

September 2021



**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**

**FIFTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON
CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

4 – 7 October 2021

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

INTRODUCTION

1. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body, through Resolution 5/2019,¹ decided to convene the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ACSU or Committee) with the Terms of Reference contained in *Appendix 2* to this document.
2. In establishing the Terms of Reference, the Governing Body agreed that the Committee may hold up to two meetings in the biennium 2020-2021, subject to the availability of financial resources.
3. Pursuant to its Terms of Reference, the ACSU comprises up to three members from each FAO Region and seven technical experts designated by the Bureau upon proposal by the FAO Regions and relevant stakeholders, in particular farmers' organizations, taking into account the required range of technical expertise and regional and gender balance.²
4. The composition of the ACSU is provided in the document, IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/Inf.1.1, List of *Members and experts of the ACSU*.
5. On 18 February 2021, the members of the ACSU took part in an informal briefing session to receive updates from the Secretariat and exchange views on some of the substantive aspects of the tasks of the Committee and to provide initial guidance to the Secretary on the preparations for this meeting.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

6. The Kingdom of Spain had generously offered to host the fifth meeting of the ACSU. However, due to the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent national and international measures entailing restrictions to travel and gatherings, a physical meeting of the ACSU will not be feasible as planned.
7. The fifth meeting of the ACSU will be held virtually from 4 to 7 October 2021, in three-hour sessions each day. The meeting will start at 13:00 Central European Summer Time (CEST), on Monday, 4 October 2021.

¹ [Resolution 5/2019](#)

² [Resolution 5/2019](#), *Annex*, para. 2. The Terms of Reference are reproduced in *Appendix 2* of this document.

8. Further details on the practical arrangements for the virtual meeting are contained in the document, IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/Inf.1.2, *Note for Participants*.

ELECTION OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSONS

9. The Terms of Reference provide that the members of the ACSU designated by the FAO Regions will elect two Co-Chairpersons – one from a developing country and one from a developed country. The Co-Chairpersons will form part of the ACSU.

10. The members of the ACSU were invited to elect the Co-Chairpersons, prior to this meeting through electronic means, to enable the necessary preparatory work to be carried out. In this context, Ms Teresita Borromeo of the Philippines, and Mr. François Pythoud of Switzerland were elected as Co-Chairpersons of the ACSU.

ITEM 1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

11. The present document annotates the Provisional Agenda and contains in its *Appendix I* an indicative timetable for the consideration of the ACSU, so that it could adopt its Agenda and organize its work.

12. The list of documents for this meeting is contained in document, IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/Inf.1, *List of Documents*. The documents are available on the website of the International Treaty at <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/1259563/>.

13. The meeting will be conducted in English.

14. As this meeting of the ACSU will be held virtually, and given some of the specific challenges of virtual meetings, it is proposed that the meeting will only have one session each day of the meeting. Attempts will be made to minimize, to the extent possible, the unavoidable inconveniences that will arise because of time zone differences.

15. Taking into account the time differences, the meeting has been organized in three-hour blocks from 4 to 7 October 2021. The ACSU will discuss, under other matters, the time and modalities for a possible continuation of its work before the Ninth Session of the Governing Body.

16. The Bureau of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body noted that the fifth meeting of the ACSU will be held virtually.

17. FAO uses the Zoom platform for organizing virtual meetings, which has been customized to its needs and specifications. A detailed information note on the precise schedule and how to remotely access the virtual meeting will be sent separately to the members and experts, closer to the date of the meeting.

ITEM 2. TOOLBOX ON SUSTAINABLE USE OF PGRFA

18. The ACSU has closely followed the development of the Toolbox and provided valuable inputs and guidance, throughout the last biennia. The document, IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/2, *Toolbox on sustainable use of PGRFA*, gives a brief account of the development of the Toolbox, including the contributions of the ACSU, and provides information on recent activities carried out by the Secretariat regarding the Toolbox, as well as an update of current status of the Toolbox.

19. Furthermore, the information document, IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/Inf.2, *Outcomes of the Online Survey on the Use, Relevance and Effectiveness of the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* provides an analysis of the results of the survey launched from 15 to 30 April 2021 to evaluate the usage, relevance, and effectiveness of the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA.

20. The ACSU is invited to (1) review the information provided by the Secretary, and (2) based on this review, assess the relevance and effectiveness of the Toolbox and prepare concrete recommendations on how it can be monitored, evaluated and improved in order to better guide Contracting Parties and stakeholders.

ITEM 3. POSSIBLE JOINT PROGRAMME ON BIODIVERSITY IN AGRICULTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE USE OF PGRFA

21. Following a recommendation by the ACSU at its third meeting, the Governing Body, through Resolution 6/2017, requested the Secretary to “explore the possibility of establishing a Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA involving relevant international organizations and other stakeholders”.³

22. As a contribution to the process of exploring the possibilities of establishing such as a Joint Programme, an informal meeting of experts on the implementation of the sustainable use of PGRFA and the Joint Programme was organized in Bari, Italy, from 23 to 25 May 2018.⁴ The outcomes were reported to the electronic consultation of the ACSU held from April to May 2019.⁵ During the electronic consultation, the ACSU was also presented with an analysis of the responses to an online survey conducted on the Joint Programme to reach and receive additional inputs and views from more stakeholders.⁶

23. The document, IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/3, *Possible joint programme on biodiversity in agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA*, takes stock of the discussions on the possibility of establishing a Joint Programme and presents the possible partners and main components as previously explored by the ACSU, experts and stakeholders.

24. The ACSU is invited to provide advice on the possibility of establishing a Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA.

ITEM 4. EXAMPLES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT AND ASSIST CONTRACTING PARTIES AND STAKEHOLDERS IN IMPLEMENTING ARTICLES 5 AND 6 OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

25. The Secretary prepared the document, IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/4, *Compilation and Summaries of Submissions and Examples on the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA*. This document includes an overview of the submissions received by the Secretary from Contracting Parties and stakeholders on conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, as well as a synthesis of information contained in the national reports received from Contracting Parties. A summary on the progress in the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action will be presented at the meeting.⁷

26. The First International Multi-stakeholder Symposium on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Symposium), held virtually on 29 and 30 March 2021, was co-organized with the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Global Crop Diversity Trust. A summary and the main outcomes of the Symposium will be presented at the meeting.

27. The ACSU is invited to (1) review the compilation and summaries, and (2) based on this review, identify examples and opportunities to support and assist Contracting Parties and stakeholders in promoting, enhancing and further developing the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

³ [Resolution 6/2017](#), para 2

⁴ See IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/Inf.3

⁵ [IT/GB8-ACSU-Electronic Consultation 1/19/Inf 2](#)

⁶ [IT/GB8-ACSU-Electronic Consultation 1/19/Inf 4](#)

⁷ See [Resolution 5/2019](#), para. 3.

ITEM 5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STEPS TO ASSIST CONTRACTING PARTIES IN ADVANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLES 5 AND 6

28. The Secretary prepared the document, IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/5, *Future work of the ACSU*, containing indicative activities and possible ideas for the consideration of the ACSU regarding its future work.

29. Based on the discussions of Agenda Items 2 to 4, as well as considering the above document, the ACSU is invited to offer recommendations for further steps on how the Governing Body could assist Contracting Parties in advancing the implementation of Articles 5 and 6, for consideration by the Governing Body at its Ninth Session.

ITEM 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

30. Under this agenda item, the ACSU may wish to discuss any other relevant matters that may be raised by its members and experts.

31. The ACSU may wish to assess whether additional work is needed before the Ninth Session of the Governing Body and provide guidance accordingly.

ITEM 7. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

32. Pursuant to its Terms of Reference, the ACSU will prepare a report at the end of its meetings and report to the Governing Body on its work, for consideration at the Ninth Session.⁸

33. Under this agenda item, the Expert Group is invited to adopt its report of this meeting.

34. The draft report will be circulated electronically and adopted as may be amended.

⁸ [Resolution 5/2019](#), Annex, para. 6.

*Appendix 1***Proposed indicative timetable**

Time	Agenda Item	Title
Monday, 4 October 2021		
13:00-16:00		Opening of the meeting
Rome Time zone (CEST), UTC+2	1	Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
	2	Toolbox on Sustainable use of PGRFA
Tuesday, 5 October 2021		
13:00-16:00	2(<i>cont'd</i>)	Toolbox on Sustainable use of PGRFA
Rome Time zone (CEST), UTC+2	3	Possible Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Wednesday, 6 October 2021		
13:00-16:00	3(<i>cont'd</i>)	Possible Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Rome Time zone (CEST), UTC+2	4	Examples and Opportunities to Support and Assist Contracting Parties and Stakeholders in Implementing Articles 5 and 6
	5	Recommendations to the Governing Body on further steps to assist Contracting Parties in advancing the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty
	6	Any Other Business
Thursday, 7 October 2021		
13:00-16:00		
Rome Time zone (CEST), UTC+2	7	Adoption of the Report

Appendix 2

Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Res. 5/2019, Annex)

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture will:
 - i) Review the compilation and summaries provided by the Secretary on the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;
 - ii) Based on this review, identify examples and opportunities to support and assist Contracting Parties and stakeholders in promoting, enhancing and further developing the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA as set out in Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;
 - iii) Review the information provided by the Secretary on the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA;
 - iv) Based on this review, assess the relevance and effectiveness of the Toolbox and prepare concrete recommendations on how it can be monitored, evaluated and improved in order to better guide Contracting Parties and stakeholders for the sustainable use of PGRFA;
 - v) Provide advice about the possibility of a future Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA based on the documentation prepared by the Secretariat;
 - vi) Based on the above, recommend further steps on how the Governing Body can assist Contracting Parties in advancing the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty for consideration of the Governing Body at its Ninth Session.
2. The Committee will comprise up to three members from each FAO Region, and seven technical experts designated by the Bureau, upon proposal by the FAO Regions and relevant stakeholders, in particular farmers' organizations, taking into account the required range of technical expertise, and regional and gender balance. Two Co-Chairpersons from Contracting Parties to the International Treaty will form part of the Committee – one from a developing country and one from a developed country. The Co-Chairpersons will be elected by members of the Committee designated by the FAO Regions.
3. The Secretary will continue maintaining and updating the list of experts for further reference. This will be made available to Contracting Parties with a possible view to expanding the pool of experts on conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.
4. The Committee may hold up to two meetings in the biennium 2020–2021, subject to the availability of financial resources.
5. The Secretary will facilitate the process and assist the Committee in its work.
6. The Committee will prepare a report at the end of its meetings and report to the Governing Body on its work, for further consideration at the Ninth Session.