



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



The International Treaty
**ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

Item 16.2 of the Provisional Agenda

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Rome, 11 – 16 November 2019

Reference Note on Subsidiary Bodies and Intersessional Processes

Executive Summary

This document provides information on the subsidiary bodies and intersessional processes, established or instituted by the Governing Body since its First Session in year 2006. The document reviews the general provisions on subsidiary bodies of the Governing Body and the Rules of Procedures of the Governing Body, as well as other relevant provisions establishing permanent or standing subsidiary bodies. The document contains a list of subsidiary bodies for the intersessional processes leading to this Eighth Session of the Governing Body as well as the historical inventory of subsidiary bodies. Following the analysis of the information contained in this document, potential elements for the possible review of subsidiary bodies by the Governing Body are suggested.

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;
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Other documents can be consulted at [http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-
detail/en/c/1111365/](http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/1111365/)*



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Table of Contents

	Paragraphs
I. INTRODUCTION	1 – 3
II. RELEVANT GENERAL PROVISIONS	4 – 5
III. PROVISIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE SUBSIDIARY BODIES	6 – 9
IV. SUBSIDIARY BODIES IN THE CURRENT INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD AND HISTORICAL INVENTORY OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES	10 – 11
V. OBSERVATIONS.....	12 – 38
A. Terminology.....	13 – 18
B. Mandates and Functions.....	19 – 27
C. Composition	28 – 35
D. Supporting Processes	36 – 38
VI. ELEMENTS OF A POSSIBLE REVIEW	39 – 42
Appendix 1	– 1
Appendix 2	– 1
.....	– 1
.....	– 1

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its first meeting, the Bureau of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body requested the Secretary to prepare an information note on subsidiary bodies and intersessional processes of the Governing Body for the initial consideration of the Bureau, providing information on the functions, terms of reference and structure of the current bodies, as well as possible options available to the Governing Body, including a list of terms, when establishing such bodies.
2. At its second meeting, the Bureau considered the information note that the Secretary prepared and, in noting its usefulness as a reference document, requested the Secretary to update and provide it as an information document to this Eighth Session of the Governing Body.
3. The document reviews the general provisions on subsidiary bodies of the Governing Body and the Rules of Procedures of the Governing Body, as well as the provisions establishing three permanent or standing subsidiary bodies, respectively in Article 19.11 of the International Treaty, the Compliance Procedures and the Operational Procedures of the Benefit-sharing Fund. The list of subsidiary bodies for the intersessional processes leading to this Eighth Session of the Governing Body as well as the historical inventory of subsidiary bodies since the First Session of the Governing Body are also provided in *Appendices 1 and 2*, respectively. Based on the review of the above information, a number of observations are made, regarding: terminology; mandates and functions; composition; and supporting processes. Potential elements for the possible review of subsidiary bodies are also suggested for the consideration of the Governing Body.

II. RELEVANT GENERAL PROVISIONS

4. According to Article 19.3, paragraph g) of the International Treaty, one of the functions of the Governing Body is to

Consider and establish subject to the availability of necessary fund such subsidiary bodies as may be necessary, and their respective mandate and composition.

5. The Governing Body adopted its Rules of Procedures in 2006.¹ Rule IX reads as follows:

9.1 The Governing Body may establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the accomplishment of its functions. The establishment of subsidiary bodies shall be subject to the availability of the necessary funds in the approved budget of the Treaty. When the related expenses are to be borne by the FAO, the determination of such availability shall be made by the Director-General of the FAO. Before taking any decision involving expenditure in connection with the establishment of subsidiary bodies, the Governing Body shall have before it a report from the Secretary or the Director-General of the FAO, as appropriate, on the administrative and financial implications thereof.

9.2 The membership, terms of reference and procedures of the subsidiary bodies shall be determined by the Governing Body.

9.3 Each subsidiary body shall elect its own Bureau, unless appointed by the Governing Body.

III. PROVISIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE SUBSIDIARY BODIES

6. Article 19.11 of the International Treaty provides that:

¹Appendix D, document IT/GB-1/06/Report, available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-be210e.pdf>

The Governing Body shall elect its Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons (collectively referred to as “the Bureau”), in conformity with its Rules of Procedure.

7. As far as the Bureau can be considered as a subsidiary body, the provisions of the Rule of Procedures are relevant. According to Rule 2.2, the Bureau is to

Provide guidance to the Secretary with regard to the preparations for, and conduct of, sessions of the Governing Body.

8. The Procedures and Operational Mechanism to Promote Compliance and Address Issues of Non-Compliance, which the Governing Body approved at its Fourth Session, provide for functions of The Compliance Committee.² The Governing Body established The Compliance Committee at its First Session. With the subsequent approval of The Compliance Procedures, the Committee started operating as a permanent subsidiary body, with its own Rules of Procedure.

9. The Operational Procedures for the Use of Resources under the Direct Control of the Governing Body established an Independent Panel of Experts, tasked with the screening and appraisal of project pre-proposals received for each Call for Proposals under the Benefit-Sharing Fund.³

IV. SUBSIDIARY BODIES IN THE CURRENT INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD AND HISTORICAL INVENTORY OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

10. The table in *Appendix 1* provides the list of the subsidiary bodies that the Governing Body established or reconvened at the Seventh Session for the biennium 2018-19. The content is organized on the basis of Resolutions of the Governing Body, and the respective terms of reference of the subsidiary bodies, including the Bureau of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body.

11. The complete list of subsidiary bodies established by the Governing Body since its First Session in 2006 and the respective meetings held, is contained in *Appendix 2*.

V. OBSERVATIONS

12. The observations presented in this section are made without prejudice to any further consideration by the Governing Body.

A. Terminology

13. Neither the Treaty nor the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Body specify the nature, nomenclature or categories of subsidiary bodies that the Governing Body may establish, or the terminologies that may be used to describe them. Apart from the identified permanent or standing subsidiary bodies, the prevalent approach by the Governing Body has been the establishment of *ad hoc* bodies with specific mandate and terms of reference. These are reviewed, and often reconvened, from Session to Session. The typical generic format for the establishment of a subsidiary body in Governing Body Resolutions, is through the term, “Committee”, with two deviations, one for the “Expert Group” on Farmers’ Rights, and another for the “Working Group” on the enhancement of the functioning of the Multilateral System.

14. In addition to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies, various expert or small group meetings have been requested by the Governing Body, by the subsidiary bodies or by the Secretariat to assist with or orientate the work of subsidiary bodies from time to time, under different formats using such

² See section III of the Compliance Procedures, available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-be452e.pdf>

³ See Annex 1 of Resolution 2/2013, available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-be595e.pdf>

terms as “consultation”,⁴ “informal expert meeting”,⁵ “expert meeting”,⁶ “Friends of the Co-Chairs groups”,⁷ “standing group of legal experts”.⁸

15. The term “*ad hoc*” has been adopted to signify that the body is not a standing, statutory committee and operates for one inter-sessional period according to a specific mandate assigned to it by the Governing Body. Despite the *ad hoc* nature, certain committees have been reconvened repeatedly (e.g. the committee dealing with Sustainable Use) and one has held meetings in all biennia except for one (i.e. the committee dealing with the Funding Strategy).

16. The terms “Advisory” or “Technical” have been used interchangeably or jointly, to signify that the body would report to or advise the Governing Body directly or through the Secretary, but not take any decisions on behalf of the Governing Body. By looking at the mandates (see paragraphs 19–27 below), the two terms do not seem to be related to the types of inputs and outputs, e.g. technical vs. advisory on strategic or policy aspects.

17. The term “open-ended” has been adopted only once to indicate that participation is open to representatives of all Contracting Parties, either as members – with a maximum number of representatives per region – or as observers. This is the case of the Working Group on the Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System.

18. The term “standing” is being used for the proposed permanent committee on the funding strategy and resource mobilization, the establishment of which the Governing Body will consider at this Session (see paragraph 23 below).

B. Mandates and Functions

19. The mandates of the various subsidiary bodies have mostly been established by the Governing Body in the respective Resolutions, in line with the *ad hoc* nature of those bodies. The mandates of the two permanent subsidiary bodies established so far, i.e. The Compliance Committee and The Independent Panel of Experts, are contained in the respective procedures. However, it is to be noted that the Compliance Committee received additional, *ad hoc* tasks from the Governing Body in one Resolution, for the inter-sessional period leading to this Eighth Session.⁹

20. With regard to the Bureau, it may further be noted that, while the only formally stated function in the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Body is to “*provide guidance to the Secretary with regard to the preparations for, and conduct of, sessions of the Governing Body*”, the Governing Body has regularly assigned various specific tasks to it.

21. It may also be recalled that, at its First Session, the Governing Body

*Requested the Secretary to consider further the possible establishment of a [permanent] technical advisory committee, including aspects relating to terms of reference, composition and funding needs, and to report back to the second session of the Governing Body.*¹⁰

22. However, at its Second Session, the Governing Body

Agreed that the establishment of a permanent subsidiary body is premature. It decided that ad hoc technical bodies with focused, specialized and outcome-oriented terms of reference offer

⁴ See <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/397266/>

⁵ See <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/1111361/>

⁶ See <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/414973/>

⁷ See <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mq984e.pdf>

⁸ See <http://www.fao.org/3/a-br433e.pdf>

⁹ See the table in *Appendix 1*

¹⁰ See IT/GB-1/06/Report, para. 18, available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-be210e.pdf>

*the best approach for the time being. The Governing Body noted the interest expressed by some Contracting Parties to consider, in the future, establishment of a joint technical committee with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.*¹¹

23. It may further be recalled that the proposal for another permanent subsidiary body, i.e. The Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization, will be considered by the Governing Body at this Eighth Session. The current *ad hoc* committee on the Funding Strategy has developed draft terms of reference for the possible standing committee, for consideration by the Governing Body.¹²

24. Significant variation exists as to the nature of tasks and the outputs of subsidiary bodies. The nature of tasks varies among:

- strategic/advisory tasks, for example, vis-à-vis the Governing Body, in the case of the results framework of the Funding Strategy, or stakeholders directly, in the case of implementation of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA);
- technical, for example, regarding digital object identifiers or SMTA tools;
- legal, for example, the drafting of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures;
- monitoring of implementation, for example, in the case of the vision and programme of work of the Global Information System, the SMTA or the programme of work on Sustainable Use.

25. With regard to outputs, substantial variation can be observed, among:

- normative and policy documents for the Governing Body to endorse or adopt, for example, in the case of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures or the Funding Strategy;
- guidance on implementation or operation of International Treaty systems, for example, in the case of the implementation of the Multilateral System (e.g., availability of material, reports, Easy-SMTA, the Data Store) and the Global Information System (e.g., interoperability of existing information systems, digital object identifiers);
- a list of programmatic activities to support implementation of the provisions of the International Treaty by Contracting Parties, for example, in the case of Farmers' Rights, or a more consolidated programme of work, for example, in the case of Sustainable Use.

26. The different provisions and mechanisms of the International Treaty have received different levels of attention through or by the subsidiary processes since the First Session of the Governing Body. The Multilateral System and the Funding Strategy have a consistent record of intersessional work that started early in the International Treaty's existence. For the others, The *Ad hoc* Committee on Sustainable Use has held three meetings in three biennia. The subsidiary body for the Global Information System started operating only in 2016 and Article 9, Farmers' Rights, has only been addressed in the biennium 2018-19 by an *ad hoc* technical expert group.

27. On the other hand, Article 5 on Conservation of PGRFA, has never benefitted from the inputs of any subsidiary body, and the non-monetary benefit-sharing components of Article 13 have only sporadically been in the agendas of different subsidiary bodies (i.e. of The Committee on Sustainable Use, of the working group on the enhancement of the functioning of the Multilateral System and, recently, of The *Ad hoc* Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization).

¹¹ See IT/GB-2/06/Report, para. 90, available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-be160e.pdf>

¹² See the document, IT/GB-8/19/9.2, *Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization*

C. Composition

28. The prevalent composition of subsidiary bodies is of:

- two members from each of the seven FAO regions, with exceptions, such as: the first meeting of The *Ad hoc* Committee on the Funding Strategy (one member per region); the extended membership of the *Ad hoc* Open-Ended Working Group on the Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System; the extended membership of the *Ad hoc* Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights;
- a varying number of additional members – from three to ten, either as additional experts, for example for The Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System, or as stakeholders or observers, e.g. for The *Ad hoc* Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights.

29. In certain cases, additional experts are invited by the Secretary, based on suggestions by the regions or the body concerned, according to the agenda of the meeting – e.g., in the case of The Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System – and/or by the Bureau – e.g., for The *Ad hoc* Committee on Sustainable Use, and The *Ad hoc* Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights.

30. While membership from Contracting Parties in subsidiary bodies is always regionally balanced, other criteria (e.g. expertise, representation of stakeholder groups) have been required by the Governing Body for additional members, depending on the subject matters in the mandate of the specific subsidiary body.

31. In the case of The Compliance Committee, the members are elected by the Governing Body. However, the replacement of a member during the intersessional period, following the formal resignation of the member or inability to perform the functions, is carried out through the nomination by the respective region of a new member and the formal appointment by the Bureau for the remainder of the replaced member's term.

32. On numerous occasions, the replacement or non-response of members of the various committees have represented a major difficulty not only for the Secretariat, but also for the respective regional Vice-Chairperson, sometimes putting the quorum of the body at risk or diminishing the inclusiveness of the agreement on outcomes. As a useful measure for the future, the Governing Body may consider requesting at least one alternate representative per region, should the need for replacement arise during the intersessional process. This practice is already being followed by certain regions.

33. Subsidiary bodies are co-chaired by two Contracting Party members, as typically foreseen in the respective terms of reference. The election of co-chairs is left to the individual subsidiary body, with one exception being the *Ad hoc* Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights, for which the two co-chairs are appointed by the Bureau. The consistent practice, by convention, has been to have one co-chair from a developed country and the other from a developing country, but no specific rule exists on this aspect. In the case of The Compliance Committee, its rules of procedures foresee the election of a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson, who are to rotate among the FAO regions.

34. To date, participation in an observer capacity has been regulated by the Governing Body only for the *Ad hoc* Open-Ended Working Group on the Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System and the *Ad hoc* Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights. Nevertheless, other subsidiary body meetings have been attended by observers, but no consistent criteria can be derived from practice.

35. It is to be noted that the Rules of Procedures of the Governing Body are applicable, *mutatis mutandis*, to subsidiary bodies, unless the Governing Body decides otherwise (Rule I). The general rule for the participation of observers in the Sessions of Governing Body is in Rule VII, which refers

to invitations, access to the documentation, and participation in the Session. Other relevant provisions are in: Rule V, in regard of access to the agenda of the meeting; Rule VIII on the access to the records and reports of meetings in which the observers have participated; and Rule X on the costs of participation. In this context, it may also be noted that the Sessions shall be public “unless the Governing Body decides otherwise”.

D. Supporting Processes

36. In cases where the Governing Body requests that subsidiary bodies review information from Contracting Parties and other stakeholders, the practice has been for the Secretariat to request for, gather and compile such information in preparation for the subsidiary body’s meetings. In cases where the mandate of the subsidiary body so requires, the Secretariat also actively collects and analyses information from other sources.

37. Other initiatives, such as electronic consultations (either informal or more structured) or surveys have been undertaken on a case-by-case or on an as-needed basis. Some subsidiary bodies have also benefitted from ancillary expert, informal or small/informal group meetings (see paragraph 14 above).

38. The content of working and information documents prepared by the Secretariat, as well as background papers and studies, is adapted based on the mandate, needs and agenda of each subsidiary body.

VI. ELEMENTS OF A POSSIBLE REVIEW

39. Based on the above information, the possible review of subsidiary bodies by the Governing Body may be guided by a number of strategic value propositions, such as:

- promoting the holistic implementation of the International Treaty;
- promoting coordination and non-duplication among subsidiary body functions;
- enhancing effectiveness and efficiency of subsidiary body processes;
- promoting certainty and consistency in membership and transparency regarding participation;
- enhancing engagement by members in the work of the respective subsidiary body;
- improving the predictability of costs and administrative implications.

40. Once the key goals to achieve in the possible review are determined, a range of potential practical measures may be set forth. The review could result in relatively basic recommendations, such as for:

- the holding of concurrent meetings;
- the development of mechanism or practices to facilitate consultations among different subsidiary body members;
- the development of tools to facilitate the communication of information from national focal points to subsidiary body members;
- the peer review of studies and background papers to enhance scientific integrity.

41. The review may also produce more structural reforms, while recognizing the need for flexibility to provide for the specific needs and circumstance of each subsidiary body, for example:

- by determining different categories of subsidiary bodies (standing review of implementation vs. *ad hoc* negotiation vs. *ad hoc* expert advice) and allocating mandates accordingly;

- by streamlining membership and appointment criteria for each category of subsidiary body (e.g. x number of members per region plus x number of additional experts, plus the level and nature of participation of observers); and
- by requiring the nomination of alternates, in case of the absence or the inability of any member to attend meetings, to ensure inclusive representation and that quorum is not jeopardised.

42. The process of review may also be gradual and phased according to a list of strategic priorities. A number of immediate practical measures may be set forth for the coming biennium, e.g. by setting forth basic elements of subsidiary body categories and structures, while the matter is kept under review and consideration.

Appendix 1

Subsidiary Body	Mandate	No. of meetings	Composition	Supporting information/activities
Scientific Advisory Committee on Article 17 http://www.fao.org/3/a-mv103e.pdf	To advise the Secretary on: general recommendations on GLIS development; new areas of work; selection of pilot activities and, upon the request of the Secretary, other initiatives and actions; the further update of the GLIS Programme of Work; To consider scientific and technical issues related to digital sequence information, related to GLIS implementation.	At least one	Up to two scientific experts from each FAO region, nominated by the respective Bureau member; Ten additional scientific and technical experts invited by the Secretary, including experts suggested by the regions and relevant stakeholders, considering the required range of technical expertise and regional balance as appropriate. Two Co-Chairs to be elected by members of the Committee designated by the regions.	Sub-regional capacity building workshops (2)
Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights http://www.fao.org/3/a-mv102e.pdf	To produce an inventory of national measures, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers' Rights; Based on the inventory, to develop options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights.	Up to two	Up to five members designated by each FAO region; Up to three representatives of farmer organizations, particularly from the centers of origin and crop diversity; Up to three other stakeholders, including the seed sector, designated by the Bureau. Bureau appoints two Co-Chairs.	Submission of views, experiences and best practices as an example of possible options for national implementation Regional training workshops (3), combined with sustainable use
Ad hoc Committee on Sustainable Use http://www.fao.org/3/a-mv086e.pdf	To advise the Secretary on: implementation of the Programme of Work (PoW) on Sustainable Use and Supporting Initiatives; cooperation with other international processes and institutions; identification of additional activities and synergies.	Electronic; if needed, one meeting	Up to two members for each FAO region; Up to ten technical experts designated by the Bureau, in consultation with the regions and all relevant stakeholders, in particular farmers' organizations, considering the required range of technical expertise, and a regional and gender balance. Two Co-Chairs to be elected by members of the Committee designated by the regions.	Submission of reports on implementation of PoW and initiatives Online survey on possible establishment of joint programme on biodiversity in agriculture Regional training workshops (3)
Independent Panel of Experts of the Fourth Call for Proposals of the Benefit-Sharing Fund	Screening of eligible project pre-proposals	One	Two experts per FAO Region, nominated by the Bureau	List of pre-proposals for appraisal and selection

Title	Mandate	No. of meetings	Composition	Supporting information/activities
Ad hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization http://www.fao.org/3/a-mv101e.pdf	To develop the updated Funding Strategy and related Annexes, including the Results Framework; To advise on resource mobilization efforts and synergies; To improve communication and visibility of funding Tools; - recommend measures to promote non-monetary benefit-sharing through the Funding Strategy; To develop ToRs for a potential Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization; To guide Secretary on development of a reporting format based on the draft Matrix of Funding Tools.	Up to two	Two representatives from each region. Other Contracting Parties may also participate in an observer capacity. Global Crop Diversity Trust as observer. Two Co-Chairs elected by members of the Committee designated by the regions.	Submission of information on bilateral programmes and funding (questionnaire) Special event on innovative funding (back-to-back with Committee's meeting)
Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the MLS http://www.fao.org/3/a-mv104e.pdf	To develop a Growth Plan proposal; To revise the SMTA; To elaborate criteria and options for adaptation of Annex 1 coverage; To make other recommendations to the Governing Body; To liaise with the Funding Strategy Committee on the BSF; To discuss reviews and assessments of MLS as foreseen under Articles 11.4 and 13.2(d)(ii)	Two	Up to twenty-seven representatives from the FAO regions, nominated by the respective Co-Chair (5 from Africa; 5 from Europe; 5 from Asia; 5 from GRULAC; 3 from the Near East; 2 from North America; 2 from Southwest Pacific). Contracting Parties may participate as observers, upon request to the Secretariat two representatives from each of stakeholder groups as observers: (civil society; seed industry; farmers' organizations; CGIAR) Invited silent observers. Working Group elects two Co-Chairpersons from among the representatives of the Members.	Contracting Parties, stakeholder groups and users of germplasm to make inputs and proposals on the subjects being discussed by the Working Group Informal consultations among Regions and stakeholder groups Submission of information by Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders on availability of material in the MLS and other information relevant to reviews and assessments
Compliance Committee http://www.fao.org/3/a-mv087e.pdf	Implementation of Compliance Procedures; Review of the Standard Reporting Format and to make recommendations for improvement.	One	Two per FAO region, elected by the Governing Body with four-year staggered terms. Two Co-Chairs elected by Committee.	Submission of national reports under compliance procedures Regional capacity building workshops on implementation and reporting (3)
Bureau of the Governing Body	General preparation of Governing Body Sessions Ad hoc tasks by GB, e.g., appointments of members and Co-Chairs of subsidiary bodies; Execution of the project cycle of the Benefit-Sharing Fund; MYPOW; Procedures for the appointment of the Secretary; appointment of members of the Executive Board of Global Crop Diversity Trust.	Two (plus teleconf.)	One Chairperson and one Vice-Chairperson per FAO region other than the region of the Chairperson	Background documents prepared by the Secretariat

Appendix 2

List of Subsidiary Bodies and meetings thereof since the First Session of the Governing Body ¹³

First Session (2006)

- **First and second meetings of The *Ad hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy**

Second Session (biennium 2008-09)

- **First meeting of The *Ad hoc* Third Party Beneficiary Committee**
- Third and fourth meetings of The *Ad hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy

Third Session (biennium 2010-11)

- Second meeting of The *Ad hoc* Third Party Beneficiary Committee
- Fifth and sixth meetings of The *Ad hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy
- Third meeting of The *Ad hoc* Third Party Beneficiary Committee
- **First and second meetings of The *Ad hoc* Technical Advisory Committee on the Standard Transfer Agreement and the Multilateral System**
- **First and second meetings of The *Ad hoc* Working Group on Compliance**

Fourth Session (biennium 2012-13)

- **First meeting of The *Ad hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**
- Third and fourth meetings of The *Ad hoc* Technical Advisory Committee on the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and the Multilateral System
- Seventh meeting of The *Ad hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy
- Third meeting of The *Ad hoc* Technical Advisory Committee on the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and the Multilateral System
- **First meeting of The Compliance Committee**
- **First and second meetings of The Independent Panel of Experts on the Benefit-Sharing Fund**

Fifth Session (biennium 2014-15)

- **First and second meetings of The *Ad hoc* Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing**
- Third and fourth meetings of The *Ad hoc* Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing
- Second meeting of The *Ad hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- Fourth meeting of The *Ad hoc* Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing
- Third meeting of The Independent Panel of Experts on the Benefit-Sharing Fund (virtual meeting)

Sixth Session (biennium 2016-17)

- **First and second meetings of The Scientific Advisory Committee on Article 17 (SAC-GLIS-1)**

¹³ The bold font indicates the first meeting of the subsidiary body.

- Second meeting of The Compliance Committee
- Third meeting of The *Ad hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use (ACSU-3)
- Fifth, sixth and seventh meetings of The *Ad hoc* Open-Ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing
- Ninth meeting of The *Ad hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy (ACFS-9)

Seventh Session (biennium 2018-19)

- Third meeting of The Scientific Advisory Committee on Article 17 (SAC-GLIS-3)
- **First meeting of The *Ad hoc* Technical Expert Group on Farmers’ Rights**
- The *Ad hoc* Committee on Sustainable Use (Electronic Consultation)
- Tenth meeting of The *Ad hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy **and Resource Mobilization** (ACFSRM-10)¹⁴
- Eighth and ninth meetings of The *Ad hoc* Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing (OWG-EFMLS-8 and 9)
- Third meeting of The Compliance Committee
- Fourth meeting of The Independent Panel of Experts on the Benefit-Sharing Fund

¹⁴ The name of the Committee was changed to reflect the expanded terms of reference.