

May 2017



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



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda
INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
SECOND MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEM OF ARTICLE 17 OF THE TREATY
Rome, Italy, 13 – 14 June 2017
Annotated Provisional Agenda and Timetable

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Global Information System (GLIS) on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) is established by Article 17 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which provides that:

“The Contracting Parties shall cooperate to develop and strengthen a global information system to facilitate the exchange of information [...] on scientific, technical and environmental matters related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.”

2. At its Sixth Session, the Governing Body adopted Resolution 3/2015 containing a Vision and a Programme of Work (PoW) for the GLIS, for the period 2016-2022.¹ The Programme of Work is structured under seven objectives. The Governing Body also decided to establish the Scientific Advisory Committee on Article 17 (Committee).

3. According to the terms of reference, the Committee shall provide scientific advice to the Secretary, including on:

- i) general recommendations on the development and deployment of the GLIS and its components as adopted by the Governing Body;
- ii) the discovery of new areas of work with potential impact on the GLIS;
- iii) the selection of pilot activities for the GLIS and, upon request of the Secretary, other initiatives and actions to sustain the operation of the GLIS, and the further update of the PoW.²

4. The first meeting of the Committee took place in Rome, Italy, on 24 and 25 November 2016. The Committee elected Mr Axel Diederichsen (Canada) and Mr Kuldeep Singh (India) as co-chairpersons for the current biennium. The report of the meeting is available online on the website of the International Treaty,³ and will be made available to Seventh Session of the Governing Body along with the Report of this meeting.

¹ Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bl140e.pdf>

² The full terms of reference of the Committee are contained in Annex 2 to this document.

³ Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bq811e.pdf>

5. The convening of this second meeting of the Committee has been possible thanks to the generous financial support of the Government of Germany.

II. OPENING OF THE MEETING

6. The meeting will begin at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 13 June 2017, in the Mexico Room, at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. At the opening, Dr Kent Nnadozie, Secretary a.i. of the Governing Body of the International Treaty will address the Committee.

7. According to established practice, the meeting will be open to the participation of observers who communicated to the Secretariat their wish to be represented at the meeting.

III. AGENDA ITEM 1- ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

8. The present document annotates the Provisional Agenda⁴ and provides, in *Annex 1*, a proposed timetable, for the consideration by the Committee, for the organization of its work.

9. The Secretariat prepared the provisional agenda, the timetable and the list of documents, in consultation with the Co-Chairpersons.

10. The proposed timetable foresees that most of the technical issues identified at the first meeting be discussed during the first day of the meeting, including the operations and implementation of the PoW and the Review of the Guidelines for Digital Object Identifiers, as well as other matters related to access to and use of PGRFA information.

11. The morning session of the second day is proposed to be for presentations from organizations, projects and initiatives, as identified in the report of the first meeting, to facilitate further collaborations for the implementation of the Programme of Work. The afternoon of the second day will be for the adoption of the report of the meeting.

12. The Committee will be invited to review and approve the agenda and the timetable for the meeting.

IV. AGENDA ITEM 2 - OPERATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

13. Under this item, the Secretariat will provide an overview of the major activities undertaken under the PoW since the first meeting of the Committee. Document IT/GB-7/SAC-2/17/3, *Report on the Operations of the Programme of Work* contains detailed information and expected advice, for the consideration of the Committee.

14. The update will include information on the recent financial contributions received in support of the operations of the PoW, the process set up for the review of the *Guidelines for the optimal use of the Digital Object Identifiers* (Guidelines), as well as information on advocacy, collaboration and partnerships.

15. Based on the information contained in the document, the Committee will be invited to provide advice on the development of the GLIS Portal, in particular on the web-based Platform and the Integration Toolkit.

16. The Committee will also be invited to provide any other advice it considers appropriate for the development of partnerships with the DivSeek Initiative.

V. AGENDA ITEM 3 - REVIEW OF THE GUIDELINES FOR DIGITAL OBJECT IDENTIFIERS

17. Following the advice provided by the the Committee at its first meeting, the Secretariat has continued testing with users and improving the *Guidelines for the Optimal use of Digital Object Identifiers* (Fuidelines).

⁴ Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-br671e.pdf>.

18. Under this item, the Secretariat will present the work undertaken during this period, including the organization of an online consultation to get inputs on a draft revised version of the Guidelines.

19. The document IT/GB7/SAC-2/17/4, *Review of the Guidelines for Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)*, contains an analysis of the major considerations highlighted by the users and a draft version of the Guidelines. The Committee will be invited to provide further advice for their finalization.

VI. AGENDA ITEM 4 - ACCESS AND USE OF PGRFA INFORMATION THROUGH THE GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

20. Objective 4 of the PoW deals with the promotion of transparency of the rights and obligations of users for accessing, sharing and using PGRFA associated information and to establish ways to exercise those rights and obligations within the GLIS. The Secretariat will report on relevant developments under this objective in order to facilitate dialogue with the Working Group on the enhancement of the Multilateral System. Furthermore, it will report on interactions with users having legal implications, and on terms of access and use for the web-based Platform.

21. Updated information and consideration of the relevant issues are contained in the document, IT/GB-7/SAC-2/17/5, *Access and use of PGRFA information through the Global Information System*, which will be introduced by the Secretariat.

VII. AGENDA ITEM 5 - PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATIONS

22. At its first meeting, the Committee dedicated ample time to discuss partnerships and collaborations for GLIS implementation and requested that the agenda of this second meeting allow for sufficient time to further discuss possible collaborations with potential partners and stakeholders.

23. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will provide a brief overview of the of the ongoing interactions with partners further details of which are contained in the document, IT/GB-7/SAC-2/17/6, *Partnerships, Collaborations and Capacity Development*, and.

24. Under this agenda item, several organizations will be invited to deliver presentations, which will be followed by questions and answers and a general discussion on possible follow-up actions.

VIII. AGENDA ITEM 6 - OTHER MATTERS

25. Under this item, the Committee will consider any additional matters raised during the approval of the provisional agenda or subsequently identified in the course of the discussions.

IX. AGENDA ITEM 7 - ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

26. The Committee will consider and approve the Report of the meeting.

Annex 1

PROVISIONAL INDICATIVE TIMETABLE			
Time	Agenda Item	Title	Documents
Tuesday, 13 June 2017, Morning session, 10:00-13:00 – Mexico Room			
10:00	Opening		
	1	Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable	IT/GB7-SAC-2/17/1 IT/GB7-SAC-2/17/2
	2	Operations and Implementation of the Programme of Work	IT/GB7-SAC-2/17/3 NCP GB7-019 DivSeek Report
11:30	Coffee break		
12:00	3	Review of the Guidelines for Digital Object Identifiers	IT/GB7-SAC-2/17/4 IT/GB7-SAC-2/17/Inf.3
13:00	Lunch Break		
Tuesday, afternoon session, 14:00-17:00			
14:00	3	Review of the Guidelines for Digital Object Identifiers, <i>Cont.</i>	IT/GB7-SAC-2/17/4 IT/GB7-SAC-2/17/Inf.3
15:30	Coffee break		
16:00	4	Access and use of PGRFA information through the Global Information System	IT/GB7-SAC-2/17/5
Wednesday, 14 June 2017, morning session, 10:00-13:00 – Mexico Room			
10:00	5	Partnership and collaborations	IT/GB7-SAC-2/17/6
11:30	Coffee break		
12:00	5	Partnership and collaborations, <i>Cont.</i>	IT/GB7-SAC-2/17/6
12:30	6	Other Matters	
13:00	Lunch break and preparation of the report		
Wednesday, afternoon session, 15:00-17:00			
15:00	7	Adoption of the Report	

*Annex 2***Terms of Reference for the Scientific Advisory Committee on Article 17**Objectives

The Governing Body provides guidance on the development and strengthening of the Global Information System, to facilitate the exchange of information, based on existing information systems, on scientific, technical and environmental matters related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA).

The Scientific Advisory Committee (Committee) shall advise the Secretary on:

- general recommendations on the development and deployment of the Global Information System and its components as adopted by the Governing Body;
- the discovery of new areas of work with potential impact on the System;
- the selection of pilot activities for the Global Information System and, upon request of the Secretary, other initiatives and actions to sustain the operation of the Global Information System, and the further update of the Programme of Work.

In particular, the Committee shall provide scientific advice to the Secretary on the following items:

1. the effectiveness and efficiency of the Global Information System as a mechanism to promote advice regarding scientific, technical and environmental cooperation on PGRFA matters;
2. the exchange of PGRFA-related information and the transfer of publicly available expertise, technology and scientific cooperation;
3. scientific and technical components of the Global Information Systems and its Programme of Work as recommended by the Governing Body;
4. cooperation with other relevant international and regional scientific and technical cooperation and technology transfer initiatives, including the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing House Mechanism of the Nagoya Protocol;
5. means to facilitate the implementation of the Global Information System at the national level and the establishment of a Stakeholder Platform;
6. scientific, technical and environmental cooperation and benefits of all the Treaty activities, including the Multilateral System and Access and Benefit-sharing and the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use

Subject to the availability of financial resources, the Committee will hold two meetings per biennium.

Composition

The Committee is composed of:

- up to 2 scientific experts from each Region, nominated by the Vice-chairpersons of the Governing Body of each respective Region;
- 10 additional scientific and technical experts appointed by the Secretary including experts suggested by the regions and relevant stakeholders, taking into account the required range of technical expertise and regional balance as appropriate.

The members shall be selected for their scientific expertise and understanding of the Global Information System and the International Treaty, taking into account the need for specialized and in-depth expertise including: bioinformatics and molecular genetics; the ‘omics’, in particular genomics, phenomics and proteomics; management of environmental and geo-spatial data about plant genetic resources; scientific, taxonomy, crop wild relatives and genebank management and *ex situ*, *in situ* and on-farm conservation of PGRFA, technical cooperation; capacity-building; system integration, information exchange and data sharing; fair and equitable benefit sharing and legal expertise in the relevant international law and regulations; partnerships with other organizations, institutions and initiatives.

The Committee shall elect its Co-chairpersons from among the experts.

The Secretariat of the International Treaty will facilitate the work of the Committee and report to the Governing Body.

The mandate and the composition of the Committee may be renewed by the Governing Body at its Seventh Session.