



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



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

Item 17 of the Provisional Agenda

NINTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

New Delhi, India, 19–24 September 2022

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

Executive summary

This document contains the 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.

Guidance sought

The Governing Body is invited to review and adopt the Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Governing Body of the International Treaty 2022–2027, taking into account the elements for a Resolution contained in Annex 2 to this document.

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, through Resolution 13/2019, the Governing Body adopted the Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Governing Body of the International Treaty (MYPOW) 2020–2025, and decided to review the MYPOW at each session of the Governing Body and update it, to address evolving needs, as necessary.¹
2. As noted in Resolution 13/2019, the purpose of the MYPOW is to plan and structure implementation of the International Treaty and the work of the Governing Body in a coherent and integrated manner, and to highlight the expected major outputs and milestones to be achieved by the respective sessions of the Governing Body. It is considered a useful programming tool and a living document – a rolling plan that is reviewed and updated, as necessary.
3. Accordingly, the document proposes an updated MYPOW for the period 2022–2027, as contained in Annex 1 to this document, for consideration and adoption by the Governing Body. The draft updated MYPOW has been developed on the basis of outcomes of the work by relevant subsidiary bodies and the implementation of the International Treaty during the past intersessional period.

II. REVIEW AND UPDATE

4. Since the adoption of the MYPOW 2020–2025 at the Eighth Session of the Governing Body, the environment related to the implementation of the International Treaty has changed significantly, in particular due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic affected the work of many subsidiary bodies during the past intersessional period in terms of modality, process and content.²
5. Due to the extraordinary circumstances arising from COVID-19, the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, originally scheduled for December 2021, has been postponed to 2022. Consequently, the Bureau of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body considered that a Special Session would be necessary to adopt an *interim* budget for 2022, to enable continued functioning of the Treaty and its Secretariat, until the Governing Body adopts the regular budget for the 2022–2023 biennium. The Governing Body is expected to adopt the full Work Programme and Budget for the 2022–2023 biennium at this Session, which would integrate the *interim* budget for 2022, as may be adjusted and take into account any relevant developments that might have occurred after the adoption of the *interim* budget.
6. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, in practical terms all outputs and milestones scheduled for the Ninth Session are likely to be achieved, as they are addressed in the relevant pre-session documentation of the Session.
7. For the Global Information System, the *Consideration of the Programme of Work on the Global Information System (2023–2028)* is scheduled for the Ninth Session (this session), as outlined in document IT/GB-9/22/11 *Report on the implementation of the Global Information System*.³
8. For Compliance and National Reporting, the core source of information for the *Outlook Report on the Implementation of the International Treaty on PGRFA* would be the national reports submitted under the compliance mechanism and the synthesis and analysis conducted by the Compliance Committee. However, most of the reports were received late in the past biennium, and a more comprehensive analysis could not be undertaken before the Ninth Session. It is therefore

¹ Resolution 13/2019

² IT/GB-9/22/6.2 *Report on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the International Treaty*

³ www.fao.org/3/ni831en/ni831en.pdf

suggested that the report be developed, as a comprehensive progress report on implementation of the International Treaty, to be presented to the Tenth Session of the Governing Body for consideration.

9. Given the current operational environment, some outputs and milestones planned for future sessions may also need adjustment. The proposed updates, as well as new outputs and milestones for an additional session contained in the draft MYPOW 2022–2027, are informed by the outcomes of the work of relevant subsidiary bodies during the past biennium, also taking into account new developments in relevant fora, which include the ongoing development of Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

10. Under the guiding principles provided in the MYPOW, other considerations include enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of intersessional work and processes and improving synergies in implementation among different aspects of the International Treaty in a more programmatic approach, to produce the required outcomes and effectively guide the work of the Governing Body.

11. The following is a highlight of updates, as well as new outputs and milestones contained in the draft MYPOW 2022–2027. **Both the updated and new outputs and milestones are presented in bold in the table in Annex 1. In addition, outputs and milestones that are subject to relevant decisions of the Governing Body at the Ninth Session are bracketed.**

Tenth Session (2023)

- Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA

Studies to be presented would be country/region-specific to address bottlenecks and challenges in implementation of Articles 5 and 6, following the general Background study presented at the Ninth Session.

- Farmers' Rights

A background study and a symposium on the state of implementation of Farmers' Rights are planned in 2023, outcome of which would be presented at the Tenth Session.

- Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing

In the past biennium, the International Treaty has collaborated with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) in the preparation of a background study that encompasses several sources of information on germplasm availability beyond the Multilateral System. The Secretariat of the International Treaty has contributed data and inputs to this study, which is expected to become available before the Nineteenth Regular Session of the CGRFA. To avoid duplication of efforts, the *Presentation of a report on availability of material* is proposed to be deleted.

- Other items

Consideration of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

The post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) is still under negotiation and planned to be adopted by the end of 2022. Yet, the on-going discussions already indicate that there will be a number of targets relevant to PGRFA conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing. The work of the International Treaty will contribute to supporting Contracting Parties in the implementation of the new GBF, in collaboration with the CBD, the other Biodiversity-Related Conventions and relevant international organizations and processes.

Strengthening information-based decision-making in PGRFA management: results of two new global analysis

Through this milestone, the Governing Body will take stock of two important global analyses that

will be published in 2022/2023,⁴ and discuss how decision-making in PGRFA management, from national to global levels, can be improved by using the information-basis increasingly available for a wide range of crops and forages that contribute to global food security and sustainable agriculture.

Eleventh Session (2025)

- Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA

Review of the Joint Programme for Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA

The Governing Body will review the implementation of the Joint Programme for Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA.

- Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing

Report on global availability and transfer of germplasm

This will be a background study on material available in the Multilateral System and a targeted analysis of crop germplasm exchange, to be developed in collaboration with international partners, such as the CGIAR, and relevant technical services of FAO, including the CGRFA. The study will identify limitations and obstacles faced by Contracting Parties when making material available in the Multilateral System, major gaps in crop gene pools of importance for food security, and lessons learnt to advance in the operationalization of the Multilateral System at the national and regional levels.

- Funding Strategy

A five-year report on implementation of the Funding Strategy will be presented to the Governing Body at its Eleventh Session, and an updated Funding Strategy (post-2025) will be put forward by the Standing Committee on the Funding Committee and Resource Mobilization for consideration.

- Compliance and National Reporting

Analysis of reports under the 2nd reporting cycle

The second reporting cycle will end in October 2023, therefore a comprehensive synthesis and analysis will be undertaken by the Compliance Committee in early 2025 and be presented to the Governing Body at its Eleventh Session.

Twelfth Session (2027)

- Global Information System

Report on the implementation of the Programme of Work on GLIS (2023–2028)

The Governing Body will evaluate the implementation of the Programme of work for the period 2023-2026, based on the inputs provided by the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System of Article 17 of the International Treaty.

- Other items

Stock taking of international goals and targets related to PGRFA (Sustainable Development Goals, Post-2020 GBF)

⁴ The information on crops important for food security and their genetic diversity is increasingly available but scattered throughout a number of information systems and databases (including GLIS, WIEWS and Genesys, but also FAOSTAT and others) and the scientific literature. In 2022, the study *The plants that feed the world: baseline information to underpin strategies for their conservation and use*, will be published by the Secretariat of the International Treaty, in collaboration with the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT. It intends to bring together, for the first time, all the information available from these different sources to provide baseline and a number of metrics to support better decision-making in PGRFA management for 350 crops and forages. In parallel, the publication of a White Paper by the Global Crop Diversity Trust will analyse how to enhance the contribution of Crop Conservation Strategies to the development and implementation of the International Treaty, including conservation, use, exchange and priorities for fund allocation. The White Paper will develop a dynamic system for developing, implementing and updating Crop Conservation Strategies, and with a view to enhancing their use by Contracting Parties and stakeholders as practical tools to realize the implementation of the Treaty.

Under this milestone, the Governing Body will take stock of progress made in the achievement of international goals and targets related to PGRFA and provide further advice and recommendation on their achievement.

12. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body adopted the Funding Strategy (2020-2025), through Resolution 3/2019, but left the text related to a financial target for the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) in brackets. The discussion to establish a financial target for the BSF under the Funding Strategy is related to the informal consultations on the enhancement of the functioning of the Multilateral System on Access and Benefit-sharing, which took place during the past biennium. Based on the consideration of the Agenda Item 9.2, *Updates on Any Informal Consultations on the Enhancement of the Multilateral System at this Session*, the Governing Body may wish to decide on relevant milestones for these processes and include them in the MYPOW 2022-2027.

III. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

13. The Governing Body is invited to review and adopt the Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Governing Body of the International Treaty 2022–2027, taking into account the elements for a Resolution provided for its consideration in Annex 2 to this document.

Annex 1

**MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE**

The main function of the Governing Body is to promote the full implementation of the International Treaty, keeping in view of its objectives. The purpose of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) is to plan and structure the work of the Governing Body in a coherent and integrated manner to advance implementation of the International Treaty, highlighting key issues for consideration and the expected major outputs and milestones to be achieved at the respective sessions of the Governing Body. The MYPOW will be reviewed and updated at each session, as needed, based on the decisions of the Governing Body.

2022–2027

MAJOR OUTPUTS AND MILESTONES

	10th Session (2023)	11th Session (2025)	12th Session (2027)
Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA (Art 5&6)	Studies on the bottlenecks and challenges in implementation of Articles 5 and 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment of the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA - [Review of the Joint Programme for Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA] - Update on the development of training materials on conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA 	
Farmers' Rights (Art 9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Background study on the state of implementation of Farmers' Rights - Report from the Symposium on the implementation of Farmers' Rights 	Update of the (i) Inventory of national measures; (ii) Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights	
Multilateral System (Art 10-13)	Presentation of a report on availability of material	Consideration of a report on global availability and transfer of germplasm, including gaps and lessons learnt	

Global Information System (Art 17)	Consideration of Programme of Work on the Global Information System (2023–xxxx)		[Report on the implementation of the Programme of Work on GLIS (2023–2028)]
Funding Strategy (Art 18)		Review of the Funding Strategy, and consideration of a new Funding Strategy	
Compliance (Art 21) & National Reporting	Progress report on implementation of the International Treaty	Review of the analysis of 2nd national reports	
Other items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of Third State of the World's PGRFA - Consideration of potential implications of the use of 'digital sequence information' on PGRFA for the objectives of the International Treaty - Consideration of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework - Strengthening information-based decision-making in PGRFA management: results of two new global analysis 		Stocktaking of international goals and targets related to PGRFA (Sustainable Development Goals, Post-2020 GBF etc.)

Annex 2

DRAFT RESOLUTION **/2022

**MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

THE GOVERNIG BODY,

Recalling Resolution 13/2019;

1. *Emphasizes* the importance that relevant subsidiary bodies review the MYPOW during an intersessional period, to provide inputs to assist the Governing Body in reviewing and updating the MYPOW;
2. *Adopts* the MYPOW 2022–2027 as contained in the Annex to this Resolution;

[...]