

February 2022



**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**

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

22 – 23 FEBRUARY 2022

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. 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
3. The Committee held its fifth meeting virtually from 4 to 7 October 2021.³ At that meeting, it agreed to reconvene before the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, recognizing the need for further work.⁴

OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The sixth meeting of the ACSU will be held virtually from 22 to 23 February 2022, in three-hour sessions each day. The meeting will start at 13:00 Central European Time (CET), on Tuesday, 22 February 2022.
5. Further details on the practical arrangements for the virtual meeting are contained in the document, IT/GB-9/ACSU-6/22/Inf.1.2, *Note for Participants*.

ITEM 1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

6. The present document annotates the Provisional Agenda and contains in its *Appendix 1* an indicative timetable for the consideration of the ACSU, so that it could adopt its Agenda and organize its work.
7. The list of documents for this meeting is contained in the document, IT/GB-9/ACSU-6/22/Inf.1, *List of documents*. The documents are available on the website of the International Treaty at <https://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/1448199/>.

¹ [Resolution 5/2019, Annex](#)

² [Resolution 5/2019, Annex, para. 2](#)

³ [IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/Report](#)

⁴ [IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/Report, para. 32](#)

8. The meeting will be conducted in English.
9. As this meeting of the ACSU will be held virtually, and given some of the specific challenges of virtual meetings, including time zone differences, it is proposed that the meeting will only have one session each day of the meeting, organized in three-hour blocks from 22 to 23 February 2022.
10. FAO uses the Zoom platform for organizing virtual meetings, which has been customized to its needs and specifications. A detailed information note on the modalities 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 PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

11. The ACSU has closely followed the development of the Toolbox, and provided valuable inputs and guidance, throughout the last biennia. At its last meeting, the Committee made a number of suggestions to improve its use and effectiveness, and requested the Secretariat to prepare a note detailing the proposed improvements to the Toolbox and how it could be practically and meaningfully evaluated, including broadening the scope of the Toolbox to include information for promoting the implementation of Article 5 provisions that are relevant for sustainable use of PGRFA.
12. The document, IT/GB-9/ACSU-6/22/2, *The Toolbox on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, gives a brief account of the development of the Toolbox and provides an update on the improvements and changes being undertaken by the Secretary.
13. The ACSU is invited to note the progress made by the Secretary in implementing the suggestions by the ACSU and to provide any additional guidance to the Secretary to further improve the Toolbox.

ITEM 3. POSSIBLE JOINT PROGRAMME ON BIODIVERSITY IN AGRICULTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

14. Following several presentations by partners, stakeholders and other invited experts, the Committee at its last meeting highlighted that there was currently a “window of opportunity” for developing and implementing the Joint Programme.⁵
15. It advised the Secretary to identify a number of initial potential partners that are most relevant for the thematic area it had selected for the Joint Programme, initiate informal contacts with these potential partners and prepare a draft note for the further consideration of the ACSU at this meeting, as a basis for engaging potential partners.⁶
16. The document, IT/GB-9/ACSU-6/22/3, *Draft note on Joint Programme on biodiversity in agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA*, briefly recalls the guidance provided by the Committee on the possible Joint Programme, gives an update on activities undertaken by the Secretary since the last meeting of the Committee and contains a draft concept note of the Joint Programme.
17. The Committee is invited to provide any additional guidance to the Secretary on the Joint Programme.

ITEM 4. BOTTLENECKS AND CHALLENGES TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLES 5 AND 6 OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

18. The ACSU has expressed strong interest in the possibility to develop, as an additional initiative, tailored intra- and inter-region based activities of exchange of knowledge and practical/technical experience based on the diverse topics mentioned in document, IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/5, in order to identify the bottlenecks to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6, with particular emphasis on access to PGRFA, including seeds, and give examples of how to proceed and identify opportunities of improvement and collaboration to solve the identified bottlenecks.⁷

⁵ [IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/Report](#), para. 12.

⁶ [IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/Report](#), para. 14.

⁷ [IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/Report](#), para. 30.

19. In the document, IT/GB-9/ACSU-6/22/4, *Bottlenecks and challenges to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty*, the Secretary provides a preliminary analysis of the bottlenecks and challenges. The results of a more comprehensive study currently undertaken on the matter will be made available for the Governing Body at its Ninth Session.

ITEM 5. FUTURE WORK ON CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PGRFA AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE NINTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

20. Pursuant to its Terms of Reference, the ACSU will report to the Governing Body on its work, for consideration at the Ninth Session.⁸ In its report to the Governing Body, the Committee will recommend further steps on how the Governing Body can assist Contracting Parties and stakeholders in advancing the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty.

21. The ACSU considered this issue at its fifth meeting but recognized that further discussions will be needed at its sixth meeting.⁹

22. The Secretary prepared the document, IT/GB-9/ACSU-6/22/5, *Future work on Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA and recommendations to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body*, incorporating the initial recommendations discussed by the Committee at its fifth meeting and outlining possible future areas of work as well as some elements for consideration of the Committee in providing its recommendations to the Governing Body.

ITEM 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

23. At its fifth meeting, the ACSU noted the low participation by some regions and agreed to revisit the issue at its next meeting including possible recommendations to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body.¹⁰

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

ITEM 7. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

25. Under this agenda item, the ACSU is invited to adopt its report of this meeting

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

⁹ [IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/Report](#), para. 31.

¹⁰ [IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/Report](#), para. 33.

Proposed indicative timetable

Time	Agenda Item	Title
Tuesday, 22 February 2022		
13:00-16:00		Opening of the meeting
Rome Time zone (CET), UTC+1	1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	2	Toolbox on sustainable use of PGRFA
	3	Possible joint programme on biodiversity in agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA
	4	Bottlenecks and challenges to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty
Wednesday, 23 February 2022		
13:00-16:00	5	Future work on Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA and recommendations to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body
Rome Time zone (CET), UTC+1	6	Any other business
	7	Adoption of the Report

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.