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Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



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

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

**SECOND MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FUNDING  
STRATEGY AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

**17 - 19 November 2020**

**Co-Chairs' First Draft of the Operational Plan for the Funding Strategy 2020-2025**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. This document contains the Co-Chairs' First Draft of the Operational Plan for the Funding Strategy 2020 - 2025 for the consideration of and further development by the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee).
2. Paragraph 44 of the Treaty's new Funding Strategy 2020-2025, adopted through Resolution 3/2019 of the Governing Body, provides that the Funding 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.

**Commented [SFC Member]:** What are the tools?

- 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).

3. At its first meeting, the Committee noted that the Operational Plan should be a multi-year plan for the Funding Strategy period of 2020-2025, with biennial reviews, covering the areas of resource mobilization, the operations of the Benefit-sharing Fund, and monitoring and review. They also noted that the section on resource mobilization should include scope for the provision of guidance on the Fund for Agreed Purposes, by the Committee to the Secretary, and that the monitoring and review section should reflect the notion of learning, and connect the Benefit-sharing Fund's Monitoring, Review and Learning (MEL) framework.

## II. DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN

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### I. OVERVIEW

1. The Operational Plan is a multi-year plan designed to guide the Funding Committee on the implementation of the Funding Strategy over the period 2020-2025 and will be reviewed and updated by the Committee at two-year intervals so that it remains relevant and responsive to the operational environment and needs.

2. As was agreed by the Committee at its first meeting, the Operational Plan identifies the following three areas to focus efforts on and sets out major milestones, outputs and timelines within these:

- a. Focus Area 1: Resource Mobilization
- b. Focus Area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations
- c. Focus Area 3: Monitoring and Review

3. Given the substantive work required and the multitude of stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Treaty's Funding Strategy, the Operational Plan is set at a high level, marking the major milestones and outputs required in order to achieve the Funding Strategy's Vision and Targets. The related activities required to implement the Funding Strategy, detailed through Resolution 3/2019 and its Annexes, will be further discussed, operationalized and monitored through the continuous work of the Committee and the enabling partners of the Treaty over the 2020-2025 period.

### II. FOCUS AREA 1: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

4. The requests made by the Governing Body, through Resolution 3/2019 and its Annexes, related to Resource Mobilization fall into seven main work-streams:

- i. National budgets and priorities
- ii. Bilateral programs

**Commented [SFC Member]:** - Difficulty integrating plant genetic resources for food and agriculture into national development plans to obtain support from donors, especially in circumstances such as those in Syria. Support through short-term projects may be effective with less budget than average leading to quick and beneficial results.

- Encouraging the parties to exchange information. I think this needs to be encouraged by providing non-monetary benefits to farmers and official bodies at the contracting parties, such as training. Small projects for farmers that increase the living income.

In general, with regard to the benefit-sharing fund, we have to think in a new form and not in the form of research projects. The reason is that research projects benefit only researchers and research centers. It is true that they use local genetic material, but the farmer does not benefit from it at all, and he is the main target of the benefit-sharing fund and the treaty, in order to continue in Preserving his genetic material, using it sustainably and benefiting from it.

I suggest that farmers must have a direct non monetary benefit for them. Such as providing seeds for different species to benefit from them and to expand their genetic base in new environments.

- A small project to rehabilitate some species threatened with degradation and extinction, in order to multiply them and re-spread their cultivation among farmers.

- Securing protection for an area that contains some wild species, for example, beneficial to farmers (such as in-situ conservation).

-Provide advice.

-Supporting the implementation of field days to raise awareness of the importance of plant genetic material.

As for the contracting parties, they can benefit from the benefit-sharing fund:

-Providing some in-kind assistance to help develop work with plant genetic resources.

- Providing short training courses to capacity building.

-Providing scholarships (master's and doctoral degrees) to some countries to raise their human capabilities in this field.

-Provide useful technology.

It was noted that what is spent on one research project, half of the amount can help several countries in need of assistance in the field of genetic resources.

It also convinces The officials and decision-makers of the benefit of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which prompts them to direct the commitment to the treaty better.

**Commented [SFC Member]:** It might be a good idea to include philanthropic aid related to food and agriculture as potential donors.

- iii. Multilateral mechanisms
- iv. Food processing industry Resource Mobilization strategy
- v. Innovative Funding
- vi. Provision of criteria
- vii. Visibility, outreach and communication
- viii. Road Show to attract subscribers under the enhanced MLS

5. The Operational Plan identifies the major milestones and outputs within each of the above work-streams for the 2020-2025 period. These are listed below with references provided to the relevant paragraphs of Resolution 3/2019. A summary table is provided at the end of this section showing the major milestones and outputs by work-stream and biennium.

6. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has occurred since the adoption of the Funding Strategy, has significantly affected and will continue to affect the global policy, fiscal and operational environment. It would, therefore, be necessary for the Committee to consider the impacts, challenges and opportunities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic in taking forward its work on Resource Mobilization and in updating the Operational Plan.

#### **Major milestones and outputs by work-stream**

##### **i. National budgets and priorities:**

**Milestone:** By 2025 Contracting Parties have better integrated PGRFA into national development plans, national budgets and priorities for increased financing, including external funding.

- Tools and best practices compiled for better integrating PGRFA into national development plans (e.g. SDG plans, climate change, etc) by 2021
- Progress report provided to the Committee by 2022 for guidance
- Further update provided to the Committee by 2024

*Related Funding Strategy provisions: Funding Strategy 2020-2025, paragraph 29, a & b*

##### **ii. Bilateral programs:**

**Milestone:** By 2025, bilateral programs have promoted the implementation of the Funding Strategy and further integrated implementation of the Treaty

- Progress report provided to the Committee by 2022 for guidance
- Further update provided to the Committee by 2024

*Related Funding Strategy provisions: Funding Strategy 2020-2025, paragraph 29, c & d*

##### **iii. Multilateral mechanisms:**

**Milestone:** By 2025 relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies have increased the priority and attention given to the Treaty.

- Secretariat / FAO provides regular updates to the Committee on priorities and opportunities of relevant international funding mechanisms for advice and action.

*Related Funding Strategy provisions: Funding Strategy 2020-2025, paragraph 29, c-g*

##### **iv. Food processing industry Resource Mobilization strategy**

**Milestone:** By 2025, a strategy to mobilize funds from food processing industries has been developed and is operational.

- Strategy developed 2021

**Commented [SFC Member]:** It is considered premature to include this point. The consultations on the EFMLS process have been suspended.

As the operational plan will be periodically reviewed, it can be updated, in case any progress will be made on the enhancement of the MLS

**Commented [SFC Member]:** External funds from contracting parties in developed countries in accordance with article 18.4 c) of the Treaty

**Commented [SFC Member]:** Why is it only indicated to this sector? The seed sector should be included through its different organizations

- Strategy submitted to GB-9 for consideration
- Implemented 2022-2025+

**Related Funding Strategy provisions:** *Funding Strategy 2020-2025, paragraph 29 h*

v. **Innovative Funding**

**Milestone:** By 2025, a range of initiatives to mobilize funds from innovative sources and mechanisms has been developed and implemented.

- By 2022 the Committee has tested at least one initiative for innovative funding and mapped other potential initiatives to be further explored by 2025.

**Related Funding Strategy provisions:** *Funding Strategy 2020-2025, paragraph 29, i*

vi. **Provision of criteria**

By 2025, relevant policy criteria for specific assistance under the Funding Strategy, as called for in Art.13.4 of the Treaty, have been developed and utilized.

- By 2023, policy criteria have been developed and put forward for consideration of GB-10

**Related Funding Strategy provisions:** *Funding Strategy 2020-2025, paragraph 29, k*

vii. **Visibility, outreach and communication**

By 2025, the visibility and recognition of Contracting Parties, donors and other stakeholders that have contributed to the Funding Strategy is increased.

- Over the 2021 – 2025 period, communication tools, products and platforms are developed and used to help resource mobilization efforts and to increase outreach with new donors and stakeholders and the visibility and recognition of donors.

**Related Funding Strategy provisions:** *Funding Strategy 2020-2025, paragraph 29, c-e; Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph i*

viii. **Roadshow to attract subscribers under the enhanced MLS**

By 2024, an initiative to reach out to potential subscribers under the enhanced MLS is developed and rolled out immediately after the successful adoption of the enhanced MLS

**Related Funding Strategy provisions:** *Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section II, paragraphs 19 & 20*

**Commented [SFC Member]:** I did not understand the paragraph of the strategy to mobilize the resources of the food processing industry. what does that mean?

**Commented [SFC Member]:** This goal could be unambitious

**Commented [SFC Member]:** At national and international level

**Commented [SFC Member]:** See earlier comment. This seems premature to be included

Table 1: Summary of major milestones and outputs by work-stream and biennium –  
Focus Area 1: Resource Mobilization

	Biennium 2020/21	Biennium 2022/23	Biennium 2024/25
<b>Focus Area 1: Resource Mobilization</b>			
<b>National Budgets &amp; priorities</b>	Compilation of tools and best practices (2021)	Progress report for guidance (2022)	Further update provided (2024) Milestone achieved (2025)
<b>Bilateral programs</b>	[ <a href="#">Program identification (2021)</a> ]	Progress report for guidance (2022)	Further update provided (2024) Milestone achieved (2025)
<b>Multilateral mechanisms</b>	Secretariat / FAO provide regular updates (ongoing)	Secretariat / FAO provide regular updates (ongoing)	Secretariat / FAO provide regular updates (ongoing) Milestone achieved (2025)
<b>Food processing industry RM strategy</b>	Strategy developed (2021)	Strategy implemented 2022-2025[5][3] [ <a href="#">Progress report for guidance</a> ]	[ <a href="#">Further update provided (2024)</a> ] [Strategy implemented 2022-2025] Milestone achieved (2025)
<b>Innovative Funding</b>		Initiative tested (2022) Other potential initiatives mapped (2025)	Other potential initiatives further explored (by 2025). Milestone achieved (2025)
<b>Provision of criteria</b>		[ <a href="#">Review by the committee of a draft about Policy criteria (2022)</a> ] Policy criteria developed and put to GB-10 (2023)	Milestone achieved (2025)
<b>Visibility, outreach and communication</b>	Tools, products and platforms developed and used (2021-2025)	Tools, products and platforms developed and used (2021-2025)	Tools, products and platforms developed and used (2021-2025) Milestone achieved (2025)

	Biennium 2020/21	Biennium 2022/23	Biennium 2024/25
<u>Road Show</u>		Outreach initiative developed	Outreach initiative rolled out]

**Commented [SFC Member]:** According to previous comments would this be removed

### III. FOCUS AREA 2: BENEFIT-SHARING OPERATIONS

7. The requests made of the Governing Body, through Resolution 3/2019 and its Annexes, in relation to the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) operations encompass activities regarding the individual BSF cycles that either fall, or are anticipated to fall, within the 2020-25 period, as well as the broader BSF program and operations for the 2020-2025 period, as indicated below:

- i. BSF-3-6
- ii. BSF program and operations 2020-25

8. These are presented visually against a timeline in the diagram shown in Figure 1 below. The major milestones and outputs are also listed below. A summary table is provided at the end of this section showing the major milestones and outputs by work-stream and biennium.

9. It may be necessary for the Committee to consider the impacts, challenges and opportunities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic in taking forward its work on the Benefit-sharing Fund Operations.

#### Major milestones and outputs of the BSF work-stream:

- i. **BSF-3:**  
**Milestone:** By 2021 BSF 3 operations have concluded
  - By 2020 BSF 3 implementation has concluded
  - By 2021 BSF 3 Independent Evaluation has concluded
- ii. **BSF-4**  
**Milestone:** By [2023] BSF 4 operations have concluded
  - By 2023 BSF 4 implementation has concluded
  - By 2023 Independent Evaluation of BSF 4 has concluded
- iii. **BSF-5**  
**Milestone:** By 2021 the BSF 5 is initiated
  - By 2021 BSF 5 is designed and launched
  - By [XX] BSF 5 implementation concluded
  - By [XX] Independent Evaluation of BSF 5 has concluded
- iv. **BSF-6**  
**Milestone:** By [2024] the BSF 6 is initiated

**Commented [SFC Member]:** It is likely that additional time will be needed to conclude BSF-4 the pandemic issue

**Commented [SFC Member]:** It should be the 2024 that is concluded, and the evaluation is carried out

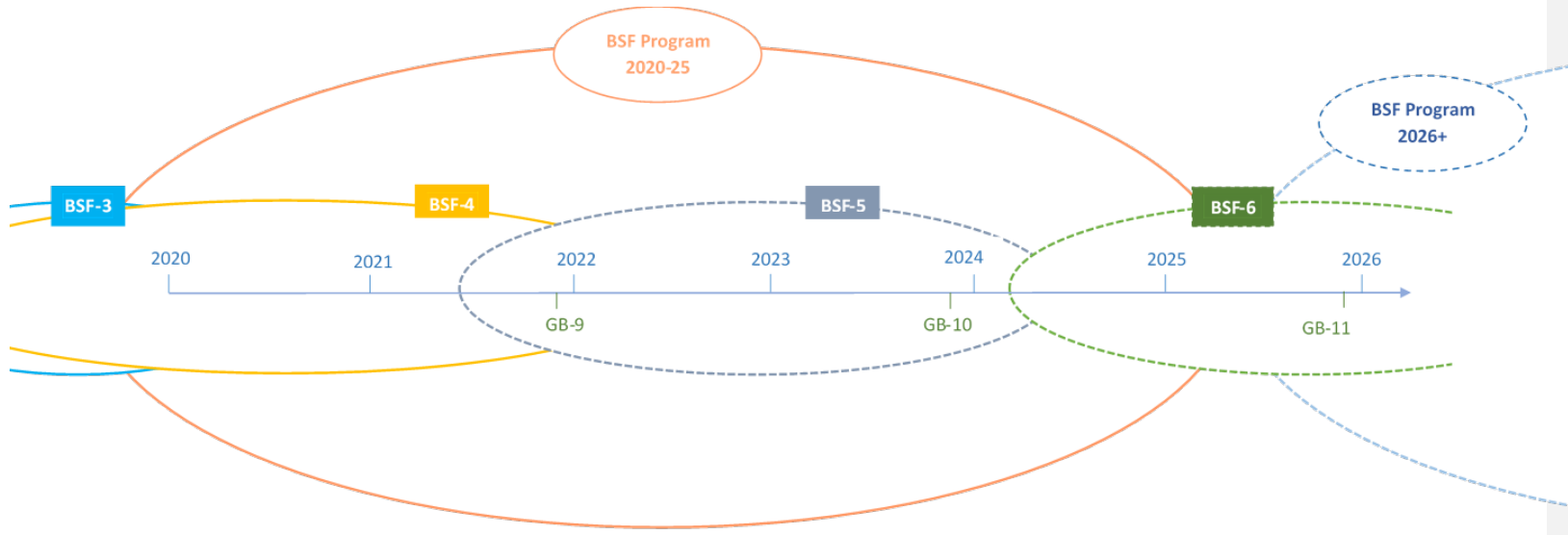
- By 2024 BSF 6 is designed
- By 2025 BSF 6 raised initial funds and launched

v. **BSF Program and operations 2020-25**

**Milestone:** By 2025 the Benefit-sharing Fund is strengthened and integrates learning arising from the implementation of the Funding Strategy over the 2020-2025 period

- By 2021 MEL framework is agreed by the Committee
- GB-9 considers BSF target (2021)
- BSF progress reports submitted to GB-9 and GB-10
- By 2025 the BSF Operational Manual is reviewed by the Committee
- Independent review of BSF is carried out 2024-5

Figure 1: The cycles of the Benefit-sharing Fund over the Funding Strategy implementation period 2020-25



**Commented [SFC Member]:** It seems that BSF-4 is not represented correctly. The cycle is ongoing and was launched at the end of 2017, if we are not mistaken.



Table 2: Summary of major milestones and outputs by work-stream and biennium – Focus Area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations

	Biennium 2020/21	Biennium 2022/23	Biennium 2024/25
<b>Focus Area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations</b>			
<b>BSF-3</b>	BSF 3 implementation has concluded (2020) BSF 3 Independent Evaluation has concluded (2021) Milestone achieved (2021)		
<b>BSF-4</b>		BSF 4 implementation has concluded (2023) [Independent evaluation of BSF 4 is concluded (2023)] Milestone achieved (2023)]	<a href="#">[Independent evaluation of BSF 4 is concluded (2024)]</a> <a href="#">[Milestone achieved (2024)]</a>
<b>BSF-5</b>	BSF 5 is designed and launched (2021)  Milestone achieved (2021)		BSF 5 implementation concluded [XX] <a href="#">[2024]</a>  BSF 5 Independent Evaluation [XX] <a href="#">[2025]</a>
<b>BSF-6</b>			By 2024 BSF 6 is designed  Milestone achieved (2024)
<b>BSF Program &amp; operations 2020-2025</b>	MEL framework agreed by Committee (2021) BSF progress report submitted to GB9 GB-9 considers BSF target (2021)	BSF progress report submitted to GB10	BSF Operational Manual (2024-5)  BSF independent review (2024-5) Milestone achieved (2025)

#### IV. FOCUS AREA 3: MONITORING AND REVIEW

10. The requests made of the Governing Body, through Resolution 3/2019 and its Annexes, in relation the monitoring and review of the Funding Strategy and its components fall into the following three work-streams:

- i. Monitoring
- ii. Review and learning
- iii. Reporting

11. The major milestones and outputs within each work-stream for the 2020-2025 period are listed below, with references provided to the relevant paragraphs of Resolution 3/2019.

##### i. **Monitoring**

**Milestone:** By 2025, a process is facilitated for integrating monitoring, evaluating and learning, and for structuring new funding opportunities, and identifying and filling in gaps.

- The Committee provides advice on the further development of the provisionally populated Matrix (2021) and the Matrix is further developed and utilized (2022-2025)
- The Committee provides advice on the further development of the BSF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework (2021)
- The Committee agrees on the methodology for measuring Non-Monetary Benefit-sharing (NMBS) (2023) and NMBS measures are monitored (2024-2025)
- The Committee monitors and reviews progress of the Funding Strategy's implementation and makes recommendations for adjustments (ongoing)

**Commented [SFC Member]:** Why only non-monetary benefits?

##### ii. **Review and learning**

**Milestone:** By 2025 the Funding Strategy will be regularly reviewed, and recommendations made for adjustments so that it can be continuously improved, and remain dynamic, responsive and relevant.

- Operational Plan of the Funding Strategy is reviewed and updated (2022, 2024)
- Periodic reviews of the Target for the Funding Strategy and the target for the Benefit-sharing Fund (2022, 2025)
- Periodic reviews of financial flows (2022, 2024)
- Biennial reviews of the Funding Strategy implementation (2022)
- BSF program and operations 5-year independent review (2024-2025)
- Funding Strategy 5-year review (2024-25)

##### iii. **Reporting**

**Milestone:** By 2025, information and reports will be provided related to the implementation, monitoring and review of the overall Funding Strategy.

- Biennial report of the Committee to the Governing Body on implementation of the Funding Strategy, including elements on the BSF and FAP (2021, 2023)
- 5-year report on implementation of the Funding Strategy and new Funding Strategy post 2025 put before GB-11 (2025)
- Information and reports provided by Contracting Parties and other relevant organizations related to the implementation, monitoring and review of the Funding Strategy and integrated in existing reporting formats [XX – to align with compliance reporting].

Figure 2: Monitoring & Review of the Funding Strategy over the period 2020-25

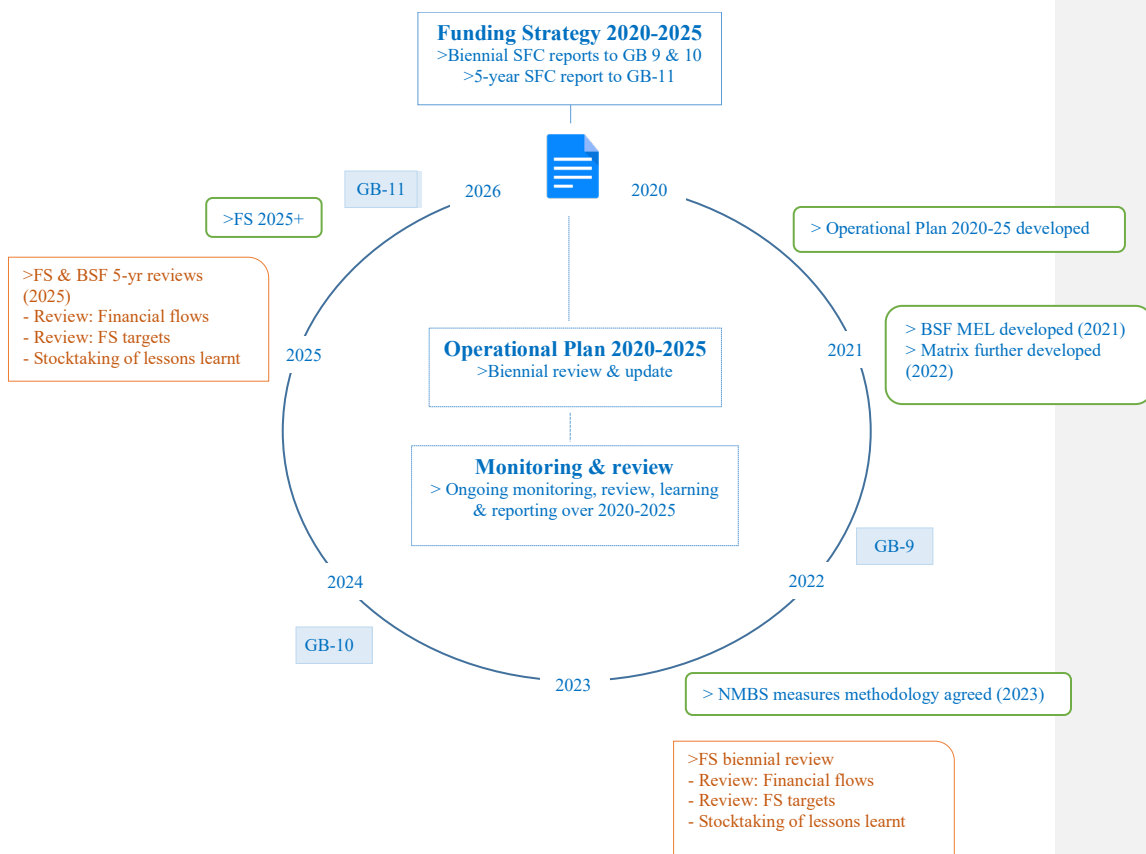


Table 3: Summary of major milestones and outputs by work-stream and biennium –  
Focus Area 3: Monitoring & Review

	Biennium 2020/21	Biennium 2022/23	Biennium 2024/25
<b>Focus Area 3: Monitoring and Review</b>			
<b>Monitoring</b>	<p>Advice provided on Matrix (2021)</p> <p>Advice provided on BSF MEL framework (2021)</p> <p>Monitoring of progress of FS implementation (ongoing)</p>	<p>Matrix further developed and utilised (2022-2025)</p> <p>NMBS methodology agreed (2023)</p> <p>Monitoring of progress of FS implementation (ongoing)</p>	<p>Matrix further developed and utilised (2022-2025)</p> <p>NMBS monitored (2024-2025)</p> <p>Monitoring of progress of FS implementation (ongoing)</p> <p>Milestone achieved (2025)</p>
<b>Review and learning</b>		<p>Operational Plan reviewed/ updated (2022)</p> <p>Review of FS &amp; BSF target (2022)</p> <p>Biennial reviews of FS implementation (2022)</p>	<p>Operational Plan reviewed/ updated (2024)</p> <p>Review of FS &amp; BSF target (2025)</p> <p>BSF 5-year review (2024-2025)</p> <p>FS 5-year review (2024-2025)</p> <p>Milestone achieved (2025)</p>
<b>Reporting</b>	<p>Biennial report of the Committee to the Governing Body (2021)</p>	<p>Biennial report of the Committee to the Governing Body (2023)</p> <p>Reports from CPs and others on FS implementation [XX][2023]</p>	<p>Biennial report of the Committee to the Governing Body (2025)</p> <p>Reports from CPs and others on FS implementation [XX][2025]</p> <p>5-year report on FS implementation and new FS 2025+ put to GB12 (2025)</p> <p>Milestone achieved (2025)</p>

## V. TABLE OF REFERENCES – RESOLUTION 3/2019

The following table contains paragraphs from Resolution 3/2019 that are considered relevant to the Focus Areas of the Operational Plan.

Focus Area 1: Resource Mobilization
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) <sup>1</sup>
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 <sup>2</sup>
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 <sup>3</sup>
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 <sup>4</sup>
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 <sup>5</sup>
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 <sup>6</sup>
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 <sup>7</sup>
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 <sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 a

<sup>2</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 b

<sup>3</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 c

<sup>4</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 d

<sup>5</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 e

<sup>6</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 f

<sup>7</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 g

<sup>8</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 h

Focus Area 1: Resource Mobilization
Calls on the Funding Committee to develop a range of initiatives to mobilize funds from innovative sources and mechanisms <sup>9</sup>
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 <sup>10</sup>
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 <sup>11</sup>
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 <sup>12</sup>
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 <sup>13</sup>
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 <sup>14</sup>
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 <sup>15</sup>
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. <sup>16</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 i

<sup>10</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 j

<sup>11</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 k

<sup>12</sup> Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph b

<sup>13</sup> Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph c

<sup>14</sup> Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph h

<sup>15</sup> Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph i

<sup>16</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section II, paragraph 29

Focus Area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations
The Committee, during the biennium, may establish and launch a new round of the project cycle, as needed <sup>17</sup>
The Committee, during the biennium, may 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 <sup>18</sup>
The Committee, during the biennium, may 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 <sup>19</sup>
The Committee, during the biennium, may decide whether to provide project preparation funding for larger project proposal development contributing to the programmatic approach of the Fund <sup>20</sup>
Opening a call for proposals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>ii. advertisement on the Treaty website and through the national focal points and relevant regional bodies;</li> <li>iii. responsibility: prepared by the Secretariat, under the guidance of the Committee.<sup>21</sup></li> </ul>
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 <sup>22</sup>
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. PGRFA re-introduced, conserved, disseminated or bred with farmers' participation;</li> <li>b. Farmers supported to sustainably use and conserve PGRFA;</li> <li>c. Young scientists and researchers supported;</li> <li>d. Co-funding mobilized to support Treaty implementation through BSF interventions;</li> <li>e. Plans and policies strengthened or developed to support national Treaty implementation;</li> </ul>

<sup>17</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section III, paragraph 31 a

<sup>18</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section III, paragraph 31 b

<sup>19</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section III, paragraph 31 c

<sup>20</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section III, paragraph 31 d

<sup>21</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section III, paragraph 34 a

<sup>22</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section III, paragraph 34 f

Focus Area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations
f. Gender mainstreaming and inclusion of vulnerable groups. <sup>23</sup>
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. <sup>24</sup>
<p><b>Learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. enabled within and between projects and programmes and the external environment;</li> <li>ii. lessons learned and continuous learning are regularly provided to all Regions so to increase commitment to the Fund;</li> <li>iii. should occur on a continuous basis so that knowledge and lessons can be applied and facilitated through a community of practice of enabling partners.</li> <li>iv. 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;</li> <li>v. should inform the regular review of the Funding Strategy.<sup>25</sup></li> </ul>

Focus Area 3: Monitoring and Review
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 <sup>26</sup>
(The Governing Body) 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; <sup>27</sup>
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. <sup>28</sup>
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

<sup>23</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section III, paragraph 41

<sup>24</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section IV, paragraph 42, i, vi

<sup>25</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section IV, paragraph 42, j

<sup>26</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 13

<sup>27</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 j

<sup>28</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 42



### Focus Area 3: Monitoring and Review

the Compliance Committee so as to agree the best way to integrate information in existing reporting formats.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>30</sup>
- 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<sup>31</sup>
- 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<sup>32</sup>
- f. Providing expert input, including through independent reviews and assessments on the implementation of the Funding Strategy<sup>33</sup>
- 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<sup>34</sup>
- 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<sup>35</sup>

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.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 43

<sup>30</sup> Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph a

<sup>31</sup> Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph b

<sup>32</sup> Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph e

<sup>33</sup> Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph f

<sup>34</sup> Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph g

<sup>35</sup> Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph k

<sup>36</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 44b