





Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة

# COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

# **Item 14 of the Provisional Agenda**

# **Seventeenth Regular Session**

**Rome, 18–22 February 2019** 

# REPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. This report has been prepared by the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty) inform the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the recent developments under the International Treaty of relevance to the Commission. A first version of this document, which has been updated, was provided to the Commission's Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

- 2. This information document is structured into two main sections. The first illustrates the major outcomes arising from the Seventh Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty, which was held in Kigali, Rwanda, in 2017. At its Seventh Session, the Governing Body adopted Resolution 11/2017, Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and requested its Secretary to continue strengthening collaboration and coordination with the Secretary of the Commission "to promote coherence in the development and implementation of the respective programmes of work of the two bodies". \( \)
- 3. The second section provides an update on the recent progress made in the implementation of the main areas of work of the International Treaty of relevance to the work of the Commission.
- 4. Finally, the document also provides information on the intersessional processes and committees set up by the Governing Body, of which calendar is attached in the *Appendix*.

#### II. MAJOR OUTCOMES OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

- 5. In adopting Resolution 11/2017, the Governing Body indicated various areas for collaboration and coordination, in particular with regard to:
  - the preparation of the Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the consideration of the Third Global Plan of Action for PGRFA;
  - the monitoring and implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for PGRFA, including further work on draft voluntary guidelines on farmers' varieties/landraces and global networking on in situ conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA;
  - access and benefit-sharing;
  - the Global Information System of the International Treaty and FAO WIEWS; and
  - global targets and indicators related to PGRFA.
- 6. By the same Resolution, the Governing Body also welcomed the Voluntary Guidelines for national level conservation of crop wild relatives and wild food plants and invited its Contracting Parties to implement them, as appropriate. The Secretariat of the International Treaty has issued a Circular State Letter bringing to the attention of Contracting Parties the major outcomes and follow-ups of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty.<sup>2</sup>

#### A. Enhancement of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing

- 7. The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (Multilateral System) is a key global mechanism of the International Treaty to ensure food security and sustainable agriculture around the world.<sup>3</sup>
- 8. The Governing Body of the International Treaty decided to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System in 2013, including to improve user-based income and contributions to the Benefit-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Resolution 11/2017, Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, available online at http://www.fao.org/3/a-mv090e.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Letter C/CBD-806 of 22 February 2018, available at http://www.fao.org/3/I8836EN/i8836en.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> At its Seventh Session, through Resolution 11/2017 on the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty, the Governing Body welcomed the invitation of the Commission to exchange information at regular intervals on the process of enhancing the Multilateral System with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts.

sharing Fund. At its Seventh Session, it extended the mandate of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group to enhance functioning of the Multilateral System (Working Group).

- 9. Resolution 2/2017 provides the Terms of Reference for the Working Group during this biennium, with a focus to:
  - finalize the revised Standard Material Agreement;
  - elaborate criteria and options for possible adaptation of the coverage of the Multilateral System; and,
  - develop a proposal for a Growth Plan to attain the enhanced Multilateral System.

#### **User-based payments**

The Treaty's Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing was designed so that those benefitting from the use of seed or other genetic material available through the Multilateral System also share some of those benefits with farmers in developing countries through the Benefit-sharing Fund. Such payments, derived from the use of crop genetic resources, are critical in order for the system to continue working effectively.

In June 2018, the Benefit-sharing Fund of the Treaty received the first user-based payment on income derived from the use of material from the Multilateral System. The seed company Nunhems Netherlands which specializes in vegetable varieties, paid USD 119 083 to the Benefit-sharing Fund, equalling 0.77% of seed sales of ten varieties of vegetables commercialized using germplasm made available through the Multilateral System. This is not a one-off payment as the benefit-sharing provisions of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement used to access germplasm specify that payments continue as long as varieties are commercialized, under the same terms and conditions.

http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/news/news-detail/en/c/1143273/

10. There are several inputs arising from the previous biennium and referred to in the Resolution that the Working Group will have available and can take into account to make progress in its work, including:

#### **Revised SMTA**

- The draft revised Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA): proposal by the Working Group provided in Annex 2 of the Report of the Ad-Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System (IT/GB-7/17/7), and which would form the basis for further negotiations as specified in paragraph 4.b of Resolution 2/2017.
- The Co-Chairs summary arising from Seventh Session of the Governing Body (Annex 2, Resolution 2/2017) that focuses on the discussions held on the revised SMTA and that identifies 5 blocks of issues that require further work: mechanisms for access to PGRFA from the Multilateral System, withdrawal and termination, formulation of benefit-sharing in particular within the Subscription System, enforceability and digital sequence information in relation to the SMTA.
- The Co-Chairs proposed consolidated text for the revised SMTA that is also contained in Annex 2 of Resolution 2/2017 and which provides a useful source of information for further discussions on the revised SMTA.
- Previous information and submissions on the revised SMTA made by Contracting Parties and the stakeholder Groups during the biennium 2016/2017, including the Declaration of

Commitment by seed companies.

#### **Coverage of the Multilateral System**

• Proposals presented at the Seventh Session of the Governing Body for the possible adaptation of the coverage of the Multilateral System, including the proposal by the Government of Switzerland for an amendment of Annex I of the International Treaty.

#### **Growth Plan**

- The text prepared by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group during the last biennium is contained in Annex 1 of Resolution 2/2017.
- 11. The Co-Chairs of the Working Group would like to work in an efficient and forward-looking manner during the 2018/2019 biennium, and involve the adequate levels of decision-making, so that the Governing Body, at its Eight Session, adopts the necessary measures to enhance benefit-sharing and expand access through the Multilateral System.
- 12. The eight meeting of the Working Group took place from 10 to 12 October 2018. The report of this meeting is available in the Treaty's webpage: http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/it/c/1099126/
- 13. The ninth meeting of the Working Group will take place from 17 to 21 June 2019.

#### **B.** The Funding Strategy

- 14. The Governing Body is updating the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty with a view to adopt a dynamic and synergistic programmatic approach that will:
  - Improve funding opportunities for the implementation of the International Treaty by making the case to national decision-makers and development agencies of the importance of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) as well as the interlinkages with other development issues, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2, 13 and 15, whilst recognising that it is important to secure stable financial resources under direct control of the Governing Body.
  - Strengthen linkages between different funding sources and partners relevant to the International Treaty, by pursuing collaborative planning and co-spending opportunities and identifying appropriate channels to make such linkages.
  - Provide for a process for monitoring, evaluating and learning from lessons, experiences and information gained in previous implementation phases, and to structure new funding opportunities and identify and fill in gaps, including through the engagement of International Treaty stakeholders.
- 15. At its Seventh Session, the Governing Body decided to reconvene the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (*Ad Hoc* Committee), with a revised mandate, in order to, *inter alia*: develop the updated Funding Strategy and related Annexes which will include targets for the overall Funding Strategy and for the Benefit-sharing Fund and measures to improve resource mobilization and cooperation with other international organizations in order to leverage funding and enhance synergies in the Treaty implementation.
- 16. The tenth meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Committee took place from 5 to 7 September 2018. The report of this meeting is available in the Treaty's webpage: http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/it/c/1099125/
- 17. The eleventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee will take place from 7 to 10 May 2019.

#### C. The Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources

18. During the last biennium, the International Treaty Secretariat has advanced on the implementation of the Programme of Work for the Global Information System of the International Treaty with the advice of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Article 17 and the guidance of the Governing Body.

- 19. At its Seventh Session in 2017, the Governing Body welcomed the voluntary use of the Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) and the publication of the Descriptors<sup>4</sup> and the Digital Object Identifiers Guidelines (DOI Guidelines).<sup>5</sup> It further requested the Secretary to intensify efforts to use the DOI system as a central element of GLIS, linking existing information systems.
- 20. Since the operationalization of DOIs, the Secretariat has organized two regional training workshops on plant genetic resources documentation, in the Southern Africa sub-Region and the Near East and North Africa Region. The training and the assistance targeted genebank managers, researchers and plant genetic resources holders to increase their understanding and facilitate the use of DOIs to link existing datasets across existing information systems. The participants also received information on the relevant reporting and information processes of the Commission. In collaboration with several partner organizations, networks and projects, the Treaty Secretariat has been reaching out to plant breeders, genebank managers and researchers in Europe, Latin America and Asia.
- 21. The Secretariat of the International Treaty launched the first module of the web-based portal in September 2017. This module allows for the assignation of DOIs to plant genetic resources. This function helps to make material more visible and accessible to the public or collaborators in a format can be resolved by humans as well as computers. It enables information on the material to be harvested by robots searching publications and online data that refer to PGRFA by their DOI and thus facilitates pointing to websites and information systems where detailed information is maintained.
- 22. The Governing Body also requested the Secretariat to collaborate with other systems, including WIEWS and other information systems maintained by FAO and other Treaty Secretariats. At the Seventh Session of the Governing Body, the Secretariat of the International Treaty together with the Secretariat of the Commission and the Plant Production and Protection Division of FAO, presented an analysis of the relevance and inter-relationships of their information systems to each other. In particular, the paper analysed the relevance of International Treaty's information systems to support the monitoring of the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the preparation of the Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
- 23. At its Seventh Session, the Governing Body also discussed and adopted a resolution on the contribution of the International Treaty to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this context, it requested its Secretary to continue making available information provided by Contracting Parties and others to be used in the monitoring process on the achievement of SDG Target 15.6, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In April 2018, information collected by the International Treaty was made available online by FAO on its website, with illustrative maps. The Secretariat also published online, a map displaying the number of SMTAs reported in 2018. The data is used in the monitoring of indicator 15.6.1 "Number of Countries that have adopted legislative, administrative policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits".

<sup>7</sup> https://public.tableau.com/profile/fao.sdg#!/vizhome/FAO-SDG-15\_6\_1SMTAStoryWIP/SDG15\_6\_1SMTA

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/global-information-system/descriptors/en/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/global-information-system/guidelines/en/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> IT/GB-7/17/Inf.17, available at http://www.fao.org/3/a-bs798e.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> It will be updated online once per year in conjunction with an annual reporting coordinated by the United Nations Statistical Division under the global indicator framework. For the latest data on the International Treaty, please visit its website. The interactive map is available at http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/frameworks-for-sharing-of-genetic-resources-benefits/la/

24. The Governing Body also took into consideration the relevance of the information reported by the national focal points on the implementation of the International Treaty and made available to facilitate the monitoring of implementation.<sup>9</sup>

# Capacity building for national reporting in PGRFA

Up to 31 December 2018, there are 42 reports published online. During the last quarter of 2018, the Treaty Secretariat organized three regional capacity-building workshops in Africa, Latin America and Asia with financial support from the Government of Germany. In total, 82 national focal points and other government officials attended the workshops for the improvement of their national reporting. At the same workshops, in collaboration with the Plant Production Division of FAO, the participants also received presentations and information on the Monitoring for the Second GPA.

- 25. The Governing Body also considered the issue of Digital Sequence Information, in relation to the enhancement of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing and in the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty (MYPOW). It decided to expand the mandate of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Article 17 "to consider scientific and technical issues of relevance to genetic sequence information, as far as it is generated from the use of PGRFA and related to the implementation of GLIS".
- 26. In the context of the development of its MYPOW, the Governing Body invited Contracting Parties, other governments, relevant stakeholders and individuals with relevant expertise on the matter to provide information to the Governing Body on, inter alia, terminology used in this area, actors involved with "digital sequence information" on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), the types and extent of uses of "digital sequence information" on PGRFA. It also invited information on the relevance of "digital sequence information" on PGRFA to food security and nutrition. <sup>10</sup>

### D. Farmers' Rights

- 27. By Article 9 of the International Treaty, "Contracting Parties recognize the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world, particularly those in the centres of origin and crop diversity, have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources which constitute the basis of food and agriculture production throughout the world".
- 28. At its Seventh Session, the Governing Body of the International Treaty, through Resolution 7/2017,<sup>11</sup> decided to establish an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Farmers' Rights to:
  - i. produce an inventory of national measures that may be adopted, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty; and
  - ii. based on the inventory, develop options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty.
- 29. The first meeting of the AHTEG was held at FAO headquarters from 11 to 14 September 2018. The Expert Group considered possible structure of the inventory based on a number of proposals made by members, agreed to utilize a template 13 for the purpose of collecting and collating

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The reports are available at: http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/compliance/compliance-reports/en/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Resolution 13/2017, available at http://www.fao.org/3/I8836EN/i8836en.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Resolution 7/2017. Implementation of Article 9, Farmers' Rights, available in six languages at: <a href="http://www.fao.org/3/a-mv102e.pdf">http://www.fao.org/3/a-mv102e.pdf</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Report of the First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert group on Farmers' Rights: http://www.fao.org/3/CA1508EN/ca1508en.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Template for submission of examples on Farmers' Rights: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\_upload/faoweb/plant-treaty/farmers-rights/FRs\_template\_en.pdf

examples of best practices and measures of implementing Farmers' Rights. The second meeting of the AHTEG will take place from 20 to 23 May 2019, and will focus on the Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the Treaty.

#### E. Implementation of Article 6, Sustainable Use of PGRFA

- 30. The Secretariat of the International Treaty has advanced on the implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of PGRFA and Supporting Initiatives 2016-2019 (Programme of Work). Through Resolution 6/2017, the Governing Body of the International Treaty decided to reconvene the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ACSU), <sup>14</sup> and requested the Secretary to cooperate with the Commission in supporting the Voluntary Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Crop Wild Relatives and Wild Food Plants and the finalization of the draft voluntary technical guidelines for farmers' varieties/landraces, and in promoting global networking on in situ conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA, global targets and indicators, and in the preparation of the Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
- 31. Two information documents have been finalized by the Secretariats of the Commission and the International Treaty and will be presented to the Commission at this Session, for its information. <sup>15</sup> They contain proposals to co-organize two International Symposia on: (i) In Situ Conservation of Crop Wild Relatives and Wild Food Plants, and (ii) On-farm management of Farmers' varieties/landraces.
- 32. Through Resolution 6/2017, the Governing Body of the Treaty requested its Secretary to explore the possibility of establishing a Joint Programme on biodiversity in agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA involving relevant international organizations and other stakeholders, with a view to enhancing the mission and goals of the Programme of Work beyond 2019 through the establishment of a long-term programme, 2020-2030, for consideration by the Governing Body at its Eighth Session.
- 33. An Informal meeting of experts on the implementation of the sustainable use of PGRFA and the Joint Programme on biodiversity in agriculture was organized in Bari, Italy, from 23 to 25 May 2018 at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM) with the participation of the secretariat of the Commission. <sup>16</sup> The Secretariat of the International Treaty has undertaken further consultations on the possibility of establishing a Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, to reach out more stakeholders, including through an online survey. <sup>17</sup>

#### III. RECENT PROGRESS AND UPDATES

34. The Secretary of the International Treaty has continued to support the daily operations of the **Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing**. As of 31 December 2018, the Data Store of the Treaty contained approximately 68 000 reported SMTAs, used for the transfer of more than 4.6 million samples. From the aggregated records, more than 6 198 distinct recipients have already

English: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/su\_consultation

French: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/su\_consultation\_fr

Spanish: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/su\_consultation\_es

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Resolution 6/2017. Implementation of Article 6, Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: http://www.fao.org/3/a-mv086e.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> CGRFA-17/19/9.2/Inf.3, Proposal for an international symposium on on-farm management of Farmers' Varieties/Landraces and CGRFA-17/19/9.2/Inf.4, Proposal for an International Symposium on In Situ Conservation of Crop Wild Relatives and Wild Food Plants

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Proceedings of the Informal meeting can be downloaded at the following link: http://www.fao.org/3/CA2208EN/ca2208en.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Online survey on exploring the possibility of establishing a Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

received material from the Multilateral System since 2007. The major crops exchanged are wheat, rice, barley, maize, chickpea and lentil, altogether totalling more than 3.8 million PGRFA.

- 35. **The Benefit-sharing Fund** has also progressed in its operations during the last biennium. The Fund has been active in 45 countries, and so far:
  - 1,000,000 people have benefited from funded activities directly or indirectly, half of whom are women;
  - 29,000 people trained in the conservation, management and use of plant genetic diversity;
  - 8,000 key food crop varieties characterized for valuable traits & climate adaptation;
  - 3,000 accessions made available in the MLS;
  - 300 partners engaged globally including governments, research institutions, NGOs and grassroots organizations.
- 36. The Fourth Call for proposals under the Benefit-sharing Fund was launched late in 2017, with more than 5.5 million USD, so far, including a royalty payment and a number of voluntary contributions from the private sector.
- 37. The partners selected by the Bureau will participate in a programme that is aimed at:
  - Ensuring farmers adapt to climate change through use of crop biodiversity;
  - Incorporate crop biodiversity in national planning for climate change and other development areas.
- 38. Regarding the **Global Information System** of the Treaty (GLIS), as of 31 December 2018, more than 828,000 materials had been made visible through the System, of which 755,000 were available in the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing.
- 39. The Third meeting of the Scientific Advisory on the Global Information System met on 21 and 22 June 2018 and adopted the "masterplan" for the further development of the GLIS Portal. <sup>18</sup> In its final report, the Committee recalled that the Vision for GLIS is that it integrates and augments existing information systems and builds upon the work of existing networks, projects and initiatives, and advised the Secretary of the International Treaty to continue the collaboration with the World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS). <sup>19</sup>
- 40. Furthermore, the Committee advised the Secretary to complete the connection with WIEWS in due time and underlined the value of the on-farm information contained in WIEWS, and to jointly assess possible overlaps with data available in other systems. The Secretary has discussed with FAO colleagues on possible ways in which the connection could be done.
- 41. Regarding **digital sequence information** (DSI) or **genetic sequence data** (GSD),<sup>20</sup> the Committee advised the Secretariat to gather more information from GLIS users, including CGIAR Centres and other institutions managing crop germplasm repositories, on the current application of DOIs to crop germplasm in the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing for which DSI/GSD is available in GLIS compatible information systems.
- 42. During this period the Secretary of the International Treaty has continued to implement the programme of work in collaboration with a wide range of organizations and stakeholders. It has signed a new memorandum of cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and it has continued the collaboration with the Global Crop Diversity Trust (GCDT), and the Consultative Group

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> The Module of the GLIS Portal is available at https://ssl.fao.org/glis/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> The Report of the Committee (IT/SAC-GLIS-3/18/Report) is available at http://www.fao.org/3/CA0526EN/ca0526en.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> The Committee used the term "digital sequence information" (DSI) interchangeably with "genetic sequence data" (GSD), without any prejudice to the possible definition of terminology by the Governing Body.

on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

43. These activities will be reported to the Eight Session of the Governing Body, which will be held in Rome from 11 to 16 November 2019 and preceded by regional and inter-regional consultations.

# **APPENDIX**

# LIST OF MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY<sup>21</sup>

JANUARY	
3rd meeting of the Compliance Committee	31 Jan – 1 Feb Rome
MARCH	
2nd meeting of the Bureau of the Eight Session of the Governing Body	21-22 March Rome
Informal Consultation by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on the Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System	25-27 March Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
APRIL	
(tentative) Informal Consultation by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on the Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System	29-30 April Spain (tbc)
MAY	
11th meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization	7-10 May Rome
2nd meeting of the Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights	20-23 May Rome
JUNE	
9th meeting of the Ad-Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing (OWG-EFMLS-9)	17-21 June Rome
NOVEMBER	
8th Session of the Governing Body	9-16 Nov Rome

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> The updated list additional information is available online at http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/en/