



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



The International Treaty  
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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**INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**EIGHTH MEETING OF THE *AD-HOC* ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE  
FUNDING STRATEGY**

**Rome, Italy, 20-21 March 2017**

**DRAFT PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**I. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

1. At its Sixth Session, the Governing Body decided to re-convene the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy (Funding Strategy Committee), through Resolution 2/2015, which is made available to this meeting in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. Resolution 2/2015 provides for the Terms of Reference of the Committee.
2. The eighth meeting the Funding Strategy Committee is being held in Rome, Italy, from 20 to 21 March 2017. The Working Group will be preceded by a special event followed by regional consultations on 18 March 2017. The opening session of the Committee meeting will begin at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 20 March 2017.

**BACKGROUND ON THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE  
FUNDING STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

The Funding Strategy Committee was the first intersessional body created by the Governing Body of the International Treaty, at its first Session. The Committee was particularly active during the period of 2007 to 2013 in supporting the Governing Body of the International Treaty to develop and implement the Funding Strategy. The Committee also advised the Governing Body to establish the *Ad Hoc* Open-Ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing. Many of the regional representatives to the Committee regularly participated in its meetings throughout the 2007-2013 period, which helped ensure the continuity and expertise needed to promote the implementation of the Funding Strategy. The Funding Strategy Committee held its last meeting in 2013.

Provision has been made to have two meetings of the Funding Strategy Committee during the 2016/2017 biennium. Most of the current regional representatives to the Funding Strategy Committee have not participated in this intersessional body before. Given the breadth of matters that need to be discussed by the Committee and the need to closely liaise with the *Ad Hoc* Open-Ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, the eighth meeting of the Funding Strategy Committee will focus on providing background to the Committee and sharing information amongst regional representatives. The ninth meeting will be focused more on preparing concrete advice and recommendations to be presented to the Seventh Session of the Governing Body.

The guidance from the Funding Strategy Committee is requested in the following paragraphs of this document: 11, 14, 21, 25, 32, 41.

## II. ELECTION OF CO-CHAIRS

3. The Committee is invited to elect its two Co-Chairpersons under this agenda item.

## III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIME TABLE

4. The present document annotates the Provisional Agenda<sup>1</sup> for the consideration of the Working Group. The list of the documents for this session is contained in the information document, *List of Documents*.<sup>2</sup>
5. The Working Group is invited to consider the provisional agenda and the indicative timetable suggested in this document, in order to adopt its Agenda and organize its work for this meeting.

## IV. OVERVIEW AND STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUNDING STRATEGY

6. Financial resources are a critical element to achieving the objectives of the International Treaty. Article 18.1 of the International Treaty states that the “Contracting Parties undertake to implement a funding strategy for the implementation of this Treaty, in accordance with the provisions of [Article 18].” The negotiation process to develop a funding strategy started shortly after the entry into force of the International Treaty and focused on developing Article 18 to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement activities under the Treaty.
7. The Funding Strategy was adopted by the Governing Body of the International Treaty through Resolution 1/2006.<sup>3</sup> However, the Funding Strategy had not yet been finalised by then. The Funding Strategy contains a number of annexes that the Governing Body adopted and reviewed in subsequent meetings. The Funding Strategy is currently composed of the following:
  - Funding Strategy for the Implementation of the International Treaty (2006);
  - ANNEX 1: Priorities for the Use of Resources under the Funding Strategy (2007);
  - ANNEX 2: Eligibility Criteria for the Use of Resources under the Direct Control of the Governing Body (2007);
  - ANNEX 3: Operational Procedures for the Use of Resources under the Direct Control of the Governing Body (2007/2013);
  - ANNEX 4: Information and Reporting Requirements under the Funding Strategy (2009).
8. The document *Funding Strategy for the Implementation of the International Treaty*<sup>4</sup> provides a compilation of all the texts related to the Funding Strategy. Starting with the Article 18 of the Treaty, the compilation contains the text of the Funding Strategy and its Annexes. The document also provides a number of procedures and standards that the Governing Body has adopted up to date to support the implementation of the Operational Procedures:
  - Interim Disbursement Procedures (2011);
  - Interim Procedures for Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation (2011);
  - Policy on Conflict of Interest and Related Standards of Conduct for the Benefit-sharing Fund (2013).

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<sup>1</sup> IT/ACFS-8/17/1

<sup>2</sup> IT/ACFS-8/17/Inf.1

<sup>3</sup> Resolution 1/2006, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-be002e.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> IT/ACFS-8/17/Inf.2

9. At its Third Session, the Governing Body welcomed the *Strategic Plan for the implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund of the Funding Strategy 2009-2014*<sup>5</sup> and agreed that this plan will constitute a basis for the implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund of the Funding Strategy by the Secretariat and Contracting Parties. Based on Article 18.3 of the International Treaty, the Governing Body also established, at this Session, a target of US\$ 116 million for the period between July 2009 and December 2014. The Governing Body also decided to keep this target under review on a regular basis.

10. The Secretariat will provide an overview of the implementation of the Funding Strategy. It will summarize achievements accomplished through the use of resources under the direct control of the Governing Body (the Benefit-sharing Fund), and identify the key challenges ahead. The overview will also describe measures undertaken by the Governing Body to strengthen cooperation with international mechanisms, funds and bodies that provide resources, not under the direct control of the Governing Body, in support of activities of relevance to the implementation of the International Treaty.

11. Under this agenda item, the Funding Strategy Committee is requested to take note of the overview of the Funding Strategy and undertake a brief review of each Funding Strategy section, as well as its Annexes, and provide initial feedback on which parts of the Funding Strategy could be improved through review by the Governing Body.

12. The Governing Body has requested the Funding Strategy Committee to consider resource mobilization opportunities in the implementation of the relevant provisions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Governing Body also agreed that the theme for the Seventh Session of the Governing Body will be: “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Role of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.” The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognize the vital role that plant genetic diversity plays in sustainable development and set concrete targets acknowledging the critical need to conserve, exchange and invest in plant genetic resources to achieve global food security. The most relevant Sustainable Development Goals for the International Treaty are:

- Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; and,
- Goal 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss.

13. The effective implementation of the International Treaty would practically contribute toward the achievement to SDG Targets 2.5 and 15.6:

- **Target 2.5:** By 2020, maintain genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.
- **Target 15.6:** Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to genetic resources, as internationally agreed.

14. Under this agenda item, the Funding Strategy Committee is requested to provide advice on resource mobilization opportunities for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the

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<sup>5</sup> IT/ACFS-8/17/Inf.3

implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including with regard to:

- i. the Benefit-sharing Fund and synergies between it and other elements of the Funding Strategy;
- ii. the provision of financial resources by Contracting Parties for national activities for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (Article 18.4.(d)); and,
- iii. other elements of the Funding Strategy.

## V. BENEFIT-SHARING FUND

### *5.1 Liaison with the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System*

15. At its Sixth Session, the Governing Body requested the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing and the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy to liaise closely in executing their work (see Resolutions 1/2015, para.8 and Resolution 2/2015, para.5).

16. The work of both intersessional bodies is interlinked. The extended mandate of the Working Group is to develop a range of measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System that will, *inter alia*, increase user-based payments and contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund in a sustainable and predictable long-term manner. The Governing Body of the International Treaty has requested the Committee on the Funding Strategy to consider the link between increased user-based payments and exploration of proposals to develop a mechanism of contributions by Contracting Parties, in accordance with Article 18.4 of the Treaty.

17. The close liaison between the two intersessional bodies has been achieved through different means. A special event and regional consultations have been programmed on 18 March 2017. The event will bring together the respective members of the Working Group and the Funding Strategy Committee.

18. Under this agenda item, the Working Group Co-Chairs will provide an update on the work undertaken by Working Group as it relates to the enhancement of the Funding Strategy. The Co-Chairs will provide a briefing on: (1) measures being developed by the Working Group to increase user-based income to the Benefit-sharing Fund in a sustainable and predictable manner; (2) discussions held by the Working Group on the future role on contributions by Contracting Parties to the Benefit-sharing Fund; and (3) discussions held by the Working Group on the link between increasing user-based income to the Benefit-sharing and exploration of proposals to develop a mechanism of contributions by Contracting Parties.

19. The Working Group, in its Report to the Sixth Session of the Governing Body, put forward a list of proposed tasks for further work, covering the major elements of the package of measures to improve this aspect of the Treaty. It agreed to propose the task to: “explore a proposal to develop a mechanism of contributions by Contracting Parties that will ensure sustainable and predictable income to the Benefit-Sharing Fund and other elements of the Funding Strategy, such as an amendment to the Funding Strategy”.<sup>6</sup>

20. The Working Group has encouraged, throughout its work, the submission from Contracting Parties and Stakeholders on matters being discussed. A number of concrete proposals

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<sup>6</sup> IT/GB-6/15/6 Rev. 2, Consolidated Report on the deliberations of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group to enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System, during the 2014–2015 biennium, page 6 (proposed task d).

were made by Regional Groups to the Working Group during the last biennium to develop a mechanism of contributions by Contracting Parties. Such submissions were compiled in the document *Exploring a proposal to develop a mechanism of contributions by Contracting Parties to the Benefit-Sharing Fund*. This document was prepared by the Secretary upon the specific request of the Co-chairs of the Working Group for its fourth meeting. The document, which briefly reviews possible elements for a proposal establishing a mechanism of contributions by Contracting Parties, is made available to the Committee as an information document.<sup>7</sup>

21. Under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to:

- i. Thank the Co-Chairs of the Working Group for the briefing provided on the work undertaken by the Working Group as it relates to the enhancement of the Funding Strategy;
- ii. Request the Co-Chairs of the Committee, in line with Resolutions 1/2015 and 2/2015, to liaise closely with the Co-Chairs of the Working Group, in preparation for the Seventh Session of the Governing Body;
- iii. Provide guidance on how it may wish to further consider, at its next meeting, the link between increased user-based payments and exploration of proposals to develop a mechanism of contributions by Contracting Parties, in accordance with Article 18.4 of the Treaty.

### ***5.2 Resource mobilization: assessment of the Strategic Plan for the implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund 2009-2014***

22. The Governing Body requested the Funding Strategy Committee to “assess the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund 2009–2014, and update it, including the development of a funding target for the Benefit-Sharing Fund for the 2018–2023 period, taking into account a needs-analysis on the basis of such information sources, such as the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as well as the target for the endowment fund of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, and a scenarios-analysis on the possible impacts of the measures to ensure sustainable and predictable income to the Benefit-sharing Fund for the enhancement of the Multilateral System to be proposed by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System, as mandated in Resolution 1/2015.”

23. The Secretariat will provide a presentation on the implementation of the Strategic Plan since it was adopted. It will describe the total funds contributed to the Benefit-sharing Fund since 2009. Analysis indicating the income sources received against anticipated in the Strategic Plan will be provided. Innovative approaches to the provision of funding will be described as well other sources of income received that were not originally envisaged in the Strategic Plan. The presentation will summarize factors that have positively contributed towards the funding target of the Strategic Plan as well as those which have contributed to its shortfall.

24. The Bureau of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body recently requested the Secretariat to provide lessons learned during the biennium on resource mobilization for the Benefit-sharing Fund. These lessons learned are contained in the document *Execution of the project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund*.<sup>8</sup> The Secretariat will summarize the lessons learned at the meeting.

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<sup>7</sup> IT/ACFS-8/17/Inf.4.

<sup>8</sup> IT/ACFS-8/17/Inf.5.

25. Under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to:
- i. Initiate the assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan;
  - ii. Undertake a quick review of each section of the Strategic Plan and provide initial feedback on which parts of the Strategic Plan should be updated;
  - iii. Provide guidance to enable further progress in the assessment and updating of the Strategic Plan at the next meeting of the Committee.
  - iv. Consider, as requested by the Governing Body, the possibility to welcome contributions with a regional or crop priority focus, taking into account the results of the exceptional arrangement contained in paragraph 14 of Resolution 2/2015.

### ***5.3 Measures to strengthen the programmatic approach of the Benefit-sharing Fund***

26. The Governing Body has had, through the Strategic Plan described above, a detailed strategy for mobilization of resources,<sup>9</sup> but it has no detailed strategy on how to use the resources mobilized, what is technically referred as “spending strategy.” Other Multilateral Funds programme their “spending strategies” through a results framework that provides the results to be achieved in the mid-term. Such result frameworks bring a number of benefits for these funds:

- They provide more concrete information to donors, Contracting Parties and stakeholders on how the resources are going to be used.
- The governing bodies of these Funds can improve the monitoring of the performance of the Multilateral Fund.
- Global results or expected outputs can be aligned with expected outputs of individual projects being funded, so that individual projects are better linked with the global programme of these funds.

27. The Governing Body has requested the Funding Strategy Committee to develop measures to strengthen the programmatic approach of the Benefit-sharing Fund, in order to make the Fund’s operations more attractive and predictable to prospective donors and recipients, including to:

- i. Improve thematic coherence between individual projects, and over project cycles, including by reconsidering the current arrangements for project execution;
- ii. Develop a long-term investment strategy for the Benefit-sharing Fund, with objectives, expected results and indicators and an appropriate monitoring and evaluation system;
- iii. Promote synergy between the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Funding Strategy, of which it is a part.

28. The Secretariat will provide a presentation on efforts made since the second project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund to develop a programmatic approach. The Funding Strategy Committee has already emphasized the importance of having a medium term plan for the use of resources under the Benefit-sharing Fund. At its seventh meeting, it already emphasized that such plan should be similar to the models of other funds, to be able to concentrate, in a coherent and focused manner, on areas of highest priority and highest expected impact. The Committee advised on the structure and contents of the mid-term programmatic approach, including to:

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<sup>9</sup> The Strategic Plan contains a detailed strategy for resource mobilization, including funding targets, donor cultivation and stewardship and communications related to the Fund and a timeline for execution.

- build upon the thematic focus of the second round of the project cycle and in full alignment with the priorities adopted by the Governing Body;
- take into account the experience and lessons learned from the design of previous rounds of the project cycle;
- develop a concise and simple results framework focused on achieving positive benefits and impacts for farmers and describing the different components of the programme, expected outputs and core indicators;
- make reference to contributions of the partners in the execution of the mid-term programmatic approach;
- include a built-in mechanism that enables the Governing Body review and update the programmatic approach whenever needed.

29. At its Fifth Session, the Governing Body of the International Treaty took note of the *Elements of the Mid-term Plan of the Benefit-sharing Fund* in document IT/GB-5/13/7 Add.2. The document is provided to the Funding Strategy Committee for its information.<sup>10</sup>

30. The Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) organized, in 2015, a multi-stakeholder workshop on the Benefit Sharing Fund and its investment strategy. The *Report of a Multi-stakeholder Workshop organized by Switzerland –The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: What Investment Strategy for the Benefit-Sharing Fund?*<sup>11</sup> is provided to the Committee as an information document. The delegate from Switzerland will be invited to present the main conclusions of the workshop during the meeting.

31. The Funding Strategy Committee has been requested to develop a long-term investment strategy to programme how to spend the funds available in the Benefit-sharing Fund at the same time that it has been requested to update the Strategic Plan, as described in section 5.2, which focuses on resource mobilization. The Funding Strategy Committee may wish to discuss the merits of developing only one strategy that deals with programming resource mobilization and allocation in an integrated manner. In this context, lessons may be learned from the recent update by the Global Crop Diversity Trust of their Strategic Work Plan 2017 – 2020 bringing together the Trust's results framework with an updated fundraising strategy.

32. Under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to:

- i. Recommend that there will be only one programmatic approach for the Benefit-sharing Fund that will bring together the programming of resource mobilization and allocation in an integrated manner;
- ii. Undertake a quick review of the elements of the Mid-term Plan of the Benefit-sharing Fund presented to the Fifth Session of the Governing Body and assess whether they provide a starting point to develop the programmatic approach for the Benefit-sharing Fund;
- iii. Suggest potential measures that will strengthen the programmatic approach by promoting synergies between the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Funding Strategy, of which it is part;
- iv. Provide any other guidance to the Secretariat in order to prepare the relevant documentation for this agenda item to the ninth meeting of the Funding Strategy Committee.

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<sup>10</sup> IT/ACFS-8/17/Inf.6.

<sup>11</sup> IT/ACFS-8/17/Inf.7.

## VI. MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ELEMENTS OF THE FUNDING STRATEGY, OTHER THAN THE BENEFIT-SHARING FUND

33. The Governing Body of International Treaty emphasized that “the review of the Funding Strategy should strengthen the monitoring and facilitate the implementation of all elements of the Funding Strategy, as described in Art. 18.4 of the International Treaty.” It requested the Funding Strategy Committee to consider “the development of other measures to strengthen the implementation of the overall Funding Strategy, including to ensure the sustainability and predictability in the provision of financial resources to elements of the Funding Strategy, other than the Benefit-sharing Fund.” It also requested the Committee to consider resource mobilization opportunities in “strengthening appropriate cooperation with entities such as, through appropriate channels, the Global Environment Facility, the Global Crop Diversity Trust, the CGIAR, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).”

34. At its Sixth Session, the Governing Body took a number of decisions with a view to strengthen cooperation with relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies that are relevant to the Funding Strategy, including with regard to the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the Global Environment Facility.

### *Global Crop Diversity Trust*

35. The Global Crop Diversity 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. Pursuant to Article 1(5) of its Constitution, the Trust shall operate in accordance with the overall policy guidance to be provided by the Governing Body of the Treaty. The Governing Body of the International Treaty, at its First Session, approved the *Relationship Agreement* between the Trust and the Governing Body of the International Treaty. The agreement stipulates that the Executive Board of the Trust shall submit an annual report on the activities of the Trust to the Governing Body.

36. At its Sixth Session, the Governing Body adopted, for the first time, a Resolution providing policy guidance to the Trust. The Governing Body invited the Trust to support the work of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy, during the following biennium, to develop measures to enhance the functioning of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty, including to improve the complementarity between the different elements of the Funding Strategy and the definition of funding targets for the Funding Strategy.

37. The eighth meeting of the Funding Strategy Committee takes place concurrently with the first 2017 meeting of the Executive Board of the Trust. A staff member of the Trust’s Science team will participate in the eight meeting of the Funding Strategy Committee to provide an overview of recent activities of the Trust. The Trust also plans to participate and contribute to the ninth meeting of the Committee.

### *Global Environment Facility*

38. Through Resolution 7/2015, the Governing Body, followed up to a decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to enhance programmatic synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions by requesting the Bureau of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body, with the support of the Secretariat, to “develop elements of advice for the Global Environment Facility concerning the funding of the objectives and priorities the Treaty, consistent with the mandates of the Global Environment Facility.”

39. The Bureau of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body finalized the *Elements of Advice for the Global Environment Facility in relation to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, in September 2016, and they were made available to the Thirteenth Session

of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The *Elements of Advice* are provided to the Funding Strategy Committee as an information document.<sup>12</sup>

40. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention adopted a four-year framework of programme priorities (2018-2022) for GEF's seventh replenishment. In doing so, it took note with appreciation of the elements of advice received from the International Treaty and also noted that the elements have been reflected at a strategic level, in the four-year framework. It also invited the Governing Body of the International Treaty to repeat the exercise of provision of elements of advice to develop strategic guidance for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting.

#### *Guidance sought from the Committee*

41. Under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to suggest potential measures for further discussion at the ninth meeting of the Funding Strategy Committee to:

- i. strengthen cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the Global Environment Facility in the context of the Funding Strategy;
- ii. strengthen the monitoring and facilitate the implementation of other elements of the Funding Strategy, as described in Art. 18.4 of the International Treaty.

### **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

42. Under this item, the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy may address any other business that is relevant to its work.

### **VIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

43. At each meeting, the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy shall approve a report embodying its views and recommendations on the advice requested. This final agenda item therefore provides for the approval of the *Report of the eight meeting of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy*.

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<sup>12</sup> IT/ACFS-8/17/Inf.8.