



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 6.1 of the Provisional Agenda

NINTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

New Delhi, India, 19–24 September 2022

Draft Capacity Development Strategy for the International Treaty

Executive Summary

At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body requested the Secretary to develop a draft Capacity Development Strategy, with inputs from stakeholders and in consultation with relevant subsidiary bodies, for consideration by the Governing Body at this Ninth Session. This document contains the draft Strategy resulting from the consultations carried out and inputs received.

Guidance Sought

The Governing Body is invited to consider the draft Capacity Development Strategy for approval and provide any further guidance it considers appropriate for its future development and implementation.

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

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body of the International requested the Secretary to “develop a draft Capacity Development Strategy (2022–2025), with inputs from stakeholders and in consultation with relevant subsidiary bodies, for consideration by the Governing Body at its Ninth Session”.¹ At the same Session, the Governing Body endorsed the Draft Framework for the Capacity Development Strategy, as the basis for elaborating the Strategy.

II. PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING THE STRATEGY

2. In response to the guidance provided by the Governing Body, the Secretary implemented consultative processes for developing the first draft of the Strategy. With financial support from the Government of Italy to facilitate the process, the Secretary collaborated with the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in the preparation of the draft Strategy and, in particular, in order to coordinate with the capacity development components of the on-going negotiations for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

3. In the period, December 2020 to April 2021, the Secretary convened an informal group of stakeholders with experience and expertise in capacity development of relevance to the International Treaty and other multilateral instruments, in order to gather views and insights on the capacity development process. The activities consisted of an online meeting in December 2020 and a two-week online workspace for questions in February 2021. A summary report of the on-line meeting is available online.²

4. Subsequently, the Secretary prepared the first full draft of the Strategy and, in October 2021, circulated it to the following subsidiary bodies: the Compliance Committee; the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization; the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System; and the Ad Hoc Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

5. Based on the textual inputs and comments received from subsidiary bodies by November 2021, the Secretary made revisions to the draft Strategy. The Secretary forwarded the revised draft Strategy to the Bureau of the Ninth Session in May 2022. Bureau members also provided textual inputs and comments.

6. The further revised draft Strategy in *Appendix 1* of this document incorporates those inputs and addresses the comments. The Governing Body may also consider moving sections of the draft Strategy to annexes in order to make the main text of the Strategy more concise.

7. The next section of this document clarifies the rationale and approach that the Secretary followed in conceiving and developing the draft Strategy.

III. TIMEFRAME FOR THE STRATEGY AND MECHANISM FOR ITS OPERATIONALIZATION

8. The draft Capacity Development Strategy follows a programmatic approach to capacity development in order to synchronise different capacity development activities under or related to the International Treaty, use resources efficiently and optimize results and impact by bringing the sectoral capacity development activities into a coherent vision of implementation.

¹ IT/GB-8/19/Report, paragraph 27.

² www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/1259560/

9. Capacity development is a long-term and continual process. Time is an essential enabling condition for achieving capacity development outcomes. The ultimate goal of achieving long-term, impactful and sustainable outcomes invites for reconsideration of the timeframe originally assigned for implementation of the strategy, i.e. 2022-2025, based on the originally planned date of the Ninth Session in 2021. As a consequence of the postponement of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body to September 2022, the commencement of the Strategy would have to be adjusted to 2023.

10. It is also proposed to extend the timeframe initially envisaged for the strategy to the period 2023-2030, for a time span of eight years instead of four with phased implementation components and in-built review milestones. The draft Strategy provides the framework for overall, broad outcomes and contains a number of principles to guide its implementation, including the need to build on and promote country ownership, and to strengthen regional, national institutions and subnational institutions. Its practical implementation would require key mechanisms that would help operationalize the principles, clarify what actions the Secretariat is expected to undertake according to the applicable guiding principles, and generate cost efficient benefits and results. Thus, it is suggested that the Strategy be complemented by actions plans, each for four years (i.e. two intersessional periods), and that the Strategy cover two actions plans, so to accumulate substantial experience with implementation as a basis for further review after the first period of implementation.

11. In the next eight years, action plans would set forth practical, actionable roadmaps and contain further elements necessary to operationalize the strategy, such as: priority areas to focus capacity development efforts; scientific and technical activities to be carried out to implement the strategy as well as resource mobilization; a map of key partners, based on section 16 of the draft Strategy, supporting the realization of such activities. Without prejudice to national actions, which remains key to realize the objectives of the International Treaty, the action plans could cover global and regional levels, in order to reflect regional priorities, contexts and relevant actors, as well as cater for the role of regional and sub-regional actors.

12. In the development of the action plans, coordination with relevant activities under the rolling Global Action Plan for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture should be sought in order to avoid duplication of efforts and focus on specific work areas that pertain to the mandate and operations of the International Treaty.

13. The development of the first action plan could be initiated as soon as the Governing Body approves the Strategy and be concluded within a reasonable timeframe so to initiate implementation. The Secretary could be tasked with formulating the first draft action plan under the guidance of the Bureau of the Tenth Session, for its consideration and agreement. In the process of formulating the action plan, the Bureau members will be asked to gather inputs from stakeholders in their respective Regions. The second action plan would be based on the mid-term progress report in year 2026 (see section IX of the draft Strategy) and be submitted to the Governing Body. The final report on implementation of the Strategy will be submitted in year 2030.

IV. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

14. The Governing Body is invited to consider the draft Capacity Development Strategy for approval, and provide any further guidance it considers appropriate on the matter. Elements for a draft Resolution are in *Appendix 2* of this document.

Appendix 1

Draft Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty (2023–2030)

I. Introduction

1. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture requested the Secretary to “develop a draft Capacity Development Strategy (2022–2025), with inputs from stakeholders and in consultation with relevant subsidiary bodies, for consideration by the Governing Body at its Ninth Session”.¹
2. The Capacity Development Strategy follows a programmatic approach to capacity development in order to promote and enhance implementation of the International Treaty by improving coherency in planning and delivering capacity development, using resources efficiently and optimizing results and impact through sectoral capacity development activities brought into a coherent vision of implementation. The Capacity Development Strategy will be accompanied by four-year action plans that will be developed in accordance with the guidance by the Governing Body of the International Treaty.

II. Purpose

3. Capacity development activities to support the implementation of the International Treaty are carried out by a number of organizations at various geographical scales (international, regional, national) and with different objectives and approaches. Contracting Parties support development, research and education projects that enhance national capacities in other Contracting Parties to achieve the objectives of the International Treaty, with the involvement of universities, the private sector, civil society and international organizations. At the request of Contracting Parties, the Secretariat has also played a supporting role and facilitated regional and national capacity development activities, relying on its own expertise as well as a network of external experts and partner institutions.
4. The diversity of players that take part in the field of capacity development make the alignment of efforts necessary to ensure that these are supporting a common goal. The Capacity Development Strategy aims to provide a framework that brings coherence to the endeavours of Contracting Parties, other Governments and non-State actors, while also incentivising a wider range of stakeholders and partners to get actively involved in supporting the implementation of the International Treaty.

III. Capacity development

5. For the purpose of this Strategy, the term capacity is understood as the ability of people and organizations to manage their affairs successfully. Furthermore, capacity development is understood as the process whereby people and organizations activate, strengthen, create, adapt and maintain capacity over time. Capacity development is an iterative process, led by a range of different actors at all levels.² Capacity building is referred to in Article 13.2.c of the International Treaty. The international development community is gradually replacing the term capacity

¹ IT/GB-8/19/Report, paragraph 27.

² Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), *Corporate Strategy on Capacity Development* (2010), p.1

building with capacity development, both terms have been used interchangeably in the context of the International Treaty and, therefore, both apply to this document.

6. Capacity development processes strive to achieve change at different levels and focus on different types of capacities. The types of capacity relevant to the International Treaty include:

- **Functional capacities:** broad, all-purpose skills, referring to capacities needed to uptake and sustain the objectives of the International Treaty in the broader context of the agriculture and rural development sector. They include cross-cutting capacities relevant to individual and organizational effectiveness, such as management capacities needed to formulate, implement and review policies, strategies, programmes and projects, leadership, budgeting, marketing, resource mobilization, information and communication technology and strategic planning. In addition, they refer to soft skills, such as communication and advocacy.

Functional capacities may include:

- (i) **Policy and normative:** capacities to formulate and implement policies or regulatory instruments and lead policy reform;
 - (ii) **Knowledge:** capacities to create, access, manage and exchange information and knowledge;
 - (iii) **Partnerships:** capacities to initiate and sustain networks, alliances and partnerships;
 - (iv) **Implementation:** capacities to manage (planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating) projects and programmes efficiently and effectively.
- **Technical capacities** are associated with particular areas of expertise and practice in specific sectors or themes. These include capacities to carry out technical tasks that are required to implement the specific provisions of the International Treaty. Guidance is provided in Article 13.2.c of the International Treaty, which refers to: i) establishing and/or strengthening programmes for scientific and technical education and training in conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; ii) developing and strengthening facilities for conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in particular in developing countries, and countries with economies in transition; and iii) carrying out scientific research preferably, and where possible, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in cooperation with institutions of such countries, and developing capacity for such research in fields where they are needed.

7. The three levels at which capacity development objectives generally operate are:

- **Individual**, focusing on the skills, knowledge and experience for individuals to perform their roles. It relates to the people involved in the crop sector, such as farmers, researchers, breeders, other seed system actors, policymakers, staff of administrations and other formal organizations. Capacities are developed at the individual dimension to lead to changes in skills, behaviours and attitudes among this wide range of actors, with particular attention to women and youth.
- **Organizational**, which relates to internal policies and structures of the institutions or organizations where those individuals perform their roles. Strengthening organizational capacities consist of those measures taken by organizations to improve their overall functioning and performance. It is often reflected in changes to organizational mandates, systems, processes or priorities.

- **Systemic or enabling environment**, which refers to the context in which those individuals and organizations exist and put their capabilities into action, including legal and policy frameworks, power relations and social norms. Changes to the enabling environment influence how organizations and individuals behave and progress.
8. Capacity development should be tailored to the type of capacity and level which is being targeted, taking into account the specific constraints faced by women and youth.

IV. Overall goal and expected outcomes

9. The **overall goal** of the Strategy is to promote and enhance the implementation of the International Treaty through improving the coherence, efficiency and effectiveness of capacity development efforts relating to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.
10. Guided by its overall goal, the strategy seeks to achieve the following **outcomes**:
- (i) Enhanced functional and technical capacities for implementation of all parts of the International Treaty, i.e. conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, Farmers' Rights, the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing, the Global Information System of Article 17 and other supporting components;
 - (ii) Enhanced understanding of the International Treaty resulting in effective coordination across government agencies and other in-country actors for its effective implementation;
 - (iii) Enhanced compliance of Contracting Parties with International Treaty obligations, including the coordinated and participatory delivery of national reporting in the context of the Compliance Procedures;
 - (iv) Increased visibility and profile of the International Treaty at national and regional levels;
 - (v) Reinforced interlinkages between national programmes on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and broader national development plans and strategies such as food security, nutrition, climate change, agricultural development, biodiversity and environment;
 - (vi) Wider involvement of stakeholders supporting the implementation of the International Treaty, including by an expanded pool of partner organizations at the regional and international levels; and
 - (vii) Strengthened cooperation and collaboration between the International Treaty, FAO bodies and other relevant international instruments and intergovernmental processes.

V. Guiding principles

11. This Strategy is intended as a flexible framework to pursue a strategic and tailored approach to capacity development. Responding to this, and in order to enable its effective implementation, a series of guiding principles are set out below.
- (i) Respond to the needs and circumstances of beneficiaries in relation to the implementation of the International Treaty.
 - (ii) Plan effectively for the long term.
 - (iii) Build on and promote country ownership.
 - (iv) Strengthen regional, national and subnational institutions.
 - (v) Promote cooperative action and partnerships.
 - (vi) Promote cooperation towards mutually supportive implementation of different international instruments and programmes.
 - (vii) Encourage a multi-stakeholder and gender- and youth-responsive approach.
 - (viii) Monitor, learn lessons and build on success.

12. All actors are encouraged to apply these principles in their capacity development efforts at the global, regional, national and subnational levels, with a view to promoting an effective implementation of the strategy and maximising the opportunities derived from the designed capacity development interventions. A description of the guiding principles is contained in the Annex to this Strategy.

VI. Strategic approaches for implementation of the Strategy

13. Capacity development, including in the context of the International Treaty, is supported in many different ways. These are dependent on the target audience, the objectives of the specific interventions, and the geographic areas in which they are being implemented. Furthermore, there are a range of mechanisms already in place to support the implementation of the International Treaty, such as the Benefit-Sharing Fund and the Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; and others derived from relevant intergovernmental processes and agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization (Nagoya Protocol).

14. In the context of operationalising the aforementioned guiding principles, the following **strategic approaches for implementation** are intended to help achieve the overall goal and outcomes of this Strategy (see section IV).

- **Approach 1. Expand scientific and technical capacities at the national and sub-national levels:** Scientific and technical capacities related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are a pivotal factor in enabling an effective implementation of the International Treaty. Capacity development interventions should seek to prioritize the creation and/or strengthening of these capacities, including through the transfer of technologies in accordance with Article 13.2.b of the International Treaty.
- **Approach 2. Further integrate capacity development relevant for the achievement of the objectives of the International Treaty into national planning processes:** Consider mechanisms to support the integration of capacity development interventions to support the implementation of the International Treaty across agriculture, environment and development strategies, policies and programmes, including in the context of FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors³ and the 2021-23 Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors.⁴ Capacity development interventions should be designed to respond to identified country needs and priorities and be gender responsive. Under this approach, **support to the preparation of capacity development action plans at the national or subnational levels** could be considered to identify and articulate capacity needs and priorities, as well as opportunities to mobilize resources for their fulfilment. Contracting Parties are encouraged to involve relevant organizations (including women farmers' organizations) in the process of development of their action plans with a view to identifying their potential roles and contributions to their implementation.
- **Approach 3. Enhance cooperation within FAO relating to capacity development for implementation of the International Treaty:** Capacity development is a cross-cutting issue under different FAO bodies and also under those of the International Treaty. The present

³ FAO. 2020. FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors. Rome. doi.org/10.4060/ca7722en

⁴ See: www.fao.org/3/nf735en/nf735en.pdf.

strategy has been developed with a view to strengthening existing tools, or providing new ones as appropriate, that can promote a strategic and coherent approach across FAO for the implementation of joint capacity development activities related to the International Treaty. In particular, close collaboration should be pursued with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, in alignment with the rolling Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts as to capacity development. The role of FAO's regional and country offices should also be considered.

- **Approach 4. Enhance coordination and cooperation with capacity development under other international instruments and processes:** Capacity development is a cross-cutting issue under a range of multilateral environmental agreements and other international instruments such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, including the long-term strategic framework for capacity building and development to support implementation of the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework once adopted. Efforts should be made so that planning capacity development interventions builds on long-term goals and takes into account all relevant international instruments and processes that can support the implementation of the International Treaty.
 - **4.a Continue active engagement of the Secretary of the International Treaty in existing arrangements aimed at fostering cooperation and collaboration:** Institutional cooperation and collaboration with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the CGIAR Centers on capacity development should continue. The Liaison Group of Biodiversity related Conventions, which gathers the heads of secretariats of the eight biodiversity-related conventions, can be a useful tool to further enhance the exchange of experiences, foster coordinated action and establish shared priorities for capacity development at the programmatic level.
 - **4.b Mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty, and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol:** The International Treaty was developed in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity. Furthermore, the Nagoya Protocol recognises: i) the interdependence of all countries with regard to genetic resources for food and agriculture as well as their importance for food security, acknowledging the key role that the International Treaty plays in that regard; ii) the role of specialised instruments on access and benefit-sharing. It is therefore essential that the implementation of these instruments be undertaken in a mutually supportive manner, including with respect to capacity development. Existing initiatives such as the Capacity Development Programme for the mutual supportiveness between the International Treaty, and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol, and similar initiatives linked to the implementation of the strategic framework for capacity-building and development for the Nagoya Protocol and other relevant instruments as appropriate, provide a basis on which to build further efforts.
 - **[4.c Mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty and the Conventions of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants:** The International Treaty and the UPOV Conventions are fundamentally compatible as the latter seeks to provide and promote an effective system of plant variety protection, with the aim of encouraging the development of new varieties of plants, for the benefit of society. Enhanced coordination and cooperation regarding

the successful implementation of the International Treaty alongside the UPOV conventions will go a long way toward securing food security.] *

- **Approach 5. Promote partnerships and networks at global and regional levels:** The establishment of cooperation initiatives and partnerships provides an effective way to mobilize resources, and to share expertise and knowledge. Existing initiatives and partnerships with FAO bodies and regional and country offices, other development actors from the United Nations system, [UPOV] *, global funds, regional and sub-regional institutions, private sector and civil society organizations (including women and youth organizations) should be strengthened or pursued.

Regional and sub-regional institutions play an important role in planning and supporting the implementation of capacity development interventions. They can incorporate skills, knowledge and practices that enable the provision of appropriate services and facilitate information and knowledge exchange. In return, the use of existing institutions contributes to their strengthening and to the further development of endogenous capacities.

- **5.a Continue strengthening cooperation and coordination with key global partners:** The strategy provides an opportunity to strengthen existing arrangements and implement a coherent approach towards monitoring the implementation and outcomes of ongoing initiatives. In particular, efforts by key global partners such as CGIAR Centers and the Global Crop Diversity Trust play a key role in this area. For instance, the Joint Capacity Building Programme for Developing Countries on Implementation of the International Treaty and its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing with the CGIAR.
 - **5.b Build new partnerships and collaboration with relevant organizations, particularly at the regional level:** Opportunities to establish new partnerships and cooperation initiatives with relevant organizations and institutions for the promotion and implementation of the International Treaty can help to leverage capacity development efforts and increase their impact. Various regional organizations (e.g. the SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre) have vast experience working on the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, food security, Farmers' Rights and fair and equitable benefit-sharing. Fostering cooperation arrangements with organizations outside the usual partners that support the work of the International Treaty can help expanding its visibility to wider audiences, pool resources, avoid duplication of efforts and further ensure the Treaty's tailored implementation. Considering the key role of regional and sub-regional organizations to support capacity development efforts, new partnerships at these levels could be strengthened and prioritised in the process of implementation of the strategy.
 - [Enhance awareness and capacity on the objectives and provisions of the International Treaty among UPOV members, and vice versa] *
- **Approach 6. Further promote North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation:** Country-to-country international cooperation is key to support the capacity development process necessary for the implementation of the International Treaty and should continue to advance. The capacity development process can be enhanced by building new and strengthening ongoing North-South (e.g. the support by the governments of Italy and Norway

* Sections of the draft Strategy marked with the asterisk are in brackets as conflicting views have been expressed by different subsidiary body members and alternative text has been proposed.

to regional capacity development workshops on conservation and sustainable use and Farmers' Rights) and South-South initiatives and networks (e.g. cooperation within SADC countries). For example, regional nodes or centres of excellence for strengthening open access to data and tools and facilitating knowledge exchange. Triangular cooperation can also support capacity development activities and expand their impact at the national and regional levels (e.g. with the provision of funding, training and other support). To the extent possible, it is encouraged that North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives build on existing bilateral as well as regional and sub-regional support networks or hubs.

- **Approach 7. Strengthen collaboration between public and private institutions.** Many public and private sector institutions already play a decisive role in developing capacities across different areas relevant to food and agriculture. Their knowledge, expertise, technology and resources could make an important contribution to increase the impact of the interventions to implement the International Treaty. Moving forward, engagement with public and private institutions should be strengthened and, if possible, broadened, while making sure that all new collaborations are tailored to different needs and contexts.
- **Approach 8. Facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience:** Existing training materials on the International Treaty provide a solid asset for conducting capacity development activities and should be expanded (e.g. training modules of existing courses on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture or plant breeding). Capacity development activities should not only promote the exchange of technical information, but also emphasise the importance of sharing experiences, good practices and lessons learned.
- **Approach 9. Monitor and review the Strategy:** Monitoring and evaluation of capacity development efforts provide important input for improvement of the interventions as they are implemented. Implementation of the strategy should promote the enhancement of monitoring and review of capacity development efforts at all levels. Reviewing implementation periodically and learning from experience are essential mechanisms to scale up approaches that have generated positive outcomes. The monitoring and review of the strategy should take advantage of reporting mechanisms already in place and in collaboration with the Compliance Committee as necessary.
- **Approach 10. Addressing women and youth's specific constraints:** in line with the guiding principles, the strategy will promote capacity development activities that consider women and youth's specific constraints to implementation of the International Treaty.

VII. Key players to enable the implementation of the Strategy

15. Support for capacity development is provided by a broad range of organizations and individuals, who contribute in many different ways and for a diversity of purposes. It is anticipated that the players identified below will have a significant role in driving change and helping achieve the Strategy's outcomes and overall goal.

16. Key players can be grouped under the following categories, which are not mutually exclusive:

- **Government institutions responsible for implementation of the International Treaty and promotion of its objectives:** These include national focal points and other competent

national authorities who play a leading role in coordinating and supporting policy development processes for the national implementation of the International Treaty.

- **Beneficiaries⁵ and stakeholders:** These include public agricultural research institutions, academia, and individuals and groups including farmers and farmer organizations, especially women and youth groups and producers, local and indigenous communities, plant breeders, seed sector, genebanks, food processing industries, traders, private sector entities and civil society organizations.
- **Regional and international providers:** These include the international agricultural research centres of the CGIAR, as well as other international, regional and sub-regional organizations, internationally operating non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector.
- **Donors:** These include Contracting Parties and other governments, United Nations entities, international funds, multilateral financial institutions, philanthropic organizations and individuals.
- **Secretariat of the International Treaty:** it will play a supporting role in facilitating the implementation of the Strategy, partnering with key players for realisation of the overall goal and outcomes.

17. It should be noted that, depending on factors such as the capacities and topics addressed in each intervention, these key players can be providers or beneficiaries of capacity development. This consideration should be embedded into working practices, from sharing of experiences to passing on what is newly learned, and strategies for communication and engagement.

VIII. Resources for implementation

18. The success of the Strategy will require resources for its implementation to be available and sustained over time, including the contributions made by all key players in enabling its implementation. An effective implementation rests on the access to available financial and other resources, including those derived from non-monetary benefit-sharing.

19. Under article 18 of the International Treaty, the Contracting Parties undertake to implement a funding strategy, with the objectives of the enhancing the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources for implementation. The Funding Strategy of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2020–2025 provides a basis to help secure the necessary resources for implementation of the International Treaty and to leverage funding for the Capacity development Strategy. The channels and tools for funding to support the implementation of the Capacity Development Strategy align with those encompassed in the Funding Strategy.

20. Given that the impact of capacity development interventions occurs mostly at the national and subnational levels, implementation of the Strategy should promote and enhance capacities for the mobilization of resources at those levels, with a view to expanding its impact.

21. The Funding Strategy calls on Contracting Parties to enhance integration of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in national development plans, national budgets and priorities for donor support and external funding and provides for the development of strategic tools that national focal points and others can use to leverage new resources.

⁵ Depending on the specific circumstances, they may also be providers of capacity development.

Funding mechanisms and channels

The Funding Strategy of the International Treaty encompasses the following funding sources:

- 1. Funding channels not under direct control of the Governing Body** such as national funding, bilateral funding and assistance, and other relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies.
- 2. Funding mechanisms for which the Governing Body provides policy guidance** such as the Global Crop Diversity Trust; and
- 3. Tools under direct control and guidance of the Governing Body** such as the Benefit-sharing Fund, and Special Fund for Agreed Purposes.

IX. Monitoring and review

22. Capacity development is a long-term process which requires effective planning, monitoring and review. Monitoring and review are key to understand progress in implementation, including by identifying challenges, and make adjustments as needed. The purpose is to improve performance over time, and to ensure that the Strategy continues to meet the needs of the Contracting Parties.

23. Depending on resources available and the engagement of key players for implementation, monitoring and review will be conducted for capacity development interventions at different geographic levels (national, sub-regional, regional, global) taking into account relevant reports on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

24. Review of implementation of the Strategy at the global level will be undertaken by the Governing Body, building on existing indicators, monitoring, review and reporting tools and processes including those of the Compliance Committee, the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization, and the inputs provided by other subsidiary bodies and stakeholders.

25. Based on the above-mentioned inputs, the Secretary will develop indicators and prepare a mid-term progress report and a final report on the implementation of the Capacity Development Strategy for consideration by the Governing Body at its Eleventh and Thirteenth sessions, respectively.

Annex to the Strategy

Description of the guiding principles

- (i) **Respond to the needs and circumstances of beneficiaries in relation to implementation of the International Treaty.** Capacity development interventions should be demand-driven, based on needs and priorities identified through a problem-solving approach. Article 13.2.c of the International Treaty refers to priority to building capacity in plant genetic resources for food and agriculture that developing countries accord in their plans and programmes. These interventions should also be gender-responsive in line with and adapted to the cultural context of the targeted country or region.
- (ii) **Plan effectively for the long term.** Capacity development is a long-term process. The designed interventions (including those under programmes or projects) should therefore be part of long-term capacity development goals or strategies. This requires consideration of sustainability for retention and further development of the built capacities in the long term, for example supported through sustainability plans associated to the different interventions.
- (iii) **Build on and promote country ownership.** To be effective with outcomes that remain sustainable over time, capacity development interventions require ownership from their beneficiaries. Taking into account the fundamental role of Contracting Parties as ultimately responsible for ensuring an effective implementation of the International Treaty, country ownership should be considered a pre-requisite for the design and implementation of any related capacity development activities. Regional, national and local actors, including from diverse agencies of the public administration, should be able to fully commit and engage in every stage of the capacity development activities. These activities should promote an active participation and coordinated approach by all public agencies in order to ensure joint responses in addressing identified needs and priorities.
- (iv) **Strengthen regional and national institutions.** At whatever stage of development, they play an important role in supporting capacity development activities. They can incorporate traditional skills, knowledge and practices that enable the provision of appropriate services and facilitate information sharing. In return, the use of existing regional and national institutions contributes to their strengthening and to the further development of endogenous capacities.
- (v) **Promote cooperative action and partnerships.** Capacity development occurs at different levels and is carried out by a wide range of organizations (public and private, governmental and non-governmental). Development of new and nurturing of existing partnerships is therefore essential to enhance cooperation and collaboration among those actors, ultimately deepening the opportunities for capacities to be developed and sustained over time.
- (vi) **Promote cooperation towards mutually supportive implementation of different international instruments and programmes.** Each country has different obligations derived from the international instruments it has ratified or adopted. These may also include initiatives or programmes to support capacity development. As such, it is important that countries address their international obligations in ways that support the mutual implementation of the different instruments, including with respect to capacity development.
- Furthermore, cooperative arrangements to enhance cooperation, coordination and collaboration between international instruments should be strengthened and/or established.
- (vii) **Encourage a multi-stakeholder and gender-responsive approach.** Capacity development interventions should promote the full and effective participation and involvement of

all stakeholders, including farmers, local and indigenous communities, women, youth, private sector and academia, among others.

(viii) **Monitor, learn lessons and build on success.** Monitoring and evaluation of capacity development efforts provides important input for improvement of the interventions as they are implemented. Periodic evaluations are crucial for improving the quality, effectiveness and sustainability of capacity development endeavours. Achievement of capacity development outcomes and objectives needs to be monitored over time to facilitate the identification of opportunities and challenges and improve performance to inform the design and implementation of future interventions.

DRAFT RESOLUTION *.*./2022

**CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL TREATY 2023–2030**

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Affirming the relevance of building capacities for the implementation of the International Treaty and *noting* Article 13.2.c of the International Treaty;

Recalling its previous decision in year 2019 on *the Draft Framework for the Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty (2022–2025)*;

Affirming the importance of having a Capacity Development Strategy with a broad timeframe, so to allow for the full implementation of its strategic approach and the achievement of the expected capacity development outcomes;

Further affirming the importance of accompanying the Strategy with four-year action plans, so to develop practical mechanisms to make the Strategy operative and in particular clarify what actions the Secretariat is expected to undertake according to the applicable guiding principles;

1. *Approves* the Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty 2023–2030, as contained in the *Appendix* of this Resolution;
2. *Invites* Contracting Parties, other governments and stakeholders to cooperate on the implementation of the Strategy;
3. *Further invites* Contracting Parties, other governments and stakeholders to coordinate implementation of the Strategy with relevant activities under the rolling Global Action Plan for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in order to avoid duplication of efforts and focus on specific work areas that pertain to the mandate and operations of the International Treaty;
4. *Requests* the Secretary to develop the first four-year Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy for its approval by the Bureau of the Tenth Session, and *further requests* the Bureau to provide the Secretary with guidance, and consult with stakeholders in their Regions, on the development of the first Action Plan.