



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



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

---

## RESOLUTION 12/2019

### COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

---

#### PART I: INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

##### THE GOVERNING BODY,

*Recalling* its Resolution 12/2017 and other previous relevant Resolutions and decisions;

*Reaffirming* the importance of maintaining and further strengthening cooperation with the relevant international organizations, institutions and partners in order to advance the objectives and implementation of the International Treaty;

*Noting with appreciation* the continued cooperation, collaboration and support provided by relevant international organizations during the current biennium;

*Welcoming* the continued active engagement of other relevant stakeholder groups, in particular civil society organizations, farmers' organizations and the seed industry, to support the implementation of the International Treaty and its relevant policy processes;

*Cognizant* of the importance of harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty with relevant instruments and processes especially at the national level, and noting the continued importance of assisting developing country Contracting Parties in this regard;

1. *Reaffirms* the need to continue the efforts necessary to ensure that the International Treaty's objectives and role in the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) are recognized and supported by relevant international institutions, organizations and processes;
2. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to take initiatives to strengthen the harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty and other relevant international instruments and their various goals and commitments in a coherent, clear, and mutually supportive manner; and *requests* the Secretary to facilitate such initiatives upon request and subject to the availability of resources;
3. *Welcomes* the continued support and coordination provided by the African Union Commission for Contracting Parties from the African Region in the implementation of the International Treaty, and *requests* the Secretary to continue strengthening this collaboration as well as to seek opportunities to establish cooperation with other relevant regional organizations and institutions for the promotion and implementation of the International Treaty;
4. *Reaffirms* the need to expand the Joint Capacity Building Programme with Bioversity International and to ensure that the Secretary continue play an active role of coordination, monitoring and analysis of results and impacts, and calls upon Contracting Parties and donors to provide additional funding to support its continuation;
5. *Requests* the Secretary to continue and further strengthen and expand the collaboration with Bioversity International, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the ABS Capacity

Development Initiative and other capacity building providers, in their support to Contracting Parties in implementing the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol in a harmonious and mutually supportive manner;

6. **Encourages** the members of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions to continue their collaboration in accordance with their respective mandates and, subject to availability of financial resources, **requests** the Secretary to continue participating actively in the relevant activities of the Biodiversity Liaison Group, particularly on the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, including proposing relevant outreach activities and biodiversity indicators relevant to the implementation of the International Treaty;

7. **Urges** Contracting Parties to take measures to enhance synergies in their implementation of or participation in biodiversity-related conventions to promote policy coherence, improve efficiency and enhance coordination and cooperation at all levels and **invites** international organizations and donors to provide financial resources to support efforts that encourage synergies in policy development and the fulfilment of obligations under the biodiversity-related conventions;

8. **Requests** the Secretary to continue participating in the Information and Knowledge Management Initiative (InforMEA) being coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme and making information available to Contracting Parties and other stakeholders through the InforMEA Portal, including data related to the implementation of the International Treaty for new biodiversity indicators;

9. **Requests** the Secretary to continue participating in relevant meetings of UPOV and in the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of WIPO, as appropriate and subject to the availability of financial resources;

10. **Requests** the Secretary of the International Treaty to continue cooperating with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Vice-Secretary General of UPOV on the review of the FAQ on the interrelations between the International Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity and UPOV as a basis to explore means to facilitate exchanges of experiences and information on the implementation of the UPOV Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty;

11. **Encourages** other relevant stakeholder groups, in particular civil society organizations, farmers' organizations and the seed industry, to further strengthen their engagement and cooperation to advance the implementation of the International Treaty;

12. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to report to the Governing Body on cooperation with other relevant international bodies and organizations, and related collaborative activities.

## PART II: ARTICLE 15 INSTITUTIONS

### THE GOVERNING BODY,

**Recalling** the provisions of Article 15.1 of the International Treaty;

13. **Takes note** of the information provided in the reports by institutions that have concluded agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty; **commends** those institutions that submitted reports for the valuable contents and **urges** them to continue providing similar information to future sessions of the Governing Body;

14. **Invites** those institutions that have not submitted any report, to do so at the Ninth Session of the Governing Body and **requests** the Secretary to communicate this invitation to such institutions;

15. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue holding regular or periodic consultations with institutions that have concluded agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty, on implementation of the agreements and policy guidance, and report to the Governing Body at each Session;

16. **Welcomes** the report on progress made by CGIAR Centers in minting DOIs for PGRFA in the Article 15 *ex situ* collections, and **encourages** the CGIAR Centers and other Article 15 institutions to make information on PGRFA under development distributed with an SMTA available through the Global Information System;
17. **Takes note** of the on-going efforts to secure the international collections whose orderly maintenance is at risk or threatened and **thanks**, in particular, the Governments of Costa Rica, Ivory Coast and Papua New Guinea for their efforts to contribute to the orderly maintenance of the collections that they host;
18. **Requests** the Secretary to continue exercising his responsibilities and providing support under Article 15 of the International Treaty, in close collaboration with host governments, as applicable, and in partnership with other interested governments and relevant institutions that are capable of providing financial, technical and other necessary support to these efforts;
19. **Urges** Contracting Parties, donors and other stakeholders to provide the necessary financial and material support to facilitate these efforts;
20. **Welcomes** the International Coconut Community (ICC) as new host and coordinator of the COGENT network and **invites** the ICC to strengthen its collaboration with the Secretary in the implementation of the agreements concluded under Article 15 of the International Treaty, especially with regard to the orderly maintenance of the collections under its coordination and the conclusion of agreements to bring other international coconut collections under the auspices of the International Treaty; **invites** the host governments of such collections that have not yet done so, to sign agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty;
21. **Welcomes** the agreement with the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) and **invites** ICBA to strengthen cooperation with the Secretary and relevant institutions for the implementation of the agreement and policy guidance;
22. **Requests** the Secretary to continue in his efforts to secure agreements with other relevant international institutions that meet the requirements of Article 15 of the International Treaty;
23. **Welcomes** the proposal by the Government of Belgium to host a safety backup cryopreservation facility in KUL (Catholic University of Leuven) - Bioversity International Genebank to safeguard plant materials that organizations want safely backed-up for the long term, as part of an overarching strategy for long-term conservation of clonal crops and recalcitrant seeds.

### PART III: MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS OF THE SVALBARD GLOBAL SEED VAULT

#### THE GOVERNING BODY,

*Recalling* Resolution 12/2017;

*Recalling* that the adoption of the International Treaty gave the impetus to the Government of Norway to proceed with the establishment of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault (Seed Vault);

*Reaffirming* that the Seed Vault is an important element of the global system for ex situ conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

24. *Thanks* the Government of Norway for the submission of the report on the management and operations of the Seed Vault and invites it to continue updating the Bureau and Governing Body on the operations and management of the Seed Vault;

25. *Notes* the structural, technical and administrative upgrades of the Seed Vault, meant to ensure further the integrity of the Seed Vault and security of its contents, and *commends* the Government of Norway for undertaking these upgrades;

26. *Renews* the invitation to Contracting Parties, international institutions and other relevant eligible bodies and organizations to consider making use of the Seed Vault as part of their strategy for securing their important seed collections and for long-term storage of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

27. *Requests* the Secretary to continue collaborating with the Government of Norway and its partners in related activities, including supporting relevant communication initiatives and in promoting the use of the Seed Vault;

28. *Welcomes* the reconvening of the Seed Vault's International Advisory Panel and *requests* the Chairperson of the Governing Body to continue chairing the Panel and carrying out such functions as the role may require;

29. *Requests* the Secretary to explore further with the Government of Norway other practical means to enhance the linkages between the International Treaty and the Seed Vault, and report to the Bureau and the Governing Body.