



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



The International Treaty  
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

**Item 6 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)**

**DRAFT CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. At several Sessions, the Governing Body highlighted capacity development as a key activity to support the implementation of the Treaty by Contracting Parties and stakeholders. In the past biennium, the Secretary proposed the initiative to elaborate a Capacity Development Strategy. Based on initial inputs provided by the Bureau of the Eighth Session, the Secretary presented the initiative to the Governing Body, suggesting a programmatic approach to improve coherence in planning and delivering capacity development.<sup>1</sup>
2. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body “welcome[d] the initiative for a Capacity Development Strategy, and requeste[d] the Secretary to develop a draft Strategy on the basis of the Draft Framework for the Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty (2022–2025) as contained in Appendix C [of the Report of the Eighth Session], with inputs from stakeholders and in consultation with relevant subsidiary bodies, for consideration by the Governing Body at its Ninth Session”.
3. For ease of reference, the draft framework that the Governing Body approved, is in the Annex to this document.
4. In line with the request by the Governing Body to receive inputs from stakeholders, the Secretary initiated the process for the development of the draft strategy through an informal group of expert stakeholders in capacity development, including in other multilateral processes, to seek inputs on the principles and components of the draft strategy. The informal group was convened in December 2020 and will continue assisting throughout the first quarter of 2021. It is expected that the Secretary will develop a first complete draft of the strategy by April 2021.
5. Subsequently, the Secretary will formally submit the first complete draft to the relevant subsidiary bodies for review and consultation, as requested by the Governing Body. Accordingly, the Compliance Committee will receive the draft Strategy in the second quarter of 2021, for feedback.
6. Based on the feedback received by the Compliance Committee and the other relevant subsidiary bodies, the Secretary will revise the draft as necessary to reflect the views and inputs received. The updated draft strategy will be submitted to the Governing Body at its Ninth Session for consideration and approval.

<sup>1</sup> IT/GB-8/19/6.2 Draft Framework for a Capacity Development Strategy for the International Treaty towards a Programmatic Approach, available at <http://www.fao.org/3/na904en/na904en.pdf>.

*Annex***DRAFT FRAMEWORK FOR THE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY (2022–2025)****1. THE OVERALL GOAL**

To enhance implementation of the International Treaty through improving the coherency, efficiency and effectiveness of capacity development initiatives and activities.

**2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- Vision- and outcome-oriented;
- Demand-driven;
- Time-bound, to allow periodic assessments and updating;
- Verifiable through indicators and milestones;
- Coordinated to integrate capacity development facilitated by the Secretariat into capacity building under the Benefit-sharing Fund and by Contracting Parties as non-monetary benefit-sharing under the Multilateral System (Article 13.2 c) of the Treaty);
- Cooperative, i.e. implemented through cooperation with international partners and with the support of FAO regional and national offices, as well as the national institutions and focal points, where relevant.

**3. ACTIVITIES**

The following capacity development activities that the Compliance Committee took note of, based on recommendations by Contracting Parties, may constitute the framework of activities of the Capacity Development Strategy:

- the provision of advice, technical options, and experiences for the review of mechanisms and policies for the implementation of the International Treaty;
- establishing or strengthening national coordination mechanisms and supporting national focal points and their alternates;
- the development of implementation plans for the International Treaty at the national level;
- capacity building in national institutions in various technical areas, including the use of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA), Easy-SMTA, and the inclusion of material in the Multilateral System and its use, as well as data management;
- taking advantage of existing and creating new opportunities for collaboration at the regional level.

**4. TARGET GROUPS**

The Results Framework of the draft updated Funding Strategy provides a visual summary of the International Treaty, its objectives, activities and mechanisms, and identifies the partners that enable its implementation. The target groups for the capacity development strategy could include those enabling partners included in the Results Framework, such as:

- Regional and sub-regional institutions, e.g. for agriculture cooperation and research;
- National governmental institutions, e.g. national agricultural research organizations;
- Academia, e.g. universities;
- Individuals and groups, e.g. farmers, indigenous communities, breeders, researchers.

## 5. OUTCOMES

- Increased visibility and raised profile of the International Treaty at national and regional levels;
- Improved and more visible information on the main components of the International Treaty, namely conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, Farmers' Rights, the Multilateral System and the Global Information System
- Improved and consistent approaches to reinforce interlinkages of PGRFA with national development plans and strategies such as food security, climate change, agricultural development, biodiversity and environmental sustainability;
- Enhanced compliance of Contracting Parties with International Treaty obligations and improved delivery of national reporting in the context of the Compliance Procedures;
- Enhanced understanding of the International Treaty resulting in effective coordination for implementation.

## 6. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

- Coordination and cooperation are envisaged with a broad range of stakeholders and partners to promote and identify practical ways of realizing the implementation of the International Treaty through capacity development activities.
- Such partners are envisaged to include but are not limited to: Contracting Parties, international and regional organizations, farmers' associations, indigenous and local communities, academia, civil society and NGOs, CGIAR and other international agricultural research centres, and the private sector (seed industry, food processing industry). Roles and responsibilities may be determined for the Secretariat, e.g. to collect and provide information on capacity development - and the Governing Body – e.g. to monitor progress made with the implementation, revise the Strategy accordingly and provide any further guidance.
- A possible coordination mechanism among capacity development providers may be established, once a critical mass of providers and activities is reached.

## 7. RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- Resources for the Strategy will be generated according to the updated Funding Strategy of the International Treaty.
- A more cohesive and complete overview of planned and delivered capacity development activities will provide a useful basis for mobilizing resources for implementing the Strategy.

## 8. MONITORING AND REVIEW

- The Capacity Development Strategy will be regularly monitored so that it can be continuously improved, and remain dynamic, balanced, responsive and relevant.
- Information related to the implementation, monitoring and review of the Capacity Development Strategy will be provided by the Secretary based on surveys among Contracting Parties and capacity building providers, at defined reporting cycles.
- The review of the Capacity Development Strategy by the Governing Body should take into account lessons learned, experiences and information accumulated in the course of implementation.