

Fist Special Session of the Governing Body (GB-Sp1) - IT/GB-Sp1/21/3/C01

Written Correspondence Procedure – Inputs from Contracting Parties as of 19 November 2021 – Original language

Item 3. The *Interim* Budget for 2022

Contracting Party Name	Comments
<p>Canada 17 November 4:40 PM</p>	<p>Thank you for the invitation to submit questions. After having looked at the documentation here two questions from Canada:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Information document IT/GB-Sp1/21/3/Inf.1, Interim Financial Report and Financial Statements (English), in Schedule 3, page 10, reports that there is for the year 2021 an expected amount of USD 2,102,170 of un-used funds from the approved budget as per Resolution 14/2019. A question is, why these unused funds are not used against the budget request made in the suggested Interim Budget in document IT/GB-Sp1/21/3? 2. What is the status of the time and location of the regular 9th Session of the Governing Body?
<p>Europe 18 November 1:36 PM</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The European Regional Group thanks the Secretariat for the preparation of the Draft <i>Interim</i> Budget for 2022, as due to the particular context of the COVID-19 global pandemic, it became necessary to reschedule the Ninth Session of the Governing Body until 2022, and accordingly alternative arrangements are needed to ensure that the Governing Body’s functions and the necessary operations of the Secretariat continue effectively throughout the year 2022. 2. We thank the Secretariat for making available the Interim Financial Report and Financial statements of the Core Administrative Budget from 1 January 2020 to 31 August 2021. We note with appreciation that expenditures under the Core Administrative Budget is comfortably within the approved budget. 3. Furthermore, we take note of the information contained in the document, providing that the contributions from Contracting Parties is as yet in 2021 equivalent to approximately 80 % of the expected contributions from Contracting Parties. We appeal to all Contracting Parties to contribute to the Core Administrative Budget, noting that lack of timely and adequate funding is detrimental for the fulfilment of the objectives of the Treaty’s Work Programme and its projects. 4. We acknowledge the prepared Draft <i>Interim</i> Budget for 2022 taking into account three guiding principles, namely, to be a maintenance budget, allowing the Secretariat to maintain the core operations, to adopt a similar structure of the core administrative budget and that it covers the entire year 2022.

	<p>5. We accept that the draft <i>interim</i> budget is at “a zero nominal growth”, limited in scope and covers only the minimum necessary resource requirements to allow the continuing operations of the Secretariat and functions of the Governing Body in 2022.</p> <p>6. We take note that the funding from FAO is included in the draft <i>interim</i> budget and that the approval will be without any prejudice to a final budget to be approved by the Governing Body at its Ninth Session.</p> <p>7. We welcome the draft Resolution on Draft <i>Interim</i> Budget for 2022 in the Appendix to this document. We would suggest reflecting in the Resolution our concern that the number of Contracting Parties that contribute to the Core Administrative Budget remains low.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DRAFT RESOLUTION ON INTERIM BUDGET FOR 2022</p> <p>Text addition: 3. <u>Notes that not all Contracting Parties have contributed to the Core Administrative Budget and Urges</u> all Contracting Parties to provide the resources required in the <i>Interim</i> Budget, emphasizing the necessity for the Secretariat to find economies to conduct operations amid uncertain circumstances;</p>
<p>Japan 19 November 12:48</p>	<p>8. b) Regarding meetings, the cost of the Governing Body Session is included for funding in equal amount in both the first and the second year of the biennium. It is essential, when considering the planning and organization of the Tenth Session to be held in 2023, that adequate funds be available and given the payment patterns of Contracting Parties, this cannot be assured by requesting the necessary funding in the second year of the biennium only. The costs of the standing subsidiary bodies, namely the Bureau, the Compliance Committee, and the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization Committee, are also included at a level equal to 50 percent of the costs provided for in the current biennium.</p> <p>Comment: <i>Can the Secretariat please elaborate/provide information on “the patterns of Contracting Parties”? (e.g. “x” percent of contributions are paid in the second half of the budget year, etc.) Can the Secretariat please clarify and provide information on whether the expenses for the GB planned for 2020-2021 can be carried forward?</i></p> <p>10. The amount of funding from FAO is included in accordance with paragraph 60 of the Director General’s Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23 (document C 2021/3). While the <i>interim</i> budget for 2022 will cover up to 31 December 2022, any necessary adjustments, including the use of the unspent balances, would be made when the Governing Body will adopt the Work Programme and Budget for the 2022–2023 biennium at its Ninth Session. The full biennial Work Programme and</p>

	<p>Budget would integrate the <i>interim</i> budget, as may be adjusted, and take into account any relevant developments that might have occurred after the adoption of the <i>interim</i> budget.</p> <p>Comment: <i>We observe that almost a quarter of the budget will be available as residual funds, and the Governing Body should provide direction and guidance on how this is to be used.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">DRAFT RESOLUTION ON INTERIM BUDGET FOR 2022</p> <p>2. Adopts the indicative scale of voluntary contributions, in accordance with Financial Rule V.1 b), as contained in Annex 2 to this Resolution;</p> <p>Comment: <i>Regulation VI(b) refers to “the Scale of Contributions applicable to that period”. What is shown is an old scale of contributions from the prior 3 years (that is to be replaced in a month), and will not mirror recent economic realities. We encourage the inclusion of a footnote to the table to indicate the scale of contributions applicable to that period will be used, in alignment with the regulation above and with the UN General Assembly / many other biodiversity related international organizations.</i> https://www.fao.org/3/mp046e/mp046e.pdf</p>
<p>Brazil 19 November 15:28</p>	<p>The Permanent Delegation of Brazil presents its compliments to the Secretariat of TIRFAA and, regarding the Correspondence Procedure on the Draft Interim Budget for 2022, outlined in the Annotated Provisional Agenda of the First Special Session of the Governing Body, to take place on 7-8 December, has the honor to convey the following comments and requests further clarification on the costs under letter B of Annex 1 (Meetings – Statutory Bodies):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Does the estimation of costs take into account the meetings of all Statutory Bodies to take place along 2022? ii) Has the format (in person/remote/hybrid) of the meetings of Statutory Bodies been defined? iii) Is there any information available on the dates of meetings of the Statutory Bodies? iv) In case there is no definitive information available on the format and dates of the meetings of Statutory Bodies to take place along 2022, would it not be more appropriate to include the matter of funding for such meetings in the Agenda of the 9th Session of the Governing Body? <p>The Permanent Delegation of Brazil avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of TIRFAA the assurances of its high consideration.</p>

<p>Near East Region 19 November 16:55</p>	<p>Submitted in Arabic (the original submission is contained in the Appendix).</p> <p>The Near East Region thanks the Secretariat for the efforts made to prepare the draft provisional budget for the year 2022 for adoption in the first special session of the Governing Body.</p> <p>The Region also commends the facilities and procedures provided by the Secretariat enabling the Contracting Parties to submit comments and questions for the documents under discussion.</p> <p>After examining the draft provisional budget document for 2022 (IT/GB-SP1/21/3) by the countries of the Region, the proposed document was approved as prepared by the Secretariat, given the limited budget, it only covers the minimum requirements of the necessary resources, allowing to continue the operations of the Secretariat and functions of the Governing Body for the year 2022.</p> <p>The Near East Region also stresses the implementation of all components of the Treaty in order to ensure food security through the conservation and sustainable use of the world's plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use.</p> <p>The Near East Region emphasizes the current and future key role of the International Treaty in supporting human and institutional capacity building and technology transfer for developing countries, especially the countries of the Near East Region, to promote their development towards the conservation and optimal use of their genetic resources, whereas the countries of our Region are characterized by the richness of the biological diversity of many cultivated species and wild relatives. So the International Treaty has a major responsibility in helping to raise the level of conservation and sustainable use of these valuable resources given the numerous difficulties encountered by our region, including: the deteriorating of the economic situation, the political crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.</p>
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Appendix

Original Submission by the NEAR EAST Region

ان اقليم الشرق الأدنى يشكر الامانة على الجهود التي بذلتها لاعداد مشروع الميزانية المؤقتة لعام 2022 من اجل اعتمادها في الدورة الاستثنائية الاولى للجهاز الرئاسي.

كما يشيد الاقليم بما قدمته الامانة من تسهيلات واجراءات لتمكين الاطراف المتعاقدة من تقديم التعليقات والاسئلة للمستندات المطروحة للنقاش.

بعد دراسة وثيقة مشروع الميزانية المؤقتة لعام 2022 (IT/GB-SP1/21/3) من قبل دول الاقليم تم الموافقة على الوثيقة المقترحة كما اعدتها الامانة كون ان هذه الميزانية محدودة النطاق ولا تغطي سوى الحد الأدنى من الاحتياجات اللازمة من الموارد بما يسمح باستمرار عمليات الامانة ووظائف الجهاز الرئاسي لعام 2022.

كما يشدد اقليم الشرق الأدنى على تنفيذ جميع مكونات المعاهدة من اجل ضمان الأمن الغذائي من خلال صون الموارد الوراثية النباتية للأغذية والزراعة في العالم واستخدامها المستدام، فضلا عن تقاسم المنافع الناشئة عن استخدامها على نحو عادل ومنصف.

يؤكد اقليم الشرق الأدنى على الدور الرئيسي الحالي والمستقبلي للاتفاقية في الدعم المادي، بناء القدرات البشرية والمؤسسية ونقل التكنولوجيا للدول النامية وخاصة دول اقليم الشرق الأدنى للنهوض بقدراتها نحو صون واستخدام امثل لمواردها الوراثية حيث تتميز دول اقليمنا بغنى التنوع البيولوجي للعديد من الانواع المزروعة والاقارب البرية مما يقع على عاتق المعاهدة المسؤولية الكبرى في المساعدة لرفع مستوى الحفاظ والاستخدام المستدام لهذه الموارد القيمة في ظل العديد من المصاعب التي يمر بها اقليمنا ومنها: تدهور الوضع الاقتصادي، الوضع السياسي المتأزم، جائحة Covid 19 والتغير المناخي