



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

RESOLUTION 4/2019

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling its previous Resolutions and decisions on the Vision and the Programme of Work on the Global Information System (Programme of Work on GLIS) and particularly Resolutions 3/2015 and 5/2017;

Further recalling the contribution of the Global Information System of Article 17 of the International Treaty (GLIS) to the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, in particular to the provisions of Article 13.2.a;

Thanking the Governments of Germany and Canada for the financial support provided for the implementation of the Programme of Work on GLIS during the 2018–2019 biennium and the organization of the third meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System of Article 17 (Scientific Advisory Committee);

1. **Takes note** of the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Work on GLIS during the 2018–2019 biennium and **requests** that such implementation continues in the 2020–2021 biennium;
2. **Takes note** of the progress made in the voluntary use of the Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs), and **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to continue its efforts to build the capacity of relevant stakeholders, especially in developing countries and to review the DOI Guidelines taking into account comments from national genebanks;
3. **Takes note** of the ongoing collaboration with Genesys, the World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS), GRIN-Global, the European Search Catalogue for Plant Genetic Resources (EURISCO) and the SPGRC Documentation and Information System (Web-SDIS), and **requests** the Secretary to continue enhancing cooperation with relevant institutions and initiatives, and to facilitate the exchange of information through the Global Information System with existing information systems while avoiding duplication of efforts, including with the DivSeek International Network, Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN), the CGIAR Big Data Platform and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF);
4. **Encourages** the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) to explore possibilities for free access to and use of the information in the PLUTO database, including downloading information, for example by linking PLUTO to GLIS;
5. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to availability of resources, to establish infrastructural elements in the GLIS Portal linking to information related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), such as methods, standards, actors, capacity building and legal issues, in accordance with national and/or local legislation, as appropriate;
6. **Takes note** of the ongoing Secretariat project entitled “Development of a Globally Agreed List of Descriptors for *in situ* Crop Wild Relatives Documentation” funded by the Government of Germany and **encourages** the participation of experts in the consultation process;

7. **Further takes note** of the usefulness of controlled vocabularies and crop ontologies,¹ and **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to support the conversion of existing crop descriptors into ontologies and to further explore the use of stable ontologies through the Global Information System;
8. **Recalls** the opinion of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the usefulness of the voluntary application of DOIs to PGRFA information and **thanks** the stakeholders and users that have submitted information on the application of DOIs to digital sequence information/genetic sequence data (DSI/GSD),² including to link phenotypic and passport data with genomics data;
9. **Requests** the Secretary to encourage and guide users to link scientific publications and datasets to PGRFA material, and in supporting users to incorporate such information into information management systems;
10. **Thanks** the Scientific Advisory Committee for the development of entry points developed in the Master Plan for the Portal and **requests** the Secretary to incorporate them in the GLIS Portal as soon as possible;
11. **Takes note** of progress made with the DivSeek International Network, and **requests** the Secretary to explore possible arrangements for further engagement with the Network, under the guidance of the Bureau of the Ninth Session;
12. **Decides** to reconvene the Scientific Advisory Committee with the same composition and terms of reference of the previous biennium, subject to the availability of financial resources, and **requests** the Secretary to continue updating the Committee on progress with the GLIS Vision and the Programme of Work on GLIS;
13. **Invites** the Scientific Advisory Committee to review, as may be required, the Programme of Work on GLIS for the consideration of the Governing Body at its Ninth Session;
14. **Requests** the Scientific Advisory Committee to continue considering scientific and technical issues of relevance to DSI/GSD, and considering national legislation, as appropriate;
15. **Invites** Contracting Parties, other governments and stakeholders to provide the necessary resources to implement the Programme of Work on GLIS, in particular for the further development of the GLIS Portal, the review of crop ontologies and the support of training and capacity-strengthening activities in developing countries;
16. **Requests** the Secretary to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee and to submit a progress implementation report to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body.

¹ Crop ontologies are mainly based on crop descriptors and introduce concepts such as operators and hierarchies on top of the flat list of terms facilitating structured queries.

² The Governing Body has not yet decided on the official terminology for digital sequence information/genetic sequence data and therefore uses “DSI/GSD” until new terminology is agreed.