



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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Item 16 of the Provisional Agenda

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Rome, 11 – 16 November 2019

Draft Multi-Year Programme of Work

Executive Summary

This document contains the draft Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Governing Body 2018 – 2027, developed by the Bureau of the Eighth Session, for consideration by the Governing Body.

Guidance Sought

The Governing Body is invited to consider this document and adopt the Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Governing Body 2018 – 2027

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;
an FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications.
Other documents can be consulted at <https://www.planttreaty.org>*



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INTRODUCTION

1. At its Seventh Session, the Governing Body adopted Resolution 13/2017, *Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Governing Body of the International Treaty*,¹ providing guidance regarding the development of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for the Governing Body:

Recalling Resolution 13/2015;

Noting that one of the primary objectives of the Multi-Year Programme of Work is to better structure the International Treaty's work programme, particularly the work to be done during the inter-sessional periods;

Noting that other FAO bodies have adopted multi-year programmes of work to schedule in-depth reviews of relevant programmes and mechanisms;

1. **Requests** the Bureau to develop, with the support of the Secretary and inputs from Contracting Parties, the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for the Governing Body for its consideration at the Eighth Session;
 2. **Decides** to consider at its Eighth Session the potential implications of the use of "digital sequence information" on genetic resources for the objectives of the International Treaty, and to consider it for inclusion in the MYPoW at that meeting;
2. The Bureau of the Eighth Session reviewed and discussed the structure of MYPoW and the necessary elements, such as outputs and milestones for each Session, including through regional consultations, and developed a draft MYPoW, as contained in the Annex to this document.

PRINCIPLES AND STRUCTURE

3. The Bureau agreed that the purpose of the MYPoW is to plan and structure implementation of the International Treaty and the work of the Governing Body in a coherent and integrated manner and to highlight the expected major outputs of the respective Sessions of the Governing Body. It also agreed that the MYPoW is a useful programming tool and should be considered a living document that would be reviewed and updated, as needed, at each Session of the Governing Body, to address evolving needs, as necessary. This is reflected in the chapeau of the MYPoW table.
4. In scheduling the major outputs and milestones for future Sessions of the Governing Body, in addition to the resolutions and decisions made by the Governing Body, the work programmes of relevant international bodies and processes were also taken into account, as they may require inputs from the International Treaty. This would facilitate appropriate consideration and timely decision-making by the Governing Body, thereby promoting synergies, better cooperation and coordination of activities with partner institutions.
5. The Bureau also decided not to include themes as part of the MYPoW, while a theme for each Session of the Governing Body may be considered separately, as it could be a useful means to emphasize the importance of the International Treaty in the context of relevant global policy discussions.
6. By Resolution 13/2017, the Governing Body decided "to consider, at its Eighth Session, the potential implications of the use of "digital sequence information" on genetic resources for the objectives of the International Treaty, and to consider it for inclusion in the MYPoW at that meeting". It also 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

¹ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mv176e.pdf>

plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), the types and extent of uses of ‘digital sequence information’ on PGRFA”.

7. The Governing Body further requested the Secretary “to compile the views received and make them available to Contracting Parties to inform discussions on this topic at the Eight Session of the Governing Body”. Accordingly, the views received are contained in the document, IT/GB-8/19/16.1/Inf.1, *Compilation of information as called for in Resolution 13/2017 on “digital sequence information” with respect to PGRFA*.

GUIDANCE SOUGHT

8. The Governing Body is invited to consider this document and adopt the Multi-Year Programme of Work 2018 – 2027, as contained in the *Annex 1* to this document. In this context, elements for a possible Resolution are provided in *Annex 2*, for the consideration of the Governing Body.

Annex 1

DRAFT MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

2018 – 2027

MAJOR OUTPUTS AND MILESTONES

The main function of the Governing Body is to promote the full implementation of the International Treaty, keeping in view of its objectives. The purpose of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) is to plan and structure the work of the Governing Body in a coherent and integrated manner to advance the implementation of the International Treaty, highlighting key issues for consideration and the expected major outputs and milestones to be achieved at the respective sessions of the Governing Body. The MYPoW will be reviewed and updated at each session, as needed, based on the decisions of the Governing Body.

	8 th Session (2019)	9 th Session (2021)	10 th Session (2023)	11 th Session (2025)	12 th Session (2027)
Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA (Art 5&6)	Consideration of a Joint Programme on biodiversity in agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA 2020-2030 Consideration of future work and partnerships for the update and development of the Global Crop Conservation Strategies	Review the decisions taken at the Eighth Session			
Farmers' Rights (Art 9)	Review of the Report of the AHTEG on FR	Review of the decisions taken at the Eighth Session on Article 9 Review options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights			
Multilateral System (Art 10-13)	Consideration of the package of enhancement measures Review of the report on availability of material	Presentation of Global Report on Germplasm Flow Review of the implementation of the decisions of the Governing Body on the	Presentation of a report on availability of material	Presentation of Global Report on Germplasm Flow Assessment of effectiveness of	

		enhancement process Review report of the 4 th project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund		enhancement measures	
Global Information System (Art 17)	Midterm-Review of the Programme of Work on the Global Information System (2016-2022)	Review of the Programme of Work on the Global Information System (2016-2022)	Consideration of Programme of Work on the Global Information System (2023-xxxx)	Report on the implementation of the PoW on GLIS	
Funding Strategy (Art 18)	Updated Funding Strategy Provision of elements of advice on GEF 8 following the invitation of CBD COP			Review of the Funding Strategy	
Compliance (Art 21) & National Reporting	Review foreseen in Section X of the Compliance Procedures	Presentation of Outlook Report on the Implementation of the International Treaty on PGRFA	Review of the analysis of 2nd national reports		
Other Items	Consideration of potential implications of the use of “digital sequence information” on genetic resources for the objectives of the International Treaty, and consideration of a potential inclusion in the MYPoW Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020/Contribution to Post -2020 Biodiversity Framework Coordination of work with CGRFA	Stock taking of SDG Goals 2 & 15 related to PGRFA Contribution to Third State of the World’s PGRFA Consideration of inputs for the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework	Presentation of Third State of the World’s PGRFA		

Annex 2

DRAFT ELEMENTS FOR RESOLUTION **/2019

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling Resolution 13/2017;

Noting that the purpose of the Multi-Year of Programme of Work (MYPOW) is to plan and structure the implementation of the International Treaty and the work of the Governing Body in a coherent and integrated manner, and to highlight the expected major outputs and milestones to be achieved of the respective Sessions of the Governing Body;

Thanks the Bureau and the Secretary for preparing the draft Multi Year Programme of Work and those Contracting Parties that provided inputs in the process of its preparation;

Adopts the Multi-Year of Programme of Work as contained in *Annex 1* to this Resolution;

Decides to review the Multi-Year of Programme of Work at each Session of the Governing Body and update it, to address evolving needs, as necessary;

Thanks those Contracting Parties, other governments, relevant stakeholders and individuals that provided information on, *inter alia*, terminology used in this area, actors involved with “digital sequence information” on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

Requests the Secretary to continue following the discussions on genetic sequence information in other fora, and to continue coordinating with the Secretariats of the CBD and the CGRFA in any related activities in order to ensure coherence and avoid duplication of efforts;

Requests the Secretary to inform the Governing Body at its Ninth Session of the state of discussions and outcomes of the related processes in the CBD and in the CGRFA as they relate to the potential implications of the use of "digital sequence information" on genetic resources for the objectives of the International Treaty;

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