



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

Review and update: Operational Plan for the Funding Strategy 2020-2025

Executive Summary

At its first meeting in July 2020, the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Committee) noted the need to develop an Operational Plan as called for through Resoultion 3/2019, and requested the Secretary to work with the Co-Chairs to develop a first draft for the consideration of the Committee at its second meeting.

At its second meeting in November 2020, the Committee finalised the Operational Plan for the Funding Strategy 2020-2025. The Operational Plan is a multi-year plan designed to guide the Committee on the implementation of the Funding Strategy over the period 2020-2025. It is designed to be reviewed and updated by the Committee periodically so that it remains relevant and responsive to the operational environment and needs. Minor updates were made to the Operational Plan at the Committee's fifth meeting in February 2022, which is provided through Annex 1 of this document. At its sixth meeting the Committee agreed to review and update the Operational Plan at its seventh meeting.

This document contains background information on the Operational Plan, highlights numerous developments since the adoption of the Funding Strategy that have impacted the operational and policy environment, and provides a stock-take of what has been achieved under the three focus areas of Resource Mobilization, Benefit-sharing Fund Operations and Monitoring and Review.

The Committee is invited to consider the document and provide any relevant advice to the Secretary and Co-Chairs for updating the Operational Plan.

¹ Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, The Funding Strategy of the ITPGRFA, paragraph 44

I. Background

1. At its Eighth Session, through Resolution 3/2019,² the Governing Body adopted the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty for the period 2020 to 2025 and established a Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee).

- 2. Paragraph 44 of the Funding Strategy states that the Committee will develop an Operational Plan for the implementation of the Funding Strategy that will be reviewed and updated on a biennial basis and include a number of considerations related to its implementation, monitoring, review and re-planning.
- 3. At its first meeting in July 2020, the Committee noted that it had three main tasks ahead of it: the functional role of the Committee in relation to resource mobilization; the taking over of the tasks of the Bureau in relation to the Benefit-sharing Fund operations; and, the further development of the Funding Strategy. It noted the need to develop an Operational Plan and requested the Secretary to work with the Co-Chairs to develop a first draft for the consideration of the Committee at its second meeting.
- 4. At is second meeting in November 2020, the Committee finalised the Operational Plan 2020-2025, noting that it is a key planning tool of the Committee to facilitate the implementation of the Funding Strategy and that it should therefore be considered a living document and may be updated by the Committee, as needed.
- 5. The Operational Plan is a multi-year plan that sets out major milestones and outputs to be delivered under the following three focus areas:
 - i. Focus Area 1: Resource Mobilization;
 - ii. Focus Area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations;
 - iii. Focus Area 3: Monitoring and Review.
- 6. At its fifth meeting in February 2022 (SFC-5), the Committee noted that some activities were ongoing due to the change in the dates of GB-9, and requested the Secretariat to work with the Co-Chairs to make relevant minor updates to the Operational Plan, including to harmonize language related to the Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy. This last updated version of the Operational Plan was provided to the Committee through the SFC-5 Proceedings, and is contained Annex 1 of this document. In discussing the Committee's future work at SFC-5, the Committee planned a more complete review and update of the Operational Plan after GB-9.
- 7. At is sixth meeting, in January 2023, the Committee discussed a proposal for arrangements in the year ahead and agreed to include an item on the stock-take, review and updating of the Operational Plan at its seventh meeting. This is in line with the biennial review and update of the Operational Plan foreseen under its *Focus Area 3: Monitoring and Review*, and with paragraph 44 of the Funding Strategy which foresees that the Committee will develop an Operational Plan that will be reviewed and updated on a biennial basis.

II. Key developments since the adoption of the Funding Strategy impacting its implementation

8. There are numerous developments that have impacted the operational environment since the adoption of the Funding Strategy and development of the Operational Plan that the Committee may wish to consider in reviewing and updating the Operational Plan:

COVID-19 Pandemic

9. At is Ninth Session, the Governing Body noted that the first three years of the Funding Strategy 2020–2025 has been implemented mostly during the COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly affected and will continue to affect the global policy, fiscal and operational environment, and requested the Committee to consider the resulting impacts, challenges and opportunities in taking forward its work on implementing and making recommendations for updating the Funding Strategy.³

² www.fao.org/3/nb780en/nb780en.pdf

³ Paragraph 2, Resolution 4/2022

10. The Committee had observed previously that that it may need to consider the challenges and opportunities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic in taking forward the work on the implementation of the Funding Strategy and its overall target.⁴

11. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the implementation of the Funding Strategy due to factors such as restrictions on travel and in-person meetings, delays to relevant global policy processes such as the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework, changes to fiscal priorities of donors, and caused disruptions at the operational environment level, which resulted in a delays to the implementation of some BSF-4 projects.

Date changes to Governing Body Sessions

- 12. The COVID-19 pandemic also resulted in the postponing of the dates for GB-9 from December 2021 to September 2022. Furthermore, the Governing Body agreed that GB-10 will be held in the last quarter of 2023, entailing just a little over 12 months between the two Sessions instead of the usual two years.
- 13. The GB-9 date change resulted in a delay to some matters relating to the Funding Strategy being addressed by the Governing Body. The GB-10 date change also resulted in a shorter period available between Sessions of the Governing Body for the Committee and Secretariat to undertake its work.

Relevant outcomes of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body

Approval of the Food Processing Engagement Strategy

- 14. The Governing Body approved the Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy, and requested the Committee to review progress in the implementation of the Strategy, and provide regular updates to the Governing Body on its implementation, and make recommendations for adjustments, if any.
- 15. The Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy references an *Implementation, Monitoring and Review Plan: Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy (Inception Phase)*, ⁴ developed by the Committee at its fifth meeting.
- 16. The Committee agreed that the plan should be a living document that may be incorporated into the Operational Plan of the Funding Strategy 2020-2025.

Agreement to re-establish the Working Group on the Enhancement of the Multilateral System

- 17. In order to achieve the shared aims for an enhanced Multilateral System, the Governing decided to re-establish the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, with the aim of finalizing the enhancement of the functioning of the Multilateral System by the Eleventh Session (2025) of the Governing Body.
- 18. It also decided that the process should build upon current progress and achievements of other Treaty intersessional groups and underscores the necessity to liaise closely with the Funding Committee including with regard to non-monetary benefit-sharing and the Benefit-sharing Fund. The update of the Operational Plan provides a good opportunity to integrate matters related to the liaison with the Working Group.

Development of draft Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty (2023–2030)

- 19. The Governing Body took note of the Draft Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty 2023–2030 (CDS) and requested the draft CDS to be finalised and presented for consideration to the Governing Body at its Tenth Session.
- 20. The Funding Strategy and Funding Committee are referred to in the draft CDS particularly with relation to aspects of funding and review.
- 21. Paragraph 19 states that the Funding Strategy provides a basis to help secure the necessary resources for implementation of the International Treaty and to leverage funding for the CDS.
- 22. Paragraph 24 notes that the review of the implementation of the CDS at the global level will be undertaken by the Governing Body, building on existing indicators, monitoring, review and reporting tools and processes including those of the Funding Committee and other subsidiary bodies and stakeholders.

_

⁴ Paragraph 10, SFC-1 Meeting Proceedings

Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust

23. In providing policy guidance to the Global Crop Diversity Trust (the Crop Trust), the Governing Body welcomed the joint establishment of the Emergency Reserve for Germplasm Collections at Risk with the Crop Trust, to facilitate the rapid response to imminent threats to unique germplasm collections that fall under the framework of the International Treaty, in particular its Multilateral System of Access and Benefitsharing. It thanked the Governments of Norway and Italy for the financial contributions to the Reserve, and called upon Contracting Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other entities to contribute to the Reserve. Additional contribution was made by the United States to the Emergency Reserve.

24. The Governing Body also emphasised the need, to ensure the long-term safety of the Article 15 IARC genebanks and the distribution of germplasm being held 'in trust' by the CGIAR centres and other Article 15 genebanks, and for long-term solutions for all Article 15 genebanks through strengthening the involvement of the International Treaty and the Crop Trust. In response to this, the Crop Trust and the Treaty Secretariat are currently developing a new joint initiative that will mobilise support to non-CGIAR Article 15 collections in the year ahead, and in future years.

Multi-Year Programme of Work 2022-2027

- 25. The Governing Body took note of the provisional Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2022–2027, which sets out the following major outputs and milestones related to the Funding Strategy:
 - 10th Session (2023) Update on the implementation of the Funding Strategy
 - 11th Session (2025) Review of the Funding Strategy, and consideration of a new Funding Strategy

Adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

- 26. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted at the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP-15) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in December 2022. The GBF replaces the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets.
- 27. It includes four long-term goals for 2050 related to the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity ("Living in Harmony with Nature") and 23 targets to be achieved by 2030. Resource mobilization and the financing of the GBF implementation played a critical role in the negotiations of the GBF, and would continue to play such role in years to come. New global funds, funding mechanisms or schemes for biodiversity are arising as a follow up to COP-15, with a renewed emphasis on domestic resource mobilization and innovative funding, which are areas highlighted by the Treaty's Funding Strategy.
- 28. Together with the GBF, the Conference of the Parties adopted the monitoring framework for the GBF, which is composed of *headline* indicators; global-level indicators collated from responses in national reports; *component* indicators; and *complementary* indicators.
- 29. In addition to the GBF, the meeting approved a series of related agreements for its implementation, including: planning, monitoring, reporting and review; resource mobilization; helping nations to build their capacity to meet the obligations; and digital sequence information on genetic resources.
- 30. Governments are requested to implement mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and reviewing of the GBF by establishing national targets as part of national strategies and action plans, and reporting on and enabling the evaluation of such targets in relation to the GBF global action targets.
- 31. In addition, through decision 15/6,⁵ Parties are to revise and update their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to align with the GBF and its goals, targets, and indicators.
- 32. The adoption GBF has increased attention to the work of the International Treaty, particularly in relation to access and benefit-sharing and sustainable use, with multilateral benefit-sharing mechanisms highlighted for their potential in innovative funding. It also presents significant opportunities in relation to the implementation of the Funding Strategy, particularly in the areas of national planning, budgets and priorities, increasing visibility and funding of PGRFA, the Treaty and biodiversity in general, as well as monitoring and review, including related to measuring non-monetary benefit-sharing. Initial work has already been carried out under this work-stream of the Funding Strategy and Operational Plan as presented through the document, IT/GB-10/SFC-7/23/Inf.4, *Integration of PGFRA In National Development Plans, Budgets and Priorities for Donor Support and External Funding*.

-

⁵ www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-06-en.pdf

33. At its meeting in March 2023, the Bureau of the Tenth Session of the Governing Body requested the intersessional subsidiary bodies of the Treaty, including the Funding Committee to consider the possible implications of the outcomes of the GBF for the work of the International Treaty, in their respective areas of work, with the view to making relevant observations and recommendations for consideration by the Governing Body at its Tenth Session.

III. Stocktake and review of Operational Plan

- 34. As reported by the Committee to the Governing Body at its ninth session, considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the Treaty's new Funding Strategy, notwithstanding that the work of the Funding Committee has taken place largely within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 35. A detailed report of the work undertaken under the three main work-streams of the Operational Plan is contained in Section II of the Report of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body.⁶
- 36. The following sections provide a summary of progress towards milestones under the three main work-streams of the Operational Plan.

⁶ www.fao.org/3/ni830en/ni830en.pdf

Focus Area 1: Resource Mobilization

Summary of progress:

• Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy developed by the Committee with inputs from FAO, external experts and other stakeholders and approved by the Governing Body.

- Food Processing Industry Engagement Plan developed by the Committee for the implementation, monitoring and review of the Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy.
- Analysis undertaken on integration of PGRFA in national development plans, budgets and priorities for donor support and external funding spanning 27 countries.
- External experts and active observers regularly engaged to inform the Funding Committee's work, including from the European Union, the Global Crop Diversity Trust, agribusiness research and analysis sector, FAO's Resource Mobilization and Private Sector Partnerships Division, FAO's GEF Unit, and from the Secretary in relation to the Compliance Committee so as to coordinate and streamline future reporting.
- Various joint resource mobilization and outreach initiatives between the Treaty Secretariat and the Crop Trust, including:
 - the development of an Emergency Reserve to enable rapid and immediate assistance to MLS collections;
 - o a new global initiative in support of genebanks, especially national genebanks, for capacity building, pre-breeding, seed system linkages and Svalbard back-ups;
 - o a joint FAO-Treaty-Crop Trust initiative to safeguard the Ukrainian Plant Genetic Resources System and rehabilitate it in a rational and efficient manner;
 - the joint establishment of a funding facility to support and safeguard the genebank collections of International Institutions, other than the CGIAR Centres, that have concluded agreements with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the Treaty;
 - Global Conservation Strategies; and, numerous joint communications and outreach
 activities, including a series of international panels, and collaborative outreach efforts in
 upcoming international forums, such as the UN Food Systems Summit.

Proposed next steps for updating for updating the Resource Mobilization focus area of the Operational Plan:

- Identify and incorporate any new opportunities arising from the adoption of the GBF.
- Integrate key milestones of the Food Processing Industry Engagement Plan.
- Review and adjust the dates of any key milestones and outputs that may have been delayed due to
 the COVID-19 pandemic, or are proposed to be rescheduled due to the date changes of the GB-10 or
 other developments in the operational or policy environment.
- Under the milestone of 'Provision of criteria as called for in Article 13.4 of the Treaty' amend the text from "policy criteria" to "policy and criteria", so as to reflect amended text of the Funding Strategy agreed through paragraph 7 of Resolution 4/2022.

Focus Area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations

Summary of progress:

• Implementation of Third Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund has concluded and Independent Evaluation of the Third Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund finalised with inputs by the Funding Committee through a special webinar;

- Guidance provided on the Fourth Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund provided based on COVID- 19 impact analysis undertaken;
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework for the Benefit-sharing Fund developed and implemented, including to inform the design of the Fifth Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund program;
- Fifth Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund program finalised and launched with at least USD 10.9 million dollars available for its implementation;
- List of pre-proposals invited to develop a full project proposals for the Fifth Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund approved;
- BSF progress report submitted to GB-9

Proposed next steps for updating the Benefit-sharing Fund Operations focus area of the Operational Plan:

• Review and adjust the dates of any key milestones and outputs that may have been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, or are proposed to be rescheduled due to the date changes of the GB-10 or other developments in the operational or policy environment.

Focus Area 3: Monitoring and Review

Summary of progress:

- A monitoring, learning and review cycle has been established for the 2020-2025 strategic period through the Operational Plan that enables the regular monitoring and review of the implementation of the Funding Strategy, as requested by the Governing Body through Resolution 3/2019 and its Annexes.
- The Committee has provided advice on the further development of the BSF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning framework, which has been finalised.
- Steps have been identified towards developing a draft methodology for measuring Non-Monetary Benefit-Sharing (NMBS), as set out in the document, IT/GB-10/SFC-7/23/Inf.5, *Measuring Non-Monetary Benefit-Sharing: Steps Towards a Methodology*.

Proposed next steps for updating for updating the Monitoring and Review focus area of the Operational Plan:

- The current focus of work in the 2022–2023 biennium under this workstream includes the development and use of monitoring tools, as well as reviews of the implementation of the Funding Strategy, its targets, and of financial flows to areas of Treaty implementation. The Committee may wish to reconsider the timing of such reviews given the delays that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the global fiscal, policy and operational environment and on the implementation and momentum of resource mobilisation activities, many of which are in the early stages of implementation.
- Review synergies and streamline monitoring and review processes and tools, including related to:
 - measuring NMBS in the GBF and through the Working Group on the Enhancement of the Multilateral System.
 - the further development of the Treaty's Capacity Development Strategy, particularly its M&E.
 - o the new monitoring framework for the GBF.
- Review and adjust the dates of any key milestones and outputs that may have been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, or are proposed to be rescheduled due to the date changes of the GB-10 or other developments in the operational or policy environment.

IV. Guidance Sought

35. The Committee is invited to consider this document and to provide any relevant advice for updating the Operational Plan. Following previous practice, the Committee may wish to request the Secretary and Co-Chairs to update the Operational Plan based on the advice from the Committee and to provide an updated version of the Plan at the Committee's next meeting.

ANNEX 1

OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR THE FUNDING STRATEGY 2020-2025

Operational Plan for the Funding Strategy 2020-2025

Contents

- I. Overview
- II. Focus Area 1: Resource Mobilization
- III. Focus area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations
- IV. Focus area 3: Monitoring and Review
- V. Table of references Resolution 3/2019

I. OVERVIEW

- 1. The Operational Plan is a multi-year plan designed to guide the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee or Committee) on the implementation of the Funding Strategy over the period 2020-2025 and will be reviewed and updated by the Committee at two-year intervals so that it remains relevant and responsive to the operational environment and needs.
- 2. As was agreed by the Committee at its first meeting, the Operational Plan identifies the following three areas to focus efforts on and sets out major milestones, outputs and timelines within these:

Focus Area 1: Resource Mobilization

Focus Area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations

Focus Area 3: Monitoring and Review

3. Given the substantive work required and the multitude of stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Treaty's Funding Strategy, the Operational Plan is set at a high level, marking the major milestones and outputs required in order to achieve the Funding Strategy's Vision and Targets. The related activities required to implement the Funding Strategy, detailed through Resolution 3/2019 and its Annexes, will be further discussed, operationalized and monitored through the continuous work of the Committee and the enabling partners of the Treaty over the 2020-2025 period.

II. FOCUS AREA 1: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

- 4. The requests made by the Governing Body, through Resolution 3/2019 and its Annexes, related to Resource Mobilization fall into seven main work-streams:
 - i. National budgets and priorities
 - ii. Bilateral programs
 - iii. Multilateral mechanisms
 - iv. Food processing industry engagement strategy
 - v. Innovative Funding
 - vi. Provision of criteria as called for in Article 13.4 of the Treaty
 - vii. Visibility, outreach and communication
- 5. The Operational Plan identifies the major milestones and outputs within each of the above workstreams for the 2020-2025 period. These are listed below with references provided to the relevant paragraphs of Resolution 3/2019. A summary table is provided at the end of this section showing the major milestones and outputs by work-stream and biennium.
- 6. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has occurred since the adoption of the Funding Strategy, has significantly affected and will continue to affect the global policy, fiscal and operational environment. It would, therefore, be necessary for the Committee to consider the impacts, challenges and

opportunities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic in taking forward its work on Resource Mobilization and in updating the Operational Plan.

Major milestones and outputs by work-stream

i. National budgets and priorities:

Milestone: By 2025 Contracting Parties have better integrated PGRFA into national development plans, national budgets and priorities for increased financing, including external funding.

- Tools and best practices compiled by the Secretariat for better integrating PGRFA into national development plans (e.g. SDG plans, climate change, etc) and shared with the Committee by 2022
- By 2023, Contracting Parties submit the results of integration of PGRFA into national budgets and priorities, and progress report submitted by Secretariat to the Committee for guidance.
- Further update provided by the Secretariat to the Committee for guidance by 2024

Related Funding Strategy provisions: Funding Strategy 2020-2025, paragraph 29, a & b

ii. Bilateral programs:

Milestone: By 2025, bilateral programs have promoted the implementation of the Funding Strategy and further integrated implementation of the Treaty.

- By 2022, progress report provided by the Secretariat to the Committee for guidance, on the integration of Treaty implementation in bilateral programs.
- By 2024, further update provided by the Secretariat to the Committee for guidance, on the integration of Treaty implementation in bilateral programs.

Related Funding Strategy provisions: Funding Strategy 2020-2025, paragraph 29, c & d

iii. Multilateral mechanisms:

Milestone: By 2025 relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies have increased the priority and attention given to the Treaty.

 Secretariat / FAO provides regular updates to the Committee on priorities and opportunities of relevant international funding mechanisms for advice and action.

Related Funding Strategy provisions: Funding Strategy 2020-2025, paragraph 29, c-g

iv. Food processing industry engagement strategy

Milestone: By 2025, an engagement strategy with the food processing industry has been developed and is operational.

- By 2021, draft strategy developed by the Secretariat and submitted to the Committee for consideration
- The draft strategy developed by the Committee and submitted to GB-9 for consideration
- Committee oversees strategy implementation 2023-2025+

Related Funding Strategy provisions: Funding Strategy 2020-2025, paragraph 29 h

v. Innovative Funding

Milestone: By 2025, a range of initiatives to mobilize funds from innovative sources and mechanisms, including from philanthropic organizations, has been developed.

 By 2022 the Secretariat maps potential initiatives to be considered by the Committee for further guidance.

Related Funding Strategy provisions: Funding Strategy 2020-2025, paragraph 29, i

vi. Provision of criteria as called for in Article 13.4 of the Treaty

Milestone: By 2025, relevant policy criteria for specific assistance under the Funding Strategy, as called for in Art.13.4 of the Treaty, have been developed and utilized.

- By 2022, draft policy criteria have been developed by the Secretariat and submitted to the Committee for consideration
- By 2023, policy criteria have been developed by the Committee and put forward for consideration of GB-10

Related Funding Strategy provisions: Funding Strategy 2020-2025, paragraph 29, k

vii. Visibility, outreach and communication

Milestone: By 2025, the visibility and recognition of Contracting Parties, donors, users of the Multilateral System, and other stakeholders that have contributed to the Funding Strategy is increased as well as outreach to new potential donors.

 Over the 2022 – 2025 period, communication tools, products and platforms are developed by the Secretariat and Committee, and used to help resource mobilization efforts and to increase outreach with users of the Multilateral System, new donors and stakeholders and the visibility and recognition of donors.

Related Funding Strategy provisions: Funding Strategy 2020-2025, paragraph 29, c-e; Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section II, paragraphs 22 - 24; Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph i

Table 1: Summary of major milestones and outputs by work-stream and biennium – Focus Area 1: Resource Mobilization

Biennium 2020/21 Focus Area 1: Ro	Biennium 2022/23 esource Mobilization Compilation of tools and best practices (2022) Results submitted of integration of PGRFA into national budgets and priorities (2023)	Further update provided (2024) Milestone achieved (2025)
rocus Area 1. Ro	Compilation of tools and best practices (2022) Results submitted of integration of PGRFA into national budgets and priorities (2023)	(2024) Milestone achieved
	and best practices (2022) Results submitted of integration of PGRFA into national budgets and priorities (2023)	(2024) Milestone achieved
	Results submitted of integration of PGRFA into national budgets and priorities (2023)	Transcond deline red
	Progress report for	
	guidance (2023) Progress report for guidance (2022)	Further update provided (2024)
		Milestone achieved (2025)
egular updates ovided on priorities d opportunities ngoing)	Regular updates provided on priorities and opportunities (ongoing)	Regular updates provided on priorities and opportunities (ongoing) Milestone achieved (2025)
(ovided on priorities d opportunities	gular updates ovided on priorities d opportunities guidance (2022) Regular updates provided on priorities and opportunities

	Biennium 2020/21	Biennium 2022/23	Biennium 2024/25
Food processing industry RM strategy	Draft strategy developed and submitted to GB-9 for consideration (2021)	Strategy implemented 2023-2025	Strategy implemented 2022-2025 Milestone achieved (2025)
Innovative Funding		Potential initiatives mapped (2022)	Milestone achieved (2025)
Provision of criteria		Draft policy criteria developed (2022) and put to GB-10 (2023)	Milestone achieved (2025)
Visibility, outreach and communication		Tools, products and platforms developed and used (2021-2025)	Tools, products and platforms developed and used (2021-2025) Milestone achieved (2025)

III. FOCUS AREA 2: BENEFIT-SHARING FUND OPERATIONS

- 7. The requests made of the Governing Body, through Resolution 3/2019 and its Annexes, in relation to the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) operations encompass activities regarding the individual BSF cycles that either fall, or are anticipated to fall, within the 2020-25 period, as well as the broader BSF program and operations for the 2020-2025 period, as indicated below:
 - i. BSF-3-6
 - ii. BSF program and operations 2020-25
- 8. These are presented visually against a timeline in the diagram shown in Figure 1 below. The major milestones and outputs are also listed below. A summary table is provided at the end of this section showing the major milestones and outputs by work-stream and biennium. Responsibilities related to the Benefit-sharing Fund project cycles are detailed in Section III, Operational Procedures for the Use of Resources Under the Benefit-sharing Fund, of the Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund.
- 9. It may be necessary for the Committee to consider the impacts, challenges and opportunities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic in taking forward its work on the Benefit-sharing Fund Operations.

Major milestones and outputs of the BSF work-stream:

i. <u>BSF 3:</u>

Milestone: By 2021 BSF 3 operations have concluded

- By 2020 BSF 3 implementation has concluded
- By 2021 BSF 3 Independent Evaluation has concluded

ii. BSF-4

Milestone: By 2025 BSF 4 operations have concluded

- By 2025 BSF 4 implementation has concluded
- By 2025 Independent Evaluation of BSF 4 has concluded

⁷ Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019

-

iii. BSF-5

Milestone: By 2021 the BSF 5 is initiated

- By 2022 BSF 5 is designed and launched
- By [XX] BSF 5 implementation concluded
- By [XX] Independent Evaluation of BSF 5 has concluded

iv. <u>BSF-6</u>

Milestone: By [2024] the BSF 6 is initiated

- By [2024] BSF 6 is designed
- By [2025] BSF 6 raised initial funds and launched

v. BSF Program and operations 2020-25

Milestone: By 2025 the Benefit-sharing Fund is strengthened and integrates learning arising from the implementation of the Funding Strategy over the 2020-2025 period

- By 2021 MEL framework is agreed by the Committee
- GB-9 considers BSF target (2022)
- BSF progress reports submitted to GB-9 and GB-10
- By 2025 the BSF Operational Manual is reviewed by the Committee
- Independent review of BSF is carried out 2024-5

Figure 1: The cycles of the Benefit-sharing Fund over the Funding Strategy implementation period 2020-25

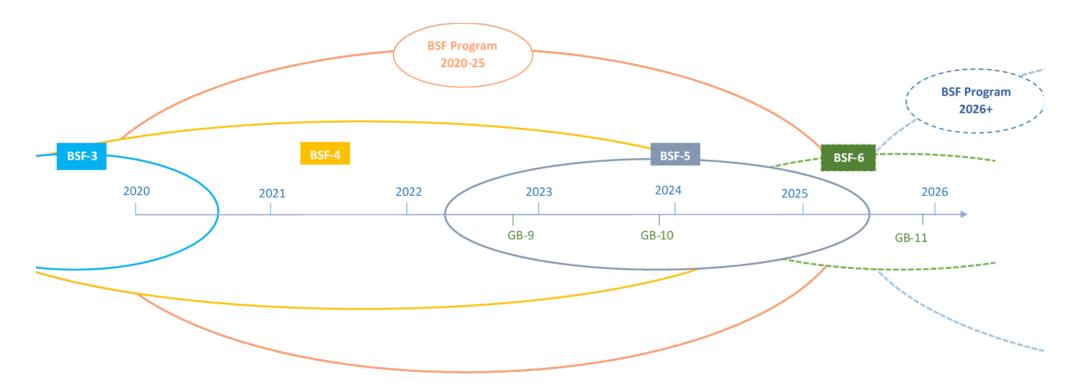


Table 2: Summary of major milestones and outputs by work-stream and biennium – Focus Area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations

	Biennium 2020/21	Biennium 2022/23	Biennium 2024/25		
Focus Area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations					
BSF-3	BSF 3 implementation has concluded (2020)				
	BSF 3 Independent Evaluation has concluded (2021)				
	Milestone achieved (2021)				
BSF-4			BSF 4 implementation has concluded (2025)		
			Independent evaluation of BSF 4 is concluded (2025)		
			Milestone achieved (2025)		
BSF-5		BSF 5 is designed and launched (2022)	BSF 5 implementation concluded [XX]		
		Milestone achieved (2022)	BSF 5 Independent Evaluation [XX]		
BSF-6			By [2024] BSF 6 is designed		
			Milestone achieved [2024]		
BSF Program and operations 2020-2025	MEL framework agreed by Committee (2021)	GB-9 considers BSF target (2022)	BSF Operational Manual reviewed (2025)		
	BSF progress report submitted to GB9	BSF progress report submitted to GB10	BSF independent review (2024-5)		
			Milestone achieved (2025)		

IV. FOCUS AREA 3: MONITORING AND REVIEW

- 10. The requests made of the Governing Body, through Resolution 3/2019 and its Annexes, in relation the monitoring and review of the Funding Strategy and its components fall into the following three work-streams:
 - i. Monitoring
 - ii. Review and learning
 - iii. Reporting
- 11. The major milestones and outputs within each work-stream for the 2020-2025 period are listed below, with references provided to the relevant paragraphs of Resolution 3/2019.

i. Monitoring

Milestone: By 2025, a process is facilitated for integrating monitoring, evaluating and learning, and for structuring new funding opportunities, and identifying and filling in gaps.

- The Committee provides advice on the further development of the provisionally populated Matrix (2022) and the Matrix is further developed and utilized (2023-2025)
- The Committee provides advice on the further development of the BSF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework (2021)
- The Committee agrees on the methodology for measuring Non-Monetary Benefit-sharing (NMBS) (2023) and NMBS measures are monitored (2024-2025)
- The Committee monitors and reviews progress of the Funding Strategy's implementation and makes recommendations for adjustments including through collaboration with the Compliance Committee, as appropriate (ongoing)

ii. Review and learning

Milestone: By 2025 the Funding Strategy will be regularly reviewed, and recommendations made for adjustments so that it can be continuously improved, and remain dynamic, responsive and relevant.

- Operational Plan of the Funding Strategy is reviewed and updated (2022, 2024)
- Periodic reviews of the Target for the Funding Strategy and the target for the Benefit-sharing Fund (2022, 2025)
- Periodic reviews of financial flows (2022, 2024)
- Biennial reviews of the Funding Strategy implementation (2022)
- BSF program and operations 5-year independent review (2024-2025)
- Funding Strategy 5-year review (2024-25)

iii. Reporting

Milestone: By 2025, information and reports will be provided related to the implementation, monitoring and review of the overall Funding Strategy.

- Biennial report of the Committee to the Governing Body on implementation of the Funding Strategy, including elements on the BSF and FAP (2022, 2023, 2025)
- 5-year report on implementation of the Funding Strategy and new Funding Strategy post 2025 put before GB-11 (2025)
- Information and reports provided by Contracting Parties and other relevant organizations related to the implementation, monitoring and review of the Funding Strategy and integrated in existing reporting formats [XX to align with compliance reporting].

Figure 2: Monitoring and Review of the Funding Strategy over the period 2020-25

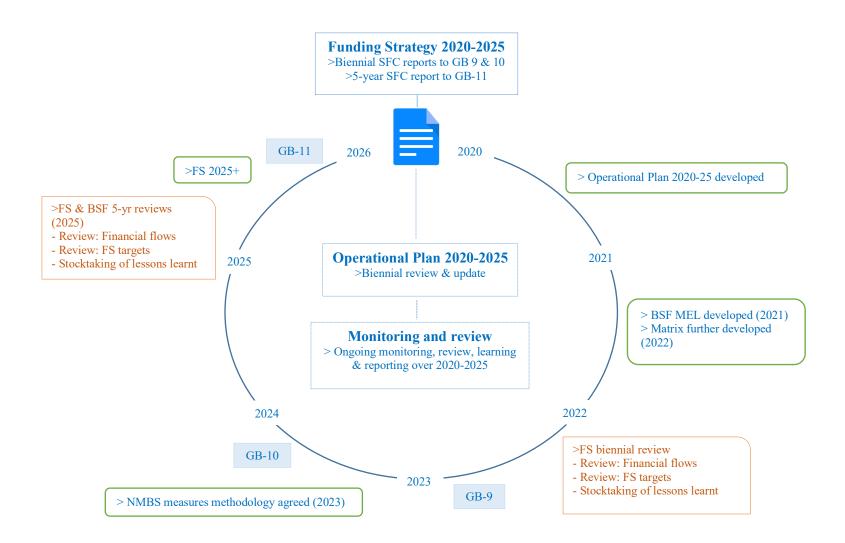


Table 3: Summary of major milestones and outputs by work-stream and biennium – Focus Area 3: Monitoring and Review

	Biennium 2020/21	Biennium 2022/23	Biennium 2024/25		
Focus Area 3: Monitoring and Review					
Monitoring	Advice provided on BSF MEL framework (2021) Monitoring of progress of FS implementation (ongoing)	Advice provided on Matrix (2022) Matrix further developed and utilised (2023-2025) NMBS methodology agreed (2023)	Matrix further developed and utilised (2023-2025) NMBS monitored (2024-2025)		
		Monitoring of progress of FS implementation (ongoing)	Monitoring of progress of FS implementation (ongoing)		
			Milestone achieved (2025)		
Review and learning		Operational Plan reviewed/ updated (2022)	Operational Plan reviewed/ updated (2024)		
		Review of FS and BSF target (2022)	Review of FS and BSF target (2025)		
		Biennial reviews of FS implementation (2022)	BSF 5-year review (2024-2025) FS 5-year review (2024-2025) Milestone achieved (2025)		
Reporting		Biennial report of the Committee to the Governing Body (2022)	Biennial report of the Committee to the Governing Body (2025)		
		Biennial report of the Committee to the Governing Body (2023)	Reports from CPs and others on FS implementation [XX]		
		Reports from CPs and others on FS implementation [XX]	5-year report on FS implementation and new FS 2025+ put to GB12 (2025) Milestone achieved (2025)		

V. TABLE OF REFERENCES – RESOLUTION 3/2019

The following table contains paragraphs from Resolution 3/2019 that are considered relevant to the Focus Areas of the Operational Plan.

Focus Area 1: Resource Mobilization

Calls on Contracting Parties to enhance integration of PGRFA in national development plans, national budgets and priorities for donor support and external funding, including the national prioritization of the GEF System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR)⁸

Calls upon Contracting Parties to share information about the results of the further integration of PGRFA in national budgets and priorities with the Secretariat, and requests the Secretariat to use such information to develop strategic tools that National Focal Points and others can use to leverage new resources⁹

Encourages bilateral and multilateral donors to promote the implementation of the Strategy and further integrate the Treaty implementation in their programmes, and increase the visibility and recognition of their efforts ¹⁰

Encourages Contracting Parties to share information about the results and impact of donor initiatives related to the implementation of the Treaty with the Secretariat and requests the Secretariat to use such information in the development of communication tools and products to help resource mobilization efforts and increase visibility and recognition of donors¹¹

Requests the Secretariat to increase the visibility and recognition of donors making voluntary contributions to mechanisms under its control or guidance, such as the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Fund for Agreed Purposes, including through donor relations initiatives and donor reporting ¹²

Calls on relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies, including within FAO's programmes, partnerships with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other multilateral mechanisms, to increase the priority and attention given to the Treaty¹³

Calls on the Secretariat to establish a network of Treaty enabling partners which have successfully integrated PGRFA in larger sustainable development and climate change programmes, and share the lessons learned to build the capacity of others to participate in such programmes¹⁴

Calls on the Funding Committee to develop a strategy to mobilize funds from food processing industries, as called for in Article 13.6 of the Treaty¹⁵

Calls on the Funding Committee to develop a range of initiatives to mobilize funds from innovative sources and mechanisms¹⁶

Calls on the Funding Committee to strengthen the monitoring and reporting of the Funding Strategy, including by undertaking periodic overviews of finance flows to areas of Treaty implementation by combining existing tools, as well as those of Governing Body and other institutions such as the OECD and FAO, as well as expert input¹⁷

Calls on the Funding Committee to develop relevant policy criteria for specific assistance under the Funding Strategy for the conservation of PGRFA in developing countries, and countries with

⁸ Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 a

⁹ Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 b

¹⁰ Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 c

¹¹ Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 d

¹² Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 e

¹³ Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 f

¹⁴ Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 g

¹⁵ Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 h

¹⁶ Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 i

¹⁷ Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 j

Focus Area 1: Resource Mobilization

economies in transition whose contributions to the diversity of PGRFA in the Multilateral System is significant and / or has special needs, as is called for in Article 13.4 of the Treaty¹⁸

Providing to the Governing Body draft guidance for the implementation of the Funding Strategy, taking into account the reports on the Funding Strategy and other reports, as well as submissions from Contracting Parties and minimizing extra reporting burdens to Contracting Parties ¹⁹

Developing cooperation for the implementation of the Funding Strategy, and in doing so, Members are encouraged to promote the implementation of the Funding Strategy in their capacity as Funding Committee Members 20

Strengthening cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust, in its role as an essential element of the Funding Strategy of the Treaty in relation to ex situ conservation ²¹

Providing a forum for communication and continued exchange of information among bodies and entities dealing with finance for agrobiodiversity and climate change in order to promote linkages and coherence, as appropriate ²²

The Funding Committee will regularly provide advice on new prospects for voluntary contributions, donor partnerships for the Benefit-sharing Fund and donor recognition activities. In providing such advice, the Committee may draw upon the elements of the former Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund of the previous Funding Strategy. ²³

Achieving the Benefit-sharing Fund target will require the Treaty to maximise all funding opportunities. This section provides an overview of the various constituencies that are considered viable prospects for the Benefit-sharing Fund in the 2020-2025 period.²⁴

Prospects for voluntary contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund include: Contracting Parties and their respective ministries of agriculture, foreign affairs, development assistance and other relevant institutions.²⁵

Other contributors may include: States which are not yet Contracting Parties of the Treaty; philanthropic organizations; the private-sector, including the food processing industry and relevant international mechanisms.²⁶

Focus Area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations

The Committee, during the biennium, may establish and launch a new round of the project cycle, as needed²⁷

The Committee, during the biennium, may decide whether to provide funding to projects that previously received a Certificate of Excellence from the Panel of Experts or to a second phase of projects previously funded by the Benefit-sharing Fund²⁸

The Committee, during the biennium, may decide whether to contribute to larger development programmes to support the implementation of interventions that are aligned with the programmatic approach of the Benefit-sharing Fund²⁹

¹⁸ Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 k

¹⁹ Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph b

²⁰ Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph c

²¹ Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph h

²² Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph i

²³ Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section II, paragraph 29

²⁴ Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section II, paragraph 22

²⁵ Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section II, paragraph 23

²⁶ Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section II, paragraph 24

²⁷ Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section III, paragraph 31 a ²⁸ Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section III, paragraph 31 b

²⁹ Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section III, paragraph 31 c

Focus Area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations

The Committee, during the biennium, may decide whether to provide project preparation funding for larger project proposal development contributing to the programmatic approach of the Fund³⁰

Opening a call for proposals:

- i. issued by the Committee, in the official languages of the Treaty, and containing relevant information on the thematic focus, expected outcomes, steps and procedures of the Call;
- ii. advertisement on the Treaty website and through the national focal points and relevant regional bodies;
- iii. responsibility: prepared by the Secretariat, under the guidance of the Committee.³¹

The Panel of Experts will conduct a final review of the project proposals to ensure that the recommendations made during the screening have been taken it account in the development of project proposals and make suggestions for further improvement of project proposals, if needed. The Secretary will provide regular updates to the Committee on the finalization of project proposals ³²

The MEL framework will be further developed under the guidance of the Funding Committee and will link outcomes and outputs within the storyline and Theory of Change of the Benefit-sharing Fund with clear targets and indicators established to enable the monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes. The MEL framework will include but not be limited to the following targets:

- a. PGRFA re-introduced, conserved, disseminated or bred with farmers' participation;
- b. Farmers supported to sustainably use and conserve PGRFA;
- c. Young scientists and researchers supported;
- d. Co-funding mobilized to support Treaty implementation through BSF interventions;
- e. Plans and policies strengthened or developed to support national Treaty implementation;
- f. Gender mainstreaming and inclusion of vulnerable groups. ³³

The evaluation team is led by independent experts not otherwise involved with projects of the Benefitsharing Fund. An Approach Paper and Terms of Reference for evaluation are prepared by the Secretary and the FAO Evaluation Office, in consultation with the Standing Funding Committee. The evaluation team is solely responsible for the independent evaluation report. The evaluation report shall contain findings and recommendations and will be made public through the website. The response to the evaluation report will also be made available through the website. ³⁴

Learning

- i. enabled within and between projects and programmes and the external environment;
- ii. lessons learned and continuous learning are regularly provided to all Regions so to increase commitment to the Fund;
- iii. should occur on a continuous basis so that knowledge and lessons can be applied and facilitated through a community of practice of enabling partners.
- iv. responsibility: the executing entities and the Secretariat, and the wider dissemination of synthesis of lessons learned by National Focal Points, donors, the Funding Committee and others enabling partners;
- v. should inform the regular review of the Funding Strategy.³⁵

³⁰ Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section III, paragraph 31 d

³¹ Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section III, paragraph 34 a

³² Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section III, paragraph 34 f

³³ Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section III, paragraph 41

³⁴ Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section IV, paragraph 42, i, vi

³⁵ Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section IV, paragraph 42, j

Focus Area 3: Monitoring and Review

Recognizing its critical role to the Treaty, the Funding Strategy has been designed to be regularly reviewed. It now integrates a process for monitoring, evaluating and learning and for structuring new funding opportunities and identifying and filling in gaps. The Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee) established by the Governing Body will facilitate such processes³⁶

(The Governing Body) Calls on the Funding Committee to strengthen the monitoring and reporting of the Funding Strategy, including by undertaking periodic overviews of finance flows to areas of Treaty implementation by combining existing tools, as well as those of Governing Body and other institutions such as the OECD and FAO, as well as expert input;³⁷

The Funding Committee established by the Governing Body will regularly monitor and review progress of the Funding Strategy's implementation and make recommendations for adjustments, as reflected in its Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference may be revised according the cycles of Funding Strategy. The Committee will keep the Governing Body updated on a regular basis on the progress in the implementation of the Funding Strategy. It will provide a comprehensive review of the Funding Strategy after a 5-year period for the consideration of the Governing Body at its subsequent session.³⁸

Information related to the implementation, monitoring and review of the overall Funding Strategy will be provided by Contracting Parties and other relevant organizations at reporting intervals agreed to by the Committee. The Funding Committee will work in collaboration with the Compliance Committee so as to agree the best way to integrate information in existing reporting formats.³⁹

The Funding Committee will assist the Governing Body in exercising its functions with respect to the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty through activities such as:

- a. Making recommendations on how to improve the coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of the Funding $Strategy^{40}$
- b. Providing to the Governing Body draft guidance for the implementation of the Funding Strategy, taking into account the reports on the Funding Strategy and other reports, as well as submissions from Contracting Parties and minimizing extra reporting burdens to Contracting Parties⁴¹
- e. Monitoring and reviewing the implementation of non-monetary benefit-sharing measures, with a view to recommending any additional measures as appropriate, using a methodology agreed by the Committee⁴²
- f. Providing expert input, including through independent reviews and assessments on the implementation of the Funding Strategy⁴³
- g. Preparing periodic overviews of finance flows to areas of Treaty implementation, including information on the sources and thematic balance of such flows, and use of the different funding tools, inter alia by continuing to develop the provisionally populated Matrix as contained in the Appendix to these Terms of Reference⁴⁴
- k. Considering options on how to address data gaps in order to revise assumptions and refine estimates, as necessary, to obtain an achievable target for the overall Funding Strategy⁴⁵

³⁶ Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 13

³⁷ Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 j

³⁸ Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 42

³⁹ Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 43

⁴⁰ Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph a

⁴¹ Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph b

⁴² Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph e

⁴³ Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph f

 $^{^{\}rm 44}$ Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph g

⁴⁵ Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph k

Focus Area 3: Monitoring and Review

The targets of the Funding Strategy and Benefit-sharing Fund will be reviewed periodically. This will include monitoring progress towards targets, reviewing the targets themselves and identifying gaps, including by undertaking overviews of finance flows to areas of Treaty implementation by combining existing tools of the Governing Body and other institutions such as the OECD and FAO, as well as expert input. 46

-

⁴⁶ Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 44b