



**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**

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

20 – 22 September 2021

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

INTRODUCTION

1. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body adopted the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty for the period 2020 to 2025, through Resolution 3/2019,¹ in order to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement activities under the Treaty, and established a Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee).
2. Through the second and third meetings of the Funding Committee, a Funding Strategy Operational Plan² for the period 2020-2025 was developed and updated. The Operational Plan spans multiple biennia and sets out major milestones and outputs to be delivered in each. It foresees that the Ninth Session of the Governing Body (GB-9) would take place at the end of 2021, and its work-plan has been structured accordingly. For this reason, the fourth meeting of the Funding Committee (SFC-4) was anticipated to be the final meeting of the Committee prior to GB-9.
3. Due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, the Bureau of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body agreed with the Host Government to postpone the dates for the in-person GB-9 meeting from December 2021 to May 2022. Whilst a First Special Session of the Governing Body will take place virtually in December 2021, it will deal with only one agenda item – the interim budget for 2022. All other matters, including those related to the Funding Strategy, will be addressed at GB-9 in May 2022.
4. The new dates for GB-9 now take the work of the Committee into a new biennium for which the Operation Plan of the Funding Strategy identifies numerous major milestones and outputs to be achieved. Given the ongoing nature of its work as a Standing Committee, the importance of maintaining its momentum, and in consultation with the Committee's Co-Chair, a fifth meeting of the Standing Committee (SFC-5) is now proposed for the early part of 2022. SFC-5 will be the final meeting of the Committee prior to GB-9.
5. The agenda, time-table and documents prepared for SFC-4 have been planned in view of the additional SFC-5 meeting. Each meeting aims to prioritise certain issues for the Committee to focus on so that they may be discussed, finalised and taken forward, as set out below:

¹ <http://www.fao.org/3/nb780en/nb780en.pdf>

² <http://www.fao.org/3/cb6588en/cb6588en.pdf>

Focus of SFC-4

- Finalisation of Draft Food Industry Engagement Strategy for inclusion in the Report of the Funding Committee to GB-9
- Finalisation of the MEL framework of the BSF
- Further guidance provided on the BSF-5 program
- Agreement on the structure of the SFC Report to GB-9

Focus of SFC-5

- Finalisation of the Report of the Funding Committee to GB-9, including elements for a Resolution
- Finalisation of the *Implementation, Monitoring and Review plan: Food Industry Engagement Strategy* and its streamlining into existing Funding Strategy tools such as the Operational Plan 2020-25
- Consideration and possible finalisation of the BSF-5 program
- Taking forward the work of the Funding Strategy for Biennium 2022/23

ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

6. The fourth meeting the Funding Committee will be held virtually through three daily sessions of two hours each, over the period 20-22 September 2021. The opening of the meeting will take place on Monday 20 September at 13.00 hours CET. Further details concerning the arrangements for participating in the virtual meeting are contained in the document, IT/SFC-4/21/Inf.2, *Note for Participants*.

ITEM 2: AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

7. The Provisional Agenda contained in the document, IT/GB-9/SFC-4/21/1, has been prepared by the Secretary, in consultation with the Co-Chair of the Committee. The present document, IT/GB-9/SFC-4/21/2, annotates the Provisional Agenda and contains a draft indicative timetable in the *Appendix* to this document.

ITEM 3: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

a. Draft Food Industry Engagement Strategy

8. This item will consider the document, IT/GB-9/SFC-4/21/3, *Second draft of the Food Industry Engagement Strategy*, for finalisation at this meeting and inclusion in the Funding Committee's Report to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body.

9. The Committee will also provide guidance to the Secretariat in order to finalise the document, IT/GB-9/SFC-4/21/4, *Second Draft of the Implementation, Monitoring and Review plan: Food Industry Engagement Strategy*, following SCF-4, and on how it may be streamlined into the existing Operational Plan of the Funding Strategy. This document is not anticipated to be submitted to the Governing Body for its consideration. However, reference will be made to it, with a link to where it is published once finalised, through the Committee's report to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body.

10. As requested by the Committee at its third meeting, the draft strategy to mobilize funds from food processing industries was further developed and made available via a virtual checkpoint for the

Committee's consideration and comments. The checkpoint was open over a seven-week period between 22 July 2021 and 7 September 2021. The document, IT/GB-9/SFC-4/21/3, *Second draft of the Food Industry Engagement Strategy*, contains a further updated draft of the strategy that incorporates inputs received by Committee Members via the check-point. The document, IT/GB-9/SFC-4/21/Inf.3, contains the consolidated inputs received from Committee Members in tracked and comments mode for both the draft *Food Industry Engagement Strategy* and its *Implementation, Monitoring and Review Plan*.

11. A short introduction to the item will be provided, followed by a brief presentation from an external expert on the analysis undertaken of the food processing industry along the food chain and the Treaty's value proposition, as contained in the document, IT/GB-9/SFC-4/21/Inf.5, *Food Industry Analysis Paper*. The analysis has informed the further development of the Food Industry Engagement Strategy. The Committee will then discuss and finalise the *Draft Food Industry Engagement Strategy*, focusing on the particular updates made to it following the virtual check-point. It will also consider IT/GB-9/SFC-4/21/4, *Second draft of the Implementation, Monitoring and Review plan: Food Industry Engagement Strategy*, for finalisation following SFC-4.

ITEM 4: BENEFIT-SHARING FUND OPERATIONS

12. This item will be structured in two parts:

- a. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework
- b. BSF-5 Program

Part a. Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework

13. This sub-item will consider the document, IT/GB-9/SFC-4/21/5, *Draft Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework of the BSF* for finalisation at this meeting. This document is not anticipated to be submitted to the Governing Body for its consideration. However, reference will be made to it, with a link to where the document is published once finalised, through the Committee's report to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body.

14. A first comprehensive draft of the MEL Framework was provided to the Committee at its third meeting and based on guidance provided by the Committee, the document has been further updated. It was made available via a virtual checkpoint for the Committee's consideration and comments over a seven-week period between 22 July 2021 and 7 September 2021. The document, IT/GB-9/SFC-4/21/5, contains a further updated draft of the MEL Framework that incorporates those inputs provided by the Committee via the check-point. The document, IT/GB-9/SFC-4/21/Inf.3, contains the consolidated inputs received from Committee members in tracked and comments mode.

15. A short introduction to the item will be provided at the meeting. The Committee will then consider the document, IT/GB-9/SFC-4/21/5, *Third draft of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework of the BSF*, focusing on the updates made to the draft following the virtual check-point.

Part b. BSF-5 Program

16. This sub-item will consider the document, IT/GB-9/SFC-4/21/6, *Preparations for the fifth cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund*.

17. At the Committee's third meeting, the Secretariat presented a range of possible options for the consideration of the Committee for funding allocation within the fifth project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund. The Secretariat has provided next steps for the BSF-5 program, based on the guidance provided and preferences expressed by the Committee at SFC-3 for discussion at its fourth meeting.

18. A short introduction to the item will be provided at the meeting. The Committee will then consider the document, IT/GB-9/SFC-4/21/6, *Preparations for the fifth cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund*, in order to provide guidance on its further development and the next steps.

ITEM 5: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE NINTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

19. This item will consider the document, IT/GB-9/SFC-4/21/7, *Draft outline of the Report of the Committee to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body*, with a view to finalising the full report at the Committee's next meeting prior to GB-9.

20. A short introduction to the item will be provided at the meeting. The Committee will then discuss and agree on the structure of the report so that it can be prepared for its consideration at its fifth meeting, which would include the draft elements for a resolution for the consideration of the Governing Body.

ITEM 6: FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

21. Under this item, the Committee will consider:

- a. The major milestones and outputs contained in the Operational Plan for the current and next biennium, and identify any updates and actions required to take forward the work of the Committee, including in preparation for its next meeting.
- b. Subsequent meeting arrangements, including the possible participation of active observers, and any outside expertise needed in order to progress the work to implement and further develop the Funding Strategy.

ITEM 7: OTHER BUSINESS

22. Under this item, and with time permitting, the Committee may wish to discuss any other relevant matters that may have arisen or were raised by members, which have not been covered in the agenda.

ITEM 8: MEETING PROCEEDINGS

23. The meeting proceedings, containing a summary of the discussions of the Committee during its fourth meeting, will be documented and circulated by the Secretariat following the meeting. Comments on the meeting proceedings can be made electronically by Members of the Committee for the finalization of the document. Under this item, the Committee will agree the timeframe for providing comments on the meeting proceedings document.

APPENDIX 1
PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Session 1 – Monday 20 September 2021, 13.00 – 15.00 Central European Time (CEST)
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Opening of the meeting2. Agenda and timetable3. Resource Mobilization<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Food Industry Engagement Strategy
Session 2 – Tuesday 21 September 2021, 13.00 – 15.00 Central European Time (CEST)
<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Benefit-sharing Fund Operations<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Frameworkb) BSF-5 program
Session 3 – Wednesday 22 September 2021, 13.00 – 15.00 Central European Time (CEST)
<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Report of the Committee to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body6. Future work of the Committee7. Other business8. Meeting proceedings