



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



The International Treaty  
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## RESOLUTION 3/2022

### ENHANCEMENT OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING

#### THE GOVERNING BODY,

**Recalling** Resolution 2/2006, by which it adopted the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) and previous Resolutions regarding measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (Multilateral System);

**Recalling** that the Governing Body, at its Eighth Session, could not reach consensus on measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System but took note of the need to take stock and to assess the next steps on further work on the enhancement of the Multilateral System;

**Recalling** further that the Governing Body, at its Eighth Session, encouraged informal consultations during the intersessional period;

**Thanking** the Governments of Switzerland and India for having convened informal consultations and the co-facilitators for providing a summary report;

1. **Emphasizes** that a fully functional, user-friendly and simple Multilateral System is central for the functioning and success of the International Treaty;

2. **Having taken stock** of progress made so far to achieve the enhancement of the functioning of the Multilateral System, **notes** that while a range of views exist among Contracting Parties on the matter, Contracting Parties commit to working together towards adopting a package of measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System through the process established in the present Resolution, with the following shared aims:

- Increase the benefits that arise from the Multilateral System for all Contracting Parties and users, both monetary and non-monetary;
- Increase user-based income to the Benefit-sharing Fund in a sustainable and predictable long-term manner;
- Expand the crops and plant genetic diversity available through the Multilateral System;
- Improve the availability of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the Multilateral System;
- Make the Multilateral System more dynamic given that there are developments and emerging issues in science, innovation, plant breeding and global policy environment;
- Create legal certainty, administrative simplicity and transparency for everyone participating in the Multilateral System.

3. In order to achieve the shared aims for an enhanced Multilateral System, **decides** to re-establish the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (Working Group), to finalize the enhancement of the functioning of the Multilateral System by the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body; and **further decides** that the process will have the following features:

- Be inclusive, regionally and gender balanced and including all stakeholder groups;

- Be open-ended, so that any Contracting Party may attend, provided that speaking rights are limited to a certain number of members;
  - Be supported by robust regional or interregional consultations; a
  - Be supported by virtual meetings and/or consultations (including hybrid meetings) as well as physical meetings which are held in a transparent manner, while decisions would be made at physical meetings;
4. **Decides** that the process should build upon previous progress and achievements both in terms of structure and content and integrate new ideas, if relevant, and address, in a balanced manner, all three blocks of the package of measures developed previously (revised SMTA; expansion of Annex I; implementation measures through a Resolution of the Governing Body);
5. **Decides** that the process should build upon current progress and achievements of other Treaty intersessional groups and **underscores** the necessity to liaise closely with the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization including with regard to non-monetary benefit-sharing and the Benefit-sharing Fund, and with the Compliance Committee with regard to Contracting Parties making available material contained in the Multilateral System;
6. **Decides** that the Working Group should aim to have at least one meeting before the Tenth Session of the Governing Body, to be covered by extra-budgetary funds;
7. In order to facilitate deliberations within the Working Group, **requests** each Region to identify spokespersons, as follows:
- Up to 5 from the Africa Region;
  - Up to 5 from the Europe Region;
  - Up to 5 from the Asia Region;
  - Up to 5 from the Latin America and the Caribbean Region;
  - Up to 3 from the Near East Region;
  - Up to 2 from the North America Region;
  - Up to 2 from the South West Pacific Region;
8. In order to facilitate active participation of observers in the deliberations of the Working Group, **requests** the Secretary to invite the following groups to identify two spokespersons each:
- Civil society organizations;
  - The seed industry;
  - Farmers' organizations; and
  - Research centres and academia, including the CGIAR Centres;
- Due attention should be given to gender and geographic balance when identifying spokespersons;
9. **Decides** that the meetings of the Working Group will be prepared and held in all relevant languages;
10. **Decides** to appoint the two Co-Chairs of the Working Group as follows: Mr. Sunil Archak and Mr. Michael Ryan; and **requests** them to:
- Allow space and facilitate interactions and consultations for building mutual understanding throughout the process;
  - Structure the process so to accord early attention to the key issues such as Digital Sequence Information / Genetic Sequence Data (DSI/GSD), payment rates, and other relevant aspects;

- Include, in the process, the preparation of a Co-Chairs' proposal, taking into account what has been achieved so far;
- Invite experts, as it may be required;
- Update regularly the Bureau; and
- Provide a checkpoint report to the Tenth Session of the Governing Body on progress and for any further guidance, regarding the continuation of the process;

11. **Recognizes** the importance and magnitude of the task of the Working Group, and that the Working Group will require intense and sustained efforts by Contracting Parties and stakeholders, and **urges** Contracting Parties to provide support and financial resources for the Working Group to be able to fulfil its mandate on schedule, including by supporting the participation of spokespersons from developing countries.