



**THIRD MEETING OF THE PLATFORM FOR THE CO-DEVELOPMENT AND  
TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGIES**

**Rome, Italy, 7 September 2015**

**EXTENDED CONCEPT NOTE AND REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

**A. BACKGROUND**

1. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture calls for technology transfer as a form of non-monetary benefit-sharing in the context of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing. The Treaty provides that transfer of technology to countries shall be carried out through all types of partnership in research and development (Article 13.2.b.iii). At its Fourth Session in 2011, the Governing Body called for facilitating the necessary measures to realize technology transfer. In 2012, the *Rio Six-point Action Plan for the International Treaty* recommended, as a priority action to be undertaken by stakeholders in the Treaty, “to establish a *Platform for the Co-Development and Transfer of Technologies*, within the context of non-monetary benefit-sharing under the Treaty”.
2. Following the recommendation of the Governing Body and the Action Plan, a number of potential action partners convened a meeting in Brasilia, Brazil, in August 2012, under the co-chairing of the Brazilian Agriculture Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) and the Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development (IAARD). The stakeholders at the meeting considered establishing a Platform, where institutions active in technology co-development and transfer, including advisory partners and donor institutions could constitute a coordination and initiation mechanism to mobilize resources, including those of the initial proponents themselves, for technology co-development and transfer.
3. At the Platform second meeting in Bandung, Indonesia, in July 2013, institutions further developed the initiative through a review of models of technology transfers that would be useful for smallholder farmers. The Governing Body, at its Fifth Session in September 2013, welcomed those developments and grouped activities under the Platform under “supporting activities” to the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use.
4. Following some implementing actions by Partner institutions in the biennium 2014-2015 and Treaty-system wide developments of actual and potential relevance to the Platform, this third meeting of the Platform is convened to plan for the strategic focusing of the Platform in harmony with the overall evolution of the Treaty as well as for concrete activities in the next biennium.
5. IAARD, as the institution holding the presidency of the Platform, has dispatched through the Treaty Secretariat invitations to institutions previously active under the initiative and, based on expressions of interest made by representatives of Treaty Contracting Parties, to new technical institutions and advisory partners. This Platform meeting enjoys a balanced representation of technical institutions, of both developing and OECD countries, as well as of civil society and international centers of expertise. This document provides extended annotations and reference documents for the meeting, based on the draft agenda that the Treaty Secretariat has circulated, as well as suggestions for follow up actions by the Platform.

## B. PLATFORM ACTIVITIES AND TREATY DEVELOPMENTS

### *The Platform mission statement*

6. Based on a number of input papers and presentations made by institutions and experts, the first and second meetings of the Platform produced the following mission statement.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Objectives of the Platform**

The Platform seeks:

1. To respond to needs identified and problems perceived by target beneficiaries, namely small farmers and their communities;
2. To create a functioning network of institutions with the skills and experience to support and undertake initiatives and projects that aim to co-develop and transfer technologies<sup>2</sup> to beneficiaries in developing countries;
3. To contribute to food security, and the social and economic development of the target beneficiaries, through the establishment of a “one-stop shop” for coherent “technology packets”, based on the understanding of technology co-development and transfer pathways and the mapping of actors involved;
4. To promote the co-development and transfer of technologies, recognizing that technology transfer requires a range of supporting activities, in particular information sharing and capacity- and institution- building;
5. To mobilize in-kind contributions from both the public and the private sectors for this purpose.
6. To mobilize financial and in-kind support to deliver relevant technologies, including through the Treaty’s Benefit-sharing Fund;
7. To support the implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund project cycle through the provision of relevant expert advice and capacity.

#### **Principles of the Platform**

The Platform adheres to the following principles.

1. The Platform considers that technology transfer is a means to deliver benefits to target beneficiaries, rather than an end in itself.
2. The Platform follows a problem solving-based approach (i.e. the identification of existing constraints as the basis for undertaking technology co-development and transfer).
3. The Platform recognizes that there is a wide range of approaches to technology transfer, and a broad range of potential solutions, in responding to needs. Hence, the Platform does not adopt a single model of technology co-development and transfer; it evaluates the usefulness of different models based on parameters such as the capacity to lead to integrated technology packets and to technologies adapted to the needs of small farmers and their communities.
4. The Platform pursues a combination of germplasm and non-germplasm based technology co-development and transfer.
5. The establishment of and progress with the Platform will be reported to sessions of the Governing Body.
6. The Platform will consult with a wide range of stakeholders in the Treaty, in developing and implementing its activities.
7. In keeping with the Treaty’s multilateral objectives, genetic material developed in the context of initiatives and projects supported by the Platform will be available through the Treaty’s Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing.

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<sup>1</sup> The reports of the two meetings, including some background papers, are available at: [http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/gb5i16\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/gb5i16_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Technology is the making, modification, usage, and knowledge of tools, machines, techniques, crafts, systems, methods of organization, in order to solve a problem, improve a pre-existing solution to a problem, achieve a goal or perform a specific function.

7. Based on the mission statement, the Platform considered operating as a functioning network of institutions with the necessary skills and experiences and recognized the need for wide consultations, including with other possible active partners, and with advisory institutions.

*Reports by institutions and advisory partners*

8. In this segment of the meeting, institutions which have populated the Platform network will report on technology co-development and transfer projects and activities of relevance which they are conducting. Institutions will relate their presentations to the objectives and principles of the Platform.

9. IAARD will present two recently financed projects of the Benefit-Sharing Fund (BSF). Both projects are multi-country projects and deal with rice, which is one of the major food crops contributing to food security, particularly in Asia. Almost 20 percent of all the world holdings of rice germplasm are included in the Multilateral System. Nevertheless, these accessions are maintained in collections distributed around the world and their discoverability and use is jeopardized by this fragmentation of location and databases. Additionally, other important information associated with those rice accessions and instrumental to research and development, is disconnected. The first project financed by the BSF aims to address those problems by facilitating the establishment of automated meaning links through the adoption of permanent unique identifiers, to add value and facilitate the use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) for the benefit of plant breeders and farmers. The project presents a participatory and science-based methodology with multi-country approach, involving both national and international institutions. This project contributes to the creation of a rice information management portal, which is one of action points of the Platform agreed at its second meeting.

10. The second BSF project that IAARD will present, aims to strengthen collaboration among institution in selected South East Asian countries on the conservation and sustainable use of local rice varieties, to enhance the food security of resource-poor farmers. The specific objectives of the project are to: (1) identify phenotypic and genotypic characteristics of local varieties from participating countries, (2) improve the productivity of local varieties in participating countries through the use of molecular markers, and (3) exchange improved rice varieties among participating countries. This project is an example of co-development and transfer of technologies, facilitated by a core Treaty mechanism, i.e. the BSF.

11. EMBRAPA and the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), as other Platform leading institutions, will also present progress with their relevant activities. In particular, EMBRAPA will illustrate the functioning of its technology platform, and an active project on farmer-to-farmer technology co-development and transfer, which has a strong capacity building component.<sup>3</sup> AATF will inform on progress with its projects, including on water efficient maize for Africa, and share experiences on the implementation of its technology co-development and transfer model (“identify-broker-adapt-deliver-steward”).

12. Bioversity International will present an overview of relevant CGIAR activities, such as the assessment of local research needs, creating and supporting innovation platforms, seed selection and availability, crop management decision making tools, value change management, transfer and use of genetic resources from the in trust collections, and natural resource management. The key focus of CGIAR activities is to enhance the innovative capacity of its clients to enable them to better identify their technological needs and implement the necessary intervention to facilitate the transfer of appropriate technologies (including PGRFA) which meet the specific needs of the community, taking social, cultural and economic factors into consideration. Bioversity compiled an information document for the second meeting of the Treaty’s Working Group to Enhance the Multilateral System (Working Group), which is reproduced in *Appendix 1* of this document, for the information of the Platform institutions.

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<sup>3</sup> More information on the project is available at: <http://alelo.cenargen.embrapa.br/>.

13. Following an expression of interest in contributing to the Platform mission, institutions from Austria, Germany and Italy will also present their programmes, projects and activities which fit into the value propositions of the Platform, in order to share experiences and lessons learned, for the further articulation of such value propositions. Italian research institutions represented at this meeting are undertaking a coordination initiative at the country level and with a view to cooperation with developing countries, to develop synergies between technology co-development and transfer and other Treaty themes, such as the utilization of plant genomics data for sustainable use of PGRFA. To illustrate the possible synergies, a project (“Bean\_Adapt”) on the advanced characterization of germplasm that combines sequencing and phenotyping services and data management with the availability of germplasm under development to farmers, will be presented.<sup>4</sup> The main goals of the coordination initiative by Italian institutions are illustrated in the report that is in *Appendix 2* of this document.

14. As the overall objective of the Platform is to stimulate technology co-development and transfer suited to the needs of small farmers and their communities in developing countries, it appears necessary to continue seeking the inputs of civil society, which already represents those needs in several Treaty processes. IPC for Food Sovereignty will present its position on technology co-development and transfer within the Treaty, in particular as to ways to involve farmers’ organizations in the creation of technology packets suited to farmers’ needs.

15. The Syngenta Foundation will also contribute to this segment of the meeting with a presentation on the licensing of public bred germplasm (i.e. technology in the form of improved germplasm) to small and medium private seed companies. The theme that the Foundation introduces at this meeting integrates into the on-going Treaty initiatives that facilitate the downstream use of PGRFA. A note to explain the relevance of the Treaty systems and initiatives along the germplasm value chain, including the release of improved seeds into seed systems and the related regulatory challenges, was submitted to, and positively received by the G-20 third Meeting of Chief Agricultural Scientists. In the note, the need for a more integrated research and development chain that fully connects conservation and utilization of germplasm in order to respond to the demands of farmers, plant breeders and the food industry, is highlighted. The note points out to the need for Treaty systems to continue expanding the range of services to users along the germplasm value chain, taking advantage of scientific and technological developments such as genomic technologies, and to bring innovation to users. The note is reproduced in *Appendix 3* of this document.

#### *Treaty developments in the biennium*

16. Several inter-sessional processes and initiatives under the Treaty have referred to the Platform, as a stand-alone initiative and in the wider context of non-monetary benefit-sharing (i.e. in combination with information sharing and capacity building). In this segment of the meeting, participants will be briefed on these processes and initiatives, which may present opportunities for cooperation and strategic focus for the Platform. In line with the draft agenda of the meeting, developments regarding the BSF, which are also relevant to the Platform mission, are dealt with in the next section of the document.

17. Technology co-development and transfer is emerging as a relevant theme in the context of plant genetic resource information systems. Following the expert consultation in January 2015, the Global Information System of Article 17 is moving into start up implementation, including through an on-line portal to connect germplasm information with other data sets, and new inclusion and sequencing facilities.<sup>5</sup> The Secretariat has prepared a draft programme of work for the GLIS, which includes the portal, for the consideration of the Governing Body in October.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> More information on the project is available at: <http://www.era-caps.org/joint-calls/era-caps-funded-projects/era-caps-second-call-2014/evolution-changing-environment>

<sup>5</sup> The report of the expert consultation is available at: <http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/COGIS1re.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> The document, IT/GB-6/15/7, *Vision paper on the development of the Global Information System*, will be available at: <http://www.planttreaty.org/content/gb6>

The GLIS portal has the potential to host information on technology packets associated with germplasm.

18. Still within the ambit of germplasm information systems, DivSeek - an autonomous initiative of plant research institutions to integrate genomic research data into other relevant information domains, which the Treaty Secretariat is co-facilitating - has recognized in its Charter the importance of understanding the needs and capacities of stakeholders such as genebanks, breeders, researchers and farmers to define priority areas for germplasm characterization and evaluation, and data access, for impact-oriented and discovery-driven research. DivSeek prioritizes linkages with multilateral initiatives promoting access to, and transfer of technology and knowledge. The Platform has been signalled as a relevant initiative in this context.<sup>7</sup> Through DivSeek, plant genomics science is receiving attention within the Treaty but there is no shared perception of the value to Treaty stakeholders, in particular those in developing countries. The Platform could help bridge this gap by developing technology packets that result in: i) facilitated access and use of high quality data on germplasm and tools to analyse such data; ii) germplasm under development made available to farmers. In this regard, the project on germplasm characterization (see paragraph 13 above) that is presented at the meeting, could provide a useful reference point.

19. At its second meeting in December 2014, the Working Group noted the need to increase visibility of the Platform, as a valuable initiative to stimulate non-monetary benefit-sharing within the Treaty systems. In structuring its future activities, the Platform may consider how to respond positively to the endorsement by the Working Group.

20. The Platform is a supporting initiative to the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use and an Ad Hoc Committee (ACSU) is mandated with overseeing its implementation.<sup>8</sup> At its meeting of March 2015, the ACSU reconfirmed the relevance of Platform mission and concepts to uses of PGRFA for research and breeding and the promotion of in-situ and on-farm conservation, and the connected use of PGRFA-related information and technology. The ACSU provided some guidance to the Platform, as follows:

- it recommended involving farmers' organizations in Platform activities, including to respond to farmers' needs and to promote benefit-sharing,
- it called for improved synergies between the Platform and other components of the Programme of Work, such as support to pre-breeding.<sup>9</sup>

#### *Follow up*

21. At the end of this segment of the meeting, participants will be asked to consider the mission statement of the Platform and in the light of experiences and lessons learned by Platform institutions and advisory partners in their relevant activities, as well as progress with relevant Treaty processes, suggest any necessary improvements or updating.

22. In addition, participants will be invited to re-examine the previous deliberation made by the Platform to host a number of facilities. Within the framework of each of these facilities - the Platform had considered - core teams of action partners, with the support of technical advisory partners, could develop and implement a range of important activities, such as the documentation of good practices or the identification of existing potential components of technology packets. The Platform partners could individually or jointly implement activities of the facilities, or host facilities. The facilities themselves should follow the broad parameters of being demand-driven, action-oriented, problem-based and incremental.

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<sup>7</sup> See [www.divseek.org](http://www.divseek.org)

<sup>8</sup> See Resolution 7/2013, available at: [http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/RES7\\_2013\\_en.pdf](http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/RES7_2013_en.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> The report of the ACSU meeting is available at: <http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/IT%20ACSU-2%2015-Report.pdf>. Representatives of the Pre-Breeding Initiative, which is another supporting component of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use, are present at this Platform meeting to discuss possible synergies with the Platform.

23. Based on:
- the activities and projects implemented by Platform institutions;
  - the advice of the ACSU; and
  - Treaty developments that may create synergies between the Platform and other processes;
- participants in this Platform meeting may consider the establishment and functioning of an initial set of Platform facilities that:
- are hosted by the lead institutions that implement the corresponding projects;
  - implement the mission statement of the Platform;
  - are open to in-kind contributions by Platform institutions and advisory partners.
24. In establishing such facilities, Platform institutions may also consider:
- how to involve additional institutions interested in contributing to the facilities (e.g. through regular progress reports, expert consultations, backstopping missions);
  - how to systematically consult with farmers' organizations on the scope and activities of the facilities.

### **C. THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLATFORM**

#### *The Benefit-Sharing Fund*

25. In this segment of the meeting, the focus will be on the component of the Platform mission that relates to the BSF. In its mission statement, the Platform had undertaken to support the implementation of the BSF project cycle through expert advice and capacity. This is the work track where most significant progress occurred in the present biennium, both within the Platform and at the Treaty system-wide level. The expectation is that, at this Platform meeting, participants will take stock of such a progress and further develop activities around this thematic area.

26. The major value propositions underpinning the Platform initiative have been mainstreamed in Treaty activities through an expanded funding window focused on technology co-development and transfer, information sharing and capacity building, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> project cycle of the BSF (window 3). The 2014 call for proposals has provided funding for both the co-development and transfer of key technologies for the exchange of value added information about PGRFA, that enhance the ability of farmers to adapt to climate change, especially through increased resistance to drought, heat and associated biotic stresses. The call has encouraged partnerships between institutions of Contracting Parties (South or North), and three way partnerships among a partner institution, a local lead institution and local rural communities. The relevant text of the call for proposals 2014 is reproduced in *Appendix 4* of this document.

27. Being demand-driven is one of the value propositions of the Platform and, based on the proposals made by BSF applicants under window 3 of the BSF and previous project cycles, the Secretariat commissioned a study to analyze such a demand. The study addressed a number of issues, such as: (1) the geographic scope of projects, and the activities and partnerships within them; (2) the types of technologies, capacities and information being generated and transferred; (3) the actors involved in the co-development and transfer of technologies, capacities and information; and (4) situations in which technology transfer, capacity building and information exchange are pursued or promoted together as part of a package and when they are pursued or promoted independently of each other. The study found that demand for and supply of technologies, capacities and information cannot be disassociated from the calls' conditions and therefore the BSF projects do not necessarily represent an illustrative sample of the existing demand for, and supply of technologies, capacities and information in the Treaty member countries. However, the study assessed how the BSF is being instrumental for generating and exchanging the types of non- monetary benefits of Article 13.2 of the Treaty. The study is reproduced in *Appendix 5* of this document.

28. Under the 3<sup>rd</sup> call for proposals, a project portfolio of 12 projects was approved under window 3. All these projects will contribute to mainstreaming technology co-development and transfer into Treaty implementation, and are expected to produce results of direct relevance to the Platform value propositions. A summary of the project portfolio is in *Appendix 6* of this document.

29. Within such portfolio feature the two regional projects, one on rice information systems and another on rice technologies, that IAARD is implementing (see above paragraphs 9-10). IAARD will report on the results of two workshops, held in the week preceding this Platform meeting, for the two projects. Platform leading institutions, namely EMBRAPA and AATF, have attended the workshops, to leverage the projects in the context of the Platform mission and to explore the creation of a Platform facility which could generate continuous support to their implementation.

30. The establishment of a Platform facility for the two BSF projects does not exhaust the range of possible activities that could be conducted in synergy with the BSF. The helpdesk workshops that the Secretariat conducted for the 3<sup>rd</sup> call for proposals in the fall of 2014 (i.e. between the endorsement of pre-proposals and the preparation of full proposals) highlighted the need for continuous support throughout project implementation for those projects where technology co-development and transfer is envisaged, particularly in the context of multi-country and multi-stakeholder partnerships. The Platform could be a mechanism to provide such continuous support, and in turn benefit from this experience to refine and apply its methodology. AATF's and EMBRAPA's contribution to the recently held BSF project workshops in Indonesia goes in this direction. The exercise could certainly be continued in the context of the two projects. It could also expand to other projects, for instance by convening, subject to availability of funding, meetings (mid-term and end-of-project) of all project implementing entities of window 3 to develop lessons learned of general application to future project cycles, as well as to other projects fitting into the scope of technology co-development and transfer under the Treaty.<sup>10</sup>

31. Furthermore, a call for strengthening the programmatic approach of the BSF has recently been made. At its third meeting of June 2015, the Working Group has recommended, in the context of mobilizing donor support for the BSF, that the Governing Body reconsider the current arrangements for projects carried out in the framework of the BSF, by strengthening the programmatic approach in order to make support to the BSF more attractive, including by:

- providing greater predictability to prospective donors, regarding the planned activities and targeted outputs and impacts of proposed projects, in order to enable them to make informed decisions regarding their potential contributions;
- improving thematic coherence between individual projects, and project cycles;
- developing a long-term investment strategy, with objectives and results;
- promoting synergy between the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Funding Strategy, of which the BSF is a part.<sup>11</sup>

32. Due to its mission, progress made and range of expertise, the Platform could take up the above recommendations and provide strategic advice on and support to window 3 of future project cycles of the BSF. The Platform could convene electronic consultations and an in-person expert meeting in order to structure and deliver such an advice and support. The Platform could make the results of this work available for the consideration of any inter-sessional Treaty committee that the Governing Body, at its upcoming session in October, may establish to oversee the operation of the BSF and the Funding Strategy.

33. In connection with this possible initiative by the Platform and as initial input, participants in this Platform meeting may consider a background study on experiences within other

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<sup>10</sup> "Lessons learned on technology transfer models explored for further replication by all partners, including at national, regional and international levels" feature among the expected results of window 3 of the 3<sup>rd</sup> project cycle of the BSF.

<sup>11</sup> The report of the meeting is available at:

<http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/OWGEFMLS3Re.pdf>

international conventions involving technology transfer, capacity building, and information exchange, which was presented as supporting documentation for the second meeting of the Working Group. The conclusions of the study offer many relevant elements that the Platform may examine for possible insertion into the programmatic approach of window 3 of the BSF. In particular, the study made the following recommendations:

- Technology transfer, capacity building, and information exchange, while distinct concepts, spillover into each other and may give rise to positive synergies in their execution.
- Government action is a critical factor in the willingness of industry to deliver technology.
- The important role of the private sector in other treaties does not necessarily constitute precedent for the Treaty as the nature of the regulatory approach different treaties take may differ. At the same time, more analysis of the entire production chain relevant to PGRFA may help illustrate ways the private sector can support the Treaty's aims.
- Capacity development must be understood as part of a broader process of institutional strengthening for the purpose of treaty implementation but in the context of broader supportive plans and policy processes.
- A key feature of treaties with active practices of technology transfer, capacity building, and information exchange is the emergence and cultivation by treaty bodies of interactive communities of practice involving various stakeholder groups. The Treaty may consider ways of opening space to encourage technology transfer, capacity building, and information exchange among the different stakeholder groups.
- Approaching capacity building through national development strategies may harmonize efforts related to treaty implementation with broader national needs, thereby achieving synergies between these activities.
- There may be distinct benefits for the Treaty of building national capacity for technological innovation, given the ongoing nature of the technology needs involved in the Treaty's mandate.
- Given limited resources and time constraints, relatively greater emphasis should be placed on the capacity to adapt already existing technologies to local conditions than "blue sky" research oriented to achieving global breakthroughs.
- Financing is critical for all three areas.
- Technology transfer tends to implicate the private sector relatively more than capacity building and information exchange, which tend to occur through governmental channels. At the same time, while the private sector may do more of the work, it may also require compensation to do it.

34. The study is in *Appendix 7* of this document.

*Strategy paper and biennial programme of work*

35. At its second meeting, the Platform institutions had agreed to operate through biennial programmes of work, in the framework of a strategy paper that would further specify the mission statement of the Platform. In the current biennium, Platform institutions, instead, concentrated their attention on implementing a series of projects and activities, both within Treaty mechanisms (e.g. the BSF projects) and as external contributions to the implementation of Article 13.2.b. In the light of progress made, Treaty system-wide developments and the need to position the Platform in the medium-term, the opportunity to develop such a strategic paper arises again, particularly in connection with a possible role of the Platform in future project cycles of the BSF.

36. As the strategy paper would consolidate a medium-term role for the Platform, it could be accompanied by communication materials that would explain the underlying value propositions to the Treaty audience as well as to potential donors interested in sustaining the Platform activities. Such communication products could also help build a case for support, again for resource mobilization purposes.

37. On the same wavelength, a light and strategic biennial programme of work would enhance coherence and focus of the Platform. The development of a strategic paper, the



establishment of Platform facilities and advice on, and support to the programmatic approach of the BSF, which, as highlighted above, are the main suggested action points deriving from progress made in this biennium, could form the main components of the draft programme of work. The Secretariat has prepared a draft programme of work along these lines, for the consideration by the Platform at this meeting. The draft programme of work is in *Appendix 8* of this document.

38. Under the programme of work, the Platform will act both as a facilitator and a “doer” in the area of technology co-development and transfer. The activities are planned by the group of partners and may be executed by the individual partners according to their expertise and willingness to serve. The draft programme of work has a column on “implementing institutions” where one or more institutions willing to contribute in-kind to the respective objective of the programme may indicate their availability.

39. The draft programme of work is accompanied by a table with indicative aggregate budgetary requirements, excluding staff costs, for immediate fund raising by the Secretariat, on the understanding that in-kind contributions by Platform institutions would constitute the backbone of the programme of work. In the context of fund raising for the Platform, Platform institutions may support approaches to potential donors, including through the communication materials that are envisaged in the context of the strategy paper.

40. When examining the draft programme of work, participants in this Platform meeting will also be invited to consider excerpts of a working document for the upcoming session of the Governing Body in October, where the Secretariat, based on the recommendations by the ACSU, presents a restructured Programme of Work on Sustainable Use, with a series of suggested activities for the Platform.<sup>12</sup> The suggested activities feed into the Platform draft biennial programme of work.

#### *Other practical actions for the further deployment of the Platform*

41. The attention of participants in the meeting will be drawn on three sets of other practical actions for the further deployment of the Platform. First, the Platform had agreed to report on progress to sessions of the Governing Body. Given the proximity of the next session, the Platform may instruct as to the preparation of a report on activities in the biennium, including this meeting. The Secretariat may assist with the drafting of the report and publish it as information document for the session. IAARD, as the institution holding the presidency of the Platform, may present a summary of the report in-session.

42. Second, the Platform had agreed to consult with a wide range of stakeholders in the Treaty, in developing and implementing its activities. So far, consultations have occurred informally, through iterations by Platform institutions at various Treaty meetings and expressions of interest solicited and gathered on a case-by-case basis. Although these modalities have enabled the representation of a plurality of interests and perspectives at this meeting, as well as the participation of new institutions of Contracting Parties active on technology co-development and transfer, the Platform may consider issuing a call for expressions of interest, for instance in the form of a notification by the Secretary to Treaty National Focal Points, based on the mission statement and the strategic paper foreseen in the next programme of work. This would facilitate an expansion of the Platform and keep membership open to other interested partners who wish to work within it, and technical advisors whose experience and expertise are relevant in the context the different facilities of the Platform.

43. Third, Platform institutions may make practical internal arrangements for its functioning in the next biennium. These arrangements may be for: (1) the presidency of the initiative; (2) coordination between the presidency and other institutions and advisory partners; and (3) Secretariat’s support.

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<sup>12</sup> The document, IT/GB-6/15/12, *Implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, will be available at: <http://www.planttreaty.org/content/gb6>.

44. In regard of the first issue, EMBRAPA has formally passed the presidency to IAARD, which has accepted. A further rotation may be foreseen in the future.

45. With regard to internal coordination, previous Platform meetings recognized that, for coherence and coordination, a light, informal platform structure was needed, through an establishment agreement that would envisage a Partners' Assembly, a Steering Committee and a Secretariat. In the current biennium, IAARD, EMBRAPA and AATF opted not to formalize any establishment agreement setting forth the internal governance structure.<sup>13</sup> Instead, they operated through *ad hoc* consultations, with coordination being provided through the Secretariat of the Treaty. The projected expansion of the Platform in the next biennium may call for some level of formalization of the initiative. Platform institutions may consider that the approach to institutional/legal arrangements should be aligned with the actual programme of work, and cater for the need for continuity in activities. The Secretariat stands ready to facilitate any new process that may be envisaged at this Platform meeting.

46. With regard to Secretariat's support, the Secretariat of the International Treaty remains available, subject to the availability of staffing, to facilitate regular communications within the Platform and between the Platform and Treaty's committees, and to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work through technical and organizational inputs.

#### **D. LIST OF REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

##### **Documents for the first session of the meeting**

[Appendix 1 - CGIAR Services to Enhance Capacity Building, Technology Transfer and Information Exchange Related to Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture](#)

[Appendix 2 - Report of the coordination meeting of Italian institutions](#)

[Appendix 3 - Increasing Agricultural Productivity through the Use of Plant Genetic Diversity - Concept Note for the Third MACS Meeting](#)

##### **Documents for the second session of the meeting**

[Appendix 4 - Excerpts from the Third Call for Proposals of the Benefit-Sharing Fund](#)

[Appendix 5 - Non-Monetary Benefit Sharing Mechanisms within the Projects Funded by the Benefit Sharing Fund](#)

[Appendix 6 - The window 3 project portfolio of the 3<sup>rd</sup> project cycle of the Benefit-Sharing Fund](#)

[Appendix 7 - Experience Involving Technology Transfer, Capacity Building, and Information Exchange for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Agriculture](#)

[Appendix 8 - Draft Programme of Work for the Platform](#)

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<sup>13</sup> The Secretariat prepared a draft agreement that went through a round of comments by IAARD, Embrapa and AATF.