



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



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

## **Item 17 of the Provisional Agenda**

### **EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

**Rome, Italy, 11 – 16 November 2019**

### **Implementation Report of the Work Programme for the 2018–2019 Biennium**

#### **Executive Summary**

This document provides a summary report on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for the 2018–2019 Biennium (WPB 2018–2019), as adopted by the Governing Body in Resolution 14/2017. It describes the major activities undertaken by the Secretariat and key outputs produced during the current biennium in support of the implementation of the WPB 2018–2019. A financial report related to implementation of the WPB 2018–2019 is presented in the Addendum to this document, IT/GB-8/19/17.2 Add.1, *Financial Report of the Work Programme and Budget for the 2018–2019 Biennium*.

During the current biennium, the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes made substantial contribution to advancing the International Treaty and supporting effective implementation of its key functional systems and processes. Part II of this document also provides a summary report on the implementation of donor-supported activities carried out under the Special Fund for the 2018–2019 biennium, for the information of the Governing Body.

#### **Guidance Sought**

The Governing Body is invited to take note of this report.

*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 <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/1111365/>*



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*Annex 1:* List of meetings and workshops organized by the Secretariat in the 2018–2019 biennium

*Annex 2:* List of major meetings attended by the Secretariat in the 2018–2019 biennium

## INTRODUCTION

1. This document in Part I, provides a summary report on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for the 2018–2019 Biennium (WPB 2018–2019),<sup>1</sup> as adopted by the Governing Body through Resolution 14/2017.<sup>2</sup> It provides a succinct account of the work undertaken, as the detailed outcomes and outputs achieved during the intersessional period have been presented or reported in the other documents submitted to the Governing Body, for consideration under the relevant agenda items, for this Session. This report therefore presents an overview of major activities undertaken and key outputs produced by the Secretariat, in support of the implementation of the WPB 2018–2019.

2. Part II of this document provides a summary report on the implementation of donor-supported activities carried out under the Special Fund for the 2018–2019 biennium. The main reference is the Addendum to the Work Programme and Budget for the 2018–2019 biennium.<sup>3</sup> It provides a brief description of projects and activities that were endorsed for extra-budgetary resources, reflecting the needs expressed by stakeholders to increase the overall implementation of the International Treaty. In Resolution 14/2017, the Governing Body invited donor Governments and institutions to support their implementation.

3. A financial report related to the implementation of the WPB 2018–2019 is presented in the Addendum of this document, IT/GB-8/19/17.2 Add.1, *Financial Report of the Work Programme and Budget for the 2018–2019 Biennium*, and is to be read in conjunction with this report. Together, they serve as a useful reference for the Governing Body in considering and deciding the Work Programme and Budget for the next biennium, 2020–2021.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.fao.org/3/a-mu447e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-mu447e.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [www.fao.org/3/a-bu006e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-bu006e.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Document IT/GB-7/17/28 Add.1, *Draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2018-19 Biennium: Donor-supported activities under the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes*

## **PART I: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CORE WORK PROGRAMME 2018 – 2019**

4. The key strategic objectives reflected in the WPB 2018–2019 were to:
- Sustain successful growth by expanding routine operations of the core systems of the International Treaty.
  - Advance enhancement and consolidate operations of the core systems and strategies of the International Treaty, particularly the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (Multilateral System) and the Funding Strategy, and strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Work on the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA), in a synergistic manner.
  - Enhance implementation of those provisions of the International Treaty that have not received adequate attention, in order to ensure a balanced and comprehensive realization of the Treaty’s objectives.
  - Continue the harmonious joint implementation of the International Treaty, and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol, as complementary and essential parts of the International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing, recognizing that the Treaty maintains its key role in the governance of PGRFA.
  - Amplify the International Treaty’s policy outreach and governance role, and engage in strategic partnerships to enable the Treaty’s contributions to implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other global policies.
5. The major expected outcomes proposed in the WPB 2018–2019 were:
- Enhancement of the functioning of the Multilateral System.
  - Enhanced and interlinked operations of the Multilateral System and the Global Information System of Article 17.
  - An updated Funding Strategy, and a programmatic approach to the implementation of the International Treaty.
  - Improved implementation of Sustainable Use, Conservation and Farmers’ Rights under the International Treaty.
  - Increased capacity and knowledge for national focal points, genebank managers, researchers and breeders, so as to better implement relevant provisions of the International Treaty.
6. Pursuant to the 14 Resolutions adopted at the Seventh Session of the Governing Body,<sup>4</sup> the Secretariat conducted various activities to support the Governing Body in implementing the WPB 2018–2019 and achieving the expected outcomes. Core functions include arranging and providing necessary support for the policy and intergovernmental processes of the Governing Body, implementing programmes of work, maintaining smooth and effective operations of the main systems of the International Treaty, providing capacity building support to Contracting Parties, and maintaining and enhancing cooperation with relevant partners to achieve the objectives of the International Treaty. In *Annex 1* to this document, a list of meetings and workshops organized by the Secretariat for the 2018–2019 biennium is provided, as is a list of major meetings of partner organizations that were attended by the Secretariat in the 2018–2019 biennium (*Annex 2*).

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<sup>4</sup> [www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/888771/](http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/888771/)

## **A. POLICY/TECHNICAL PROCESSES AND SYSTEM OPERATIONS**

7. At its Seventh Session, the Governing Body reconvened, for the intersessional work, the Compliance Committee; the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing; the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization; the Scientific Advisory Committee on Article 17; and the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of PGRFA; and established the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights. The detailed outcomes of these policy and technical processes, as well as the implementation of programmes of work and operations of the key systems, are presented respectively in the relevant documents submitted to the Eighth Session of the Governing Body. The Report of the Secretary also provides additional information.<sup>5</sup>

### **COMPLIANCE**

8. The Third meeting of the Compliance Committee took place from 31 January to 1 February 2019, in Rome. The Committee considered the reports from Contracting Parties, and reviewed the Compliance Procedures and the Reporting Format. As of August 2019, the number of national reports received by the Secretary and published online on the International Treaty's website increased to 53 in total, which is nearly four times the number of reports available for the Seventh Session of the Governing Body.<sup>6</sup>

9. During the current biennium, the Secretariat has continued to assist Contracting Parties with the reporting process, in particular through support in using the Online Reporting System, and has actively encouraged Contracting Parties to submit their national reports. Training and outreach activities on national implementation and reporting have also been undertaken with extra-budgetary resources. In addition, the information provided in the national reports has been made available for the United Nations' monitoring process on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal Target 15.6.<sup>7</sup>

### **MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING**

#### **Enhancement Process**

10. The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System (the Working Group) held two meetings during the current biennium to finalize the package of measures that would enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System. The eighth meeting was held on 10 – 12 October 2018 and the ninth meeting on 17 – 21 June 2019, which will be continued on 24 – 26 October 2019. In addition, the Co-Chairs of the Working Group convened a series of informal consultations, as well as one meeting of the Standing Group of Legal Experts (SGLE), to support and advance the enhancement process. Additional financial support has been provided by donors, such as the Governments of the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland.

11. Throughout the process, the Secretariat carried out the comprehensive preparatory work, including arranging consultations and preparing the relevant working and background documentation, in close consultation with the Co-Chairs. It also serviced the formal meetings, informal consultations, and the meeting of the SGLE. In addition, the Secretariat provided regular updates to Contracting

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<sup>5</sup> Document IT/GB-8/19/6

<sup>6</sup> The reports received are available online at [www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/compliance/compliance-reports/en/](http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/compliance/compliance-reports/en/)

<sup>7</sup> Indicator 15.6.1: Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

Parties and other relevant stakeholders to inform them on the process, and provided assistance to regional consultations.

### **Operations**

12. The Secretariat has continued to support daily operations of the Multilateral System, by administering the Easy-SMTA and the Data Store. The Data Store is especially instrumental in generating statistics for a better understanding of the flow of material within the Multilateral System. As of 8 August 2019, the Data Store contained approximately 75 300 reported Standard Material Transfer Agreements (SMTAs), transferring more than 5.45 million accessions. According to these records, more than 6 280 separate recipients have already received material from the Multilateral System since 2007, and Easy-SMTA has reached 2 397 users.

13. Following Resolution 4/2017 on the operations of the Multilateral System, the Secretary invited major users to report on pending SMTAs, so as to be able to generate more accurate statistics for the Governing Body. The Secretary also invited Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders to provide necessary and other relevant information for the reviews and assessments of the Multilateral System foreseen under the Treaty. Furthermore, the Secretariat has continued to publish on the International Treaty website the notifications received from Contracting Parties and other stakeholders, advising on the material available under the Multilateral System.<sup>8</sup> In this context, the Secretariat has continued to provide assistance to users for the notification of their material, at accession level, through the Global Information System.<sup>9</sup> At the time of preparing this document, more than 775 598 PGRFA had been documented at that level in the Global Information System.

### **Agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty**

14. Pursuant to the request by the Governing Body, at its Seventh Session, to facilitate the security of international collections whose orderly maintenance is at risk or threatened, the Secretariat has actively liaised with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, the interim coordinator of the International Coconut Genetic Resources Network (COGENT), and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), to undertake a technical mission for securing the international coconut collection. This has resulted in a full costing study for the transfer of the research station where the collection is located, including urgent measures for the cryopreservation of unique accessions.

15. Regarding COGENT, the Secretariat has liaised with Bioversity International and the International Coconut Community to formalize the transfer of the Network's hosting and coordination, and reflect the new arrangements in the existing Article 15 agreements with FAO.

16. With respect to the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), the Secretary, in close collaboration with FAO's Assistant Director General of the Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department, has liaised with the host government of Costa Rica to continue exploring technical and financial solutions in the medium term. This would follow the short-term support that the host government has provided for maintaining the cold room in the current biennium.

17. Pursuant to the request by the Governing Body, at its Seventh Session, to facilitate the conclusion of new agreements with relevant international institutions under Article 15 of the Treaty, the Secretariat successfully conclude negotiations with the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), which signed an agreement under Article 15 with FAO in May 2019 for the international germplasm collection it hosts.

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<sup>8</sup> [www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/the-multilateral-system/collections/en/](http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/the-multilateral-system/collections/en/)

<sup>9</sup> <https://ssl.fao.org/glis/>

## **ARTICLE 6, SUSTAINABLE USE OF PGRFA**

18. During the current biennium the Secretariat has continued to support the implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use and Supporting Initiatives 2016–2019, in cooperation with a broad range of partners, including relevant units in FAO.

19. The Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of PGRFA conducted an electronic consultation through an online platform, between 8 April and 5 May 2019. The Committee considered, among other things, a draft proposal for a new programme of work on conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

20. During the biennium, the Secretariat has developed the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA further. To aid users in navigating the database, resources have been classified according to several criteria, with more than 200 entries in English, French and Spanish now available.

## **ARTICLE 9, FARMERS' RIGHTS**

21. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (the Expert Group) met twice during the current biennium to produce a draft inventory of national measures, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers' Rights, and to develop options for encouraging and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the Treaty. The first meeting was held on 11–14 September 2018, and the second was held on 20–23 May 2019. Additional extra-budgetary financial support was provided by the Governments of Italy and Norway.

22. In order to assist the work of the Expert Group, the Secretariat collated, synthesized and analysed a large volume of data to prepare the relevant documentation, including submissions from Contracting Parties and other relevant stakeholders, on national implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty. As requested by the Expert Group, the Secretariat actively reached out to Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders to provide the required information on national implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty in the format and with the template developed by the Expert Group, in order to facilitate inclusion of the relevant data in the draft inventory. Based on the information received, the Secretariat populated the draft inventory of national measures, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers' Rights, as provided in Article 9 of the International Treaty.

## **GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEM UNDER ARTICLE 17 OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY**

23. The Third meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System of Article 17 (SAC-GLIS) took place on 21–22 June 2018, with extra-budgetary financial support from the Government of Canada. The Committee reviewed the operations and implementation of the Programme of Work on the Global Information System, and also considered access to and use of PGRFA information.

24. The Secretariat has continued to support implementation of the Programme of Work, mainly with extra-budgetary financial support from the Government of Germany. As of 8 August 2019, the GLIS had assigned 843 471 Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to PGRFA through its online portal. The figure represents more than 30 percent of the material that has been notified to the Governing Body, as being in the Multilateral System. During this biennium, the Secretariat published the Descriptors and Guidelines for DOIs, as well as a new module with relevant statistics.<sup>10</sup> Following the guidance of the SAC-GLIS, the Secretariat has also worked on developing model cases illustrating the effectiveness of

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<sup>10</sup> For the GLIS statistics on material registered, see <https://ssl.fao.org/glis/stats/index>

connecting existing information through GLIS, based on an analysis of users' experiences in adopting DOIs.

25. Special emphasis has been placed on the connection of the operations of the GLIS and the Multilateral System. Such a connection will improve the visibility of the material available through the server assigning DOIs, in accordance with the Vision and Programme of Work on GLIS. The integrated delivery of both plant germplasm and related information by the two key systems increases their accessibility and value for users, and also contributes to non-monetary benefit-sharing.

### **FUNDING STRATEGY**

26. The Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee) met twice during the current biennium, to develop the draft updated Funding Strategy and related Annexes, and a draft terms of reference for a potential Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization. The 10th meeting was held from 5–7 September 2018, and the 11th meeting from 7–10 May 2019. Additional financial support for updating the Funding Strategy was provided by the Governments of Italy and Switzerland.

27. Prior to these meetings, the Secretariat organized special events that included presentations relevant to the work of the Funding Committee. The first event focused on innovative funding, big data and other trends in funding biodiversity in agriculture, the second on partnering to operationalize the International Treaty's Funding Strategy.

28. In order to assist the work of the Committee, the Secretariat gathered and analysed data from a wide range of sources, including through surveys, interviews, an informal expert meeting and studies. The data provided new and important information about the funding landscape in relation to Treaty implementation, and have enhanced cooperation with key enabling partners and funding tools of the International Treaty. The Secretariat also facilitated an electronic consultation from 1 to 22 March 2019 on the updated methodology for defining the Funding Strategy targets.

### **Benefit-sharing Fund**

#### ***Fourth Project Cycle***

29. The Fourth Call for Proposals (CFP-4) of the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) was launched on 15 December 2017. Out of the 556 pre-proposals received, a total of 364 were eligible to apply for funding after the first pre-screening undertaken by the Secretariat. Based on the outcomes of the Panel of Experts' work, the Bureau of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body approved a portfolio of 20 new projects to be funded as part of CFP-4, for a total value of USD 5.9 million. Following the Bureau's recommendation, the Secretariat issued Certificates of Excellence to projects that were shortlisted but not selected for funding, so as to support and facilitate their resource mobilization efforts.

30. The CFP-4 portfolio marks a transition towards a programmatic approach to implementation of the BSF projects, and a bridge to more strategic implementation of the Funding Strategy. The Secretariat organized a Helpdesk Workshop in October 2018 in support to the 20 successful applicants of CFP-4. During this workshop, the first of its kind since the establishment of the BSF, all partners worked together under a programmatic approach to refine their full project proposals, and establish linkages between selected projects and across regions.

31. The Secretariat has been working to incorporate lessons learned and concepts that emerged during the workshop, including the establishment of a BSF platform of communication. The objective of the platform is to bring together all BSF partners as a community, to build synergies and complementarities between BSF projects, enable the exchange of knowledge and to share innovative solutions to common challenges.



32. Following the workshop, the Secretariat has worked to finalize the contractual agreements (Letters of Agreement) to be signed with implementing partners of the CFP-4. At the time of writing, 60 percent of the Letters of Agreement had been concluded, and the first disbursements processed.

### ***Third Project Cycle***

33. The BSF-3 project portfolio consists of 20 projects that are implemented in 45 developing countries.<sup>11</sup> At the time of preparation of this document, 95 percent of projects had been in their implementation phase for more than 2.5 years.

34. The Secretariat has been in regular communication with the implementing partners, and has continued to monitor the implementation of the portfolio of projects. Data and statistics on the main achievements, including results and outputs arising from the portfolio implementation, have been compiled and disseminated.

35. Between March and April 2018, the Secretariat facilitated two donor field visits to Kenya, Malawi and Tanzania, covering the third project cycle projects. The visits involved the participation of major BSF donors, namely Norway and the European Union. The visits offered an opportunity for both the Secretariat and the BSF donors to witness the impact that BSF projects are having on the beneficiaries and local farming communities.

36. The implementation of the BSF-3 portfolio ends in December 2019. The Secretariat has started planning for the Independent Evaluation of the projects supported under the third project cycle, in collaboration with the FAO Office of Evaluation.

### ***Others***

37. In November 2017, a Results Oriented Monitoring Mission (ROM) was undertaken by the European Union (EU) to selected BSF projects in Turkey and Uganda. The Secretariat has since worked together with the EU to follow up on the main recommendations arising from the ROM, and developed an Action Plan for the recommendations (the Plan). The Plan comprises concrete actions to improve the functioning of the BSF, increase its effectiveness and efficiency, enable communication of BSF results, and reinforce its visibility, knowledge and data. A detailed report on the operation of the Benefit-sharing Fund is presented in the document, IT/GB-8/19/9.1/Inf.1, The Benefit-sharing Fund: 2018–2019 Report.

## **THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

38. During the current biennium, the Bureau of the Eighth Session met twice, on 4–5 April 2018 and 21–22 March 2019, to provide guidance on the preparations for the Eighth Session of the Governing Body, as well as other governance issues to facilitate the work of the Governing Body during the intersessional period. In this regard, the Bureau also held a number of teleconferences to consider various issues that require its decision, such as membership of subsidiary bodies, operation of the Benefit-sharing Fund, and the selection of members to the Executive Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

39. The Secretary has regularly organized a briefing for Permanent Representatives to FAO in Rome to provide an update on progress made in implementing the International Treaty. Three briefings have already been held, and another is planned for October 2019 on the outcomes of intersessional processes and the preparations for the Eighth Session of the Governing Body.

40. Since most of the intersessional policy processes had been concluded at the time of writing this document, the Secretariat is focussed on preparing for the upcoming Governing Body Session.

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<sup>11</sup> The number of approved projects was 22. To date, two Letters of Agreement have not been signed due to a series of bureaucratic and legal impediments in the countries where the projects were to be executed (Costa Rica and Cuba).

This includes the preparation of documentation and communication, and logistical and travel arrangements. A dedicated page for the Eighth Session has been set up on the website of the International Treaty,<sup>12</sup> to provide necessary information and announcements, as well as pre-session documents.

## **B. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY PROVISIONS**

41. While Contracting Parties have made substantial progress in implementing the International Treaty over the years, there remains a growing need for in-depth awareness-raising and more capacity development regarding the International Treaty's various provisions and mechanisms. National and regional implementation of the International Treaty continues to require wide-ranging capacity building at different technical, policy and administrative levels. Consequently, many Contracting Parties have sought assistance in developing the necessary institutional, legal, policy and administrative measures or mechanisms to implement the Treaty's main systems.

42. The need for capacity development became even more relevant in this biennium, in order to address the decisions made by the Governing Body at its Seventh Session. The importance of PGRFA to ensuring food and nutrition security, promoting sustainable agriculture and adaptation to climate change was reaffirmed in various Resolutions, and the Governing Body called upon Contracting Parties to strengthen their efforts to fully implement the International Treaty. However, most of the capacity building activities and initiatives were conducted with extra-budgetary resources, as reported in Part II of this document.

43. The Secretariat has continued to assist users of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and to support operations of the Multilateral System through the help desk. During this biennium, more than 85 users have received information and support. Additionally, the Secretariat participated in several workshops on access and benefit-sharing organized by partner institutions, such as Bioversity International, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Environment Programme, national genebanks, and several universities. The Secretariat also developed training and outreach materials on GLIS, directly and in collaboration with a wide variety of partners.

## **C. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

44. During the current biennium, the Secretariat has continued collaboration and partnerships with other international bodies and organizations to support and advance the implementation of the International Treaty. Such cooperation and collaboration have taken place in various forms and modalities at different levels, from capacity building for implementation at national level to supporting policy processes at global level. Capacity building and training initiatives jointly organized with partner organizations have played a particularly significant role in assisting Contracting Parties in the harmonious and mutually-supportive implementation of the Treaty with other relevant instruments.

45. The Secretariat co-organized and participated in a number of events within and outside FAO to promote the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, and raise awareness about Farmers' Rights. A detailed report on the cooperation and collaborative activities that took place, together with the relevant international instruments and organizations, is provided in the documents submitted under Agenda Item 15, Cooperation with International Instruments and Organizations.

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<sup>12</sup> <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/eighth-governing-body/en/>

## **D. MEMBERSHIP OF THE TREATY**

46. Throughout the current biennium, in an effort to maximize available opportunities, the Secretariat continued its efforts to increase membership of the International Treaty. The Secretary has also collaborated with the Office of the Director-General FAO to prepare and dispatch official letters encouraging membership in selected countries. Since the Seventh Session of the Governing Body, the number of Contracting Parties has increased by two (Mongolia and Georgia), to reach 146 as of 1 August 2019. Further details of efforts towards expansion of membership are provided in the document, IT/GB-8/19/6, Report of the Secretary.

## **E. COMMUNICATION**

47. Throughout the current biennium, the Secretariat has continued to increase awareness of the International Treaty, among both existing stakeholders and new audiences. The International Treaty's social media presence has grown steadily, with a notable increase in the International Treaty's connections and followers. The Secretariat has continued to update and improve its website on a regular basis; it has published many news items, highlighting key events and achievements, both on the website and through social media channels.

48. The Eighth Session of the Governing Body has been designated a FAO Corporate Event, which is expected to further raise the profile of the International Treaty within FAO and with external audiences. A detailed design concept for the FAO Atrium and other complementary communication products and activities are being prepared for the Session as part of a comprehensive communication plan, so as to highlight the 15th Anniversary of entry-into-force. A comprehensive report on communication activities is provided in the document IT/GB-8/19/6/Inf.1, Implementation of the Communication Strategy of the International Treaty.

## **PART II: DONOR-SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES UNDER THE SPECIAL FUND FOR AGREED PURPOSES FOR THE 2018–2019 BIENNIUM**

49. The Special Fund for Agreed Purposes made substantial contribution, during the current biennium, as in past biennia, to advancing the International Treaty and supporting the effective implementation of its key functional systems and processes. Those activities have leveraged and enhanced the impacts of core activities carried out under the Core Administrative Budget.

50. This section of this document presents a summary of major outcomes of the activities and projects developed and implemented outside the core work programme, as agreed between the donors and the Secretary. Specific reports, including a financial report, are prepared and submitted separately to individual donors at their request, in accordance with relevant FAO Rules and based on the respective funding agreements.

51. The Governing Body is invited to recognize such significant contributions and express its appreciation to donors who have generously made available substantial funds in support of the International Treaty's processes and operational systems outside the Core Administrative Budget.

### **F. MAJOR OUTCOMES**

52. In the Addendum to *Annex 1* to Resolution 14/2017, the following six projects were recommended for donor funding:

- i) The Benefit-sharing Support Programme of the Treaty (USD 500 000);
- ii) Joint Capacity building Programme for the harmonious implementation of the Treaty, and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol (USD 600 000);
- iii) Outreach, awareness-raising and promotion of the Treaty (USD 550 000);
- iv) Training programme on the Treaty (USD 460 000);
- v) The Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Article 17 of the Treaty (USD 1.1 m);
- vi) Conservation, Sustainable Use of PGRFA and Farmers' Rights under Articles 5, 6 and 9 of the Treaty (USD 500 000).

53. A significant proportion of the resources provided for the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes were intended to support policy processes and technical meetings, the implementation of programmes of work and operations of main systems that were part of the core work programme, and whose outcomes are therefore reported in the relevant documents submitted to the Eighth Session of the Governing Body. Below is a list of contributions provided for Special Funds for the 2018–2019 biennium:

- Canada: Organization of the third meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System (GLIS).
- Germany: Implementation of the Programme of Work on the Global Information System; Support to developing countries to submit national implementation reports under the Compliance Procedures.
- Ireland: Support for the participation of developing countries in the Eighth Session of the Governing Body.
- Italy: Implementation of GB-7 Resolutions 2 (Multilateral System enhancement), 3 (Funding Strategy), 4 (Multilateral System operations), 6 (Article 6, Sustainable use), 9 (Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity); and preparatory meetings for the Eighth Session of the Governing Body.
- The Netherlands: Work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System.
- Norway: Organization of the meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights; Work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the

Multilateral System; Crop Conservation Strategies; preparatory meetings for the Eighth Session of the Governing Body; and overall implementation of the Treaty.

- Sweden: Support to the Work Programme and the overall implementation of the Treaty.
- Switzerland: Work of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization; and the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System.

54. While most of the funds have been provided for specific activities and projects, including undertaking elements of the core work programme, some contributions were provided for the overall support of the work of the Treaty. This flexibility proved critical in enabling the Secretariat to respond expeditiously, and to carry out additional tasks requested for implementation of the core work programme, as well as important supporting activities. During this biennium, the Governments of Ireland and Sweden offered such financial contributions to the Special Fund, which provided significant support in advancing implementation of the Governing Body's work programme.

#### **a) COMPLIANCE**

55. With financial support from the Government of Germany, the Secretariat organized three regional workshops in 2018 to promote national implementation reporting by Contracting Parties, under the Compliance Procedures. The workshops took place in Africa, Latin America and Asia, and provided information on the Compliance Rules, the reporting format for preparation of national reports on implementation of the International Treaty and the Online Reporting System, and the mechanism for official submission. These workshops also provided an opportunity to exchange views and experiences in implementing the International Treaty at regional level. In addition, the Secretariat conducted two webinars, one in English and one in Spanish, especially aimed at those Contracting Parties who could not participate in the three workshops.

56. As of August 2019, the number of national reports received by the Secretary and published online on the International Treaty's website had increased to 53 – nearly four times the number of reports available at the time of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body. Those national reports have provided valuable information regarding Contracting Parties' efforts to implement the International Treaty, both in terms of progress and constraints, as well as lessons learned. The outcomes of the workshops also contributed significantly to the work of the Compliance Committee.

#### **b) MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING**

57. The provision of baseline data and metrics on plant genetic diversity is essential for decision-makers at global, regional and national levels in order to develop strategies to ensure the adequate conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Providing an evidence base and regular analysis on internationally important food and agricultural crops would help the Governing Body to improve the implementation of the International Treaty, and would also raise public awareness of the relevance of the Multilateral System to global food security.

58. The Government of Norway has provided funds to conduct a background study assessment that will provide the baseline data and metrics for plant genetic resources as described above. This work would therefore support improve implementation of the Multilateral System, with wider implications for implementation of other provisions, in particular Articles 5 and 6, and mechanisms of the International Treaty. At its last Session, the Governing Body recommended the Crop Trust to further enhance its collaboration and complementarity with the International Treaty on scientific and technical matters, including through improved linkages in the updating and implementation of the Global Crop Conservation Strategies. The background study is being conducted in cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust and CIAT. Further information about the study is provided in document IT/GB-8/19/15.2, paragraphs 17-21.

**c) ARTICLES 6 SUSTAINABLE USE OF PGRFA AND 9 FARMERS' RIGHTS**

59. Following Resolution 6/2017, with extra-budgetary support from the Government of Italy, the Secretariat organized an informal meeting of experts in May 2018 in Bari, Italy, on implementing sustainable use of PGRFA and the Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA (Joint Programme). Based on the outcomes of the informal meeting, the Secretariat facilitated further consultations through an online survey regarding possible establishment of the Joint Programme, the outcomes of which were presented to the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of PGRFA for its consideration during its electronic consultation.

60. With financial support from the Government of Italy, the Secretariat organized three regional training workshops in 2019 on the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and Farmers' Rights. The workshops were held in Asia, Africa and Latin America, to enhance stakeholders' understanding of those issues in implementing the International Treaty. In addition to creating linkages between relevant global policies related to crop diversity, food security and climate change, and developing and implementing national plans and programmes that support the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and implementation of Farmers' Rights, the workshops also provided a platform for sharing experiences, best practices and lessons learned.

61. Financial contributions from the Governments of Italy and Norway also supported the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights, and made it possible to provide interpretation services for its meetings and the translation of the working documents into different languages.

**d) GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEM OF ARTICLE 17 OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY**

62. Since January 2017, the Government of Germany has supported a three-year project aimed at improving the value and use of PGRFA through facilitated access to scientific information and capacity development. It contributes to implementation of the Programme of Work (PoW) on the Global Information System of Article 17 through three main components:

- Development of a set of core services and activities to connect existing and future plant genetic resources information systems and datasets.
- Development and promotion of standards for germplasm description and documentation, as well as the provision of scientific advice to the Secretary and the Governing Body for effective implementation of the PoW on the GLIS.
- The organization of training activities in two regions through a capacity development component, aimed at improving both individual and organizational capacities to document and exchange non-confidential information associated with germplasm in the Multilateral System, and other useful information for plant breeders, farmers and researchers.

63. During the current biennium, several workshops were organized on the registration of PGRFA in the Global Information System, including training on the Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs), and the enhancement of PGRFA documentation. One regional workshop was held in South Africa for Southern African countries, and another in Tunisia for the Near East and North Africa region. The workshops brought together gene bank curators, plant breeders and researchers from several countries, and resulted in enhanced capacity at both personnel and institutional levels to document and exchange PGRFA in the Global Information System, and set up a regional GLIS hub for both regions. Under the project, the Secretariat also developed a number of training and outreach materials on the GLIS in several languages, directly and in collaboration with a wide variety of partners.

64. The project has also enabled improvements to be made to the GLIS portal, and provided support to users, registering PGRFA up to 883 984 materials. The Secretariat developed a statistics module, which provides information on interesting aspects of the material registered, such as its provenance and biological status, as well as checking the completeness of information provided. As a

result of the project, the GLIS has been further developed, addressing the needs of users, and in better linkage with the Multilateral System to realize more effective operation.

65. Germany has also provided funds to implement a one-year project, launched in June 2019, which addresses the gaps and lack of coherence in documentation methods for PGRFA, particularly for Crop Wild Relatives (CWR) under *in situ* conditions. Those gaps represent a barrier for information sharing in the scientific community, and for the development of added-value services for plant breeders and organizations working on agricultural biodiversity.

66. The project consolidates work done on CWR descriptors by recent initiatives developed at national and international levels from different regions. In addition, it builds on recent experiences conducted by the GLIS and DOIs through the other German-funded project previously described, as well as on international projects such as the Horizon 2020 Farmer's Pride. The project will promote and disseminate to National Focal Points the resulting international validated standard descriptor list for CWR *in situ* documentation. Project beneficiaries include researchers, plant breeders and conservationists around the world.

#### e) OTHERS

67. To support Contracting Parties' effective participation in the Eighth Session of the Governing Body, with financial support from the Governments of Italy and Norway, the Secretariat facilitated the organization of four regional preparatory consultations in coordination with the respective regions' Vice-Chairs. These consultations took place in Latin America, the Near East, Africa and Asia from September to October 2019. They provided information on the intersessional process and offered an overview of major outcomes together with a session plan, and clarification of logistical arrangements. They also afforded the delegates the opportunity to discuss and harmonize regional positions on the range of issues on the agenda of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body.

### **PART III: CONCLUSION AND GENERAL OBSERVATIONS**

68. As noted – and as has been the case over the years – a large share of the work described above, including the intergovernmental policy processes, has been made possible and conducted as a result of extra-budgetary financial resources provided by a few generous donors. These have supplemented funds received as part of the Core Administrative Budget, since contributions to the Core Administrative Budget continue to fall short of the adopted Budget and are therefore insufficient. These additional funds have indeed become indispensable if the Governing Body is to achieve the expected outcomes of its Core Work Programme.

69. It should, however, be recalled that moneys contributed to the Special Funds for Agreed Purposes (either on a multi-donor basis or as individual accounts) are not fungible with the Core Administrative Budget. The funds in the Core Administrative Budget are contributed by Contracting Parties to the collectively agreed biennial Core Work Programme, whereas individual donors provide special funds for specific agreed activities between them and the Secretary, outside the Core Work Programme.

70. Many of the policy processes and technical meetings undertaken during the biennium required a large amount of preparatory work, such as collecting, collating and analysing considerable volumes of information and data, for deliberation. As a result, the Secretariat was obliged to take on additional human resources, so as to deliver the requested outputs in the time frame and of the quality required, as well as to provide necessary operational services and other assistance.

71. As presented in *Annex I*, the number of meetings organized by the Secretariat increased for the current biennium, and some intersessional meetings required larger and more wide-ranging participation, including key stakeholders other than Contracting Parties, given the complexity of issues to be addressed. As a consequence, the provision of interpretation and translation services was required for the organization of those meetings. This inevitably led to an increase in the cost of the meetings, in addition to the expenditure required to support the participation of developing country delegates.

72. The Special Fund to support the participation of developing countries continues to be in a precarious position. Despite the invitation by the Governing Body at the Seventh Session and the call for contribution by the Secretary, only very few donors responded to provide contributions. After the Eighth Session, the Trust Fund will become virtually empty and would require urgent replenishment to carry out the Work Programme that may be adopted at this Session.

### **GUIDANCE SOUGHT**

73. The Governing Body is invited to take note of this report.



*Annex I*

List of meetings and workshops organized by the Secretariat in the 2018-19 biennium * I: Interpretation, T: Translation (Arabic, English, French, Spanish)						
2018		DATE	PLACE	DOCUM ENTATI ON	SUPPORT ED PARTICIP ANTS	TOTAL PARTICIP ANTS
1	First Meeting of the Bureau of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body	4 - 5 APR	Rome, HQ	13	3	11
2	Benefit-sharing Fund: Meeting of the Independent Panel of Experts of the 4th Call for Proposals	14 - 18 MAY	Rome, HQ	1	12	12
3	Informal Expert Meeting on the Implementation of the Sustainable Use of PGRFA and the Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture	23 - 25 MAY	Bari, Italy	6	14	30
4	Third Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Article 17 and the Global Information System	21 - 22 JUN	Rome, HQ	10	12	30
5	Informal Consultation by the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing	11 JUL	Rome, HQ	3	6	12
6	Briefing to Permanent Representatives on the outcomes of and follow-up to the Seventh Session of the Governing Body (I)	12 JUL	Rome, HQ	2	0	50
7	Informal Consultation by the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (I)	30 - 31 AUG	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	5	7	20

8	Tenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization	5 - 7 SEP	Rome, HQ	20	8	18
9	First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (I)	11 - 14 SEP	Rome, HQ	14	23	66
10	Eighth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (I+T)	10 - 12 OCT	Rome, HQ	11	17	55
11	Benefit-sharing Fund: Help Desk Workshop on Project Proposals for the 4th Call (I)	22 - 26 OCT	Rome, HQ	3	23	25
12	Regional Workshop on the Preparation on National Reports on the Implementation of the ITPGRFA - Africa (Compliance)	30 OCT - 1 NOV	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	1	34	34
13	Workshop on the Global Information System for Africa and Near East Regions	6 - 8 NOV	Tunis, Tunisia	2	11	28
14	Regional Workshop on the Preparation on National Reports on the Implementation of the ITPGRFA - Latin America (Compliance)	4 - 6 DEC	Antigua, Guatemala	2	12	13
15	Regional Workshop on the Preparation on National Reports on the Implementation of the ITPGRFA - Asia (Compliance)	11 - 13 DEC	New Delhi, India	1	11	27
2019		DATE	PLACE	ALL DOCS	SUPPORT ED PARTICIP ANTS	TOTAL PARTICIP ANTS
16	Informal Consultation by the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing	15 - 16 JAN	San Jose, Costa Rica	2	15	28
17	Joint Briefing to Permanent Representatives by the Secretariats of the CGRFA and ITPGRFA	22 JAN	Rome, HQ	1	0	80

18	Third Meeting of the Compliance Committee	31 JAN - 1 FEB	Rome, HQ	9	8	14
19	Regional Training on Sustainable Use of PGRFA and on Farmers' Rights - Asia	5 - 8 MAR	Manila, Philippines	1	16	58
20	Second Meeting of the Bureau of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body	21 - 22 MAR	Rome, HQ	13	3	10
21	Informal Consultation by the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing	25 - 27 MAR	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	1	17	33
22	Fourth Meeting (Electronic consultation) of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of PGRFA	8 APR - 5 MAY	Electronic	8	0	16
23	Eleventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (with special event on 7 May)	8 - 10 MAY	Rome, HQ	22	9	25
24	Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (I+T)	20 - 23 MAY	Rome, HQ	10	22	68
25	Standing Group of Legal Experts on the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing	27 - 28 MAY	Rome, HQ	4	4	10
26	Informal Consultation by the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing	28 - 30 MAY	Rome, HQ	2	17	52
27	Ninth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (Special Event 16 June) (I+T)	17 - 21 JUN	Rome, HQ	15	16	51
28	Expert Workshop: Biometrics - The Plants that feed the world	24 - 25 JUL	Rome, HQ	1	6	14

29	Regional Training on Sustainable Use of PGRFA and on Farmers' Rights - Africa	29 JUL - 1 AUG	Dakar, Senegal	0	29	50
30	Regional Training on Sustainable Use of PGRFA and on Farmers' Rights - Latin America	5 - 8 AUG	Montevideo, Uruguay	0	18	46
31	Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eighth Session of the Governing Body - Latin America	10 - 12 SEP	Buenos Aires, Argentina	2	32	45
32	Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eighth Session of the Governing Body - Near East (I)	16 - 18 SEP	Dubai, UAE	2	17	30
33	Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eighth Session of the Governing Body - Africa (I)	25 - 27 SEP	Kigali, Rwanda	2	40	60
34	Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eighth Session of the Governing Body - Asia	8 - 10 OCT	New Delhi, India	2	28	40
35	Resumed Ninth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (I+T)	24 - 26 OCT	Rome, HQ	2	18	60
36	Briefing of Permanent Representatives by the Secretariat (I)	23 OCT	Rome, HQ	1	0	80
37	Eighth Session of the Governing Body (I+T)	9 - 16 NOV	Rome, HQ	61	100	500
TOTAL				255	608	1801

*Annex 2*

List of major meetings attended by the Secretariat in the 2018-19 biennium			
2018		DATE	PLACE
1	Workshop on grant preparation for PGRFA of the Darwin Initiative	8 - 9 JAN	London, UK
2	CGRFA: International Workshop on ABS	10 -12 JAN	Rome, HQ
3	GCDT: Joint Secretariats' team meeting and brainstorming on global strategy development and fundraising	24 - 25 JAN	Bonn, Germany
4	CBD: Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Digital Sequence Information	12 - 16 FEB	Montreal, Canada
5	National Workshop on Russia's possible Ratification of the Treaty, co-organized with the Russian Academy of Science, the Vavilov Institute and FAO Liaison Office for the Russia Federation	15-Feb	St Petersburg, Russia
6	Svalbard Global Seed Vault 10th Anniversary Summit	24 - 25 FEB	Oslo, Norway
7	GCDT: Workshop on Genesys Catalog project	4 - 6 MAR	Bonn, Germany
8	GCDT: Crop Wild Relative Project Advisory Group	6 - 8 MAR	Oslo, Norway
9	WIPO: 35th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore	19 - 23 MAR	Geneva, Switzerland
10	GCDT: Executive Board	20 - 22 MAR	St Petersburg, Russia

11	CBD: Third meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity building for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol	20 - 22 MAR	Montreal, Canada
12	National workshop on the implementation of GLIS	17 - 19 APR	Tunis, Tunisia
13	Consulta Regional de América Latina y El Caribe sobre la implementación de los Derechos de los Agricultores	17 - 21 APR	Seberi, Brazil
14	Steering Committee of the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR)	15 - 17 MAY	Thessaloniki, Greece
15	Ministry of Environment Mexico (SEMANART): Global Dialogue on Access and Benefit-sharing organized in in preparation for CBD COP 13	24 - 25 MAY	Mexico City, Mexico
16	International Seed Federation: World Seed Congress	1 - 8 JUN	Brisbane, Australia
17	Ninth Annual Steering Committee of the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA)	5 - 8 JUN	Montreux, Switzerland
18	GCDT: Donors' Council	14 - 15 JUN	Bonn, Germany
19	Meeting with the Nordic Genetic Resource Centre (NordGen) on the implementation of the Multilateral System and Article 15	19 - 20 JUN	Alnarp, Sweden
20	CBD: Second meeting of Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-2)	9 - 13 JUL	Montreal, Canada
21	CGRFA: Ninth Session of Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITWG PGR-9)	25 -27 JUL	Rome, HQ
22	International Symposium on Plant Mutation Breeding and Biotechnology	27 - 31 AUG	Vienna, Austria
23	Tandem Workshop on the Mutually supportive Implementation of International Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol for the GRULAC Region	25 - 28 SEP	Lima, Perú

24	5th International Rice Congress	15 - 17 OCT	Singapore
25	Lecture on ITPGRFA (Sustainable Use of PGRFA and FR) at the CIHEAM	19-Oct	Bari, Italy
26	International Conference "We Are What We Eat"	19 - 20 OCT	Lisbon, Portugal
27	National Consultation on the possible Ratification of the International Treaty by South Africa	22 - 24 OCT	Pretoria, South Africa
28	GCDT: Executive Board	24 - 25 OCT	Bonn, Germany
29	CGRFA: Fourth Session of Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing (TTLE-ABS-4)	29 - 31 OCT	Rome, HQ
30	CBD: 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 14), 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 9)	23 - 30 NOV	Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt
31	Capacity building regarding Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA in ASEAN Region	4 - 6 DEC	Hanoi, Vietnam
2019		DATE	PLACE
32	DivSeek and International Plant and Animal Genome (PAG) meetings	10 - 13 JAN	San Diego, USA
33	CGRFA: 17th Regular Session	18 - 22 FEB	Rome, HQ
34	International Seminar on PGRFA and National Workshop on the possible Ratification of the ITPGRFA by China	3 - 6 MAR	Beijing and Shenzhen, China
35	International Seminar "Sustainable use of seeds"	14-Mar	Udine, Italy

36	CePaCT Donor Roundtable Meeting	24 - 31 MAR	Suva, Fiji
37	Regional Training Workshop regarding Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA in the ASEAN Region	7 - 12 APR	Mie, Japan
38	Workshop on Pre-breeding utilizing Crop Wild Relatives and the Eighth Meeting of the Advisory Group of the programme Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change	24 - 26 APR	Rabat, Morocco
39	GCDT: Executive Board	1 - 3 MAY	Virginia, USA
40	Training course on Policy and Technical Issues in Genome editing for developing country students in CIRAD	12 - 16 MAY	Montpellier, France
41	GenRes Bridge External Advisory Board	16 - 17 MAY	Brussels, Belgium
42	The SOWING DIVERSITY = HARVESTING SECURITY programme of Oxfam Novib (Inception workshop)	21 - 23 MAY	The Hague, the Netherlands
43	International Seed Federation: World Seed Congress	3 - 5 JUN	Nice, France
44	Workshop organized by the UN African Regional Group and Norway on funding mechanisms for the new international legally binding instrument for ABNJ	5 - 8 JUN	Tarrytown, USA
45	BLG: Workshop on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework	9 - 12 JUN	Bern, Switzerland
46	10th InforMEA Initiative Steering Committee	12 - 14 JUN	Montreux, Switzerland
47	Regional Experiences-sharing on Intellectual Property Rights, Biodiversity and Community Access and Benefit-sharing from the Use of Biological Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge	18 - 20 JUN	Hanoi, Vietnam
48	National consultative workshops on the possible ratification of the ITPGRFA	8 - 13 JUL	Beijing and Shenzhen, China



49	Broadening farmers' lasting access to diversity: Stage 2 of the Crop Trust-Norway CWR Initiative (Expert consultation)	21 - 22 AUG	Oslo, Norway
50	IFPRI and GCDT: Convening on the global consequences of inaction on crop genetic diversity	26 - 27 AUG	Washington DC, USA
51	55th International Coconut Community Session & Ministerial Meeting	26 - 30 AUG	Manila, Philippines
52	12th Pan-African ABS Workshop	9 - 13 SEP	Cape Town, South Africa
53	BLG: 14th Meeting	27-Sep	Cambridge, UK
	TO BE ATTENDED		
54	European Seed Association: Euroseeds Congress 2019	13 - 15 OCT	Stockholm, Sweden
55	International Olive Oil Council: Seminar on the IOC network of germplasm banks	21 - 25 OCT	Córdoba, Spain
56	GenRes Bridge Workshop	28 - 30 OCT	Tuusula, Finland
57	UPOV Council	28 OCT - 1 NOV	Geneva, Switzerland
58	GCDT: Executive Board	29 - 30 OCT	Bonn, Germany
59	CBD: 4th Meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity building for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol	29 - 31 OCT	Montreal, Canada
60	CBD: 11th meeting of Ad-Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) (WG8J-11)	20 - 22 NOV	Montreal, Canada

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61	CBD: 23rd meeting of Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-23)	25 - 29 NOV	Montreal, Canada
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