2020 biodiversity framework and to make the results of such dialogues available.
- Invited the General Assembly of the United Nations to convene a high-level biodiversity summit at the level of Heads of State/Heads of Government in 2020 in order to raise the political visibility of biodiversity and its contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

¹ Resolution 8/2011, paragraph 11

Development. It noted that several of the biodiversity-related targets under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development have endpoints of 2020.²

- Requested the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Intersessional Working Group to encourage the biodiversity-related conventions such as the International Treaty to actively participate in the development process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- Decided that key sources of information will include information from other biodiversity-related conventions and relevant strategies adopted by them. The documentation to be prepared should provide a basis for discussing, *inter alia*, means of enhancing coherence and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions, including options for enhancing synergies on national reporting. The documentation should also contain analytical work on ways in which biodiversity-related conventions could contribute to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.

6. At its Seventh Session, the Governing Body through Resolution 9/2017:

10. *Not[ed]* that the follow up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 provides an opportunity to further enhance coherence and cooperation between the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as appropriate, and *emphasiz[ed]* the importance of maintaining and strengthening targets for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including by relying on the monitoring information available through the reporting processes of the International Treaty and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and by taking into account the experience gained in monitoring target 2.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and furthermore *stress[ed]* that targets on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable use of the benefits arising out of their use should take into account the International Treaty and its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing.

7. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body may wish to make a number of recommendations to be taken into account in the process of preparation and adoption of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, including that:

- The post-2020 global biodiversity framework provides an opportunity to further enhance coherence and cooperation between the International Treaty and the Convention.
- The post-2020 global biodiversity framework should recognize the direct and indirect contribution of biodiversity to food security and nutrition, sustainable livelihoods and poverty eradication and include targets that link agricultural biodiversity to food security and sustainable agriculture.
- Targets for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture should be maintained and strengthened, including by relying on monitoring systems available through the reporting processes of the International Treaty and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the experience gained in monitoring Target 2.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Such targets should deal not only with conservation of genetic diversity, but also with its sustainable use.
- Targets on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable use of the benefits arising out of their use should expressly take into account the International Treaty and its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing and should rely, *inter alia*, on the monitoring systems available through the reporting systems of the International Treaty.
- The implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should rely on contributions from and leadership of many United Nations institutions and therefore should be

² This includes Target 2.5: *By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.*

designed having this in mind. The Governing Body of the International Treaty intends, at its next Session, to consider and, as appropriate, welcome or endorse the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and also consider follow-up actions to support the implementation of the framework and integrate those into its Multi-Year Programme of Work.

8. Finally, the Governing Body may wish to request the Secretary to transmit the initial considerations made by the Governing Body to Executive Secretary of the CBD so that these recommendations are available to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, including relevant subsidiary bodies of the CBD, and to request the Bureau, with the support of the Secretary, to liaise with the Co-Chairs of the open-ended intersessional working group to support the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to ensure strong ownership and contributions from the International Treaty in the development and implementation of the new framework.

B. THE CONVENTION'S FINANCIAL MECHANISM – THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

9. The Global Environment Facility (GEF), which serves as the financial mechanism of the Convention, promotes the delivery of integrated solutions to tackle environmental and development challenges. GEF's project portfolio for biodiversity, including agricultural biodiversity, is currently the largest within the institution. There are a number of GEF programmes of direct relevance to implementation of the International Treaty. The updated Funding Strategy of the International Treaty, which will be considered at this Session of the Governing Body recognizes GEF as a funding tool that contributes to the implementation of the International Treaty.

10. The seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (GEF-7) was concluded in spring 2018 and is now fully operational. GEF-7 marks an important milestone for the International Treaty, as it was the first time that elements of advice received from the International Treaty through the CBD COP were considered in developing the four-year framework of programme priorities (2018-2022) for GEF's seventh replenishment. COP Decision XII/30 had invited the Governing Body of the International Treaty to develop elements of advice for the GEF concerning the funding of the objectives and priorities of the Treaty, consistent with the mandates of the GEF, and to transmit the elements of advice, as developed, to the thirteenth meeting of Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-13).

11. COP-13 adopted Decision XIII/21 on the financial mechanism, in which it noted with appreciation the elements of advice received from the International Treaty for consideration in developing the four-year framework of programme priorities (2018-2022) for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund. Attention is drawn, in particular, to the following elements of Decision XIII/21:

The Conference of the Parties:

8. *Notes* that the elements and input that fall within the mandate of the Global Environment Facility are reflected at a strategic level, in the four-year framework of programme priorities annexed to the present decision and that this will further enhance programmatic synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions;

9. *Invites* the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions, further to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of decision XII/30, to repeat the exercise described therein for the development of strategic guidance for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting;

10. *Emphasizes* that the elements of advice need to be (a) in accordance with the mandate of the Global Environment Facility, and the Memorandum of Understanding between the

Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility as per decision III/8, (b) formulated at a strategic level, and (c) formally adopted by the governing bodies of the respective biodiversity-related conventions.

12. At its Seventh Session, the Governing Body, through Resolution 9/2017:

3. *Thank[ed]* the Bureau of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body for having prepared the Elements of Advice for the Global Environment Facility in relation to the International Treaty, and *welcome[ed]* the decision by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to reflect such elements, at strategic level, in the four-year framework of programme priorities for the Global Environment Facility adopted at its thirteenth meeting and related to the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, and [took note] of the considerations made by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, through Decision XIII/21, to develop strategic guidance for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund;

4. *Request[ed]* the Secretary, together with the Ad Hoc Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilisation and the Bureau, to develop strategic guidance for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, according to the invitation contained in Decision XIII/21 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

13. During the biennium, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilisation did provide strategic advice relevant to the implementation of GEF-7 but gave no input on GEF's eighth replenishment as it will only be concluded in 2022. Nevertheless, as COP-15 will already adopt, in 2020, the four-year framework of programme priorities for GEF-8 and COP has invited the Governing Body to provide elements of advice for GEF-8, so the Governing Body, at its Eighth Session, may wish to provide elements of advice, at strategic level, along the following lines:

- Note that the in the process of updating the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty, GEF has been identified as one of the key international mechanisms, funds and bodies that support the implementation of the International Treaty and invite GEF to continue giving priority through GEF-8 to support programs, projects and initiatives that conserve and use plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in particular in relation to *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives and on-farm management and farmers' sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity;
- Emphasize the continuous importance of GEF's financial support to mainstream biodiversity within the agricultural sector, and invite it to enhance its support to the integration of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in national development plans, national budgets and priorities;
- Note that GEF is increasingly supporting broad sustainable development projects and programs which address, in an integrated manner, food security, sustainable agriculture and climate change adaptation, such as the GEF-7 Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program, and acknowledge the important role of the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to achieve sustainable food value chains and agricultural land use, and invite GEF to more clearly articulate such role in the GEF-8 programming framework;
- Invite GEF to continue considering projects for the mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
- Thank GEF for having noted in the GEF-7 Biodiversity Strategy that results from certain GEF-7 investments may generate important co-benefits for the International Treaty and invites GEF to continue to do so in the GEF-8 Biodiversity Strategy;

- Note that the formulation and implementation of GEF-8 will coincide in time with the implementation of the updated Funding Strategy, and recommends FAO to increase the priority and attention given to the Treaty through GEF-8, including to support the achievement of the financial target for the Funding Strategy established by the Governing Body.

14. The Governing Body may also wish to request the Secretary to transmit these initial elements of advice to the Executive Secretary of the CBD, as was done for the development by the CBD COP of the four-year framework of programme priorities for GEF's seventh replenishment, together with relevant decisions related to the updated Funding Strategy. Finally, it may also request the Secretary, together with the Ad Hoc Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilisation and the Bureau, to develop further inputs relevant to the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund that will reflect developments during the biennium, including in relation to the implementation of the Funding Strategy and the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

C. DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION ON GENETIC RESOURCES

15. At its Seventh Session, the Governing Body requested the Secretary to continue collaborating and, as appropriate, coordinate with, inter alia, the Secretariat of the CBD on issues related to digital sequence information in order to promote coherence and mutual supportiveness in their respective activities, and to report to the Governing Body.³ The Governing Body also requested the Secretary to continue following the discussions on genetic sequence information in other fora and to coordinate, inter alia, with the Secretariat of the CBD in any related activities in order to ensure coherence and avoid duplication of efforts.^{4,5}

16. In the biennium 2018 – 19, the Secretary facilitated the implementation of the guidance on digital sequence information that the Governing Body issued in a number of resolutions, regarding the enhancement of the Multilateral System, the Global Information System and the Multi-Year Programme of Work. The respective working and information documents refer to the consideration of digital sequence information in the related inter-sessional processes. In the context of those inter-sessional processes, the Secretary provided updates, as appropriate, on decisions on digital sequence information made by the fourteenth meeting of the CBD COP (decision XIV/20) and the third meeting of the CBD COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (NP-3/12).⁶

17. In decision XIV/20, the CBD COP established a science and policy-based process on digital sequence information on genetic resources. The on-going process entails the submission of views and

³ Resolution 9/2017, para. 12.

⁴ Resolution 13/2017, para. 6.

⁵ In making such requests, the Governing Body recognized that the term “digital sequence information” was taken from decision CBD COP XIII/16 and subject to further discussion. The Governing Body also recognized that there was a multiplicity of terms in this area, including “genetic sequence data”, “genetic sequence information”, “genetic information”, “dematerialized genetic resources”, “in silico utilization”, etc., and that further consideration was needed regarding the appropriate term or terms to be used.

⁶ The decisions are available at the following links: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-20-en.pdf>; <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/np-mop-03/np-mop-03-dec-12-en.pdf>.

information,⁷ the commissioning and peer review of studies⁸ as well as work by an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG).

18. The AHTEG has been mandated to consider the compilation and synthesis of views and information and the peer-reviewed studies; develop options for operational terms and their implications to provide conceptual clarity on digital sequence information on genetic resources, and identify key areas for capacity building.

19. The Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework would consider the outcomes of the deliberations of the AHTEG.⁹

20. Taking into account relevant developments within the CBD, the Governing Body may, at this session, consider requesting the Secretary to continue:

- Following processes within the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol concerning digital sequence information on genetic resources and providing information on relevant International Treaty activities and related developments;
- Collaborating and, as appropriate, coordinating with the Secretariat of the CBD on issues related to digital sequence information on genetic resources in order to promote coherence and mutual supportiveness between the respective conventions and implementing processes; and
- Reporting to the Governing Body.

D. SYNERGIES AMONG THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

21. The Governing Body, through Resolution 9/2017:

Welcome[d] the Options for Enhancing Synergies Among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at the National Level, and the Road Map for Enhancing Synergies Among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at the International Level 2017-2020, contained in Annexes I and II of Decision XIII/24 of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Invite[d] Contracting Parties to consider supporting implementation of these options, in order to further strengthen cooperation and coordination with other relevant international instruments and to enhance synergies with them; and

Request[ed] the Secretary to undertake relevant actions foreseen in these options, as appropriate and subject to the availability of financial resources, particularly in the context of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, joint work programmes with other relevant international instruments, information and knowledge management, reporting and monitoring, public communication and capacity-development activities;

⁷ Views and information are being sought on: the concept, including relevant terminology and scope, of digital sequence information on genetic resources and if and how domestic measures on access and benefit-sharing consider digital sequence information on genetic resources; benefit-sharing arrangements from commercial and non-commercial use of digital sequence information on genetic resources; capacity building needs regarding the access, use, generation and analysis of digital sequence information on genetic resources.

⁸ The studies will deal with the following issues: a) the concept and scope of digital sequence information on genetic resources and how digital sequence information on genetic resources is currently used; b) on ongoing developments in the field of traceability of digital information; c) public and, to the extent possible, private databases of digital sequence information on genetic resources; d) domestic measures addressing benefit-sharing arising from commercial and non-commercial use of digital sequence information on genetic resources and addressing the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources for research and development.

⁹ Decision NP-3/12.

22. The Secretariat participated in the second meeting of Communication Officers of biodiversity-related conventions, United Nations Environment and other partners, that took place in Dubai in October 2018, on the margins of the Thirteenth Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention. Major issues discussed included developing and disseminating a common Biodiversity message as well as an update on a media monitoring tool that could be shared amongst the group.

23. The Secretariat also participated in the Steering Committee of the project “Realizing Synergies for Biodiversity”, hosted by UN Environment. Under the project, awareness raising activities were planned, including some that took place on the occasion of the Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 11 to 15 March 2019. In addition to awareness raising activities, another focus of the project is the provision of inputs for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework process, including the development of the Data Reporting Tool (DART) to facilitate knowledge management for national reporting to biodiversity-related Conventions.

24. During this period, the Secretariat has continued to participate in the technical meetings of the InforMEA Initiative and in the 10th Steering Committee Meeting of the MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative (IKM). In particular, the Secretariat has collaborated with the UN Environment to make available, through the InforMEA Portal, information on the membership and Resolutions adopted by the Governing Body of the International Treaty.

25. In decision XIV/34, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The process foresees a roadmap of meetings and consultations to generate inputs for the consideration of a Working Group. In addition to the regional workshops, the process also includes the organization of several thematic workshops. The Secretariat of the CBD organised a Workshop among biodiversity-related conventions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in Bern, Switzerland, from 10 to 12 June 2019. The Secretariat and five representatives from the Bureau of the International Treaty participated in the workshop.

26. The meeting participants indicated that the global biodiversity framework should reflect the objectives and the work of all the biodiversity-related treaties and conventions. It should not only refer to conservation and to sustainable use of genetic resources, but also include a component on the equitable sharing of the benefits from their use. It was also considered important to reflect nutrition and food security and the linkages between production and food consumption.

27. At the meeting, the participants underlined that there should be linkages between the agreed framework and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, for plant genetic resources, to SDG Targets 2.5 and 15.6, relating to conservation, and access and benefit-sharing of plant genetic resources. Genetic diversity also contributes indirectly to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 12, 13, 14 and 17.

28. The global biodiversity framework should avoid duplication in reporting processes, mechanisms and tools, as there are already some indicators and data for genetic diversity being produced by FAO, the International Treaty, the CBD, and other bodies.

29. At the annual meetings of the heads of the biodiversity-related Conventions, which are hosted on a rotational basis, the issue of public awareness was a common priority for all the secretariats who have discussed on various joint activities and communication efforts. In general, there is agreement on the need to simplify some of the messages related to biodiversity to target a wider audience.

III. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO SECRETARIATS

30. The Governing Body, in Resolution 7/2015, requested the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue exploring with the Secretariat of the CBD, practical means and activities to further enhance their cooperation along the lines established in the Memorandum of Cooperation, the Joint Initiative and Roadmap between the two Secretariats.

Updated Memorandum of Cooperation

31. The Secretary of the International Treaty and the Secretary of the CBD signed a new Memorandum of Cooperation on 9 July 2018, on the margins of the second meeting of the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Implementation, which replaces the previous Memorandum entered into force on 27 October 2010.¹⁰

32. The Memorandum is intended to enhance institutional cooperation between the two Secretariats, especially in capacity development activities dealing with access and benefit-sharing as related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including the organization of workshops, meetings, seminars; and, in the coordination of technical assistance at the international, regional, sub-regional and national levels, and other events and the exchange of information on capacity development and other relevant activities.

33. The Memorandum contains an Annex with a list of identified areas for joint collaboration, including the support to the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in harmony with the Treaty and its Multilateral System, the development of synergies between the Global Information System of the International Treaty and the ABS Clearing-House of the Nagoya Protocol, a Joint initiative on in-situ and on-farm conservation, sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) and protected areas, and the promotion of the importance of biodiversity and PGRFA.

Joint capacity-development activities

34. The Governing Body has repeatedly acknowledged the need for harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty, the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol, and for continued capacity-building and capacity-development support to Contracting Parties, especially for developing country Contracting Parties in this regard.

35. During the current biennium, the Secretariat continued its close collaboration with the CBD Secretariat on capacity development for harmonious implementation of the International Treaty and the CBD, particularly its Nagoya Protocol, as well as on awareness-raising and information sharing, partly in conjunction with other partners, such as Bioversity International and the ABS Capacity Development Initiative.

36. In the context of the project, *Mutually Supportive Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and Plant Treaty*, funded by the Darwin Initiative, the two Secretariats and Bioversity International continued to provide technical inputs, especially related to the process of draft legislation being prepared in Benin and Madagascar and to practical questions on the harmonious implementation of the International Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol. The project was successfully concluded during this biennium, with concrete outputs both at the national and community levels.

37. Following the successful tandem workshops for the Africa Region held in 2014, organized together with the Secretariat of the CBD, Bioversity International and the ABS Capacity Development

¹⁰ IT/GB-8/19/15.3/Inf.2

Initiative, and in March 2017 for Asian National Focal Points of the International Treaty and of the Nagoya Protocol, in Los Baños, the Philippines, the two Secretariats co-organized, with other partners, the tandem workshop on mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol for National Focal Points of the two instruments in the GRULAC Region in September 2018, in Lima, Peru..

38. The two Secretariats actively participated in capacity building workshops on genetic resources policies and access and benefit-sharing, such as a workshop organised by Bioversity International in Ethiopia, at ILRI's headquarters, in June 2019, a workshop for the Near East Region in Beirut, Lebanon, from 17 to 20 September 2018 (remotely), and a workshop for francophone African Contracting Parties and CGIAR scientists, held from 27 to 30 November 2017, hosted by the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA).

39. Moreover, both Secretariats contributed to the finalization of a "Decision-making Tool for National Implementation of the Plant Treaty's Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing", which was developed in the context of the Joint Capacity Building Programme for Developing Countries on the Implementation of the International Treaty and its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing.¹¹

40. Finally, the two Secretariats participated in the "Third ABS Dialogue on Key Challenges and Practical Ways Forward for the full Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and its contribution to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda", which was held in May 2018 in Mexico City and included sessions on multilateral approaches to access and benefit-sharing as well as on digital sequence information.

41. Both Secretariats are also active partners of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and regularly participate in coordination meetings, such as the Meeting of the African Steering Committee, which was held on 28-29 March, 2019 in Bonn, Germany.

Information systems and knowledge management

42. At the third meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System of Article 17 of the International Treaty (SAC-GLIS-3) the Committee was briefed on the work under the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House (ABS-CH).

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

43. The Secretariats of the CBD and the International Treaty have continued their collaboration in the monitoring process on the achievement of SDG Target 15.6 "Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed". For the annual progress reporting organized by the United Nations Statistical Division, necessary inputs on the indicator 15.6.1, both data and text, were prepared jointly by the two Secretariats.

Other activities

44. In order to present the results and purposes of joint activities to Contracting Parties and stakeholders, the Secretariats of the International Treaty and of the CBD held a number of joint side events. One such initiative was organized on the occasion of the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation under the CBD in May 2016 in Montreal, Canada, on the theme of Collaboration between the International Treaty and the CBD: ABS and Farmers' Rights. The CBD Secretariat also participated in a side event organized by the Secretariat of the International Treaty on the margins of the sixth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the

¹¹ Available online at <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/news/news-detail/en/c/1151574/>.

Multilateral System in March 2017 in Rome, Italy. Here, the theme was the technological, institutional and legal landscapes of genetic information: research directions for the International Treaty.

45. The Secretariat of the CBD provided specific inputs to the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (Expert Group),¹² articulating Article 9 of the International Treaty vis-à-vis Article 8(j) and related provisions of the CBD, as well as some of the COP decisions,¹³ and recommendations to COP 14¹⁴ of relevance to Farmers' Rights.

46. In response to the notification by the Executive Secretary of the CBD, calling for submission of views and information further to decisions NP-3/13 on Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol, the Secretariat of the International Treaty provided updates on activities and process under the International Treaty that are of relevance to the on-going consideration of Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol by the Parties thereto, regarding a possible global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism under the Protocol.

47. The Secretariat of the International Treaty invited the Secretariat of the CBD to be a key partner in 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.¹⁵

IV. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

48. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the information contained in this report and provide further guidance on continuing the close cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol, taking into account the elements for a possible Resolution provided in the Appendix to this Document.

¹² Established under Resolution 7/2017, Implementation of Article 9, Farmers' Rights

¹³ CBD/WG8J/10/11, Rec. 10/1, The Rutzolijirisaxik Voluntary Guidelines for the Repatriation of Traditional Knowledge Relevant for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity; Rec. 10/4, Resource mobilization: assessing the contribution of collective actions of indigenous peoples and local communities and safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms.

¹⁴ Such as: COP Decision XI/14, B, paragraphs 17-21; COP XII/12, CBD's Global Plan of Action on Customary Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity and the Programme of Work on Agricultural Diversity; UNEP/CBD/COP14 e.g. Rec. 10/1

¹⁵ See IT/GB-7/17/16, *Implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

Appendix

DRAFT RESOLUTION **/2019

COOPERATION WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling Article 1.2 of the International Treaty, as well as Article 19.3 (g) and (l), which provide for the Governing Body to establish and maintain cooperation with, as well as take note of the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the provisions of Article 20.5, which requires the Secretary to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Recalling Resolution 9/2017 regarding cooperation with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, its subsidiary bodies and Secretariat;

Acknowledging the need for continued capacity building support to Parties, especially developing countries, for the mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol;

- 1) **Takes note** of the decisions of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, that are of relevance to the International Treaty;
- 2) **Requests** the Secretariat to continue monitoring and participating in the relevant processes related to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol, in order to promote practical, harmonious and appropriate interfaces among them, both nationally and internationally;
- 3) **Emphasizes** the importance of enhancing cooperation between the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and with other biodiversity-related conventions, in the development and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and **makes** the following recommendations:
 - The post-2020 global biodiversity framework should recognize the direct and indirect contributions of biodiversity to food security and nutrition, sustainable livelihoods and poverty eradication and include targets that link agricultural biodiversity to food security and sustainable agriculture;
 - Targets for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture should be maintained and strengthened, including by relying on monitoring systems available through the reporting processes of the International Treaty and FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the experience gained in monitoring Target 2.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Such targets should deal not only with conservation of genetic diversity, but also with its sustainable use;
 - Targets on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable use of the benefits arising out of their use should expressly take into account the International Treaty and its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing and their monitoring should rely, inter alia, on the monitoring systems available through the reporting systems of the International Treaty;
 - The implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should rely on contributions from and leadership of many United Nations institutions and should be designed having this in mind. The Governing Body of the International Treaty intends, at its next Session, to consider and, as appropriate, welcome or endorse the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and also consider follow-up actions to support the implementation of the framework and integrate those into its Multi-Year Programme of Work.

4) **Requests** the Secretary to submit the initial considerations made by the Governing Body to the Executive Secretary of the CBD for transmission to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, including relevant subsidiary bodies of the CBD, and **requests** the Bureau, with the support of the Secretary, to liaise with the Co-Chairs of the open-ended intersessional working group to support the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to ensure strong ownership and contributions from the International Treaty in the development and implementation of the new framework, including through cooperation with other biodiversity-related convention;

5) **Thanks** the Conference of the Parties to the CBD for its invitation to the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions to develop strategic guidance, in accordance with CBD COP Decision XIII/21, for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund, in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting, and provides the elements of advice in the following paragraphs;

- a) **Notes** that in the process of updating the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty, GEF has been identified as one of the key international mechanisms, funds and bodies that support the implementation of the International Treaty and **invites** GEF to continue giving priority through GEF-8 to support programs, projects and initiatives that conserve and use plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in particular in relation to in situ conservation of crop wild relatives and on-farm management and farmers' sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity;
- b) **Emphasizes** the continuous importance of GEF's financial support to mainstream biodiversity within the agricultural sector, and **invites** GEF to enhance support to the integration of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in national development plans, national budgets and priorities, which is one of the strategic priorities of the updated Funding Strategy of the International Treaty;
- c) **Notes** that GEF is increasingly supporting projects and programs which address in an integrated manner food security, sustainable agriculture and climate change adaptation and, acknowledging the important role of the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to achieve sustainable agriculture and food systems, **invites** GEF to more clearly articulate such role within such integrated programmes in the GEF-8 programming framework;
- d) **Invites** GEF to continue considering projects for the mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
- e) **Thanks** GEF for having noted in the GEF-7 Biodiversity Strategy that results from certain GEF-7 investments may generate important co-benefits for the International Treaty and invites GEF to continue to do so in the formulation of GEF-8 Biodiversity Strategy;
- f) **Notes** that the formulation and implementation of GEF-8 will coincide in time with the implementation of the updated Funding Strategy, and **recommends** to FAO and other GEF partners to increase the priority and attention given to the implementation of the International Treaty through GEF-8, in order to make an important contribution to the achievement of the financial target for the Funding Strategy established by the Governing Body;
- g) **Requests** the Secretary to submit the elements of advice made by the Governing Body for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund to the Executive Secretary of the CBD for transmission to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD and **requests** the Secretary, together with the Ad Hoc Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilisation and the Bureau, to develop further inputs relevant to the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund that will reflect developments during the biennium, including in relation to the implementation of the Funding Strategy of the Treaty and the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;

- 6) **Invites** Contracting Parties, in line with Article 18.4 (a) of the International Treaty, to ensure due attention to plans and programmes that support the implementation of the International Treaty within the governing bodies of the Global Environment Facility during the negotiations and adoption of the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, including by making use, if appropriate, of the Elements of Advice for the GEF in relation to the International Treaty prepared by the Governing Body;
- 7) **Requests** the Secretary to continue following processes within the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol concerning digital sequence information on genetic resources and providing information on relevant International Treaty activities and collaborate and, as appropriate, coordinate with the Secretariat of the CBD on issues related to digital sequence information on genetic resources in order to promote coherence and mutual supportiveness between the respective conventions and implementing processes, and report to the Governing Body at its next Session;
- 8) **Thanks** the Secretariat for the activities undertaken to enhance cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and **requests** the Secretary to continue engaging in the processes to enhance cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions during the next biennium;
- 9) **Welcomes** the signature of a new Memorandum of Cooperation by the Secretary of the International Treaty and the Secretary of the CBD, which is intended to enhance institutional cooperation between the two Secretariats, especially in capacity development activities dealing with access and benefit-sharing as related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and, in the coordination of technical assistance at the international, regional, sub-regional and national levels, as well as the exchange of information and other relevant activities;
- 10) **Commends** the Secretariat for its efforts to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue exploring with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, practical means and activities to further enhance this cooperation along the lines established in the Memorandum of Cooperation, and the Joint Initiative between the two Secretariats, and to report to the Governing Body;
- 11) **Requests** the Secretary to cooperate with the Executive Secretary of the CBD by providing information on developments and practical implementation experiences within the International Treaty, including to inform future discussions on Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol;
- 12) **Requests** the Secretary to continue exploring technical options for the connection of the Global Information System of the International Treaty with the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House Portal in areas of mutual interest for the benefit of Contracting Parties and users;
- 13) **Welcomes** the on-going collaboration between the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the CBD in the monitoring process on the achievement of SDG Target 15.6 “Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed” and **requests** the Secretary to report back to the Governing Body at each Session on any relevant developments regarding such collaboration;
- 14) **Welcomes** the engagement of the Secretariat of the International Treaty in capacity development activities on harmonious and mutually supportive implementation and **requests** the Secretary to continue engaging in such activities, subject to the availability of financial resources;
- 15) **Welcomes** the efforts of the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaborating with Bioversity International, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and other partners to bring together stakeholders and experts involved in

implementation of the International Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol, and *requests* the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue facilitating such interaction on the mutual supportiveness and harmonious implementation of the instruments, and to report the outcomes of such activities to the Governing Body;

16) *Requests* the Secretary to continue reporting on cooperation with the Convention at each Session of the Governing Body.