



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



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

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Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda
NINTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY
New Delhi, India, 19–24 September 2022
Annotated Provisional Agenda and Timetable

INTRODUCTION

1. This Session of the Governing Body is convened under the provisions of Article 19 of the International Treaty and is open to all Contracting Parties to the International Treaty, and observers.
2. In accordance with Rule 4.3 of the *Rules of Procedure of the Governing Body* (Rules of Procedure), the Session is convened by the Chairperson, in agreement with the Bureau, and in consultation with the Director-General of FAO and the Secretary. The meeting will be held from 19 to 24 September 2022.
3. In accordance with Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure, the Secretary has notified those governmental or non-governmental bodies and agencies which have informed the Secretariat of their wish to be represented at the meeting, so that they may be admitted as observers. A list of such bodies and agencies will be made available to the Governing Body.
4. This document annotates the Provisional Agenda and provides a proposed timetable, as contained in *Appendix 2* of this document, for the consideration of the Governing Body.

Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body

5. At the end of its Eighth Session, the Governing Body elected the Bureau of its Ninth Sessions as follows. Ms Yasmina El Bahloul (Africa Region) was elected as Chairperson of the Ninth Session. Six Vice-Chairpersons were also elected: Mr Kuldeep Singh (Asia Region), Ms Kim Van Seeters (Europe Region), Mr Manrique Altavista (Latin America and the Caribbean Region), Mr Ali Chéhadé (Near East Region), Ms Christine Dawson (North America Region) and Mr Michael Ryan (Southwest Pacific Region).

FAO-ITPGRFA documents can be consulted at: www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/1259571/

6. In accordance with Rule 2.1 of the Rules of Procedure,¹ the Government of Australia designated Ms Alison McMorro and, subsequently, Ms Alison Curran, in place of Mr Michael Ryan, as the Vice-Chairperson representing Southwest Pacific. The Government of India designated Mr R.C. Agrawal, in place of Mr Kuldeep Singh, as the Vice-Chairperson representing Asia. The Government of Argentina, designated Ms Angela Teves Libarona and, subsequently, Mr Joaquín Salzberg in place of Mr Manrique Altavista for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Opening of the Session

7. The Opening Session will begin at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 19 September 2022. The Governing Body will hear welcoming addresses by high-level representatives of the Host Government and other Contracting Parties, as well as special and invited expert speakers representing stakeholders in the International Treaty.

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

8. Under this section of the Provisional Agenda, the Governing Body is invited to consider organizational matters for the Session, including the adoption of the Agenda and the Timetable, the election of the *Rapporteur*, the appointment of the Credentials Committee and the establishment of a Budget Committee.

9. Following the advice of the Bureau, the Secretary has made arrangements for the virtual participation of delegates not able to attend the Session in person. The Governing Body is invited to note the advice from the Bureau on the modalities and conduct of the Session, as contained in *Appendix 1* of this document.

ITEM 1 Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

10. The provisional agenda was prepared by the Secretary under the guidance of the Bureau, in accordance with Rule 5.1 of the Rules of Procedure. The agenda for this meeting has been organized in five parts, as follows:

- I. Organizational Matters
- II. Reports and General Policy Matters
- III. Implementation of the International Treaty
- IV. Programme of Work and Budget and Related Matters
- V. Administrative and Other Matters

11. The Governing Body is invited to consider the Provisional Agenda, as contained in the document, **IT/GB-9/22/1**, and the provisional timetable proposed in *Appendix 2* of this document, in order to adopt the Agenda and organize its work for the Session.

ITEM 2 Election of the Rapporteur of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body

12. In accordance with Rule 2.1 of the Rules of Procedure, “*the Governing Body shall elect [...] a Rapporteur from among the delegates, alternates, experts and advisers of the Contracting Parties*”. The Governing Body is invited to do so, under this Item.

¹ *If a Bureau member resigns from his or her position or finds him or herself permanently unable to exercise his or her functions, the Contracting Party of that Bureau member shall designate another representative so that he or she may replace the said member during the remainder of the term.*

ITEM 3 Appointment of the Credentials Committee

13. Article 19.4 of the International Treaty provides that each Contracting Party shall have one vote and may be represented at sessions of the Governing Body by a single delegate, which may be accompanied by an alternate, and by experts and advisers. Alternates, experts and advisers may take part in the proceedings of the Governing Body, but may not vote, except in the case of their being duly authorized to substitute for the delegate.

14. According to Rule 4.5 of the Rules of Procedure, “...*each Contracting Party shall communicate to the Secretary of the Treaty the name of its representatives on the Governing Body before the opening of each session of the Governing Body*”.

15. Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure further states that “*the provisions of the General Rules of the FAO shall apply mutatis mutandis to all matters not specifically dealt with under the Treaty or the present Rules*”. According to Rules 3.3 and 3.4 of the General Rules of the FAO, a Credentials Committee shall be established to examine credentials.

16. The Governing Body may wish to establish a Credentials Committee, comprising one representative per Region, to examine the credentials at this Session and to report back to the Governing Body in Plenary.

ITEM 4 Establishment of the Budget Committee

17. Due to the extraordinary circumstances arising from the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, originally scheduled for December 2021, was postponed to May and finally to September 2022. The First Special Session was held on 7 December to adopt an interim budget for 2022, to enable continued functioning of the Treaty and its Secretariat.

18. According to Rule 2 of the *Financial Rules of the Governing Body* (Financial Rules), the financial period is two calendar years, coinciding with the financial period of FAO. Rule 3.4 provides that the draft budget shall be prepared by the Secretary and circulated to Contracting Parties before regular Sessions of the Governing Body. The draft Work Programme and Budget for the biennium 2022–2023 are contained in document, **IT/GB-9/22/18**, *Draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2022–2023 Biennium*, and in the related documentation.

19. The Governing Body may wish to establish a Budget Committee, which may meet following Plenary proceedings, to consider the decisions taken by the Plenary and develop the related budgetary terms, review the draft budget accordingly, and recommend a draft Budget for the 2022–2023 Work Programme, for the consideration of the Plenary.

20. During its work at the Eighth Session of the Governing Body, the Budget Committee encountered some uncertainty regarding the tasks that should effectively be the responsibility of the Committee. Accordingly, in Resolution 14/2019, the Governing Body requested the Bureau to develop Terms of Reference for the Budget Committee, to be presented at the Ninth Session.

21. The Bureau of the Ninth Session developed the draft Terms of Reference for the Budget Committee, with the support of the Secretary, as contained in the document **IT/GB-9/22/4**, *Draft Terms of Reference for the Budget Committee*.

22. The Governing Body is invited to consider the document and approve Terms of Reference for the Budget Committee, so that a Budget Committee may be established and undertake its work in accordance with the approved Terms of Reference.

II. REPORTS AND GENERAL POLICY MATTERS

23. Under this section, the Governing Body is invited to consider reports on introductory and general policy matters. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the reports and provide any further guidance it considers appropriate.

ITEM 5 Report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body

24. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body requested the Bureau of this Ninth Session to undertake a range of tasks. In the intersessional period, the Bureau held regular virtual meetings. The Chairperson will present the report on actions taken in accordance with the requests of the Governing Body. The report of the Chairperson is contained in the document, **IT/GB-9/22/5**.

ITEM 6 Report of the Secretary of the Governing Body

25. In accordance with Article 20 of the International Treaty, the Secretary will report to the Governing Body on activities undertaken in accordance with the decisions of the Governing Body. The report of the Secretary is contained in the document, **IT/GB-9/22/6**.

26. The Secretary will also introduce: the Draft Capacity Development Strategy for the International Treaty, as contained in the document, **IT/GB-9/22/6.1**; the report on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the International Treaty, as contained in the document, **IT/GB-9/22/6.2**; and the review of progress made on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals related to PGRFA, as contained in the document, **IT/GB-9/22/6.3**. The Report on the Implementation of the Communication Strategy of the International Treaty is contained in the document **IT/GB-9/22/6/Inf.1**.

ITEM 7 Celebrating the Guardians of Crop Diversity: Towards an Inclusive Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

27. The Bureau, in consultation with the Host Government, decided on the theme for the Session, “Celebrating the Guardians of Crop Diversity: Towards an Inclusive Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework”, and requested the Secretary to prepare a document. Document, **IT/GB-9/22/7**, contains a draft Resolution, which the Governing Body is invited to consider and adopt.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

28. Under this section, the Governing Body will be invited to review and adopt Resolutions on the implementation of the core systems, mechanisms and strategies of the International Treaty. In accordance with Articles 19.3a and 19.3b of the International Treaty, the Governing Body will “*adopt plans and programmes for the implementation of this Treaty*” and will “*provide policy direction and guidance to monitor, and adopt such recommendations as necessary, for the implementation of the Treaty, in particular for the operation of the Multilateral System*”. Through the Resolutions, the Governing Body will also “*establish[es] and maintain[s] cooperation with other relevant international organizations and Treaty bodies, including in particular the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, on matters covered by this Treaty, including their participation in the funding strategy.*”, (Article 19.3g).

ITEM 8 Proposal for an Amendment of the International Treaty

29. Under Article 23 of the International Treaty, amendments may be proposed by any Contracting Party, for adoption at a Session of the Governing Body. Under this Item, the Governing Body is invited to consider the document, **IT/GB-9/22/8**, *Proposal for an Amendment of the International Treaty*, as transmitted by the Government of Switzerland to the Secretary on 21 April 2017. The Governing Body, at its Seventh Session, took note of the proposal and requested the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access

and Benefit-sharing to take it into account within its mandate and work. At the Eighth Session, the Government of Switzerland reaffirmed its proposal for the consideration of the Governing Body at this Ninth Session.

ITEM 9 The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing

9.1 Implementation and operations of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing

30. Under this Item, the Governing Body is invited to consider issues related to the ongoing operations and general implementation of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing.

31. The Governing Body is invited to consider the document, **IT/GB-9/22/9.1**, *Report on Implementation and Operations of the Multilateral System*, which provides an overview of developments in the operation of the Multilateral System since the last regular Session. The document contains elements for a draft Resolution on these matters and compiles other draft elements proposed in the other documentation presented under Item 9.1.

Reviews and assessments under the Multilateral System

32. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body decided to postpone the reviews and assessments under the Multilateral System to its Ninth Session, and requested the Secretary to prepare two reports, with inputs from Contracting Parties and stakeholders: (1) a report on the reviews and assessments in Article 11.4 of the International Treaty and on possible measures to encourage natural and legal persons to include material in the Multilateral System, and (2) a report on the reviews in Article 13.2d(ii) of the International Treaty regarding payment rates and mandatory payments. The two reports are provided in different sections of document, **IT/GB-9/22/9.1.2 Rev.1**, *Report on Possible Measures to Encourage Natural and Legal Persons to Include Material in the Multilateral System and other Reviews and Assessments under the MLS*. The submissions received are contained in the document, **IT/GB-9/22/9.1/Inf.1 Rev.1**, *Compilation of Submissions on Possible Measures to Encourage Natural and Legal Persons to Include Material in the Multilateral System and on the Reviews and Assessments under the Multilateral System*.

33. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body invited the CGIAR System to continue reporting on the application of the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets to germplasm managed under the framework of the International Treaty, parts thereof, or information generated from the use of this germplasm. A summary of the report that the CGIAR provided, is contained in document, **IT/GB-9/22/9.1**. The full report is available in document, **IT/GB-9/22/9.1/Inf.2**, *The Status of Implementation of the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets: a Submission from the CGIAR to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body*.

The Third Party Beneficiary

34. Under this Item, the Governing Body is invited to consider the biennial report from FAO, acting as Third Party Beneficiary, on the implementation of the related Procedures.² The document, **IT/GB-9/22/9.1.3**, *Report on the Operations of the Third Party Beneficiary*, includes information on potential cases regarding compliance with the SMTA, the status of the Third Party Beneficiary Operational Reserve and the technical implementation of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures through information technology tools.

35. The Governing Body is invited to consider the relevant documentation for item 9.1 and the draft elements of a Resolution that are contained in *Appendix 3* to document, **IT/GB-9/22/9.1**.

² The Governing Body approved the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures at its Third Session, through Resolution 5/2009.

9.1.i Implementation of Article 12.3a of the International Treaty

36. Before the finalization and dispatch of the Provisional Agenda, the Government of Slovenia, acting on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, sent a letter to the Bureau suggesting the placement of an agenda Item at this Session on the implementation of Article 12.3a of the International Treaty, as described in document **IT/GB-9/22/9.1.i**, *Implementation of Article 12.3.a of the International Treaty*. On 29 July 2022, the European Union and its Member States submitted a document with further information and details to facilitate the dialogue and exchange of views on the implementation of Article 12.3a, which is available in the document, **IT/GB-9/9.1.i/Circ.1**, *Submission from the European Union and its Member States on the implementation of Article 12.3a*.

9.2 Updates on any informal consultations on the enhancement of the Multilateral System

37. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body did not agree on a formal intersessional process on the enhancement of the Multilateral System during this biennium. It took note of the need to take stock and to assess the next steps on further work on the enhancement of the Multilateral System. The Governing Body encouraged informal consultations among Contracting Parties and especially national consultations amongst sectors and relevant stakeholders. The Governing Body is invited to consider the document, **IT/GB-9/22/9.2**, *Reports from Informal Consultations on the Enhancement of the Multilateral System*, which summarizes the informal consultations that the Secretary was informed about as well as the main considerations arising from them, and to give any further guidance. The reports on the informal consultations are made available in the information documents **IT/GB-9/22/9.2/Inf.1**, *Informal Consultation co-facilitated by India and Switzerland: Enhancing the Functioning of the Multilateral System – co-facilitators report*, and **IT/GB-9/22/9.2/Inf.2**, *Enhancing the Functioning of the Multilateral System – reports from two virtual informal consultations organized by the Government of Switzerland*.

ITEM 10 The Funding Strategy of the International Treaty

38. The document, **IT/GB-9/22/10**, *Report of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body*, describes the work undertaken by the Funding Committee since the adoption of the Funding Strategy 2020–2025 at the Eighth Session of the Governing Body. The Governing Body is invited to welcome the Report of the Funding Committee, and adopt a resolution, based on the draft elements provided in the document, in order to provide guidance on the further implementation of the Funding Strategy.

39. The draft Resolution contains, in its appendix, a draft Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy prepared by the Funding Committee for the consideration of the Governing Body. This responds to the request of the Governing Body that the Funding Committee develop a strategy to mobilize funds from food processing industries, as called for in Article 13.6 of the Treaty.

40. The Governing Body is also invited to consider the information contained in the documents, **IT/GB-9/22/10/Inf.2**, *Benefit-sharing Fund: 2020–2021 Report*, and **IT/GB-9/22/10/Inf.1**, *Report on the Evaluation of the Third Project Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund*.

ITEM 11 The Global Information System

41. Under this Item, the Governing Body is invited to consider document **IT/GB-9/22/11**, *Report on the Implementation of the Global Information System*, which provides an update on the implementation of the Programme of Work on the Global Information System since the last regular Session of the Governing Body, including on progress in the promotion and use of Digital Object Identifiers, the development of the Global Information System Portal, training and capacity-building activities, mobilization of resources and the strengthening of partnerships and collaborations.

42. The Report also summarizes the work undertaken for the development of descriptors for Crop Wild Relatives conserved in situ, among other descriptor lists. Additional information is available in the document, **IT/GB-9/22/11/Inf.1**, *Towards a More Strategic Approach to the Documentation of Crop Wild Relatives*.

43. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body requested the Secretary to explore possible arrangements for further engagement with the DivSeek International Network, under the guidance of the Bureau. The Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Network, is available in the document, **IT/GB-9/22/11/Inf.3**, *Memorandum of Understanding with the DivSeek International Network*. The collaboration with the Network in the biennium is described in the report that the Network provided, in the document, **IT/GB-9/22/11/Inf.2**, *Report by the DivSeek International Network*.

44. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the progress report and the information contained in the other relevant documents and provide any further guidance it considers appropriate. *Appendix 2* to document, **IT/GB-9/22/11** contains elements for a possible Resolution, including the draft revised Programme of Work on the Global Information System that the Secretary prepared with the inputs and advice of the Scientific Advisory Committee.

ITEM 12 Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA

45. The Governing Body is invited to consider the document, **IT/GB-9/22/12**, *Implementation of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. The document summarizes the activities undertaken for the implementing Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty since the last Session, including for the new prototype of the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA and the concept note for the Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA. The document also contains a draft Resolution for the consideration of the Governing Body.

46. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body reconvened the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Governing Body is invited to consider the report of the Committee, as contained in the document, **IT/GB-9/22/12.2**.

47. Additional information on this item is provided in the following information documents: **IT/GB-9/22/12/Inf.1**, *New Prototype of the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*; **IT/GB-9/22/12/Inf.2**, *Background Study on Bottlenecks and Challenges to the Implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty*; and **IT/GB-9/22/12/Inf.3**, *Report of the First International Multi-Stakeholder Symposium on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

ITEM 13 Farmers' Rights

48. The report on the activities related to the implementation of Farmers' Rights that the Secretary undertook or facilitated in the biennium, is contained in the document, **IT/GB-9/22/13**, *Implementation of Farmers' Rights*. Activities include the support to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (AHTEG-FR), capacity building and outreach, partnerships and collaboration. The report also refers to developments and discussions within other relevant fora and processes. In its *Appendix*, the document contains draft elements for a possible Resolution on Farmers' Rights, for the consideration of the Governing Body.

49. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body reconvened the AHTEG-FR in order to complete its tasks. The report by the AHTEG-FR is available in the document, **IT/GB-9/22/13.2**. The AHTEG-FR prepared draft *Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty*, as contained in the document, **IT/GB-9/22/13.3**.

50. An updated version of the *Inventory of National Measures, Best Practices and Lessons Learned from the Realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty*, is provided in the document, **IT/GB-9/22/13/Inf.1**.

ITEM 14 Compliance

51. The Compliance Committee held its fourth meeting virtually from 3 to 4 February 2021. The meeting was convened in accordance with Section III.5 and Section V of the *Compliance Procedures*.

52. The document, **IT/GB-9/22/14**, *Report of the Compliance Committee*, describes the work undertaken by the Committee during the current biennium to assist the Governing Body in monitoring implementation of obligations under the International Treaty by Contracting Parties, on the basis of reports provided by Contracting Parties. The Committee prepared the synthesis and analysis of its findings.

53. The Governing Body is invited to consider the Report and the draft Resolution on Compliance that the Committee prepared, as contained in *Appendix 3* of the Report. The Governing Body is also invited to elect the members of the Compliance Committee in accordance with Section III.4 of the *Compliance Procedures*, noting the information on membership that is contained in *Appendix 4* of the Report.

ITEM 15 Contribution of FAO to the Implementation of the International Treaty

54. The document, **IT/GB-9/22/15**, *Report from FAO on its contribution to the Implementation of the International Treaty*, has been prepared by the Secretary in collaboration with the Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment (OCB) of FAO.

55. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the activities described in the document as well as consider the draft elements of a Resolution that are contained in the *Appendix* of the document.

ITEM 16 Cooperation with International Instruments and Organizations

16.1 Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

56. The document, **IT/GB-9/22/16.1**, *Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, was prepared jointly by the Secretaries of the International Treaty and the Commission. It provides updates on progress with cooperation in the biennium. The report from the Secretariat of the Commission is available in the document, **IT/GB-9/22/16.1/Inf.1**, *Report from the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, including on FAO activities related to the supporting components of the International Treaty*.

57. The *Appendix* to the document, **IT/GB-9/22/16.1**, contains draft elements for a possible Resolution for consideration by the Governing Body.

16.2 Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust

58. The Governing Body is invited to consider document, **IT/GB-9/22/16.2**, *Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust*, summarising the collaborative activities and initiatives undertaken by the Secretary with the Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust) in the biennium, based on Resolution 10/2019, *Policy Guidance to the Global Crop Diversity Trust*.

59. Under this Item, the Crop Trust will present a report from its Executive Board, which is available in the document, **IT/GB-9/22/16.2.2**, *Report of the Global Crop Diversity Trust*. The Report, which is submitted to the Governing Body pursuant to Article 3 of the *Relationship Agreement with the Global Crop Diversity Trust*, provides updates on the institutional and programmatic developments that occurred during the current biennium.

60. In the biennium 2020-2021, resource mobilization efforts for germplasm collections at risk concretized in the establishment of a financial reserve, as a joint initiative of the International Treaty and the Crop Trust. Document, **IT/GB-9/22/16.2.3**, *Report on the Emergency Reserve for Germplasm Collections at Risk*, summarizes the activities undertaken for establishing and operating the financial reserve.

61. The Governing Body is invited to review these documents and consider the draft elements of a Resolution on policy guidance to the Crop Trust, as contained in the *Appendix* to document, **IT/GB-9/22/16.2** and in IT/GB-9/22/16.2.3.

16.3 Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity, including its Nagoya Protocol

62. Under this Item, the Governing Body is invited to consider the document, **IT/GB-9/22/16.3**, *Report on Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity*, which provides a summary of key areas for decision-making by the Governing Body on cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including in relation to: the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; the Convention's Financial Mechanism - the Global Environment Facility; Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources; and synergies among the Biodiversity-Related Conventions. The document also describes recent developments in the continuing close relationship between the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the CBD.

63. The report of the Executive Secretary of the CBD on cooperation with the International Treaty is provided in the document, **IT/GB-9/22/16.3/Inf.1**, *Report of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on Cooperation with the International Treaty*.

64. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the reports and provide further guidance on the continuing close cooperation of the International Treaty with the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol, taking into account the elements for a possible Resolution that are provided in the *Appendix* to document **IT/GB-9/22/16.3**.

16.4 Cooperation with Other International Bodies and Organizations

65. In accordance with the provisions of the International Treaty and the Resolutions of the Governing Body, collaboration and partnerships with other international bodies and organizations are essential to support and advance the implementation of the International Treaty. The document, **IT/GB-9/22/16.4**, *Report on Cooperation with Other International Bodies and Organizations*, provides a summary report on cooperation and collaborative activities that have taken place during the current biennium and draft elements for a resolution to be considered by the Governing Body.

66. The Governing Body is also invited to consider the documents, **IT/GB-9/22/16.4.2**, *Reports from Institutions that have Concluded Agreements with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the International Treaty*.

67. Furthermore, document **IT/GB-9/22/16.4.3 Rev.1**, *Report of Norway on the Management and Operations of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault*, contains the report on the management and operation of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, as submitted by the Government of Norway to the Governing Body, including possible elements for a resolution. Additionally, document IT/GB-9/22/16.4/Inf.1, *Reports by the United Nations Environment Programme*, contains information on synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions.

68. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the information contained in these reports and to provide any further guidance it considers appropriate for the continued and effective cooperation with relevant international organizations and treaty bodies, taking into account the draft elements for a resolution contained in the relevant documents.

IV. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET AND RELATED MATTERS

69. Under this Section, and in accordance with Article 19.3d of the International Treaty, the Governing Body is invited to adopt the Work Programme and Budget of the International Treaty for the biennium 2022–2023 and to consider related matters, including a Multi-Year Programme of Work.

ITEM 17 Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty

17.1 Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty

70. The Governing Body is invited to consider document **IT/GB-9/22/17.1**, *Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty*, which contains the draft updated Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Governing Body 2022–2027, developed and revised on the basis of outcomes of the work by relevant subsidiary bodies and the implementation of the International Treaty during the past intersessional period.

17.2 Consideration of Digital Sequence Information in accordance with Resolution 13/2017

71. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body adopted Resolution 13/2019 on the Multi-Year Programme of Work, through which, among other matters, it requested the Secretary to inform the Governing Body at this Ninth Session of the state of discussions and outcomes of the related processes in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as they relate to the potential implications of the use of "digital sequence information" on genetic resources for the objectives of the International Treaty.

72. Based on the request by the Governing Body, the Secretary prepared document, **IT/GB-9/22/17.2 Rev.1**, *Consideration of Digital Sequence Information in Accordance with Resolution 13/2019 and the Multi-Year Programme of Work*. The Governing Body is invited to consider the information contained in the document and provide any guidance it considers appropriate in relation to digital sequence information.

73. For this Ninth Session, the Multi-Year Programme of Work foresees the consideration of additional inputs by Contracting Parties on digital sequence information. The document, **IT/GB-9/22/17.2/Inf.1**, *Compilation of Additional Inputs from Contracting Parties on "Digital Sequence Information"*, contains such additional inputs, as received by the Secretary.

17.3 Review of Subsidiary Bodies and Intersessional Processes

74. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body requested the Bureau to review subsidiary bodies and intersessional processes and provide recommendations to the Governing Body, including coordinating subsidiary bodies and avoiding duplication of efforts. The document, **IT/GB-9/22/17.3**, *Review of Subsidiary Bodies and Intersessional Processes*, provides information on the operation of subsidiary bodies and intersessional processes in the biennium 2020-2021 and presents the updated analysis for the review of subsidiary bodies and intersessional processes.

75. The Governing Body is invited to give further guidance regarding the review of subsidiary bodies and intersessional processes, including by taking into account the experience of the last biennium with the work of such bodies and processes, which was carried out predominantly in virtual modality.

ITEM 18 Adoption of the Work Programme and Budget

76. Article 19.3 of the International Treaty provides for the Governing Body to develop plans and programmes to implement the International Treaty and to adopt a budget for the International Treaty. By Resolution GB-Sp1/2021, the Governing Body adopted an *Interim Budget for 2022* and requested

the Secretary to take into account the content of the Resolution in preparing the draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2022–2023 biennium.

77. In adopting the Interim Budget, the Governing Body “*affirm[ed]* that the approval of the Interim Budget is without any prejudice to a final budget to be approved by the Governing Body at its Ninth Session, which will integrate the Interim Budget, as may be adjusted, and take into account any relevant developments that might have occurred after the adoption of the Interim Budget”. As there were no material developments or changes occurring, which significantly affects the overall expenditure trends during 2022, as envisaged, the full biennial draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2022–2023 biennium is being presented *en bloc* for the consideration of the Governing Body.

78. Under this Item, the main working document is, **IT/GB-9/22/18**, *Draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2022–2023 biennium*. The document contains a Secretariat staffing table and draft elements for a Resolution, for the consideration by the Governing Body. The addendum to the document, **IT/GB-9/22/18 Add.1**, provides a list and summary of possible supporting projects to be carried out during the next biennium with additional financial contributions outside the Core Administrative Budget.

79. Two other working documents for this Item are: **IT/GB-9/22/18.2 Rev.1**, *Financial and Progress Report of the Work Programme and Budget for the 2020–2021 Biennium*; **IT/GB-9/22/18.3**, *Implementation Report of the Work Programme for the 2020–2021 Biennium*. Together, these documents provide a summary report on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for the 2020–2021 biennium and serve as a useful reference for the Governing Body in considering and deciding the Work Programme and Budget for the biennium 2022–2023.

80. The Core Work Programme, as presented in the document **IT/GB-9/22/18**, may be subject to variation, depending on the decisions taken by the Governing Body, particularly in relation to the “Core Implementation Functions”. Accordingly, the Budget Committee is invited to ensure that any eventual variations and the ensuing financial implications are correctly reflected in the Core Administrative Budget. Based on the recommendations that the Budget Committee will make during the Session on the Core Administrative Budget, the Governing Body is invited to adopt the Core Work Programme and Core Administrative Budget for the 2022–2023 biennium.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER MATTERS

81. Under this final section of the Provisional Agenda, the Governing Body is invited to consider several administrative matters as well as any other matters arising from the Session, and approve the Report of its Ninth Session, embodying “*its decisions, views, recommendations and conclusions*”.³ The Report will include all the Resolutions adopted at its Ninth Session.

ITEM 19 Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

82. Under this Item, two separate issues are before the Governing Body for its consideration. The first relates to the current appointment of the Secretary made by the Director-General of FAO. The second issue relates to the consideration and adoption of the long-term procedures for the selection, appointment, and renewal of the Secretary.

19.1 Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body

83. The Governing Body is invited to note the information contained in the document, **IT/GB-9/22/19.1**, *Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body*.

³ Rule 8.1, Rules of Procedure of the Governing Body

19.2 Procedures for Appointment and Renewal of the Secretary of the Governing Body

84. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body considered the issue of the long-term procedures for the appointment and renewal of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty and provided guidance to the Bureau of the Ninth Session to continue consultations with FAO Administration, taking into account the elements contained in *Appendix D* of the Report of the Session. During the intersessional period, the Chairperson and the Bureau of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body held consultations and exchanged views with FAO Administration and the Independent Chairperson of the Council. The Governing Body is invited to adopt the procedures contained in the document, **IT/GB-9/22/19.2**.

ITEM 20 Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Tenth Session

85. In accordance with Rule 2.1 of its Rules of Procedure,

the Governing Body shall elect a Chairperson and one Vice-Chairperson per FAO region other than the region of the Chairperson (hereinafter collectively referred to as “the Bureau”) and in addition a Rapporteur from among the delegates, alternates, experts and advisers (hereinafter referred to as “representatives”) of the Contracting Parties.

86. The Governing Body is invited to elect the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Tenth Session of the Governing Body, taking into account any decision it might take regarding the date and place of the Tenth Session. In accordance with Rule 2.2 of the Rules of Procedure, the term of office of the Bureau of the Tenth Session will commence with immediate effect upon the closure of this Ninth Session.

Any Other Matters

87. Before the adoption of its Report, the Governing Body may wish to consider any other matters of relevance to this Session.

ITEM 21 Date and Place of the Tenth Session

88. The COVID-19 global pandemic necessitated the postponement of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body from 2021 to 2022, which resulted in the disruption of the normal biennial cycle of the sessions of the Governing Body. The Financial Rules of the Governing Body provides that the financial period of the Treaty shall be two calendar years, coinciding with the financial period of FAO. It is to be noted that a significant proportion of the budget of the International Treaty is dependent on that of FAO.

89. The Governing Body is requested to indicate the place and date of the Tenth Session of the Governing Body, noting the necessity and expediency of realigning the cycle of the Sessions of the Governing Body with that of FAO, as soon as feasible.

ITEM 22 Adoption of the Report

90. According to Rule 8.1 of the Rules of Procedure,

[a]t each session, the Governing Body shall approve a report embodying its decisions, views, recommendations and conclusions.

91. Under this final Item, therefore, the Governing Body is invited to approve the Report of the Ninth Session.

Appendix 1

Modalities and Guidelines for the Conduct of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty

1. The modalities outlined in this document apply on an exceptional basis to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body in light of the measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting hybrid modality of this Session. The adoption of such procedures shall not create a precedent for the working methods of the Governing Body or any other subsidiary body of the International Treaty for future meetings.

CONDUCT OF SESSION

2. All plenary meetings of the Ninth Session will be conducted in person at the Pullman Convention Centre in New Delhi and through an online platform. Contracting Parties and Observers will be granted accessibility and capability in the online platform, ensuring their ability to be seen, and view who is in attendance in the virtual meeting, and address the Governing Body.

3. The number of representatives per delegation that may be present in the Plenary room at any given time should be limited to two, noting the need to observe the required social distancing to limit the potential for the spread of COVID-19. The Secretariat and the Bureau may further review the number of participants in other meeting rooms as it may be needed during the Session to ensure the safety of all participants.

4. All delegates participating in person should wear a well-fitted mask at all times, except when intervening from the floor and adhere to the rules and indications of the COVID-19 risk mitigation plan developed for the Ninth Session.

5. All requests to participate in the meeting virtually should be addressed to the Secretary at PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org, indicating the name and full contact details of the delegate/delegates that will participate remotely. The request should clearly indicate the role of the delegate that will be participating remotely (head of the delegation, alternate, advisor) and, optionally, the reason that impedes the in-person participation. The request should be made by 15 September 2022.

6. Delegates attending the Ninth Session in person would be allowed to request remote participation for health-related reasons at any time. The request should be made by email to PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org. The delegate will receive an online confirmation with a link to join the Session.

7. Delegates participating virtually may request the floor using the 'raise hand' function in the Zoom platform. The Secretariat will assist the Chairperson in the drawing up of a list of speakers, in order of request, that will be used to call participants to intervene in the proceedings.

8. Simultaneous interpretation in all six languages of the FAO will be provided during the Ninth Session. Delegates participating remotely are invited to wear headphones and speak at dictation speed.

9. Given the hybrid modality of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body and the need to streamline the proceedings to ensure efficient use of the available time during the Session to complete the agenda, participants are encouraged to limit interventions to three minutes, and regional interventions to five minutes. Regional statements are particularly encouraged to maximize the efficiency of the proceedings.

10. To facilitate interpretation and reporting, all participants are requested to provide written copies of their statements to the Secretariat prior to the commencement of the Ninth Session or as early as possible before delivery, and send them to: FAO-Interpretation@fao.org and GB-Treaty@fao.org. Please, clearly indicate the name of the delegation and the agenda item.

11. Remote participants may use the chat function of the Zoom platform only for exchanging information or seeking technical support. However, views that should be taken into account in any ongoing negotiations or the preparation of the meeting report must be expressed orally during the Session.

AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION

12. At the beginning of the Ninth Session, the Governing Body will be invited to declare any rules incompatible with the hybrid modality not applicable. All other working methods of the Governing Body outlined in this Note, in relation to the agenda, timetable, documentation, written correspondence, and conduct of the Session, will be applied.

13. All the documents for the Session are prepared and made available as per established practice on the website of the International Treaty.

14. The Chairperson of the Governing Body may call for a short break at any time during the session.

RECORDS AND REPORTS

15. The Plenary proceedings of the Session will be video recorded and broadcast live.

16. According to the Rules of Procedure, “at each session, the Governing Body shall approve a report embodying its decisions, views, recommendations and conclusions”. The draft report of the Ninth Session will be prepared by the Rapporteur of the Governing Body with the assistance of the Secretary.

17. All other working methods of the Governing Body outlined in this Note for the Ninth Session shall be recorded in the report.

18. Pursuant to the Rules of Procedure, the report of the Governing Body “shall be circulated, for their information, by the Secretary within sixty days of approval to all Contracting Parties and observers that were represented at the session the Director-General of FAO, and, upon request, to other Members and Associate Members of the FAO.”

Appendix 2**Provisional Timetable**

PLENARY			
Time	Agenda Item	Title	Documents
Monday, 19 September 2022			
Morning			
10:00-13:00	Opening Ceremony of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body		
	I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS		
	1	Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable	IT/GB-9/22/1 IT/GB-9/22/1.2 IT/GB-9/22/1.3 IT/GB-9/22/1/Inf.1 IT/GB-9/22/1/Inf.2 IT/GB-9/22/1/Inf.3
	2	Election of the <i>Rapporteur</i>	None
	3	Appointment of the Credentials Committee	None
	4	Establishment of a Budget Committee	IT/GB-9/22/4
	II. REPORTS AND GENERAL POLICY MATTERS		
	5	Report of the Chair	IT/GB-9/22/5
	6	Report of the Secretary	IT/GB-9/22/6 IT/GB-9/22/6.1 IT/GB-9/22/6.2 IT/GB-9/22/6.3 IT/GB-9/22/6/Inf.1
	7	Celebrating the Guardians of Crop Diversity: Towards an Inclusive Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	IT/GB-9/22/7

Monday, 19 September 2022			
Afternoon			
15:00-18:00	III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY		
	8	Proposal for an Amendment of the International Treaty	IT/GB-9/22/8
	9	The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing	
	9.1	Implementation and operation of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing	IT/GB-9/22/9.1 IT/GB-9/22/9.1.2 Rev.1 IT/GB-9/22/9.1.3 IT/GB-9/22/9.1/Inf.1 Rev.1 IT/GB-9/22/9.1/Inf.2 IT/GB-9/22/16.4.2
	9.1.i	Implementation of Article 12.3.a of the International Treaty	IT/GB-9/22/9.1.i IT/GB-9/22/9.1.i/Cir.1
	9.2	Updates on Any Informal Consultations on the Enhancement of the Multilateral System	IT/GB-9/22/9.2 IT/GB-9/22/9.2/Inf. 1 IT/GB-9/22/9.2/Inf. 2
	10	The Funding Strategy of the International Treaty	IT/GB-9/22/10 IT/GB-9/22/10/Inf.1 IT/GB-9/22/10/Inf.2
Tuesday, 20 September 2022			
Morning			
10:00-12.30	13	Farmers' Rights	IT/GB-9/22/13 IT/GB-9/22/13.2 IT/GB-9/22/13.3 IT/GB-9/22/13/Inf.1
	11	The Global Information System	IT/GB-9/22/11 IT/GB-9/22/11/Inf.1 IT/GB-9/22/11/Inf.2 IT/GB-9/22/11/Inf.3

			IT/GB-9/22/16.4.2
Tuesday, 20 September 2022			
Afternoon			
15:00-18:00	12	Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA	IT/GB-9/22/12 IT/GB-9/22/12.2 IT/GB-9/22/12/Inf.1 IT/GB-9/22/12/Inf.2 IT/GB-9/22/12/Inf.3
	14	Compliance	IT/GB-9/22/14 IT/GB-9/22/14/Inf.1
Tuesday, 20 September 2022			
Evening			
19:30-22.00	Continuation of outstanding items		
Wednesday, 21 September 2022			
Morning			
10:00-12.30	15	Contribution of FAO to the Implementation of the International Treaty	IT/GB-9/22/15
	16	Cooperation with International Instruments and Organizations	
	16.1	Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	IT/GB-9/22/16.1 IT/GB-9/22/16.1/Inf.1 IT/GB-9/22/12/Inf.3
	16.2	Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust	IT/GB-9/22/16.2 IT/GB-9/22/16.2.2 IT/GB-9/22/16.2.3 [IT/GB-9/22/16.2/Inf.1]

	16.3	Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Nagoya Protocol	IT/GB-9/22/16.3 IT/GB-9/22/16.3/Inf.1
	16.4	Cooperation with other International Bodies and Organizations	IT/GB-9/22/16.4 IT/GB-9/22/16.4.2 IT/GB-9/22/16.4.3 Rev.1 IT/GB-9/22/16.4/Inf.1
Wednesday, 21 September 2022			
Afternoon			
15:00-18:00	IV. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET AND RELATED MATTERS		
	17	Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty	IT/GB-9/22/17
	17.1	Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty	IT/GB-9/22/17.1
	17.2	Consideration of "Digital Sequence Information" on Genetic Resources for the Objectives of the International Treaty	IT/GB-9/22/17.2 Rev,1
	Continuation of outstanding items		
Thursday, 22 September 2022			
Morning			
10:00-12:30	V. ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER MATTERS		
	19	Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	

	19.1	Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body	IT/GB-9/22/19.1
	19.2	Procedures for the Appointment and Renewal of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty	IT/GB-9/22/19.2
	Continuation of outstanding items		
Thursday, 22 September 2022			
Afternoon			
15:00-18:00	Continuation of outstanding items		
Friday, 23 September 2022			
Morning			
10:00-12:30	Continuation of outstanding items		
Friday, 23 September 2022			
Afternoon			
15:00-18:00		Any other matters	
	18	Adoption of the Work Programme and Budget	IT/GB-9/22/18 IT/GB-9/22/18 Add.1 IT/GB-9/22/18.2 Rev.1 IT/GB-9/22/18.3 IT/GB-9/22/4
	20	Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Tenth Session	

	21	Date and place of the Tenth Session	
Saturday, 24 September 2022			
Morning			
10:00- 12:30	Continuation of outstanding items		
Saturday, 24 September 2022			
Afternoon			
15:00- 18:00	22	Adoption of the Report	
		Closing of the Session	