EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Rome, Italy, 11–16 November 2019

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
REPORT OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 2019
The documents of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture are available on the Internet at: www.fao.org/plant-treaty

They may also be obtained from:

The Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
00153 Rome, Italy
E-mail: PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org

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### REPORT OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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   I.3 Statement by H.E. Ms Teresa Bellanova, Minister of Agriculture Food and Forestry Policy of Italy
INTRODUCTION

1. The Eighth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Eighth Session) was held in Rome, Italy, from 11 to 16 November 2019. The list of delegates and observers is available on the website of the International Treaty.

OPENING CEREMONY

2. An opening ceremony was held on 11 November 2019. The Chairperson of the Eighth Session, Ms Christine Dawson (North America Region), opened the ceremony and welcomed all participants.

3. On behalf of Mr Qu Dongyu, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources, FAO, addressed the Eighth Session. In recalling that the International Treaty combined food security and biodiversity protection, which were at the core of the Sustainable Development Goals, Ms Semedo affirmed that the future of food and quality nutrition depended on the ability to use a wide range of crops and their genetic resources. While acknowledging the significant progress and successes so far achieved under the International Treaty since its entry into force, she suggested a range of actions that all stakeholders could take together to accelerate and build on the work undertaken to date. She reaffirmed FAO’s commitment to increasing the membership of the International Treaty so that it becomes a universal agreement in the near future, and that FAO will continue its efforts to support the implementation of the International Treaty.

4. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare of India, H.E. Mr Narendra Singh Tomar, addressed the Eighth Session. H.E. Mr Tomar drew the attention of the Governing Body to challenges such as increasing population, decreasing arable land, diminishing water availability and biotic and abiotic stresses, accentuated by climate change. H.E. Mr Tomar invited the Governing Body to keep in mind the goal of food security, to contribute to removing the divide between North and South, and to focus on the aspirations of the International Treaty founders and farming communities.
H.E. Mr Tomar recognized the contribution of farmers, indigenous communities, tribal populations and women to the conservation and selection of plant genetic resources. He emphasized India’s commitment to Farmers’ Rights, which have been enshrined in national legislation as per Article 9 of the International Treaty. He offered, on behalf of the Government of India, to host the Ninth Session of the Governing Body in India in 2021.

5. The Honourable Minister of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies of Italy, H.E. Ms Teresa Bellanova, addressed the Eighth Session. H.E. Ms Bellanova highlighted how the International Treaty had been instrumental in reinforcing national agro-biodiversity policy in Italy, including in the context of rural development. H.E. Ms Bellanova underscored that Italy is one of the major contributors to the Benefit-sharing Fund and reiterated the importance of continuous financing to the International Treaty. In expressing her wishes for a successful outcome of the Session through an adequate balancing of interests, H.E. Ms Bellanova reminded delegates of the role of women as custodians of agro-biodiversity.

6. The Statements of Mr Qu Dongyu, H.E. Mr Narendra Singh Tomar, and H.E. Ms Teresa Bellanova are contained in Appendixes I.1-3.

7. Ms Marie Haga, Executive Director, Global Crop Diversity Trust, recalled that no country is self-sufficient in the crop diversity needed to improve yields, increase nutritional value and make plants better suited to climate change. Ms Haga expressed her hope for the International Treaty to continue contributing to the productive, healthy, equitable, resilient agricultural systems that future generations would depend on. She expressed the strong support of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, as an essential element of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty, to enable a cost effective global system of *ex situ* conservation.

8. Mr Michael Keller, Secretary General, International Seed Federation, affirmed that, since its inception, the International Treaty had gathered many countries and organizations behind the common aim of ensuring that plant genetic resources of economic and social interest would be conserved, evaluated and made available for research and breeding. He highlighted the importance of collaborative relationships in order for the seed sector to provide farmers with diverse seed options. He also expressed the commitment of the sector to continuing its support to the enhancement of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing.

9. Mr François Burgaud, Director of External Relations, *Groupement National Interprofessionnel des Semences et plants* (GNIS), on behalf of its President, Mr François Desprez, affirmed that, as access to genetic material remained a fundamental need for breeders worldwide, the conservation and characterization of such material were essential to making access possible. Mr Burgaud recalled the regular annual contributions by GNIS to the Benefit-sharing Fund, as well as the
non-monetary benefit-sharing it facilitates in the framework of the International Treaty. He also highlighted the on-going collaborations between GNIS, farmers and government authorities.

10. Ms Evalyne Adhiambo Okoth, a farmers’ representative from a Benefit-sharing Fund supported project, addressed the Governing Body, recalling her family’s inter-generational connection to farming. She expressed her gratitude to the Benefit-sharing Fund for supporting the project that helped her gain access to seeds of crops that were best suited to the needs of her community. She also thanked the International Treaty and the European Union for providing the financial resources, and partner organizations for providing technical support and capacity building, and for establishing a community seed bank, namely Bioversity International and Kenya’s Agricultural and Livestock Research Institute. She expressed particular gratitude for the project enabling farmers to choose the seeds they preferred.

11. Sir Robert Watson, former Chair, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, delivered a keynote address to the Eighth Session. He addressed the interconnectedness of climate change and biodiversity loss. He highlighted the irretrievable and alarming rate of the loss of species, ecosystem degradation and ecosystem loss and urged immediate transformational change. In a call for action to stem this loss, he emphasized the need to: tackle the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss; address climate change and biodiversity together; replicate and scale up successful policies and projects; coordinate and integrate cross-sectoral action; and, evolve economic and financial systems to embrace the circular economy. He noted that tackling the erosion of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture would need the adoption of complementary approaches – increasing capacity to create, exchange and use new varieties, and diversifying sustainable agricultural production models and practices.

12. Ms Irene Hoffmann, Secretary, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO, drew attention to the publication of the first report on The State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, and highlighted how the Report illustrated interdependence among the different sectors of biodiversity. She also indicated that preparations were underway for the Third Report on the State of the World’s Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and encouraged all Contracting Parties to contribute to this Report. She reiterated the importance of the collaboration between the Commission and the International Treaty as key to meeting the expectations of their respective memberships.

13. Mr Kent Nnadozie, Secretary of the Governing Body, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO, spoke of the achievements of the International Treaty over the last fifteen years since it entered into force. He pointed to the challenges ahead, and emphasized that the International Treaty was uniquely well positioned to address these issues. He mentioned, in particular, the importance of continuing to enhance the list of crops covered by Annex I of the
International Treaty and of providing a reliable base of financial resources for the International Treaty to continue functioning effectively and remaining a leader in the governance of agricultural biodiversity. Mr Nnadozie urged all Contracting Parties to adhere to the spirit of interdependence and cooperation that underpinned the International Treaty during their negotiations.

14. The statements delivered at the opening ceremony are available on the website of the International Treaty.

**CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS**

15. At the end of its Seventh Session, the Governing Body had elected Ms Christine Dawson (North America Region) as Chairperson of the current Eighth Session, and the following Vice-Chairpersons: Mr Charles Murekezi (Africa Region), Mr Akio Yamamoto (Asia Region), Ms Svanhild-Isabelle Batta Torheim (Europe Region), Ms Mónica Martínez Menduíño (Latin America and the Caribbean Region), Mr Javad Mozafari Hashjin (Near East Region), and Ms Anna Willock (Southwest Pacific Region).

16. In the course of the biennium and in accordance with Rule II.1 of the *Rules of Procedure*,¹ the Government of Australia designated Ms Alison Curran as alternate for Ms Willock and, subsequently, Ms Alison McMorrow in place of Ms Willock, as the Vice-Chairperson representing the Southwest Pacific Region. The Government of Rwanda designated Mr Claver Ngaboyisonga in place of Mr Murekezi, as the Vice-Chairperson representing the Africa Region.

17. The Chairperson of the Eighth Session welcomed all the participants and opened the Eighth Session.

18. Mr Renè Castro-Salazar, Assistant Director-General, Department of Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water, FAO, provided introductory remarks. In reminding delegates of the urgency of addressing the causes of the continuous loss of crop diversity, Mr Castro-Salazar invited the Governing Body to carry out deliberations that, within the remit of the International Treaty, would continue recognizing farmers of the world as the traditional guardians of agro-biodiversity. He also emphasized how access to the genetic material needed to adapt crops to climate change, was essential to ensuring that the world’s food basket remain nutritious and plentiful.

¹ “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. Except as provided for in Rule 2.3, if a Bureau member is unable to temporarily carry out any of his or her functions, the Contracting Party of that Bureau member may designate an alternate.”
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

19. The Governing Body adopted the Agenda for the Eighth Session, as given in Appendix A. The List of Documents for the Session is contained in Appendix G.

PARTICIPATION OF OBSERVERS

20. The Governing Body took note of the observers who had requested to be present at the Eighth Session, and welcomed their participation.

ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

21. The Governing Body elected Ms Fadilah Al Salameen (Kuwait) as Rapporteur.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE AND VERIFICATION OF CREDENTIALS

22. The Report of the Credentials Committee to the Governing Body is contained in Appendix E. The list of Contracting Parties, as of 16 November 2019, is contained in Appendix F.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A BUDGET COMMITTEE


REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE GOVERNING BODY

24. In her report, Ms Christine Dawson recalled that the Eighth Session marked a major milestone, namely the fifteenth anniversary of the entry into force of the International Treaty, which represented an opportunity to take stock of its achievements. Ms Dawson provided an overview of the

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2 IT/GB-8/19/1.3
3 IT/GB-8/19/17.2
4 IT/GB-8/19/17.2 Add.1 Rev.1
5 IT/GB-8/19/17
6 IT/GB-8/19/17 Add.1
7 IT/GB-8/19/5
collective work of the Bureau during the biennium and referred to the major activities related to the preparations for the Eighth Session and the activities delegated to the Bureau by the Seventh Session of the Governing Body, in particular regarding the draft Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Governing Body of the International Treaty and the Fourth Call for Proposals of the Benefit-sharing Fund. In addition, Ms Dawson reported on progress made with the establishment of long-term procedures for the selection of the Secretary of the Governing Body, and reviewed partnerships and collaborations for the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

25. Ms Dawson emphasized that, after fifteen years of operation, the International Treaty was truly at the threshold of a new phase. She highlighted that, by considering the recommendations for the enhancement of the Multilateral System, the updated Funding Strategy, conservation and sustainable use, the implementation of Farmers’ Rights, and other areas of work, the Governing Body would shape a vision for the International Treaty, to be implemented in the years to come. The Governing Body took note of the Chairperson’s Report and thanked her and the Bureau for the excellent work in carrying out their tasks.

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

26. In his report, the Secretary of the Governing Body, Mr Kent Nnadozie, provided an update on the progress made with the various inter-sessional processes that the Governing Body had established at its Seventh Session, in particular with regard to the updated Funding Strategy, the enhancement of the Multilateral System, the Global Information System, the Compliance Procedures and Farmers’ Rights. Notwithstanding the status and possible outcome of the current discussion on the enhancement of the Multilateral System, the Secretary considered it of utmost importance to continue maintaining the Multilateral System as an ongoing operational mechanism, at the level of its legal framework and technical infrastructure.

27. Mr Nnadozie also drew the attention of the delegates to other areas where the Governing Body would be asked to review progress and provide guidance at the Eighth Session, such as capacity development for the implementation of the International Treaty, and the organization of future work by subsidiary bodies. The Governing Body commended the Secretary for the excellent performance, in particular in supporting the work of subsidiary bodies and implementing a strategic approach to communication and awareness raising. The Governing Body welcomed the initiative for a Capacity Development Strategy, and requested the Secretary to develop a draft Strategy on the basis of the Draft Framework for the Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty (2022–2025) as contained in Appendix C, with inputs from stakeholders and in consultation with relevant subsidiary bodies, for consideration by the Governing Body at its Ninth Session.

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8 IT/GB-8/19/6
CELEBRATING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY


IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING


ENHANCEMENT OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING AND PROPOSAL FOR AN AMENDMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY


31. The Governing Body could not, at this Session, reach consensus on measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System.

32. It took note of the need to take stock and to assess the next steps on further work on the Enhancement of the Multilateral System.

33. While there will be no formal intersessional process on the enhancement of the Multilateral System during the next biennium, the Governing Body encouraged informal consultations among Contracting Parties and especially national consultations amongst sectors and relevant stakeholders.

34. The Governing Body had different views on the way forward. Some Parties wanted the Governing Body, at its Ninth Session, to consider how to carry out further work on the Enhancement of the Multilateral System, noting the need to consider outcomes of relevant debates under the CBD. Other Contracting Parties indicated that they wanted to review the best way forward.

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9 IT/GB-8/19/7
10 IT/GB-8/19/8.1
11 IT/GB-8/19/8.1/2
12 IT/GB-8/19/8.2 Rev.1

**UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUNDING STRATEGY AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE FUNDING STRATEGY**


**THE GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**


**CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE**


**FARMERS’ RIGHTS**


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13 IT/GB-8/19/8.3
14 IT/GB-8/19/9.1
15 IT/GB-8/19/9.2
16 IT/GB-8/19/10
17 IT/GB-8/19/11
18 IT/GB-8/19/12 Rev.1
19 IT/GB-8/19/12.2
COMPLIANCE

40. The Governing Body considered the document, *Report of the Compliance Committee*. The Governing Body adopted Resolution 7/2019, as contained in Appendix B.7, which includes the list and the terms of the members elected to serve in the Compliance Committee.

CONTRIBUTION OF FAO TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

41. The Governing Body considered the document, *Contribution of FAO to the Implementation of the International Treaty*. Mr Renè Castro-Salazar, Assistant Director-General, Department of Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water, FAO, provided a brief introduction to the document. He emphasized the importance of a focused relationship between FAO’s normative and operational activities, noting that it is essential for achieving FAO’s strategic objectives. He noted that the International Treaty is considered one of FAO’s major achievements. He also recognized the International Treaty’s vital contribution to the continued availability of the crop genetic diversity that countries need to attain global food and nutrition security.

42. The Governing Body welcomed the document and the ongoing support by FAO for the implementation of the International Treaty, and adopted Resolution 8/2019, as contained in Appendix B.8.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

43. The Governing Body considered the document, *Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, and adopted Resolution 9/2019, as contained in Appendix B.9.


Statement of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including that on behalf of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, is contained in Appendix H.

46. The Governing Body considered the documents, Report on Cooperation with Other International Bodies and Organizations,\textsuperscript{26} Reports from Institutions that have Concluded Agreements with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the International Treaty,\textsuperscript{27} and Report from Norway on the Management and Operations of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault.\textsuperscript{28}

47. The Governing Body integrated several decisions regarding cooperation and adopted Resolution 12/2019, as contained in Appendix B.12.

**MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK**

48. The Governing Body considered the document, Draft Multi-Year Programme of Work,\textsuperscript{29} and adopted Resolution 13/2019, as contained in Appendix B.13.

**CONSIDERATION OF DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION 13/2017**


**ADOPTION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET**


**APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY**

51. The Governing Body approved the proposal made by the Director-General for the re-appointment of the Secretary, Mr Kent Nnadozie, for two years, and invited FAO to finalize the contractual arrangements accordingly.
PROCEDURES FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND RENEWAL OF THE SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

52. The Governing Body considered the issue of the long-term procedures for the appointment and renewal of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty and provided guidance to the Bureau of the Ninth Session to continue the consultation process with FAO, taking into account the elements contained in Appendix D.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE NINTH SESSION

53. The Governing Body elected the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons for its Ninth Session. Ms Yasmina El Bahloul (Africa Region) was elected as Chairperson of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body. Six Vice-Chairpersons were elected: Mr Kuldeep Singh (Asia Region), Ms Kim Van Seeters (Europe Region), Mr Manrique Altavista (Latin America and the Caribbean Region), Mr Ali Chéhadé (Near East Region), Ms Christine Dawson (North America Region) and Mr Michael Ryan (Southwest Pacific Region).

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NINTH SESSION

54. The Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty will be held in the last quarter of 2021. The Governing Body noted with appreciation the generous offer made by the Government of India to host the Ninth Session. The Governing Body decided to accept the offer and agreed that the Ninth Session should be held in India. The Session will be convened by the Chairperson of the Ninth Session, with the agreement of the Bureau and in consultation with the Director-General of FAO and the Secretary. The Secretary will communicate the exact date and place of the Ninth Session to all Contracting Parties. The Governing Body requested the Secretary to consult with the Government of India with a view to negotiating the hosting arrangement in conformity with the applicable FAO guidelines, and in order to conclude and sign a host country agreement well in advance of the date of the Ninth Session.

55. The Governing Body further called on Contracting Parties wishing to host any future Sessions of the Governing Body to communicate their intention well in advance of the Session they wish to host, preferably during a preceding Session.
ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

APPENDIX A

AGENDA OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
2. Election of the Rapporteur
3. Appointment of the Credentials Committee
4. Establishment of a Budget Committee
7. Celebrating the 15th Anniversary 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
   8.2 Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing
   8.3 Proposal for an Amendment of the International Treaty
9. The Funding Strategy of the International Treaty
   9.1 Update on the Implementation of the Funding Strategy
   9.2 Enhancement of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty
10. The Global Information System
11. Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
12. Farmers’ Rights
13. Compliance
15. Cooperation with International Instruments and Organizations
   15.1 Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
   15.2 Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust
   15.3 Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Nagoya Protocol
   15.4 Cooperation with Other International Bodies and Organizations
16.1 Consideration of “Digital Sequence Information” in accordance with Resolution 13/2017

16.2 Consideration of Subsidiary Bodies and Intersessional Processes

17. Adoption of the Work Programme and Budget

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

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

20. Date and Place of the Ninth Session

21. Adoption of the Report
APPENDIX B

RESOLUTIONS OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

APPENDIX B.1

RESOLUTION 1/2019

CELEBRATING THE 15th ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Acknowledging the remarkable achievements and progress made in the first fifteen years of the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty);

Reaffirming that the effective implementation of the International Treaty contributes to addressing today’s critical global challenges of food and nutrition security, sustainable agriculture and climate change;

Concerned that the erosion of plant genetic diversity is continuing at an alarming rate, and while the world population is growing, malnutrition and the total number of hungry people are on the rise and, at the same time, the adverse impacts of climate change are increasing;

Conscious of impact of the changes in the global policy landscape and development of advanced technologies to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture during the past fifteen years and possible implications for the implementation of the International Treaty;

Recalling Resolution 1/2017, Contribution of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

1. Reaffirms its commitment to the full implementation of the International Treaty, so that it continues providing an effective and functioning global framework for the management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

2. Encourages Contracting Parties to implement the International Treaty through their national policies, strategies and programmes, and to enhance integration of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in national development plans, national budgets and priorities for donor support, taking into account national legislation, as appropriate;

3. Strongly supports collaborations and the continued development of partnerships among Contracting Parties and different stakeholders for the effective and equitable management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture under the International Treaty;
4. **Emphasizes** the need of increased investments in the conservation, availability and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture that are currently underutilized or underrepresented in genebank collections around the world and that are important to confront malnutrition and other challenges;

5. **Acknowledges** the importance of expanding the coverage of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing to further facilitate access and exchange of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and thereby increase the global effort to conserve and sustainably use these resources;

6. **Further acknowledges** that equitable benefit sharing, including monetary benefit sharing, information sharing, technology transfer and capacity building, is essential to achieve full implementation of the International Treaty;

7. **Calls upon** Contracting Parties and partners to take into account Article 18.4 of the International Treaty and make concerted effort and commitments to implement the updated Funding Strategy to support and advance the implementation of the International Treaty; to that aim, and recalling Article 18 of the International Treaty, urges Contracting Parties to mobilize resources to achieve the objectives of the International Treaty.
RESOLUTION 2/2019

IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling previous Resolutions on the operations and implementation of the Multilateral System, in particular, Resolutions 1/2015 and 4/2017;

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

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

Recalling further the provisions of Articles 6.5 and 6.6 of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement;

Noting the continuing relevance of the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets to the implementation of the obligations of CGIAR Centers pursuant to the agreements concluded with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the International Treaty, including on the CGIAR Centers management and distribution of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture under development;

Noting further that those Intellectual Assets Principles explicitly require Centres to comply with their obligations under the framework of the International Treaty, and serve as a mechanism for monitoring and compliance;

PART I: AVAILABILITY AND TRANSFER OF MATERIAL IN THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM

1. Welcomes the information provided on the availability of material in the Multilateral System; thanks the Contracting Parties that have identified, at the accession level, the material that is available in the Multilateral System and urges them to continue updating this information regularly, and further urges the Contracting Parties that have not yet done so, to identify, at accession level, the material that forms part of the Multilateral System;

2. Emphasizes the importance of collections that are fully characterized and evaluated, and appeals to both Contracting Parties, and natural and legal persons to make them available in the Multilateral System together with the relevant non-confidential characterization and evaluation data, and further appeals donors to support characterization of collections conserved in national genebanks of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

3. Invites Contracting Parties and other holders of material to use, on a voluntary basis, the Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) of the Global Information System for the identification of material available in the Multilateral System;

4. Requests the Secretary to update the report on availability of material in the Multilateral System and the report on the transfer of the materials for the Ninth Session of the Governing Body;

5. Requests the Secretary to explore why many countries have not placed material in the Multilateral System and invites Contracting Parties to share difficulties that may be encountered, or the needs for capacity building for placing material in the Multilateral System or in sharing germplasm with other Contracting Parties.
PART II: OPERATIONS OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM

6. Takes note of the progress made during the 2018-2019 biennium with Easy-SMTA and the Data Store and requests the Secretary to maintain the help-desk function on the operations of the Multilateral System and finalize the Educational Module;

7. Invites Contracting Parties and relevant international organizations to make available resources for, and collaborate with the Secretary on, organizing training programmes and workshops on the Multilateral System;

8. Further requests the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to organise regional training workshops to support Contracting Parties in strengthening the operations of the Multilateral System, including for the identification and notification of material available in the Multilateral System, and for the operations of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, including the reporting of transfers;

9. Requests the Secretary to continue to work with the CGIAR Centers to build capacity among a wider range of providers, including natural and legal persons, to implement the Multilateral System and to report on the use of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement.

PART III: PRACTICE OF THE CGIAR CENTRES ON THE MANAGEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL ASSETS RELATED TO PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

10. Thanks the CGIAR System for the submission of the report on the Status of Implementation of the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets and invites the CGIAR System to continue reporting on the application of the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets to germplasm managed under the framework of the International Treaty, parts thereof, or information generated from the use of this germplasm.

PART IV: OPERATION OF THE THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARY

Recalling that the Governing Body, at its Third Session, had approved the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures for the carrying out of the roles and responsibilities of Third Party Beneficiary as identified and prescribed in the Standard Material Transfer Agreement under the direction of the Governing Body;

Recalling further that, in accordance with Article 4.2 of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures, the Third Party Beneficiary may receive information on possible non-compliance with the obligations of the provider and recipient under a Standard Material Transfer Agreement from any natural or legal persons;

Recognizing that the Third Party Beneficiary will require adequate financial and other resources and that FAO acting as Third Party Beneficiary shall not incur any liabilities in excess of the funds available in the Third Party Beneficiary Operational Reserve;

11. Notes the Report on the Operation of the Third Party Beneficiary and further requests the Secretary and FAO to continue providing, at each Session of the Governing Body, such a report;

12. Stresses the importance for the effective functioning of the Third Party Beneficiary, of Article 4.2 of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures, according to which the Third Party Beneficiary may receive information on possible non-compliance with the obligations of the provider and recipient under a Standard Material Transfer Agreement from the parties under the Standard Material Transfer Agreement or any other natural or legal persons;

13. Decides to maintain the Third Party Beneficiary Operational Reserve for the 2020–2021 biennium at the current level of USD 283,280 and to review the same at its Ninth Session, and calls
upon Contracting Parties that have not done so yet, intergovernmental organizations, non-
governmental organizations and other entities to contribute to the Reserve;

14. **Authorizes** the Secretary to draw upon the Third Party Beneficiary Operational Reserve as
may be needed for the implementation of the functions of the Third Party Beneficiary;

15. **Welcomes** the functional and cost-effective information technology tools and infrastructure
that the Secretary has developed to facilitate the submission, collection and storage of information in
the implementation of Article 4.1 of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures, and **requests** the
Secretary to apply adequate measures to ensure the integrity and, where required, the confidentiality of
information, while continuing the further development of the International Treaty information
technology tools and infrastructure, including in accordance with the Vision and Programme of Work
of the Global Information System of Article 17.

**PART V: REVIEWS AND ASSESSMENTS UNDER THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM
AND OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF THE STANDARD
MATERIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT**

16. **Decides** to postpone the reviews and assessments foreseen under Article 11.4 to the Ninth
Session and **requests** the Secretary to prepare a report, with inputs from Contracting Parties and
relevant stakeholders, on possible measures to be considered by the Governing Body to encourage
natural and legal persons to include material in the Multilateral System;

17. **Decides** to postpone the reviews under Article 13.2d (ii) of the International Treaty to the
Ninth Session and **requests** the Secretary to prepare a report, with inputs from Contracting Parties and
relevant stakeholders.
RESOLUTION 3/2019

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UPDATED FUNDING STRATEGY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY 2020–2025

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling Articles 13.2, 13.3, 18 (in particular 18.4) and 19.3f of the International Treaty;

Recalling Resolutions 3/2017 and 2/2015 which set the basis for the review of the Funding Strategy and other previous Resolutions on the implementation of the Funding Strategy;

1. Welcomes the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization and the progress made in updating the Funding Strategy;

PART I: FUNDING STRATEGY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

2. Decides to adopt the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty for the period 2020 to 2025, as contained in Annex 1 to this Resolution, in order to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement activities under this Treaty;

3. Decides to establish, within the Funding Strategy, a target of USD $0.9-1.1 billion per year over a period of 10 years with a milestone of 40% to be achieved by 2026 to support the implementation of the International Treaty through a wide range of sources and channels;

4. Encourages Contracting Parties to mobilize resources from various sources to meet the targets of the Funding Strategy;

5. Invites the private sector and others to continue making and increasing financial contributions in order to meet the targets of the Funding Strategy;

6. Calls upon FAO to prioritize the delivery of programmes and projects supportive of implementation of the Treaty, and to support the nexus between biodiversity and climate change, in particular, through its involvement in the Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund, as appropriate, and to actively contribute to the work of the Committee;

7. Invites relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies, stakeholder groups and other international organizations to provide information to the Secretariat that will enable the Committee to better leverage funding for Treaty implementation and the delivery of non-monetary benefit-sharing;

8. Welcomes the dynamic and synergistic programmatic approach developed for the Funding Strategy that is expected to:

   i. Improve funding opportunities for the implementation of the International Treaty by making the case to national decision-makers and development agencies of the importance of PGRFA as well as the interlinkages with other development issues;

   ii. Strengthen linkages between different funding sources and partners relevant to the International Treaty, by pursuing collaborative planning and co-spending opportunities and identifying appropriate channels to make such linkages; and,
iii. Provide for a process for monitoring, evaluating and learning from lessons, experiences and information gained in previous implementation phases, and to structure new funding opportunities and identify and fill in gaps, including through the engagement of Treaty stakeholders.

9. Requests the Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization to play a leading role in advancing the realization and monitoring of the Funding Strategy in order to provide the necessary strategic guidance as well as operational oversight of relevant processes and activities relating to the Funding Strategy;

10. Decides to make the Committee a standing Committee;

11. Establishes a basis for the work of the Committee through the Terms of Reference contained in Annex 2 to this Resolution;

12. Decides that the Committee shall be composed of up to three representatives from each region, in accordance with FAO standards, and that the Co-Chairs will have the capacity to extend the invitation to Observers on the basis of expertise and relevance;

13. Decides that the meetings of the Funding Committee will be open to silent observers unless the Committee decides otherwise and requests the Co-Chairs to continue to invite active Observers on the basis of expertise and relevance and to encourage participation from a wide range of experts and stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Funding Strategy, as appropriate;

14. Recalls that the Global Crop Diversity Trust is an essential element of the Funding Strategy and invites it as an active observer to provide advice to the work of the Committee;

15. Decides that the costs of the meetings of and the preparatory work for the Committee, up to $40 000 shall be included in the Core Administrative Budget as may be adopted by the Governing Body, supplemented by any voluntary contributions made available for that purpose, and requests the Secretary to include such costs into the Core Administrative Budget that is presented to the Governing Body for approval at its Regular Sessions;

16. Calls on donors to support developing countries and the Secretary with the costs of the work of the Committee.

PART II: THE FUNDING STRATEGY AND THE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS UNDER THE GUIDANCE AND DIRECT CONTROL OF THE GOVERNING BODY

17. Emphasizes that the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Fund for Agreed Purposes are essential to the realization of the programmatic approach of the updated Funding Strategy and will play a critical role in its implementation.

18. Welcomes the finalization of the Operations Manual for the Funds for Agreed Purposes as contained in Annex 1 of the Funding Strategy and requests the Secretary to provide information and reports on the Fund for Agreed Purposes to the Governing Body regularly;

19. Decides to postpone establishing a target for the Benefit-sharing Fund;

20. Welcomes the finalization of the Operations Manual for the Benefit-sharing Fund as contained in Annex 2 of the Funding Strategy, which brings together, for the first time, the resource mobilization, allocation and disbursement for the Fund in an integrated manner;
PART III: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUNDING STRATEGY DURING THE BIENNium 2018-2019

21. Thanks the Contracting Parties, international mechanisms, funds, bodies, and other international organizations for providing information to the Secretary that assisted the Ad Hoc Committee on the Funding Strategy in the updating of the Funding Strategy;

22. Thanks the Bureau of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body for providing guidance to the operations of the Benefit-sharing Fund during the biennium and in particular for granting the Certificates of Excellence to the shortlisted applicants of the Fourth Call for Proposals of the Benefit-sharing Fund to support their resources mobilization efforts;

23. Welcomes the financial contributions of Italy, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland during the biennium 2018-2019 to the Fund for Agreed Purposes of the International Treaty and other funds under the direct control of the Governing Body;

24. Welcomes the payment of the first mandatory user-based income from the Multilateral System on Access and Benefit-sharing to the Benefit-sharing Fund;

25. Notes with concern that only one user has made payments based on article 6.7 of the SMTA to the Benefit-sharing Fund, and stresses the urgent need for ensuring an enhanced and predictable flow of resources to the Fund;

26. Acknowledges the generous commitment made by the French Seed Sector in 2017 to contribute the sum of € 175 000 annually to the International Plant Treaty’s Benefit-Sharing Fund, and thanks Groupement National Interprofessionnel des Semences et Plants (GNIS) for facilitating the payment of this annual voluntary contribution during the biennium, and appeals to other stakeholders and relevant actors in the private sector, especially the seed and the food processing industries, to make further voluntary contributions on an multi-annual basis;

27. Recalling that the Funding Strategy Committee requested the Secretary explore the possibility of undertaking an analysis on a “Cost of Inaction” that could be used in future communication and awareness-raising related to the Treaty’s Funding Strategy, thanks the Secretary, the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the International Food Policy Research Institute for having co-organized a scientific meeting to explore which methodologies could be used, building on previous research, to describe and quantify the global consequences of inaction at the multilateral level, ensuring the conservation and access to crop genetic diversity across the world, and requests the Secretary to make available the outcomes of the scientific meeting to the Funding Committee;

28. Emphasizes the importance of continuing the work on resource mobilization, communication, promotion and the International Treaty’s branding and media presence to enhance funding for, and the visibility of the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Fund for Agreed Purposes of the International Treaty in particular, and for the Funding Strategy;

29. Stresses the importance of communicating the results of the on-going projects under the third project cycle and the expected results of the fourth project cycle within the framework of the broader communication strategy of the International Treaty;

30. Requests the Secretary to develop a communication toolkit for the Benefit-sharing Fund to support BSF partners in effectively communicating the results and achievements arising from BSF projects and become champions of the Treaty globally;

31. Welcomes the establishment of the Benefit-sharing Fund platform for communication and knowledge sharing that brings together all partners involved in the Fund and emphasizes the importance of partners building linkages between different funding sources and exploring collaborative planning and co-spending opportunities;

32. Welcomes the preparations for the Independent Evaluation of the Third Project Cycle projects in accordance with the Operational Procedures of the Fund.
INTRODUCTION

1. This document sets out the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the International Treaty) for the period 2020 to 2025. This Strategy was adopted by the Governing Body of the International Treaty, at its Eighth Session, in November 2019.

2. Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture make an essential contribution to increasing and safeguarding food security and nutrition, improving rural livelihoods and economies, supporting the maintenance of biodiversity and to meeting the challenges of adapting to climate change.

3. The objectives of the International Treaty are the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security.

4. The implementation of the International Treaty contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nation’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

5. An effective Funding Strategy is critical to the implementation of the International Treaty and its regular review and improvement supports the enhancement of other Treaty mechanisms, such as the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing.

II. VISION, RATIONALE AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Vision

6. A new Vision for the Funding Strategy:

The Funding Strategy enables the Governing Body, Contracting Parties, funding agencies, farmers and other relevant actors to secure funding and other resources for the programmatic implementation of the International Treaty in a long-term, coordinated, synergistic and effective manner.

Rationale

7. The implementation of the International Treaty is achieved through a wide range of financial resources provided via a range of channels that connect enabling partners of the Treaty. The Results Framework of the Funding Strategy set out in Section III further details this operating framework. Whilst the Governing Body has established key instruments that hold financial resources under its guidance and control (e.g. the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Fund for Agreed Purposes) that it uses to play a catalytic role to fill gaps and enhance synergies, the majority of the financial resources contributing to the implementation of the Treaty are not under its direct control. For this reason, the Funding Strategy strives to ensure that sufficient resources are mobilized through all channels mentioned in Section III for the implementation of the Treaty.

8. The first Funding Strategy was adopted in 2006 which the Governing Body decided to review in 2017 with a view to enhancing its functioning. The Funding Strategy has been enhanced to be more responsive to emerging funding trends, more flexible to adapt to a changing environment, and to
ensure an efficient and coherent funding approach across Treaty mechanisms. The Funding Strategy takes into account global trends and realities of the financial environment and the need for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

9. Contracting Parties recognize that funding opportunities for Treaty implementation can be improved by making the case to national decision-makers and development agencies of the importance of PGRFA as well as the interlinkages with other development issues. This Funding Strategy utilizes a programmatic approach to strengthen linkages between different funding sources and partners, as set out in Section III.

10. The updated Funding Strategy has an increased focus on resources other than those provided by the Benefit-sharing Fund, including by addressing cooperation with other international mechanisms and improving reporting on national, bilateral and multilateral funding for the activities relevant to Treaty implementation.

11. It builds on the experience gained and lessons learned in the management of resources under the direct control of the Governing Body, in particular those of the Benefit-sharing Fund. Such resources should be used strategically to leverage additional resources and cover critical gaps in programmatic implementation for the ultimate benefit of farmers, which are the target beneficiaries identified in Article 18.5 of the Treaty. The Operational Manuals of the Fund for Agreed Purposes and the Benefit-sharing Fund have been developed to adapt and evolve to donor and recipient needs, thus increasing its potential to attract adequate, and diverse funding that ensures a long-term perspective.

12. This Funding Strategy has been designed to improve linkages with the implementation of other programmes of work of the International Treaty, such as the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, and national reporting on Treaty implementation in accordance with the Compliance Procedures. It also improves links with other areas of work including FAO’s Second Global Plan of Action (GPA) for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its monitoring through the World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS) on PGRFA. The GPA states that through the monitoring of the Funding Strategy, the Governing Body of the Treaty will be able to monitor resources available for the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action.

13. Recognizing its critical role to the Treaty, the Funding Strategy has been designed to be regularly reviewed. It now integrates a process for monitoring, evaluating and learning and for structuring new funding opportunities and identifying and filling in gaps. The Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee) established by the Governing Body will facilitate such processes.

**Strategic Objectives**

14. The objective of the Funding Strategy is to enhance the availability, predictability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement activities under the Treaty, in accordance with Article 18 of the Treaty.

15. The Funding Strategy gives priority to implementation of agreed plans and programmes for farmers in developing countries who conserve and sustainably utilize PGRFA.

### III. ENABLING TREATY IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH THE FUNDING STRATEGY: PROGRAMMATIC APPROACH

16. The programmatic approach of the Funding Strategy aims to identify and recognize the many contributions made by partners enabling the implementation of the Treaty. It also identifies and addresses the gaps in its implementation and resourcing. It aims at leveraging further support of current and new partners including by pursuing collaborative planning and co-spending opportunities, and identifying appropriate channels to make such linkages.
17. A Results Framework for the Funding Strategy has been developed to underpin the programmatic approach. The Results Framework is provided in Figure 1 and further described in the paragraphs below.
Figure 1 Results Framework of the Funding Strategy

Farmers around the world use, conserve and share PGRFA leading to increased productivity and on-farm incomes, increased availability of diverse nutrient-rich food, reduced adverse impacts to the environment, & enhanced resilience to production shocks. Biodiversity for food security is safeguarded for the future.
18. Food security and sustainable agriculture are the purpose of the International Treaty objectives, and PGRFA conservation and use contribute directly and indirectly to the implementation of the United Nation’s Agenda 2030, including SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption), 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). This is represented in the top level of the Results Framework.

19. The three objectives of the International Treaty are the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use. Benefit-sharing through the Treaty is realized through multiple types of multilateral benefit-sharing. This is reflected in the second tier of the Results Framework.

20. The third tier of the Results Framework sets out the Treaty enabling mechanisms and the main type of funding mechanisms and channels within the Funding Strategy. The International Treaty has established a number of unique mechanisms that enable the implementation of the Treaty, including in particular: the Funding Strategy itself; the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing which provides for a global genepool to enable PGRFA research, training and breeding; the Global Information System; and the programme on Sustainable Use and Farmers’ Rights.

21. The Funding Strategy encompasses a range of funding mechanisms and channels which include:
   a. Funding channels not under direct control of the Governing Body:
      i. National Funding for PGRFA;
      ii. Bilateral funding and assistance;
      iii. Other relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies such as FAO, CGIAR, World Bank, GEF, GCF and IFAD.
   b. Funding mechanisms for which the Governing Body provides policy guidance:
      i. The Global Crop Diversity Trust, with which the Governing Body has entered into an agreement in relation to the Funding Strategy.
   c. Tools under direct control or guidance of the Governing Body:
      i. Fund for agreed Purposes;
      ii. Benefit-sharing Fund.

22. The success of the Funding Strategy will require the participation and contributions of all partners enabling the implementation of the International Treaty, at national and international levels. The most relevant Treaty actors are listed in the final level of the Results Framework.

23. Important contributions are made to the effective implementation of the International Treaty that are not funding contributions as such, including the in-kind contributions of farmers to agro-biodiversity conservation. Enabling partners of the Treaty provide non-monetary benefit-sharing through a wide range of mechanisms. The implementation of the Funding Strategy provides an avenue to identify synergies between the provision of financial resources and the delivery of non-monetary benefit-sharing, and to develop specific measures as needed for promoting non-monetary benefit-sharing within the Funding Strategy.

24. In order to mobilize funding for priority activities, plans and programmes, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and taking the Global Plan of Action into account, the Governing Body has established a target range for the Funding Strategy of an additional USD. $0.9 – 1.1 billion per year over a period of 10 years with a milestone of 40% to be achieved by 2026.

25. Given the critical role that PGRFA play in food security and sustainable agriculture, the target for the Funding Strategy is necessarily ambitious. The methodology to establish the Funding Strategy
target aims for a high level of implementation for all GPA priority actions to be achieved by 2030. However, there are various caveats that need to be understood by Contracting Parties and Treaty enabling partners.

a. While a comprehensive methodology has been used for the first time to calculate the target, there remain several areas of uncertainty that need to be highlighted. The process of establishment of the Funding Strategy target needs to be viewed as iterative, and one which would be improved over time as more information becomes available on funding flows from all Treaty enabling partners. The limitations of the current methodology include the possibility of double-counting, under-reporting and the need to estimate the current flow of resources. While in reality the priorities of the GPA are realized in a synergistic and integrated manner, the methodology makes no assumption that there is any interdependence between them.

b. The overall Funding Target is to be met through multiple channels and by multiple Treaty enabling partners. Contracting Parties provide financial resources to support national activities for PGRFA conservation and use. The private sector invests in breeding and wider PGRFA research and development. Donors support the Treaty through bilateral, regional and multilateral channels. The Global Crop Diversity Trust supports ex situ conservation. Philanthropic organizations and new and innovative funding sources and mechanisms will also contribute to the realization of the target.

c. The methodology for target setting builds upon the information available on the status of implementation of second Global Plan of Action on PGRFA, which relies on national assessments made by National Focal Points.

26. In calling for an increase of resources for the implementation of the Treaty, it is recognised that there is also a need to use existing resources more efficiently and effectively and this can be supported, inter alia, by using the synergies enabled by the programmatic approach.

27. This target will be periodically reviewed through the regular reviews of the overall Funding Strategy, as guided by the monitoring framework contained in Section V.

28. The Governing Body calls upon all Contracting Parties, other Members of the FAO and all enabling partners of the Treaty to take an active role in mobilizing the funding needed to reach the target established by the Funding Strategy. Resource Mobilization efforts and allocation should be undertaken in accordance with Art.18.4 and 18.5 of the International Treaty.

29. In order to achieve the Funding Strategy target by 2025, the Governing Body:

a. Calls on Contracting Parties to enhance integration of PGRFA in national development plans, national budgets and priorities for donor support and external funding, including the national prioritization of the GEF System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR);

b. Calls upon Contracting Parties to share information about the results of the further integration of PGRFA in national budgets and priorities with the Secretariat, and requests the Secretariat to use such information to develop strategic tools that National Focal Points and others can use to leverage new resources;

c. Encourages bilateral and multilateral donors to promote the implementation of the Strategy and further integrate the Treaty implementation in their programmes, and increase the visibility and recognition of their efforts;

d. Encourages Contracting Parties to share information about the results and impact of donor initiatives related to the implementation of the Treaty with the Secretariat and requests the Secretariat to use such information in the development of communication tools and products to help resource mobilization efforts and increase visibility and recognition of donors;
e. Requests the Secretariat to increase the visibility and recognition of donors making voluntary contributions to mechanisms under its control or guidance, such as the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Fund for Agreed Purposes, including through donor relations initiatives and donor reporting;  
f. Calls on relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies, including within FAO’s programmes, partnerships with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other multilateral mechanisms, to increase the priority and attention given to the Treaty;  
g. Calls on the Secretariat to establish a network of Treaty enabling partners which have successfully integrated PGRFA in larger sustainable development and climate change programmes, and share the lessons learned to build the capacity of others to participate in such programmes;  
h. Calls on the Funding Committee to develop a strategy to mobilize funds from food processing industries, as called for in Article 13.6 of the Treaty;  
i. Calls on the Funding Committee to develop a range of initiatives to mobilize funds from innovative sources and mechanisms;  
j. Calls on the Funding Committee to strengthen the monitoring and reporting of the Funding Strategy, including by undertaking periodic overviews of finance flows to areas of Treaty implementation by combining existing tools, as well as those of Governing Body and other institutions such as the OECD and FAO, as well as expert input;  
k. Calls on the Funding Committee to develop relevant policy criteria for specific assistance under the Funding Strategy for the conservation of PGRFA in developing countries, and countries with economies in transition whose contributions to the diversity of PGRFA in the Multilateral System is significant and / or has special needs, as is called for in Article 13.4 of the Treaty.  

30. The Funding Committee of the Governing Body will play a leading role in advancing the realization and monitoring of this programmatic approach, including through the measures outlined above and in its Terms of Reference.

IV. PROGRAMMATIC APPROACH AND THE INSTRUMENTS UNDER THE GUIDANCE AND DIRECT CONTROL OF THE GOVERNING BODY  

31. As described in the Results Framework, the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Fund for Agreed Purposes are essential to the realization of the programmatic approach of the Funding Strategy and will play a catalytic role in its implementation.  

32. The Fund for Agreed Purposes was established in 2006 by the Governing Body. It is a FAO Trust Fund for purposes agreed between a donor and the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty. It plays a critical role in the implementation of decisions of the Governing Body, in particular to strengthen the global Treaty-enabling mechanisms, implement agreed priorities, build capacity at international and regional levels, and facilitate decision-making of the Governing Body to enhance Treaty implementation. It offers a flexible and responsive mechanism for the Secretary to secure and manage funds from a range of donors to take forward the programmatic implementation of the Treaty. Annex 1 contains the Operations Manual for the Fund, which details scope, resource mobilization and information and reporting.  

33. The Benefit-sharing Fund is an essential element of the Funding Strategy and of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing. The Fund is the operational mechanism for receiving, utilizing and sharing the monetary benefits arising from Multilateral System, as specified in Article 19.3.f of the Treaty. The Benefit-sharing Fund was established by the Governing Body and has been evolving since it first became operational in 2009; its integration into the programmatic approach of the Funding Strategy is another step in its development.
34. The methodology used to calculate the target for the Benefit-sharing Fund derives from that used to calculate the overall target of the Funding Strategy, which aims for a high level of implementation of all priority areas within the Global Plan of Action by 2030. Consequently, similar limitations apply, as noted in paragraph 25.

35. As specified in the Operational Manual of the Benefit-sharing Fund, the programmatic approach of the Benefit-sharing Fund focuses on:

- Priority area 2 (PA2) of the Second Global Plan of Action of PGRFA: Supporting on-farm management and improvement of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and
- Priority area 11 (PA11) of the Second Global Plan of Action of PGRFA: promoting the development and commercialization of all varieties, primarily farmers’ varieties/landraces and underutilized crops.

Nevertheless, the programmatic approach puts in place supportive practices and enabling initiatives for the implementation of other priorities of the Second Global Plan of Action.

36. The Governing Body establishes a target range for the Benefit-sharing Fund:

By 2025, the annual income of the Benefit-sharing Fund would have to reach the range of \([A - B]\) USD million in order for the Benefit-sharing Fund to contribute \([C - D]\) % of the multilateral-bilateral effort to achieve a high-level of implementation of priorities PA2 and PA11 by 2030.

37. Consistent with the overall target for the Funding Strategy, the target for the Benefit-sharing Fund will be periodically reviewed through the regular reviews of the Funding Strategy.

38. The primary beneficiaries of the Benefit-sharing Fund, in accordance with Article 13.3 of the International Treaty, are farmers around the world, especially in developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, who conserve and sustainably utilize plant genetic resources.

39. The Benefit-sharing Fund supports in-situ and on-farm management and improvement and creates linkages with broader ex-situ conservation efforts. It enhances and facilitates both, farmer-to-farmer exchanges of seed and enables the flow of PGRFA material from farmers to ex-situ collections and back. Funded projects put in place efforts to improve local seed value chains and make a wide range of adapted and improved varieties available to small scale farmers. Plant breeding efforts with the participation of farmers are supported and the capacity to develop varieties particularly adapted to socio-environmental conditions and of high quality are being strengthened.

40. The Operations Manual for the Benefit-sharing Fund in Annex 2 brings together resource mobilization, allocation and disbursement in an integrated manner. Lessons learnt from previous project cycles have been integrated into the development of the Manual, which now contains a storyline and theory of change for the Benefit-sharing Fund for the period 2020-2025.

V. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, REVIEW AND RE-PLANNING

41. In recognition of its critical role to the Treaty, the Funding Strategy has been designed to be regularly reviewed so that it can be continuously improved, and remain dynamic, responsive and relevant. It integrates processes for implementing, monitoring, evaluating and learning, and for identifying and filling in gaps.

42. The Funding Committee established by the Governing Body will regularly monitor and review progress of the Funding Strategy’s implementation and make recommendations for adjustments, as reflected in its Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference may be revised according the cycles of Funding Strategy. The Committee will keep the Governing Body updated on a regular basis on the progress in the implementation of the Funding Strategy. It will provide a comprehensive review of the Funding Strategy after a 5-year period for the consideration of the Governing Body at its subsequent session.

43. Information related to the implementation, monitoring and review of the overall Funding Strategy will be provided by Contracting Parties and other relevant organizations at reporting intervals
agreed to by the Committee. The Funding Committee will work in collaboration with the Compliance Committee so as to agree the best way to integrate information in existing reporting formats.

44. The Committee will develop an Operational Plan for the implementation of the Funding Strategy that will be reviewed and updated on a biennial basis and will include the following considerations related to its implementation, monitoring, review and re-planning:

a. The implementation, monitoring and review of the Funding Strategy should be dynamic and support the programmatic approach outlined in this Funding Strategy.

b. The targets of the Funding Strategy and Benefit-sharing Fund will be reviewed periodically. This will include monitoring progress towards targets, reviewing the targets themselves and identifying gaps, including by undertaking overviews of finance flows to areas of Treaty implementation by combining existing tools of the Governing Body and other institutions such as the OECD and FAO, as well as expert input.

c. Periodic monitoring and reporting on the use of the different funding channels and the current donor environment so to make necessary adjustments, identify and structure new funding opportunities.

d. Biennial reviews of the implementation of the Funding Strategy and a five-year strategic period review.

e. The monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Fund for Agreed Purposes are established in the Operations Manuals and include regular reporting to the Governing Body. These frameworks are an integral part of the monitoring of the Funding Strategy. The monitoring and review of the overall Funding Strategy should be coherent with these processes. As funds under the control of the Governing Body, the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Fund for Agreed Purposes are also subject to FAO’s existing standard procedures, including financial audits and reports.

f. The monitoring and review of the Funding Strategy should take into account monitoring, evaluating and learning from lessons, experiences and information gained in previous reviews of the Funding Strategy, as decided by the Governing Body through Paragraph 2, iii) of Resolution 3/2017.

g. The implementation, regular review and improvement of the Funding Strategy should support the enhancement of other Treaty mechanisms, such as the Multilateral System (Resolution 2/2015, paras. 1 and 2).
ANNEX 1: OPERATIONS MANUAL: FUND FOR AGREED PURPOSES

I. SCOPE

1. The Fund for Agreed Purposes (FAP) is a Trust Fund for purposes agreed between a donor and the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty.

2. As a fund that is under the guidance of the Governing Body, this manual serves as a general guide for the Secretary regarding the FAP in the context of the updated Funding Strategy, of which it is a part.

3. Advice provided pertains specifically to the FAP but with a view to how it may link and contribute to achieving the overarching vision and aims of the updated Funding Strategy.

4. As illustrated in the Results Framework of the Funding Strategy, the FAP is a key enabling mechanism of the Funding Strategy. The advice provided in this manual aims to help secure funding to the FAP for the programmatic implementation of the International Treaty in a long-term, coordinated, synergistic and effective manner. This is in line with the Vision for the Updated Funding Strategy adopted by the Governing Body at its Seventh Session, and the principles of synergies and complementarity.

5. This manual provides elements of guidance to the Secretary on aspects of the FAP’s operation that are considered of particular relevance to the updated Funding Strategy, such as resource mobilization and information and reporting. These elements also apply, mutatis mutandis, to the Special Fund to Support the Participation of Developing Countries.

II. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

6. The FAP offers a flexible and responsive mechanism for the Secretary to secure and manage funds from a range of donors and sources to take forward the programmatic implementation of the Treaty.

7. Sessions of the Governing Body should provide opportunities to acknowledge and welcome contributions as well as garner future concrete commitments to the FAP.

8. Resource mobilization aspects should consider a programmatic approach to the FAP.

9. Aspects of Resource Mobilization are interlinked with those related to improving the communication and visibility of the FAP as a key Funding Tool in support of the implementation of the International Treaty, as further detailed in the Information and Reporting section.

III. INFORMATION AND REPORTING

10. Information and reporting on resources under the FAP should consider the programmatic approach of the Funding Strategy and the importance of continuing the work on resource mobilization, communication, promotion, and the International Treaty’s branding and media presence to enhance funding for, and the visibility of, the Fund for Agreed Purposes.

11. Information and reports will be provided to the Governing Body at each Session, and will include:

   a) Highlights of the results and impact achieved of activities implemented through the FAP, particularly how they contribute to the Results Framework of the Funding Strategy and the programmatic implementation of the Treaty.

   b) A high level overview of the main contributors and status of funds received and disbursed.
12. At the project level, progress and other reports will be made available to donors according to the contractual conditions and requirements, and in accordance with FAO rules.
ANNEX 2: OPERATIONS MANUAL: BENEFIT-SHARING FUND

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Benefit-sharing Fund is an essential element of the Funding Strategy and of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing. The Fund is the operational mechanism for receiving, utilizing and sharing the monetary benefits arising from Multilateral System, as specified in Article 19.3.f of the Treaty.

2. Established by the Governing Body and operational since 2009, the Benefit-sharing Fund has supported four project cycles with 80 projects funded around the world. The Governing Body has regularly worked to improve the operational procedures of the Fund, its selection process and priority areas of intervention. The Benefit-sharing Fund is an evolving mechanism, and the development of the programmatic approach for the Fund is another step in its development.

3. This Operations Manual brings together resource mobilization, allocation and disbursement in an integrated manner, and is incorporated into the overall Funding Strategy. Lessons learnt from previous project cycles have been integrated in this Manual.

Beneficiaries and priorities

4. The primary beneficiaries of the Benefit-sharing Fund are farmers, especially in developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, who conserve and sustainably utilize plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, as stated in Art. 13.3 of the International Treaty.

5. All projects funded will demonstrate the benefits that PGRFA brings to farmers, with a special emphasis on support to on-farm/in situ management, farmer-to-farmer exchanges, local seed value chains, and a better flow of PGRFA from ex-situ collections to farmers and back.

6. Within the agreed priorities of the Second Global Plan of Action, the programmatic approach of the Benefit-sharing Fund specifically focuses on:
   - Priority area 2: Supporting on-farm management and improvement of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and;
   - Priority area 11: Promoting development and commercialization of all varieties, primarily farmers’ varieties/landraces and underutilized crops.

7. Nevertheless, the programmatic approach puts in place supportive practices and enabling initiatives for the implementation of other priorities of the Second Global Plan of Action.

8. These priorities have been selected to fill in gaps in the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action and after having undertaken a thorough mapping of funding made available through other channels within the Funding Strategy.

The Benefit-sharing Fund within the Funding Strategy

9. Funds under the Benefit-sharing Fund are used strategically to play a catalytic role in international cooperation in the area of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

10. Funding provided through the Benefit-sharing Fund will also assist to mobilize additional resources not under the direct control of the Governing Body. The leading partners working through the Benefit-sharing Fund will be encouraged to build linkages between different funding sources and explore collaborative planning and co-spending opportunities with others.

11. In addition, the Benefit-sharing Fund facilitates the implementation of the various Treaty enabling mechanisms such as the Multilateral System, through the conservation, use and inclusion of materials, and the Global Information System.
Storyline and Theory of Change

12. In the last century, parts of the world’s food crop diversity disappeared forever reducing coping strategies and resources needed to grow crops that are more resilient, more productive and nutritious.

13. Small-scale farmers, especially those most vulnerable to climate change and food insecurity, greatly depend on PGRFA to ensure their livelihoods. The Benefit-sharing Fund gives farmers access to a wide range of seeds that are adapted to their needs. This enables farmers to grow different types of crops so that they are not dependent on only one or two, to grow crops with higher yields or varieties that are more resilient to pests, diseases and adverse climate conditions, and crops that taste better and that are more nutritious. The Benefit-sharing Fund enables small-scale farmers, scientists and breeders to tap into the Treaty’s global gene pool of millions of different genetic material to undertake research and develop new crop varieties.

14. Through helping farmers at local level to find solutions to climate change and other challenges, the Treaty system for agricultural diversity is strengthened. The Benefit-sharing Fund transcends the divide that is often seen between in-situ/on-farm and ex-situ conservation, and shows how different initiatives from farming communities through national and international genebanks are linked together through the International Treaty. Knowledge, information and germplasm generated through the Benefit-sharing Fund feeds back into the Treaty enabling mechanisms, expanding the resources available all over the world to improve food security and sustainable agriculture.

15. Figure 2 contains the Theory of Change of the Benefit-sharing Fund. The Theory of Change demonstrates the links between the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Results Framework of the Funding Strategy, particularly as they contribute to addressing major development challenges that farmers around the world are facing.

16. The Benefit-sharing Fund supports in situ and on-farm management and improvement and creates linkages with broader ex-situ conservation efforts. It enhances and facilitates both farmer to farmer exchanges of seed and enables the flow of PGRFA material from farmers to ex-situ collections and back. Funded projects put in place efforts to improve local seed value chains and make a wide range of adapted and improved varieties available to small scale farmers. Plant breeding efforts with the participation of farmers are supported and the capacity to develop varieties particularly adapted to socio-environmental conditions and of high quality are being strengthened. Lessons learned from actions funded help to inform national planning and decision-making on PGRFA.

17. The Benefit-sharing Fund is demand driven and responsive to the different needs and interests of farmers and other PGRFA providers and users. Funded projects result in strong consortia of Treaty enabling partners collaborating to enhance the implementation and visibility of the Treaty. The partnerships established are inclusive, dynamic and multiple level between a wide range of PGRFA institutions and stakeholders so as to create a sense of ownership of results and promote social inclusiveness.
Figure 2 Theory of Change: Benefit-sharing Fund
II. FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE BENEFIT-SHARING FUND AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

18. The Governing Body has set a funding target of [xx million] USD for the Benefit-sharing Fund for the period of 2020 to 2025. This target anticipates resources from two main sources:

- User-based income from the Multilateral System for Access and Benefit-sharing, which is considered of paramount importance to the delivery of sustainable and predictable resources to the Fund;
- Voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties and others.

MLS user-based income

19. As specified in Article 19.3.f of the International Treaty, the Benefit-sharing Fund is the mechanism established by the Governing Body for receiving and utilizing the financial resources that will accrue from the Multilateral System. The user-based income arising from the Multilateral System and deposited within the Benefit-sharing Fund will not be earmarked.

20. The user-based payments identified in the SMTA of the Multilateral System are expected to generate a predictable stream of funding from PGRFA users to the Benefit-sharing Fund. Communication and visibility efforts for the Benefit-sharing Fund will be extended to also recognize contributors to the Multilateral System.

21. The reviews of the Funding Strategy will enable the Governing Body to take stock of the user-based income generated by the Multilateral System, in order to inform future decision-making on the Funding Strategy and the Multilateral System.

Voluntary contributions

22. Achieving the Benefit-sharing Fund target will require the Treaty to maximise all funding opportunities. This section provides an overview of the various constituencies that are considered viable prospects for the Benefit-sharing Fund in the 2020-2025 period.

23. Prospects for voluntary contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund include: Contracting Parties and their respective ministries of agriculture, foreign affairs, development assistance and other relevant institutions.

24. Other contributors may include: States which are not yet Contracting Parties of the Treaty; philanthropic organizations; the private-sector, including the food processing industry and relevant international mechanisms.

25. The Benefit-sharing Fund may also benefit from the initiatives that will be explored through the programmatic approach of the Funding Strategy to mobilize funds from innovative sources and mechanisms.

26. The ambition is to have further diversified the sources of funding to the Benefit-sharing Fund by end of the period 2020-2025. The new programmatic approach of the Fund will enable the development of long-term partnerships with donors for the provision of predictable and long-term funding.

27. Voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties should preferably not be earmarked. Both un-earmarked and earmarked contributions must be used in accordance with the provisions contained in the Operations Manual. Earmarked voluntary contributions would be acceptable but will be kept under regular review by the Governing Body in accordance with Resolution 3/2017 given the implications of such earmarking, to ensure that there are not adverse effects on the Fund.

28. Donor recognition and visibility is an important feature of the programmatic approach and an opportunity to maximize donor involvement and help attract new resources and partners.

29. The Funding Committee will regularly provide advice on new prospects for voluntary contributions, donor partnerships for the Benefit-sharing Fund and donor recognition activities. In
providing such advice, the Committee may draw upon the elements of the former Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund of the previous Funding Strategy.

**OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR THE USE OF RESOURCES UNDER THE BENEFIT-SHARING FUND**

**Principles**

30. These operational procedures are based on the following principles:

- Transparency and impartiality;
- Simplicity and accessibility;
- Efficiency and effectiveness;
- Quality and technical merit.

**Project Cycle**

31. The Benefit-sharing Fund is under the direct control of the Governing Body, which delegates the authority for the operations of the Benefit-sharing Fund during the biennium to the Funding Committee. The Committee, during the biennium, may:

   a. establish and launch a new round of the project cycle, as needed;

   b. decide whether to provide funding to projects that previously received a Certificate of Excellence from the Panel of Experts or to a second phase of projects previously funded by the Benefit-sharing Fund;

   c. decide whether to contribute to larger development programmes to support the implementation of interventions that are aligned with the programmatic approach of the Benefit-sharing Fund;

   d. decide whether to provide project preparation funding for larger project proposal development contributing to the programmatic approach of the Fund.

32. The independent Panel of Experts will conduct the screening of pre-proposals and final review of project proposals. The Panel of Experts will be designated, from a Roster, by the Bureau in consultation with their Regions. It will consist of two experts from each FAO Region. The independent Panel of Experts will work without remuneration with resources provided under the core administrative budget for any necessary meetings. Terms of Reference of the Panel to be made public.

33. The Helpdesk, will support applicants in the preparation of pre-proposals and full project proposals in the Treaty languages.

34. The project cycle will consist of:

   a. **Opening a call for proposals:**
      
      i. issued by the Committee, in the official languages of the Treaty, and containing relevant information on the thematic focus, expected outcomes, steps and procedures of the Call;

      ii. advertisement on the Treaty website and through the national focal points and relevant regional bodies;

      iii. responsibility: prepared by the Secretariat, under the guidance of the Committee.

   b. **Submission of pre-proposals:**
i. in any of the Treaty languages, plus, where necessary, a translation to a working language;

ii. according to an agreed format and within agreed deadlines;

iii. addressing the eligibility and screening criteria;

iv. responsibility: applicant Contracting Parties or legal or natural persons, in consultation with the Contracting Party or Contracting Parties in question. The formal submission should be by or through a Contracting Party or Parties in question to the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty.

c. **Screening of pre-proposals:**

i. according to eligibility and screening criteria, established as part of the call for proposals;

ii. in accordance with the Policy of Conflicts of Interest;

iii. will result in a Panel Report with recommendations and a short list of high-quality pre-proposals that will receive a Certificate of Excellence;

iv. responsibility for screening: independent Panel of Experts, with support from the Secretariat;

d. **Approval of pre-proposals that will develop a project proposal within the project cycle and issuing of Certificates of Excellence:**

i. according to the funds at the disposal of the Governing Body in that project cycle and the recommendations of the independent Panel of Experts;

ii. according to additional possible considerations, such as geographical balance, with the aim of keeping the list of approved pre-proposals short;

iii. in accordance with the Policy of Conflicts of Interest;

iv. short list of high-quality pre-proposals to be made public;

v. responsibility for the approval: the Committee, which will request the Secretary to invite the selected applicants to develop a project proposal, which will eventually be funded, and provide a Certificate of Excellence to all short-listed pre-proposals;

e. **Submission of project proposals from approved pre-proposals:**

i. in any of the Treaty languages, plus, where necessary, a translation to a working language;

ii. according to an agreed submission form of project proposals and within stipulated deadlines;

iii. addressing the recommendations made by the Panel of Experts;

iv. recipient and channels of payment will be identified;

v. helpdesk to be provided to support preparation of project proposals, in all Treaty languages, including to ensure that all project proposals are aligned with the programmatic approach of the Benefit-sharing Fund and to support building synergies within and outside of the Benefit-sharing Fund;
vi. helpdesk to focus on Contracting Parties that have special needs, including small island developing states;

vii. responsibility: applicant Contracting Parties or legal or natural persons, in consultation with the Contracting Party or Contracting Parties in question. The formal submission should be by or through a Contracting Party or Parties in question to the Secretary.

f. Final review of project proposals:
   i. in accordance with the Policy of Conflict of Interests;
   ii. responsibility: the Panel of Experts will conduct a final review of the project proposals to ensure that the recommendations made during the screening have been taken into account in the development of project proposals and make suggestions for further improvement of project proposals, if needed. The Secretary will provide regular updates to the Committee on the finalization of project proposals.

g. Signature of project agreements and disbursement:
   i. according to rules and procedures set by FAO, and any procedures adopted by the Governing Body;
   ii. project agreements providing relevant legal and financial provisions and requirements from the Governing Body;
   iii. responsibility: Secretary and senior management of executing institutions.

Selection Criteria
35. The general framework of criteria that will be used in the screening of pre-proposals and review of project proposals is contained in Section III of Annex 1 of Resolution 2/2013 Implementation of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty. The exact criteria for screening in each round of the project cycle will be published in the Call for Proposals and will give consideration to the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals.

Conflict of Interest

IV. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING FRAMEWORK
37. The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (MEL framework) of the Benefit-sharing Fund is an integral part of the monitoring of the overall Funding Strategy as is described in Section V of the Funding Strategy.

38. This section of the Operations Manual sets out the objectives, basic principles, steps and responsibilities under the MEL framework.

39. The objectives of the MEL framework are the following:
   a. Promote accountability for the achievement of the priorities, storyline, Theory of Change and Results Framework of the Benefit-sharing Fund as established by the Governing Body through the assessment of results, effectiveness, processes, and performance;
b. Promote learning, feedback, and knowledge-sharing on results and lessons learned, as a basis for decision-making on policies, strategies, programmes, and project management.

40. The Governing Body will regularly receive a Report on the Benefit-sharing Fund with the information arising from the MEL framework. The contribution of the Benefit-sharing Fund to the programmatic approach of the Funding Strategy should be subject to review and continuous improvement.

41. The MEL framework will be further developed under the guidance of the Funding Committee and will link outcomes and outputs within the storyline and Theory of Change of the Benefit-sharing Fund with clear targets and indicators established to enable the monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes. The MEL framework will include but not be limited to the following targets:

a. PGRFA re-introduced, conserved, disseminated or bred with farmers’ participation;

b. Farmers supported to sustainably use and conserve PGRFA;

c. Young scientists and researchers supported;

d. Co-funding mobilized to support Treaty implementation through BSF interventions;

e. Plans and policies strengthened or developed to support national Treaty implementation;

f. Gender mainstreaming and inclusion of vulnerable groups.

42. The following steps will be undertaken for each project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund after the signing of project agreements and disbursement:

h. **Reporting and monitoring**

i. shall be undertaken in accordance with rules and procedures set by FAO, and any procedures adopted by the Governing Body;

ii. should inform Communication and Resource Mobilization efforts;

iii. must include information on the total amount of financial resources used in the project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund, and the total amount of resources allocated to each one of the categories listed in Part III, paragraph 2 of the Manual.

iv. shall be the responsibility of the executing entity, which develops the monitoring products to submit to the Secretary for approval.

i. **Independent Evaluation**

iv. use of standard evaluation procedures based on norms and standards of the United Nation’s Evaluation Group;

v. evaluation of the sustainable effects and impacts of projects or groups of projects, providing accountability on results and aiming at facilitating the further development of the overall Funding Strategy;

vi. funds will be set aside at the beginning of each project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund to enable the independent evaluation;

vii. a review of the Benefit-sharing Fund and its programmatic approach will be commissioned by the Governing Body as part of each review and update of the Funding Strategy;
viii. according to rules and procedures set by FAO, and any procedures adopted by the Governing Body;

ix. responsibility: the evaluation team is led by independent experts not otherwise involved with projects of the Benefit-sharing Fund. An Approach Paper and Terms of Reference for evaluation are prepared by the Secretary and the FAO Evaluation Office, in consultation with the Standing Funding Committee. The evaluation team is solely responsible for the independent evaluation report. The evaluation report shall contain findings and recommendations and will be made public through the website. The response to the evaluation report will also be made available through the website.

j. **Learning**

x. enabled within and between projects and programmes and the external environment;

xi. lessons learned and continuous learning are regularly provided to all Regions so to increase commitment to the Fund;

xii. should occur on a continuous basis so that knowledge and lessons can be applied and facilitated through a community of practice of enabling partners.

xiv. responsibility: the executing entities and the Secretariat, and the wider dissemination of synthesis of lessons learned by National Focal Points, donors, the Funding Committee and others enabling partners;

xv. should inform the regular review of the Funding Strategy.
Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019

Terms of Reference
Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization
(Funding Committee)

The Funding Committee will assist the Governing Body in exercising its functions with respect to the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty through activities such as:

a. Making recommendations on how to improve the coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of the Funding Strategy;

b. Providing to the Governing Body draft guidance for the implementation of the Funding Strategy, taking into account the reports on the Funding Strategy and other reports, as well as submissions from Contracting Parties and minimizing extra reporting burdens to Contracting Parties;

c. Developing cooperation for the implementation of the Funding Strategy, and in doing so, Members are encouraged to promote the implementation of the Funding Strategy in their capacity as Funding Committee Members;

d. Providing guidance and decisions on the operations of the Benefit-sharing Fund during the biennium, as outlined in the Operational Manual: Benefit-Sharing Fund (Annex 2 of the Funding Strategy);

e. Monitoring and reviewing the implementation of non-monetary benefit-sharing measures, with a view to recommending any additional measures as appropriate, using a methodology agreed by the Committee;

f. Providing expert input, including through independent reviews and assessments on the implementation of the Funding Strategy;

g. Preparing periodic overviews of finance flows to areas of Treaty implementation, including information on the sources and thematic balance of such flows, and use of the different funding tools, inter alia by continuing to develop the provisionally populated Matrix as contained in the Appendix to these Terms of Reference;

h. Strengthening cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust, in its role as an essential element of the Funding Strategy of the Treaty in relation to ex situ conservation;

i. Providing a forum for communication and continued exchange of information among bodies and entities dealing with finance for agrobiodiversity and climate change in order to promote linkages and coherence, as appropriate;

j. Maintaining linkages with other relevant subsidiary bodies of the Governing Body;

k. Considering options on how to address data gaps in order to revise assumptions and refine estimates, as necessary, to obtain an achievable target for the overall Funding Strategy;

l. Performing any other functions that may, from time to time, be assigned to it by the Governing Body including the relevant tasks specified in the Funding Strategy adopted by the Governing Body through Resolution 3/2019.
Appendix to the Terms of Reference

Provisionally Populated Matrix of Funding Tools

I. Introduction

Through Resolution 3/2017, the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (hereinafter ‘the Treaty’) decided to reconvene the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (hereinafter ‘the Committee’) with the mandate to update the Funding Strategy and related Annexes for consideration and approval by the Eighth Session of the Governing Body. The present document provides the second iteration of a provisionally filled Matrix of Funding Tools and the Areas and Programmes under the International Treaty (hereinafter ‘the Matrix’). The main information basis to populate the Matrix is the document, Report on Progress: Matrix of Funding Tools Analysis.30 The Matrix has been filled as part of an iterative review of the funding landscape of relevance to Treaty implementation, which is meant to inform deliberations in of the Committee. The first iteration of the review was presented to the Tenth meeting of the Committee.31

Due to the many challenges associated with data collection for the purposes of this Matrix, as discussed more fully in the Report on Progress: Matrix of Funding Tools Analysis referred to above, which is to be read in conjunction with the present document. The Matrix presented here visualizes only a limited data set, and may be further refined in future iterations of this exercise. However, while there is certainly scope to improve the information through further iterations of the analysis, it is important to note that there are pernicious limitations inherent in the Matrix-centred approach itself, which cannot be overcome within the confines of this approach.

The Matrix presented in the present document does not show levels of funding flow in financial figures, primarily due to the very poor inter-institutional comparability of data – such as is due to different reporting periods, and financial accounting frameworks. Instead, it visualises where areas of work and programming priorities of each funding tool are commensurate with the areas and programmes under the Treaty.

In addition to the provisionally populated Matrix, this document also provides a short summary of findings by Treaty area. This is a qualitative analysis of the contribution of each funding tool to the different areas and programmes under the Treaty.

II. Summary of findings by Treaty area

Ex situ conservation – global level

The two institutions leading efforts in this Treaty area are the Global Crop Diversity Trust (hereinafter ‘the Crop Trust’) and the Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR Centres). There is a long term vision and programming mechanisms to ensure funding to genebanks functioning at the global level through these institutions. It needs to be recognized that the World Bank contributes as key donor to the CGIAR Centres.

Ex situ conservation – regional level

The Crop Trust is the only institution that has reported some specific funding for regional genebanks and that has a long term programmatic approach to support a number of regional collections, which

are managed under Article 15 of the International Treaty. These collections also receive funding from bilateral or regional programmes on a more ad hoc basis. More data needs to be gathered on financing regional genebanks.

**Ex situ conservation – national level**

While there appears to be no leading multilateral channel to support national ex situ collections of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), these collections receive funding, on an ad hoc basis, through projects from many multilateral and bilateral channels. While the core funding for national ex situ collections will come from national budgets, more information is needed on levels and trends for such funding.

**In situ conservation**

There is strong indication that the main multilateral channel through which support flows specifically to in situ conservation efforts of crop diversity and crop wild relatives is the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The GEF has recently invested more in on-farm management and sustainable use than in any other Treaty area. There are other actors that contribute to this Treaty area, such as IFAD and the CGIAR in the area of research for in situ conservation, but the main global player is GEF.

**On-farm management**

A wide range of players interface in this Treaty area. The Benefit-sharing Fund has on-farm management of PGRFA as one of its main priorities and there are specific programmes within GEF to support this area. Many IFAD grants have a focus on on-farm management coupled with crop diversification and market value chains, and the same holds for projects funded by the GCF. While the CGIAR may be seen by others as a leader in ex situ conservation and breeding, there is considerable amount of funding channelled through the CGIAR to support on-farm management.

**Breeding/Sustainable Use**

The CGIAR channels considerable amounts of funding towards breeding of the crops listed in Annex I of the Treaty. Other multilateral and regional mechanisms that channel funding towards breeding need to be further explored; for example, there have been many regional breeding initiatives funded by bilateral programmes or foundations in Africa in recent years. This needs further exploration. The roles of the World Bank and the regional development banks in this context need to be further explored, as well. The role of the private sector has so far not been considered.

There are two highlights in the area of sustainable use (other than breeding): the survey conducted as part of this review has shown that many projects funded in support of on-farm management deal with crop diversification, markets and seed delivery, including those projects funded by the GEF, GCF, IFAD and the Treaty’s Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF). Other projects in this area are more focused on seed systems and seed policies, where FAO has a long tradition.

**Technology transfer**

The dissemination of improved breeding lines by the CGIAR is an important technology transfer mechanism under the International Treaty. Technology transfer is therefore embedded in the final stages of the breeding programmes of the CGIAR. The BSF has piloted the implementation of specific projects targeting different technology transfer models (North-South, South-South, CGIAR-NARS). Most other funding tools integrate technology transfer in the entirety of their project portfolios. The role of the World Bank needs to be further explored in this area, as well as those of the regional banks and the private sector.

**Information systems and Global Information System**

The main resource partners for PGRFA information systems and the Global Information System (GLIS) are FAO, the Crop Trust, the CGIAR, and certain donors through the Fund for Agreed Purposes (FAP) of the Treaty. These are the key institutions and entities that contribute to maintaining
the global information infrastructure, as stipulated under Article 17 of the Treaty. The national and regional programmes that contribute data to the GLIS and manage their information systems receive funding mainly from national sources.

**Capacity building**

Almost all the funding tools listed in the Matrix that were surveyed are involved in capacity building as part of the majority of their projects related to PGRFA. FAO, the Treaty through its FAP, the CGIAR and the Crop Trust are currently the resource partners best placed to provide highly specific capacity building on PGRFA and the Treaty implementation.

**The Multilateral System**

Funding to support the Multilateral System (MLS) is channelled primarily through (i) the funding provided to the global, regional, and national genebanks that sustain the System, that is, mainly the Crop Trust, the CGIAR and national sources, and (ii) the policy and capacity building programmes that the CGIAR and the FAP support to facilitate developing countries’ participation in the Multilateral System. The 7th replenishment cycle of the GEF is set to support the joint implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the Treaty and opens up the possibility of funding to enable a policy environment conducive to the functioning of the MLS.

**Farmers’ Rights**

There are currently no funding tools that prioritize Farmers’ Rights. However, while very limited ad hoc funding is provided by some donors through the FAP, on-farm management projects regularly have policy and capacity building components that relate to the implementation of Farmers’ Rights.

**Policy development**

The leading institution in policy development for agricultural biodiversity in the last decade has been FAO, with the Treaty and the CGIAR playing important and differentiated roles. As indicated above, GEF and IFAD projects will have policy components within individual projects. In this context, the role of the World Bank, as well as the role of agencies such as the UNDP, need to be explored.

### III. Understanding the provisionally populated Matrix

Figure 1 below highlights, in blue, which areas are being addressed by each funding tool, that is, to which areas funding has been provided to date or in which areas work has been carried out by each tool.

This visualization of the linkages between funding tools and Treaty areas is based on the data gathered during the first two iterations of this exercise, as documented in the Report on Progress II. More concrete data is needed from the CGIAR and FAO, but it is foreseen that these organizations contribute, in one way or the other, to most of the areas of Treaty implementation. However, highlighted here are only the areas for which robust data is available.
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<td>In situ</td>
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<tr>
<td>global</td>
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Funding channels not under the guidance and/or direct control of the Governing Body or Secretariat

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<tr>
<th>National funding</th>
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<th>On-farm management</th>
<th>Sustainable use &amp; Breeding</th>
<th>Technology transfer</th>
<th>Information systems</th>
<th>Capacity building</th>
<th>MLS</th>
<th>GLIS</th>
<th>Farmer’s Rights</th>
<th>Policy Development</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bilateral funding</td>
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<td>Capacity building</td>
<td>MLS</td>
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<td>Farmer’s Rights</td>
<td>Policy Development</td>
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</table>

Other international mechanisms, funds and bodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FAO</th>
<th>Ex situ</th>
<th>In situ</th>
<th>On-farm management</th>
<th>Sustainable use &amp; Breeding</th>
<th>Technology transfer</th>
<th>Information systems</th>
<th>Capacity building</th>
<th>MLS</th>
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<th>Policy Development</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CGIAR</td>
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<td>Sustainable use &amp; Breeding</td>
<td>Technology transfer</td>
<td>Information systems</td>
<td>Capacity building</td>
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<td>GLIS</td>
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<td>Policy Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
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<td>In situ</td>
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<td>Technology transfer</td>
<td>Information systems</td>
<td>Capacity building</td>
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<td>Policy Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEF</td>
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<td>Sustainable use &amp; Breeding</td>
<td>Technology transfer</td>
<td>Information systems</td>
<td>Capacity building</td>
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<td>Farmer’s Rights</td>
<td>Policy Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCF</td>
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<td>In situ</td>
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<td>Technology transfer</td>
<td>Information systems</td>
<td>Capacity building</td>
<td>MLS</td>
<td>GLIS</td>
<td>Farmer’s Rights</td>
<td>Policy Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFAD</td>
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<td>In situ</td>
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<td>Sustainable use &amp; Breeding</td>
<td>Technology transfer</td>
<td>Information systems</td>
<td>Capacity building</td>
<td>MLS</td>
<td>GLIS</td>
<td>Farmer’s Rights</td>
<td>Policy Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funding mechanisms for which the Governing Body provides policy guidance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GCDT</th>
<th>Ex situ</th>
<th>In situ</th>
<th>On-farm management</th>
<th>Sustainable use &amp; Breeding</th>
<th>Technology transfer</th>
<th>Information systems</th>
<th>Capacity building</th>
<th>MLS</th>
<th>GLIS</th>
<th>Farmer’s Rights</th>
<th>Policy Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Tools under the guidance and/or direct control of the Governing Body or Secretariat

<table>
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<th>Other</th>
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<th>On-farm management</th>
<th>Sustainable use &amp; Breeding</th>
<th>Technology transfer</th>
<th>Information systems</th>
<th>Capacity building</th>
<th>MLS</th>
<th>GLIS</th>
<th>Farmer’s Rights</th>
<th>Policy Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fund for Agreed Purposes</td>
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<td>On-farm management</td>
<td>Sustainable use &amp; Breeding</td>
<td>Technology transfer</td>
<td>Information systems</td>
<td>Capacity building</td>
<td>MLS</td>
<td>GLIS</td>
<td>Farmer’s Rights</td>
<td>Policy Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
i. “Farmers’ contributions” was removed from this Matrix for reasons of clarity. See also p. 8 of Report on Progress: Matrix of Funding Tools Analysis.

ii. A column on “policy development” was added as this is a relevant area under the Treaty and funding flows in this respect were part of the findings.

iii. While our preliminary analyses show that most domestic spending concentrates on ex situ conservation as well as sustainable use and plant breeding, it needs to be considered that the data set available for this review was too small to be able to draw any robust conclusions. This row has been filled considering the data provided by 14 Contracting Parties. Only when at least 50% of them (i.e. seven countries) had expenditures in a particular area has that area been highlighted.

iv. It is important to note that the data presented in the associated Report on Progress: Matrix of Funding Tools Analysis highlights only ex situ and in situ conservation, sustainable use, and capacity building as areas supported through FAO funds. However, these data were obtained through work on the Global Plan of Action (GPA), meaning the figures were divided according to the four priority areas of the Second GPA and may have been broken up differently when mapped across the entirety of the thematic areas under the International Treaty as defined in the Matrix. It is expected that FAO will contribute, in one way or the other, to all of the areas under the Treaty.

v. This heading has been amended to reflect the fact that the Fund for Agreed Purposes falls under the guidance of the Governing Body.
RESOLUTION 4/2019

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling its previous Resolutions and decisions on the Vision and the Programme of Work on the Global Information System (Programme of Work on GLIS) and particularly Resolutions 3/2015 and 5/2017;

Further recalling the contribution of the Global Information System of Article 17 of the International Treaty (GLIS) to the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, in particular to the provisions of Article 13.2.a;

Thanking the Governments of Germany and Canada for the financial support provided for the implementation of the Programme of Work on GLIS during the 2018–2019 biennium and the organization of the third meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System of Article 17 (Scientific Advisory Committee);

1. Takes note of the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Work on GLIS during the 2018–2019 biennium and requests that such implementation continues in the 2020–2021 biennium;

2. Takes note of the progress made in the voluntary use of the Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs), and requests the Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to continue its efforts to build the capacity of relevant stakeholders, especially in developing countries and to review the DOI Guidelines taking into account comments from national genebanks;

3. Takes note of the ongoing collaboration with Genesys, the World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS), GRIN-Global, the European Search Catalogue for Plant Genetic Resources (EURISCO) and the SPGRC Documentation and Information System (Web-SDIS), and requests the Secretary to continue enhancing cooperation with relevant institutions and initiatives, and to facilitate the exchange of information through the Global Information System with existing information systems while avoiding duplication of efforts, including with the DivSeek International Network, Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN), the CGIAR Big Data Platform and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF);

4. Encourages the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) to explore possibilities for free access to and use of the information in the PLUTO database, including downloading information, for example by linking PLUTO to GLIS;

5. Requests the Secretary, subject to availability of resources, to establish infrastructural elements in the GLIS Portal linking to information related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), such as methods, standards, actors, capacity building and legal issues, in accordance with national and/or local legislation, as appropriate;

6. Takes note of the ongoing Secretariat project entitled “Development of a Globally Agreed List of Descriptors for in situ Crop Wild Relatives Documentation” funded by the Government of Germany and encourages the participation of experts in the consultation process;
7. **Further takes note** of the usefulness of controlled vocabularies and crop ontologies,\(^\text{32}\) and **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to support the conversion of existing crop descriptors into ontologies and to further explore the use of stable ontologies through the Global Information System;

8. **Recalls** the opinion of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the usefulness of the voluntary application of DOIs to PGRFA information and **thanks** the stakeholders and users that have submitted information on the application of DOIs to digital sequence information/genetic sequence data (DSI/GSD),\(^\text{33}\) including to link phenotypic and passport data with genomics data;

9. **Requests** the Secretary to encourage and guide users to link scientific publications and datasets to PGRFA material, and in supporting users to incorporate such information into information management systems;

10. **Thanks** the Scientific Advisory Committee for the development of entry points developed in the Master Plan for the Portal and **requests** the Secretary to incorporate them in the GLIS Portal as soon as possible;

11. **Takes note** of progress made with the DivSeek International Network, and **requests** the Secretary to explore possible arrangements for further engagement with the Network, under the guidance of the Bureau of the Ninth Session;

12. **Decides** to reconvene the Scientific Advisory Committee with the same composition and terms of reference of the previous biennium, subject to the availability of financial resources, and **requests** the Secretary to continue updating the Committee on progress with the GLIS Vision and the Programme of Work on GLIS;

13. **Invites** the Scientific Advisory Committee to review, as may be required, the Programme of Work on GLIS for the consideration of the Governing Body at its Ninth Session;

14. **Requests** the Scientific Advisory Committee to continue considering scientific and technical issues of relevance to DSI/GSD, and considering national legislation, as appropriate;

15. **Invites** Contracting Parties, other governments and stakeholders to provide the necessary resources to implement the Programme of Work on GLIS, in particular for the further development of the GLIS Portal, the review of crop ontologies and the support of training and capacity-strengthening activities in developing countries;

16. **Requests** the Secretary to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee and to submit a progress implementation report to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body.

\(^{32}\) Crop ontologies are mainly based on crop descriptors and introduce concepts such as operators and hierarchies on top of the flat list of terms facilitating structured queries.

\(^{33}\) The Governing Body has not yet decided on the official terminology for digital sequence information/genetic sequence data and therefore uses “DSI/GSD” until new terminology is agreed.
RESOLUTION 5/2019

IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLES 5 AND 6, CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

THE GOVERNING BODY,


Reaffirming the key role of the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) and the link between Farmers’ Rights under Article 9 and the provisions on conservation and sustainable use of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;

Taking note that the work on Farmers’ Rights under Article 9 is now the subject of a distinct Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) under the Governing Body;

Taking into account that the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture advised the Secretary to structure and update the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2020–2023, and to create synergies within the Programme of Work, and between the Programme of Work and other areas of work of the International Treaty;

Recognizing that sustainable use is closely linked to conservation of PGRFA;

1. Decides to convene the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, with the Terms of Reference contained in the Annex to this Resolution;

2. Requests Contracting Parties and stakeholders to continue reporting on their implementation of conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and invites the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to provide the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty with the reports received from its members on the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;

3. Requests the Secretary to compile and summarize these reports and submit the compilation and the summary to the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for further review, and to support the Committee in its work;

4. Requests the Secretary to continue updating the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA on the International Treaty’s website, disseminate information about it and provide information about its use for consideration by the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, according to its Terms of Reference;

5. Requests the Secretary, in collaboration with other stakeholders, and subject to the availability of financial resources, to:

   • continue cooperating with relevant units within FAO, other entities and institutions, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and national and international agricultural research centres, as well as the public and private sector and civil society, for the effective
implementation of activities in support of implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;

• cooperate with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in organizing the International Symposium on “on-farm management and in situ conservation” that will take place in the next biennium;

• facilitate and monitor the activities carried out by Contracting Parties, stakeholders and international organizations in support of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;

• facilitate training and capacity building to support the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;

• support national programmes in policy development for sustainable use of PGRFA, and in building partnerships and mobilizing resources;

• continue collaborating with other relevant initiatives, in particular, of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on the interaction between genetic resources, community- and farmer-led system activities and protected area systems;

• further develop collaboration with CGIAR Centres and other relevant organizations, on training and capacity building for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, including through efforts for joint resource mobilization.

6. **Thanks** the Government of Italy for the generous financial and in-kind support it has provided to the implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2016–2019, and **calls on** Contracting Parties and other donors to provide additional financial resources for the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty.
Annex

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

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture will:
   
i) Review the compilation and summaries provided by the Secretary on the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;
   
ii) Based on this review, identify examples and opportunities to support and assist Contracting Parties and stakeholders in promoting, enhancing and further developing the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA as set out in Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;
   
iii) Review the information provided by the Secretary on the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA;
   
iv) Based on this review, assess the relevance and effectiveness of the Toolbox and prepare concrete recommendations on how it can be monitored, evaluated and improved in order to better guide Contracting Parties and stakeholders for the sustainable use of PGRFA;
   
v) Provide advice about the possibility of a future Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA based on the documentation prepared by the Secretariat;
   
vi) Based on the above, recommend further steps on how the Governing Body can assist Contracting Parties in advancing the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty for consideration of the Governing Body at its Ninth Session.

2. The Committee will comprise up to three members from each FAO Region, and seven technical experts designated by the Bureau, upon proposal by the FAO Regions and relevant stakeholders, in particular farmers’ organizations, taking into account the required range of technical expertise, and regional and gender balance. Two Co-Chairpersons from Contracting Parties to the International Treaty will form part of the Committee – one from a developing country and one from a developed country. The Co-Chairpersons will be elected by members of the Committee designated by the FAO Regions.

3. The Secretary will continue maintaining and updating the list of experts for further reference. This will be made available to Contracting Parties with a possible view to expanding the pool of experts on conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

4. The Committee may hold up to two meetings in the biennium 2020–2021, subject to the availability of financial resources.

5. The Secretary will facilitate the process and assist the Committee in its work.

6. The Committee will prepare a report at the end of its meetings and report to the Governing Body on its work, for further consideration at the Ninth Session.
RESOLUTION 6/2019

IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 9, FARMERS’ RIGHTS

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling the recognition, in the International Treaty, of the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world have made, and will continue to make, to the conservation, development and use of plant genetic resources as the basis of food and agriculture production throughout the world;


1. Welcomes the Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers’ Rights, and thanks the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group for the significant progress so far made by it in fulfilling its tasks;

2. Takes note of the officials and members of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group appointed or designated by the Bureau of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body;

3. Welcomes the Inventory of National Measures, Best Practices and Lessons Learned on the Realization of Farmers’ Rights (the Inventory), recognizing that it will be periodically reviewed and updated, as necessary;

4. Endorses the structure of the Inventory and the template for collecting information, as developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group for inclusion or for further updating of the information in the Inventory;

5. Welcomes the establishment of an online electronic version of the Inventory, and requests the Secretary to continue soliciting more information to be included or to update existing information in the Inventory;

6. Takes note of the outline of the Options for Encouraging, Guiding and Promoting the Realization of Farmers’ Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, which will form the basis for the completion of the task of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group in this regard;

7. Decides to reconvene the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group for the 2020–2021 biennium in order to complete its tasks based on the Terms of Reference established at the Seventh Session of the Governing Body and the provisions of this Resolution;

8. Decides to expand the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group with two more representatives of farmers’ organizations particularly from centres of origin and crop diversity;

9. Decides that, subject to the availability of financial resources, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group may hold up to two meetings in the biennium 2020–2021, as currently constituted, and report to the Ninth Session of Governing Body on its work for further consideration;

10. Requests the Secretary to prepare the relevant documentation to facilitate the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group;

11. Requests the Bureau of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, working with the relevant region or stakeholder group, to fill any vacant positions that may arise in the membership of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group;

12. Requests the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group to present the results of its work at the Ninth Session of the Governing Body for its consideration;
13. **Thanks** the Governments of Italy and Norway for their generous financial support to the meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, and **appeals** to Contracting Parties and other donors to provide additional financial resources for the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, including to cover the costs of interpretation and the translation of documents into relevant languages;

14. **Invites** Contracting Parties to consider developing national measures, in particular within their seed policy and other agricultural policies, for the implementation of Article 9, as appropriate and subject to national legislation, in line with implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;

15. **Invites** Contracting Parties to engage farmers’ organizations and relevant stakeholders in matters related to the realization of Farmers’ Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and to promote awareness-raising and capacity-building towards this aim;

16. **Invites** Contracting Parties to promote sustainable biodiverse production systems and facilitate participatory approaches such as community seed banks, community biodiversity registries, participatory plant breeding and seed fairs as tools for realizing Farmer's Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, as appropriate;

17. **Invites** Contracting Parties and relevant organizations to take initiatives to convene further regional workshops and other consultations with a broad range of stakeholders, including with farmers’ organizations, particularly those in the centres of origin and crop diversity, for the exchange of knowledge, views and experiences on the realization of Farmers’ Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, and present the results at the Ninth Session of the Governing Body;

18. **Requests** the Secretary to facilitate such initiatives upon request and subject to the availability of financial and human resources;

19. **Invites** Contracting Parties and all relevant stakeholders, especially farmers’ organizations, to submit or update views, experiences and best practices for national implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, as appropriate and subject to national legislation, for inclusion in the inventory, and **requests** the Secretary to collect them;

20. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to disseminate and promote the use of the Educational Module on Farmers’ Rights, and **invites** Contracting Parties and other relevant stakeholders to use it along with the catalogue of measures contained in the Inventory, as appropriate;

21. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial and human resources, to consider organizing capacity development workshops and, to the extent feasible, in collaboration with relevant FAO units and other partners;

22. **Notes** the ongoing review process of the FAQ on the interrelations between the UPOV Convention and the International Treaty and exchange of experiences and information on implementation of the UPOV Convention and the International Treaty, and **requests** the Secretary to continue exploring how Contracting Parties to the International Treaty could further contribute to these processes, and to continue the dialogue with UPOV on these matters;

23. **Invites** each Contracting Party that has not already done so, to consider reviewing, and, if necessary, adjusting national measures that affect the realization of Farmers’ Rights, in particular legislation concerning variety release and seed distribution, to protect and promote Farmers’ Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, as appropriate and subject to national legislation;

24. **Takes note** of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas by the United Nations General Assembly;

25. **Appreciates** the participation of farmers’ organizations in activities to support the realization of Farmers’ Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, and **invites** them to continue to actively participate in Sessions of the Governing Body and in relevant intersessional meetings of relevant subsidiary bodies established by the Governing Body, as appropriate and according to the
Rules of Procedure of the International Treaty, and giving due consideration to the FAO Strategy for Partnerships with Civil Society;

26. **Encourages** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue outreach and communication on Farmers’ Rights, to relevant stakeholders as an important measure to advance the realization of Farmers’ Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty;

27. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to follow processes of relevance to Article 9 of the International Treaty, within and outside FAO, in order to promote the consideration of Farmers’ Rights;

28. **Calls upon** Contracting Parties to support the activities outlined in this Resolution, including through the provision of financial resources;

29. **Requests** the Secretary to report to the Governing Body, at its Ninth Session, on the implementation of this Resolution.
RESOLUTION 7/2019

COMPLIANCE

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling its previous decisions on compliance,

1. Thanks those Contracting Parties that have submitted their reports pursuant to Section V of the Compliance Procedures on time as well as those that submitted or updated their reports subsequently;

2. Thanks the Government of Germany for the generous financial support provided for the capacity building activities for the preparation and submission of the national reports and invites other donors to provide similar support and resources;

3. Thanks other organizations and institutions that are providing technical and financial support for the implementation of the International Treaty, including the conservation and use of PGRFA;

4. Takes note of the recommendations made by various Contracting Parties in relation to capacity building and the support needed, including through:
   a. the provision of advice, technical options, and experiences for the review of mechanisms and policies for the implementation of the International Treaty;
   b. establishing or strengthening national coordination mechanisms and supporting national focal points;
   c. the development of implementation plans for the International Treaty at the national level;
   d. capacity building in national institutions in various technical areas, including the use of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA), Easy-SMTA, the notification of material that is available in the Multilateral System, and the Global Information System; and
   e. taking advantage of existing, and creating new, opportunities for collaboration at the regional level.

5. Encourages the integration of the following options for capacity building regarding monitoring and reporting on implementation of the International Treaty in the future activities and programmes, subject to the availability of financial resources:
   a. The organization of capacity building workshop at regional and sub-regional levels for national focal points and other relevant stakeholders;
   b. The development of training resources on various topics, including through appropriate multimedia;
   c. The inclusion of a section on the International Treaty's website with frequently asked questions and answers;
   d. Leveraging the activities and operations of existing regional and sub-regional plant genetic resources centres and networks;
   e. Exploring opportunities in the regions for the organization of training meetings and other events back-to-back in collaboration with FAO and other relevant organizations; and
   f. The publication of information notes on the reporting options for national focal points and reporting officers.
6. **Invites** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial and human resources, to consider the organization of capacity-building workshops for the monitoring and reporting of the implementation of the International Treaty and, to the extent feasible, in collaboration with the FAO units tasked with the monitoring of the Global Plan of Action on PGRFA;

7. **Encourages** Contracting Parties to submit, pursuant to section IX of the Compliance Procedures, additional technical questions related to the implementation of the International Treaty to the Committee for their consideration and response;

8. **Invites** Contracting Parties to continue submitting and updating their reports, pursuant to Section V of the Compliance Procedures, urging those Contracting Parties which have not yet done so, and **emphasizes**, in this context, that the second reports be submitted by 1 October 2023 and **requests** the Secretary to send regular reminders to Contracting Parties;

9. **Thanks** the Compliance Committee for the analysis provided in the document IT/GB-8/19/13, Report of the Compliance Committee;

10. **Requests** the Compliance Committee, in consultation with Contracting Parties and with the support of the Secretariat, to review compliance with the International Treaty and in particular the Articles that specify binding obligations on Contracting Parties, and to present its conclusions and suggestions for action to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body;

11. **Requests** the Compliance Committee to work in collaboration with the Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization to integrate information related to the implementation, monitoring and review of the Funding Strategy into the existing reporting format;

12. **Approves** the reviewed Standard Reporting Format, as given in Appendix 3 of document IT/GB-8/19/13, *Report of the Compliance Committee*, and **requests** the Secretary to update the Online Reporting System accordingly, and to continue assisting Contracting Parties during the next reporting cycle;

13. **Requests** the Secretary to maintain and keep updated the Online Reporting System and to continue providing assistance to Contracting Parties during the reporting process;

14. **Invites** Contracting Parties to provide or update the contact details of their National Focal Points and, possibly, nominate an alternate reporting officer;

15. **Requests** the Compliance Committee to review the Compliance Procedures at its subsequent meetings for consideration by the Governing Body at the Ninth Session; and

16. **Elects** the members of the Compliance Committee in accordance with Section III.4 of the Compliance Procedures, as contained in the Annex to this Resolution.

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MEMBERS OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE*

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<tr>
<th>AFRICA</th>
<th>Ms Angeline MUNZARA (2014)</th>
<th>Mr Koffi KOMBATE (2016)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASIA</td>
<td>Mr Anil Kumar ACHARYA (2018)</td>
<td>Mr Koukham VILAYHEUNG (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEAR EAST</td>
<td>Ms Hanaiya EL-ITRIBY (2020)</td>
<td>Mr Javad MOZAFARI (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH WEST PACIFIC</td>
<td>Ms Birte NASS-KOMOLONG (2020)</td>
<td>Mr Michael RYAN (2020)</td>
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*The year in parenthesis indicates the beginning of the first term of the candidate. According to the Rules of Procedures of the Compliance Committee, members shall be elected by the Governing Body for a period of four years, this being a full term, commencing on January 1st of the first year of the financial period of the International Treaty following their election. Members shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms (Rule III.4).
RESOLUTION 8/2019

CONTRIBUTION OF FAO TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

THE GOVERNING BODY,

1. Thanks FAO for the financial and administrative support it provides to the Secretariat of the International Treaty and for the implementation of the International Treaty;
2. Invites FAO to continue supporting the efforts to increase the membership of the International Treaty by undertaking concrete measures to promote ratification by FAO Member Countries that have not yet done so, with a view to making it a universal agreement;
3. Further invites FAO to continue its support to the International Treaty to increase its financial sustainability, and its ability to address complex issues such as food security in the digital era;
4. Recalling that the FAO Conference, at its 41st Session, decided to prioritize work on mainstreaming biodiversity, during the next biennium, calls upon FAO to consider supporting International Treaty activities as part of this stream of work, including through the allocation or provision of financial resources;
5. Invites FAO to continue to actively support the International Treaty as a key international instrument required for the fulfilment of Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 15, and to build awareness of the importance of the implementation of, and compliance with, the International Treaty at the highest national levels;
6. Recommends that the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors place adequate emphasis on genetic diversity, and invites FAO to continue including the Secretary of the International Treaty in activities to implement the Strategy;
7. Emphasizes the importance of FAO’s continuous assistance with the implementation of the International Treaty at the national level, including through the provision of technical, capacity-building and operational support to the International Treaty and its mechanisms, such as the Benefit-sharing Fund;
8. Requests the Secretary and the Bureau to consider collaboration with other units and instruments within FAO to benefit from experiences such as the use of online information sharing platforms and activities for outreach and resource mobilization, including those related to the International Year of Plant Health in 2020;
9. Invites FAO to provide a comprehensive report at each Session on its contributions to the implementation of the International Treaty, and the Secretariat to provide updates on the status of implementation of invitations made to FAO.
RESOLUTION 9/2019

COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling Resolution 11/2017 and other previous Resolutions on the cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission);

1. Welcomes the ongoing close cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body and the joint activities undertaken by the Secretariats of the Governing Body and the Commission during the past intersessional period;

2. Agrees to keep the matter of the functional division of tasks and activities between the Governing Body and the Commission under review and requests the Secretary to regularly report any relevant developments in the cooperation with the Commission;

3. Recalling Article 17.3 of the International Treaty, invites Parties to cooperate with the Commission in the preparation of The Third Report on the State of the World’s Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in order to facilitate the updating of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;

4. Requests the Secretary to cooperate in the organization of the international symposium on in situ conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, subject to availability of resources, and requests that the outcomes of the symposium be made available to the Governing Body;

5. Welcomes the joint activities of the Secretariats of the Treaty and the Commission during the past intersessional period and requests the Secretary to continue strengthening collaboration and coordination with the Secretary of the Commission to promote coherence and synergies, while avoiding duplications, in the development and implementation of the respective programmes of work of the two bodies, and in particular with regard to:

(a) the preparation of The Third Report on the State of the World’s Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and of a draft Third Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as appropriate;

(b) the implementation and monitoring of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;

(c) the implementation of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, including through capacity building;

(d) support to countries with strengthening their crop improvement capacity;

(e) the preparation of in-depth case studies on the effects of seed policies, laws and regulations on: (i) on-farm diversity of PGRFA; (ii) smallholders’ access to sufficient, affordable, diversified and locally adapted PGRFA, including farmers’ varieties/landraces; and (iii) food security and nutrition under the different seed systems;

(f) access and benefit-sharing;
(g) “digital sequence information/genetic sequence data” (DSI/GSD);\(^{35}\)

(h) the Global Information System (GLIS) and FAO World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (WIEWS), targets and indicators, as well as the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;

(i) joint training events at the regional level and the provision of assistance for the elaboration of national reports on monitoring of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, subject to the availability of resources.

(j) conservation and sustainable use.

6. **Welcomes** the finalization of *The State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* and **requests** the Secretary to collaborate with the Secretary of the Commission in promoting its wider dissemination and use;

7. **Encourages** Contracting Parties to participate in the open-ended meeting of the Commission’s Group of National Focal Points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, which has been mandated to develop a response to the report on *The State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, for consideration by the Commission at its Eighteenth Regular Session, with a view to having it adopted as a Global Plan of Action by the FAO Conference.

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\(^{35}\) The Governing Body has not decided yet on the official terminology for digital sequence information/genetic sequence data and therefore uses “DSI/GSD” until new terminology is agreed.
RESOLUTION 10/2019

POLICY GUIDANCE TO THE GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling that the Global Crop Diversity Trust (the Crop Trust) is an essential element of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty, in relation to the ex situ conservation and availability of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

Recalling that pursuant to Article 1(5) of its Constitution the Crop Trust shall operate in accordance with the overall policy guidance to be provided by the Governing Body of the International Treaty;

Taking note of the Report from the Crop Trust, which addresses matters requested by Resolution 10/2017;

1. PART I: POLICY GUIDANCE

1. Thanks the Executive Board of the Crop Trust for having submitted its annual report on the activities of the Crop Trust to the Bureau of the Governing Body in 2018 and to the Governing Body in 2019, as requested in Resolution 10/2017;

2. Thanks the Executive Director of the Crop Trust, Ms Marie Haga, for her active support to the implementation of the International Treaty throughout the last seven years, and in particular for the increasingly positive and productive interactions between the Crop Trust and the Secretary, the Bureau and other intersessional bodies;

3. Requests the Chairperson of the Governing Body and the Secretary to inform the Executive Board of the Crop Trust on the decisions made by the Governing Body, in particular those related to the enhancement of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (Multilateral System) and to the update of the Funding Strategy, of which the Crop Trust is an essential element, and provides policy guidance to the following key areas:

   A. Resource Mobilization

4. Thanks governments and other donors that have provided funds for the Crop Trust Endowment Fund in particular towards enabling to secure long-term funding for collections held pursuant to Article 15 of the Treaty, with contributions paid into the endowment standing, as reported by the Crop Trust, at USD 273.8 million by 31 December 2018;

5. Invites the Crop Trust to provide information, at the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, on progress made on allocation of long-term grants from its endowment fund to support selected national genebanks in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

6. Welcomes the steps being taken by the Crop Trust towards a more diversified fundraising strategy including to mobilize innovative financing that would bring new and additional resources to the implementation of the International Treaty;

7. Invites the Crop Trust to continue its active support to the work of the Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (Committee), and in particular to support the development by the Committee of a strategy to mobilize voluntary funds from food processing industries, as called for in Article 13.6 of the Treaty, and a range of initiatives to mobilize voluntary funds from innovative sources and mechanisms;
8. **Recommends** that the Crop Trust continue expanding cooperation with the International Treaty on resource mobilization, in particular on joint fundraising activities with the Secretary, and **encourages** donors to consider initiatives, projects and programmes that are jointly designed and implemented by the Crop Trust and the Secretary;

9. **Invites** the Crop Trust to provide information, at the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, on progress made with resource mobilization during the next biennium for the Crop Trust Endowment Fund as well as in relation to mobilization of project-based funds to support national genebanks in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

B. Scientific and Technical Matters

10. **Welcomes** the support provided by the Crop Trust during the current biennium to the enable long-term conservation and availability of crop diversity within collections in the Multilateral System held pursuant to Article 15 of the International Treaty, and **invites** the Crop Trust to continue and expand cooperation with the Secretary, in accordance with Article 15.1(g) of the International Treaty, on mobilizing technical support for the orderly maintenance of the collections of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture held under Article 15 of the International Treaty;

11. **Welcomes** the steps being taken to increase support to national genebanks that are part of the Multilateral System and **invites** the Crop Trust to take advantage of its cooperation with the Secretary to undertake joint capacity building of national partners on the Multilateral System and the Global Information System;

12. **Welcomes** the collaboration between the Secretary, the Crop Trust and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) to identify and systematize baseline data of a wide range of crops and their genetic resources that is essential for decision-makers at global, regional and national levels in order to develop strategies to ensure the adequate conservation and use of these plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including Crop Strategies, and **recommends** that the background study resulting from such collaboration and underlying baseline information be made available in a user-friendly manner as soon as possible, including for consideration by the Governing Body at its Ninth Session;

13. **Recommends** the Crop Trust to further enhance its collaboration and complementarity with the International Treaty on scientific and technical matters, and in this context **invites** the Crop Trust, subject to the availability of resources, to expand cooperation with the Secretary to elaborate a dynamic system for developing, implementing and updating Crop Conservation Strategies, with a view to enhancing their use by Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders, as practical tools to realize the implementation of the International Treaty, and **invites** the Crop Trust and the Secretary to report on progress made to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body;

C. Global Information System

14. **Welcomes** the close collaboration of the Crop Trust with the International Treaty and FAO for the connection of the Global Information System, Genesys and WIEWS, in a synergistic and complementary approach, and **invites** them to continue collaborating on training and capacity development activities in the area of information systems and documentation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

15. **Further invites** the Crop Trust to continue participating in the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Global Information System and provide regular updates on the implementation of its activities relevant to the Global Information System;
D. Communication and Outreach

16. **Recommends** the Crop Trust to continue and strengthen cooperation with the International Treaty to jointly develop outreach and communication products, including through Food Forever and similar initiatives, on the contribution of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular on the importance of implementing the International Treaty in this context;

2. **PART II: OTHER**

17. **Calls upon** the Executive Board of the Crop Trust to continue to submit its report annually on the activities of the Crop Trust to the Governing Body for its regular session, as provided in Article 3(3) of the Relationship Agreement, and for an intervening year to the Bureau of the Governing Body, and **decides** that the submission to the Bureau of such reports shall constitute a fulfilment of the obligation under the Relationship Agreement;

18. **Requests** the Bureau of the Ninth Session to carry out the selection and appointment of members to the Executive Board to fill any vacancy that may arise during the 2020–2021 biennium, in accordance with the Procedures for the Selection and Appointment of Members of the Executive Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, so to ensure the continued smooth and efficient functioning of the Executive Board.
RESOLUTION 11/2019

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 Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty 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, climate change adaptation, 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 sharing of benefits arising from their utilization 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 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 recommendations made by the Governing Body as soon as practicable to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity for transmission to the Co-Chairs of the open-ended intersessional working group to support the preparation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including its relevant subsidiary bodies, and requests the Bureau, with the support of the Secretary, to engage in the preparation of the post-2020 process to speak on behalf of the Contracting Parties and thereby to ensure strong contributions from the International Treaty in the development and implementation of the new Framework, including through cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions;

5. Thanks the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity 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, the GEF has been identified as one of the key international mechanisms, funds and bodies that support the implementation of the International Treaty, and invites the GEF to continue giving priority through the GEF-8 to support programs, projects and initiatives that conserve and sustainably 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;

   c) Invites the GEF to enhance support towards the integration of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and other national development plans, national budgets and priorities, which is one of the strategic priorities of the updated Funding Strategy of the International Treaty;

   d) Notes that the 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 for the achievement of sustainable agriculture and food systems, invites the GEF to more clearly articulate such role within such integrated programmes in the GEF-8 programming framework;

   e) Invites the GEF to continue supporting projects to promote the mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;

   f) Thanks the 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 the GEF to continue to do so in the formulation of the GEF-8 Biodiversity Strategy;

   g) Notes that the formulation and implementation of the GEF-8 will coincide in time with the implementation of the updated Funding Strategy, and recommends FAO and other GEF partners to increase the priority and attention given to the implementation of the International Treaty through the 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; furthermore, suggests that as part of the GEF-8, activities should focus on in situ conservation of crop wild relatives, wild crop foods and on-farm management of farmers’ landraces;

h) Requests the Secretary to submit the elements of advice made by the Governing Body for the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity for transmission to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and requests the Secretary, together with the Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilisation and the Bureau, to develop further inputs relevant to the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund that will reflect developments during the biennium, including in relation to the implementation of the Funding Strategy of the International 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 GEF 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 Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol concerning “digital sequence information/genetic sequence data” (DSI/GSD) on genetic resources and providing information on relevant International Treaty activities and collaborate and, as appropriate, coordinate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on issues related to DSI/GSD 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 Secretary 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. Welcome the signature of a new Memorandum of Cooperation by the Secretary of the International Treaty and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 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. Appreciates the Secretary’s 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 according to the Memorandum of Cooperation, and the Joint Initiative between the two Secretariats, and to report on these activities to the Governing Body;

11. Requests the Secretary to cooperate with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity 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 exchange of information between the Global Information System of the International Treaty and the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House Mechanism 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 Convention on Biological Diversity in the monitoring process on the achievement of SDG Target

36 The Governing Body has not yet decided on the official terminology for digital sequence information/genetic sequence data and therefore uses “DSI/GSD” until new terminology is agreed.
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 Secretary in capacity development activities on harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol, 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 these 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 on Biological Diversity at each Session of the Governing Body.
RESOLUTION 12/2019

COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

PART I: INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling its Resolution 12/2017 and other previous relevant Resolutions and decisions;

Reaffirming the importance of maintaining and further strengthening cooperation with the relevant international organizations, institutions and partners in order to advance the objectives and implementation of the International Treaty;

Noting with appreciation the continued cooperation, collaboration and support provided by relevant international organizations during the current biennium;

Welcoming the continued active engagement of other relevant stakeholder groups, in particular civil society organizations, farmers’ organizations and the seed industry, to support the implementation of the International Treaty and its relevant policy processes;

Cognizant of the importance of harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty with relevant instruments and processes especially at the national level, and noting the continued importance of assisting developing country Contracting Parties in this regard;

1. Reaffirms the need to continue the efforts necessary to ensure that the International Treaty’s objectives and role in the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) are recognized and supported by relevant international institutions, organizations and processes;

2. Encourages Contracting Parties to take initiatives to strengthen the harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty and other relevant international instruments and their various goals and commitments in a coherent, clear, and mutually supportive manner; and requests the Secretary to facilitate such initiatives upon request and subject to the availability of resources;

3. Welcomes the continued support and coordination provided by the African Union Commission for Contracting Parties from the African Region in the implementation of the International Treaty, and requests the Secretary to continue strengthening this collaboration as well as to seek opportunities to establish cooperation with other relevant regional organizations and institutions for the promotion and implementation of the International Treaty;

4. Reaffirms the need to expand the Joint Capacity Building Programme with Bioversity International and to ensure that the Secretary continue play an active role of coordination, monitoring and analysis of results and impacts, and calls upon Contracting Parties and donors to provide additional funding to support its continuation;

5. Requests the Secretary to continue and further strengthen and expand the collaboration with Bioversity International, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and other capacity building providers, in their support to Contracting Parties in
implementing the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol in a harmonious and mutually supportive manner;

6. **Encourages** the members of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions to continue their collaboration in accordance with their respective mandates and, subject to availability of financial resources, **requests** the Secretary to continue participating actively in the relevant activities of the Biodiversity Liaison Group, particularly on the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, including proposing relevant outreach activities and biodiversity indicators relevant to the implementation of the International Treaty;

7. **Urges** Contracting Parties to take measures to enhance synergies in their implementation of or participation in biodiversity-related conventions to promote policy coherence, improve efficiency and enhance coordination and cooperation at all levels and **invites** international organizations and donors to provide financial resources to support efforts that encourage synergies in policy development and the fulfilment of obligations under the biodiversity-related conventions;

8. **Requests** the Secretary to continue participating in the Information and Knowledge Management Initiative (InforMEA) being coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme and making information available to Contracting Parties and other stakeholders through the InforMEA Portal, including data related to the implementation of the International Treaty for new biodiversity indicators;

9. **Requests** the Secretary to continue participating in relevant meetings of UPOV and in the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of WIPO, as appropriate and subject to the availability of financial resources;

10. **Requests** the Secretary of the International Treaty to continue cooperating with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Vice-Secretary General of UPOV on the review of the FAQ on the interrelations between the International Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity and UPOV as a basis to explore means to facilitate exchanges of experiences and information on the implementation of the UPOV Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty;

11. **Encourages** other relevant stakeholder groups, in particular civil society organizations, farmers’ organizations and the seed industry, to further strengthen their engagement and cooperation to advance the implementation of the International Treaty;

12. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to report to the Governing Body on cooperation with other relevant international bodies and organizations, and related collaborative activities.
PART II: ARTICLE 15 INSTITUTIONS

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling the provisions of Article 15.1 of the International Treaty;

13. Takes note of the information provided in the reports by institutions that have concluded agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty; commends those institutions that submitted reports for the valuable contents and urges them to continue providing similar information to future sessions of the Governing Body;

14. Invites those institutions that have not submitted any report, to do so at the Ninth Session of the Governing Body and requests the Secretary to communicate this invitation to such institutions;

15. Requests the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue holding regular or periodic consultations with institutions that have concluded agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty, on implementation of the agreements and policy guidance, and report to the Governing Body at each Session;

16. Welcomes the report on progress made by CGIAR Centers in minting DOIs for PGRFA in the Article 15 ex situ collections, and encourages the CGIAR Centers and other Article 15 institutions to make information on PGRFA under development distributed with an SMTA available through the Global Information System;

17. Takes note of the on-going efforts to secure the international collections whose orderly maintenance is at risk or threatened and thanks, in particular, the Governments of Costa Rica, Ivory Coast and Papua New Guinea for their efforts to contribute to the orderly maintenance of the collections that they host;

18. Requests the Secretary to continue exercising his responsibilities and providing support under Article 15 of the International Treaty, in close collaboration with host governments, as applicable, and in partnership with other interested governments and relevant institutions that are capable of providing financial, technical and other necessary support to these efforts;

19. Urges Contracting Parties, donors and other stakeholders to provide the necessary financial and material support to facilitate these efforts;

20. Welcomes the International Coconut Community (ICC) as new host and coordinator of the COGENT network and invites the ICC to strengthen its collaboration with the Secretary in the implementation of the agreements concluded under Article 15 of the International Treaty, especially with regard to the orderly maintenance of the collections under its coordination and the conclusion of agreements to bring other international coconut collections under the auspices of the International Treaty; invites the host governments of such collections that have not yet done so, to sign agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty;

21. Welcomes the proposal by the Government of Belgium to host a safety backup cryopreservation facility in KUL (Catholic University of Leuven) - Bioversity International Genebank to safeguard plant materials that organizations want safely backed-up for the long term, as part of an overarching strategy for long-term conservation of clonal crops and recalcitrant seeds.
PART III: MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS OF THE SVALBARD GLOBAL SEED VAULT

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling Resolution 12/2017;

Recalling that the adoption of the International Treaty gave the impetus to the Government of Norway to proceed with the establishment of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault (Seed Vault);

Reaffirming that the Seed Vault is an important element of the global system for ex situ conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

24. Thanks the Government of Norway for the submission of the report on the management and operations of the Seed Vault and invites it to continue updating the Bureau and Governing Body on the operations and management of the Seed Vault;

25. Notes the structural, technical and administrative upgrades of the Seed Vault, meant to ensure further the integrity of the Seed Vault and security of its contents, and commends the Government of Norway for undertaking these upgrades;

26. Renews the invitation to Contracting Parties, international institutions and other relevant eligible bodies and organizations to consider making use of the Seed Vault as part of their strategy for securing their important seed collections and for long-term storage of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

27. Requests the Secretary to continue collaborating with the Government of Norway and its partners in related activities, including supporting relevant communication initiatives and in promoting the use of the Seed Vault;

28. Welcomes the reconvening of the Seed Vault’s International Advisory Panel and requests the Chairperson of the Governing Body to continue chairing the Panel and carrying out such functions as the role may require;

29. Requests the Secretary to explore further with the Government of Norway other practical means to enhance the linkages between the International Treaty and the Seed Vault, and report to the Bureau and the Governing Body.
RESOLUTION 13/2019

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling Resolution 13/2017;

Noting that the purpose of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) is to plan and structure the implementation of the International Treaty and the work of the Governing Body in a coherent and integrated manner, and to highlight the expected major outputs and milestones to be achieved of the respective Sessions of the Governing Body;

1. Thanks the Bureau and the Secretary for preparing the draft MYPOW and those Contracting Parties that provided inputs in the process of its preparation;

2. Adopts the MYPOW as contained in the Annex to this Resolution;

3. Decides to review the MYPOW at each Session of the Governing Body and update it, to address evolving needs, as necessary;

CONSIDERATION OF “DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION 13/2017

4. Thanks those Contracting Parties, other governments, relevant stakeholders and individuals that provided information on, inter alia, terminology used in this area, actors involved with “digital sequence information” on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

5. Notes the work being done on “digital sequence information” in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA);

6. Requests the Secretary to continue following the discussions on “digital sequence information” in other fora and to continue coordinating with the Secretariats of the CBD and the CGRFA in any related activities in order to ensure coherence and avoid duplication of efforts;

7. Requests the Secretary to inform the Governing Body at its Ninth Session of the state of discussions and outcomes of the related processes in the CBD and in the CGRFA as they relate to the potential implications of the use of “digital sequence information” on genetic resources for the objectives of the International Treaty;

CONSIDERATION OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND INTERSESSIONAL PROCESSES

8. Requests that the Bureau of the Ninth Session, with the support of the Secretary, conduct the review of subsidiary bodies and intersessional processes, building upon the elements of the Reference Note on Subsidiary Bodies and Intersessional Processes provided for this Eighth Session, with a view to providing recommendations, including on coordination among subsidiary bodies and avoiding duplication of efforts, for the consideration of the Governing Body at its Ninth Session.
MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

2020–2025

MAJOR OUTPUTS AND MILESTONES

The main function of the Governing Body is to promote the full implementation of the International Treaty, keeping in view of its objectives. The purpose of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) is to plan and structure the work of the Governing Body in a coherent and integrated manner to advance the implementation of the International Treaty, highlighting key issues for consideration and the expected major outputs and milestones to be achieved at the respective sessions of the Governing Body. The MYPoW will be reviewed and updated at each session, as needed, based on the decisions of the Governing Body.
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<tr>
<th><strong>Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA (Art 5&amp;6)</strong></th>
<th><strong>9th Session (2021)</strong></th>
<th><strong>10th Session (2023)</strong></th>
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<td>Review the decisions taken at the Eighth Session</td>
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<th><strong>Farmers’ Rights (Art 9)</strong></th>
<th><strong>9th Session (2021)</strong></th>
<th><strong>10th Session (2023)</strong></th>
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<td>Review of the decisions taken at the Eighth Session on Article 9</td>
<td>Review options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers’ Rights</td>
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<th><strong>Multilateral System (Art 10-13)</strong></th>
<th><strong>9th Session (2021)</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Review report of the 4th project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund</td>
<td>Presentation of a report on availability of material</td>
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<th><strong>Global Information System (Art 17)</strong></th>
<th><strong>9th Session (2021)</strong></th>
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<th><strong>Funding Strategy (Art 18)</strong></th>
<th><strong>9th Session (2021)</strong></th>
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<th><strong>Compliance (Art 21) &amp; National Reporting</strong></th>
<th><strong>9th Session (2021)</strong></th>
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<td>Stock taking of SDG Goals 2 &amp; 15 related to PGRFA</td>
<td>Contribution to Third State of the World’s PGRFA</td>
<td>Consideration of inputs for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework</td>
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<td>Consideration of the status of the science-based process on ‘DSI’ of the CBD, and the discussions of the CGRFA on ‘DSI’ in relation to PGRFA as decided at its 17th Regular Session</td>
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RESOLUTION 14/2019

WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET 2020–2021

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling that:

a) The FAO Governing Bodies have determined that the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is a priority FAO activity;

b) The FAO Conference has recommended that “statutory bodies and conventions will be strengthened, enjoying more financial and administrative authority within the framework of FAO and a greater degree of self-funding by their Members”;

Recognizing that:

a) The International Treaty is at an exploratory phase in the consideration of its growth and enhancement strategies;

b) The execution of the Work Programme is subject to adequate resources being available, in a timely manner, within the Core Administrative Budget, as well as other resources that are not under the direct control of the Governing Body but are addressed in the Funding Strategy and that this will be essential to the future functioning, integrity and effectiveness of the International Treaty;

c) The Core Administrative Budget, after an average successive expansion of 13% over five biennia, is structurally under-resourced, impacting the execution of the Work Programme and the level of available non-core budget contributions;

d) Financial disclosure, information on previously conducted audits, and provision of in-depth audit statements and recommendations facilitates the ability of the Treaty to raise funds from a broader array of donors;

1. Thanks the Secretariat for providing information on their implementation of the Work Programme and Budget of the previous biennium, and their effort to improve transparency and accountability, including through reporting on the impact of the activities under the Work Programme;

2. Adopts a no-growth budget for the Core Administrative Budget for the 2020–2021 biennium;

3. Adopts the International Treaty’s Work Programme and the Core Administrative Budget for the Biennium 2020–2021, as contained in Annex 1 to this Resolution, recognizing that all proposed activities in Resolutions are subject to available funding;

4. Adopts the indicative scale of contributions, in accordance with Financial Rule V.1 b), as contained in Annex 3 to this Resolution;

5. Notes with concern that the number of Contracting Parties that contribute to the Core Administrative Budget remains low, and urges Contracting Parties who made no, or only limited contributions in previous biennia, to make contributions to the Core Administrative Budget;

6. Urges all Contracting Parties to provide the resources required in the Core Administrative Budget, recognizing that the budget as adopted reflects the consensus of Contracting Parties, including in regard to voluntary payments in accordance with Annex 3 to this Resolution;
7. **Urges** Contracting Parties who made no, or only limited contributions in previous biennia, to make contributions to the Core Administrative Budget;

8. **Invites** the Secretary to continue exploring ways, within the existing FAO disclosure policy, to improve the provision of financial information in order to enhance transparency regarding the trust funds of the Treaty, to facilitate due diligence and decision-making by Contracting Parties, and by existing and potential donors;

9. **Requests** the Secretary to improve visibility of relevant financial information on the website of the Treaty, in accordance with Rules V and VIII of the Treaty’s Financial Rules and any enhancement in reporting;

10. **Recommends** the project proposals contained in the *Addendum to Annex 1* to this Resolution to donor Governments and institutions, and **invites** them to provide the funding necessary for the implementation of these projects which will be critical for the continued successful implementation of the International Treaty in the 2020–2021 Biennium, in particular by contributing to the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes;

11. **Invites** States that are not Contracting Parties, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other entities, to also contribute to the Core Administrative Budget, consistent with relevant FAO rules;

12. **Takes note** of the provisional proposed contribution from FAO of USD 2,000,000;

13. **Decides** to retain the level of the Working Capital Reserve at USD 580,000;

14. **Notes** that Contracting Parties, who have not contributed to the Working Capital Reserve, will be requested to contribute the balance necessary to bring the reserve up to its established level, in the call for contributions for the 2020–2021 Biennium, by separate voluntary contributions, in addition to their voluntary contributions to the Core Administrative Budget;

15. **Approves** the Secretariat staffing structure for the Biennium 2020–2021 set out in *Annex 2* to this Resolution, recognizing that the precise staffing arrangements are a matter of the normal executive authority of the Secretary;

16. **Thanks** those Governments who have generously donated substantial funds for additional project activities, outside the Core Administrative Budget, in support of the implementation of the International Treaty and, in particular, the implementation of the Work Programme for the 2018–2019 Biennium;

17. **Thanks** the Government of Italy for the staff resources that they have made available to support and extend the activities of the International Treaty;

18. **Encourages** Contracting Parties to contribute to the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes to support projects which will be critical for the continued successful implementation of the International Treaty in the 2020–2021 Biennium;

19. **Confirms** that Contracting Parties that are developing countries and countries with economies in transition should be informed by the Secretary, in a timely manner before a meeting, of the availability of resources to support their participation in that meeting from the Fund referred to in the Treaty’s Financial Rule VI.2.c), and that, where such funding is limited, priority should be given to the least developed countries;

20. **Encourages** Contracting Parties and other donors to replenish the Fund to Support the Participation of Developing Countries in the amount of USD 700,000 for the 2020–2021 biennium and requests the Secretary to include a call for funds to this effect in the annual letters calling for contributions to the Budget;

21. **Agrees and collectively grants its advance consent** to the budget revisions to the Trust Fund for Agreed Purposes and the Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Developing Countries that may arise from any additional contribution to these Trust Funds, in accordance with the financial rules or administrative requirements of FAO;
22. **Invites** FAO to take into account the specific nature and structure of the International Treaty’s Trust Funds and to make necessary arrangements to minimize administrative burdens that might impede the receipt of contributions into those funds;

23. **Encourages** the Secretariat, all groups undertaking intersessional work to identify scope for less costly platforms and work methods to generate efficiencies and cost savings without negatively impacting the delivery of the agreed work programme;

24. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to seek opportunities to hold International Treaty meetings back-to-back with other relevant meetings to save on travel and other costs;

25. **Requests** the Secretary to submit a draft Work Programme and Budget for the Biennium 2022-2023, including a Secretariat staffing table and a Draft Resolution, for the consideration of the Governing Body at its Ninth Session;

26. **Requests** the Secretary to provide a detailed financial report and a summary narrative report on the implementation of the Work Programme 2020–2021, at least six weeks in advance, to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body;

27. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to explore incentives, such as reviewing practices of similar bodies, to encourage an increased involvement of Contracting Parties in financing the Core Administrative Budget of the Treaty;

28. **Requests** the Secretary to seek information about FAO’s accountability standards relevant to the Treaty, and to provide this information to the Governing Body at its Ninth Session;

29. **Suggests** FAO to include a special item in the external auditor’s report specific to the finances of the International Treaty;

30. **Requests** the Bureau to develop Terms of Reference for the Budget Committee, to be presented at the Ninth Session.

**Annexes to the Resolution:**

**Annex 1:** Work Programme and the Core Administrative Budget for the Biennium 2020–2021

*Addendum to Annex 1:* Donor-supported activities under the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes

**Annex 2:** Secretariat staffing structure for the Biennium 2020–2021

**Annex 3:** Indicative Scale of Contributions
I. WORK PROGRAMME 2020–2021

Introduction

1. The draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2020–2021 biennium is based on the experiences gained and lessons learnt from the implementation of the work programmes and budget in recent biennia, updated to address the latest policy and operational context of the International Treaty and incorporate progress made during the current biennium.

2. At the systemic and governance levels, the aim is to:
   - Advance the implementation and consolidate the enhancement of the Treaty systems on a sustainable financial basis;
   - Utilize available resources in the most effective way possible;
   - Enhance the transparency of governance of the Treaty and ensure the effective capacity of the Governing Body to decide on the work programme of the Treaty and its biennial budget;
   - Make possible a clear comparison of the approved work programme of the 2018–2019 biennium with the proposed work programme for 2020–2021, by maintaining the same basic structure;
   - Facilitate structured reporting as a basis for measuring and assessing progress in implementation.

3. The key strategic objectives reflected in the Work Programme for the biennium are to:
   - **continue the enhancement** of the core Treaty systems and strategies, particularly the enhancements carried out by the Governing Body of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, the Funding Strategy, and strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Work on the Global Information System on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), in a synergistic manner;
   - **address the funding** needs for the elements of the Funding Strategy but also the overall Work Programme to enable the full implementation of the Treaty;
   - enhance the implementation of the those provisions of the Treaty that have not received adequate attention, in order to ensure balanced and comprehensive realization of the Treaty’s objectives;
   - **continue the harmonious joint implementation of the Treaty, and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol**, as complementary and essential parts of the International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing, ensuring that the Treaty maintains its critical role in the global governance of PGRFA;
   - **Amplify** the Treaty’s **profile, policy outreach and governance role** and **engage in strategic partnerships** to enable Treaty contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other global policies.

Recent Developments concerning PGRFA

4. Recent developments in the international legal and policy environment regarding genetic resources, as well as rapid technological innovation regarding the use of plant genetic resources require a commensurate and concerted response by the Governing Body in order to maintain the long-term relevance of the International Treaty and its governance over plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, as well as its concrete operational services for its users and stakeholders.

5. During the current biennium, Contracting Parties have made some progress in finalizing the measures needed to enable the further evolution of the International Treaty, through the work of Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System, the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers’ Rights, the Compliance Committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee.
on the Global Information System. The programmatic work on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA and implementation of the provisions on Farmers’ Rights ensures that other important components of the Treaty are adequately implemented. The long-term viability of the International Treaty necessitates sustained investment in these processes to ensure the continued positive evolution of its core systems and the benefits for users and beneficiaries of the systems.

6. There remains the urgent need to intensify efforts to mobilize funding for further rounds of the project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund together with sufficient user-based income arising from the Multilateral System in order to make the project cycle self-sustaining. The new Operational Manual for the Fund arising from the work of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization should enable a more dynamic mobilization of funds in the forthcoming biennium.

7. Similarly, there is need for the Treaty to continue contributing to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and also play a leading role in the ongoing discussions for the establishment of Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in order to ensure that the outcome of the discussions fully reflects the objectives and context of the Treaty.

8. Taking into account these latest developments in the relevant international policy environment, and building on the achievements and progress made in the operation of the core systems and implementation of programmes of work, necessary outcomes and outputs have been proposed in the draft Work Programme and Resolution presented to the Eighth Session, to enable the Governing Body to further advance the implementation of the International Treaty in the next biennium.

A. Core Maintenance Function of the Work Programme

*Articles 19 and 20 of the International Treaty*

9. As a basic and fundamental part of the Work Programme, the Secretary shall perform all the functions envisaged under Articles 19 and 20 of the texts of the International Treaty with regard to its administration and maintenance, with particular attention to Article 20.2 to 20.5:

The Secretary shall perform the following functions:

- a) arrange for and provide administrative support for sessions of the Governing Body and for any subsidiary bodies as may be established;
- b) assist the Governing Body in carrying out its functions, including the performance of specific tasks that the Governing Body may decide to assign to it;
- c) report on its activities to the Governing Body.

20.3 The Secretary shall communicate to all Contracting Parties and to the Director General:

- a) decisions of the Governing Body within sixty days of adoption;
- b) information received from Contracting Parties in accordance with the provisions of this Treaty.

20.4 The Secretary shall provide documentation in the six languages of the United Nations for sessions of the Governing Body.

20.5 The Secretary shall cooperate with other organizations and treaty bodies, including in particular the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in achieving the objectives of this Treaty.

*Compliance*

10. The objective of the Compliance Procedures is to promote compliance with all the provisions of the International Treaty and to address issues of non-compliance. They include monitoring activities and other actions that may require the provision of advice or assistance. During the next biennium, the Compliance Committee would review national reports and the Compliance Procedures for consideration by the Governing Body at its Ninth Session. In order to support the Committee’s work,
the Secretary would further develop the Online Reporting System in line with the revised reporting format for the second reporting cycle (Up to 1 October 2023). The provision of training to Contracting Parties, in collaboration with other units of FAO, would also continue, for effective reporting as well as reviewing the implementation of policies and mechanisms.

**Capacity building and training for implementation of the Treaty**

11. To support the Governing Body with intergovernmental policy processes and the operations of the main systems of the International Treaty, capacity development and training for effective implementation of International Treaty provisions would continue to be provided to Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders, including on the Multilateral System and GLIS and support to national compliance with the Treaty. Particular focus would be on the mainstreaming of PGRFA into the relevant national plans and development programmes.

**Others Cross-cutting issues**

12. Cooperation with other organizations and partner institutions will continue to contribute to advance the implementation of the International Treaty. Major outputs planned for the Ninth Session include the contributions to the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework led by the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to the preparation of the Third Report on the State of the World’s PGRFA, and the Third Global Plan of Action for PGRFA in cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

13. Effective communication continues to be key to advancing the implementation of the International Treaty, by increasing visibility and advocating value of the International Treaty in the PGRFA community as well as in the wider agricultural and biodiversity sectors and the general public. Highlighting the contribution of the International Treaty to global food security and sustainable agriculture in the context of climate change is important. This would include further demonstration of the linkage and contribution of the International Treaty to SDG Goals 2 and 15 related to PGRFA, as well as informing Contracting Parties and other constituencies about the enhancements made by the Governing Body to the Treaty systems.

**B. Core Implementation Functions of the Work Programme**

14. The elements of the Implementation Functions reflect the progressive development of the Treaty systems. This component seeks to sustain and advance the progress achieved for the Treaty systems in the current biennium.

**CIF-1: Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing and the Committee on the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing**

15. The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing is a key mechanism of the Treaty to ensure the availability of PGRFA at the global level and the sharing of benefits arising from the use of these resources. The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System (Working Group) will present a package of measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System, for consideration and adoption by the Governing Body at its Eighth Session.

16. The operation of the Multilateral System with the Easy-SMTA and the Data Store supports users with the generation of SMTAs and provides a mechanism to gather information under the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures. The Data Store is especially instrumental for generating statistics for a better understanding of the flows of material within the Multilateral System. Increasing information on the material available, at accession level and fully characterized and evaluated would also be important. In order to assist the Governing Body with future reviews on the operation of the Multilateral System, the Secretary would continue preparing reports on the material available in the Multilateral System as well as on the germplasm transfers within the Multilateral System. Improving
the operation of the Multilateral System would also require new measures, approaches and additional resources. Efforts would also be increased to fully implement the agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty, as well as encourage new agreements with relevant international institutions.

17. The main expected outcome would be that Contracting Parties have improved the implementation of Treaty provisions and Governing Body Resolutions related to the Multilateral System, especially providers and users of the Multilateral System participate more actively in the System and use its Standard Material Transfer Agreement. This output foresees development and implementation of manuals and other capacity-building tools.

**CIF-2: Information Systems for PGRFA – (Global Information System (GLIS))**

18. The implementation of the Programme of Work on the Global Information System (2016-2022) progressed significantly during the current biennium. In the next biennium, the Scientific Advisory Committee on the GLIS would assist in the review of its implementation and provide advice to the Secretary and the Ninth Session of the Governing Body on updating the Programme of Work, to further improve access to PGRFA for breeding and research through the enhanced GLIS Portal and related standards. During the next biennium, GLIS stakeholders would also consider issues of relevance to genetic sequence information, generated from the use of PGRFA and related to the implementation of the GLIS.

19. Regarding the operation of the GLIS, the Secretary would continue to provide support, through the help-desk function, for its users related to documentation and reporting, particularly for the adoption of Digital Object Identifiers. In this regard, supporting materials would be produced in various official languages, including in collaboration with relevant partners. Furthermore, special attention would be given to the synergies between the GLIS and the Easy-SMTA to enable more effective operation of the Multilateral System.

**CIF-3: Funding Strategy and the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilisation**

20. As specified in Article 18 of the International Treaty, the objective of the Treaty’s Funding Strategy is to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement activities under the Treaty. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization will present an updated Funding Strategy, for consideration and adoption by the Governing Body, at its Eighth Session. The budget envisages a number of activities to implement the updated Funding Strategy during the biennium, including holding two meetings of the Funding Committee, which is proposed to become a standing intersessional body of the Governing Body. It also includes provision for technical expertise to the Secretariat and holding two informal consultations in new areas, such as innovative funding, to support the implementation of the updated Funding Strategy and the work of the Committee.

21. By the end of the biennium, progress will be made towards the achievement of the following outputs, which are derived from the updated Funding Strategy:

- Monitoring framework of the Funding Strategy fully established, including by undertaking periodic overviews of finance flows to areas of Treaty implementation;
- Increased integration of PGRFA into national development plans, national budgets and donor support priorities and external financing including through the development of strategic tools that help national focal points and others to mobilize resources for the implementation of the Treaty;
- Increased prioritisation and integration of plant genetic resources into bilateral and multilateral donor programs and international mechanisms, funds and bodies;
- A strategy to mobilize funds from food processing industries, as set out in Article 13.6 of the Treaty, is under development as well as other innovative financing mechanisms.
Appendix B, page 70

CIF-4: **Implementation of Articles 5 and 6 and related provisions (Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA)**

22. The conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA is crucial to the attainment of the objectives of the International Treaty. In order to contribute to more inclusive and sustainable agriculture and food systems, an integrated approach of linking conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA is vital. The Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA (Committee) would be reconvened to review, among other things, the compilation and summaries provided by the Secretary on the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and identify examples and opportunities to support Contracting Parties and stakeholders in promoting, enhancing and further developing the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA. The Committee would recommend further steps on how the Governing Body can assist Contracting Parties in advancing the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty, for the Governing Body’s consideration at its Ninth Session.

CIF-5: **Implementation of Article 9 and related provisions (Farmers’ Rights)**

23. The importance of realizing Farmers’ Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, has been recognized by the Governing Body and strongly advocated by many stakeholders during this biennium. The Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers’ Rights (Expert Group) made significant progress during the current biennium in carrying out the tasks assigned to it by the Governing Body. The draft **Inventory of National Measures and Practices, and Lessons Learned on the Implementation of Farmers’ Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty** has been prepared, as well as the Outline of the **Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty**. Since the Expert Group was unable to complete all its tasks, it has recommended to be reconvened for the next biennium 2020–2021 to finalize them. Expected major outputs would include a catalogue of national measures, best practices and lessons learned on the implementation of Farmers’ Rights, and options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty. In addition, other educational materials would be prepared and disseminated for awareness raising and capacity building.

C. **Donor-Supported Projects**

24. In addition to the activities and outputs decided by the Governing Body as the Core Work Programme, the Secretariat also undertakes donor-supported projects under the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes that are developed outside the Core Work Programme but implemented as part of the Overall Work Programme. Such projects support and contribute to the implementation of the Core Work Programme, in synergy with and complementarity to it, and typically provide for technical and policy assistance to developing country Contracting Parties, the conduct of studies and technical workshops, and contribute to outreach programmes. **Addendum 1** to this document, IT/GB-8/19/17/Add.1, **Draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2020–2021 Biennium – Donor-supported activities under the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes**, outlines a summary of such projects concepts. The Governing Body is invited to endorse the proposed projects and to invite Contracting Parties and other donors to provide financial resources for their implementation.
Annex 1: Core Administrative Budget and Work Programme: 2020 - 2021 Biennium

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<td></td>
<td>Core Maintenance</td>
<td>Core Implementation</td>
<td>Core Administrative</td>
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<td>Function</td>
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<td>All amounts in USD</td>
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**A. Human resources**

A.1 Established staff positions

|                  | 4,731,648              | -                      | 4,731,648              |

A.3 Other consultancy costs

|                  | 474,390                | 563,701                | 1,038,091              |

Total A. Human Resources

|                  | 5,206,038              | 563,701                | 5,769,738              |

**B. Meetings**

B.1 Governing body

|                  | 720,000                | -                      | 720,000                |

B.2 Bureau

|                  | 25,000                 | -                      | 25,000                 |

B.3 Compliance Committee

|                  | 40,000                 | -                      | 40,000                 |

B.4 Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization

|                  | 40,000                 | -                      | 40,000                 |

B.5 Hospitality expenses for meetings of Statutory Bodies

|                  | 10,000                 | -                      | 10,000                 |

B.6 Activity related

|                  | -                      | -                      | -                      |

Total B. Meetings

|                  | 835,000                | -                      | 835,000                |

**C. Other costs**

C.1 Core staff duty travel

|                  | 300,000                | 36,500                 | 336,500                |

C.2 Publications and communication

|                  | 65,000                 | 33,000                 | 98,000                 |

C.3 Supplies and equipment

|                  | 25,000                 | 6,000                  | 31,000                 |

C.4 Contracts

|                  | 64,500                 | 13,000                 | 77,500                 |

C.5 Staff training

|                  | 25,000                 | -                      | 25,000                 |

C.6 Miscellaneous

|                  | 20,000                 | -                      | 20,000                 |

Total C. Other Costs

|                  | 499,500                | 88,500                 | 588,000                |

Total A + B + C

|                  | 6,540,538              | 652,201                | 7,192,738              |

**D. General Operating Services**

|                  | 261,622                | 26,088                 | 287,710                |

**Operating Budget**

|                  | 6,802,159              | 678,289                | 7,480,448              |

**E. Project Servicing Cost**

|                  | 288,130                | 40,697                 | 328,827                |

**Totals**

|                  | 7,090,289              | 718,986                | 7,809,274              |

**Funding of the Proposed Core Administrative Budget**

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<tr>
<td>F. FAO contribution</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net amount to be funded by Contracting Parties</td>
<td>5,809,274</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
## Resource Requirements for Treaty Maintenance Functions in 2020 - 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treaty Article</th>
<th>GB Doc reference</th>
<th>Core Maintenance Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19-20</td>
<td>17, 17 Add.1</td>
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</table>

### A. Human resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GB Doc reference</th>
<th>Cost - USD</th>
<th>Total Cost - USD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A.1 Established staff positions</td>
<td>4,731,648</td>
<td>4,731,648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D1 (Secretary)</td>
<td>499,056</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P5 (Deputy Secretary &amp; Senior Technical Officer, Policy and Governance)</td>
<td>486,778</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>P4 (Programme Officer, Programme and Management)</td>
<td>382,656</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>P4 (Technical Officer, MLS Operations, Reporting and Global Information System)</td>
<td>413,265</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P4 (Technical Officer, Multilateral System, Legal and Policy Support, and Compliance)</td>
<td>413,265</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P4 (Technical Officer, Funding Strategy, Project Dev. and Strategic Partnerships)</td>
<td>206,633</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P4 (Technical Officer, Liaison with CBD, CGIAR and other organizations)</td>
<td>413,265</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P3 (Technical Officer, Funding Strategy Support)</td>
<td>339,345</td>
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<tr>
<td>P3 (Technical Officer, Systems Operations Support)</td>
<td>339,345</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G6 Administrative support clerk (in lieu of previous G5)</td>
<td>266,535</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G5 Meetings support clerk</td>
<td>220,584</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>G5 Secretary (in lieu of previous G4)</td>
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<td>G4 Clerk (in lieu of previous G3)</td>
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### A.3 Consultancy costs

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<td>Treaty maintenance and statutory meeting related</td>
<td>309,150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications and editorial related</td>
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**Total A. Human Resources**

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<tr>
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<th>Total Cost - USD</th>
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<tr>
<td>5,206,038</td>
<td>5,206,038</td>
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### B. Meetings - Statutory Bodies

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>B.1 Governing body</th>
<th>720,000</th>
<th>720,000</th>
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<tr>
<td>Consultants</td>
<td>50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Locally Contracted Labour &amp; Overtime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel (Secretariat &amp; Interpreters)</td>
<td>120,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expendable Procurement</td>
<td>7,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Operating Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Operating Expenses - external common services</td>
<td>3,000</td>
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**Total B. Meetings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>835,000</td>
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### C. Other costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C.1 Staff duty travel</th>
<th>300,000</th>
<th>300,000</th>
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<tr>
<td>C.2 Publications and communication</td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td>65,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>C.3 Supplies and equipment</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.4 Contracts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hosting SMTA in UNICC</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>22,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hosting GLIS in FAO &amp; website hosting and maintenance</td>
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<td>42,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>C.5 Staff Training</td>
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<td>25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>C.6 Miscellaneous</td>
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**Total C. Other Costs**

<table>
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<tr>
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**Total A + B + C**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Total Cost - USD</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6,540,538</td>
<td>6,540,538</td>
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### D. General Operating Services (4% of A + B + C)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Cost - USD</th>
<th>Total Cost - USD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>261,622</td>
<td>261,622</td>
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</table>

**Operating Budget**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost - USD</th>
<th>Total Cost - USD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6,802,159</td>
<td>6,802,159</td>
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</table>

### E. Project Servicing Cost (6% of Operating Budget excluding FAO contribution)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost - USD</th>
<th>Total Cost - USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>288,130</td>
<td>288,130</td>
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</table>

**Core Administrative budget**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost - USD</th>
<th>Total Cost - USD</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7,090,289</td>
<td>7,090,289</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### F. FAO contribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost - USD</th>
<th>Total Cost - USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Balance to be funded by Contracting Parties**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost - USD</th>
<th>Total Cost - USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5,090,289</td>
<td>5,090,289</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Core Implementation Functions: 2020 - 2021 Biennium - Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>A. Related Annex</th>
<th>B. Human Resources</th>
<th>C. Meetings</th>
<th>D. Other Costs</th>
<th>Total A+B+C</th>
<th>General Operating Services (4% of A+B+C)</th>
<th>Operating Budget (6% of Operating Budget)</th>
<th>E. Support Costs</th>
<th>Total USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CIF-1</td>
<td>Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>138,461</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>22,500</td>
<td>160,961</td>
<td>6,438</td>
<td>167,400</td>
<td>10,044</td>
<td>177,444</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIF-2</td>
<td>Information Systems for PGRFA</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>211,831</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>52,000</td>
<td>263,831</td>
<td>10,553</td>
<td>274,384</td>
<td>16,463</td>
<td>290,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIF-3</td>
<td>Funding Strategy</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>77,760</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>91,760</td>
<td>3,670</td>
<td>95,430</td>
<td>5,726</td>
<td>101,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIF-4</td>
<td>Implementation of Articles 5 &amp; 6 and related provisions</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>81,648</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>81,648</td>
<td>3,266</td>
<td>84,914</td>
<td>5,095</td>
<td>90,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIF-5</td>
<td>Implementation of Article 9 and related provisions</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>54,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>54,000</td>
<td>2,160</td>
<td>56,160</td>
<td>3,370</td>
<td>59,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Core Implementation Functions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>563,701</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>88,500</td>
<td>652,201</td>
<td>26,088</td>
<td>678,289</td>
<td>40,697</td>
<td></td>
<td>718,986</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Addendum to Annex I: Donor-supported activities under the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes

Conservation, Sustainable Use of PGRFA and Farmers’ Rights under the Articles 5, 6 and 9 of the International Treaty USD 500,000

Article 17 and the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – Support to Contracting Parties and stakeholders for the adoption of DOIs USD 650,000

Implementation of the updated Funding Strategy USD 500,000

Benefit-sharing Support Programme USD 500,000

Multilateral System Support and Extension Programme (Article 15) USD 250,000

Capacity Development Programme for Mutual Supportiveness between the International Treaty, and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol USD 400,000
SECRETARIAT STAFFING STRUCTURE FOR THE BIENNIUM 2020–2021

Professional

D1 (Secretary)
P5 (Deputy Secretary and Senior Technical Officer, Policy and Governance)
P4 (Programme Officer, Programme and Management)
P4 (Technical Officer, MLS Operations, Reporting and Global Information System)
P4 (Technical Officer, Multilateral System, Legal and Policy Support, and Compliance)
P4 (Technical Officer, Funding Strategy, Project Development and Strategic Partnerships)
P4 (Technical Officer, Liaison with CBD, CGIAR and other organizations)
P3 (Technical Officer, Funding Strategy Support)
P3 (Technical Officer, Systems Operations Support)
P3 (Technical Officer, Implementation Support and Capacity Development)

General Service

G6 (Administrative Support Clerk)
G5 (Meetings Support Clerk)
G5 (Secretary)
G4 (Clerk)
# Annex 3

## INDICATIVE SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE CALENDAR YEARS 2020–2021

*(2018–2019 scale is shown for comparison purposes)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contracting Party</th>
<th>Scale 2020–21</th>
<th>Scale 2018–19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>0.009%</td>
<td>0.008%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>0.011%</td>
<td>0.010%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>0.182%</td>
<td>0.201%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>0.013%</td>
<td>0.012%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
<td>0.003%</td>
<td>0.003%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>1.206%</td>
<td>1.114%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>0.009%</td>
<td>0.008%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>2.913%</td>
<td>2.919%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>0.892%</td>
<td>0.899%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>0.013%</td>
<td>0.012%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>1.082%</td>
<td>1.105%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>0.004%</td>
<td>0.004%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>0.001%</td>
<td>0.001%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia (Plurinational State of)</td>
<td>0.021%</td>
<td>0.015%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>3.887%</td>
<td>4.775%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>0.061%</td>
<td>0.056%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>0.004%</td>
<td>0.005%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>0.001%</td>
<td>0.001%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

37 Indicative Scale of Contributions for 2020-21 based on the UN Scale of Assessments for 2019-21, as established by General Assembly Resolution 73/271 adopted on 22 December 2018

38 Indicative Scale of Contributions for 2018-19 based on the UN Scale of Assessments for 2016-18, as established by General Assembly Resolution 70/245 adopted on 23 December 2015
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contracting Party</th>
<th>Scale 37 2020-21</th>
<th>Scale 38 2018-19</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>0.008%</td>
<td>0.005%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
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<td>0.012%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3.604%</td>
<td>3.648%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0.001%</td>
<td>0.001%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>0.005%</td>
<td>0.006%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>0.536%</td>
<td>0.498%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo, Republic of</td>
<td>0.008%</td>
<td>0.008%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>0.001%</td>
<td>0.001%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>0.082%</td>
<td>0.059%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Côte d'Ivoire</td>
<td>0.017%</td>
<td>0.011%</td>
</tr>
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<td>Croatia</td>
<td>0.101%</td>
<td>0.124%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>0.047%</td>
<td>0.054%</td>
</tr>
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<td>0.430%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic People's Republic of Korea</td>
<td>0.008%</td>
<td>0.006%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
<td>0.013%</td>
<td>0.010%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>0.730%</td>
<td>0.729%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>0.001%</td>
<td>0.001%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>0.105%</td>
<td>0.084%</td>
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<td>Egypt</td>
<td>0.245%</td>
<td>0.190%</td>
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<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>0.016%</td>
<td>0.018%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>0.001%</td>
<td>0.001%</td>
</tr>
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<td>Estonia</td>
<td>0.051%</td>
<td>0.047%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contracting Party</td>
<td>Scale 37</td>
<td>Scale 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2020-21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eswatini</td>
<td>0.003%</td>
<td>0.003%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
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<td>0.012%</td>
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<td>Fiji</td>
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<td>0.004%</td>
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<td>Gabon</td>
<td>0.020%</td>
<td>0.021%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>8.028%</td>
<td>7.981%</td>
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<td>0.020%</td>
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<td>0.482%</td>
<td>0.588%</td>
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<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>0.047%</td>
<td>0.035%</td>
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<td>0.003%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guinea-Bissau</td>
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<td>Guyana</td>
<td>0.003%</td>
<td>0.003%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>0.012%</td>
<td>0.010%</td>
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<td>Hungary</td>
<td>0.272%</td>
<td>0.201%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>0.037%</td>
<td>0.029%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>1.099%</td>
<td>0.921%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>0.716%</td>
<td>0.630%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iran, Islamic Republic of</td>
<td>0.525%</td>
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<td>Iraq</td>
<td>0.170%</td>
<td>0.161%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>0.489%</td>
<td>0.418%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>4.360%</td>
<td>4.681%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>0.011%</td>
<td>0.011%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>11.289%</td>
<td>12.092%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracting Party</td>
<td>Scale 2020-21</td>
<td>Scale 2018-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>0.028%</td>
<td>0.025%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>0.032%</td>
<td>0.022%</td>
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<td>Kiribati</td>
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<td>0.001%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>0.332%</td>
<td>0.356%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyrgyz Republic</td>
<td>0.003%</td>
<td>0.003%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lao People's Democratic Republic</td>
<td>0.007%</td>
<td>0.004%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>0.062%</td>
<td>0.062%</td>
</tr>
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APPENDIX C

DRAFT FRAMEWORK FOR THE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY (2022–2025)

1. THE OVERALL GOAL
To enhance implementation of the International Treaty through improving the coherency, efficiency and effectiveness of capacity development initiatives and activities.

2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES
• Vision- and outcome-oriented;
• Demand-driven;
• Time-bound, to allow periodic assessments and updating;
• Verifiable through indicators and milestones;
• Coordinated to integrate capacity development facilitated by the Secretariat into capacity building under the Benefit-sharing Fund and by Contracting Parties as non-monetary benefit-sharing under the Multilateral System (Article 13.2 c) of the Treaty);
• Cooperative, i.e. implemented through cooperation with international partners and with the support of FAO regional and national offices, as well as the national institutions and focal points, where relevant.

3. ACTIVITIES
The following capacity development activities that the Compliance Committee took note of, based on recommendations by Contracting Parties, may constitute the framework of activities of the Capacity Development Strategy:

• the provision of advice, technical options, and experiences for the review of mechanisms and policies for the implementation of the International Treaty;
• establishing or strengthening national coordination mechanisms and supporting national focal points and their alternates;
• the development of implementation plans for the International Treaty at the national level;
• capacity building in national institutions in various technical areas, including the use of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA), Easy-SMTA, and the inclusion of material in the Multilateral System and its use, as well as data management;
• taking advantage of existing and creating new opportunities for collaboration at the regional level.

4. TARGET GROUPS
The Results Framework of the draft updated Funding Strategy provides a visual summary of the International Treaty, its objectives, activities and mechanisms, and identifies the partners that enable its implementation. The target groups for the capacity development strategy could include those enabling partners included in the Results Framework, such as:

• Regional and sub-regional institutions, e.g. for agriculture cooperation and research;
• National governmental institutions, e.g. national agricultural research organizations;
• Academia, e.g. universities;
• Individuals and groups, e.g. farmers, indigenous communities, breeders, researchers.
5. OUTCOMES

- Increased visibility and raised profile of the International Treaty at national and regional levels;
- Improved and more visible information on the main components of the International Treaty, namely conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, Farmers’ Rights, the Multilateral System and the Global Information System;
- Improved and consistent approaches to reinforce interlinkages of PGRFA with national development plans and strategies such as food security, climate change, agricultural development, biodiversity and environmental sustainability;
- Enhanced compliance of Contracting Parties with International Treaty obligations and improved delivery of national reporting in the context of the Compliance Procedures;
- Enhanced understanding of the International Treaty resulting in effective coordination for implementation.

6. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

- Coordination and cooperation are envisaged with a broad range of stakeholders and partners to promote and identify practical ways of realizing the implementation of the International Treaty through capacity development activities.
- Such partners are envisaged to include but are not limited to: Contracting Parties, international and regional organizations, farmers’ associations, indigenous and local communities, academia, civil society and NGOs, CGIAR and other international agricultural research centres, and the private sector (seed industry, food processing industry). Roles and responsibilities may be determined for the Secretariat, e.g. to collect and provide information on capacity development - and the Governing Body – e.g. to monitor progress made with the implementation, revise the Strategy accordingly and provide any further guidance.
- A possible coordination mechanism among capacity development providers may be established, once a critical mass of providers and activities is reached.

7. RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- Resources for the Strategy will be generated according to the updated Funding Strategy of the International Treaty.
- A more cohesive and complete overview of planned and delivered capacity development activities will provide a useful basis for mobilizing resources for implementing the Strategy.

8. MONITORING AND REVIEW

- The Capacity Development Strategy will be regularly monitored so that it can be continuously improved, and remain dynamic, balanced, responsive and relevant.
- Information related to the implementation, monitoring and review of the Capacity Development Strategy will be provided by the Secretary based on surveys among Contracting Parties and capacity building providers, at defined reporting cycles.
- The review of the Capacity Development Strategy by the Governing Body should take into account lessons learned, experiences and information accumulated in the course of implementation.
APPENDIX D


A. SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY

1. Six months prior to the expiration of the term of the Secretary, following FAO procedures, a vacancy announcement stating minimum technical requirements should be drafted and issued, and a list of candidates meeting the minimum requirements of the position prepared.

2. An interview panel consisting of four representatives from the Bureau of the International Treaty, two from developing countries and two from developed countries, and three representatives of FAO, as determined by FAO, should be convened. The interview panel should select a chair from amongst its members.

3. The interview panel should prepare a shortlist of seven to ten candidates from the list provided by OHR to be interviewed and rank the top five candidates, based on FAO standards.

4. The ranked list should be gender-balanced. The interview panel should also submit a consensus report, including justifications for the ranking and, if gender balance is not achieved, a justification for the imbalance.

5. The Director-General then appoints a candidate from among the ranked candidates and presents it to the Governing Body of the International Treaty for approval.

B. RENEWAL OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREATY

6. The Director-General and the Chair of the Governing Body of the International Treaty, taking into consideration the performance of the Secretary, should make a joint recommendation to the Bureau regarding the renewal of the Secretary’s appointment. If the Bureau endorses the recommendation, it should be referred to the Governing Body for approval.

7. The procedures set out in Section A should apply in all cases of non-renewal of the appointment of the Secretary, including when the second term of office of the Secretary is due to expire. Due regard should be given to the time required for the procedures to be implemented.

C. RELATED ISSUES

8. The Secretary should be appointed for a term of four years, which may be renewed only once for a second term of four years.

9. If the Secretary resigns before the end of the four-year term, the procedures set out in Section A should apply and the selected candidate appointed on an ad interim basis pending approval by the Governing Body.
APPENDIX E

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

APPOINTMENT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE AND
VERIFICATION OF CREDENTIALS

1. The Governing Body elected seven Members of the Credentials Committee from the following Contracting Parties: Cook Islands, Ecuador, Indonesia, Italy, Rwanda, Sudan and United States of America. Mr Juan Fernando Tinoco Córdova (Ecuador) served as the Chairperson of the Committee.

2. The Credentials Committee recommended the acceptance of a total of one-hundred-and-two credentials in accordance with the FAO rules. The number to establish a quorum for the meeting was set at seventy-four, in accordance with Article 19.8 of the International Treaty.

3. The Governing Body accepted the recommendation of the Credentials Committee on the credentials to be accepted. The list of Contracting Parties, as of 16 November 2019, is contained in Appendix XX.

1 The United States dissociates from the adoption of the Committee’s Report, solely with respect to the acceptance of the credentials submitted by the Maduro regime on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

1 Cuba, through the representative of its Regional Group in the Committee, submitted the following declaration: the credentials issued by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela are in compliance with the Rules of the Organization. We refer to the work of the ITPGRFA and the Committee not to be politicized and recall that through Resolution A/RES/193, the General Assembly approved the credentials of the representatives of Venezuela, led by their institutional President elected by the Venezuelan people, Mr Nicolas Maduro Moros.
# APPENDIX F

**INTERNATIONAL TREATY - CONTRACTING PARTIES**  
**AS OF 16 NOVEMBER 2019**

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APPENDIX H

Statement of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity under agenda item 15.3

Thank you, Madam Chair,

I am honoured to be here this week and to address the Governing Body on behalf of Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, the Officer-in-Charge of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). I would like to start by taking this opportunity to convey the entire CBD Secretariats’ congratulations on the 15th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty.

Distinguished delegates,

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, which was adopted as a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity is also going to commemorate its 10th year of adoption next year. The recognition of the interdependence of all countries with regard to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the relevance of these resources to the work of FAO as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity contributed to the creation or the adoption of the International Plant Treaty about 19 years ago. Our inter-related goals regarding conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources have served as strong bridges for synergies between the Treaty and the Convention.

These conceptual and legal linkages of the Treaty and the CBD are established in the very first Article of the International Treaty that specifies that its objectives are in harmony with the CBD, for sustainable agriculture and food security. This sharing of objectives and the close linkages between the Treaty and the CBD, is, in addition to the decisions of our respective governing bodies, what guide the close collaboration forged between the secretariats of the two instruments. In fact, last year the two secretariats have renewed their partnership by signing a memorandum of cooperation to further expand collaborative efforts to provide better services and support to governments and other stakeholders to the achieve our common objectives. The Memorandum was signed on 9 July last year and replaces the previous Memorandum of 2010. The latest Memorandum is intended to enhance, among other things, the cooperation of the two secretariats in capacity development in the area of access and benefit-sharing related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

As you can see from the document prepared for this agenda item, the Secretariats of the Treaty and the Convention have extensively engaged in cooperative activities. I do not wish to go over the contents summarized in the document, but I would like to highlight some of the key outcomes of the 14th meeting of Conference of the Parties to the CBD and the third meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol held in Sharm El-Sheikh in November 2018, and the intersessional work that followed.

[Post-2020]
The fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties launched a comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be adopted at its fifteenth meeting in October 2020. The COP established an open-ended working group to prepare the framework. The first meeting of the Working Group was held in Nairobi in August this year. The Working Group is going to hold two more meetings in February and July next year. Regional consultations were held earlier this year, and a series of global thematic consultations will continue to be held into 2020 with a view to feed into the work of the Working Group. The International Treaty has actively engaged in the
process, including in a consultative workshop of the biodiversity-related conventions on the post-2020 framework and at the first meeting of the Working Group. Its continued engagement will help to maintain and strengthen targets for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the new framework.

[Financial Mechanism]
Serving as the financial mechanism of the Convention, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) supports the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols by developing country Parties. The COP’s guidance to the GEF on funding priorities for its seventh replenishment period (2018-2022) incorporated advice provided by this Governing Body. At its fifteenth meeting, the COP will again adopt guidance to the GEF, including a four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the GEF’s eighth replenishment period (2022-2026). An important element of the present agenda item of the Governing Body is the advice you will provide to help determine these priorities.

[DSI]
Another important outcome of the Sharm El-Sheikh Conference was the coordinated attention and decisions made under the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol on the issue of digital sequence information on genetic resources. COP decision 14/20 established a process to facilitate considerations of potential implications of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources for the objectives of the Convention and the Protocol.

The process includes the submission of views and information, and the commissioning of science-based and peer-reviewed four different but interrelated studies. The period for submissions of views and information has now closed and the studies are currently available on our website for peer-review. We encourage contracting Parties to the Treaty to provide comments on the studies and take part in the peer review exercise before it ends by the end of this month or early next month.

An expert group meeting will be held in March 2020 to consider the compilation and synthesis of views and information and the peer-reviewed studies. The expert group will also develop options for operational terms and their implications to provide conceptual clarity on the issue of digital sequence information on genetic resources and identify key areas for capacity-building.

The outcomes of the expert meeting will be considered by the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework which will then submit recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting in October this year on how to address digital sequence information on genetic resources in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

With respect to the status of the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, the number of Parties is growing. It currently stands at 123 Parties. This number represents 73% of the CBD Parties. We expect this number to increase as countries finalize their internal processes for ratification or accession. Outreach initiatives to countries to publish information on the ABS Clearing-House are bearing fruit. Over 1,110 internationally recognized certificates of compliance have been issued 18 countries, and 15 checkpoint communiqués have been issued by 5 countries, demonstrating that ABS system is increasingly being put in place and is becoming operational at least in some countries which are also mega biodiverse countries such as India which alone issued 741 of the Internationally recognized certificates.

The Secretariats of the Treaty and the Convention have continued their collaboration with a number of partners to build capacity for mutually supportive implementation of the Protocol and the Treaty, including a jointly organized regional tandem workshop for national focal points in Latin America and the Caribbean on the mutually supportive implementation of the two instruments. As part of this collaboration, capacity-building fact sheets have been developed addressing scenarios that may arise at the interface of the two instruments and how national focal points can respond. I would also note the
joint work of the two Secretariats on the development of indicators as part of the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

I am very pleased that the cooperation between the two Secretariats has continued to flourish and grow over the past years. Just as we work together on our areas of common interest, I believe countries can also integrate biodiversity and agriculture in their domestic implementation efforts. I look forward to many more opportunities to collaborate with the International Treaty as we work towards our common objectives.

Finally, Madam Chair,

With your permission, I would like to conclude with a few words that I am honoured to deliver on behalf of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, a Group which comprises the executive heads of eight global multilateral agreements: the CBD, the Treaty, the IPPC, the World Heritage Convention, CITES, CMS, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the International Whaling Commission.

The Liaison Group serves as a platform for the secretariats of these convention to exchange information to enhance national implementation of each convention while also promoting complementarity and synergy in their implementation.

We would like to emphasize the important and active role of the Secretariat of the Treaty in this regard and to thank the Governing Body for providing it with that mandate.

We would also like to commend the Bureau of the Treaty for the strong contribution made by its members at the workshop of biodiversity-related conventions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework held in Bern earlier this year.

As Members of the Liaison Group, we are giving the utmost priority to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

We believe it is essential to build a post-2020 framework that provides bridges across the conventions, embraces relevant objectives of each of them, and takes strength from the pillars and foundations that each can provide, for example in the tools and mechanisms that each has established to support its implementation and to monitor its progress.

We believe that a global framework of this nature will contribute to achieving objectives under each of the conventions, including those for sustainable agriculture and food security of the Treaty, as well as to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals to which each of our conventions make important contributions. It will also provide additional benefits to each derived from synergy in their implementation.

This is why we believe it essential to respond fully to the call from the CBD COP in its decision 14/34 for the biodiversity-related conventions to actively engage and contribute to the process of developing a robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework in order to foster strong ownership of the framework.

to be agreed and strong support for its immediate implementation. It is also why we believe it essential that full opportunity be given in the process to provide such input.

This will require inputs at all levels. We applaud the call of this Governing Body to engage fully in the process. We encourage our national focal points and authorities to collaborate at the national level to feed into the process and its negotiations. And at the level of the secretariats we will continue to take every opportunity over the coming months, within our mandates and both individually and collaboratively, to provide inputs on all relevant elements of the post-2020 framework.

In this manner, collectively, we shall contribute to setting the world and its people on a path to the 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature.

*Thank you, Madam Chair*
APPENDIX I

OPENING CEREMONY STATEMENTS

Opening Ceremony of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Rome, Italy, 11–16 November 2019

APPENDIX I.1

STATEMENT BY MARIA HELENA SEMEDO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL, CLIMATE AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON BEHALF OF MR QU DONGYU, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FAO

Chairperson, Ms Christine Dawson
Honourable Minister Singh Tomar,
Honourable Minister Bellanova
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the Eighth Session of the Governing Body of the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, which celebrates its 15th Anniversary. This anniversary honors the long history of domestication, use and exchange of the plant biodiversity that feeds our world. Crop genetic diversity is a treasure of human civilization and we must make sure it remains a legacy for generations to come, as it is a public good that benefits the global community. Without a wide range of crops and their genetic resources, we cannot have quality nutrition for healthy and productive lives, adapt our crops to climate change or achieve global sustainable development goals.

The crux of the Treaty - food security and biodiversity protection – are at the core of the Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Agenda. The Treaty establishes a global system to provide farmers, plant breeders and scientists with access to plant genetic materials. It ensures that benefits derived from the use of these genetic materials are shared widely, especially with originating countries, and recognizes the enormous contribution of farmers to the diversity of crops that feed the world.

In February, FAO launched The State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, which highlights that biodiversity for food and agriculture is declining day by day. We are losing both wild and domesticated species. Against that alarming picture, we know that biodiversity is vital to improve agricultural and food production. Yet, the less we use, the more we lose. Over the course of history, humans utilized over 3000 plant species. Today we mostly depend on only 150 types, with just three crops – rice, wheat and maize – providing over half our calories. To address the world’s complex challenges, we must change this situation. And, we can do so by strengthening the role of the Treaty.
Excellencies, thanks to our collective actions during the last decade under your leadership, we have made great strides to safeguard much of the planet’s crop genetic diversity. Through its Multilateral System, the Treaty ensures access to important public gene banks around the globe – with over 5.4 million accessions to this gene pool since 2007. Its Benefit-sharing Fund has supported over 1 million people in developing countries through agricultural projects.

But there is more to do! Looking ahead, I would like to suggest actions we can take together to accelerate and build on these successes. As the flyer reminds us: *Everything starts with a seed.*

First, **expand**: we should optimize the crop genetic diversity that is still conserved in farmers’ fields and in gene banks to improve both farmers’ livelihoods and diversify our diets.

Second, **diversify**: we must move beyond staple food crops and increase investments in the conservation, availability and use of plant genetic resources of nutritious crops such as fruits, vegetables and underutilized crops.

Third, **build capacity**: we must improve access to scientific information and facilitate the transfer of technologies and expertise, particularly in developing countries.

Fourth, **work together**: the Treaty brings together farmers, scientists, governments, civil society and the private sector, mixing traditional knowledge with advancing technology, to develop the full potential of plant genetic diversity, so that benefits can be shared by everyone.

Fifth, **strengthen policies**: countries must reinforce agriculture and development policies relevant to biodiversity. They should integrate the practical dimensions of conservation and sustainable use promoted by the International Treaty, including the implementation of Farmers’ Rights, at the national level.

Sixth, **advocate**: we need to leverage the work of the Treaty and FAO’s Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in the international policy arena related to biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development.

Excellencies, I would like to welcome the most recent members, Georgia and Mongolia, bringing the total number of Contracting Parties to 146. FAO is committed to increasing that number so that the Treaty becomes a universal agreement in the near future. In the next biennium, FAO will strengthen its work with Members to mainstream biodiversity into food and agriculture policies - this will also strengthen the Treaty. FAO will encourage Members to highlight the importance of food and agriculture in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, to be adopted at the 15th Convention on Biological Diversity to take place in China next year.

As we celebrate the Treaty’s 15th Anniversary, let us be ambitious in addressing our global challenges and in setting new goals and perspectives. I am fully confident that in the spirit of collaboration and trust that always resonates in meetings of the International Treaty, you, the Contracting Parties, can reinvigorate and strengthen the Treaty. I can assure you that you can count on FAO to continue supporting implementation of the International Treaty.

I wish you very successful deliberations. Thank you.
APPENDIX I.2

STATEMENT BY THE HONORABLE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS’ WELFARE OF INDIA H.E. MR NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR

Dear Brothers and Sisters representing all the nations, Namaskar!

I am happy to be amongst you representing 18% of the humanity, my young and aspirational 1.37 billion countrymen. I also represent those countries where farming is the backbone of the socio-economy; where crop biodiversity is part and parcel of life and whose indigenous people and peasants have shaped the crop genetic resources that form the basis of breeding anywhere in the world.

Population is increasing, arable land decreasing, water availability diminishing, and biotic and abiotic stresses dragging down the production accentuated by climate change. Despite these challenges, India has to ensure food and nutritional security for the citizens.

Therefore, it is very clear that “no negotiations are possible at the cost of food security”. All international forums must not forget that Food is the most fundamental right. Developing countries will be driven by the necessity to ensure “rights of farmers producing food” are never compromised. More so when this very community is also responsible for the very existence of the plant genetic resources that we have today.

We understand that plant genetic resources are the source of solutions to breeding challenges. Plant genetic resources are also vulnerable particularly due to habitat destruction. Their conservation is “the shared responsibility of the humanity”. We must use all the modern technologies as well as traditional knowledge to conserve and use them sustainably.

We are living in the era of information. Technological advancements have ensured that information is the power. This is true with plant breeding as well. I, therefore, urge that we acknowledge the seriousness of the influence of “genetic sequence information” on the relevance of the Treaty as a whole and deliberate on “how to” rather than “why” of their inclusion in the negotiations.

India has been a strong advocate of sharing the wealth of plant genetic resources. A cursory look at the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research gene banks and other national gene banks shows that about 10% of the germplasm is of Indian origin. We reiterate that Plant genetic resources must be made available for research and sustainable use. However, it is very vital that every dollar of commerce arising out of the Plant genetic resources accessed from the system must be accounted for and must be shared equitably for the purpose of conservation of Plant genetic resources.

An operational, pragmatic, future-ready and flexible “benefit sharing framework” can certainly catalyze the system.

We all should solemnly recognize the contribution of farmers, indigenous communities, tribal population and particularly women-folk in conserving and selecting the Plant genetic resources over the time. Therefore, it is our bounden duty to keep these individuals and community out of any legal and financial obligations of the Treaty particularly the revisions being contemplated.

India stands firm in her belief and actions on the commitments to multilateral agreement. However, unless we eliminate the divide between North and South, and focus on the aspirations of the Treaty founders and farming communities, we will fail to make any headway.

India being party to the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) Agreement, made provision for giving effect to Article 27.3.b(II), passed the “Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights (PPV&FR) Act” in 2001 to establish a Statutory Authority for effective protection of plant varieties as well as plant breeders’ and farmers’ rights harmonizing with the UPOV procedure of Novelty, Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability.
Under the PPV&FR Act, 2001 farmers have been recognized as breeders and they are entitled to be awarded, rewarded and recognized for their efforts in conservation, preservation and improvement of plant genetic resources. Farmers are also considered as donor of genes for varieties registerable under this Act.

Article 9 of ITPGFRA deals with farmers’ rights and India is fully compliant with it and relevant provisions are enshrined in PPV&FR Act, 2001. Till now, 138 farmers/farming communities have been awarded with Plant Genome Saviour Awards and this is in compliant with Article 9(2)(b) of ITPGFRA. Further farmers varieties which are traditional varieties are also protected under the PPV&FR Act, 2001. India has received about 16620 applications for Plant Variety Protection out of which 10920 (66%) have been received from farmers alone. Also, the PPV&FR Authority has registered about 3631 out of which 1597 (44%) belong to the farmers. Under Section 39(1)(iv) of PPV&FR Act, 2001 a farmers is entitled to save, use, sow, resow, exchange, share or sell his farm produce including seed of a variety protected under the PPV&FR Act, 2001 except brand name.

I am happy to know that at its Seventh Session during 2017, the Governing Body of the International Treaty, decided to establish the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers’ Rights to produce an inventory of national measures and possible options in implementation of farmers rights for representative from PPV&FR Authority was elected as one of the two co-chairs. I am sure inventory developed by this Expert Group shall make it possible for many contracting parties to understand the best practices in implementation of Farmers’ rights and suitably take measures in their legislation and national policies.

I am happy to propose to host the Ninth Governing Body meeting of the Treaty during 2021 at Delhi, India.

Please come to India and we will welcome you
STATEMENT BY H.E. MS TERESA BELLANOVA, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL, FOOD AND FORESTRY POLICY OF ITALY

Deputy Director-General of FAO Ms. Maria Helena Semedo,
Minister Narendra Singh Tomar,
Mr Secretary of the International Treaty Kent Nnadozie,
Madam President Ms Christine Dawson,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to attend the opening ceremony of the 8th Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

The Italian Government is proud and honored to host the United Nations food agencies in Rome, including the Secretariat of the International Treaty, and this Eighth Session of the Governing Body.

The International Treaty is an instrument of global importance for a world free of hunger, where everyone equally shares the benefits of conserving, exchanging and using plant genetic resources.

In its fifteen years of existence, the International Treaty has made a major contribution to the protection and sustainable use of plant genetic resources. The crop samples of as many as one-hundred-and-forty-six countries from all regions of the world speak of the volume and relevance of this Treaty.

The Government of Italy has constantly supported the International Treaty and is firmly convinced of the role it plays in helping to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, in terms of achieving food security, adapting to climate change and protecting plant genetic resources for future generations.

In recent years, the International Treaty has made many achievements, among which I would like to focus on the strengthening of national policies and practical tools for the protection of agro-biodiversity.

Italy exemplifies this achievement.

With the ratification of the International Treaty in April 2004, concerted efforts begun to raise awareness of the relevance of plant genetic resources to sustainable agriculture. The International Treaty leveraged the development of national policy on the collection, conservation, sustainable use of crop germplasm, farmers' rights, the distribution of germplasm through the Multilateral System and the sharing of crop germplasm information.

US$ sixteen million have been invested at the national level for safeguarding and promoting the sustainable use of plant genetic resources, particularly those of local origin. Many local administrations, research institutions, farmers, public and private entities are involved in these activities.

Over the years, more than fifty thousand plant varieties of more than two hundred crops have been collected and characterized, to enable their deployment in future sustainable development programs. Italy is committed to sharing this material and related information with the international community through national, European and global databases.

In accordance with the International Treaty, we developed Guidelines for the Conservation and Characterization of Plant Biodiversity of Interest to Agriculture in 2012. Through legislation 2015, we
established the registry, the national portal and biodiversity network of food and agriculture of national interest.

Among other actions, I would like to underscore the support to farmers for preserving and using plant genetic resources in sustainable and dynamic ways.

Through agro-environmental measures in rural development programmes, we support the custodian farmers – i.e. those who, within their farms, commit to conserving plant genetic resources of national interest which are at risk of extinction or erosion.

We have committed to continuing to secure the financial resources to fund the International Treaty directly. The Government of Italy, as a donor country, has so far made voluntary contributions of US$ 7.5 million into the Benefit Sharing Fund, enabling the implementation of projects involving farmers and local populations in different parts of the world.

Excellencies, the International Treaty has achieved global, important results. However, new challenges lie ahead and, for this reason, we must work all together to ensure the continuity of the actions that have been carried out so far.

An additional effort must be undertaken to combat climate change. Figures speak by themselves: in the last twenty years, the Italian agricultural sector has suffered drought-induced losses, in terms of net production for sale, of more than US$ 16.5 billion. Sixty per cent of these losses were concentrated in just three years, namely 2003, 2012 and 2017.

In that respect, genetic resources are essential to mitigate climate change. Despite being a fundamental wealth for humankind, these resources are under threat and every effort to preserve them and ensure adaptation to the new climatic scenarios must be made.

We must work to promote the conservation, characterization and diversification of plant genetic resources, and invest in technological innovation to augment the resilience and adaptation of new varieties.

All possible forms of partnership should be promoted, to allow for wider distribution and greater use of plant germplasm.

Another concrete action to be put in place within the realm of the International Treaty is the streamlining of projects financed by the Benefit Sharing Fund. The projects should be more targeted on climate change and expand to plant health so to meet the most urgent needs of small farmers who manage plant germplasm.

I would also like to underscore the role of women in agrobiodiversity. I really appreciated the poster for this Eighth Session, which highlights the relationship between women and the stewardship of plant genetic resources. Conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources are at the center of the International Treaty and I appreciate the dedication of the International Treaty Secretariat in establishing a specific work programme on these topics.

Excellencies, delegates, let me conclude this speech by expressing my best wishes for a week of fruitful deliberations, through consensus and a wise balance of interests.

Thank you.