



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



The International Treaty  
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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## RESOLUTION 11/2019

### COOPERATION WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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#### THE GOVERNING BODY,

**Recalling** Article 1.2 of the International Treaty, as well as Article 19.3 (g) and (l), which provide for the Governing Body to establish and maintain cooperation with, as well as take note of the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the provisions of Article 20.5, which requires the Secretary to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

**Recalling** Resolution 9/2017 regarding cooperation with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, its subsidiary bodies and Secretariat;

**Acknowledging** the need for continued capacity building support to Parties, especially developing countries, for the mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol;

1. **Takes note** of the decisions of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, that are of relevance to the International Treaty;
2. **Requests** the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty to continue monitoring and participating in the relevant processes related to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol, in order to promote practical, harmonious and appropriate interfaces among them, both nationally and internationally;
3. **Emphasizes** the importance of enhancing cooperation between the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and with other biodiversity-related conventions, in the development and implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and **makes** the following recommendations:
  - The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework should recognize the direct and indirect contributions of biodiversity to food security and nutrition, climate change adaptation, sustainable livelihoods and poverty eradication and include targets that link agricultural biodiversity to food security and sustainable agriculture;
  - Targets for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture should be maintained and strengthened, including by relying on monitoring systems available through the reporting processes of the International Treaty and FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the experience gained in monitoring Target 2.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Such targets should deal not only with conservation of genetic diversity, but also with its sustainable use;
  - Targets on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization should expressly take into account the International Treaty and its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing and their monitoring should rely, *inter alia*, on the monitoring systems available through the reporting systems of the International Treaty;

- The implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework should rely on contributions from and leadership of many United Nations institutions and should be designed having this in mind; the Governing Body of the International Treaty *intends*, at its next Session, to consider the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and also consider follow-up actions to support the implementation of the Framework and integrate those into its Multi-Year Programme of Work.

4. **Requests** the Secretary to submit the initial recommendations made by the Governing Body as soon as practicable to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity for transmission to the Co-Chairs of the open-ended intersessional working group to support the preparation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including its relevant subsidiary bodies, and **requests** the Bureau, with the support of the Secretary, to engage in the preparation of the post-2020 process to speak on behalf of the Contracting Parties and thereby to ensure strong contributions from the International Treaty in the development and implementation of the new Framework, including through cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions;

5. **Thanks** the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity for its invitation to the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions to develop strategic guidance, in accordance with CBD COP Decision XIII/21, for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund, in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting, and **provides** the elements of advice in the following paragraphs;

- a) **Notes** that in the process of updating the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty, the GEF has been identified as one of the key international mechanisms, funds and bodies that support the implementation of the International Treaty, and **invites** the GEF to continue giving priority through the GEF-8 to support programs, projects and initiatives that conserve and sustainably use plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in particular in relation to *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives and on-farm management and farmers' sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity;
- b) **Emphasizes** the continuous importance of GEF's financial support to mainstream biodiversity within the agricultural sector;
- c) **Invites** the GEF to enhance support towards the integration of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and other national development plans, national budgets and priorities, which is one of the strategic priorities of the updated Funding Strategy of the International Treaty;
- d) **Notes** that the GEF is increasingly supporting projects and programs which address in an integrated manner food security, sustainable agriculture and climate change adaptation and, acknowledging the important role of the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture for the achievement of sustainable agriculture and food systems, **invites** the GEF to more clearly articulate such role within such integrated programmes in the GEF-8 programming framework;
- e) **Invites** the GEF to continue supporting projects to promote the mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
- f) **Thanks** the GEF for having noted in the GEF-7 Biodiversity Strategy that results from certain GEF-7 investments may generate important co-benefits for the International Treaty and invites the GEF to continue to do so in the formulation of the GEF-8 Biodiversity Strategy;
- g) **Notes** that the formulation and implementation of the GEF-8 will coincide in time with the implementation of the updated Funding Strategy, and **recommends** FAO and other GEF partners to increase the priority and attention given to the implementation of the International Treaty through the GEF-8, in order to make an important contribution to the achievement of the financial target for the Funding Strategy established by the Governing Body; furthermore,

**suggests** that as part of the GEF-8, activities should focus on *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives, wild crop foods and on-farm management of farmers' landraces;

h) **Requests** the Secretary to submit the elements of advice made by the Governing Body for the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity for transmission to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and **requests** the Secretary, together with the Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilisation and the Bureau, to develop further inputs relevant to the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund that will reflect developments during the biennium, including in relation to the implementation of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty and the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;

6. **Invites** Contracting Parties, in line with Article 18.4 (a) of the International Treaty, to ensure due attention to plans and programmes that support the implementation of the International Treaty within the governing bodies of the GEF including by making use, if appropriate, of the Elements of Advice for the GEF in relation to the International Treaty prepared by the Governing Body;

7. **Requests** the Secretary to continue following processes within the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol concerning "digital sequence information/genetic sequence data" (DSI/GSD)<sup>1</sup> on genetic resources and providing information on relevant International Treaty activities and collaborate and, as appropriate, coordinate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on issues related to DSI/GSD on genetic resources in order to promote coherence and mutual supportiveness between the respective conventions and implementing processes, and report to the Governing Body at its next Session;

8. **Thanks** the Secretary for the activities undertaken to enhance cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and **requests** the Secretary to continue engaging in the processes to enhance cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions during the next biennium;

9. **Welcomes** the signature of a new Memorandum of Cooperation by the Secretary of the International Treaty and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is intended to enhance institutional cooperation between the two Secretariats, especially in capacity development activities dealing with access and benefit-sharing as related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and, in the coordination of technical assistance at the international, regional, sub-regional and national levels, as well as the exchange of information and other relevant activities;

10. **Appreciates** the Secretary's efforts to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue exploring with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, practical means and activities to further enhance this cooperation according to the Memorandum of Cooperation, and the Joint Initiative between the two Secretariats, and to report on these activities to the Governing Body;

11. **Requests** the Secretary to cooperate with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity by providing information on developments and practical implementation experiences within the International Treaty, including to inform future discussions on Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol;

12. **Requests** the Secretary to continue exploring technical options for the exchange of information between the Global Information System of the International Treaty and the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House Mechanism in areas of mutual interest for the benefit of Contracting Parties and users;

13. **Welcomes** the on-going collaboration between the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity in the monitoring process on the achievement of SDG Target 15.6 "Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed" and **requests** the Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

to report back to the Governing Body at each Session on any relevant developments regarding such collaboration;

14. **Welcomes** the engagement of the Secretary in capacity development activities on harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol, and **requests** the Secretary to continue engaging in such activities, subject to the availability of financial resources;

15. **Welcomes** the efforts of the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaborating with Bioversity International, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and other partners to bring together stakeholders and experts involved in implementation of the International Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol, and **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue facilitating such interaction on the mutual supportiveness and harmonious implementation of these instruments, and to report the outcomes of such activities to the Governing Body;

16. **Requests** the Secretary to continue reporting on cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity at each Session of the Governing Body.