



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



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

**Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda**

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

**FOURTH MEETING OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

**3 - 4 February 2021 (Teleconference -1)**

**REVIEW OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE  
GOVERNING BODY OF RELEVANCE TO COMPLIANCE**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body reviewed the report submitted by the Compliance Committee, containing the analysis of the national reports submitted by Contracting Parties pursuant to Section V of the Compliance Procedures and the recommendations of the Committee, and adopted Resolution 7/2019.<sup>1</sup>
2. The present document provides an overview of the relevant outcomes of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body and reviews the responses of Contracting Parties to the recommendations of the Committee, as reflected in the different decisions adopted at the Session.

**II. MAJOR OUTCOMES**

3. This section restates and annotates some of the major outcomes, as contained in Resolution 7/2019, which the Committee may find useful in considering its future work.

**A. Capacity Development**

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

<sup>1</sup> Available at <http://www.fao.org/3/nb785en/nb785en.pdf>

4. It also encouraged the integration of the following options for capacity building regarding monitoring and reporting of the implementation of the International Treaty in future activities and programmes, subject to the availability of financial resources:
- a. The organization of capacity building workshop at regional and sub-regional levels for national focal points and other relevant stakeholders;
  - b. The development of training resources on various topics, including through appropriate multimedia;
  - c. The inclusion of a section on the International Treaty's website with frequently asked questions and answers;
  - d. Leveraging the activities and operations of existing regional and sub-regional plant genetic resources centres and networks;
  - e. Exploring opportunities in the regions for the organization of training meetings and other events back-to-back in collaboration with FAO and other relevant organizations; and
  - f. The publication of information notes on the reporting options for national focal points and reporting officers.
5. The Governing Body also invited the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial and human resources, to consider the organization of capacity-building workshops for the monitoring and reporting of the implementation of the International Treaty and, to the extent feasible, in collaboration with the FAO units tasked with the monitoring of the Global Plan of Action on PGRFA.
6. During the present biennium, no extra-budgetary resources have so far been received for the organization of training or capacity-building workshops in relation to monitoring and reporting.
7. At the same session, the Governing Body welcomed the initiative for developing a *Draft Framework for the Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty (2022–2025)*. The Governing Body also requested the Secretary to further develop it with inputs from stakeholders and in consultation with relevant subsidiary bodies, for its consideration at the Ninth Session.<sup>2</sup>
8. Additional information on capacity development activities and the current status of the development of the Capacity Development Strategy is contained in IT/GB-9/CC-4/21/6/Inf.1.

## **B. National Reporting**

### **Second Reporting Cycle**

9. The Governing Body thanked those Contracting Parties that had submitted their reports pursuant to Section V of the Compliance Procedures on time as well as those that had submitted or updated their reports subsequently.
10. It also invited Contracting Parties to continue submitting and updating their reports, pursuant to Section V of the Compliance Procedures, urging those Contracting Parties which had not yet done so to submit their own reports, and emphasized, in this context, that the second reports be submitted by 1 October 2023, and it requested the Secretary to send regular reminders to Contracting Parties.

### **The Standard Reporting Format and the Online Reporting System**

11. It further requested the Secretary to maintain and keep updated the Online Reporting System and to continue providing assistance to Contracting Parties during the reporting process, and invited Contracting Parties to provide or update the contact details of their National Focal Points and, possibly, nominate an alternate reporting officer.

---

<sup>2</sup> Contained in Appendix C to the Report of the Governing Body.

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

13. The Secretary has maintained and continued to improve the Online Reporting System (ORS), in collaboration with the World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC). Some of the improvements facilitate ease of navigation and enhance the internal logic between the questions. The Secretary has also integrated the revised Standard Reporting Format into this System in the various FAO official languages and notified the Contracting Parties accordingly.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Collaboration with Other Subsidiary Bodies**

14. The Governing Body also requested the Compliance Committee to work in collaboration with the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (Funding Committee) to integrate information related to the implementation, monitoring, and review of the Funding Strategy into the existing reporting format.

15. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body revised the Funding Strategy and the mandate of the Funding Committee. This Committee met twice in 2020. At its virtual meeting in November 2020, the Secretariat provided an update on the revised Standard Reporting Format approved by the Eighth Session of the Governing Body, with an indication of the timing for the second reporting cycle and the rate of reports received. This information was taken into account by the Committee in the planning for the development of a Medium-Term Plan.

16. During the current biennium, the Secretary is also reviewing, under the guidance of the Bureau, the note on “Subsidiary Bodies of the Governing Body”. One of the recommendations to be reflected in the document is the way in which interactions between different Committees and intersessional Groups can be facilitated and enhanced.

#### **Technical Questions**

17. The Governing Body encouraged Contracting Parties to submit, pursuant to Section IX of the Compliance Procedures, additional technical questions related to the implementation of the International Treaty to the Committee for their consideration and response. This invitation was also contained in the notification sent to the Contracting Parties.

### **C. Review of the Implementation by Contracting Parties of their obligations under the International Treaty**

18. In addition to the recommendations presented to it by the Committee, the Governing Body, by the Resolution 7/2019, further requested the Compliance Committee, in consultation with Contracting Parties and with the support of the Secretariat, to review compliance with the International Treaty and, in particular, with the Articles that specify binding obligations on Contracting Parties, and to present its conclusions and suggestions for action to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body.

### **D. Reviews of the Compliance Procedures**

19. At its third meeting, the Committee discussed the review of the Compliance Procedures and agreed that the information available at that time was not sufficient for the Governing Body to carry out an assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Compliance Procedures. However, it identified some preliminary areas and elements for the reviews foreseen in Section X of the Compliance Procedures.

---

<sup>3</sup> Notification [NCP GB9-013](#) – Compliance

20. Accordingly, the Committee recommended, and the Governing Body agreed to consider the review at its Ninth Session. The Secretary has prepared the document, IT/GB-9/CC-4/21/5, with background information and possible approaches for the various reviews to assist the Committee in this task.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

21. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body considered the recommendations of the Committee favourably and included a few additional elements aimed at enhancing coordination with other subsidiary bodies and highlighting certain activities under the mandate of Committee.

22. The Committee may wish to reflect upon these decisions in fulfilling both its specific and general tasks, and agree on any follow-up actions that may be needed.