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**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**



**International Treaty  
on Plant Genetic Resources  
for Food and Agriculture**

**INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

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

**3–5 May 2023**

**Measuring Non-Monetary Benefit-Sharing: Steps Towards a  
Methodology**

**Executive Summary**

This document sets out the steps being undertaken by the Secretariat towards developing a draft methodology for measuring Non-Monetary Benefit-Sharing (NMBS), which is a key milestone established in the Operational Plan of the Funding Strategy 2020-2025. The development of this methodology by the Committee during the 2022–2023 biennium is also noted in paragraph 28 of Resolution 4/2022.

The Secretariat will continue to update and seek guidance from the Funding Committee in the further development of the draft methodology, including at its eighth meeting.

The Funding Committee is invited to take note of the document and provide guidance to the Secretary in taking forward the work in this area.

## Background

1. Article 13.2 of the International Treaty recognises that benefits arising from the use, including commercial, of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) under the Multilateral System shall be shared fairly and equitably through the following mechanisms: the exchange of information, access to and transfer of technology, capacity-building, and the sharing of the benefits arising from commercialization. It can be derived from these provisions that, under the Multilateral System, non-monetary benefit-sharing (NMBS) consists of the exchange of information, access to and transfer of technology, capacity-building.
2. Contracting Parties agree that that benefits arising from the use of PGRFA that are shared under the Multilateral System should flow primarily, directly and indirectly, to farmers in all countries, especially in developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, who conserve and sustainably utilize PGRFA (article 13.3).

### **Previous consideration by the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilisation**

3. The Governing Body, at its Seventh Session, requested the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilisation (the *Ad Hoc* Committee) to recommend measures to promote the delivery of NMBS through the Funding Strategy, which it was tasked with updating.
4. In response to this request the *Ad Hoc* Committee considered a document prepared by the Secretariat, *Measures to Promote the Delivery of Non-monetary Benefit-sharing through the Funding Strategy*.<sup>1</sup> The document set out a number of possible measures to promote the delivery of NMBS in the context of the updated Funding Strategy, and contained a list of possible NMBS areas referred to in relevant provisions of the Treaty. It also contained a number of observations generated throughout the years in different International Treaty processes, a list of NMBS measures and a mapping of potential NMBS partners. The document pointed towards distinctive features of NMBS, both at the normative level and at the level of involved stakeholders. While highlighting the programmatic synergies between distinct NMBS activities and the Benefit-Sharing Fund, the document suggested further synergies beyond the Benefit-Sharing Fund. On that basis, it was underscored how the fuller scope of the Funding Strategy represents a suitable framework to develop NMBS interactions and collaborations.
5. The *Ad Hoc* Committee noted that there was no agreed definition of NMBS and decided to include an element in the Terms of Reference of the current Funding Committee with a view to recommending specific measures for the promotion of NMBS through the Funding Strategy in its implementation.<sup>2</sup>

### **The Funding Strategy of the International Treaty 2020-2025**

6. The Funding Strategy of the International Treaty 2020-2025 refers to NMBS in relation to the implementation of the International Treaty as a whole. It recognizes that important contributions are made to the effective implementation of the International Treaty that are not funding contributions as such, including the in-kind contributions of farmers to agrobiodiversity conservation. It recognises that enabling partners of the International Treaty provide NMBS through a wide range of mechanisms and that implementation of the Funding Strategy provides an avenue to: identify synergies between the provision of financial resources and the delivery of NMBS; and develop specific measures, as needed, for promoting NMBS within the Funding Strategy.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [www.fao.org/3/ca4418en/ca4418en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/ca4418en/ca4418en.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, paragraph 14. The report is available at: [www.fao.org/3/ca4642en/ca4642en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/ca4642en/ca4642en.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Resolution 3/2019, Annex 1, paragraph 23. The Resolution is available at: [www.fao.org/3/nb780en/nb780en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/nb780en/nb780en.pdf).

7. The Results Framework of the Funding Strategy sets out the various aims, mechanisms, enabling partners and stakeholders of the International Treaty.<sup>4</sup> In the Framework, capacity building, access to and transfer of technology and the exchange of information are, alongside monetary benefit-sharing, enablers of the objectives of the International Treaty.

8. Through the adoption of the Funding Strategy in 2019, the Governing Body invited relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies, stakeholder groups and other international organisations to provide information to the Secretariat that will enable the Committee to better leverage funding for International Treaty implementation and the delivery of NMBS.<sup>5</sup>

#### **The Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee**

9. According to its Terms of Reference, the Committee is tasked with monitoring and reviewing the implementation of NMBS measures, with a view to recommending any additional measures, as appropriate, using a methodology agreed by the Committee.<sup>6</sup>

10. In Resolution 4/2022, the Governing Body reiterated its invitation to Contracting Parties, relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies, stakeholder groups and other international organisations to provide information to the Secretariat that will enable the Committee to better leverage funding from all sources for International Treaty implementation and to develop the methodology for measuring NMBS during the biennium 2022–2023.<sup>7</sup>

11. In order to take this forward, the Committee established a milestone in the Operational Plan for the Funding Strategy 2020-2025, to agree a methodology for measuring NMBS in 2023.

#### **Steps towards a methodology for measuring NMBS**

12. The Secretariat has considered the steps needed to develop the draft methodology by reviewing current NMBS experiences and on-going initiatives which cater for the objectives and mechanisms of the International Treaty but are not necessarily linked to the intersessional processes that the Secretariat primarily oversees. The process for the methodology may further be expanded to consider initiatives outside of the International Treaty framework that quantify in-kind contributions to internationally agreed, macro-level goals in the agriculture and environment sectors and which may be comparable in terms of scale and involved stakeholders.

13. In order to assist the Committee's work on developing the draft methodology, the Secretariat is undertaking an initial assignment in collaboration with an implementing institution with direct experience in, and knowledge of, NMBS in both broad agriculture research and cooperation, and PGRFA conservation and sustainable use specifically.

14. A team of researchers will assist with the development of the first draft methodology for review by the Committee.

15. The process will consist of:

- a. The preliminary identification of intended users of the methodology (e.g., Contracting Parties and the respective national institutions, international agricultural research centres; private seed sector; other users of the Treaty's Multilateral System);
- b. The review of existing literature (academic and grey) of relevance to the methodology for measuring NMBS;
- c. The review of selected comparable initiatives (e.g., access to seeds index; private sector databases and corporate responsibility reports; private sector contributions to international indicators; the framework of the Task Force on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures; documentation by National Agricultural Research Organizations and

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<sup>4</sup> [www.fao.org/3/nb780en/nb780en.pdf#page=7](http://www.fao.org/3/nb780en/nb780en.pdf#page=7)

<sup>5</sup> Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 7.

<sup>6</sup> Annex 2, paragraph e.

<sup>7</sup> Resolution 4/2022, paragraph 28. Resolution 4/2022 is available at: [www.fao.org/3/nk239en/nk239en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/nk239en/nk239en.pdf).

agricultural development centres) and a first comprehensive description of established practices of NMBS in agricultural research and development, as a basis for an empirically-informed measuring methodology; the convening of an online meeting of selected representatives to seek analytical inputs for the methodology;

- d. A first draft methodology, for the Committee to review and provide guidance on at its September meeting, including as to ways to seek further information from Contracting Parties, relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies, stakeholder groups and other international organizations, in line with Resolution 4/2022.

16. The Secretariat intends to ensure close monitoring of the on-going process for the finalisation of indicators of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). It may be recalled that the GBF Monitoring Framework is articulated through headline, component and complementary indicators.<sup>8</sup> The methodology underpinning the indicators will either be published in a peer-reviewed academic journal or go through a scientific peer-review process and be validated for national use.

17. For Goal C of the GBF,<sup>9</sup> headline indicators on monetary and non-monetary benefits are foreseen, but an agreed up-to-date methodology does not yet exist. An Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will work with partners to guide the development of these and other missing indicators. The following complementary indicators are listed:

- a. Number of users that have provided information relevant to the utilization of genetic resources to designated checkpoints;
- b. Total number of internationally recognized certificates published in the ABS Clearing-House;
- c. Number of checkpoint communiqués published in the ABS Clearing-House;
- d. Number of internationally recognized certificates of compliance for non-commercial purposes;
- e. Integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting.

18. For target 13 of the GBF,<sup>10</sup> the component indicator is the following: number of permits or their equivalents for genetic resources (including those related to traditional knowledge) by type of permit. The complementary indicators are the following:

- a. Total number of transfers of crop material from the Multilateral System of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture received in a country;
- b. Total number of permits, or their equivalent, granted for access to genetic resources;
- c. Total number of internationally recognized certificates of compliance published in the ABS Clearing-House;

<sup>8</sup> [www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-05-en.docx](http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-05-en.docx).

<sup>9</sup> The monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources, and of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, as applicable, are shared fairly and equitably, including, as appropriate with indigenous peoples and local communities, and substantially increased by 2050, while ensuring traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is appropriately protected, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in accordance with internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments.

<sup>10</sup> Take effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and facilitating appropriate access to genetic resources, and by 2030, facilitating a significant increase of the benefits shared, in accordance with applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments.

- d. Number of countries that require prior informed consent that have published legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing in the ABS Clearing-House;
- e. Number of countries that require prior informed consent that have published information on access and benefit-sharing procedures in the ABS Clearing-House;
- f. Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits;
- g. Estimated percentage of monetary and non-monetary benefits directed towards conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

19. In the course of the development and review of the NMBS measuring methodology, the Committee will be invited to consider the relevance of the methodology in the development process of the GBF Monitoring Framework.