



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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Item 16.4 of the Provisional Agenda

NINTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

New Delhi, India, 19–24 September 2022

Report on Cooperation with Other International Bodies and Organizations

Executive summary

The Governing Body has repeatedly emphasised the need to continue the efforts to promote the objectives of the International Treaty and its role in the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) and to ensure that they are recognized and supported by relevant international institutions, organizations and processes. Since the Eighth Session of the Governing Body, collaboration and partnerships with other international bodies and organizations have continued to support and advance implementation of the International Treaty. This document contains a summary of the cooperation and collaborative activities undertaken in this regard.

Guidance sought

The Governing Body is invited to take note of the information contained in this report and to give any further guidance it considers appropriate for the continued and effective cooperation with relevant organizations and treaty bodies, taking into account the elements for a Resolution provided for its consideration in the Appendix to this document.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Article 19.3(g) of the International Treaty stipulates that the Governing Body shall “establish and maintain 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”.

2. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body “reaffirm[ed] the need to continue the efforts necessary to ensure that the International Treaty’s objectives and role in the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) are recognized and supported by relevant international institutions, organizations and processes” and “request[ed] the Secretary to continue to report to the Governing Body on cooperation with other relevant international bodies and organizations, and related collaborative activities”.

3. This document provides a summary of the cooperation, partnerships and related collaborative activities undertaken with other international bodies and organizations, as well as other relevant stakeholder groups, since the Eighth Session of the Governing Body, to support and advance implementation of the International Treaty.

II. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

A. African Union

4. The Secretary continued interaction and cooperation with the African Union Commission during the past biennium. As part of the collaboration the Secretary participated and provided technical inputs in stakeholder consultations aimed at facilitating the establishment of regional genebanks for the identification and preservation of indigenous plant genetic resources that can be used for the production of improved seeds that are adaptable to local environmental conditions of African countries.

5. As have been the practice for the past sessions of the Governing Body, with support from the Secretariat, the African Union Commission will host a regional preparatory meeting for the Africa Region for the Ninth Session of the Governing Body. The objectives of the meeting were to (i) provide an update and overview of the status and outcomes of intersessional processes under the Treaty, and the preparations for the Session; and (ii) enable delegates to familiarize themselves with the issues on the Agenda, prepare and coordinate their positions for the Ninth Session.

6. The Secretariat is currently in discussions with the African Union Commission and the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT regarding an initiative on mobilizing genetic diversity for food and nutrition security and climate change adaptation in Africa. The initiative will take advantage of opportunities for international cooperation – cooperation to conserve, exchange, and add value to plant genetic resources and share benefits - that have been created by countries’ membership in the International Treaty and its Multilateral System.

B. Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT

7. The Secretary continued close collaboration with the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) (the Alliance), including within the framework of the Joint Capacity Building Programme. The Alliance supported finalization of the Educational Module on the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, which was published in early 2022. The Alliance and the Secretary have also partnered to plan capacity development activities, including under the BOLD programme of the Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust).

8. As a follow-up to earlier collaborations on the study on countries' interdependence in plant genetic resources for food and agriculture¹ and the mapping of available information,² the Secretary, the Alliance and the Crop Trust initiated the next phase during the last biennium, aiming to add more data, finalize the methodology, and make both data and methodology available and accessible. The project will summarize the findings of the research for a variety of purposes through a background study paper, infographics/visuals and an interactive website. The study, "The Plants That Feed the World: baseline data and metrics to inform strategies for the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture", will be presented to the Governing Body at this Session.

9. The Alliance and 32 other partners, including the Secretariat of the International Treaty and different offices of FAO, organized the 2nd International Agrobiodiversity Congress, which was virtually hosted by the Italian Government from 15 to 18 November 2021. The meeting provided a platform to facilitate dialogue and knowledge exchange and share experiences on the consumption, production and conservation of agrobiodiversity. "The 2021 Rome Manifesto: Using agrobiodiversity to transform food systems" was one of the main outcomes. It calls for concrete actions to make food systems more agrobiodiverse and to help tackle global challenges, such as climate change, malnutrition and environmental degradation.

10. During the past biennium, representatives of the Alliance have continued their active participation in several committees and expert groups established by the Governing Body, including the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights, the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use, and the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System. The Director General of the Alliance also participated in the international panel "Cryopreservation: A long-term strategy for hard-to- conserve PGRFA collections in a post-COVID world", co-organized by the Secretary and the Crop Trust in June 2021.³

11. The Secretary collaborated and provided technical inputs in various activities geared towards the implementation of the Darwin Initiative project "Bridging Agriculture and Environment: Southern African Crop Wild Relatives Network". This project aimed at establishing strategic partnerships/networks of protected areas for crop wild relatives (CWR) conservation and use; designing mechanisms to enhance the benefits farmers from conserving CWR; increase access to germplasm, and build gendered capacity, underpinning southern-African food security and poverty reduction.

C. European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR)

12. In 2016, the Secretariat of the International Treaty signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the ECPGR Secretariat. The MoU establishes a framework for cooperation on a range of activities, such as exchange of information and sharing of expertise, by which the two Secretariats collaborate in areas of mutual interest, with the aim of promoting synergy and coherent implementation of relevant articles of the International Treaty. During the past biennium, under the MoU, the Secretariat of the International Treaty attended the meetings of the ECPGR Steering Committee, and is currently exploring further areas of cooperation, including on crop wild relatives, cryopreservation and information systems. The ECPGR Secretariat also attended meetings of the Treaty Secretariat related to the Implementation of Article 17 of the International Treaty.

¹ Khoury, C.K., Achicanoy, H. A., Bjorkman, A. D. *et al.* 2015. *Estimation of countries' interdependence in plant genetic resources provisioning national food supplies and production systems*. The International Treaty Research Paper 8. Rome, ITPGRFA, FAO. www.fao.org/3/a-bq533e.pdf

² IT/GB-8/19/15.2, *Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust*, paras. 18–21.

³ www.fao.org/plant-treaty/overview/partnerships/international-expert-panel

D. International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants

13. Collaboration with the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) during the past biennium focused on the Global Information System, Farmers' Rights and interrelations between the International Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and UPOV.

14. The Secretary initiated discussions with the Office of UPOV on possible cooperation regarding the Global Information System (GLIS) and the PLUTO database. This was in response to the request made at the Eighth Session of the Governing Body, "encourag[ing] the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) to explore possibilities for free access to and use of the information in the PLUTO database, including downloading information, for example by linking PLUTO to GLIS".⁴

15. The two Secretariats exchanged information on the functioning and the general terms of access of the two databases. Under the new web portal for the GLIS,⁵ which was launched in 2021, the PLUTO database is highlighted in the section "Sources of PGRFA".

16. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body "note[d] the ongoing review process of the FAQ on the interrelations between the UPOV Convention and the International Treaty and exchange of experiences and information on implementation of the UPOV Convention and the International Treaty, and request[ed] the Secretary to continue exploring how Contracting Parties to the International Treaty could further contribute to these processes, and to continue the dialogue with UPOV on these matters".

17. It also "request[ed] the Secretary of the International Treaty to continue cooperating with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Vice-Secretary General of UPOV on the review of the FAQ on the interrelations between the International Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity and UPOV as a basis to explore means to facilitate exchanges of experiences and information on the implementation of the UPOV Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty".

18. The Vice Secretary-General of UPOV informed the Secretary that some UPOV members had made further submissions to the draft FAQ. He reported that the comments received had to be considered by the UPOV Council at its Fifty-sixth Ordinary Session in October 2022. According to the schedule provided by the Vice Secretary-General of UPOV, discussions on this matter with the CBD and the International Treaty could be initiated during the next intersessional period, following the review and approval of the draft FAQ by the UPOV Council.

19. During the past biennium, the Office of UPOV contributed to the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights, actively participating in the meetings as the representative of one of the three stakeholders designated by the Bureau of the Governing Body.

E. Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions

20. The Eighth Session of the Governing Body requested the Secretary to continue participating actively in the activities of the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG), particularly on development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which is expected to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting (COP 15).

21. Decision 14/30 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the organization of a workshop to facilitate discussions among Parties of the various

⁴ Resolution 4/2019, *Implementation of the Global Information System*.

⁵ ssl.fao.org/glis/

Biodiversity-related Conventions, to explore ways in which the conventions can contribute to the elaboration of a new GBF and identify specific elements that could be included, based on the respective mandates, strategies and visions.

22. The Secretary participated in the workshops, joined the coordination of inputs among BLG members, and had further interactions with other conventions. In the context of development of the Post-2020 Global Development Framework, the BLG highlighted in various meetings that these instruments already have normative platforms in place, with legally binding obligations, through which Contracting Parties can facilitate implementation of a new GBF by boosting the existing policy and legal structures. The BLG members also noted that they are well positioned not only to support implementation and monitoring at national and international levels, but also to contribute to important cross-cutting areas, such as capacity development, resource mobilization and communication.

23. At the Third Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation of the CBD (SBI-3), the BLG made the joint recommendation that a new GBF should recognize the specific contributions of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements in implementing relevant elements of the new GBF in line with their mandates, as well as further coordination among the BLG Secretariats at national and regional levels in this regard. The BLG also suggested continuing and expanding collaboration with the Rio Conventions and other United Nations (UN) organizations in implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

24. During the intersessional period, the Secretary also continued to support the “Realizing Synergies for Biodiversity” project, hosted by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), through participation in its Steering Committee, in its mid-term evaluation, and in the various outreach events organized during the past biennium. The review of the project particularly highlighted the need to increase interoperability in reporting systems, to facilitate the reuse of data by Contracting Parties. In this context, the project also supported the further development of the Data Reporting Tool (DART), to facilitate knowledge management for national reporting to Biodiversity-related Conventions, including the International Treaty.

25. The past biennium was a challenging period due to the COVID-19 pandemic and BLG members exchanged experiences, tools and valuable information to overcome some of the limitations imposed by the pandemic and find new modalities for the Secretariats to provide support to Contracting Parties. The Secretary also contributed to the exercise of reviewing the governance structures of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, for greater effectiveness and efficiency. In addition, the BLG Secretariats exchanged information on the agendas of the respective main bodies, so as to continue improving coordination and increasing synergies.

F. United Nations Environment Programme

26. The Secretariat has continued its participation in meetings of the United Nations Information Portal on the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA) Initiative and its Steering Committee, which is coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme. The aim of InforMEA is to facilitate a greater understanding of environmental law by offering users intuitive access to information resources related to key topics such as ‘Biodiversity’, ‘Climate change’ and ‘Land and agriculture’. Furthermore, it currently facilitates access to two online International Treaty training courses. One provides an introduction to the International Treaty, and is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish, while the other focuses on Farmers’ Rights, and is available in English, French and Spanish.

G. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

27. The Governing Body, in Resolution 12/2019 “request[ed] the Secretary to continue participating in relevant meetings of [...] the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property

and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of WIPO, as appropriate and subject to the availability of financial resources”.

28. The Secretary participated in the Forty-first, Forty-second and Forty-third Sessions of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (the Committee). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no formal substantive negotiations were held during the 2020-2021 biennium and the Forty-first Session in August 2021 merely finalized the Committee’s recommendation on the renewal of its mandate.

29. Following the renewal of its mandate by the WIPO General Assembly for the 2022–2023 biennium in September 2021, the Committee held its Forty-second Session from 28 February to 4 March 2022 and its Forty-third Session from 30 May to 3 June 2022, both focusing on genetic resources. Negotiations continued on the basis of the Consolidated Document Relating to Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources.⁶

30. The Committee revised the Consolidated Document at its Forty-second Session and agreed to transmit it to its Forty-third Session, together with a text produced by two facilitators, based on the discussions in plenary and in informal settings,⁷ as well as a Chair’s text originally prepared in 2019.⁸ However, at the Forty-third Session, there were divergent views on whether the Consolidated Document⁹ or the Chair’s text¹⁰ should be the basis for negotiations on genetic resources and the Committee was unable to agree. As a result, both the Consolidated Document¹¹ and the Chair’s text¹² were included in the report of the Committee to the WIPO General Assembly.¹³

31. The WIPO General Assembly, at its Fifty-five Session in July 2022, considered that the Committee had “made considerable progress and achieved significant convergence around document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/43/5 (the Chair’s text) as a focused, effective, and balanced basis for further engagement.”¹⁴

32. Consequently, the WIPO General Assembly decided to convene, no later than 2024, a Diplomatic Conference to conclude an International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources. The basis will be the Chair’s text and any other contributions provided by Member States. Following a special session of the Committee, a Preparatory Committee will convene, both in the second half of 2023. The WIPO General Assembly welcomed the offer of South Africa to host the Diplomatic Conference.

33. During the past biennium, the WIPO Secretariat participated in meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers’ Rights.

⁶ [WIPO/GRTKF/IC/42/4](#), *Consolidated document relating to intellectual property and genetic resources*.

⁷ [WIPO/GRTKF/IC/42/FACILITATORS TEXT GRS REV. 2](#)

⁸ [WIPO/GRTKF/IC/42/5](#), *Chair’s text of a draft international legal instrument relating to intellectual property, genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources. Document prepared by the Chair for the 2018–2019 biennium*.

⁹ [WIPO/GRTKF/IC/43/4](#), *Consolidated Document Relating to Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources*.

¹⁰ [WIPO/GRTKF/IC/43/5](#), *Chair’s Text of a Draft International Legal Instrument relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge associated with Genetic Resources*.

¹¹ [WIPO/GRTKF/IC/43/4](#), *Consolidated Document Relating to Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources*.

¹² [WIPO/GRTKF/IC/43/5](#), *Chair’s Text of a Draft International Legal Instrument relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge associated with Genetic Resources*.

¹³ [WO/GA/55/6](#), *Report on the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)*.

¹⁴ [A/63/9](#), *Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, Summary Report*, para. 27.

III. COOPERATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

A. Civil society and farmers' organizations

34. During the past biennium, the Secretary continued interactions, cooperation and collaboration with farmers, civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to promote enhanced understanding of the International Treaty through policy processes and awareness-raising activities. They actively participated in the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights and the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA. The Secretary also participated in meetings and events organized by CSOs and NGOs for capacity building and awareness-raising.¹⁵

35. The International Treaty Secretariat is participating in the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between Slow Food and FAO. The objective of the proposed partnership between Slow Food and FAO is to develop, promote and strengthen joint actions and projects to improve the livelihoods of populations living in rural areas, in particular communities and households of smallholder farmers, forest dwellers and fishers and fishworkers, and to ensure more inclusive food and agriculture systems at local, national and international levels.

36. The International Treaty Secretariat will collaborate with Slow Food on activities aimed at ensuring the conservation of agricultural biodiversity within food and agriculture systems at all levels and promoting the value of plant genetic diversity for food and agriculture, through joint activities, capacity development, communication and awareness-raising events. The International Treaty's wide network of partners in the field, in particular in developing countries that have technical expertise on plant genetic diversity, will be involved. The collaboration will include:

- the International Treaty's communication strategy, and in particular its future work to involve cooks around the world in biodiversity conservation, as well as consumers and other important players in the food system;
- the Benefit-sharing Fund, and in particular its focus on enhancing local value chains by improving the production and consumption of plant genetic diversity adapted to small-scale farmers' needs;
- the Funding Strategy and its strategy to engage the food processing industries and others in the food system to finance agricultural biodiversity conservation;
- Farmers' Rights and recognition of farmers' contribution to the conservation and development of the plant diversity that constitutes the basis of food and agriculture throughout the world; and

¹⁵

- [Web Symposium on Plant Health](#), held on 16 December 2020, organized by Società Italiana Genetica Agraria.
- Presentation and panel discussion – [Realizing peasants' and indigenous peoples' rights to seeds: Key issues and challenges for the implementation of farmers' rights and international negotiations](#), held on 29 April 2021, organized by the Secretariat of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC).
- International conference – [Ensuring diversity for food and agriculture – Plant genetic resources in nature and on-farm](#), held from 28 June to 1 July 2021, organized by Farmer's Pride in association with the European Association for Research on Plant Breeding – Genetic Resources Section, and the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources.
- Seminar – [Guardianas de Semillas](#), held on 5 July 2021, organized by Sembrares, Spain.
- [Seed Policy Dialogue – the FAO Treaty and Farmers' Rights](#), held on 30 September 2021, convened by Let's Liberate Diversity.
- Series of three workshops – [Bringing farmers to the table: Innovating plant breeding](#), held on 30 March, 28 April and 2 December 2021, organized by Oxfam-Novib.
- [International Symposium on Genetic Resources for Latin America and Caribbean \(SIRGEAC\)](#), held from 30 November to 3 December 2021.
- [Congress of the African Seed Trade Association \(AFSTA\)](#), held from 27 February to 3 March 2022.

- the Multilateral System on Access and Benefit-sharing, to enable access to plant genetic diversity from gene banks, and explore how such access can benefit the development of sustainable and inclusive food systems.

B. Private sector (seed industry)

37. During the past biennium, representatives of the private sector actively participated in meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights and the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use.

38. The Secretary also continued the direct interaction and exchange of information with representatives of the seed industry, including attending the yearly World Seed Congress of the International Seed Federation.

C. Academic and research institutions

39. During the past biennium, academic and research institutions actively participated in the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA, the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System, and the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights. The Secretary also participated in various capacity-building and awareness-raising activities organized by those institutions.¹⁶

40. With financial support from the Government of Italy, the Secretary developed a partnership with a network of research organizations (namely, the Center for Science, Technology and Environmental Policy Studies at Arizona State University (United States of America), the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development, the Keystone Policy Center), to explore the implications of the post-COVID 19 on genomics research, innovation and genetic diversity.

41. With an interest in governance, the network promoted an open, data-informed consultation among academic experts and members of the science, innovation and technology community, in order to identify the potential lasting impacts and institutional and policy implications of COVID-19, with a special focus on open access, global equity and science capacity, and taking the International Treaty as a relevant global policy framework. Data collection and expert dialogue on data management and collaborations in genomics research and innovation followed a comparative approach between human health and plant genomics for food and agriculture.

42. The work resulted in an independent white paper, published in June 2021.¹⁷ In July 2021, this document was presented at a webinar for the FAO Science Days.¹⁸ The white paper received academic citations, and follow-up is expected to its findings and recommendations by stakeholders involved in plant genomics research.

43. In September 2020, the School of Law of the University of Aberdeen (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) organized two webinars on Farmers' Rights. They were attended by researchers, NGOs and CSOs, and facilitated by the Secretary.¹⁹ They discussed the links between

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- [Conference on Biodiversity](#), held on 1 April 2021, organized by the Islamic World Academy of Sciences.
- [First Italian Summer School dedicated entirely to the implementation of the International Treaty](#) – held from 5 to 7 July 2021, organized by Rete di Semi Rurali.
- Project – “Value chains for local crop varieties”, focusing on durum wheat, held from 25 to 30 July 2021, organized by CIHEAM Bari and the Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT.

¹⁷ www.fao.org/3/cb5573en/cb5573en.pdf

¹⁸ www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAYAb0Xw01Y

¹⁹ Webinar – Farmers' Rights and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, held 17 September 2020, organized by the University of Aberdeen, UK.

abdn.pure.elsevier.com/en/publications/farmers-rights-and-the-international-treaty-on-plant-genetic-reso

Farmers' Rights and related international treaties, including the International Treaty, alongside the right to food and gender perspectives, to share and exchange knowledge on the subject.

IV. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

44. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the information contained in this report and to provide any further guidance it considers appropriate for the continued and effective cooperation with relevant organizations and treaty bodies, taking into account the elements for a Resolution provided for its consideration in the Appendix to this document.

RESOLUTION **/2022**COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS****PART I: INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS****THE GOVERNING BODY,**

Recalling its Resolution 12/2019 and other previous relevant Resolutions and decisions;

Recognizing that the International Treaty is the lead intergovernmental agreement for international cooperation on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

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

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

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

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

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

Contracting Parties in implementing the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol in a harmonious and mutually supportive manner, taking into account the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, when adopted;

6. **Encourages** the members of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions to continue their collaboration in accordance with their respective mandates and, subject to the availability of financial resources, **requests** the Secretary to continue participating actively in the relevant activities of the Biodiversity Liaison Group, particularly on coordination for implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, when adopted;

7. **Invites** Contracting Parties to take measures to enhance synergies in their implementation of or participation in Biodiversity-related Conventions to promote policy coherence, and coordination at national level, and also **invites** international organizations and donors to provide financial resources to support those efforts;

8. **Requests** the Secretary to continue participating in the Information and Knowledge Management (InforMEA) Initiative, making relevant information available and easily accessible to Contracting Parties and other stakeholders through its Portal;

9. **Requests** the Secretary to continue participating in relevant meetings of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), as appropriate and subject to the availability of financial resources;

10. **Requests** the Secretary, as appropriate and subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue participating in relevant meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of WIPO; to follow preparations for the Diplomatic Conference to conclude an International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources; and to inform the Governing Body at its Tenth Session about these meetings;

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

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

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