

IT/GB-9/22/Report

***NINTH SESSION OF THE
GOVERNING BODY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL TREATY
ON PLANT GENETIC
RESOURCES FOR FOOD
AND AGRICULTURE***

New Delhi, India, 19–24 September 2022

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

IT/GB-9/22/Report

**REPORT OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

New Delhi, India, 19–24 September 2022

**SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC
RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 2022

The documents of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body
of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
are available on the Internet at: www.fao.org/plant-treaty

They may also be obtained from:

The Secretariat of the International Treaty
on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and the Environment
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
00153 Rome, Italy
E-mail: PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

**REPORT OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

CONTENTS

	<i>Para.</i>
Introduction	1–2
Inaugural Ceremony and Opening Ceremony	3–17
Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons	18–20
Adoption of the Agenda	21–23
Participation of Observers	24
Election of the <i>Rapporteur</i>	25
Appointment of the Credentials Committee and Verification of Credentials	26
Establishment of a Budget Committee	27
Report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body	28–29
Report of the Secretary of the Governing Body	30–40
Celebrating the Guardians of Crop Diversity: Towards an Inclusive Post–2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	41
Implementation and Operation of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing	42
Implementation of Article 12.3a of the International Treaty	43
Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing	44
Proposal for an Amendment of the International Treaty	45
The Funding Strategy of the International Treaty	46
The Global Information System	47
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	48
Farmers’ Rights	49
Compliance	50
Contribution of FAO to the Implementation of the International Treaty	51
Cooperation with International Instruments and Organizations	52–56
Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty	57
Consideration of Digital Sequence Information	58
Review of Subsidiary Bodies and Intersessional Processes	59
Adoption of the Work Programme and Budget	60–61
Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	62–63
Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Tenth Session	64–65
Date and Place of the Tenth Session	66–67
Adoption of the Report	68

Appendixes

- A. Agenda of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body
- B. Resolutions of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body
 - B.1 Celebrating the Guardians of Crop Diversity: Towards an Inclusive Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
 - B.2 Implementation and Operations of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing
 - B.3 Enhancement of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing
 - B.4 Implementation of the Funding Strategy
 - B.5 Implementation of the Global Information System
 - B.6 Implementation of Article 5 and 6, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
 - B.7 Implementation Article 9, Farmers' Rights
 - B.8 Compliance
 - B.9 Contribution of FAO to the Implementation of the International Treaty
 - B.10 Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty 2023–2030
 - B.11 Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
 - B.12 Policy Guidance to the Global Crop Diversity Trust
 - B.13 Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity
 - B.14 Cooperation with Other International Bodies and Organizations
 - B.15 Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
 - B.16 Consideration of Digital Sequence Information / Genetic Sequence Data on Genetic Resources for the Objectives of the International Treaty
 - B.17 Work Programme and Budget 2022–2023
- C. Procedure for the Selection and Appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies
- D. Report of the Credentials Committee
- E. List of Contracting Parties
- F. List of Documents
- G. Opening Ceremony Statements
 - G.1 Statement by Mr Qu Dongyu, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
 - G.2 Statement by H.E. Mr Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, India

REPORT OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

INTRODUCTION

1. The Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Ninth Session) was held in New Delhi, India, from 19 to 24 September 2022. The list of delegates and observers is available on the website of the International Treaty.

2. The Ninth Session was convened under the provisions of Article 19 of the International Treaty. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated public-health concerns and constraints, the Ninth Session was held in hybrid modality in accordance with the guidance of the Bureau of the Ninth Session. All plenary meetings were conducted in person at the Session venue and through an online platform to enable virtual participation.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY AND OPENING SESSION

3. An inaugural ceremony was held on 19 September 2022. The Chairperson of the Ninth Session, Ms Yasmina El Bahloul (Africa Region), opened the inaugural ceremony by thanking the Government of India and welcomed all participants.

4. Mr Qu Dongyu, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), addressed the Ninth Session. The Director-General referred to the International Treaty as one of FAO's most outstanding achievements. He expressed support for farmers being at the centre of the theme of the Ninth Session and highlighted the importance of the International Treaty vis-à-vis food security, biodiversity protection, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. He spoke of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing conflicts, which have revealed the fragility of global agri-food systems and placed pressures on global supply chains. The Director-General pointed to the need to increase the diversity and resilience of crops and their genetic resources to meet these challenges in the face of a growing population and climate change. He emphasized the need for all sectors (public and private sectors, farmers and academia) to increase efforts to sustainably use genetic diversity and ensure their availability to face current and future challenges. The Director-General called for increased capacity development, solid institutions and strong partnerships in sustaining the International Treaty. In closing, he emphasized the need for universal membership in the International Treaty, and reiterated FAO's support for this.

5. Mr Shombi Sharp, United Nations Resident Coordinator for India, addressed the Ninth Session. He commended the International Treaty for advancing the cause of biodiversity and food security, and India for its commitment to sustainable agriculture, crop diversity, Farmers' Rights and food security. Mr Sharp spoke of the existential threat of climate change and the triple planetary crisis, leading the world towards an impending food security crisis. He pointed to India's unique position as vulnerable to climate change and a globally significant food producer. Mr Sharp emphasized the need for global solutions to address global challenges and spoke of the crucial importance of the International Treaty's principles and mechanisms in ensuring that the Earth's rich plant biodiversity benefits humanity.

6. Mr Himanshu Pathak, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education, and Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, India, addressed the Ninth Session. Mr Pathak recalled that a hunger-free world could only be realized by climate resilient agriculture and that the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) is a primary means of achieving resilience. He affirmed that the germplasm conserved in India's state-of-the-art genebank, which is the second largest in the world, was instrumental in enhancing the utilization of germplasm in research and breeding programs with linkages to farmers. Mr Pathak recalled the importance of genomic and information tools and technologies as means of scale-independent solutions to agricultural problems.

7. Mr Manoj Ahuja, Secretary of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, India, addressed the Ninth Session. He recalled that India was a founding member of the International Treaty and remains committed to its implementation. Mr Ahuja spoke of India's culture and rural heritage as historically revering farming, plants and animals, agricultural land and water. He emphasized the need to support access and exchange of all crop genetic resources, and stressed the importance of conserving and utilizing under-utilized crops and crop wild relatives. Mr Ahuja expressed his hope that this Ninth Session make headway on issues such as digital sequence information.

8. H.E. Mr Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, India, addressed the Ninth Session. In his address, he noted that the availability and accessibility to food is paramount to stability and peace. H.E. Tomar pointed to the challenge of ensuring bountiful harvest in the light of population increase, water availability, diminishing genetic diversity, biotic and abiotic stresses and climate change. In this context, he noted that crop diversity represents the answer for countries where farming is the backbone of the socio-economy and part and parcel of the life of indigenous people and peasants. He also emphasized that the International Treaty must support access and exchange of all crop genetic resources while providing an adequate balance between commercial interests and heritage values that are intrinsic to the conservation of PGRFA. He noted that it is critical to use and leverage all available technology and resources (human and financial) by joining hands of

public and private partners to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of crop genetic resources. Finally, H.E. Tomar reiterated the firm commitment of India to supporting the effective implementation of the International Treaty.

9. The inaugural ceremony was followed by an opening session.

10. Mr Stefan Schmitz, Executive Director, Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust), addressed the Ninth Session. He highlighted the close and growing partnership with the International Treaty and noted that the Crop Trust was proud to serve as an essential element of the International Treaty's Funding Strategy. Mr Schmitz emphasized the Crop Trust's interest in contributing to strengthening national genebanks in the same way as international genebanks, noting that it cooperates with all eighteen international genebanks under Article 15 of the International Treaty, and with more than twenty national genebanks in the framework of various projects. He invited genebanks from all over the world to join in a Global Genebank Partnership, forming a global community of cooperation that advocates for the importance of crop diversity. He recognized that the Crop Trust could not meet the financial needs of all of the world's genebanks immediately but noted the intention to expand system-wide technical cooperation as quickly as possible, mentioning that it was another important step towards empowering genebanks to play a substantial role in the development of national agriculture.

11. Brothers Joan, Josep and Jordi Roca, of the internationally acclaimed family restaurant "El Celler de Can Roca", addressed the Ninth Session. The Roca brothers are going to be celebrated as Food Heroes by FAO on World Food Day 2022 for their work to promote biodiversity conservation. The Roca brothers highlighted the important role of the Guardians of Crop Diversity and emphasized how cooking can be a powerful tool for positive societal change. They thanked FAO for its support to various initiatives that the Roca brothers launched on biodiversity protection. In doing so, they expressed their commitment to continue working in partnership with FAO and partners such as Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity for the future of food and agriculture, and to spark global efforts to engage other chefs and families cooking at home in this endeavor.

12. Mr Santosh Attavar, Vice President, International Seed Federation (ISF), addressed the Ninth Session. He affirmed that serving farmers was at the core of the seed business and that the seed industry was committed to advocating for and with farmers around the world to help them access seeds of their informed choice, at the right season, in the right place, with the right quantity. Mr Attavar noted that the seed industry complemented the work of farmers by organizing specialized, scientific and technology-based seed innovation. Mr Attavar further noted that continued cooperation among farmers, the private and the public seed sectors would contribute to healthier, more sustainable, equitable and resilient seed production and food systems. With a view to overcoming the opposition between the Breeder's Rights and Farmers' Rights, he expressed the commitment of the private seed sector to deepening the dialogue with all farmers and their associations at the national, regional and

international level, to enhance the understanding of the realities of breeders and farmers all over the world and to reflect on how needs, traditions and interests can become opportunities for working together on critical Sustainable Development Goals.

13. Ms Pudi Soren, Indian farmer, addressed the Ninth Session. She thanked the Government of India for bringing the meeting of the International Treaty to India, which has made it possible for her to personally meet the people behind the project that supported her. She thanked the Benefit-sharing Fund of the International Treaty for supporting her family and community with a project that has provided pulse seeds to save in field seed banks and grow sustainably, as well as traditional oil to cook with. She highlighted the benefit of growing crops that require less water in the context of reduced rainfall and climate change. Ms Soren explained that the Benefit-sharing Fund has enabled her to grow enough produce to sustain her family, making it possible for her family to spend less on food purchase, and that in future she would like to sell it in local markets to generate additional income for her family. She expressed her hope for more projects like hers to continue supporting farmers in her village and around the world.

14. Mr Marco Ferroni, CGIAR System Board Chair, CGIAR System Organization, addressed the Ninth Session. Mr Ferroni emphasized the benefits of the long-standing relationship between the International Treaty and the CGIAR, and, in particular, referred to the policy support provided by the International Treaty to conservation and crop improvement programs. Mr Ferroni highlighted the role of the CGIAR in operationalizing the germplasm transfer mechanism of the International Treaty, which is often integrated into long-term research and development partnerships between CGIAR Centers and national programs. He affirmed CGIAR's commitment to increasing monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing as well as the scope of crop diversity included in the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, and to developing norms governing digital genomic information. Mr Ferroni referred to the CGIAR process of institutional reform, driven by the need to respond in a more focused, coordinated and efficient manner to the combined challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, rural poverty, gender inequality and malnutrition. He confirmed that the pillars of the reformed system continue to be CGIAR Centers, and that the Centers that signed Article 15 agreements are committed to respecting and maintaining those agreements.

15. Ms Irene Hoffmann, Secretary, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO, addressed the Ninth Session. She highlighted that global PGRFA assessments play a key role for the work of the Commission and the International Treaty. She thanked the Contracting Parties to the International Treaty for contributing to the Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and SDG indicator 2.5.1.a. Ms Hoffmann noted that crop wild relatives, wild food plants and neglected and underutilized crop species are essential for securing crop diversity, recognizing the crucial role that the Guardians of Crop Diversity play, whom the Ninth Session of the Governing Body celebrated. Ms Hoffmann referred to Resolution 1/168 of the FAO

Council, on *The Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*, which reiterates the need for FAO, the Commission and the International Treaty to contribute to the development and implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. She emphasized that continued collaboration between the Commission and the International Treaty on matters of common interest is of vital importance to meet the expectations of the respective constituencies.

16. Mr Kent Nnadozie, Secretary of the Governing Body, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, highlighted that, in its twenty years of existence, the International Treaty had grown from an idea to respond to the loss of crop diversity into a reality with functioning global mechanisms having a positive impact. Mr Nnadozie noted that, while the International Treaty had evolved and developed effective mechanisms to meet its objectives, it was important for it to continue growing and evolving in response to new demands and emerging challenges related to global food systems, in order to feed the growing world population in the midst of climate change. He expressed his hope that the arrangements made, and facilities provided for the Session were satisfactory and would facilitate the smooth conduct of the Session. Mr Nnadozie further expressed his hope that, at this Ninth Session, delegates would find productive ways to arrive at concrete decisions and create a roadmap to reinforcing the International Treaty.

17. The statements of Mr Qu Dongyu and H.E. Mr Narendra Singh Tomar are contained in *Appendixes G.1-2*.

CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS

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

19. In the course of the biennium and in accordance with Rule II.1 of the *Rules of Procedure*,¹ the Government of Australia designated Ms Alison McMorrow and, subsequently, Ms Alison Curran, in place of Mr Michael Ryan as the Vice-Chairperson representing the Southwest Pacific Region. The Government of India designated Mr R.C. Agrawal, in place of Mr Kuldeep Singh, as the Vice-Chairperson representing the Asia Region. The Government of Argentina designated Ms Ángela

¹ “If a Bureau member resigns from his or her position or finds him or herself permanently unable to exercise his or her functions, the Contracting Party of that Bureau member shall designate another representative so that he or she may replace the said member during the remainder of the term. Except as provided for in Rule 2.3, if a Bureau member is unable to temporarily carry out any of his or her functions, the Contracting Party of that Bureau member may designate an alternate.”

Teves Libarona and, subsequently, Mr Joaquín Salzberg, in place of Mr Manrique Altavista as the Vice-Chairperson representing the Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

20. The Chairperson of the Ninth Session welcomed all participants and opened the Ninth Session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

21. The Governing Body confirmed that the standard rules and practices for Sessions of the Governing Body would apply to the Ninth Session, except where any rule or practice would be incompatible with the hybrid modality and/or could not be followed due to exceptional circumstances. In such cases, those rules or practices would be suspended on a case-by-case basis.

22. The Governing Body adopted the *Modalities and Guidelines for the Conduct of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty*, as contained in *Appendix 1* of the document, *Annotated Provisional Agenda and Timetable*,² and agreed that the *Modalities and Guidelines* shall not create a precedent for the working methods of the Governing Body or any other subsidiary body of the International Treaty for future meetings.

23. The Governing Body adopted the Agenda of the Ninth Session, as given in *Appendix A*. The List of Documents is contained in *Appendix F*.

PARTICIPATION OF OBSERVERS

24. The Governing Body took note of the observers who had requested to be present at the Ninth Session,³ and welcomed their participation.

ELECTION OF THE *RAPPORTEUR*

25. The Governing Body elected Ms Svanhild-Isabelle Batta Torheim (Norway) as *Rapporteur*.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE AND VERIFICATION OF CREDENTIALS

26. The Report of the Credentials Committee to the Governing Body is contained in *Appendix D*. The list of Contracting Parties, as of 24 September 2022, is contained in *Appendix E*.

² IT/GB-9/22/1.2 Rev.1

³ IT/GB-9/22/1.3

ESTABLISHMENT OF A BUDGET COMMITTEE

27. The Governing Body considered the documents: *Implementation Report of the Work Programme for the 2020–2021 Biennium*;⁴ *Financial and Progress Report on the Work Programme and Budget for the 2020–2021 Biennium*;⁵ *Draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2022–2023 Biennium*;⁶ *Draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2022–2023 Biennium: Donor-Supported Activities under the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes*.⁷ The Governing Body decided to establish a Budget Committee. The Committee was co-chaired by Mr François Pythoud (Switzerland) and Ms Sabnam Shivakoti Aryal (Nepal).

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE GOVERNING BODY

28. In her report,⁸ the Chairperson of the Ninth Session, Ms Yasmina El Bahloul underscored the firm commitment of all stakeholders in the International Treaty towards its implementation despite the considerable limitations and constraints encountered since the Eighth Session of the Governing Body. Ms El Bahloul provided an overview of the work of the Bureau during the extended intersessional period. In particular, she referred to the Bureau's advice to the Secretary on matters concerning: the preparation of the First Special Session of the Governing Body held in December 2021; the re-scheduling and preparations for technical consultations and other meetings delayed by the pandemic; the fourth and fifth project cycles of the Benefit-sharing Fund. Ms El Bahloul noted with appreciation the analysis undertaken by the Secretariat on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the International Treaty. Ms El Bahloul recognized the relationship between the International Treaty and other international instruments, relevant organizations and policy processes. She highlighted a number of interactions initiated by the Bureau, including with: the Crop Trust and the CGIAR genebanks to safeguard collections of plant genetic resources at risk; ISF to exchange information on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the seed industry; the Government of Norway on the management and operations of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. She also noted the support provided by the Bureau on the positioning of the International Treaty in the discussions under the Convention on Biological Diversity for the preparation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, and the "One CGIAR" reform. In closing, Ms El Bahloul noted that, during the intersessional period that concluded with the Ninth Session, the International Treaty had demonstrated to be a flexible instrument with the capacity to adjust to the global context. She also recognized that certain gaps and fragilities had been

⁴ IT/GB-9/22/18.3

⁵ IT/GB-9/22/18.2 Rev.1

⁶ IT/GB-9/22/18

⁷ IT/GB-9/22/18 Add.1

⁸ IT/GB-9/22/5

highlighted as well as inequalities in the level of engagement of the various Contracting Parties and regions in implementation.

29. The Governing Body took note of the Chairperson's Report and thanked her and the Bureau for the excellent work performed.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNING BODY

30. In his report,⁹ the Secretary, Mr Kent Nnadozie, provided a summary of the intersessional processes and activities he had overseen since the last Session of the Governing Body. These included the processes and activities related to the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, the Funding Strategy, the Global Information System, Compliance, Farmers' Rights, Conservation and Sustainable Use. With regard to policy and operational developments that occurred in the intersessional period, Mr Nnadozie reported on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the establishment of the Emergency Reserve for Germplasm Collections at Risk. He noted the importance of supporting collections of PGRFA at risk, given the number of emergency situations and events posing threats to certain collections such as those arising from natural disasters, civil unrests or armed conflicts. Mr Nnadozie thanked the governments of Norway, Italy and the United States of America for their generous contributions to the Emergency Reserve and appealed for additional contributions to be made to support these efforts.

31. Mr Nnadozie also reported on the synergies in the context of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Biodiversity Related Conventions. Mr Nnadozie delivered a synthetic account regarding the implementation of the Communication Strategy of the International Treaty and indicated that, in the following biennium, the International Treaty would continue enhancing the communication and outreach services it provides, and further expand its reach to a wide variety of audiences. In providing a financial update, Mr Nnadozie specified that the related documentation for the Ninth Session contained significantly more details than previous reports. He confirmed the commitment to increasing transparency and accountability in the use of resources within the framework of the Financial Rules of the International Treaty and FAO's financial system.

32. In reviewing the intersessional activities, Mr Nnadozie pointed to a number of new and emerging challenges. He indicated the need for robust International Treaty systems that are able to deliver beyond normal conditions while making sure that the interrelations between the various committees are fluid and well defined, and that the design of the International Treaty procedures enables effective policy discussions. He also emphasized the importance of an adequate response to the future Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework by the International Treaty, in particular to support its implementation at the national level. In the international policy context, the Secretary

⁹ IT/GB-9/22/6

observed the difficulties in agreeing on the main elements for the future regulation of Digital Sequence Information. Yet, he considered that it would be advisable for the International Treaty community to examine, in more detail, some of the future implications that the underlying technologies, patterns of use and related discussions may have for the objectives of the International Treaty. In closing his intervention, Mr Nnadozie welcomed the new Contracting Parties to the International Treaty, namely: the Dominican Republic, Mozambique, Nigeria and South Sudan. He also noted that the instrument of ratification by the Government of Nigeria had recently been received.

33. The Governing Body joined the Secretary in welcoming the new Contracting Parties and commended the Secretary for the efforts to support the International Treaty community and ensure the continued functioning of the International Treaty systems during the challenging intersessional period.

34. The Governing Body called for the mobilization of support and close cooperation between relevant partners and FAO to safeguard the unique PGRFA collection in Ukraine. In this context, a number of Contracting Parties to the International Treaty offered support including storage space for the temporary relocation of plant germplasm from Ukrainian collections, for safeguard.

35. The Secretary invited the Governing Body to consider a number of documents related to the work mandated in the intersessional period.

36. The Governing Body considered the document, *Draft Capacity Development Strategy for the International Treaty*.¹⁰ The Governing Body adopted Resolution 10/2022, as contained in *Appendix B.10*.

37. The Governing Body considered the document, *Report on the Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Implementation of the International Treaty*.¹¹ The Governing Body noted the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular the loss of genetic material of vegetatively propagated crops conserved *in vitro*. The Governing Body also noted positive developments from the COVID-19 response, including the increased digitalization of capacity building and training materials, and the strengthening of local sourcing of seeds for communities. The Governing Body stressed the importance of developing and including contingency plans and digital solutions for genebank operations as well as of supporting the production of quality seeds at local level.

38. The Governing Body requested the Secretary to continue monitoring and analyzing the impact, challenges and opportunities of the COVID-19 pandemic for the implementation of the International Treaty.

¹⁰ IT/GB-9/22/6.1

¹¹ IT/GB-9/22/6.2

39. The Governing Body considered the document, *Review of Progress Made on the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals Related to PGRFA*.¹² The Governing Body recalled the importance of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing as an important mechanism that contributes to the achievement of targets 2.5 and 15.6 of as well as other targets of the SDGs. The Governing Body noted that the FAO World Information and Early Warning System on PGRFA (WIEWS) contains information on PGRFA of value for SDG reporting purposes.

40. The Governing Body requested the Secretary of the International Treaty to cooperate with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on sharing the information they respectively receive through national reports.

CELEBRATING THE GUARDIANS OF CROP DIVERSITY: TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

41. The Governing Body considered the document, *Celebrating the Guardians of Crop Diversity: Towards an Inclusive Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*,¹³ and adopted Resolution 1/2022, as contained in *Appendix B.1*.

IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING

42. The Governing Body considered the documents: *Report on the Implementation and Operations of the Multilateral System*;¹⁴ *Report on Possible Measures to Encourage Natural and Legal Persons to Include Material in the Multilateral System and other Reviews and Assessments under the Multilateral System*;¹⁵ and *Report on the Operations of the Third-Party Beneficiary*.¹⁶ The Governing Body adopted Resolution 2/2022, as contained in *Appendix B.2*.

IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 12.3a OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

43. The Governing Body considered the document, *Implementation of Article 12.3a of the International Treaty*.¹⁷ The Governing Body welcomed the exchange of views on the implementation of Article 12.3.a of the International Treaty.

¹² IT/GB-9/22/6.3

¹³ IT/GB-9/22/7

¹⁴ IT/GB-9/22/9.1

¹⁵ IT/GB-9/22/9.1.2 Rev.1

¹⁶ IT/GB-9/22/9.1.3

¹⁷ It7GB-9/22/9.1.i

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

44. The Governing Body considered the document, *Reports from Informal Consultations on the Enhancement of the Multilateral System*,¹⁸ and adopted Resolution 3/2022, as contained in *Appendix B.3*.

PROPOSAL FOR AN AMENDMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

45. The Governing Body considered the document, *Proposal for an Amendment of the International Treaty*.¹⁹ The Government of Switzerland reaffirmed its proposal for the consideration of the Governing Body at its next Session.

THE FUNDING STRATEGY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

46. The Governing Body considered the document, *Report of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body*,²⁰ and adopted Resolution 4/2022, as contained in *Appendix B.4*.

THE GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

47. The Governing Body considered the document, *Report on the Implementation of the Global Information System*,²¹ and adopted Resolution 5/2022, as contained in *Appendix B.5*.

CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

48. The Governing Body considered the documents: *Implementation of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*;²² and *Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body*.²³ The Governing Body adopted Resolution 6/2022, as contained in *Appendix B.6*.

¹⁸ IT/GB-9/22/9.2

¹⁹ IT/GB-9/22/8

²⁰ IT/GB-9/22/10

²¹ IT/GB-9/22/11

²² IT/GB-9/22/12

²³ IT/GB-9/22/12.2

FARMERS' RIGHTS

49. The Governing Body considered the documents: *Implementation of Farmers' Rights*;²⁴ *Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body*;²⁵ and *Options for Encouraging, Guiding and Promoting the Realization of Farmers' Rights as Set Out in Article 9 of the International Treaty*.²⁶ The Governing Body adopted Resolution 7/2022, as contained in *Appendix B.7*.

COMPLIANCE

50. The Governing Body considered the document, *Report of the Compliance Committee*.²⁷ The Governing Body adopted Resolution 8/2022, as contained in *Appendix B.8*, which includes the list of the new members elected to serve in the Compliance Committee from January 2023.

CONTRIBUTION OF FAO TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

51. The Governing Body considered the document, *Report from FAO on Its Contribution to the Implementation of the International Treaty*,²⁸ and adopted Resolution 9/2022, as contained in *Appendix B.9*.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

52. The Governing Body considered the document, *Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*,²⁹ and adopted Resolution 11/2022, as contained in *Appendix B.11*.

53. The Governing Body considered the documents: *Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust*;³⁰ *Report of the Global Crop Diversity Trust to the Governing Body*;³¹ and *Report on the*

²⁴ IT/GB-9/22/13

²⁵ IT/GB-9/22/13.2

²⁶ IT/GB-9/22/13.3

²⁷ IT/GB-9/22/14

²⁸ IT/GB-9/22/15

²⁹ IT/GB-9/22/16.1

³⁰ IT/GB-9/22/16.2

³¹ IT/GB-9/22/16.2.2

*Emergency Reserve for Germplasm Collections at Risk.*³² The Governing Body adopted Resolution 12/2022, as contained in *Appendix B.12*.

54. The Governing Body considered the document, *Report on Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity*,³³ and adopted Resolution 13/2022, as contained in *Appendix B.13*.

55. The Governing Body considered the documents: *Report on Cooperation with Other International Bodies and Organizations*;³⁴ *Reports from Institutions that have Concluded Agreements with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the International Treaty*;³⁵ and *Report from Norway on the Management and Operations of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault*.³⁶

56. The Governing Body integrated several decisions regarding cooperation and adopted Resolution 14/2022, as contained in *Appendix B.14*.

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

57. The Governing Body considered the document, *Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty*.³⁷ The Governing Body adopted Resolution 15/2022, as contained in *Appendix B.15*.

CONSIDERATION OF DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION

58. The Governing Body considered the document, *Consideration of Digital Sequence Information in Accordance with Resolution 13/2019 and the Multi-Year Programme of Work*.³⁸ The Governing Body adopted Resolution 16/2022 as contained in *Appendix B.16*.

REVIEW OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND INTERSESSIONAL PROCESSES

59. The Governing Body considered the document, *Review of Subsidiary Bodies and Intersessional Processes*.³⁹ The Governing Body integrated its decision and guidance into Resolution 15/2022.

³² IT/GB-9/22/16.2.3

³³ IT/GB-9/22/16.3

³⁴ IT/GB-9/22/16.4 Rev.1

³⁵ IT/GB-9/22/16.4.2

³⁶ IT/GB-9/22/16.4.3 Rev.1

³⁷ IT/GB-9/22/17.1

³⁸ IT/GB-9/22/17.2 Rev.1

³⁹ IT/GB-9/22/17.3

ADOPTION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

60. The Co-Chairpersons of the Budget Committee presented the recommendations of the Committee with a proposed budget for the 2022–2023 Work Programme. The Governing Body adopted Resolution 17/2022, as contained in *Appendix B.17*.

61. The Governing Body considered the document, *Draft Terms of Reference for the Budget Committee*,⁴⁰ and adopted the *Terms of Reference for the Budget Committee*, as contained in *Annex 4* to Resolution 17/2022.

APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

62. The Governing Body considered the document, *Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body*.⁴¹ The Governing Body confirmed the extension of the appointment of Mr Kent Nnadozie as Secretary of the International Treaty for the period of two years, 2022-2023. The Governing Body congratulated Mr Nnadozie for the extent and the quality of the work achieved and looked forward to working with him over the coming years.

63. The Governing Body considered the document, *Procedures for the Selection and Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty*,⁴² and adopted the *Procedure for the Selection and Appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies*, as approved by the FAO Council and contained in *Appendix C*. The Governing Body also requested the Bureau of the Tenth Session to develop a proposal for the renewal and on the term of office of the Secretary, in consultation with FAO, and make recommendations to the Governing Body at its Tenth Session.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE TENTH SESSION

64. The Governing Body elected the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons for its Tenth Session. Ms Yasmina El Bahloul (Africa Region) was elected as Chairperson of the Tenth Session of the Governing Body. Six Vice-Chairpersons were elected: Ms Sabnam Shivakoti Aryal (Asia Region), Ms Kim Van Seeters (Europe Region), Mr Joaquín Salzberg (Latin America and the Caribbean Region), Mr Ali Chéhadé (Near East Region), Ms Christine Dawson (North America Region) and Ms Alison Curran (Southwest Pacific Region).

⁴⁰ IT/GB-9/22/4

⁴¹ IT/GB-9/22/19.1 Rev.1

⁴² IT/GB-9/22/19.2

65. The Governing Body noted that the re-election of Ms Yasmina El Bahloul as Chairperson, and of the Vice-Chairpersons, was approved as an extraordinary measure to provide for continuity and the timely advancement of the International Treaty activities in view of the one-year, abbreviated timetable until the Tenth Session of the Governing Body. The Governing Body expressed its intention to resume typical terms of two years, limits on consecutive terms, and the rotation of the Chairperson with the Bureau of the Eleventh Session.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE TENTH SESSION

66. The Governing Body agreed that its Tenth Session will be held in the last quarter of 2023 at the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. It will be convened by the Chairperson of the Tenth Session, with the agreement of the Bureau and in consultation with the Director-General of FAO and the Secretary. The Secretary will communicate the exact date of the Tenth Session to all Contracting Parties.

67. The Governing Body thanked the Government of India for hosting the Ninth Session, the generous hospitality and the excellent facilities it provided, and called on Contracting Parties wishing to host any future Sessions of the Governing Body to communicate their intention to do so well in advance of the Session they may wish to host, preferably during a preceding Session.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

68. The Governing Body adopted its Report and all Resolutions as contained in *Appendixes B.1-17*

APPENDIX A**AGENDA OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
2. Election of the *Rapporteur*
3. Appointment of the Credentials Committee
4. Establishment of a Budget Committee
5. Report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body
6. Report of the Secretary of the Governing Body
 - 6.1 Capacity Development Strategy
 - 6.2 Report on the Impacts of COVID-19
 - 6.3 Review of Progress Made on the Achievement of SDGs Related to PGRFA
7. Celebrating the Guardians of Crop Diversity: Towards an Inclusive Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
8. Proposal for an Amendment of the International Treaty
9. The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing
 - 9.1 Implementation and Operations of the Multilateral System
 - i. Implementation of Article 12.3.a of the International Treaty
 - 9.2 Updates on Any Informal Consultations on the Enhancement of the Multilateral System
10. The Funding Strategy of the International Treaty
11. The Global Information System
12. Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA
13. Farmers' Rights
14. Compliance
15. Contribution of FAO to the Implementation of the International Treaty
16. Cooperation with International Instruments and Organizations
 - 16.1 Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
 - 16.2 Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust
 - 16.3 Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol
 - 16.4 Cooperation with other International Bodies and Organizations

17. Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty
 - 17.1 Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty
 - 17.2 Consideration of "Digital Sequence Information" on Genetic Resources for the Objectives of the International Treaty
 - 17.3 Review of Subsidiary Bodies and Intersessional Processes
18. Adoption of the Work Programme and Budget
19. Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
 - 19.1 Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body
 - 19.2 Procedures for the Appointment and Renewal of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty
20. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Tenth Session
21. Date and Place of the Tenth Session
22. Adoption of the Report

APPENDIX B**RESOLUTIONS OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING
BODY**

APPENDIX B.1**RESOLUTION 1/2022****CELEBRATING THE GUARDIANS OF CROP DIVERSITY: TOWARDS
AN INCLUSIVE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling that plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) are an important foundation for sustainable agricultural production;

Recognizing that management of PGRFA is supported by a variety of actors, such as farmers, local and indigenous communities, gene bank managers, researchers and plant breeders, including farmer-breeders, working in collaboration;

Noting that sustainable agricultural production contributes to PGRFA conservation and improved PGRFA management by mainstreaming this component of biodiversity;

Noting that an inclusive approach is being considered in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework negotiations;

1. **Acknowledges and celebrates** the contributions of all guardians, curators and users of crop diversity to ensure that crop diversity is conserved and sustainably used for the global food security of today and the future;
2. **Acknowledges** the important contribution that women make as guardians of crop diversity and its associated knowledge;
3. **Recognizes** the past, present and future contributions of farmers in all regions of the world, particularly those in centres of origin and diversity, in conserving, improving and making available crop diversity and, in this regard, **invites** Contracting Parties to fully engage farmers in matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;
4. **Thanks** Contracting Parties, including the Host Government of India, that have developed initiatives to celebrate the contributions of guardians and curators of crop diversity, and **invites** others to do so, taking into account, as appropriate, the valuable experiences and lessons learned included in the *Inventory of National Measures, Best Practices and Lessons Learned for the Realization of Farmers' Rights, as Set Out in Article 9 of the International Treaty*;
5. **Notes** that a number of international organisations, such as The Alliance of CIAT and Bioersity International and the Global Crop Diversity Trust, have in the past taken initiatives to celebrate the contributions of guardians and curators of crop diversity, and **requests** the Secretary to liaise with such organizations, as appropriate, to explore opportunities to celebrate such contributions on a regular basis and in a collaborative manner;
6. **Encourages** the adoption of an inclusive approach to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, involving all relevant

stakeholders and recognizing their contributions, including the International Treaty community of actors, in particular farmers and other guardians of crop diversity;

7. ***Further emphasizes*** the importance of an inclusive approach to the implementation of the International Treaty and ***recognizes*** the valuable opportunities that lie ahead if new stakeholders with an interest in food, agriculture or biodiversity are actively engaged in the implementation of the International Treaty.

RESOLUTION 2/2022

IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling previous Resolutions on the operations and implementation of the Multilateral System, in particular, Resolutions 1/2015, 4/2017 and 2/2019;

Recalling the need to provide regular guidance to Contracting Parties and institutions that have concluded agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty for the effective and efficient operations of the Multilateral System;

Recalling the provisions of Article 15.1 (a) of the International Treaty;

Recalling further the provisions of Articles 6.5 and 6.6 of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA);

Noting the continuing relevance of the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets to the implementation of the obligations of CGIAR Centers pursuant to the agreements concluded with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the International Treaty, including on the CGIAR Centers management and distribution of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture under development;

Noting further that those Intellectual Assets Principles explicitly require Centres to comply with their obligations under the framework of the International Treaty and serve as a mechanism for monitoring and compliance;

PART I: AVAILABILITY AND TRANSFER OF MATERIAL IN THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM

1. *Welcomes* the information provided on the availability of material in the Multilateral System; *thanks* the Contracting Parties that have identified, at the accession level, the material that is available in the Multilateral System and *urges* them to continue updating this information regularly; and *further urges* the Contracting Parties that have not yet done so, to identify, at accession level, the material that forms part of the Multilateral System;
2. *Emphasizes* the importance of collections that are adequately characterized and evaluated; *appeals* to both Contracting Parties, and natural and legal persons to make them available in the Multilateral System together with the relevant non-confidential characterization and evaluation data; and *further appeals* to donors to support characterization of collections conserved in national genebanks of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
3. *Invites* Contracting Parties and other holders of material to use, on a voluntary basis, the Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) of the Global Information System for the identification of material available in the Multilateral System;
4. *Requests* the Secretary, in cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, to update the report on the global availability of material in the Multilateral System and transfer of germplasm, including a systematic analysis of reasons why there are Contracting Parties that have not placed any material in the Multilateral System, including based on the compliance reports, subject to the availability of financial resources; the report should also include information on the status of collections of vegetatively propagated material available, and information on the use of SMTA for both foreign and domestic transfers of material, and the identification of difficulties and capacity development needs related to national implementation, for the consideration

of the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body; and *decides* to include it in the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Governing Body;

PART II: OPERATIONS OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM

5. *Takes note* of the progress made since the Eighth Session with Easy-SMTA and the Data Store and *requests* the Secretary to continue maintaining the help-desk function on the operations of the Multilateral System;
6. *Welcomes* the publication of the Educational Module on the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing and *requests* the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to translate into other official languages and convert it into an online training module;
7. *Takes note* of the online training events and webinars organized to facilitate the implementation of the Multilateral System and *requests* the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to organize regional implementation workshops to support Contracting Parties in strengthening the operations of the Multilateral System, including for the identification and notification of material available in the Multilateral System and the operations of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, including the reporting of transfers;
8. *Further requests* the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to support Contracting Parties in the documentation and exchange of national experiences on the implementation of the Multilateral System and publish them on the website of the International Treaty;
9. *Invites* Contracting Parties and relevant international organizations to make available resources for, and collaborate with the Secretary in, organizing training programmes and workshops on the Multilateral System and in the documentation of national experiences and use cases;
10. *Requests* the Secretary to continue to work with the Article 15 Institutions to build capacity among a broader range of providers, including natural and legal persons, to implement the Multilateral System and to report on the use of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement;

PART III: PRACTICE OF THE CGIAR CENTRES ON THE MANAGEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL ASSETS RELATED TO PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

11. *Thanks* the CGIAR System for the submission of the report on the Status of Implementation of the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets and the increased transparency in Centers' communications when entering into restrictive agreements concerning plant germplasm or information generated from the use of such germplasm;
12. *Invites* the CGIAR System to continue reporting on the application of the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets to germplasm managed under the framework of the International Treaty, parts thereof, or information generated from the use of this germplasm;

PART IV: OPERATION OF THE THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARY

Recalling that the Governing Body, at its Third Session, had approved the Procedures for the Operation of the Third Party Beneficiary (Third Party Beneficiary Procedures)¹ for the carrying out of the roles and responsibilities of Third Party Beneficiary as identified and prescribed in the SMTA under the direction of the Governing Body;

Recalling further that, in accordance with Article 4.2 of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures, the Third Party Beneficiary may receive information on possible non-compliance with the obligations of the provider and recipient under a SMTA from any natural or legal persons;

¹ Annex to Resolution 5/2009.

Recognizing that the Third Party Beneficiary will require adequate financial and other resources and that FAO, acting as Third Party Beneficiary, shall not incur any liabilities in excess of the funds available in the Third Party Beneficiary Operational Reserve;

13. **Takes note** of the Report on the Operation of the Third Party Beneficiary and **further requests** the Secretary and FAO to continue providing, at each Session of the Governing Body, such a report;

14. **Stresses the importance** for the effective functioning of the Third Party Beneficiary, of Article 4.2 of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures, according to which the Third Party Beneficiary may receive information on possible non-compliance with the obligations of the provider and recipient under a SMTA from the parties under the SMTA or any other natural or legal persons;

15. **Decides** to maintain the Third Party Beneficiary Operational Reserve for the 2022–2023 biennium at the current level of USD 283 280 and to review the same at its Tenth Session, and **calls** upon Contracting Parties that have not yet done so, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other entities to contribute to the Reserve;

16. **Authorizes** the Secretary to draw upon the Third Party Beneficiary Operational Reserve as may be needed for the implementation of the functions of the Third Party Beneficiary;

17. **Welcomes** the functional and cost-effective information technology tools and infrastructure that the Secretary has developed to facilitate the submission, collection and storage of information in the implementation of Article 4.1 of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures and **requests** the Secretary to continue to apply adequate measures to ensure the integrity and, where required, the confidentiality of information;

PART V: REVIEWS AND ASSESSMENTS UNDER THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM AND OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF THE STANDARD MATERIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT

18. **Thanks** Contracting Parties and stakeholders who provided information about measures taken to encourage natural and legal persons to include PGRFA in the Multilateral System;

19. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources: to continue capacity development activities and awareness-raising efforts on the voluntary inclusion of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) in the Multilateral System by natural and legal persons, with the participation of National Focal Points and relevant stakeholders; and to prepare a briefing note to support natural and legal persons who are interested in including their PGRFA in the Multilateral System including also a description of the advantages in this note;

20. **Invites** Contracting Parties to capitalize on the measures already taken to encourage and support natural and legal persons to make material available in the Multilateral System and to adopt additional measures;

21. **Requests** the Secretary to monitor progress on the voluntary inclusion of material in the Multilateral System by natural and legal persons and to report to the Governing Body at its Tenth Session so that it could undertake the assessments and consider any decisions foreseen under Article 11.4 of the International Treaty;

22. **Decides** to further postpone the reviews and assessments foreseen under Article 13.2d(ii) of the International Treaty, to its Tenth Session.

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.

RESOLUTION 4/2022

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUNDING STRATEGY

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling Articles 13.2, 13.3, 18 (in particular 18.4) and 19.3f of the International Treaty;

Recalling Resolution 3/2019 through which the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty for the period 2020 to 2025 was adopted, in order to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement activities under the International Treaty, and through which it decided to make the Committee a standing Committee;

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee or Committee) and the progress made in implementing the Funding Strategy since its adoption;

PART I: FUNDING STRATEGY

2. *Notes* that the first three years of the Funding Strategy 2020–2025 has been implemented mostly during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has significantly affected and will continue to affect the global policy, fiscal and operational environment, and *requests* the Committee to consider the resulting impacts, challenges and opportunities in taking forward its work on implementing and making recommendations for updating the Funding Strategy;

3. *Requests* the Funding Committee to continue to play a leading role in advancing the realization and monitoring of the Funding Strategy in order to provide the necessary strategic guidance as well as operational oversight of relevant processes and activities relating to the Funding Strategy;

4. *Encourages* FAO to facilitate the delivery of programmes and projects supportive of implementation of the Treaty, in particular, through its involvement in the Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund, as appropriate, and to actively contribute to the work of the Committee;

5. *Recalls* that the Global Crop Diversity Trust is an essential element of the Funding Strategy and *thinks* it for the significant efforts made to engage with the Committee as an active observer, providing advice to the work of the Committee, and collaborating with the International Treaty Secretariat on a number of joint resource mobilization and communication initiatives;

6. *Notes* with concern, the absence or low participation of some regions in the meetings of the Funding Committee, and *urges* Regional Groups and Contracting Parties to consider both expertise and availability in nominating members to the Committee;

7. *Notes* the inconsistency in language between paragraph 29k of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty 2020–2025, as contained in *Annex 1* to Resolution 3/2019, which refers to the development of relevant “policy criteria” for specific assistance, and that of Article 13.4 of the International Treaty, which states that the Governing Body shall consider relevant “policy and criteria” for specific assistance, and *agrees to amend* the text of the said paragraph to read “policy and criteria”, so as to reflect the exact language of the International Treaty.

8. *Decides* that the costs of the meetings of and the preparatory work for the Funding Committee, up to [USD X] will be included in the Core Administrative Budget as may be adopted by the Governing Body, supplemented by any voluntary contributions made available for that purpose, and requests the Secretary to include such costs into the Core Administrative Budget that is presented to

the Governing Body for approval at its Regular Sessions; the work of the Funding Committee can be supported by virtual, physical or hybrid procedures as necessary;

9. *Invites* donors in a position to do so to support the work of the Committee, in particular the participation of developing countries;

PART II: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

10. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to mobilize resources from various sources to meet the targets of the Funding Strategy;

11. *Thanks* the Funding Committee for developing a strategy to mobilize funds from food processing industries, as requested by the Governing Body, and as called for in Article 13.6 of the International Treaty.

12. *Approves* the Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy, as contained in the *Annex* to this Resolution, and *requests* the Committee to review progress on the implementation of the Strategy, and provide regular updates to the Governing Body on its implementation, and make recommendations for adjustments, if any;

13. *Thanks* Germany, Italy, Ireland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland for their financial contributions during the period 2020–2022 to the Fund for Agreed Purposes of the International Treaty and other funds under the direct control of the Governing Body, and *encourages* other Contracting Parties and donors to also make financial contributions to the Fund to further support the implementation of the International Treaty;

14. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made by the European Union, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland in support of the fifth cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund;

15. *Acknowledges* and *thanks* the French Inter-professional Organisation for Seeds and Plants (SEMAE) for the generous annual contributions in the 2020–2021 biennium of a sum of EUR 175 000 each year to the Benefit-Sharing Fund, and *appeals* to other stakeholders and relevant actors in the private sector, especially the seed and the food processing industries, to consider making voluntary contributions on a multi-annual basis;

16. *Welcomes* the contribution made by the Federation of Seed Industry of India to the Benefit-sharing Fund as the first collective contribution from the Indian seed sector and *appeals* to others in the seed sector and the food processing industries to make contributions to the International Treaty.

17. *Welcomes* the further payments of the mandatory user-based income from the Multilateral System on Access and Benefit-sharing to the Benefit-sharing Fund, and *stresses* the urgent need for ensuring an enhanced and predictable flow of resources to the Fund;

18. *Invites* the private sector and others to make or continue making and increasing financial contributions in order to meet the targets of the Funding Strategy;

19. *Recalls* that text regarding a target range for the Benefit-sharing Fund remains bracketed in paragraph 36 of the Funding Strategy 2020–2025, and *notes* the need to resolve this matter;

20. *Emphasizes* the importance of continuing the work on resource mobilization, communication, promotion and the International Treaty's branding and media presence to enhance funding for, and the visibility of the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Fund for Agreed Purposes of the International Treaty, in particular, and for the Funding Strategy.

PART III: BENEFIT-SHARING FUND OPERATIONS

21. *Welcomes* the launch of the Fifth Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund and *thanks* the donors who have contributed to it;

22. *Thanks* the Funding Committee for providing guidance to the operations of the Benefit-sharing Fund during the biennium and, in particular, for its work in the design and launch the Fifth

Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund, which contributes to the realization of the programmatic approach for the Fund, as adopted by the Governing Body;

23. **Welcomes** the finalization of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework of the Benefit-sharing Fund as an integral part of the monitoring of the overall Funding Strategy as is described in Section V of the Funding Strategy that links outcomes and outputs within the storyline and Theory of Change of the Benefit-sharing Fund, with clear targets and indicators established to enable the monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes;

24. **Welcomes** the Report of the Independent Evaluation of the Third Project Cycle in accordance with the Operations Manual of the Fund, and **notes** that the Funding Committee has made use of the recommendations and lessons learned from the evaluation in the design of the Fifth Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund;

25. **Stresses** the importance of communicating the results of the on-going projects under the Fourth Cycle and the expected results of the Fifth Cycle within the framework of the broader communication strategy of the International Treaty, and in this regard **encourages** the Secretariat to continue to hold regional briefings to update Contracting Parties and stakeholders on progress and relevant developments, as well as to receive feedback;

PART IV: MONITORING, LEARNING AND REVIEW

26. **Invites** Contracting Parties, international mechanisms, funds, bodies, stakeholder groups and other international organizations to provide information to the Secretary to assist the Funding Committee in undertaking regular reviews of the Funding Strategy and **requests** the Funding Committee to continue to work in collaboration with the Compliance Committee so as to agree the best way to integrate information in existing reporting formats;

27. **Calls** upon Contracting Parties to share information about the results of the further integration of PGRFA in national budgets and priorities with the Secretariat for the development of strategic tools that National Focal Points and others can use to leverage new resources;

28. **Invites** Contracting Parties, relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies, stakeholder groups and other international organizations to provide information to the Secretariat that will enable the Funding Committee to better leverage funding from all sources for Treaty implementation and to develop the methodology for measuring non-monetary benefit-sharing during the Biennium 2022–2023.

FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

SETTING THE STAGE

Background and context

1. Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture make an essential contribution to increasing and safeguarding food security and nutrition, improving rural livelihoods and economies, supporting the maintenance of biodiversity and to meeting the challenges of adapting to climate change.
2. The food processing industry benefits from plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, as is recognised in Article 13.6 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Treaty). Article 13.6 states that the Treaty's *Contracting Parties shall consider modalities of a strategy of voluntary benefit-sharing contributions whereby Food Processing Industries that benefit from plant genetic resources for food and agriculture shall contribute to the Multilateral System.*
3. This Article, along with the request made by the Treaty's Governing Body through paragraph 29h in the Annex of Resolution 3/2019, which calls on the Funding Committee to develop a strategy to mobilize funds from food processing industries, as called for in Article 13.6 of the Treaty, constitute the mandate for the development of this Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy (the Engagement Strategy). In developing it, the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee) has also taken into account that Article 13 of the Treaty acknowledges different mechanism of benefit-sharing, namely: exchange of information, access to and transfer of technology, capacity building and sharing of monetary and other benefits of commercialization.
4. The Engagement Strategy has been developed in the context of the Treaty's new Funding Strategy 2020–2025. The Funding Strategy was adopted by the Governing Body at its Eighth Session and strives to ensure that sufficient resources are mobilized through a range of channels for the implementation of the Treaty, including from the food processing industry.
5. The Engagement Strategy will be implemented in the context of relevant global policy frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The SDGs include a robust role for the private sector in global development, and analysis has shown that it is common practice for companies in the food processing industry to judge their activities against them.
6. As stated in the Treaty's Funding Strategy, PGRFA conservation and sustainable use contribute directly and indirectly to the implementation of a number of SDGs. These include SDG 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption), 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). There is a clear opportunity to engage with the food processing industry to develop strategic partnerships for the implementation of the Treaty to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.
7. The Engagement Strategy sets out: a vision and objective in connection to the Treaty; principles for engagement; and assessing and managing related risks.

Evolution, experience and opportunities for the Treaty's engagement with the private sector

8. Since its inception, the Treaty has engaged with the private sector in different ways. The Treaty plays a regulatory role related to facilitated access to PGRFA and the sharing of benefits arising from its use, and also recognises and encourages the role of the private sector in the Treaty's implementation.

9. The Treaty has established a Multilateral System on Access and Benefit-sharing, which contains the world's largest gene pool available for research, breeding and training for food and agriculture. The Multilateral System includes a requirement that a recipient who commercializes a plant variety that incorporates material accessed from the Multilateral System, shall pay to the Treaty's Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF), an equitable share of the benefits arising from the commercialization of that product, if certain conditions are met, as stated in Article 13.2 (d).

10. The private seed sector has engaged in Treaty implementation through its role as an active observer in Treaty negotiations and also through making voluntary contributions to areas of the Treaty's implementation, such as to the Treaty's BSF and to the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

11. There are a number of examples of food manufacturer's involvement in PGRFA initiatives. These include public-private-partnerships, with a specific crop focus, that are designed to help small-holder farmers. Many of the Top 100 food companies have been involved in such partnerships, that have included a focus on particular crops such as sorghum, barley, cassava, cocoa, soybeans, coffee and tea, among others¹. Similarly, the Global Crop Diversity Trust has developed global conservation strategies for specific crop commodities of interest to the food processing industry with a view to raising funds for their implementation.

12. In the development of this Engagement Strategy, the previous experiences of engaging with the private sector for Treaty implementation has been taken into account, as well as the recommendations arising from the 2019 independent evaluation of FAO's 2013 Private Sector Partnership Strategy, as documented in FAO's new Private Sector Engagement Strategy², and input from external experts.

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

13. The vision and objective of this strategy are aligned with those of the Treaty's overall Funding Strategy³.

The vision

14. Through engaging with the food processing industry, partnerships can be formed that enable voluntary contributions to be mobilized for the implementation of the objectives and provisions of the Treaty in a long-term, coordinated, synergistic and effective manner. This further enables the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, contributing to increasing and safeguarding food and nutrition security, improving rural livelihoods and economies, supporting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, meeting the challenges of adapting to climate change and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Objective

15. To enable partnerships with the food processing industry to support the Multilateral System and the implementation of the Treaty as a whole, at national, regional and international levels, including through voluntary financial contributions, as well as other resources.

Approach

16. The Engagement Strategy will utilise a step-wise approach, enabling the development, testing and refining of concepts, models and tools to inform a targeted and effective set of actions for the Treaty's engagement with the food processing industry. This approach allows for regular review, learning and consultation with industry stakeholders to deepen the joint understanding and identification of opportunities of mutual interest, for building strategic and sustainable partnerships

¹ Source: Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, 2015

² FAO's Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021-2025: <http://www.fao.org/3/nd961en/nd961en.pdf>

³ Resolution 3/2019, *The Funding Strategy Of The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources For Food And Agriculture 2020–2025*: **Paragraph 6:** A new Vision for the Funding Strategy: The Funding Strategy enables the Governing Body, Contracting Parties, funding agencies, farmers and other relevant actors to secure funding and other resources for the programmatic implementation of the International Treaty in a long-term, coordinated, synergistic and effective manner. **Paragraph 14:** The objective of the Funding Strategy is to enhance the availability, predictability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement activities under the Treaty, in accordance with Article 18 of the Treaty.

between the Treaty and the food processing industry. The *Implementation, Monitoring and Review Plan: Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy (Inception Phase)*⁴ is updated periodically by the Funding Committee and is provided as a separate document.

17. It is envisaged that this strategy should involve the voluntary participation and contribution of a range of partners enabling the implementation of the Treaty, at national, regional and international levels. Engagement may also be informed by existing experiences of Treaty enabling partners in private sector engagement, such as those facilitated by the Global Crop Diversity Trust in the development of global conservation strategies for specific crop commodities, some of which are of interest to the food processing industry. The Funding Committee will play a leading role in overseeing the planned activities and outputs of this strategy and develop key milestones and actions.

18. At the inception, efforts will be made to define the Treaty's value proposition for the food processing industry, develop communication tools, identify entry points and possible models for engagement.

19. These elements will be informed by further analysis, the distillation of lessons learned and best practices, and through identifying areas of common interest to the Treaty and food processing industry.

20. Elements developed will be further refined through consultations with key stakeholders, including from the food processing industry, such as industry platforms and associations, and other relevant private sector actors. This will involve the identification of a sounding board to facilitate consultation with these stakeholders.

Food processing industry: description, scope and sectors

21. The food processing industry, or food and drink manufacturing sector, is one stage in the complex overall agri-food chain that starts with the input industries which provide farmers with the products they require to produce their crop and livestock, and the products flow through the food value chain, including the final consumers.

22. The food processing industry is extremely vast and encompasses a wide array of enterprises, from large national and multinational companies and industries, to medium, small-scale and micro businesses and industries, as well as family farms in many countries.

23. Analysis⁵ has been undertaken by an external expert on the food processing industry, as part of the development of this strategy including on trends and drivers, and the Treaty's value proposition. The analysis also highlighted that the food processing industry is highly diversified and fragmented. The Funding Committee may decide to commission further studies in the future to ensure that approaches developed under this strategy remain relevant, including in both developed and developing country contexts.

Why partner with the food processing industry?

24. There are numerous areas of synergy between the food processing industry and the Treaty, and various mutually reinforcing benefits of their successful functioning.

25. Benefits to the Treaty of partnering with the food processing industry include those related to communication, knowledge, technology and innovation. Partnerships may generate joint communication on biodiversity and sustainable food systems, real-time knowledge and data, market intelligence and best practices, and facilitate the effective dissemination of information nationally, regionally and globally.

26. Common threads with the Treaty include addressing issues such as biodiversity, climate change, technology transfer/capacity building, agricultural diversification and support to family farming, and benefit sharing. Further areas to be explored could be the whole diversity of food, in particular highly nutritious food, and the contribution of PGRFA to the achievement of the SDGs.

⁴ Appendix 1, SFC-5 Meeting Proceedings (15–17 February 2022): <http://www.fao.org/3/cb9206en/cb9206en.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.fao.org/3/CB6664EN/CB6664EN.pdf>

Why should the private sector partner with the Treaty?

27. The food processing industry is inextricably linked to, and reliant upon the seed sector, and benefits from plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, agrobiodiversity, sustainable access to seeds and the unique partnerships that the Treaty's systems provide.

28. The Treaty's successful implementation may benefit the food processing industry including in the areas of research and development, farmers' continued access to reliable and diverse seed, and addressing threats to the environment and supply chain.

29. For companies with existing seed initiatives, association with the Treaty could be seen as formal recognition of their seed efforts, For companies without any specific seed-related initiatives but which recognise the importance of seeds in their ESG communications, association with the Treaty could be seen as a formal initiative which acknowledges their seed awareness.

30. The Treaty may serve as a trusted broker of relevant alliances. The Treaty is able to bring together and facilitate communication between Governments and the private sector on shared priorities, governance and policy issues and investments.

Areas for engagement with the food processing industry

31. The potential areas for engagement and partnership with the food processing industry will be refined based upon further analysis of the areas of synergy between the Treaty and food processing industry. It is anticipated that the broad areas of engagement may include those priority areas identified by FAO for its engagement with the private sector in its new strategy, as listed below:

- a) Policy dialogue
- b) Capacity development
- c) Resource mobilization
- d) Technical cooperation
- e) Knowledge and research
- f) Advocacy and communication
- g) Innovation
- h) Data sharing and dissemination
- i) Support for financing and investment
- j) SDG alignment
- k) SDG advocacy

Fully supporting international, regional and national engagement opportunities

32. Contracting Parties of the Treaty will play a critical role in promoting and enabling food processing industry investments in their countries and for Treaty implementation more broadly. The Engagement Strategy will explore the support required and develop tools and models to be tested and made available to assist with engaging the food processing industry and developing partnerships at national, regional and international levels, taking into account different national and regional contexts and, if possible, in more than two UN languages.

Principles for engagement

33. The principles for engagement should be integrated throughout the operationalization of this strategy. They are in line with and build on those set out in FAO's new Private Sector Engagement Strategy including, in no particular order, to:

- a) demonstrate a clear contribution to the attainment of the Treaty and the SDGs that are relevant to the implementation of the Treaty;
- b) respect the values of the Treaty, FAO and the United Nations and apply the exclusionary criteria of FAO's new Private Sector Engagement Strategy, notably those referring to human rights and labour rights;
- c) not compromise the Treaty's neutrality, impartiality, integrity, independence, credibility or reputation;

- d) be effectively managed and avoid any conflicts of interest or other risks to the Treaty
- e) demonstrate a clear contribution to the Treaty's mandate, and objectives and its Members national development goals;
- f) respect the intergovernmental nature of the Treaty and the decision-making authority of its Members as set out in the Treaty text and other relevant rules;
- g) support and enhance, without compromise, the neutral and independent scientific and evidence-based approach that underpins the Treaty's work;
- h) protect the Treaty from any undue influence, especially on processes for setting and applying policies, norms and standards;
- i) be conducted based on transparency, openness, inclusiveness, accountability, integrity and mutual respect.

Assessing and managing risk

34. It is anticipated that engaging and developing partnerships with the food processing industry will be undertaken by a diverse range of different Treaty stakeholders and channels.

35. Where the Treaty engages or partners with the food processing industry through the Treaty's Secretariat, assessment and management of risk may be considered based upon those areas set out in FAO's Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021–2025, of:

- a) conflicts of interest;
- b) undue or improper influence exercised by a private sector entity on the Treaty's work, especially, but not limited to, policies, norms and standard-setting;
- c) a negative impact on the Treaty's integrity, independence, credibility, reputation or mandate;
- d) the engagement being primarily used to serve the interests of the private sector entity, with limited or no benefit to the Treaty;
- e) the engagement conferring an endorsement of the private sector entity's name, brand, product, views or activity;
- f) the "blue-washing"⁶ and/or "green washing" of a private sector entity's image through an engagement with the Treaty;
- g) failure of the partnership to provide the expected benefits.

Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation and Re-Planning

36. The Engagement Strategy is envisaged to be a living document that takes an iterative or "step-wise" approach and may be periodically updated. In line with the monitoring and review arrangements of the Treaty's Funding Strategy, the Funding Committee will regularly monitor and review progress on the implementation of the Engagement Strategy and update the Governing Body on a regular basis, and make recommendations for adjustments.

⁶ The term "blue-washing" is generally understood to be the marketing practice of corporations and companies to form collaborations and associations with United Nations entities to make their goods or services more attractive to their consumers and shareholders that may overstate their commitment to responsible social and ethical practices.

RESOLUTION 5/2022

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling its previous Resolutions and decisions on the Vision and the Programme of Work on the Global Information System (PoW-GLIS), and particularly Resolutions 3/2015, 5/2017 and 4/2019;

Further recalling the contribution of the Global Information System of Article 17 of the International Treaty (GLIS) to the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, in particular to the provisions of Article 13.2.a;

Thanking the Government of Germany for the financial support provided for the documentation of crop wild relatives (CWR) conserved in situ;

Thanking the members of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System of Article 17 for the advice provided to the Secretary and their inputs to the various work tracks on GLIS;

1. **Takes note** of the progress made in the implementation of the PoW-GLIS since the last session of the Governing Body, in particular with the development of the GLIS Portal, and **requests** the Secretary to continue updating the catalogue of resources and tools linked in all the official languages;
2. **Takes note** of the progress made with the promotion of the Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) and **encourages** the Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to continue promoting their use, on a voluntary basis, and to expand the efforts to build the capacity of relevant stakeholders, especially in developing countries;
3. **Takes note** of the publication of the *Descriptors for Crop Wild Relatives Conserved In Situ* and the six new lists of characterization and evaluation descriptors for tropical fruit trees; **acknowledges** all the institutions and individuals who have contributed to their accomplishment; and **invites** the Secretary to facilitate the development of further descriptor lists, as appropriate, subject to the availability of financial resources;
4. **Takes note** of the limited availability of national databases of CWR conserved in situ and **invites** the Contracting Parties that have not done so to consider their development with a view to facilitating further research and use; in this context, it **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and in partnership with relevant stakeholders, to support Contracting Parties in the documentation, including building capacities in data collection from the wild, of crops and their wild relatives, and in making that information available, and to support the relevant programmes to increase public awareness about the value and role of CWR in plant breeding;
5. **Takes note** of the ongoing collaboration with Genesys, the World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS), GRIN-Global, the European Search Catalogue for Plant Genetic Resources (EURISCO) and the SPGRC Documentation and Information System (Web-SDIS), and **requests** the Secretary to continue enhancing cooperation with relevant institutions and initiatives, and to facilitate the exchange of information associated with plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA);
6. **Recalls** the opinion of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the usefulness of the voluntary application of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to PGRFA information, and **thanks** the stakeholders and users who have submitted information on the application of DOIs to digital sequence information /

genetic sequence data (DSI/GSD)¹, including to link phenotypic and passport data with genomics data;²

7. **Requests** the Secretary to encourage and guide users to link scientific publications and datasets to PGRFA material, including by the voluntary use of DOIs, from which the information has been generated, and to support users in incorporating such information into information management systems;
8. **Takes note** of the conclusion of the memorandum of understanding and progress made with the DivSeek International Network, and **requests** the Secretary to update the Governing Body with a report on joint activities at the Tenth Session;
9. **Adopts** the revised PoW-GLIS, as contained in the *Annex* to this Resolution;
10. **Decides** to reconvene the Scientific Advisory Committee with the same terms of reference of the previous biennium, subject to the availability of financial resources, to hold at least one meeting in presence and, if necessary, additional virtual meetings and **requests** the Secretary to continue updating the Committee on progress in the implementation of the PoW-GLIS;
11. **Requests** the Scientific Advisory Committee to continue considering scientific and technical issues of relevance to DSI/GSD, and considering national legislation, as appropriate;
12. **Invites** the Scientific Advisory Committee to advise the Secretary on exploring collaboration and linkages with the Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity as relevant to the GLIS;
13. **Invites** the Scientific Advisory Committee to provide the Governing Body at its Tenth Session with advice on ways to increase the declaration of the country of origin/provenance;
14. **Invites** Contracting Parties, other governments and stakeholders to provide the necessary resources to implement the PoW-GLIS, in particular for the further development of the GLIS Portal, the review of crop ontologies and the support of training and capacity development activities in developing countries;
15. **Requests** the Secretary to follow up on implementation of the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee and submit a progress implementation report to the Governing Body at its Tenth Session.

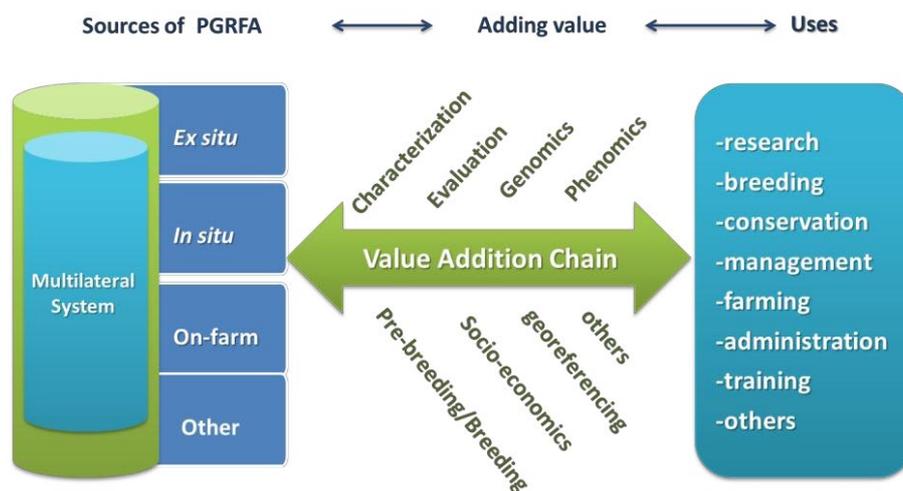
¹ The term 'digital sequence information' is used interchangeably with 'genetic sequence data', without any prejudice to the possible definition of terminology by the Governing Body.

² IT/GB-9/22/17.2/Inf.1, *Compilation of Additional Inputs from Contracting Parties on Digital Sequence Information*.

Programme of Work on the Global Information System (2023–2028)

The Programme of Work (PoW-GLIS) will cover a period of six years. It will be implemented through a phased approach and funded by a combination of core budgetary resources, as may be determined by the Governing Body, and extra-budgetary contributions.

The aim of the Global Information System (GLIS) is to bridge the gap in communication between the institutions serving as sources of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), conducting the research and added-value activities and those using PGRFA to develop products.



The PoW-GLIS has five objectives:

THE GLIS PORTAL

1. To manage and enhance the GLIS Portal

- a. to further develop and manage the GLIS Portal, with focus on a directory of links and services;
- b. to allow quick access to information sources on PGRFA material, in particular material available in the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (MLS);
- c. to make references to non-confidential information, in particular from research and development carried out on the material received from the MLS, by providing links to information sources storing these data;
- d. to define use case scenarios for target groups and set up mechanisms to regularly collect users' feedback and experiences.

INTEROPERABILITY

2. To promote interoperability among existing systems by documenting and facilitating access to principles, technical standards and appropriate tools to support their operations

- a. to promote the adoption of Permanent Unique Identifiers applied to PGRFA, including the voluntary use of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs), and the creation of linkages between phenotypic and passport data with genomics data;
- b. to document and inform about PGRFA documentation standards for data and metadata (e.g. for phenotypic data such as crop-specific descriptors) and promote their dissemination and use;
- c. to establish connections with other initiatives relevant for the adoption of open data and PGRFA documentation standards;

d. to document and inform about technical standards required for interoperability among selected PGRFA information systems, including crop ontologies.

ACCESS TO AND USE OF INFORMATION

3. To promote transparency on the rights and obligations of users for accessing, sharing and using PGRFA-associated information

- a. to document institutional, organizational, policy and legal factors in the context of Articles 12 and 13 of the International Treaty;
- b. to monitor policy developments in international fora of relevance to the GLIS Vision and the POW-GLIS and document the scientific and technical impacts of national legislation related to accessing and using PGRFA-associated information, including digital sequence information / genetic sequence data, in the context of Article 17.

INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

4. To create and enhance opportunities to increase knowledge about and add value to PGRFA

- a. to identify and create opportunities for information exchange among partners and users of the GLIS Portal (research, academia, genebanks, farmers, breeders, private sector, scientific journals, etc.);
- b. to encourage and guide users to link scientific publications and datasets to PGRFA material, and collaborate with reference publishers, dataset repositories and citation agencies.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

5. To inform about and support capacity development and technology transfer opportunities for the conservation, management and use of information and knowledge associated with PGRFA, paying special attention to the needs of developing countries

- a. to strengthen the capacity of genebanks and other providers to document their holdings, including areas such as taxonomy, information management and bioinformatics in collaboration with relevant partners;
- b. to strengthen the capacity of Contracting Parties to develop national and regional inventories and information systems, including for in situ and on-farm material;
- c. to facilitate the transfer of relevant technologies required for the management of PGRFA-associated information, including by convening and supporting regional meetings and scientific conferences;
- d. to provide access to training materials and e-learning products and to design mechanisms to promote training opportunities across institutions.

RESOLUTION 6/2022

IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLES 5 AND 6, CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Acknowledging the paramount importance of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) and the vital role of their conservation and sustainable use in addressing global challenges, including food insecurity, biodiversity loss, climate change adaptation, and poverty alleviation;

Noting that in the last three years, 2020–2022, the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA has been implemented mostly during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has significantly affected and will continue to affect the global policy and operational environment;

Further noting the ongoing discussion on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and, when adopted, its implementation, which is expected to contribute to the enhancement of the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA; and that, likewise, the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty will also contribute to the Framework's prospective goals and targets;

Recalling Resolutions 7/2011, 7/2013, 4/2015, 6/2017 and 5/2019;

1. **Takes note** of the Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Committee), and **thanks** the Committee for carrying out its work and for defining possible indicative future areas of work to advance implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;
2. **Decides** to reconvene the Committee with the Terms of Reference contained in *Annex 1* to this Resolution;
3. **Welcomes** the efforts of the Secretary to update and improve the usability, relevance, and effectiveness of the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA (Toolbox) as a useful online database of valuable information for the management and sustainable use of PGRFA, and **takes note** of the new prototype of the Toolbox and its communication and visibility plan;
4. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to promote, disseminate, regularly update and monitor the Toolbox, and **invites** Contracting Parties and stakeholders to continue to share information resources and to encourage its use;
5. **Takes note of** the Concept Note of the Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA (Concept Note of the Joint Programme) as contained in *Annex 2* of this Resolution and **thanks** the Committee, experts and initial partners for their work.
6. **Welcomes** the *Background Study on the Bottlenecks and Challenges to the Implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty* (Background Study); **requests** the Secretary to continue to analyze and monitor the identified gaps and needs; and **calls upon** Contracting Parties to share information on the difficulties and challenges encountered in the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty, as well as possible new initiatives, activities, and approaches that could be undertaken to address them;
7. **Takes note** of the future areas of work on the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, as outlined in paragraph 36ii in document IT/GB-9/22/12;
8. **Requests** the Secretary, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, and subject to the availability of financial resources, to:

- organize regional consultations on the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty, with a particular focus on identified bottlenecks, to update Contracting Parties and stakeholders on progress and relevant developments;
- revise and finalize the Concept Note, for consideration of the Governing Body at its Tenth Session;
- strengthen collaboration with organisations such as CGRFA, CGIAR, FAO, on the activities which are already supporting the implementation of the International Treaty, and consider joint efforts that could be mutually reinforcing;
- facilitate and monitor the activities carried out by Contracting Parties, stakeholders, and international organizations in support of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;
- continue to facilitate training and capacity building aimed at advancing characterization and sustainable use of PGRFA, including the assessment of needs of local farmers and other relevant local stakeholders and the identification of possible means to address those needs;
- support national programmes in policy development for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, and in building partnerships and mobilizing resources;

9. ***Calls upon*** the Secretary to continue to collaborate and cooperate with relevant units within FAO, the Convention on Biological Diversity, other entities and institutions, such as the national and international agricultural research centres, as well as the public and private sector and civil society, in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and strengthening the interaction between different stakeholders in genetic resources, community and farmer-led system activities, and protected area systems, subject to the availability of financial resources;

10. ***Calls upon*** Contracting Parties to support the activities outlined in this Resolution, including through the provision of financial resources in line with the provisions of Articles 7 and 8 of the International Treaty;

11. ***Thanks*** the Government of Italy for the generous financial and in-kind support it has continued to provide towards the implementation of the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and ***calls on*** Contracting Parties and other donors to provide additional financial resources for the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty, in line with the provisions of Articles 7 and 8 of the International Treaty.

Annex 1

Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture will:
 - i) provide inputs to the Secretariat for the revision and finalization of the Concept Note of the Joint Programme;
 - ii) develop suggestions on future strategies to address the bottlenecks identified in the Background Study, for the consideration of the Governing Body at its Tenth Session.
2. The Committee will comprise up to five members each from the Africa Region, the Asia Region, the Europe Region and the Latin America and the Caribbean Region; three from the Near East Region; and two each from the North America Region and the South West Pacific Region; as well as seven technical experts designated by the Bureau, upon proposal by the FAO Regions and relevant stakeholders, in particular farmers' organizations, taking into account the required range of technical expertise, and regional and gender balance. Two Co-Chairpersons from Contracting Parties to the International Treaty will form part of the Committee – one from a developing country and one from a developed country. The two Co-Chairpersons shall be in addition to the members of the Committee nominated by the Regions. The Governing Body delegates the authority to designate the Co-Chairpersons to the Bureau of the Tenth Session.
3. The Secretary will continue to maintain and update the list of experts for future reference. This will be made available to Contracting Parties, with a possible view to expanding the pool of experts on the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.
4. The Committee may hold two virtual meetings in 2023, subject to the availability of financial resources. The Secretary will facilitate the process and assist the Committee in its work.
5. The Committee will report to the Governing Body on its work, for further consideration at the Tenth Session.

Concept Note

THE JOINT PROGRAMME ON BIODIVERSITY IN AGRICULTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

A. Rationale

The world's population continues to grow, and the increasing demand for food places unprecedented pressure on natural resources. It is estimated that by 2050, a global population of 9.7 billion will demand 7 percent more food than that consumed today.¹ The benefits of a more diverse diet are widely recognized. Dietary diversity, founded on diverse farming systems and growing nutrient-dense foods, delivers better nutrition and greater health, with additional benefits for human productivity and potential contributions to increasing livelihoods.

However, biodiversity for food and agriculture is declining globally, threatening future agricultural production, food security, and overall ecological integrity. In the last century, parts of the world's food crop diversity disappeared forever, thereby reducing coping strategies and resources needed to grow more resilient, more productive, and nutritious crops. The loss of diversity depletes the very resources that are the foundation of our ability to adapt to ongoing global environmental changes. In addition, most of the current food production practices have had, and continue to have, adverse ecological and environmental impacts, including biodiversity loss, land degradation and food systems that contribute significantly to climate change.

In this context, the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) was convened to address the issue of improving food production systems and consumption, to take into account the environmental and socio-economic perspectives. The international community called for bold new actions to transform the world's food systems and deliver progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), each of which relies on healthier, more sustainable, and equitable food systems.

Given the inherent interlinkages among biodiversity, climate change, livelihood and nutrition, PGRFA are key to enhancing food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture, improving rural livelihoods, and supporting the maintenance of biodiversity in production landscapes, as well as adjacent and distant ecosystems by reducing pressures on them and meeting the challenges of adapting to climate change. Consequently, the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA are crucial to making our food systems more sustainable.

Knowledge and decisions related to the genetic diversity of crops are undoubtedly an essential service not only for nutrition but also in environmental and social terms. Transgenerational practices and knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities still allow the preservation of varietal diversity. Still, knowledge is also seriously threatened in today's world, to a similar degree as biological diversity. . Moreover, the benefits and contribution of this knowledge to the soil, water and environmental health have not yet been fully measured. This joint effort among agencies is fundamental to a better understanding the links between genetic, cultural and environmental diversity and to establishing a solid framework for cooperation between *in situ* and *ex situ* strategies.

B. A food-system approach to food and nutrition security and ensuring resilience to climate change and other emerging challenges

To address the interconnected challenges of biodiversity loss, food and nutrition insecurity and climate change, food production requires sustainable food systems that are based on diversified, innovative, dynamic and resilient agricultural systems.²

¹ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO. 2018. *The state of food security and nutrition in the world 2018. Building climate resilience for food security and nutrition*. FAO, Rome.

² FAO. 2019. *The state of the world's biodiversity for food and agriculture*. J. Bélanger & D. Pilling (eds.). Rome. www.fao.org/3/CA3129EN/CA3129EN.pdf

In this context, the proposed Joint Programme is expected to respond to the call for a transformation of contemporary food systems so that they become more sustainable, equitable and resilient, and to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), once adopted. It is expected that the proposed Joint Programme will contribute specifically to SDGs 2 and 15 and all the relevant goals, as well as to the proposed Action Targets of the GBF aimed at:

- (i) reducing threats to biodiversity;
- (ii) meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing; and
- (iii) adopting tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming.

Therefore, the Joint Programme will work towards agricultural and food production that is nutrition-sensitive and gender-responsive while promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture.

C. General objective of the Joint Programme

The general objective of the Joint Programme is to strengthen the capacities of different actors in the following key areas:

- study, disseminate and exchange knowledge and information;
- raise awareness, conserve, use and manage biodiversity for food and agriculture; and
- promote healthy diets and sustainable food systems while strengthening agricultural systems' resilience to climate change and other emerging challenges.

D. Specific objectives of the Joint Programme

The specific objectives of the Joint Programme are to:

- boost conservation activities of crop diversity, crop wild relatives and wild edible species on the ground through an integrated approach to in situ, on-farm and ex situ conservation strategies, including/adopting ecosystem approaches;
- foster the sustainable use of crop diversity to support an ecological transition toward sustainable and resilient food systems that ensure food security, health and nutrition and improved livelihoods, as well as sustainable production and consumption, and resilience to climate change and other emerging challenges;
- raise awareness about the importance of promoting the sustainable use of PGRFA and build capacity at all levels and across scales to promote the exchange of experiences, technical advice and support, set up strategies and action plans, and establish a supportive and enabling legal and policy environment; and
- identify financial instruments for implementation of the Joint Programme.

E. Strategy and approach

The Joint Programme will be a collaboration between and among relevant international organizations, governments and interested stakeholders committed to working together with the shared ambition and goal of transforming our food systems and improving livelihoods in a sustainable, inclusive and gender-responsive manner. This will be achieved by promoting multistakeholder, multisectoral collaboration and partnerships to tap into the wealth and diversity of knowledge, information, competencies and expertise.

The Joint Programme will be developed in close collaboration with potential partners and build on their respective programmes, projects, partnerships and experiences. It will strategically address existing gaps and identify drivers of biodiversity loss as far as they relate to agriculture and food systems.

Joint actions/activities can be promoted at three levels of intervention:

1. global and regional level – advocacy, awareness-raising, promotion of South-South/North-South cooperation for sustainable use of PGRFA;

2. national level – advocacy, promotion of an enabling policy environment and identification of financial instruments; and
3. local level – capacity development and community empowerment.

By addressing these levels in an integrated manner and actively fostering linkages between them, the Joint Programme is expected to deliver broad impacts that contribute to the above-mentioned objectives. Some pilot areas could be selected to develop projects on local/academic knowledge co-production regarding the varietal diversity of crops capable of combating desertification, salinity and high temperatures.

The Joint Programme will be reviewed four years from its commencement, expected to be in 2026, with regular progress reports at each session of the Governing Body. The next biennium, 2023–2024 will mainly be focused on a communication and advocacy campaign to highlight the experiences, lessons learned and results achieved by the different partners and interested stakeholders on the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

F. Areas of collaboration

- awareness-raising on the importance of sustainable food systems and the role of sustainable use of PGRFA in achieving the SDGs;
- aligning policies and metrics to support nutrition-sensitive production and consumption where PGRFA are an integral factor;
- strengthening rural-urban linkages – including physical, economic, socio-cultural and political connections – linking in particular to farmers who manage and sustainably use PGRFA;
- developing incentive mechanisms for the use of local crops (e.g. payment schemes or public procurement programmes) and value chains for local crops;
- knowledge management – facilitating coordination, synergy and management of scientific and traditional knowledge for sustainable use and documentation and dissemination of good practices and sustainable approaches;
- developing a compendium of case studies: Youth knowledge and transfer of crop varietal diversity; and
- identify financial instruments to unlock private and public funding for biodiversity and plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

G. Potential partners

The initial partners include:

- Secretariat of the International Treaty
- CGIAR - Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
- CIHEAM - Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari
- SCBD - Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- UNDP - United Nations Development Programme
- UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other relevant units of FAO

The Secretariat of the International Treaty will lead the Joint Programme and work with actual and potential partners to promote the areas of collaboration listed in section F.

The Joint Programme will be inclusive of partners and collaborators, with broad participation at all levels. In order to ensure effectiveness and efficiency, it would be envisaged as a multisector, multistakeholder partnership that brings together international and intergovernmental organizations, governments, technical development cooperation/funding institutions, civil society organizations, research and academia, and farmers' organizations whose work is relevant to PGRFA recognize the fundamental importance of crop genetic diversity and sustainable use of PGRFA.

All interested stakeholders can become a donor to the Joint Programme. In addition, partners will undertake joint resource mobilization to carry out relevant activities, as necessary and appropriate.

RESOLUTION 7/2022

IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 9, FARMERS' RIGHTS

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world have made, and will continue to make, to the conservation, development and use of plant genetic resources as the basis of food and agriculture production throughout the world;

Recalling its Resolutions 2/2007, 6/2009, 6/2011, 8/2013, 5/2015, 7/2017 and 6/2019;

1. **Welcomes** the Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (Expert Group), and thanks the Expert Group for the significant progress made by it in fulfilling its tasks;
2. **Welcomes** the updated *Inventory of National Measures, Best Practices and Lessons Learned on the Realization of Farmers' Rights* (the Inventory) and its online version on the website of the International Treaty, recognizing that it will continue to be reviewed periodically and updated, as necessary;
3. **Invites** Contracting Parties and all relevant stakeholders, especially farmers' organizations, to submit to the Secretary, for inclusion in the Inventory, or update, national measures, best practices and lessons learned for national implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, as appropriate and subject to national legislation;
4. **Requests** the Secretary to translate the Inventory into the official languages of the International Treaty, subject to the availability of resources;
5. **Welcomes** the work of the Expert Group; **takes note of** the *Options for Encouraging, Guiding and Promoting the Realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty* (the Options), noting that options under Category 10 are Co-Chairs' proposal, as contained in the Annex to this Resolution; and **requests** the Secretary to publish the Options;¹
6. **Invites** Contracting Parties and other stakeholders to consider using the Options, in accordance with their needs and priorities as appropriate and subject to national legislation, in encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights;
7. **Invites** Contracting Parties and relevant organizations to take initiatives to convene regional workshops and other consultations with a broad range of stakeholders, including with farmers' organizations, particularly those in the centres of origin and crop diversity, for the exchange of knowledge, views and experiences on the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty;
8. **Requests** the Secretary to facilitate such initiatives, including through the facilitation of developing regional cooperation plans among the involved stakeholders, with emphasis on South-South Cooperation, with reference to Article 18.5 of the International Treaty, upon request and subject to the availability of financial and human resources;
9. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to disseminate and promote the use of the Educational Module on Farmers' Rights, and to update it as necessary, including information on new developments of relevant international human rights instruments and declarations, and to translate it into the United Nations official languages, subject to the availability of financial resources, and **invites** Contracting Parties and other relevant stakeholders to use it;

¹ The publication will reflect that the options under Category 10 are Co-Chairs' proposal.

10. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue outreach and communication on Farmers' Rights, including capacity development workshops, to relevant stakeholders as an important measure to advance the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty;
11. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of human and financial resources, to provide support for Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders on the promotion, protection and realization of Farmers' Rights;
12. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to make an assessment on the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty and to present criteria and an outline of the assessment at its Tenth Session and the full report at its Eleventh Session; such assessment should be based on the compliance reports and on submissions in the Inventory as well as on other relevant information;
13. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to organize a Global Symposium to share experiences and discuss possible future work on Farmers' Rights, and **welcomes** the offer of the Government of India to host it;
14. **Requests** the Secretary to strengthen, to the extent feasible, collaboration between the International Treaty and other units and partners that work for the promotion of Farmers' Rights within and outside FAO, and the broader United Nations including with international human rights bodies, in order to promote the realization of Farmers' Rights;
15. **Requests** the Secretary to include the possible impact of Digital Sequence Information / Genetic Sequence Data (DSI/GSD) on Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, in the assessment of DSI/GSD foreseen in the Multi-Year Programme of Work;
16. **Invites** each Contracting Party that has not already done so, to consider reviewing, and, if necessary, adjusting national measures that affect the realization of Farmers' Rights, in particular legislation concerning variety release and seed distribution, to protect, promote and realize Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, as appropriate and subject to national legislation;
17. **Invites** Contracting Parties to engage farmers' organizations and relevant stakeholders in matters related to the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and to promote awareness-raising and capacity-building towards this aim;
18. **Invites** Contracting Parties to promote sustainable biodiverse production systems and facilitate participatory approaches such as community seed banks, community biodiversity registries, participatory plant breeding and seed fairs, including considering to provide legal recognition of such approaches as tools for realizing Farmer's Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, as appropriate;
19. **Acknowledges the relevance of** the participation of farmers' organizations in activities to support the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, and **invites** them to continue to actively participate in the Sessions of the Governing Body and in relevant intersessional meetings of relevant subsidiary bodies established by the Governing Body, as appropriate and according to the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Body, and giving due consideration to the FAO Strategy for Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations;
20. **Thanks** the Governments of Italy and Norway for their generous financial support to the work and meetings of the Expert Group;
21. **Urges** Contracting Parties and other donors to continue providing financial resources to support the work on Farmers' Rights under the International Treaty and **calls upon** Contracting Parties to support the activities outlined in this Resolution;
22. **Requests** the Secretary to report to the Governing Body, at its Tenth Session, on the implementation of this Resolution as the basis for considering further activities.

Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty

Part A: Introduction

I. Background and rationale

1. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA or International Treaty) acknowledges that plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) constitute the basis for food and agricultural production throughout the world. It highlights their importance for developing sustainable and diverse farming and seed systems and plant varieties that are adapted to specific social, economic and ecological conditions, environmental changes, cultures, and future human needs.
2. The International Treaty affirms that the past, present and future contributions of farmers in all regions of the world, particularly those in centres of origin and crop diversity, in conserving, improving and making available these resources, is the basis of Farmers' Rights. Its preambular text further affirms that rights recognized in the International Treaty to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed and other propagating material, and to participate in decision-making regarding, and in the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from, the use of PGRFA, are fundamental to the realization of Farmers' Rights, as well as their promotion at national and international levels. Farmers acknowledged in the International Treaty are also the carriers of traditional knowledge related to PGRFA, and their contributions are based, at their core, on traditional systems of seed exchange.
3. The realization of Farmers' Rights is thus of paramount importance for sustainable agriculture and resilient food and seed systems worldwide but also for farmers themselves to sustain and improve their livelihoods and increase their resilience to external shocks. The Covid-19 pandemic, for example, has affected people around the world and hit farmers hard as their livelihoods and farming activities depend on functioning food systems, markets, transportation and other services.
4. Farmers in all regions of the world contribute to the conservation, development and sustainable use of PGRFA. In many countries, particularly in the centres of origin and crop diversity, small-scale farmers, and among them specifically women, have a prominent role in this regard. It is, therefore, particularly important that women who engage in the conservation, development and sustainable use of PGRFA are recognised in their crucial role as custodians of crop diversity and that their needs are addressed equally when it comes to the realisation of Farmers' Rights.
5. According to Article 9.2 of the ITPGRFA, the responsibility for realizing Farmers' Rights, as they relate to PGRFA, rests with national governments. In accordance with their needs and priorities, each Contracting Party should, as appropriate, and subject to its national legislation, take measures to protect and promote Farmers' Rights, including the protection of traditional knowledge relevant to PGRFA (Article 9.2.a); the right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilization of PGRFA (Article 9.2.b); and the right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA (Article 9.2.c). Furthermore, it is stated in Article 9.3 that "nothing in this Article shall be interpreted to limit any rights that farmers have to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed/propagating material, subject to national law and as appropriate."
6. There are many examples of measures and practices being implemented for the realization of Farmers' Rights, for example at the local level and by civil society organisations. To assist Contracting Parties in developing and implementing national measures, and to draw from the experiences that have been attained so far, the Governing Body continually invites Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders, especially farmers' organizations, to submit views, experiences and best practices as examples of possible options for the national implementation of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9

of the International Treaty. Nevertheless, such experiences and practices should be shared on a larger scale, and the further implementation of Farmers' Rights should be promoted.

7. In this context, at its Seventh Session in 2017, the Governing Body established the Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (AHTEG-FR or Expert Group) with the mandate to produce an Inventory of national measures that may be adopted, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty (*the Inventory*); and based on *the Inventory*, to develop Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty (*the Options*).¹

8. *The Options* are based on measures or practices that have been shared by Contracting Parties and stakeholders as examples of possible options and that are compiled in *the Inventory*.²

II. Objective

9. The purpose of *the Options* is to encourage, guide and promote the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty.

III. Nature and scope

10. The word "options" means the act or opportunity of choosing, or a thing that can be or is chosen. It implies that there is a discretion or right to choose, and that several alternatives exist from which a choice can be made.³

11. Options are thus understood in this document as examples of actions or measures that *may be* taken to achieve an anticipated objective. This non-prescriptive and discretionary character of *the Options* distinguishes them from guidelines that are intended to advise on how something *should be* done.

12. Contracting Parties of the International Treaty have committed themselves to take measures to protect and promote Farmers' Rights, in accordance with their needs and priorities, as appropriate and subject to national legislation. The measures taken by each Contracting Party may differ from one another, given the fact that different countries' needs, priorities, legal frameworks and general conditions vary, including to which other international agreements they have adhered to. The International Treaty affirms, in its Preamble, that nothing in it shall be interpreted as implying in any way a change in the rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties under other international agreements.

13. The Options may thus serve as a source of inspiration and guidance for Contracting Parties to promote the realization of Farmers' Rights in their own specific contexts.

14. Several options may be related to one another and could be combined to create synergies and develop stronger impact with respect to realization of Farmers' Rights. Examples of such combined measures/practices can be found in *the Inventory*. Farmers' Rights may thus be promoted as a bundle of measures, practices and policies that are mutually supportive. Furthermore, the careful consideration of synergies between options, and how they relate to other rights and obligations that concern rights of farmers, women and men, as well as local and indigenous communities, could be considered a major factor of success.

IV. Intended users/target groups

15. Contracting Parties of the International Treaty are the primary target group of *the Options*, based on the obligation they have to implement the International Treaty and comply with its provisions, including Article 9.

¹ See Appendix A.7 of the Report of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body: www.fao.org/3/MV606/mv606.pdf

² The Inventory, available at: www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/farmers-rights/overview-inventory/en/

³ See IT/GB-8/AHTEG-FR-2/19/4 Rev.1; www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/option (18 April 2020)

16. Farmers, indigenous and local communities are rightsholders that can make legitimate claims for the implementation of their rights. Farmers and their organizations may thus want to use *the Options* as a source of information in pursuit of their cause.

17. Other stakeholders aiming to support the realization of Farmers' Rights, including NGOs, civil society and the private sector operating at various levels and scales, as well as international organizations, research and academia, may also find inspiration for possible partnerships, programmes or initiatives.

18. A further target group includes donors, such as governments, foundations and international financial organizations, who may be inclined to support the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, for example by providing financial and/or non-monetary resources.

19. Furthermore, Non-Contracting Parties and all other types of organizations working towards the realization of Farmers' Rights could also use *the Options* as a source of inspiration and guidance.

V. Guide to the document

Categories

20. A set of eleven categories was used to structure *the Options*, so that several options are presented under each category. The same categories were also used in *the Inventory*:⁴

1. Recognition of local and indigenous communities', farmers' contributions to conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, such as awards and recognition of custodian/guardian farmers;
2. Financial contributions to support farmers conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA such as contributions to benefit-sharing funds;
3. Approaches to encourage income-generating activities to support farmers' conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;
4. Catalogues, registries and other forms of documentation of PGRFA and protection of traditional knowledge;
5. In-situ/on farm conservation and management of PGRFA, such as social and cultural measures, community biodiversity management and conservation sites;
6. Facilitation of farmers' access to a diversity of PGRFA through community seed banks⁵, seed networks and other measures improving farmers' choices of a wider diversity of PGRFA;
7. Participatory approaches to research on PGRFA, including characterization and evaluation, participatory plant breeding and variety selection;
8. Farmers' participation in decision-making at local, national and sub-regional, regional and international levels;
9. Training, capacity development and public awareness creation;
10. Legal measures for the implementation of Farmers' Rights, such as legislative measures related to PGRFA;
11. Other measures/practices.

21. For each category, the reference to relevant provisions of Article 9 of the International Treaty is provided, with explanation of why measures under this category can be regarded as options to encourage, guide and promote the realization of Farmers' Rights. An overview table is also provided at the end of the document. However, any references that are made to sub-articles of Article 9 in *the Options* are not meant to provide any specific interpretation of their legal content.

Options

22. The presentation of each option follows a uniform pattern. An explanation is given of what the option is about, and what types of measures may typically be involved. Gender is likely to be relevant

⁴ See IT/GB-8/AHTEG-FR-2/19/Report

⁵ Including seed houses.

for some options; in such cases, a brief explanation is included in the description to support a gender-responsive approach. Some examples from the *Inventory* are given for each option.⁶

Type(s) of measures

23. The description of each option includes information on type(s) of measures that may be involved. Measures are classified here into “technical”, “legal”, “administrative” and “other” types of measures, based on the following criteria:

- Technical measures refer to initiatives/programmes/project activities that strengthen individual farmers’ or farming communities’ contributions to on-farm, *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation and/or sustainable use of PGRFA (e.g., documentation of PGRFA and related traditional knowledge, training and capacity development, community seed banks, seed-saver networks and seed fairs, participatory plant breeding and variety selection, farmer field schools);
- Administrative measures refer to executive orders, ministerial, inter-ministerial, departmental instructions/circulars/memoranda, awards/recognition, establishment of protocols, codes, guidelines, etc.;
- Legal measures refer to national/regional laws, policies and any other legal instruments (act, law, bill etc.);
- Other measures refer to all other measures or practices, including studies, advocacy work, financial instruments.

The same criteria were also used to classify the type(s) of measures in *the Inventory*.

Relation with the Submissions and the Inventory

24. The submissions of Contracting Parties and stakeholders, through which they have shared their experiences from the realization of Farmers’ Rights in various countries, form the basis of both the *Inventory* and *the Options*.

25. In *the Inventory*, measures/practices that have been proposed by Contracting Parties and stakeholders as examples of possible options are listed, each with a link to the original submission, where they are described in detail, including with specific information on history and context, core components, key outcomes, and lessons learned. The Expert Group did not evaluate or assess these measures and practices as to whether or not any specific measure and practice contributes to the realization of Farmers’ Rights.

26. *The Options* present this information in a more general and summarized form, based on the examples from *the Inventory*. For empirical experiences related to each option, the reader is encouraged to consult *the Inventory*.

Use of the Options

27. Article 9 of the International Treaty states that the responsibility for realizing Farmers’ Rights rests with national governments. Contracting Parties are thus invited to consider the full range of options for the implementation of Farmers’ Rights at the national level, in accordance with their needs and priorities and as appropriate; however, no particular option should be understood as being specifically required under Article 9 of the International Treaty.

⁶ This sentence was not finalized by the Expert Group.

Category 1: Recognition of local and indigenous communities' and farmers' contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, such as awards and recognition of custodian/guardian farmers

Reference to relevant provision/s of Article 9 of the International Treaty

Art. 9.1

Art. 9.2a

Art. 9.2b

Art. 9.2c

Art. 9.3

Why can measures under this category be regarded as options to encourage, guide and promote the realization of Farmers' Rights?

In Article 9.1 of the International Treaty, the Contracting Parties recognize the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of PGRFA. The role of farmers in centres of origin and crop diversity is particularly highlighted.

The past, present and future contributions of farmers in all regions of the world in conserving, improving and making available PGRFA are also referred to in the Preamble of the International Treaty. These contributions of farmers are stated to be the basis of Farmers' Rights. Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders may thus like to make these contributions of farmers and farming communities visible, raise public awareness of their importance, express recognition and appreciation, and/or encourage farmers and farming communities to continue their efforts for conserving and sustainably using PGRFA.

Measures under this category can also contribute to the protection of traditional knowledge (Article 9.2a) and to the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of PGRFA (Article 9.2b), for example if active support is provided to custodian/guardian farmers and farming communities who engage in the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

Depending on how measures under this category are set up, other provisions of Art. 9 may also be relevant.

Option 1A: Establish prizes and awards to honour custodian/guardian farmers, farming communities and their organizations who contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA in an outstanding manner

Prizes and awards may be established to honour custodian/guardian farmers, including women and youth⁷, and farming communities for outstanding contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA in their fields and farming systems according to local practices. Such prizes and awards may be conferred, for example, at the occasion of events that attract public attention; they may include cash prizes, certificates, plaques, medals, or token gifts.

Prizes and awards can help raise public awareness of the importance of conserving and sustainably using PGRFA and encourage awardees to continue and further expand their work. In the longer term, public awareness may result in opportunities for custodian/guardian farmers and farming communities to generate additional income from the conservation and use of PGRFA and/or raise additional funds for their activities.

⁷ Based on the guidance provided by the Expert Group, the descriptions of options in this document consider gender for relevant options, in line with the FAO Policy on Gender Equality 2020-2030 and the submissions to *the Inventory* received.

Women's and men's contributions to the conservation, management and use of PGRFA may focus on different crops, uses or types of activities, which may be useful to consider in the preparation of eligibility criteria and terms of participation.

When establishing awards, the awarding authority or organization may want to carefully assess any related risks of unagreed use or appropriation of specific PGRFA and/or associated traditional knowledge held by the awardee(s) and respect customary laws and protocols.

Legal requirements may need to be observed in cases where samples of seed or other propagating materials of specific PGRFA conserved or developed by applicants are deposited with the awarding authority or organization, or if associated traditional knowledge is disclosed.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

- Technical
- Administrative *
- Legal *
- Other

*Administrative and legal measures may be involved if governments create such prizes and awards as part of specific legislation.

Example(s) of possible measures

- Recognition and rewards to farmers and farmer-breeders under the PPV&FR Act, 2001 (India/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca7946en/ca7946en.pdf
- Award for farmers who conserve genetic resources (Indonesia/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca4141en/ca4141en.pdf
- The Golden Pea award (Sweden/Europe) www.fao.org/3/ca8217en/ca8217en.pdf

Option 1B: Highlight the role and expertise of farmers, farming communities and their organizations in the conservation and/or development of PGRFA by mentioning their names and further details in official records

To express recognition for the contribution of a farmer or farming community to the conservation and/or development of a variety, the name and further details of the farmer or the community may be mentioned in official records, such as variety registers, with their consent. Such cases may occur if varieties were conserved or developed by dedicated individuals or communities, or if they were co-developed in participatory breeding projects or programs.

By mentioning the name(s) of the farmers or communities, their contribution may become more visible, thus raising awareness of their role as farmer-breeders and local experts. It may also be a way of collectively acknowledging such contributions. Furthermore, the registration of farmer varieties may enable their wider use and offer protection against misappropriation, depending on the legal system of the country.

To facilitate the registration of farmer varieties, criteria for the registration of such varieties in the national registration system may need to be adapted, so that bureaucratic barriers and costs for farmers are reduced, and the specific characteristics of farmers' varieties are adequately considered.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

- Technical
- Administrative *
- Legal
- Other

*Administrative measures may be involved if a variety is officially registered under the name of the farmer or community, for example on a national variety catalogue.

Example(s) of possible measures

- Recognizing farmers' contributions by registering traditional varieties in the National Register of Varieties of Cuba (II)
(Cuba/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/ca4347en/ca4347en.pdf
- Participatory plant breeding to develop and release millet varieties for rain-fed areas of Sudan (Sudan/Near East⁸) www.fao.org/3/ca4173en/ca4173en.pdf

Option 1C: Designate locally, nationally or Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems sites for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and support farmers and their organizations in the sustainable management and governance of such sites

The designation of heritage sites for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA could be a way to leverage recognition of farmers, local and indigenous communities in their role as custodians of biodiversity. Such sites are typically long-term initiatives that combine conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA with economic development, scientific and/or educational work. They may be linked with national or global initiatives and programmes, such as Biosphere Reserves or Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS).

Their management usually requires cooperation of stakeholders across different sectors and levels of governance. Farmers, local and indigenous communities may be considered key actors at the local level. They may thus be given a clear role in establishing and implementing conservation and management plans or development strategies, as well as in monitoring and evaluation activities. Furthermore, farmers, local and indigenous communities involved in the management and conservation of heritage sites for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA may be supported through targeted capacity development, networking and knowledge exchange activities that target the interests and needs of women and men, as well as different age groups.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative

Legal

Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- Site recognition of traditional agricultural systems
(Brazil/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/ca6343en/ca6343en.pdf
- Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) initiative
(Chile/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/ca5986en/ca5986en.pdf
- Declaration of the territory of the Cotacachi canton, Ecuador, as cultural heritage for agrobiodiversity
(Ecuador/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/ca7934en/ca7934en.pdf
- Recognition of farming communities through Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems
(Iran/Near East) www.fao.org/3/ca8721en/ca8721en.pdf

⁸ The assignment of Contracting Parties to regions follows the systematics used on the ITPGRFA website (www.fao.org/plant-treaty/countries/membership/en/).

✓ **Category 2: Financial contributions to support farmers' conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA such as contributions to benefit-sharing funds**

Reference to relevant provision/s of Article 9 of the International Treaty

Art. 9.1

Art. 9.2a

Art. 9.2b

Art. 9.2c

Art. 9.3

Why can measures under this category be regarded as options to encourage, guide and promote the realization of Farmers' Rights?

Contracting Parties have agreed to take measures to protect and promote Farmers' Rights, including the right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilization of PGRFA (Art. 9.2b). It is also stated in the Preamble that rights recognized in Treaty, including the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits, are fundamental to the realization of Farmers' Rights.

Financial contributions to support farmers' activities for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA as well as contributions to benefit-sharing funds may thus be possibilities for Contracting Parties and stakeholders to work in this direction. Depending on how they are set up, such measures could also be understood as a way of expressing recognition for farmers' and farming communities' activities for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA (Art. 9.1).

Depending on how measures under this category are set up, other provisions of Art. 9 may also be relevant.

Option 2A: Provide funds for farmers, farming communities and their organizations who conserve, develop and sustainably use PGRFA, including for capacity development

Farmers' and farming communities' activities for the conservation, development and sustainable use of PGRFA may require funding to ensure the preservation of PGRFA that are maintained *in situ*/on-farm, particularly in centres of origin and crop diversity. Such funds may also contribute to enhancing knowledge sharing among custodian/guardian farmers, developing their technical and organizational capacities, and/or raising public awareness.

Such funds may rely, for example, on public budgetary resources, donor support, including international cooperation, or voluntary contributions of private enterprises. They may be made available in various forms, including via temporary or long-term contributions to the budgets of implementing organizations or as competitive funds for which farmers or farmer organizations may apply.

Women and men may be involved in the conservation and sustainable use of different crops and varieties, and/or hold specific knowledge, based on the activities they engage in. Donors and implementing organizations may thus want to carefully consider how the interests and needs of men and women can be taken into account equally in the design of such funding activities.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative

Legal

Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- Competitive fund of the Ministry of Agriculture of Chile to support innovation in the agricultural, agrifood and forestry sector (Chile/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/ca7908en/ca7908en.pdf

- Implementing the ITPGRFA in Italy - The National Programme RGV/FAO (Italy/Europe) www.fao.org/3/ca8109en/ca8109en.pdf
- AGUAPAN (Asociación de Guardianes de Papa Nativa del Centro de Peru) (Peru/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/ca8101en/ca8101en.pdf
- Rolling the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (NAP-PGRFA) together with farmers' organizations (Switzerland/Europe) www.fao.org/3/ca8226en/ca8226en.pdf

Option 2B: Contribute voluntarily to the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) of the International Treaty

The Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) of the International Treaty invests directly in projects supporting farmers in developing countries in conserving crop diversity *in situ*/on-farm; it also supports projects and innovative partnerships aiming to adapt PGRFA to changing needs. All developing countries that are Contracting Parties to the International Treaty are eligible to apply for funding under the BSF⁹.

The BSF relies primarily on payments made by users who obtain PGRFA through the Multilateral System of the International Treaty. In addition to such mandatory payments, Contracting Parties and stakeholders may also decide to make voluntary contributions to the BSF to share benefits that arise more generally from the use of PGRFA in the breeding and seed sector, or beyond (e.g. agriculture and food industry).

To illustrate the idea of sharing benefits, such payments may correspond to a specific share of the value that is created in the economic sector that is being referred to. Alternatively, a fixed amount may be pledged as an annual support.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative

Legal

Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- External funding – public and private sources (France/Europe) www.fao.org/3/ca8726en/ca8726en.pdf
- Annual support to the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) (Norway/Europe) www.fao.org/3/ca8154en/ca8154en.pdf

⁹ A list of eligible countries is available at www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/faoweb/plant-treaty/cfp4/cfp_4_2017_a3_en.pdf. It has been established based on the World Bank's classification of economies, following a decision of the Governing Body at its Third Session (IT/GB-3/09/Report, Appendix A.3, Resolution 3/2009).

✓ **Category 3: Approaches to encourage income-generating activities to support farmers' conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA**

Reference to relevant provision/s of Article 9 of the International Treaty

- Art. 9.1
- Art. 9.2a
- Art. 9.2b
- Art. 9.2c
- Art. 9.3

Why can measures under this category be regarded as options to encourage, guide and promote the realization of Farmers' Rights?

In Art. 9.1 of the International Treaty, the Contracting Parties recognize the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of PGRFA, which constitute the basis of food and agriculture production (Art. 9.1). Approaches that facilitate and promote farmers' income generation from the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA could thus act as an incentive for farmers to continue and/or expand such activities.

Contracting Parties have also agreed to take measures to protect and promote Farmers' Rights, including the protection of traditional knowledge relevant to PGRFA (Art. 9.2a) and equitable participation in sharing benefits arising from their utilization (Art. 9.2b).

By raising awareness on the multiple values of locally produced diverse food and supporting income-generating activities, such as value-chain development, farmers may be enabled to continue cultivating PGRFA that would otherwise be at risk of being lost, and to continue using, sharing and disseminating related traditional knowledge. Depending on how activities are set up, benefits arising from the use of PGRFA, e.g. through sales of specific products, may accrue to those farmers who engage in activities for their conservation and sustainable use.

Rights that farmers have to save, use, exchange and sell seed, subject to national law and as appropriate (as referred to in Art. 9.3), may be of crucial importance for the successful implementation of such approaches, given that farmers' seed systems are often the only source of seed and planting material for the specific PGRFA that are utilized in such activities.

Depending on how measures under this category are set up, other provisions of Art. 9 may also be relevant.

Option 3A: Conduct and/or support promotional activities to strengthen sustainable consumption for products derived from the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA

Promotional activities to strengthen consumer demand for products derived from the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA may include food, agrobiodiversity or culinary fairs, traditional food festivals, exhibitions, or similar events.

The general aim of such activities is to raise interest of consumers and professionals, such as restaurant chefs and hoteliers, for traditional and/or new products made from PGRFA and stimulate demand. Awareness-raising activities may also strengthen initiatives for promoting agrobiodiversity for food, nutrition and health, from which farmers and farming communities may eventually benefit.

Stronger demand may, in the longer term, increase marketing opportunities for farmers and farming communities, thus enabling them to continue cultivating PGRFA that would otherwise be at risk of being lost. They may also be enabled to continue using, applying and disseminating related traditional knowledge, and to continue saving, using, exchanging and selling seed of local crops and varieties, subject to national law and as appropriate.

Since women and men may be involved in the conservation and sustainable use of different crops and varieties, implementing organizations may want to carefully consider how the interests and needs of women and men can be taken into account in the design of such events, so that they can equally benefit from the advantages and opportunities that may arise from them.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative

Legal

Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- Promotion of the commercialization and added value of agrobiodiversity of indigenous communities (Ecuador/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/cb5086es/cb5086es.pdf
- Crop contest at the Genetic Diversity Fair (G-Difa) (Indonesia/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca7981en/ca7981en.pdf
- The 21st National Olive Festival and Rural Products Exhibition (Jordan/Near East) www.fao.org/3/cc0206en/cc0206en.pdf
- Food Forever Initiative (Global) www.fao.org/3/ca4161en/ca4161en.pdf

Option 3B: Develop value-chains for local crops, varieties and evolutionary populations with specific adaptation, nutritional value, uses or other benefits

Developing value-chains for local crops, varieties and populations may be a way of creating incentives for farmers and their market partners to continue or expand their joint efforts to conserve and use PGRFA, also with a view to income generation and employment in rural areas. Women and men may be involved in different steps of value chains or focus their activities on different crops or products; it may thus be useful to assess how women and men can benefit from any planned activities.

Value-chain development is based on cooperation among various actors, including farmers, plant breeders, food processors, chefs and hoteliers, retailers, and consumers. In the case of traditional or rarely used PGRFA, it may involve research and/or pilot activities to develop the necessary expertise at all levels of the chain and to communicate the advantages and specific quality of products to consumers. Public policies and programs can support such activities, e.g. by offering research funds or starting capital, facilitating networking opportunities, or by removing obstacles. Women and men may be involved in different steps of value-chain activities; implementing organizations may thus want to carefully consider how women and men can equally benefit from value-chain development initiatives.

Important factors for developing value-chains for local PGRFA and farmer varieties include, for example, legal possibilities to produce and distribute seed or planting material of the relevant varieties, and secure market access for the products produced.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative

Legal

Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- Seal of Origin programme (Chile/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/ca5986en/ca5986en.pdf
- Creation of a micro value-chain for a local variety of rye, the “Iermana” (Italy/Europe) www.fao.org/3/ca8108en/ca8108en.pdf

- Solidarity-based approach to agricultural development (Morocco/Africa) www.fao.org/3/ca6365en/ca6365en.pdf
- Heirloom Rice Project (Philippines/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca7901en/ca7901en.pdf

Option 3C: Create and support markets for products issued from farmers' varieties/farmers' seed systems

Markets for products issued from farmer varieties/seed can be created and/or supported in various ways. Integrating traditional food crops and farmer varieties into public procurement programmes may strengthen and diversify production systems of small-scale farmers and result in healthier diets for consumers.

Such programmes may target community catering, including school meals, and/or food distribution schemes for vulnerable population groups, including women and men, children and youth. They are often established for the mid- or long-term, with funds provided by national or sub-national governments; local organizations, including NGOs, may be involved in the implementation. Public procurement programmes can have sustainable impacts by stimulating demand, fostering cooperation between actors and securing markets for local PGRFA and derived products. Not only locally produced food but also seed of local and farmer varieties may be included, thus offering additional sources of income and contributing to a wider use of local PGRFA in farmers' fields.

National and subnational governments may also contribute indirectly to creating and/or stimulating markets for products issued from farmer varieties/seed, e.g. by reviewing or lifting regulations that hinder their wider use, by providing infrastructures, or by facilitating collaboration among the market partners.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative

Legal

Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- Public procurement of farmers' seed varieties for food programmes (Brazil/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/ca7792en/ca7792en.pdf
- Building food sovereignty based on local community food sources (Indonesia/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca7990en/ca7990en.pdf

✓ **Category 4: Catalogues, registries and other forms of documentation of PGRFA and protection of traditional knowledge**

Reference to relevant provision/s of Article 9 of the International Treaty

Art. 9.1

Art. 9.2a

Art. 9.2b

Art. 9.2c

Art. 9.3

Why can measures under this category be regarded as options to encourage, guide and promote the realization of Farmers' Rights?

Contracting Party have agreed to take measures to protect and promote Farmers' Rights, including for the protection of traditional knowledge relevant to PGRFA, as appropriate and subject to national legislation (Art. 9.2a).

Measures for collecting and documenting, sharing and disseminating traditional knowledge may be useful to increase overall awareness and recognition of its importance and to prevent loss. The development of Community Biodiversity Registers, Biocultural Community Protocols or similar tools may protect traditional knowledge from misappropriation and/or extinction. Protecting this knowledge may also be a way of recognizing farmers' and farming communities' contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA (Art. 9.1).

Depending on how measures under this category are set up, other provisions of Art. 9 may also be relevant.

Option 4A: Recognize, collect and document traditional knowledge on PGRFA, including knowledge relating to cultivation and use

Traditional knowledge on PGRFA, their cultivation and use, may be documented through Community Biodiversity Registers, inventories, catalogues and databases, including for example general germplasm catalogues or specialised databases focusing on farmer varieties or landraces only.

Format, structure and content of such knowledge collections may depend on the anticipated user group(s); for example, variety catalogues that are intended to be used by farmers could rely on descriptors farmers commonly use. Besides documenting knowledge relating to specific PGRFA, such as crop varieties, collections may also extent to broader cultural systems, in which such knowledge may be embedded, including general worldviews or classification systems.

Traditional knowledge on PGRFA held by women and men may differ, depending on the crops and varieties they grow and the activities they engage in. It may thus be useful to carefully consider how this type of knowledge can be recognized, collected and documented in a way that takes such differences into account.

Collections of traditional knowledge may be recognized by local governments or deposited with national institutions as a public record of the knowledge held by local farmers and/or farming communities. Consent procedures may need to be followed in accordance with national law, international commitments and/or good practices, including in cases where established rights of Indigenous Peoples and communities are concerned.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative *

Legal *

Other

*Administrative and legal measures may be involved, for example, if catalogues, registers etc. are officially administered, e.g. by public institutions or genebanks, or if national law protects traditional knowledge held by farmers and/or Indigenous Peoples and communities.

Example(s) of possible measures

- Catalogue of traditional varieties for common and Lima beans, maize, chilies and peppers (Cuba/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/ca4347en/ca4347en.pdf
- Construction of a database for farmer varieties/landraces in Japan (Japan/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca4143en/ca4143en.pdf
- Community Biodiversity Register (Nepal/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca8142en/ca8142en.pdf
- Spanish Inventory of traditional knowledge related to agricultural biodiversity (Spain/Europe) www.fao.org/3/ca8204en/ca8204en.pdf

Option 4B: Conduct and/or support activities for conserving, sharing and disseminating traditional knowledge relating to PGRFA

Sharing and disseminating traditional knowledge relating to PGRFA may take place through gatherings and events, such as workshops and seminars, farmers' markets, seed festivals or fairs; or it may be facilitated through the formation of networks, associations or groups of custodian/guardian farmers, seed savers, etc. Such activities may also include cultural activities relating to PGRFA, such as for example storytelling as a way of collectively recalling and passing on traditional knowledge.

Besides facilitating contacts and a general exchange of knowledge and experiences, a focus may be on passing on or reviving practical skills, such as specific propagation techniques that are used for some crops, or the preparation of typical dishes. Following participatory approaches in the planning, implementation and dissemination of such activities can ensure that the interests and needs of participating farmers, including women, men and rural youth, are met.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

- Technical
- Administrative
- Legal
- Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- Knowledge sharing and exchange of experiences between and among farming communities (Peru/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/ca8170en/ca8170en.pdf
- Kålrötsakademien (The Swede Academy) (Sweden/Europe) www.fao.org/3/ca8219en/ca8219en.pdf

Option 4C: Support farmers and farming communities to develop instruments to govern access to PGRFA over which they have established rights and traditional knowledge associated with PGRFA based on their local practices, procedures and community protocols

Participatory creation of instruments for farmers and farming communities, including women and men, to govern access to traditional knowledge relating to PGRFA may build on activities for collecting and documenting such knowledge. Protocols may be established that articulate self-determined rules, procedures, terms and conditions for access that may be used as a basis for community interactions with external actors, such as representatives of government, companies or research organizations, regarding their access to PGRFA and related traditional knowledge in a community's territory.

Such tools can help build links between actors and institutions operating at different scales, from local to national and/or international, and establish a clear basis for their interactions. They may further help farmers and farming communities to take advantage of their countries'

commitments under international agreements and strengthen their role in the process of implementation, especially with a view to the protection of traditional knowledge.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative

Legal

Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- Developing Community Biodiversity Registries and Biocultural Community Protocols (BCP): tools for implementing Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the ITPGRFA and strengthening community capacity to manage crop genetic diversity (Madagascar/Africa) www.fao.org/3/ca4148en/ca4148en.pdf
- Community Seed Registry (Philippines/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca8195en/ca8195en.pdf

✓ **Category 5: *In situ*/on-farm conservation and management of PGRFA, such as social and cultural measures, community biodiversity management and conservation sites**

Reference to relevant provision/s of Article 9 of the International Treaty

Art. 9.1

Art. 9.2a

Art. 9.2b

Art. 9.2c

Art. 9.3

Why can measures under this category be regarded as options to encourage, guide and promote the realization of Farmers' Rights?

In the International Treaty, Contracting Parties recognize the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world, particularly those in the centres of origin and crop diversity, have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of PGRFA (Art. 9.1). Supporting *in situ*/on-farm conservation and management could thus be one way of expressing recognition and encouraging farmers and communities to continue or expand their efforts.

In situ/on-farm conservation and management of PGRFA is a holistic approach that relies on complex social-ecological systems that developed in specific localities. It depends on traditional and continuously evolving cultural values, knowledge and social practices, including those related to seed and other propagating materials. Therefore, measures under this category may also contribute to the realization of Farmers' Rights to the protection of traditional knowledge (Art. 9.2.a) and to save, use, exchange and sell seed (Art. 9.3).

Depending on how measures under this category are set up, other provisions of Art. 9 may also be relevant.

Option 5A: Support and safeguard community biodiversity management and/or other practical activities of farmers and farming communities for in situ/on-farm management of PGRFA

Community biodiversity management is an integrated approach to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, which combines practical activities with empowerment of farming communities to strengthen them in their role as local managers of PGRFA. Activities may include documentation, monitoring and exchange of local PGRFA as well as their use in breeding and/or value creation. Similar activities may also be pursued in *in situ*/on-farm conservation projects.

Farmers' seed systems and management, including their practices to save, use, exchange and/or sell seed, subject to national law and as appropriate, are at the core of such approaches. Effective protective measures may be required to ensure that PGRFA managed by farmers *in situ*/on-farm are not affected, for example, by uncontrolled pollination with genetically modified (GM) crops, or by other biotechnological applications that may have negative impacts on *in situ*/on-farm conservation and management of PGRFA.

Approaches for community biodiversity management or *in situ*/on-farm conservation may be considered in national or communal/local action plans, including in the context of biodiversity conservation, rural and agricultural development. Funds may be provided through national programmes and/or donors to address identified needs of farmers and farming communities, including women, men and youth, and enable them to continue and expand their activities, e.g. through capacity development, sharing of good practices, income-generation or investments in education and rural infrastructure, such as locally based training centres.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative

Legal *

Other

*Legal measures may be involved, for example, if *in situ*/on-farm conservation and management of PGRFA is protected and/or supported by national law.

Example(s) of possible measures

- Community based on-farm conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA (Bhutan/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca4346en/ca4346en.pdf
- Strengthening community resilience through *in situ* conservation and management of crop diversity for food security (Cuba/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/ca4347en/ca4347en.pdf
- La chacra – an alternative for the rescue, conservation and use of agrobiodiversity in Amazonian villages (Ecuador/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/ca4133en/ca4133en.pdf

Option 5B: Strengthen the role and identity of custodian/guardian farmers and communities through social and cultural activities

Custodian/guardian farmers and communities may play a key role for *in situ*/on-farm conservation and management of PGRFA, especially as holders of highly specific traditional knowledge. They pass on values and skills relating to the conservation and management of PGRFA, set examples by putting such values to practice and provide other farmers and communities with seed and planting materials.

Their role and identity may be strengthened, for example, by recognizing them as experts and knowledge holders, by supporting knowledge exchange activities among such farmers and communities, through the formation of networks and associations, or by providing funds for their activities. Women, men and youth may have different interests and needs in this regard or prefer different types of activities and communication channels. Such differences may be useful to consider, to make sure that members of participating farming communities can benefit equally.

Representatives of such farmers and communities may also be invited to public events to highlight their important contributions to societal goals, e.g. to achieve food and nutrition security, or to contribute to biodiversity conservation.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative

Legal

Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- Strengthening the identity of custodian farmers as a way to increase food security (Brazil/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/ca7834en/ca7834en.pdf
- Promotion of agrodiverse peasant farms (Ecuador/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/cb5086es/cb5086es.pdf

Option 5C: Conduct and disseminate studies on the participation of farmers and communities in *in situ*/on-farm conservation, management and sustainable use of PGRFA, including technological, ecological, socioeconomic and cultural aspects

Studies on *in situ*/on-farm conservation, management or sustainable use of PGRFA may focus on deepening scientific understanding of farmers' practices and needs as well as underlying causes, values, social structures (including gender-related), legal requirements or economic outcomes.

Such studies can provide the necessary evidence for targeting and/or designing other measures that support farmers' and farming communities' efforts for *in situ*/on-farm conservation, management and sustainable use of PGRFA and the realization of Farmers' Rights. They may also contribute to enhancing

current practices, e.g. by developing proposals on how such practices may be enhanced or obstacles removed.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative

Legal

Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- The Three Sisters Project
(Canada/North America) www.fao.org/3/ca4435en/ca4435en.pdf
- Preparation of a biocultural identity map in the Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve for agro-tourism purposes
(Cuba/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/ca4347en/ca4347en.pdf
- Traditional knowledge of the Andean cosmovision
(Peru/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/ca8173en/ca8173en.pdf

✓ **Category 6: Facilitation of farmers' access to a diversity of PGRFA through community seed banks, seed networks and other measures improving farmers' choices of a wider diversity of PGRFA**

Reference to relevant provision/s of Article 9 of the International Treaty

Art. 9.1

Art. 9.2a

Art. 9.2b

Art. 9.2c

Art. 9.3

Why can measures under this category be regarded as options to encourage, guide and promote the realization of Farmers' Rights?

In the International Treaty, Contracting Parties recognize the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world, particularly those in the centres of origin and crop diversity, have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of PGRFA (Art. 9.1).

Facilitating farmers' access to a diversity of PGRFA, including for example traditional and/or new varieties, evolutionary populations or accessions from genebanks or research institutes may encourage farmers, local and indigenous communities to continue and/or expand their efforts.

Options under this category may also contribute to the protection of traditional knowledge (Art. 9.2.a), for example by documenting, sharing, reviving or developing further farmers' knowledge relating to seed. They may further contribute to strengthening rights farmers have to save, use, exchange and/or sell seeds, subject to national law and as appropriate (Art. 9.3), by revitalizing farmers' traditional practices of dynamically and collectively managing seed and varieties or developing new ones.

Depending on how measures under this category are set up, other provisions of Art. 9 may also be relevant.

Option 6A: Establish and/or support community seed banks, seed clubs, seed houses, seed-saver networks or similar approaches

Community seed banks, seed houses, seed clubs, seed-saver networks or similar approaches may serve, *inter alia*, to provide farmers with good quality seed of a range of locally adapted crops and varieties, which may otherwise not be easily accessible. Women and men may have different preferences and needs regarding crops and varieties they wish to grow. Such differences may need to be carefully considered and addressed to ensure that community members can equally participate in and benefit from this type of approaches.

Activities are usually based on local governance structures and collectively agreed rules. They may be conducted by informal groups or legal entities, such as associations, co-operatives or community-based organizations; several local initiatives may cooperate via networks or umbrella organizations. Seed is produced by the members of such organizations and may be selected, processed and stored centrally or in a decentralised manner. Distribution may be limited to members or also be extended to external users.

The focus may be on the conservation and/or re-introduction of local varieties, e.g. via cooperation with national genebanks and research institutes, and/or on the dissemination of new varieties developed by public and/or participatory plant breeding programs.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative

Legal

Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- Ejere Farmer Crop Conservation Association (FCAS) and Community Seed Bank (Ethiopia/Africa) www.fao.org/3/ca4138en/ca4138en.pdf
- Access to seed through a network of community seed banks in la Sierra de los Cuchumatanes (Guatemala/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/ca7799en/ca7799en.pdf
- 1000 seed self-reliant villages (Indonesia/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca7983en/ca7983en.pdf
- Norwegian Seed Savers (KVANN) (Norway/Europe) www.fao.org/3/ca8166en/ca8166en.pdf
- Securing local seed systems through Farmers' Seed Clubs (Vietnam/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca8197en/ca8197en.pdf

Option 6B: Organize and/or support farmers' seed festivals and fairs

Seed festivals and fairs may be set up as one-off or regularly recurring events; they may be organized as part of traditional celebrations or commemoration days. Farmers, including women, men and youth, may be invited to present farm-saved seed and propagating materials for exchange or selling to other participants. Visiting farmers may thus choose from a great diversity of PGRFA, while also having a possibility to exchange knowledge and experiences among each other.

By attracting participants from larger areas, e.g. various villages or provinces, such events can facilitate farmers' access to a wide range of PGRFA. Seed festivals and fairs can thus offer opportunities for farmers to increase their portfolio of crops and varieties or to acquire seed of crops and varieties that may otherwise be difficult to obtain.

Authorities or organizations that invite to seed festivals or fairs, or host such events, may want to carefully assess any related risks of unagreed use or appropriation of specific PGRFA and/or associated traditional knowledge and take preventive measures that inhibit such acts.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative

Legal

Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- Seed exchange fair - Muyu Raymi (seed festival) (Ecuador/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/cb5086es/cb5086es.pdf
- Strengthening the local seed systems of Meghalaya and Nagaland (North-East India) through crop festivals, farmers seed exchanges and community seed banks (India)/Asia www.fao.org/3/cb3734en/cb3734en.pdf

Option 6C: Facilitate farmers' access to material from genebanks, research institutes, universities and the private sector

Farmers may be enabled to gain access to a wide range of PGRFA by facilitating access to PGRFA from publicly held collections of national, regional or international genebanks, research institutes and, universities, which may also include PGRFA developed by the private sector. Such collections are commonly used by plant breeders and researchers, but they may also serve interested farmers and gardeners, or local and indigenous communities. Providing small quantities of seed or planting materials to interested farmers and/or their groups and organizations for direct use may also be of interest for the holders or owners of collections to ensure dynamic conservation and enhanced use.

PGRFA that are of interest for farmers may include traditional varieties or landraces of certain crops, for example those collected in other geographical areas, as well as formerly protected varieties that are made available for further conservation and use. Women and men may be interested in different types

of accessions, depending on the crops they grow, the production objectives and the farming and/or post-harvest activities they engage in. Such differences may need be considered to serve all farmers equally.

Community seed banks, seed saver networks, research organizations and/or other types of groups and organizations may serve as intermediaries to assist farmers in accessing PGRFA from collections. Specific procedures may be required for farmers to obtain such materials. For example, Biocultural Community Protocols can be used to promote those communities' collective interests and capacities to identify and access useful PGRFA from national and international PGRFA collections.

Information may be presented in a way that facilitates use by farmers, or simplified Material Transfer Agreements may need to be established, based on and in conformity with the SMTA of the International Treaty, where it applies. Such agreements may be designed in a way to ensure that they do not limit Farmers' Rights, including rights to save, use, exchange and sell seed of the material obtained, subject to national law and as appropriate, or that they do not establish any obligations for farmers to return any material after it has been grown in their fields, or to provide information.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative

Legal

Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- Varieties for Diversity
(Germany/Europe) www.fao.org/3/ca6354en/ca6354en.pdf
- Distribution of plant genetic resources conserved in the National Center for Plant Genetic Resources of the National Institute of Agricultural and Food Research and Technology (CRF-INIA) to farmers for direct use
(Spain/Europe) www.fao.org/3/ca4172en/ca4172en.pdf
- Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN)
(USA/North America) www.fao.org/3/ca8458en/ca8458en.pdf
- Safeguarding threatened coconut diversity within the upgraded International Coconut Genebank for the South Pacific
(Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa/South-West Pacific) www.fao.org/3/cb5105en/cb5105en.pdf
- Enhancing capacity for climate change adaptation by helping farmers to access genetic resources from the multilateral system of access and benefit sharing (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania/Africa) www.fao.org/3/cb5106en/cb5106en.pdf

Option 6D: Support farmers' seed systems and innovation

In many countries, farmers' seed systems are an important source of seed, and underly traditional practices of managing, conserving, developing and using crops and varieties. Along with the seed, knowledge may be exchanged among the farmers, thus encouraging local innovation.

Farmers' seed systems may be supported through a variety of measures, including by studying their ways of functioning and their value for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, by creating possibilities for farmers to continue saving, sharing, exchanging and/or selling seed on a legal basis, or by supporting farmers in accessing, testing and/or developing PGRFA based on their own knowledge and criteria, e.g., in farmer field schools or similar settings.

Women and men may rely on farmers' seed systems in different ways, for different types of crops and varieties, or different purposes. Contracting Parties and stakeholders may thus want to carefully assess such differences to support farmers' seed systems and innovation in an inclusive and gender-responsive manner.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative

Legal

Other

* Administrative measures may be involved, for example, if administrative requirements are to be observed regarding access to PGRFA or dissemination of seeds.

Example(s) of possible measures

- Facilitating small-scale farmers access to diverse seeds of traditional small grains varieties and landraces, and providing support to sustainable use and conservation of local small grains resources
(Bulgaria, Serbia/Europe) www.fao.org/3/cb5102en/cb5102en.pdf
- Improving small-scale farmers', especially women's, access to quality seeds through using the community managed seed security model
(Uganda/Africa) www.fao.org/3/ca4135en/ca4135en.pdf
- Sowing Diversity=Harvesting Security (SD=HS) Program (1/2) – Field Work
(China, Laos, Nepal, Peru, Guatemala, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe/Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa) www.fao.org/3/ca8169en/ca8169en.pdf
- Community-based agrobiodiversity systems for the realisation of Farmers' Rights
(Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Malawi, Nepal, Nicaragua/Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca8708en/ca8708en.pdf
- Putting farmers and Indigenous Peoples' access to crop diversity at centre in seed policy and practice (Global) www.fao.org/3/cb7858en/cb7858en.pdf

✓ **Category 7: Participatory approaches to research on PGRFA, including characterization and evaluation, participatory plant breeding and variety selection**

Reference to relevant provision/s of Article 9 of the International Treaty

- Art. 9.1
- Art. 9.2a
- Art. 9.2b
- Art. 9.2c
- Art. 9.3

Why can measures under this category be regarded as options to encourage, guide and promote the realization of Farmers' Rights?

In the International Treaty, Contracting Parties recognize the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world, particularly those in the centres of origin and crop diversity, have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of PGRFA (Art. 9.1). Involving farmers and farming communities in participatory research on PGRFA may be one way of expressing recognition.

Measures under this category may also contribute to the realization of the right to the protection of traditional knowledge (Art. 9.2.a), as activities for documenting, sharing and applying traditional knowledge are of great importance for the success of participatory research projects. Furthermore, participatory research may contribute to the right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilization of PGRFA (Art. 9.2.b), since results and practical outcomes of such projects may be directly used and applied by farmers, which may imply monetary as well as non-monetary benefits.

Depending on how such projects are designed and set up, they may also contribute to the right to participate in making decisions on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA (Art. 9.2c), for example if farmers can participate in setting objectives and priorities of the research.

Participatory research may further contribute to the realization of rights mentioned in Art. 9.3 of the International Treaty, if activities cover directly or indirectly issues relating to farmers' practices to save, use, exchange and sell seed. For example, they could help enhance scientific understanding of the importance of such activities for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA; or they could help identify or develop good practices.

Option 7A: Involve farmers in the characterization, evaluation and selection of PGRFA, including landraces/farmers' varieties, and/or new varieties, populations and genebank accessions

Involving farmers in the characterization, evaluation and selection of PGRFA involves growing larger sets of PGRFA for testing purposes, with the aim to identify those that are most suitable for direct use and/or further breeding.

Genebank accessions, traditional or farmers' varieties, evolutionary populations, newly bred varieties or variety "candidates" from breeding programs may all be included in such trials. The focus may also be on introducing new crops or species that have so far not been cultivated by farmers in a given area. Implementing organizations may want to carefully assess if introduced PGRFA could have any negative impacts on existing PGRFA, biodiversity or livelihoods, particularly of farmers and indigenous communities, take precautionary measures as necessary and ensure that any introduction of PGRFA is in accordance with national law.

Through joint activities for the characterization, evaluation and selection of PGRFA, both farmers and researchers may apply, share, deepen and enrich their knowledge. Farmers, including women and men, may make choices based on their own observations and judgement and, depending on how the activities are set up, access seed or planting material for further evaluation or direct use. They may also participate in making decisions on a further course of action.

*Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved*Technical

Administrative

Legal

Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- Collaborative research to assess germplasm for climate-change adaptation and food security in mountain areas of Albania (Albania/Europe) www.fao.org/3/ca4242en/ca4242en.pdf
- Potato Accelerated Release Program (Canada/North America) www.fao.org/3/ca7839en/ca7839en.pdf
- Farmer participatory approach in increasing genetic diversity in farmers' fields with exotic taro plant genetic resources (Papua New Guinea/South West Pacific) www.fao.org/3/ca6369en/ca6369en.pdf
- Facilitation of family farmers and their organizations' access to plant genetic resources for agroecological food production (Uruguay/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/cb5084es/cb5084es.pdf
- Participatory tree domestication of indigenous tree species (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Niger, Senegal/Africa) www.fao.org/3/ca6628en/ca6628en.pdf

Option 7B: Develop participatory plant breeding programmes or projects

Participatory plant breeding programs or projects are based on close collaboration between farmers and researchers at various stages of a breeding project or program. Farmers may thus contribute to setting breeding objectives, assembling parental materials, making crosses, selecting in early generations, testing and evaluating experimental varieties and, depending on how activities are set up, in the production and distribution of seed. Women and men may hold different knowledge and expertise in this regard, depending on the specific farming activities they engage in and the crops and varieties that the project or programme focusses on. Such differences may be carefully assessed and considered to ensure that women and men can equally benefit.

Through joint activities, both farmers and researchers may apply, share, deepen and enrich their knowledge and contribute to the development of varieties that respond to the needs and requirements of farmers and consumers or other market partners. Participatory plant breeding may also be a way to adapt the portfolio of varieties that are available to farmers to changing conditions, e.g. climate change.

In that farmers may use the varieties that are developed through such projects and programs, they can participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilization of PGRFA.

*Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved*Technical Administrative *

Legal

Other

*Administrative measures may be involved if varieties developed through participatory plant breeding projects or programs are officially registered and/or released.

Example(s) of possible measures

- Participatory plant breeding in Cuba (Cuba/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/ca4347en/ca4347en.pdf
- Farmer-breeder groups (Indonesia/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca4141en/ca4141en.pdf

- Increasing genetic diversity and realizing Farmers' Rights through Evolutionary Participatory Plant Breeding (EPPB)
(Iran/Near East) www.fao.org/3/ca4109en/ca4109en.pdf
- Innovative decentralised seed systems for bread-wheat evolutionary populations
(Italy/Europe) www.fao.org/3/ca4142en/ca4142en.pdf
- Landrace enhancement ('grassroots breeding')
(Nepal/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca8145en/ca8145en.pdf

Option 7C: Conduct participatory research on other aspects of PGRFA

Participatory research may also focus on other aspects of PGRFA, including social, economic, environmental or cultural dimensions. It may for example, focus on cultural values or traditional knowledge underlying farmers' conservation and management of PGRFA. It may also include studying broader social-ecological systems, of which the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA may be part, gender dimensions, or institutional issues of relevance for the governance of PGRFA.

Such studies may be designed in a way that farmers and researchers collaborate throughout the project, including by sharing, applying and integrating diverse types of knowledge and co-creating results. This may require formal agreements on how farmers' or farming communities' knowledge will be used, and how their contributions will be acknowledged, in accordance with local protocols and/or established standards and good practices.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative

Legal

Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- Seed sovereignty and agroecological scaling: Focus on two cases of seed recovery, conservation and defence in Colombia
(Colombia/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/cb2592en/cb2592en.pdf
- Participatory research to facilitate collaboration of farmers, exporters and central market agents in developing fruit and vegetable value chains in the Jordan valley
(Jordan/Near East) www.fao.org/3/ca8122en/ca8122en.pdf
- Morphological characterization of native crop varieties using farmers' descriptors
(Peru/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/ca5985en/ca5985en.pdf

✓ **Category 8: Farmers' participation in decision-making at local, national and sub-regional, regional and international levels**

Reference to relevant provision/s of Article 9 of the International Treaty

Art. 9.1

Art. 9.2a

Art. 9.2b

Art. 9.2c

Art. 9.3

Why can measures under this category be regarded as options to encourage, guide and promote the realization of Farmers' Rights?

Contracting Parties to the International Treaty have agreed to take measures to protect and promote Farmers' Rights, including the right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, as appropriate, and subject to national legislation (Art. 9.2c).

Participation may include formal representation of farmers and/or their organizations in decision-making bodies and/or the organization of dialogue processes, for example to jointly assess needs or exchange views in preparation of decisions that may be taken in the future. As decisions at national level are often mutually dependant on decisions that are taken at other levels, including international, subnational or local levels, it may be useful to facilitate the participation of farmers in decision-making on relevant issues at all levels. Farmers' and farming communities' participation in making decisions may also be a way of recognizing their contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA (Art. 9.1).

Depending on how measures under this category are set up, other provisions of Art. 9 may also be relevant.

Option 8A: Ensure representation and effective participation of farmers and/or their organizations in national advisory committees, commissions, councils or working groups addressing issues relating to the conservation, management and sustainable use of PGRFA

Farmers and/or their organizations may be represented in various decision-making or advisory bodies, such as national advisory committees, commissions, councils or working groups focusing on the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA. When appointing such bodies, special attention may be paid to the representation of men, women and rural youth to ensure equal participation.

Depending on how such measures are set up, they may have a legal basis; rules and procedures may be established, including by drawing from norms, principles, and good practices that have been developed in other contexts, such as the human rights framework. This may include, for example, that information is shared in due time and appropriate language(s), or that financial and/or other necessary resources are made available.

Such bodies may be involved in the preparation and/or making of decisions, for example, relating to plant variety protection and seed, the design of national programmes or the distribution of funds for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative *

Legal *

Other

*Legal and administrative measures may be involved if representation of farmers in decision-making bodies is based, for example, on laws or administrative orders.

Example(s) of possible measures

- Participation of farmers in the decision-making process (Japan/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca8117en/ca8117en.pdf
- Representation of farmers in the advisory boards of relevant institutions (Netherlands/Europe) www.fao.org/3/ca4161en/ca4161en.pdf
- Participation of farmers' associations in decision-making related to PGRFA in Spain (Spain/Europe) www.fao.org/3/ca4172en/ca4172en.pdf
- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Crop Germplasm Committees (USA/North America) www.fao.org/3/ca4818en/ca4818en.pdf

Option 8B: Organize policy dialogue processes with participation of farmers and/or their representative organizations

Participation of farmers and their representative organizations in decision-making could also be ensured through policy dialogue processes that allow farmers and farmer representatives, including from a range of backgrounds and organizations or with specific expertise, to participate. Inviting organizations may want to pay special attention to the equal representation of women and men in order not to perpetuate existing inequalities. The results of such processes may be used to inform decision makers, such as relevant ministries.

Possible measures may include, for example, consultations between government, agricultural, civil society and research organizations and/or private sector representatives. They may be organized as roundtables, conferences, multi-stakeholder platforms, etc., as one-off events or on a regular basis.

They may serve to develop strategic agendas, accompany change processes, address challenges and needs or develop possible solutions to identified problems, including those relating to policies and legal frameworks.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative

Legal

Other *Example(s) of possible measures*

- Policy dialogue to facilitate farmers' participation in decision-making (Malawi/Africa) www.fao.org/3/ca4149en/ca4149en.pdf
- 'SNP Semences Normes et Paysans', a multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue and consultation between government, agricultural civil society and research to promote recognition of farmers' seed systems (Mali/Africa) www.fao.org/3/ca6363en/ca6363en.pdf
- Information and participation processes for the implementation of Farmers' Rights in Sierra de los Cuchumatanes, Guatemala (Guatemala/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/ca7818en/ca7818en.pdf

✓ **Category 9: Training, capacity development and public awareness creation**

Reference to relevant provision/s of Article 9 of the International Treaty

- Art. 9.1
 Art. 9.2a
 Art. 9.2b
 Art. 9.2c
 Art. 9.3

Why can measures under this category be regarded as options to encourage, guide and promote the realization of Farmers' Rights?

The realization of all Farmers' Rights relies on societal actors operating at various scales (e.g. from local to international), and with different levels of knowledge and experience. Training, capacity development and public awareness creation could thus support the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in all relevant provisions of Art. 9.

Capacity development may focus on raising awareness of the overall concept of Farmers' Rights and/or support the capacities of actors to fulfil their respective roles in the realization of Farmers' Rights, e.g. as rightsholders or representatives of executive and legislative bodies, civil society and the private sector.

Option 9A: Promote understanding and raise awareness of the importance of Farmers' Rights

A broad range of possible measures may be used to promote understanding and raise awareness of the overall concept and importance of Farmers' Rights. Such measures include, for example, global, regional and national consultations or dialogue platforms, awareness campaigns, use of media and capacity building materials, and various forms of presentations to representatives of organizations, producers, and citizens in general.

Further possibilities include to use conferences and public events focusing on the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA to highlight the concept and importance of Farmers' Rights, or to set up alliances, partnerships and campaigns.

Women and men may have different information needs or use different information channels and forms of communication. By taking this into account in planning and implementation of awareness-raising events, objectives may be more effectively achieved.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

- Technical
 Administrative
 Legal
 Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- Advocacy work for the implementation of Farmers' Rights in national laws (France/Europe) www.fao.org/3/ca4127en/ca4127en.pdf
- Promotion of Farmers' Rights through awareness raising and capacity building materials (Malawi/Africa) www.fao.org/3/ca4149en/ca4149en.pdf
- Presentation of Farmers' Rights to representatives of organizations, producers, and citizens in general in Nicaragua (Nicaragua/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/ca6351en/ca6351en.pdf
- Global consultations on Farmers' Rights (Global) www.fao.org/3/ca8153en/ca8153en.pdf

Option 9B: Strengthen farmers' and their organizations' capacities to effectively participate in policy dialogue and decision-making processes

For farmers and their organizations to effectively participate in policy dialogue and decision-making processes, it may be necessary to strengthen their capacities, especially in situations where farmers lack experiences regarding interactions with policy makers and relevant institutions. Training, strategy or specific writing workshops as well as exchange and exposure visits or consultations may all be part of such initiatives.

Government, community-based, research and civil-society organizations as well as international donors may all play important roles in supporting such initiatives, e.g. by funding and/or organizing such measures. These organizations may wish to pay special attention to ensuring effective participation of men, women and youth in such activities, so that their needs and concerns can be addressed equally.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative

Legal

Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- Farmer-codeveloped ordinance on agriculture (Sustainable Agriculture Code of the Municipality of Arakan, North Cotabato, Philippines) (Philippines/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca8193en/ca8193en.pdf
- Sowing Diversity=Harvesting Security (SD=HS) Program (2/2) – policy work (China, Guatemala, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Peru, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe/Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa) www.fao.org/3/ca8715en/ca8715en.pdf

Option 9C: Enhance farmers' and their organizations' technical and/or organizational capacities, systems of knowledge and management that foster biodiverse systems, conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA

Technical and/or organizational capacities are required for farmers to effectively implement practical measures for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, including production and dissemination of seed, community seed banks, participatory plant breeding or variety evaluation, etc.

Capacity development may be an important component of such measures. Depending on the situation and needs of participants, capacity development may take various forms, including for example knowledge-exchange workshops, farmer field schools and other group-based methods. It may be useful to take possible differences in the interests, needs and concerns of women, men and youth into account to ensure that everyone can benefit equally. Media such as videos, posters, technical leaflets and brochures may be used to support such approaches.

Government representatives and stakeholders, including farmers', community, research and civil society organizations, as well as international donors, may all play important roles in this regard, e.g. by funding and/or implementing such measures.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative

Legal

Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- Capacity building and promotion of dynamic conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity in traditional ecosystems of the Philippines/*in situ* conservation of traditional varieties
(Philippines/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca8186en/ca8186en.pdf
- Training and awareness-raising activities for farmers and their associations carried out by the Centre for Plant Genetic Resources of the National Institute for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology (CRF-INIA)
(Spain/Europe) www.fao.org/3/ca8202en/ca8202en.pdf
- Establishing resilient community-managed seed systems
(Cambodia, Philippines/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca4169en/ca4169en.pdf
- Farmer Field Schools, as an extension approach to transfer technology with the help of farmer-to-farmer trainers using demonstration centers as learning points
(Malawi, Zambia/Africa) www.fao.org/3/cb6273en/cb6273en.pdf

✓ **Category 10: Legal measures for the implementation of Farmers' Rights, such as legislative measures related to PGRFA***

Reference to relevant provision/s of Article 9 of the International Treaty

- Art. 9.1
- Art. 9.2a
- Art. 9.2b
- Art. 9.2c
- Art. 9.3

Why can measures under this category be regarded as options to encourage, guide and promote the realization of Farmers' Rights?

Contracting Parties to the International Treaty have agreed that the responsibility for realizing Farmers' Rights, as they relate to PGRFA, rests with national governments. Each Contracting Party should, as appropriate, and subject to its national legislation, take measures to protect and promote Farmers' Rights (Art. 9.2). Several measures of Farmers' Rights are suggested, including the protection of traditional knowledge relevant to PGRFA, the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization, and the right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on related matters (Art. 9.2a-c). Rights that farmers have to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed/propagating material are referred to in Art. 9.3.

To implement the commitments they have made under international agreements, governments of Contracting Parties may consider reviewing and, as appropriate, adjusting existing national law, or creating new law, in accordance with their priorities and needs. In that process, Contracting Parties may want to assess and consider needs of rightsholders, including farmers, indigenous and local communities, in cases where they are directly affected by such legal measures.

Option 10A: Realize Farmers' Rights within the national legislation, administrative and policy framework relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA

Laws and policies pertaining to PGRFA, agriculture and the environment, as well as their related procedures, may be created or amended to support the realization of Farmers' Rights. Such policies and laws may cover issues such as, for example, national legislation on biodiversity conservation, GMOs, PGRFA, seeds, plant variety protection, rights of peasants, local and indigenous communities. They may address Farmers' Rights in a holistic manner and/or focus on specific aspects that are deemed particularly relevant in certain situations.

This may include laws and procedures for recognizing the efforts made by custodian/guardian farmers, local and indigenous communities, regarding the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA; for the protection of traditional knowledge related to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA; or for the representation of farmers, local and indigenous communities in decision-making bodies and/or advisory boards of government institutions working on matters that are related to PGRFA. Such laws and related procedures may further protect and safeguard farmers' seed systems and related practices.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

- Technical
- Administrative
- Legal
- Other

* The text for Category 10 is the Co-Chairs' proposal for describing options under Category 10.

Example(s) of possible measures

- Provisions on Farmers' Rights in Biodiversity Act of Bhutan, 2003, and Access and Benefit Sharing Policy of Bhutan, 2015
(Bhutan/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca4346en/ca4346en.pdf
- Farmers' Rights of the Nations and Rural Native Indigenous Peoples
(Bolivia/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/ca4108en/ca4108en.pdf
- Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001
(India/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca7945en/ca7945en.pdf
- Presidential Decree protecting the Centre of Origin and Diversity
(Mexico/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/cb4411en/cb4411en.pdf
- Law Establishing the Moratorium on Living Modified Organisms for a period of 10 years (Law No. 29811)
(Peru/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/cb2593en/cb2593en.pdf

Option 10B: Realize Farmers' Rights through reviewing and, as appropriate, adjusting, intellectual property law and/or related procedures

Intellectual property laws, including those relating to PGRFA, typically define the item, product or process for which protection may be sought, requirements or conditions for granting protection as well as scope and duration of the right. They may also establish rights or conditions for users of the protected item or product, for example conditions under which farmers may save, use, exchange and/or sell seed of protected varieties.

Contracting Parties may consider reviewing and, as appropriate, adjusting intellectual property laws and related procedures, for example by including provisions to safeguard rights that farmers have to save, use, exchange and/or sell farm-saved seed.

They may also include requirements in intellectual property laws and related procedures for disclosure of origin to enable fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of PGRFA; or by adjusting the scope of protection, thereby defining conditions under which farmers may save, use, exchange and/or sell seed of protected varieties, subject to national law and as appropriate.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative

Legal

Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- Balancing Plant Variety Protection (PVP) and Farmers' Rights
(Norway/Europe) www.fao.org/3/ca8165en/ca8165en.pdf
- Safeguarding Farmers' Rights in Swiss intellectual property law
(Switzerland/Europe) www.fao.org/3/ca4168en/ca4168en.pdf
- Require applicant for plant variety protection to disclose the source of genetic material used in the development of a plant variety for which protection is sought, whether it is legally acquired
(Egypt/Near East, India, Malaysia, Thailand/Asia)
www.fao.org/3/ca8240en/ca8240en.pdf
- Implementing sui generis plant variety protection systems that recognize farmers' seed systems, farmers' varieties and advances Farmers' Rights
(India, Malaysia/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca8243en/ca8243en.pdf

Option 10C: Realize Farmers' Rights through reviewing and, as appropriate, adjusting seed laws and/or related procedures

Contracting Parties may consider reviewing and, as appropriate, adjusting seed laws and related procedures in order to create legal space for farmers to save, use, exchange and/or sell farm-saved seed

in general, or farmers' varieties and/or varieties and populations with specific adaptation and uses in particular.

In this context, farmers, local and indigenous communities may also be encouraged and supported in registering varieties they conserve and/or develop and use, e.g. in registers held by the community and/or deposited with local authorities, or in national variety catalogues, should they wish to do so. This may also involve reviewing and, as appropriate, adjusting the necessary procedures and/or requirements for the registration of such varieties or populations, as well as for the quality management and/or marketing of seed. For example, simplified procedures and/or criteria for the registration of such varieties may be established, fees may be reduced or active support provided to farmers, local and indigenous communities to register varieties.

Seed laws that aim to protect and promote Farmers' Rights may also explicitly acknowledge rights that farmers have to save, use, exchange or sell seed, subject to national law and as appropriate, e.g. by providing for special possibilities for quality control of farmers' seed, including in cases of non-commercial seed dissemination and use, based on traditional practices.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative

Legal

Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- Ethiopian Seed Law Proclamation No. 782/2013
(Ethiopia/Africa) www.fao.org/3/cb5322en/cb5322en.pdf
- Implementation of EU directives on conservation and amateur varieties, and preservation mixtures
(Germany/Europe) www.fao.org/3/ca4139en/ca4139en.pdf
- Venezuelan Seed Law No. 6.207 of 2015
(Venezuela/Latin America and the Caribbean) www.fao.org/3/cb2589en/cb2589en.pdf
- Exemptions or flexibilities in seed registration for farmers' varieties
(Brazil, Peru/Latin America and the Caribbean, Nepal/Asia)
www.fao.org/3/ca7791en/ca7791en.pdf

Option 10D: Realize Farmers' Rights through reviewing and, as appropriate, adjusting national laws for access and benefit-sharing and/or related procedures

Possibilities to address Farmers' Rights to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilization of PGRFA include determining rules for governing access to PGRFA, especially those managed on-farm or *in situ* by farmers and local and indigenous communities. Such rules may rely on internationally agreed procedures, such as Prior Informed Consent (PIC) or use tools such as community biodiversity registries and biocultural community protocols.

Since national measures and procedures for access and benefit-sharing may be required under several international agreements, requirements of all relevant agreements may be reviewed and implemented in a harmonious manner, for example by establishing 'single window' systems for access and benefit-sharing.

Furthermore, laws and procedures for the protection of traditional knowledge may include consent requirements in cases where traditional knowledge is documented, explored or used otherwise. The protection of traditional knowledge may also extend to seed of varieties that were developed based on traditional knowledge, practices or skills as well as related processes, and to products derived from them. Priority may also be given to the legal protection of farmers' seed systems, e.g. to govern access to PGRFA held by farmers and local and indigenous communities and establishing national mechanisms that enable the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative Legal

Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- Single window' system for joint implementation of ITPGRFA and Nagoya Protocol (Benin/Africa) www.fao.org/3/ca4106en/ca4106en.pdf
- IPOPhI-NCIP Joint Administrative Order No. 01-2016 'Rules and Regulations on Intellectual Property Rights Application and Registration Protecting the Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs)' (Philippines/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca4166en/ca4166en.pdf

Option 10E: Study national and international policies and laws regarding their contributions to the realization of Farmers' Rights

Studying national and international policies and legal frameworks may help identify specific strengths and weaknesses of current legislations and propose solutions to address possible gaps. They may also include comparative studies, e.g. on approaches that are taken in different countries or regions. A further focus may be on the coherence of international commitments, regional, national and sub-national legislations and related policies and programmes.

Such studies may provide lawmakers with the necessary evidence for better targeting and/or designing measures that support the realization of Farmers' Rights and can also contribute to raising awareness of broader audiences.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

Technical

Administrative

Legal

Other *Example(s) of possible measures*

- Policy analysis to identify gaps in the legal framework for seed regarding the implementation of Farmers' Rights in Burkina Faso (Burkina Faso/Africa) www.fao.org/3/ca6460en/ca6460en.pdf
- Implementation of Farmers' Rights in the Italian legislation (Italy/Europe) www.fao.org/3/ca4122en/ca4122en.pdf
- A human rights impact assessment of the UPOV 1991 plant variety protection (Kenya/Africa, Peru/Latin America and the Caribbean, Philippines/Asia) www.fao.org/3/ca7795en/ca7795en.pdf
- Private and non-commercial use project (Global) www.fao.org/3/ca4161en/ca4161en.pdf

✓ **Category 11: Other measures/practices**

Reference to relevant provision/s of Article 9 of the International Treaty

- Art. 9.1 *
- Art. 9.2a *
- Art. 9.2b *
- Art. 9.2c *
- Art. 9.3 *

* Options under this category may refer to various provisions of Article 9, depending on their focus.

Why can measures under this category be regarded as options to encourage, guide and promote the realization of Farmers' Rights?

Measures under this category include actions not covered under the previous categories. Depending on their objectives and scope, such measures can be related to various aspects of Farmers' Rights. For example, targeted emergency assistance can recognize farmers' past, present and future contributions to the conservation, development and sustainable use of PGRFA (Art. 9.1) and help restore their seed systems (Art. 9.3). Measures under this category can further support the realization of Farmers' Rights, directly or indirectly, by respecting the protection of traditional knowledge, ensuring fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of PGRFA and participation in decision-making (Art. 9.2a-c).

Option 11A: Support farmers' conservation, management and sustainable use of PGRFA through targeted emergency assistance

Emergency assistance can take various forms, including financial aid, vouchers or direct distribution of essential goods, such as food or seed from emergency stocks. Depending on how it is designed, emergency assistance can have substantial impacts on farmers' conservation, management and sustainable use of PGRFA during and/or after an emergency. Women and men may be differently affected by the emergency itself, as well as by the measures that are taken. Such differences may need to be considered so that all those who need help can be reached through appropriate measures.

Contracting Parties and stakeholders may thus want to carefully assess potential impacts of emergency assistance on farmers' conservation, management and use of PGRFA and observe relevant national disaster risk legislation as well as international standards and norms. In disaster-prone areas, vulnerability mappings and/or assessments of seed system security may be conducted to identify vulnerable groups and pathways of seed access for various crops and varieties, including local ones, and to assess how such pathways may be strengthened in an emergency.

By establishing national emergency funds and/or solidarity-based funds and insurances, farmers can be provided with the means to continue the conservation, management and sustainable use of PGRFA, for example in situations where fields, equipment and storage facilities have been destroyed.

Type(s) of measures that may typically be involved

- Technical
- Administrative
- Legal
- Other

Example(s) of possible measures

- Vulnerability mapping of smallholder farmers in Morocco (Morocco/Africa) www.fao.org/3/ca8151en/ca8151en.pdf
- Crop insurance (USA/North America) www.fao.org/3/ca8452en/ca8452en.pdf
- Support of small-scale farmer seed systems and promoting farmers' rights and sustainability of seed in emergency situations (Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe/Africa) www.fao.org/3/cb3735en/cb3735en.pdf

OVERVIEW TABLE OF OPTIONS AND THEIR RELATION TO SUBARTICLE(S) OF ARTICLE 9

Titles of options under each category	Relation to subarticle(s) of Art. 9 [*]				
	9.1	9.2a	9.2b	9.2c	9.3
Category 1: Recognition of local and indigenous communities' and farmers' contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, such as awards and recognition of custodian/guardian farmers					
1A: Establish prizes and awards to honour custodian/guardian farmers, farming communities and their organizations who contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA in an outstanding manner	✓	✓	✓		
1B: Highlight the role and expertise of farmers, farming communities and their organizations in the conservation and/or development of PGRFA by mentioning their names and further details in official records	✓				
1C: Designate locally, nationally or Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems sites for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and support farmers and their organizations in the sustainable management and governance of such sites	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Category 2: Financial contributions to support farmers' conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA such as contributions to benefit-sharing funds					
2A: Provide funds for farmers, farming communities and their organizations who conserve, develop and sustainably use PGRFA, including for capacity development	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2B: Contribute voluntarily to the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) of the International Treaty	✓		✓		
Category 3: Approaches to encourage income-generating activities to support farmers' conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA					
3A: Conduct and/or support promotional activities to strengthen sustainable consumption for products derived from the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA	✓	✓	✓		✓
3B: Develop value-chains for local crops, varieties and evolutionary populations with specific adaptation, nutritional value, uses or other benefits	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3C: Create and support markets for products issued from farmers' varieties/farmers' seed systems	✓	✓	✓		✓
Category 4: Catalogues, registries and other forms of documentation of PGRFA and protection of traditional knowledge					
4A: Recognize, collect and document traditional knowledge on PGRFA, including knowledge relating to cultivation and use	✓	✓			✓
4B: Conduct and/or support activities for conserving, sharing and disseminating traditional knowledge relating to PGRFA	✓	✓			✓
4C: Support farmers and farming communities to develop instruments to govern access to PGRFA over which they have established rights and traditional knowledge associated with PGRFA based on their local practices, procedures and community protocols	✓	✓	✓	✓	

^{*} Based on information provided by Contracting Parties and stakeholders in their submissions.

Titles of options under each category	Relation to subarticle(s) of Art. 9				
	9.1	9.2a	9.2b	9.2c	9.3
Category 5: <i>In situ</i>/on-farm conservation and management of PGRFA, such as social and cultural measures, community biodiversity management and conservation sites					
5A: Support and safeguard community biodiversity management and/or other practical activities of farmers and farming communities for <i>in situ</i> /on-farm management of PGRFA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5B: Strengthen the role and identity of custodian/guardian farmers and communities through social and cultural activities	✓	✓			✓
5C: Conduct and disseminate studies on the participation of farmers and communities in <i>in situ</i> /on-farm conservation, management and sustainable use of PGRFA, including technological, ecological, socioeconomic and cultural aspects	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Category 6: Facilitation of farmers' access to a diversity of PGRFA through community seed banks, seed networks and other measures improving farmers' choices of a wider diversity of PGRFA					
6A: Establish and/or support community seed banks, seed clubs, seed houses, seed-saver networks or similar approaches	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6B: Organize and/or support farmers' seed festivals and fairs	✓	✓			✓
6C: Facilitate farmers' access to material from genebanks, research institutes, universities and the private sector	✓	✓	✓		✓
6D: Support farmers' seed systems and innovation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Category 7: Participatory approaches to research on PGRFA, including characterization and evaluation, participatory plant breeding and variety selection					
7A: Involve farmers in the characterization, evaluation and selection of PGRFA, including landraces/farmers' varieties, and/or new varieties, populations and genebank accessions	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7B: Develop participatory plant breeding programmes or projects	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7C: Conduct participatory research on other aspects of PGRFA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Category 8: Farmers' participation in decision-making at local, national and sub-regional, regional and international levels					
8A: Ensure representation and effective participation of farmers and/or their organizations in national advisory committees, commissions, councils or working groups addressing issues relating to the conservation, management and sustainable use of PGRFA	✓			✓	
8B: Organize policy dialogue processes with participation of farmers and/or their representative organizations	✓			✓	

Titles of options under each category	Relation to subarticle(s) of Art. 9				
	9.1	9.2a	9.2b	9.2c	9.3
Category 9: Training, capacity development and public awareness creation					
9A: Promote understanding and raise awareness of the importance of Farmers' Rights	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9B: Strengthen farmers' and their organizations' capacities to effectively participate in policy dialogue and decision-making processes	✓			✓	
9C: Enhance farmers' and their organizations' technical and/or organizational capacities, systems of knowledge and management that foster biodiverse systems, conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Category 10: Legal measures for the implementation of Farmers' Rights, such as legislative measures related to PGRFA*					
10A: Realize Farmers' Rights within the national legislation, administrative and policy framework relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10B: Realize Farmers' Rights through reviewing and, as appropriate, adjusting, intellectual property law and/or related procedures	✓	✓	✓		✓
10C: Realize Farmers' Rights through reviewing and, as appropriate, adjusting seed laws and/or related procedures	✓	✓	✓		✓
10D: Realize Farmers' Rights through reviewing and, as appropriate, adjusting national laws for access and benefit-sharing and/or related procedures	✓	✓	✓	✓	
10E: Study national and international policies and laws regarding their contributions to the realization of Farmers' Rights	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Category 11: Other measures/practices					
11A: Support farmers' conservation, management and sustainable use of PGRFA through targeted emergency assistance	✓	✓		✓	✓

* Co-Chairs' proposal for options under Category 10.

RESOLUTION 8/2022

COMPLIANCE

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling that one of the functions of the Compliance Committee is to “offer advice and/or facilitate assistance, as appropriate, to any Contracting Party, on matters relating to compliance with a view to assisting it to comply with its obligations under the International Treaty”;

Recalling that the Compliance Committee also has a mandate to “promote compliance by addressing statements and questions concerning the implementation of obligations under the International Treaty”;

Recalling the contribution of the International Treaty towards the achievement of SDG 2, SDG 15, and SDG 17 and other global goals and frameworks;

Recalling the recommendations made by various Contracting Parties in relation to capacity development and the support needed, as reflected in Resolution 7/2019;

Reiterating the options for capacity development regarding monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the International Treaty for integration in future activities and programmes in Resolution 7/2019;

Monitoring and Reporting

1. **Thanks** the Compliance Committee for the analysis provided in the document IT/GB- 9/22/14, *Report of the Compliance Committee*;
2. **Thanks** those Contracting Parties that have submitted their reports pursuant to Section V of the Compliance Procedures on time as well as those that submitted or updated their reports subsequently;
3. **Invites** all Contracting Parties, including Contracting Party Organizations, to continue submitting and updating their reports, pursuant to Section V of the Compliance Procedures, and **urges** those Contracting Parties which have not yet done so to submit their own reports, and **reiterates** that the second reports shall be submitted by 1 October 2023;
4. **Requests** the Secretary to send regular reminders to Contracting Parties to submit and/or update their reports pursuant to Section V of the Compliance Procedures and to provide support to them, as appropriate;
5. **Invites** the members of the Compliance Committee to communicate with Contracting Parties in their respective regions to sensitise, and provide information and support in matters related to compliance, especially regarding the reporting process under Section V of the Compliance Procedures and the related timeline agreed by the Governing Body;
6. **Welcomes** the production of indicators that re-use data previously submitted by Contracting Parties to show their contribution, through the International Treaty, towards the implementation of the global development agenda and frameworks, and the achievement of related targets and goals;

Support and Capacity Development

7. **Welcomes** the establishment by the Secretary of a helpdesk to assist Contracting Parties with the compliance reporting process and **requests** the Secretary to keep the Online Reporting System regularly updated;
8. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to organise training workshops on compliance reporting, and training and information sessions on compliance reporting; promote the use of multimedia resources, and circulate an updated information note, in various languages, to national focal points on how to prepare and submit their compliance reports;

9. **Requests** the Secretary to identify and develop partnerships with other organizations and regional networks, as well as synergies with other FAO units and the country offices, to raise awareness and to support Contracting Parties with the compliance reporting process and the implementation of the International Treaty;
10. **Encourages** Contracting Parties and other donors to consider providing support and financial resources for capacity development activities as important and effective means to enhance the implementation of the International Treaty.

Reviews under the Mandate of the Compliance Committee and Future Work

Noting that most of the reports were received late in the biennium,

11. **Decides** to postpone the review of the effectiveness of the Compliance Procedures to the Tenth Session of the Governing Body and **requests** the Compliance Committee, with inputs from Contracting Parties, to prepare an assessment and recommendations as a basis for the Governing Body to undertake the review;
12. **Invites** the Compliance Committee to consider assisting Contracting Parties, upon their request, in considering the conformity of their national legislation with the International Treaty and **requests** the Secretary to undertake any necessary preparatory work for the consideration of the Compliance Committee;
13. **Encourages** Contracting Parties to avail themselves of the opportunities that the functions of the Compliance Committee provide, including by submitting to the Committee, through the Secretary, statements and questions concerning their implementation of the International Treaty;

Other Matters

14. **Invites** Contracting Parties to promote the important role of the International Treaty in the regional conferences and in other meetings of FAO;
15. **Invites** Contracting Parties to provide or update the contact details of their national focal points and, possibly, nominate an alternate reporting officer;
16. **Elects** the members of the Compliance Committee in accordance with Section III.4 of the Compliance Procedures, as contained in the *Annex* to this Resolution.

*Annex***MEMBERS OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE***

REGION	MEMBER
AFRICA	Mr Ndawana NOREST (2023)
	Mr Koffi KOMBATE (2016)
ASIA	Ms Pratibha BRAHMI (2023)
	Mr Koukham VILAYHEUNG (2020)
EUROPE	Ms Linn BORGEN NILSEN (2023)
	Ms Kim VAN SEETERS (2018)
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	Mr Mahendra PERSAUD (2018)
	Ms Mónica MARTÍNEZ (2020)
NEAR EAST	Ms Hanaiya EL-ITRIBY (2020)
	Mr Javad MOZAFARI (2020)
NORTH AMERICA	Ms Priya BHANU (2023)
	Ms Indra THIND (2018)
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC	Ms Birte NASS-KOMOLONG (2020)
	Ms Emily CARROLL (2023)

* The year in parenthesis indicates the beginning of the first term of the member. In accordance with the Rules of Procedures of the Compliance Committee, members shall be elected by the Governing Body for a period of four years, this being a full term, commencing on 1 January of the first year of the financial period of the International Treaty following their election. Members shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms (Rule III.4).

RESOLUTION 9/2022

CONTRIBUTION OF FAO TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

THE GOVERNING BODY,

1. **Thanks** FAO for the financial and administrative support it provides to the Secretariat of the International Treaty and to the implementation of the International Treaty, and **invites** FAO to continue its support to the Treaty to enhance its financial sustainability;
2. **Invites** FAO to continue supporting the efforts to increase the membership of the International Treaty by undertaking concrete measures to promote ratification by FAO Member Countries that have not yet done so, with a view to making it a universal agreement;
3. **Further invites** FAO to integrate the International Treaty activities into the implementation of relevant initiatives and strategies, such as the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture, the Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and its 2021–23 Action Plan, the Science and Innovation Strategy, and the Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031 and upcoming associated Action Plans with a view to improving the ability of the International Treaty to contribute to addressing complex social, economic and environmental challenges of agrifood systems in a globally equitable, inclusive and sustainable manner;
4. **Further invites** FAO to continue its active support to the activities of the International Treaty as a key international instrument required for the fulfilment of Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 15, and to build awareness of the importance of the implementation of, and compliance with, the International Treaty at the highest national levels;
5. **Emphasizes** the importance of FAO's continuous assistance with the implementation of the International Treaty at the national level, including through the provision of technical, capacity-building and operational support to the International Treaty and its mechanisms, such as the Benefit-sharing Fund;
6. **Requests** the Secretary to continue pursuing collaboration with other units and instruments within FAO, including on outreach, resource mobilization and private sector engagement;
7. **Invites** FAO to continue providing a comprehensive report at each Session on its contributions to the implementation of the International Treaty, and the Secretary to continue providing updates on the status of implementation of invitations made to FAO as well as on on-going and new collaborations and partnerships within FAO.

RESOLUTION 10/2022**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 to support the full implementation of the International Treaty;

Further affirming the importance of accompanying the Strategy with an Action Plan to make the Strategy operative;

1. *Takes note of* the Draft Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty 2023–2030, as contained in the *Annex* to this Resolution and *further requests* the Secretariat to finalize the Draft Strategy under the guidance of the Bureau to be presented for consideration at the Governing Body at its Tenth Session, ensuring that the topics included in the Draft Strategy are in line with the International Treaty and the relevant resolutions of the Governing Body and promoting coherence in planning and delivering capacity development;
2. *Requests* the Secretary to develop an outline of an Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy, clarifying what actions the Secretariat is expected to undertake according to the applicable guiding principles, under the guidance from the Bureau, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, for consideration by the Governing Body, together with the updated Draft Capacity Development Strategy, at its Tenth Session;
3. *Requests* the Secretary to invite countries to report on ongoing capacity development initiatives and activities, needs or gaps in capacity for achieving the objectives of the International Treaty, to support the development of the outline of the Action Plan.

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 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,

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

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 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.

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.

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

* 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.

process can be enhanced by building new and strengthening ongoing North-South (e.g. the support by the governments of Italy and Norway 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.

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

- **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.

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 draft 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.

RESOLUTION 11/2022

COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling Resolution 9/2019 and other previous Resolutions on the cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission);

1. **Welcomes** the ongoing close cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body and the joint activities undertaken by the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the Commission during the past intersessional period;
2. **Agrees** to keep the matter of the functional division of tasks and activities between the Governing Body and the Commission under review and **requests** the Secretary to regularly report any relevant developments in the cooperation with the Commission;
3. **Recalling** Article 17.3 of the International Treaty, **invites** Contracting Parties that still have not done so, to cooperate with the Commission in the preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* in order to facilitate the updating of the *Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*;
4. **Welcomes** the joint activities of the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the Commission during the past intersessional period and **requests** the Secretary to continue strengthening collaboration and coordination with the Secretary of the Commission to promote coherence in the development and implementation of the respective programmes of work of the two bodies, and in particular with regard to:
 - i. the preparation of the *Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, the review and possible update of the *Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, and the revision of the reporting system of the World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (WIEWS);
 - ii. the organization of symposia on in situ conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA);
 - iii. the effects of seed policies, laws and regulations;
 - iv. the implementation and monitoring of the *Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, including technical instruments that facilitate its implementation, such as the *Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and work on sustainable use of PGRFA;
 - v. ABS and digital sequence information / genetic sequence data (DSI/GSD) on PGRFA;
 - vi. joint efforts to advocate for the consideration of the objectives and relevant work and policies of the Commission and the Governing Body of the International Treaty in global strategies and frameworks, such as the *FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors* and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as to update FAO Members on progress in the implementation of their respective mandates and work programmes, for example through briefings for Permanent Representations; and
 - vii. the Global Information System and WIEWS, and relevant targets and indicators.

5. ***Further encourages*** building complementarity and collaboration in relation to the development and implementation of national strategies of PGRFA and national planning process relevant to PGRFA such as those related to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and in doing so, ***requests*** the Secretary to keep the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization informed.

RESOLUTION 12/2022

POLICY GUIDANCE TO THE GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling that the Global Crop Diversity Trust (the Crop Trust) is an essential element of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty, in relation to the ex situ conservation and availability of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

Recalling that pursuant to Article 1(5) of its Constitution the Crop Trust shall operate in accordance with the overall policy guidance to be provided by the Governing Body of the International Treaty;

Taking note of the Report from the Crop Trust, which addresses matters requested by Resolution 10/2019;

Recalling the importance of cooperation with the Crop Trust on resource mobilization, including for national genebanks in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

PART I: POLICY GUIDANCE

1. **Thanks** the Executive Board of the Crop Trust for having regularly submitted its annual report on the activities of the Crop Trust to the Governing Body and its Bureau;

2. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Governing Body and the Secretary to inform the Executive Board of the Crop Trust on the decisions made by the Governing Body and **provides** policy guidance on the following key areas:

A. Resource Mobilization

3. **Thanks** governments and other donors that have provided funds for the Crop Trust Endowment Fund in particular towards enabling to secure long-term funding for collections held pursuant to Article 15 of the International Treaty, with contributions paid into the endowment, as reported by the Crop Trust, currently at USD two-hundred-and-ninety-eight million;

4. **Welcomes** the steps being taken by the Crop Trust to implement a more diversified fundraising strategy and the importance of clear and effective communication of the Crop Trust's mission, goals and impact;

5. **Invites** the Crop Trust to provide information, at the Tenth Session of the Governing Body, on progress made with resource mobilization during the next biennium for the Crop Trust Endowment Fund as well as in relation to mobilization of project-based funds, including to support selected national genebanks in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

6. **Welcomes** and **commends** the substantial increase in cooperation on resource mobilization by the Executive Director of the Crop Trust and the Secretary of the International Treaty and **thanks** donors, such as the governments of Norway and Italy, that have given priority to support implementation of joint initiatives;

7. **Recommends** that the Crop Trust continue expanding cooperation with the International Treaty on mobilizing resources, and further **encourages** donors to give priority to initiatives, projects and programmes that are jointly designed and implemented by the Crop Trust and the Secretariat;

8. **Recommends** the Crop Trust further engages with the Secretariat of the International Treaty to fulfil the important role of both institutions to mobilize support for the maintenance of collections held pursuant to Article 15 of the International Treaty (Article 15 collections), and in doing so **encourages**

them to engage the wide range of donors and partners that host or support these international collections;

9. **Thanks** the Crop Trust for its active support to the work of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (Funding Committee), and in particular in the development by the Funding Committee of a strategy to engage the food processing industries; and **invites** the Crop Trust to continue strengthening its support to the Funding Committee;

B. Scientific and Technical Matters

10. **Welcomes** the support provided by the Crop Trust during the current biennium to enable the long-term conservation and availability of crop diversity within Article 15 collections, and **invites** the Crop Trust to continue and expand cooperation with the Secretary, in accordance with Article 15.1(g) of the International Treaty, on mobilizing technical support for the orderly maintenance of such collections;

11. **Welcomes** the range of initiatives promoted by the Crop Trust to support national genebanks including training in genebank management and the development of standard operating protocols; **encourages** further collaboration with the Secretariat to undertake joint capacity building of national partners on Treaty implementation; and **reaffirms** that capacity building for ex-situ conservation at the national level is a crucial element for the success of the International Treaty;

12. **Welcomes** the organization of a series of international panels of experts by the Crop Trust and the Secretariat of the International Treaty to bring together key actors in the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), and **encourages** the two institutions to build upon the experience gained to continue jointly delivering scientific and technical training and expertise, including by taking advantage of on-line mechanisms;

13. **Recommends** the Crop Trust to further enhance its collaboration and complementarity with the International Treaty on scientific and technical matters, in particular in the area of Crop Conservation Strategies; in this context **invites** the Crop Trust to make available the White Paper, when finalized, to enable the Governing Body to provide policy guidance at its Tenth Session;

C. Global Information System

14. **Welcomes** the close collaboration of the Crop Trust with the International Treaty and FAO in the area of information of PGRFA and **invites** them to continue collaborating on training and capacity development activities in the area of information systems and documentation of PGRFA;

15. **Further invites** the Crop Trust to continue participating in the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System and provide regular updates on the implementation of its activities relevant to the Global Information System;

D. Communication and Outreach

16. **Recommends** the Crop Trust to continue and strengthen cooperation with the International Treaty to jointly develop outreach and communication products and to further systematize and strengthen such cooperation in the next biennium;

PART II: EMERGENCY RESERVE FOR GERMPLASM COLLECTIONS AT RISK

17. **Welcomes** the joint establishment of the Emergency Reserve for Germplasm Collections at Risk with the Crop Trust, to facilitate the rapid response to imminent threats to unique germplasm collections that fall under the framework of the International Treaty, in particular its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing;

18. **Thanks** the Governments of Norway and Italy for the financial contributions to the Reserve, and **calls** upon Contracting Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other entities to contribute to the Reserve;

19. **Requests** the Secretary to provide the Bureau of the Tenth Session with a financial and technical report on the joint operation of the Emergency Reserve;

20. **Notes** the summary report on the Reserve that the Secretary provided at this Ninth Session of the Governing Body and **further requests** the Secretary to provide a similar report to the Tenth Session;

PART III: OTHER

21. **Requests** the Bureau of the Tenth Session to carry out the selection and appointment of members to the Executive Board of the Crop Trust to fill any vacancy that may arise before the Tenth Session, in accordance with the *Procedures for the Selection and Appointment of Members of the Executive Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust*.

RESOLUTION 13/2022

COOPERATION WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling Article 1.2 and Article 19.3 (g) and (l) of the International Treaty, which provide for the Governing Body to establish and maintain cooperation with, as well as take note of the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as well as Article 20.5, which requires the Secretary to cooperate with the Secretariat of the CBD;

Recalling Resolution 11/2019 regarding cooperation with the COP to the CBD, its subsidiary bodies and Secretariat;

Further recalling the results of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 2019, which shows that biodiversity is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history;

Acknowledging the need for continued capacity building support to Parties, especially developing countries, for the mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty, the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol;

1. **Takes note** of the recent developments and ongoing processes under the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol that are of relevance to the International Treaty;
2. **Requests** the Secretary to continue monitoring and participating in the relevant processes related to the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol, in order to promote practical, harmonious and appropriate interfaces among them, both nationally and internationally;
3. **Emphasizes** the importance of maintaining cooperation, complementarity and coherence as well as avoiding duplication between the International Treaty and the CBD, and with other biodiversity-related conventions, in the development and implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Post-2020 GBF);
4. **Recalling** the recommendations made by the Governing Body through Resolution 11/2019 that, inter alia:
 - Targets for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) should be maintained and strengthened, including by relying on monitoring systems available through the reporting processes of the International Treaty and FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the experience gained in monitoring Target 2.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Such targets should deal not only with conservation of genetic diversity, but also with its sustainable use;
 - Targets on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilisation should expressly take into account the International Treaty and its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (Multilateral System) and their monitoring should rely, inter alia, on the monitoring systems available through the reporting systems of the International Treaty;
5. **Requests** the Secretary to, again, bring these considerations made by the Governing Body to the Executive Secretary of the CBD for transmission to the fifteenth meeting of the COP to the CBD;
6. **Invites** the Parties to the CBD to adopt a Post-2020 GBF which can contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use;

7. **Invites** the Parties to the CBD, to take into account the experience gained in the operations and implementation of the Multilateral System when finalizing discussions on the text of the Post-2020 GBF and a potential decision on digital sequence information to ensure that the framework fully recognizes the importance of the food and agriculture sector in implementing the framework when it is adopted;
8. **Invites** Contracting Parties to ensure that there is effective liaison between the respective national focal points of the CBD and the International Treaty, to ensure that considerations relevant for the Treaty are integrated in the Post-2020 GBF, and that the contributions of PGRFA are fully integrated and supported within National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans;
9. **Invites** Contracting Parties to consider the best practices and lesson learned from the implementation of the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action in the context of the CBD, relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, and **looks forward** to the future gender plan of action for the post-2020 period;
10. **Requests** the Secretary, in line with the guidance provided in this Resolution and in Resolution 11/2019, to continue engaging and providing inputs in the process towards the elaboration of the Post-2020 GBF, and its implementation once adopted;
11. **Requests** the Secretary to report back to the Governing Body at its Tenth Session, on the progress with the adoption of the Post-2020 GBF, with recommendations to support the Post-2020 GBF, once adopted, and suggested actions to be taken into account by the International Treaty, for consideration by the Governing Body;
12. **Decides** that at its Tenth Session, it will consider the Post-2020 GBF, when adopted, and also consider follow-up actions to support the implementation of the framework and integrate those into its Multi-Year Programme of Work, as appropriate;
13. **Welcomes** the relevant reports of the IPBES and **recognizes** their importance to the mandate and work of the International Treaty, and that the implementation of the International Treaty may also benefit from the findings of those assessments and, therefore, **requests** the Secretary to continue following the related processes and report any relevant developments to the Governing Body;
14. **Thanks** the COP to the CBD for its invitation to the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions to develop strategic guidance, in accordance with CBD COP Decision XIII/21, for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-8) Trust Fund, which was recently concluded;
15. **Notes** that the GEF-8 gives significant consideration to biodiversity and, in particular, to the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and that further advice would be provided to it by the COP to the CBD at its fifteenth meeting and, therefore, **reiterates** the elements of advice provided previously through Resolution 11/2019 and the following ones:
 - a) **Invites** the GEF to place a strong emphasis on the sustainable use of PGRFA in particular in its support to mainstreaming biodiversity within the agriculture sector, and in general in its work to improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems;
 - b) **Thanks** the GEF for recognizing in the GEF-8 Biodiversity Strategy the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture and in achieving food security worldwide, and in doing so, for considering projects for the mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the Treaty; and **invites** FAO, the United Nations Development Programme and other agencies implementing or executing such projects to liaise with the Secretariat of the International Treaty to synthesize and disseminate lessons learned and knowledge gained arising from such projects to support the implementation of the International Treaty;
 - c) **Invites** the GEF to take into account the specificities of PGRFA and the need for specific solutions in its support to promote policies and plans for scientific research and development on the use of genetic resources under national access and benefit-sharing frameworks; national investments and to capacity building to add value to genetic resources as well as regional collaborations;

16. **Invites** Contracting Parties, in line with Article 18.4 (a) of the International Treaty, to ensure due attention to plans and programmes that support the implementation of the International Treaty when implementing relevant programme directions that have been adopted within the context of GEF-8;
17. **Requests** the Secretary to continue following processes within the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol concerning “digital sequence information / genetic sequence data” (DSI/GSD) on genetic resources and providing information on relevant International Treaty activities and collaborate and, as appropriate, coordinate with the Secretariat of the CBD on issues related to DSI/GSD on genetic resources in order to promote coherence and mutual supportiveness between the respective conventions and implementing processes, and report to the Governing Body at its next Session;
18. **Thanks** the Secretariat for the activities undertaken to enhance cooperation, coordination and complementarity among the biodiversity-related conventions and **requests** the Secretary to continue this engagement during the next biennium;
19. **Invites** the United Nations Environment Programme to build on the Bern Process and continue to strengthen cooperation and coordination among biodiversity-related conventions contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the Post-2020 GBF, when adopted, by facilitating the process for cooperation among Parties to the relevant biodiversity-related conventions;
20. **Requests** the Secretary and encourages Contracting Parties to actively engage in this effort contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the Post-2020 GBF, when adopted;
21. **Commends** the Secretariat for its efforts to cooperate with the Secretariat of the CBD and **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue exploring with the Secretariat of the CBD, practical means and activities to further enhance this cooperation in line with the Memorandum of Cooperation, and the Joint Initiative between the two Secretariats, and to report to the Governing Body;
22. **Requests** the Secretary to cooperate with the Executive Secretary of the CBD by providing information on developments and practical implementation experiences within the International Treaty, including to inform future discussions on Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol;
23. **Welcomes** the on-going collaboration between the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the CBD in the monitoring process on the achievement of SDG Target 15.6 “Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed” and **requests** the Secretary to report back to the Governing Body at each Session on any relevant developments regarding such collaboration;
24. **Welcomes** the engagement of the Secretariat of the International Treaty in capacity development activities on harmonious and mutually supportive implementation and **requests** the Secretary to continue engaging in such activities, subject to the availability of financial resources;
25. **Welcomes** the efforts of the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the CBD in collaborating with the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and other partners to bring together stakeholders and experts involved in the implementation of the International Treaty, the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol, and **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue facilitating such interaction on the mutual supportiveness and harmonious implementation of the instruments, and to report the outcomes of such activities to the Governing Body;
26. **Requests** the Secretary to continue reporting on cooperation with the CBD at each Session of the Governing Body.

RESOLUTION 14/2022

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 (PGRFA);

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 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, subject to the availability of financial 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, and **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 complementarity 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, 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 the World Intellectual Property Organization; 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 finalize the work requested in para. 10 of Resolution 12/2019 as soon as possible and report to the Governing Body at its Tenth Session;
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, including with the Human Rights Council and other international human rights bodies, and related collaborative activities;

PART II: ARTICLE 15 INSTITUTIONS

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling the provisions of Article 15.1 and Article 15.5 of the International Treaty, and its previous Resolutions related to Institutions that have concluded agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty;

14. **Takes note** of the information provided in the reports by institutions that have concluded agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty, **commends** those institutions that submitted reports for the valuable contents and **urges** them to continue providing similar information to future sessions of the Governing Body;
15. **Invites** those institutions that have not submitted any report, to do so at the Tenth Session of the Governing Body and **requests** the Secretary to communicate this invitation to such institutions;
16. **Further requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue holding regular or periodic consultations with institutions that have concluded agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty, on implementation of the agreements and policy guidance, including on the transfer of accessions in the collections with the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, and report to the Governing Body at each Session;
17. **Takes note** of the on-going efforts to secure the international collections whose orderly maintenance is at risk or threatened, and **requests** the Secretary to continue exercising his

responsibilities and providing support under Article 15 of the International Treaty, in close collaboration with host governments, as applicable, and in partnership with other interested governments and relevant institutions that are capable of providing financial, technical and other necessary support to these efforts;

18. **Urges** Contracting Parties, donors and other stakeholders to provide the necessary financial and material support to facilitate these efforts;
19. **Reiterates** its invitation the host governments of international collections in COGENT that have not yet done so, to sign agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty so to bring all the international collections in the network under the purview of the International Treaty;
20. **Requests** the Secretary to continue in the efforts to secure agreements with other relevant international institutions that meet the requirements of Article 15 of the International Treaty;
21. **Takes note** that, under the One CGIAR reform, CGIAR Centers maintain their legal status as independent legal entities in their own right, and that the Article 15 agreements with CGIAR Centers, including those which have opted not to join the One CGIAR unified governance arrangements, remain in place;
22. **Noting** the advice provided during the Ninth Session of the Governing Body that CIFOR-ICRAF and ICRISAT are facing funding difficulties, as they no longer receive direct support from the CGIAR Trust Fund, therefore **calls upon** all relevant stakeholders to assist the genebanks financially, as appropriate;
23. **Emphasises** the need, to ensure the long-term safety of the Article 15 IARC genebanks and the distribution of germplasm being held ‘in trust’ by the CGIAR centres and other Article 15 genebanks, and for long-term solutions for all Article 15 genebanks through strengthening the involvement of the International Treaty and the Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust);
24. **Takes note** of the *Report on CGIAR-Crop Trust System Level Review of Genebank Costs and Operations (GCO)* and **invites** the CGIAR System to play a catalytic role in the implementation of policies and standards established by the Governing Body and in providing benefits such as training, capacity building and support to data management;
25. **Notes with appreciation** the collaboration between CGIAR and the Secretariat of the International Treaty on the *Guidance Note for CGIAR Centers’ Genebanks for Improving Accession Management* and **invites** the CGIAR Centers to continue incorporating the policy guidance by the Governing Body into the management of international collections of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
26. **Welcomes** the Global Plant Cryopreservation Initiative to provide the safety back-up of clonal crops; **invites** the CGIAR Centers sustaining the Initiative and the Crop Trust to deliver capacity building and training for the effective operation of cryopreservation; and also **invites** the CGIAR Centers to liaise with technical experts and potential donors in further developing the Initiative.

PART III: MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS OF THE SVALBARD GLOBAL SEED VAULT

Recalling Resolutions 12/2017 and Resolution 12/2019;

Recalling that the adoption of the International Treaty gave the impetus to the Government of Norway to proceed with the establishment of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault (Seed Vault);

Reaffirming that the Seed Vault is an important element of the global system for ex situ conservation and use of PGRFA;

27. **Thanks** the Government of Norway for the submission of the report on the management and operations of the Seed Vault and invites it to continue updating the Bureau and the Governing Body on the operations and management of the Seed Vault;
28. **Notes** the completion of the structural, technical and administrative upgrades of the Seed Vault, and the new security and operations management system meant to ensure further the integrity of

the Seed Vault and security of its contents, and *commends* the Government of Norway for undertaking these upgrades;

29. *Further notes* the 100-year Seed Longevity Experiment in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault started in 2020 and the printing of seed data on nanofilm;

30. *Renews* the invitation to Contracting Parties, international institutions and other relevant eligible bodies and organizations to consider making use of the Seed Vault as part of their strategy for securing their important seed collections and for long-term storage of PGRFA;

31. *Requests* the Secretary to continue collaborating with the Government of Norway and its partners in related activities, including supporting relevant communication and outreach initiatives and in promoting the use of the Seed Vault;

32. *Welcomes* the reconvening of the Seed Vault's International Advisory Panel and *requests* the Chairperson of the Governing Body to continue chairing the Panel and carrying out such functions as the role may require;

33. *Requests* the Secretary to explore further with the Government of Norway other practical means to enhance the linkages between the International Treaty and the Seed Vault, including the linking of data through the Global Information System, and report to the Bureau and the Governing Body.

RESOLUTION 15/2022

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

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling Resolution 13/2019;

1. *Takes note of* the provisional Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2022–2027 as contained in the *Annex* to this Resolution;
2. *Requests* the Secretary, under the guidance of the Bureau of the Tenth Session, to update the provisional MYPOW, based on the decisions made at its Ninth Session, and *requests* the Secretary to disseminate it to Contracting Parties together with the Report of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body;

CONSIDERATION OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND INTERSESSIONAL PROCESSES

3. *Requests* the Secretary, in supporting the arrangements for subsidiary bodies and intersessional processes, to take into consideration the following possible practical measures: i) the holding of concurrent meetings; ii) the development of mechanisms or practices to facilitate consultations among different subsidiary body members; iii) the development of tools to facilitate the communication of information from national focal points or regional Vice-Chairs to subsidiary body members;
4. *Decides* to consider, at its Tenth Session, when nominating Co-Chairs for subsidiary bodies, ways to ensure balanced regional representation and independence of Co-Chairs.

Annex

**PROVISIONAL 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)	<p>Suggestions on future strategy to address the bottlenecks identified in the bottlenecks study</p> <p>Concept note for the Joint Programme for Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA</p>	[Update on the development of training materials on conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA]	
Farmers' Rights (Art. 9)	<p>Report from the Symposium on the implementation of Farmers' Rights</p> <p>Update on the implementation of Farmers' Rights</p>	<p>Update of the (i) Inventory of national measures; (ii) Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights</p> <p>Report with an assessment on the state of implementation of Art. 9</p>	
Multilateral System (Art. 10-13)	<p>[Presentation of a report on availability of material]</p> <p>Consideration of potential implications of the use of 'digital sequence information' on PGRFA for the objectives of the International Treaty</p> <p>Enhancement of the Multilateral System: checkpoint</p> <p>Update on the operations of the Multilateral System</p>	<p>Enhancement of the Multilateral System: final report of the Working Group</p> <p>Consideration of a report on global availability and transfer of germplasm, including gaps and lessons learnt</p>	

* The provisional MYPOW table will be updated under the guidance of the Bureau of the Tenth Session. The final version will be disseminated to Contracting Parties through the International Treaty's website, in due course.

Global Information System (Art. 17)	Consideration of Programme of Work on the Global Information System (2023–xxxx) Update on the operations of GLIS		[Report on the implementation of the Programme of Work on GLIS (2023–2028)]
Funding Strategy (Art. 18)	Update on the implementation of the Funding Strategy	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	Presentation of Third State of the World's PGRFA Consideration of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework Strengthening information-based decision-making in PGRFA management: results of two new global analyses		Stocktaking of international goals and targets related to PGRFA (Sustainable Development Goals, Post-2020 GBF etc.)

RESOLUTION 16/2022

CONSIDERATION OF DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION / GENETIC SEQUENCE DATA ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR THE OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling that Resolution 13/2019 on the Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Governing Body of the International Treaty requested the Secretary to inform the Governing Body at its Ninth Session of the state of discussions and outcomes of the related processes in the Convention on Biological Diversity and in the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as they relate to the potential implications of the use of “digital sequence information” on genetic resources for the objectives of the International Treaty;

1. **Notes** that the Governing Body has not yet decided on the official terminology for digital sequence information / genetic sequence data and therefore uses “DSI/GSD” until new terminology is agreed;
2. **Thanks** those Contracting Parties and stakeholders that provided inputs on “DSI/GSD” as requested by the Governing Body, through Resolution 13/2019;
3. **Requests** the Secretary to continue following the discussions on Digital Sequence Information (DSI) in other fora and to continue coordinating with the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in any related activities, in order to ensure coherence and avoid duplication of work;
4. **Takes note** of the document IT/GB-9/22/17.2 Rev.1, *Consideration of Digital Sequence Information in Accordance with Resolution 13/2019 and the Multi-Year Programme of Work*, in particular paragraphs 13-15 regarding the latest deliberations on DSI on genetic resources of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
5. **Encourages** Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in their consideration of potential decisions on a solution for fair and equitable benefit-sharing from the use of DSI on genetic resources, to bear in mind the need for implementation of the International Treaty and of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol to be mutually supportive;
6. **Requests** the Secretary to continue monitoring developments in all relevant international fora with regard to “DSI/GSD” and to report to the Governing Body at its Tenth Session for consideration of the implications of those developments for the objectives and the functioning of the International Treaty;
7. **Acknowledges** that, in deciding to resume the process for enhancing the functioning of the Multilateral System, the Governing Body has requested the Co-chairs accord early attention to the issue of “DSI/GSD” and **requests** that the Co-chairs’ checkpoint report include the progress made regarding “DSI/GSD”;
8. **Requests** the Secretary to invite Contracting Parties and stakeholders to provide information about their capacity building needs for accessing and using “DSI/GSD” and to share their experiences in this regard;
9. **Requests** the Secretary to compile the information provided, for consideration of the Governing Body at its Tenth Session;

10. ***Calls on*** Contracting Parties and other donors with the capacity to do so to promote the provision of financial resources and technical assistance to reduce the existing gap on capacity regarding “DSI/GSD” between developed and developing countries.

RESOLUTION 17/2022

WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET 2022–2023

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recognizing the need to enhance transparency and accountability of the financial administration of the International Treaty and to clarify the tasks of the Budget Committee established at each Session;

Recalling that:

- a) The FAO Governing Bodies have determined that the International Treaty is a priority FAO activity;
- b) The FAO Conference has recommended that “statutory bodies and conventions will be strengthened, enjoying more financial and administrative authority within the framework of FAO and a greater degree of self-funding by their Members”;

Recognizing that:

- a) The International Treaty has progressively advanced in the consideration of its growth and enhancement strategies;
- b) The execution of the Work Programme is subject to adequate resources being available, in a timely manner, within the Core Administrative Budget, as well as other resources that are not under the direct control of the Governing Body but are addressed in the Funding Strategy, and this will be essential to the future functioning, integrity and effectiveness of the International Treaty;
- c) The Core Administrative Budget is structurally under-resourced, impacting the execution of the Work Programme and the level of available non-core budget contributions;
- d) Financial disclosure, information on previously conducted audits, and provision of in-depth audit statements and recommendations facilitates the ability of the Treaty to raise funds from a broader array of donors;

1. **Thanks** the Secretariat for providing information on their implementation of the Work Programme and Budget of the previous biennium, and their effort to improve transparency and accountability, including through reporting on the impact of the activities under the Work Programme, and **recognizes** the need for further efforts;
2. **Adopts** the International Treaty’s Work Programme and the Core Administrative Budget for the Biennium 2022–2023, as contained in *Annex 1* to this Resolution, recognizing that all proposed activities are subject to availability of funding;
3. **Adopts** the indicative scale of contributions, in accordance with Financial Rule V.1 b), as contained in *Annex 3* to this Resolution;
4. **Confirms** the authorization to the Secretary, on an exceptional basis, to draw upon the available unspent balances or contributions from prior financial periods an amount up to USD 150,000 to offset contributions in 2023, provided that the use of the balance does not reduce the working capital reserve, and that any such utilization be distributed to the work programme proportionate to the approved budget;
5. **Urges** all Contracting Parties to provide the resources required in the Core Administrative Budget, recognizing that the budget as adopted reflects the consensus of Contracting Parties, including in regard to voluntary payments in accordance with *Annex 3* to this Resolution;

6. **Notes with concern** that the number of Contracting Parties that contribute to the Core Administrative Budget remains low, and **urges** Contracting Parties who made no, or only limited contributions in previous biennia, to make contributions to the Core Administrative Budget;
7. **Requests** the Secretary take further steps to improve the provision of financial information, including in accordance with 8.2 of the International Treaty's Financial Rules;
8. **Invites** the Secretary to continue exploring ways, within the existing FAO disclosure policy, to improve the provision of financial information in order to enhance transparency regarding the trust funds of the Treaty, to facilitate due diligence and decision-making by Contracting Parties, and by existing and potential donors;
9. **Requests** the Secretary to improve visibility of relevant financial information on the website of the International Treaty, in accordance with Rules V and VIII of the Treaty's Financial Rules and any enhancement in reporting;
10. **Recommends** the project proposals contained in the Addendum to Annex 1 to this Resolution to donor Governments and institutions, and **invites** them to provide the funding necessary for the implementation of these projects which will be critical for the continued successful implementation of the International Treaty in the 2022–2023 biennium, in particular by contributing to the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes;
11. **Invites** States that are not Contracting Parties, inter-governmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations and other entities, to also contribute to the Core Administrative Budget, consistent with relevant FAO rules;
12. **Takes note** of the contribution from FAO of USD 2,000,000, and **thanks** it for its continued support to the implementation of the International Treaty;
13. **Decides** to retain the level of the Working Capital Reserve at USD 580,000;
14. **Notes** that Contracting Parties, who have not contributed to the Working Capital Reserve, will be requested to contribute the balance necessary to bring the reserve up to its established level, in the call for contributions for the 2022–2023 biennium, by separate voluntary contributions, in addition to their voluntary contributions to the Core Administrative Budget;
15. **Approves** the Secretariat staffing structure for the Biennium 2022–2023 set out in *Annex 2* to this Resolution, recognizing that the precise staffing arrangements are a matter of the normal executive authority of the Secretary;
16. **Thanks** those Governments who have generously donated substantial funds for additional project activities, outside the Core Administrative Budget, in support of the implementation of the International Treaty and, in particular, the implementation of the Work Programme for the 2020–2021 biennium;
17. **Thanks** the Government of Italy for the staff resources that they have made available to support and extend the activities of the International Treaty;
18. **Encourages** Contracting Parties to contribute to the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes to support projects which will be critical for the continued successful implementation of the International Treaty in the 2022–2023 biennium;
19. **Confirms** that Contracting Parties that are developing countries and countries with economies in transition should be informed by the Secretary, in a timely manner before a meeting, of the availability of resources to support their participation in that meeting from the Fund referred to in the International Treaty's Financial Rule VI.2 c), and that, where such funding is limited, priority should be given to the least developed countries;
20. **Encourages** Contracting Parties and other donors to replenish the Fund to Support the Participation of Developing Countries in the amount of USD 700,000 for the 2022–2023 biennium and **requests** the Secretary to include a call for funds to this effect in the annual letters calling for contributions to the Core Administrative Budget;

21. **Agrees and collectively grants its advance consent** to the budget revisions to the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes and the Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Developing Countries that may arise from any additional contribution to these Trust Funds, in accordance with the financial rules or administrative requirements of FAO;
22. **Agrees** that all interests accruing to the multi-donor Trust Funds of the International Treaty be used in accordance with the terms and purposes of the respective Funds;
23. **Invites** FAO to take into account the specific nature and structure of the International Treaty's Trust Funds and to make necessary arrangements to minimize administrative burdens that might impede the receipt of contributions into those funds;
24. **Encourages** the Secretariat, all groups undertaking intersessional work to identify scope for less costly platforms and work methods to generate efficiencies and cost savings without negatively impacting the delivery of the agreed work programme;
25. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to seek opportunities to save on travel and other costs;
26. **Requests** the Secretary to submit a draft Work Programme and Budget for the Biennium 2024–2025, including a Secretariat staffing table and a Draft Resolution, for the consideration of the Governing Body at its Tenth Session;
27. **Requests** the Secretary to provide a detailed financial report and a summary narrative report on the implementation of the Work Programme 2022–2023, at least six weeks in advance, to the Tenth Session of the Governing Body;
28. **Requests** the Secretary to make available information about FAO's accountability standards relevant to the International Treaty on the website prior to the Tenth Session;
29. **Invites** interested Contracting Parties to ask FAO to include a special item in the external auditor's report specific to the finances of the International Treaty;
30. **Thanks** the Bureau of the Ninth Session and the Secretary for preparing the draft Terms of Reference for the Budget Committee;
31. **Approves** the *Terms of Reference for the Budget Committee* as contained in *Annex 4* to this Resolution, and **agrees** to review the Terms of Reference, from time to time, and update them when or as necessary.

Annexes to the Resolution:

Annex 1: Work Programme and the Core Administrative Budget for the Biennium 2022–2023

Addendum to Annex 1: Donor-supported activities under the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes

Annex 2: Secretariat staffing structure for the Biennium 2022–2023

Annex 3: Indicative Scale of Contributions

Annex 4: Terms of Reference for the Budget Committee

Work Programme for the Biennium 2022–2023

I. INTRODUCTION

It will be recalled that it became necessary to postpone the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, originally scheduled for 2021, until 2022 due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Consequently, the Governing Body convened its First Special Session in December 2021 to approve, on an exceptional basis, the Interim Budget for 2022 to ensure that the Governing Body's functions and the necessary operations of the Secretariat continued effectively throughout the year 2022.

In adopting the Interim Budget, the Governing Body "*affirm[ed]* that the approval of the Interim Budget is without any prejudice to a final budget to be approved by the Governing Body at its Ninth Session, which will integrate the Interim Budget, as may be adjusted, and take into account any relevant developments that might have occurred after the adoption of the Interim Budget".

The Interim Budget allowed the Secretariat to continue functioning and, thus, ensured that the vital operations of the Treaty continued during the year despite the exceptional circumstances. As noted in the document, IT/GB-Sp1/21/3, while the interim budget for 2022 was meant to cover up to 31 December 2022, any necessary adjustments would be made when the Governing Body adopts the Work Programme and Budget for the 2022–2023 biennium at its Ninth Session. Consequently, as there were no material developments or changes occurring, which significantly affects the overall expenditure trends during 2022, as envisaged, the full biennial draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2022–2023 biennium is being presented en bloc for the consideration of the Governing Body.

Since early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated a broad range of measures and restrictions which severely affected some activities, travel and physical gatherings, including in-person meetings, resulting in the recourse to virtual meetings. However, while many of these measures and restrictions are only now being gradually but cautiously eased, they have been instrumental in reducing or deferring expenditure under the Core Administrative Budget during the 2020–2021 biennium and have given rise to an apparent surplus of available funds at 31 December 2021.

It should be borne in mind that much of this apparent surplus is also due to the fact that the Ninth Session of the Governing Body was originally scheduled to be held in 2021 and that the related budget was included in the 2020–2021 Core Administrative Budget. These unspent funds were carried forward at the end of 2021 into the current accounting period and will be disbursed in 2022 in relation to the Ninth Session. Given the timing of the Ninth Session, the final expenditure incurred will not be known or finalized until the end of 2022. Furthermore, considering the timing of normal year-end accounting closure procedures, the final figure of available funds will be known in March-April 2023.

Once the final expenditure for 2022 (including the cost of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body) is known, the Secretary could inform the Bureau of the final savings made during the period 2020–2022 and, accordingly, a proposal can be made for consideration at the Tenth Session of the Governing Body to use such savings, or part thereof, to reduce the voluntary contributions that will be requested from Contracting Parties in relation to the 2024–2025 budget.

In the context of the above, the draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2022–2023 biennium is based on the experiences gained and lessons learnt from the implementation of the work programmes and budget in recent biennia, updated to address the latest policy and operational context of the International Treaty and incorporate progress made during the past biennium.

At the systemic and governance levels, the aim of the current draft Work Programme and Budget is to:

- Continue advancing the implementation and consolidate the enhancement of the Treaty systems on a sustainable financial basis;
- Utilize available resources in the most effective way possible;

- Enhance the transparency of governance of the Treaty and ensure the effective capacity of the Governing Body to decide on the work programme of the Treaty and its biennial budget;
- Make possible a clear comparison of the approved work programme of the 2020–2021 biennium with the proposed work programme for 2022–2023 biennium, by maintaining the same basic structure;
- Facilitate structured reporting as a basis for measuring and assessing progress in implementation.

The key strategic objectives reflected in the Work Programme for the biennium are to:

- continue the enhancement of the core Treaty systems and strategies, particularly the enhancement of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (Multilateral System); the Funding Strategy; strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Work on the Global Information System (GLIS) on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA); advance the policy and technical work on conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, and Farmers' Rights, in a synergistic manner;
- ensure balanced and comprehensive realization of the Treaty's objectives;
- address the funding needs for the elements of the Funding Strategy but also the overall Work Programme to enable the full implementation of the Treaty;
- continue the harmonious joint implementation of the Treaty, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Nagoya Protocol, as complementary and essential parts of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing, ensuring that the Treaty maintains its critical role in the global governance of PGRFA;
- amplify the Treaty's profile, policy outreach and governance role and engage in strategic partnerships to enable Treaty contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Post-2020 GBF), when adopted, and other relevant global initiatives and policies.

A. Core Maintenance Function of the Work Programme

Articles 19 and 20 of the International Treaty

As a basic and fundamental part of the Work Programme, the Secretary shall perform all the functions envisaged under Articles 19 and 20 of the International Treaty with regard to its administration and maintenance, with particular attention to Article 20.2 to 20.5.

Compliance

The compliance procedures and mechanisms established under Article 21 of the International Treaty aim to support the Governing Body in monitoring implementation and providing support, advice and assistance, especially to developing countries and countries with economies in transition regarding compliance.

The Secretary will continue to support the Compliance Committee's work, assist Contracting Parties in preparing and submitting their national reports, and organise various capacity development and training activities. Assistance and advice would be provided to Contracting Parties to comply with all provisions of the International Treaty, and address possible issues of non-compliance.

Capacity building and training for implementation of the International Treaty

To support the Governing Body with intergovernmental policy processes and operations of the main systems of the International Treaty, capacity development and training for effective implementation of International Treaty provisions would continue to be provided to Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders, including on the Multilateral System and GLIS. Particular focus would be on the mainstreaming of PGRFA into the relevant national plans and development programmes to promote conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

Others cross-cutting issues

Cooperation with other organizations and partner institutions will continue to contribute to advancing the implementation of the International Treaty. Major outputs would include the contributions to the implementation of the Post-2020 GBF led by the CBD, when adopted, and to the preparation of the Third Report on the State of the World's PGRFA in cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA).

Effective communication continues to be key to advancing the implementation of the International Treaty, by increasing visibility and advocating the value of the International Treaty in the PGRFA community as well as in the wider agricultural and biodiversity sectors and the general public. Highlighting the contribution of the International Treaty to global food security and sustainable agriculture in the context of climate change is important. This would include further demonstration of the linkage and contribution of the International Treaty to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 and 15 related to PGRFA, as well as informing Contracting Parties and other constituencies about enhancements made by the Governing Body to the key Treaty systems.

B. Core Implementation Functions of the Work Programme

The elements of the Implementation Functions reflect the progressive development of the Treaty systems. This component seeks to sustain and advance the progress achieved for the Treaty systems in the past biennium.

CIF-1 Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (Multilateral System)

The Multilateral System (MLS) is a core mechanism of the International Treaty. It ensures the availability of PGRFA at the global level and the sharing of benefits arising from the use of more than 2.3 million PGRFA worldwide. The Secretary would continue organizing training sessions and updating manuals and educational resources to further assist users of the Multilateral System.

The function of the Easy-SMTA system to facilitate the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) reporting from the MLS Data Store for the generation of statistics and the help-desk to provide direct support to users are critical structural elements in the operations of the Multilateral System. They are also reliable sources of information for the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures.

In order to assist the Governing Body with review of information reports, the Secretary will continue maintaining the essential operations of the Multilateral System. This will also help to increase information on the material available in the Multilateral System at the accession level, and fully characterised and evaluated. An enhanced Multilateral System would require new measures, approaches and additional resources to support the national implementation.

The following outputs are envisaged for the implementation of the Multilateral System:

- All the core information systems and tools which support the operation of the Multilateral System would be up and running;
- Contracting Parties would be supported in the notification of material available in the Multilateral System;
- Users of the Multilateral System would participate more actively and benefit from the SMTA.

Article 15 agreements constitute the backbone of the Multilateral System. Liaising with the signatory international institutions to channel the policy guidance by the Governing Body and collaboratively address implementation issues is part of the core functions. The following outputs are envisaged:

- The international collections operate in accordance with the policy guidance by the Governing Body and benefit from the supporting tools of the Multilateral System;
- Issues of collections under threat are addressed through cooperation with technical partners and, as applicable, the host governments;
- Representatives of the holding institutions actively participate in the Multilateral System.

Article 15 of the International Treaty envisages the conclusion of new agreements. During the biennium, efforts would be increased to cultivate existing prospects and raise the interest of new international institutions.

CIF-2 Information Systems for PGRFA – Global Information System (GLIS)

The first Programme of Work on the Global Information System will end during the biennium, and a new Programme of Work is expected to be approved at this session, incorporating the inputs provided by the Scientific Advisory Committee on the GLIS. The envisaged outputs include the management and enhancement of the GLIS Portal, including a directory of links and services, and the promotion of interoperability among existing systems through the provision of principles, technical standards and tools. The implementation of the Programme of Work will also promote transparency on the rights and obligations of users for accessing, sharing and using PGRFA-associated information, as well as the creation and enhancement of opportunities to increase knowledge about PGRFA.

The GLIS help-desk will be also a key element for this biennium. It will support the documentation of PGRFA at the national level and implementation of the critical capacity development activities identified by the Scientific Advisory Committee. Other key outputs encompass strengthening the capacity of the genebanks and other institutions to document their holdings and develop national and regional inventories and information systems, including crop wild relatives, in situ and on-farm material.

CIF-3 Funding Strategy and the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilisation

Since the adoption of the updated Funding Strategy by the Eighth Session of the Governing Body, the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilisation (the Funding Committee) developed a 5-year Operational Plan for its implementation that encompasses the requests made by the Governing Body through Resolution 3/2019 and its Annexes. The Funding Strategy and Operational Plan set a heavy agenda for the Funding Committee to take forward, and as such, it is imperative that progress is made in the biennium ahead.

The budget envisages a number of activities to implement the Funding Strategy and its Operational Plan during the biennium. It includes holding two meetings of the Funding Committee and provision for technical expertise to the Secretariat for planned activities under the Operational Plan's focus areas of "resource mobilisation" and "monitoring and review". It also includes provisions for holding an informal dialogue with the food processing industry.

By the end of the biennium, progress will be made towards the achievement of the following outputs, which are derived from the new Funding Strategy and its Operational Plan:

- Implementation of the approved Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy;
- Compilation of tools and best practices for better integration PGRFA into national development plans; Development of communication tools, products and platforms to help resource mobilization efforts and to increase outreach with users of the Multilateral System, new donors and stakeholders and the visibility and recognition of donors;
- Ongoing monitoring and review of the Funding Strategy's implementation;
- Further development of the Matrix of Funding Tools;
- Development of draft policy criteria for specific assistance under the Funding Strategy, as called for in Art.13.4 of the Treaty;
- Development of methodology for measuring Non-monetary Benefit-sharing.

CIF-4 Implementation of Articles 5 and 6 and related provisions – Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA

In light of the current discussions in other international fora, and taking into account the importance of cross-sectoral cooperation in addressing the climate crisis, the Post-2020 GBF (when adopted), the SDGs, and the outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA is more crucial than ever to the attainment of the objectives of the International Treaty. The achievement of the objectives would rely on an integrated implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the

International Treaty. The Secretary, following the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA, will focus on:

- I. Strengthening and capitalizing on ongoing initiatives to increase their benefit, impact, and visibility, including:
 - the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA, as a valuable source of information supporting Contracting Parties and stakeholders in implementing Articles 5 and 6;
 - the Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA;
 - country/region-specific studies to address bottlenecks in the implementation of Articles 5 and 6.

- II. Possible new activities to further support Contracting Parties and stakeholders in the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 include:
 - support regional briefings to Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders on the implementation of Articles 5 and 6;
 - develop a series of training materials on conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, including on cryopreservation;
 - policies and regulatory frameworks supporting conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, including crop wild relatives, and recognition schemes for local and indigenous communities and farmers;
 - awareness-raising on the value of crop genetic diversity and local activities;
 - enhanced coordination and partnerships among public institutions, researchers, private entities, and other stakeholders.

In addition, the Secretary would continue supporting regional and global consultations on technical options and setting priorities in implementing Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty.

CIF-5 Implementation of Article 9 and related provisions – Farmers’ Rights

The importance of realizing Farmers’ Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, has been recognized by the Governing Body and strongly advocated by many stakeholders during this biennium. The Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers’ Rights (Expert Group) made significant progress during the past biennium in carrying out its mandate. The *Inventory of national measures, best practices, and lessons learned on the implementation of Farmers’ Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty*, has been updated and published online. As well, the *Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers’ Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty* has been developed for finalisation and endorsement by the Governing Body.

To continue the progress made in the implementation of Article 9, some capacity building, awareness raising and outreach activities would include to:

- update, promote and disseminate the Inventory, the Options along with the educational module on Farmers’ Rights;
- support to and facilitate initiatives of Contracting Parties and relevant organizations on the promotion and realization of Farmers’ Rights, such as seminars, workshops and consultations;
- conduct a background study on the state of implementation of Farmers’ Rights;
- organize a global symposium to share experiences and discuss possible future work on Farmers’ Rights.

The Core Administrative Budget for the Biennium 2022–2023

	A	B	C
	Core Maintenance Function	Core Implementation Functions	Core Administrative Budget
All amounts in USD			
A. Human resources			
A.1 Established staff positions	4,779,146	-	4,779,146
A.3 Other consultancy costs	669,220	563,701	1,232,921
Total A. Human Resources	5,448,366	563,701	6,012,067
B. Meetings			
B.1 Governing body	732,240	-	732,240
B.2 Bureau	20,340	-	20,340
B.3 Compliance Committee	35,595	-	35,595
B.4 Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization	35,595	-	35,595
B.5 Hospitality expenses for meetings of Statutory Bodies	10,170	-	10,170
B.6 Activity related	-	-	-
Total B. Meetings	833,940	-	833,940
C. Other costs			
C.1 Core staff duty travel	284,760	26,500	311,260
C.2 Publications and communication	50,850	20,500	71,350
C.3 Supplies and equipment	25,425	6,000	31,425
C.4 Contracts	65,597	13,000	78,597
C.5 Staff training	25,425	-	25,425
C.6 Miscellaneous	20,340	-	20,340
Total C. Other Costs	472,397	66,000	538,397
Total A + B + C	6,754,703	629,701	7,384,403
D. General Operating Services	202,859	18,891	221,750
Operating Budget	6,957,562	648,592	7,606,154
E. Support Costs	297,454	38,915	336,369
Totals	7,255,016	687,507	7,942,523

Funding of the Proposed Core Administrative Budget	
Total Core Work Programme	7,942,523
Less:	
F. FAO contribution	- 2,000,000
Contributions from the unspent balance at 31/12/2021	- 133,248
Net amount to be funded by Contracting Parties	5,809,275

Resource Requirements for Treaty Maintenance Functions in 2022 - 2023

Treaty Article GB Doc reference	Core Maintenance Function		
	19-20		
	17, 17 Add.1		
	Cost - USD	Inflation increase 1.7%	Total Cost - USD
A. Human resources			
A.1 Established staff positions In accordance with approved Secretariat staffing table	4,779,146	-	4,779,146
<i>D1 (Secretary)</i>	509,088		
<i>P5 (Deputy Secretary & Senior Technical Officer, Policy and Governance)</i>	496,809		
<i>P4 (Programme Officer, Programme and Management)</i>	390,888		
<i>P4 (Technical Officer, MLS Operations, Reporting and Global Information System)</i>	422,159		
<i>P4 (Technical Officer, Multilateral System, Legal and Policy Support, and Compliance)</i>	422,159		
<i>P4 (Technical Officer, Funding Strategy, Project Dev. and Strategic Partnerships)</i>	422,159		
<i>P4 (Technical Officer, Liaison with CBD, CGIAR and other organizations)</i>	422,159		
<i>P3 (Technical Officer, Systems Operations Support)</i>	347,095		
<i>P3 (Technical Officer, Implementation Support and Capacity Development; 12 months)</i>	173,547		
<i>G6 Administrative support clerk</i>	272,212		
<i>G6 Meetings support clerk (ex G-5)</i>	272,212		
<i>G5 Secretary</i>	224,856		
<i>G4 Clerk (new)</i>	209,667		
<i>G4 Clerk</i>	194,136		
A.3 Consultancy costs	669,220		669,220
Treaty maintenance and Statutory meeting related	448,641	-	
Communications and editorial related	220,579	-	
Total A. Human Resources	5,448,366	-	5,448,366
B. Meetings -Statutory Bodies			
B.1 Governing body	720,000	12,240	732,240
<i>Consultants</i>	50,000	850	50,850
<i>Contracts</i>	60,000	1,020	61,020
<i>Locally Contracted Labour & Overtime</i>	25,000	425	25,425
<i>Travel (Secretariat & Interpreters)</i>	120,000	2,040	122,040
<i>Expendable Procurement</i>	7,000	119	7,119
<i>General Operating Expenses</i>	5,000	85	5,085
<i>General Operating Expenses - external common services</i>	3,000	51	3,051
<i>General Operating Expenses - internal common services (interpretation, translation & printing)</i>	450,000	7,650	457,650
B.2 Bureau	20,000	340	20,340
B.3 Compliance Committee	35,000	595	35,595
B.4 Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization	35,000	595	35,595

B.5 Hospitality expenses for meetings of Statutory Bodies	10,000	170	10,170
Total B. Meetings	820,000	13,940	833,940
C. Other costs			
C.1 Staff duty travel	280,000	4,760	284,760
C.2 Publications and communication	50,000	850	50,850
C.3 Supplies and equipment	25,000	425	25,425
C.4 Contracts			
<i>Hosting SMTA in UNICC</i>	22,000	374	22,374
<i>Hosting GLIS in FAO & website hosting and maintenance</i>	42,500	723	43,223
C.5 Staff Training	25,000	425	25,425
C.6 Miscellaneous	20,000	340	20,340
Total C. Other Costs	464,500	7,897	472,397
Total A + B + C	6,732,866	21,837	6,754,703
D. General Operating Services (3% of A + B + C)	201,986	873	202,859
Operating Budget	6,934,852	22,710	6,957,562
E. Support Costs (6% of Operating Budget excluding FAO contribution)	296,091	1,363	297,454
Core Administrative budget	7,230,943	24,073	7,255,016
F. FAO contribution	2,000,000	-	2,000,000
Contributions from the unspent balance at 31/12/2021	133,248	-	133,248
Balance to be funded by Contracting Parties	5,097,695	24,073	5,121,768

Core Implementation Functions: 2022 - 2023 Biennium - Summary

Reference	Activity	Related Annex	A.	B.	C.	Total A+B+C	D.	Operating Budget	E.	Total USD
			Human Resources	Meetings	Other Costs		General Operating Services (3% of A + B + C)		Support Costs (6% of Operating Budget)	
CIF-1	Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing	3.1	138,461	-	15,000	153,461	4,604	158,065	9,484	167,549
CIF-2	Information Systems for PGRFA	3.2	211,831	-	42,000	253,831	7,615	261,446	15,687	277,133
CIF-3	Funding Strategy	3.3	77,760	-	9,000	86,760	2,603	89,363	5,362	94,725
CIF-4	Implementation of Articles 5 & 6 and related provisions	3.4	81,648	-	-	81,648	2,449	84,097	5,046	89,143
CIF-5	Implementation of Article 9 and related provisions	3.5	54,000	-	-	54,000	1,620	55,620	3,337	58,957
Total Core Implementation Functions			563,701	-	66,000	629,701	18,891	648,592	38,915	687,507

Addendum to Annex 1

Donor-supported activities under the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes**PRIORITY AREAS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF DONORS****Conservation, Sustainable Use of PGRFA and Farmers' Rights under the Articles 5, 6 and 9 of the International Treaty**

1. Supporting Contracting Parties in their efforts to promote the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA as well as the realization of Farmers' Rights as provided in the International Treaty requires the development and maintenance of a broad spectrum of policy, administrative, legal and technical measures. It also depends upon the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders, including farmers and farmers' organizations, civil society, public and private institutions.
2. Following the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA, activities to enhance the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 focus on:
 - i. Strengthening and capitalizing on ongoing initiatives to increase their benefit, impact, and visibility, including:
 - the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA, as a valuable source of information supporting Contracting Parties and stakeholders in implementing Articles 5 and 6;
 - the Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA;
 - country/region-specific studies to address bottlenecks in the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the Treaty.
 - ii. Possible new activities to further support Contracting Parties and stakeholders in the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty:
 - regional briefings among Contracting Parties and interested stakeholders on the implementation of Articles 5 and 6;
 - development of a series of training materials on conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, including on cryopreservation;
 - policies and regulatory frameworks supporting the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, including crop wild relatives (CWR), and recognition schemes for local and indigenous communities and farmers;
 - awareness-raising on the value of crop genetic diversity and local activities; and
 - enhanced coordination and partnerships among public institutions, researchers, private entities, and other stakeholders.
3. To continue the progress made in the implementation of Article 9, some capacity building, awareness raising and outreach activities would include to:
 - Update, promote and disseminate the *Inventory of national measures, best practices, and lessons learned on the implementation of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty*, along with the *Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty* (once endorsed by this Governing Body); and the educational module on Farmers' Rights;
 - Support and facilitate the initiatives of Contracting Parties and relevant organizations on the promotion and realization of Farmers' Rights, such as seminars, workshops and consultations;

- Conduct a background study on the state of implementation of Farmers' Rights; and
- Organize a Global Symposium to share experiences and discuss possible future work on Farmers' Rights.

Estimated Cost: USD 300,000

Article 17 and the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – Support to Contracting Parties and stakeholders in the use of DOIs

4. Since the adoption of the Programme of Work on the Global Information System (GLIS) for the activities of the Governing Body has made financial provision for only a limited set of activities of the GLIS within the Core Administrative Budget. Consequently, the Secretary has repeatedly called for funds for agreed activities and developed project proposals for specific activities.

5. The document IT/GB-9/22/11, *Report on the Implementation of the Global Information System*, provides information on some of the priorities identified by the Fourth meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee, including on the further improvement of the GLIS Portal, the support to developing countries for the adoption of Digital Object Identifiers and the training and direct support for the digitalisation of characterisation and evaluation records.

6. At the same time, the Secretariat has received several requests for collaboration for the development of new crop descriptors lists for millet and for other important crops lists prioritized by the Fourth meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee.¹

7. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body took note of the project, *Development of a Globally Agreed List of Descriptors for in situ Crop Wild Relatives Documentation*. The project presented to the Governing Body the document, IT/GB-9/22/11/Inf.1, *Towards a strategic approach to the development and implementation of national databases of CWR*. Some of the main activities that can be supported for the development of national inventories include: the provision of guidance and support for the development of a national database on Crop Wild Relatives, the strengthening of capacity in the use of the global *in situ* CWR descriptors, and the development of relevant technical guidelines.²

8. Specific proposed activities to be supported include:

- At least, one meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee;
- Review of two descriptors for millet and the development of at least four crop descriptors globally;
- Development of a graphic relationship browser for breeders and farmers to find germplasm through national and international inventories and specialised data repositories;
- Direct technical assistance to developing countries for the adoption of DOIs, particularly for material available in the Multilateral System;
- Support the development of national inventories of Crop Wild Relatives in selected developing countries.

Estimated Cost: USD 450,000

Implementation of the updated Funding Strategy

9. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body decided to adopt a new Funding Strategy of the International Treaty for the period 2020 to 2025 and decided to make the Committee a standing Committee, composed of up to three representatives from each region.

10. Since the adoption of the Funding Strategy, the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilisation (the Funding Committee) developed a 5-year Operational Plan for its implementation that encompasses the requests made by the Governing Body through Resolution 3/2019 and its Annexes. The Funding Strategy and Operational Plan set a heavy agenda for the Funding Committee to take forward, and as such, it is imperative that progress is made in the biennium ahead.

¹ See annex 2 of the Report of the Committee, IT/GB-9/SAC-GLIS-4/21/Report, available at www.fao.org/3/cb5340en/cb5340en.pdf

² Available at www.fao.org/3/ni642en/ni642en.pdf

11. The proposed activities to be supported, which are derived from the new Funding Strategy and its Operational Plan, are as follows:

- Implementation of the approved Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy;
- Compilation of tools and best practices for better integration of PGRFA into national development plans;
- Development of communication tools, products and platforms to help resource mobilization efforts and to increase outreach with users of the Multilateral System, new donors and stakeholders and the visibility and recognition of donors;
- Ongoing monitoring and review of the Funding Strategy's implementation;
- Further development of the Matrix of Funding Tools;
- Development of draft policy criteria for specific assistance under the Funding Strategy, as called for in Art.13.4 of the Treaty;
- Development of a methodology for measuring Non-monetary Benefit-sharing.

Estimated Cost: USD 500,000

Benefit-sharing Support Programme

12. The Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) is a unique mechanism within the International Treaty that supports high-impact projects for small-scale farmers in developing countries, addressing livelihoods, food security and adaptation of crops to climate change. This is achieved by enhancing the management of plant genetic diversity, strengthening local seed value chains and developing a community of practice to share plant genetic material, data and knowledge.

13. The Benefit-sharing Fund gives the international community an opportunity to advance implementation of the International Treaty's objectives, make progress on the achievement of global biodiversity targets and contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 1 (No poverty), SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 13 (Climate action), SDG 15 (Life on land) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

14. In 2019, the Governing Body adopted a new Operations Manual for the Benefit-sharing Fund, with targeted priorities, an improved monitoring, evaluation and learning framework, and a stronger focus on knowledge management and communication and visibility.

15. The BSF mechanism has constantly evolved, and its grant making process and interventions will continue to be streamlined through the implementation of the new programmatic approach of the BSF and its Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework.

16. The BSF is a critical element of the updated Funding Strategy and there are increasing opportunities to mobilize funds from innovative sources and mechanisms through the programmatic approach of the new Funding Strategy. There is an ambition to maximize efforts to further diversify the sources of funding to the BSF by the end of 2025. Furthermore, the programmatic approach of the BSF aims to support the development of long-term partnerships with donors for the provision of predictable and long-term funding.

17. In order to maintain the momentum in the recent policy developments, this component will include activities to support the implementation of the revised Funding Strategy and the enhancement of the programmatic approach of the BSF, as follows:

- Resource mobilization in line with the revised Funding Strategy. This includes exploration of innovative approaches to mobilize resources for the BSF, including by further engaging the private sector, especially the seed and the food processing industries, to make further contributions to the BSF on a multi-annual basis;
- Implementation of the new Monitoring, Evaluation and Monitoring Framework, including:
 - Enhancing the knowledge and learning functions of the Benefit-sharing Fund, to contribute to supporting the implementation of the Treaty. This involves contribution to the enhancement of the cyclical and mutually enhancing relations between the MLS and the

- BSF and using evidence to increase the visibility and influence of the Treaty - towards supporting the Contracting Parties and stakeholders of the Treaty to access and generate PGRFA for food and nutrition security and climate resilience.
- Strengthening outreach and communication area to translate knowledge and evidence from local, national, regional and global levels into compelling narratives to increase the visibility of the International Treaty.
 - Strengthening the monitoring at outcome level to assess the benefits for farmers of projects funded.
 - Enhancement of the programmatic and partnership approach of the BSF, by organizing a knowledge-sharing workshops to assess the main achievements of the Fourth project cycle and to further enhance synergies and complementarities between funded projects;
 - Establishment of the BSF community of practice for communication and knowledge sharing as to enable partners to build linkages between different funding sources and explore collaborative planning and co-sponsoring opportunities;
 - Finalization and deployment of a communication toolkit to support BSF partners to effectively communicate the results and achievements arising from BSF projects within the framework of the broader communication strategy of the International Treaty;
 - Strengthen linkages between different funding sources and partners, by pursuing co-sponsoring opportunities through analysis of appropriate channels and activities to mobilize co-funding resources;
 - Further promotion of non-monetary benefits sharing under the International Treaty (exchange of information; access to and transfer of technology; capacity building) and dissemination of the information and data arising from such schemes.

Estimated cost: USD 500,000

Multilateral System Support and Extension Programme: safeguarding collections from emergencies

18. The International Treaty community benefits from a science-based system of ex situ conservation of germplasm collections in order to make them available for research, breeding and training on a global scale. A global network of national and international collections is essential for the future of global food security and sustainable agriculture, so it remains critical to strengthen the operations of those collections operating within the Multilateral System and to safeguard collections facing emergencies and that conserve unique and globally valuable genetic diversity.

19. Germplasm collections of important food crops around the world are suffering significant damage or are under imminent threat of damage due to a range of emergency or rapidly changing circumstances. These includes the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, pest and pathogen outbreaks, institutional changes, land ownership issues and conflict. Damage to unique germplasm collections is not only a loss for the holding institution, but also for the global agricultural research and breeding communities, as well as farmers and society at large. In armed conflict situations, FAO, the International Treaty and partners such as the Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust) and the Svalbard Seed Vault, have been actively cooperating with countries, including Yemen, Syria, Iraq and currently Ukraine, in order to safeguard and rehabilitate plant germplasm collections and to assist farmers to rehabilitate affected crop systems based on locally adapted germplasm.

20. In the biennium 2020-2021, resource mobilization efforts for germplasm collections at risk have concretized in the establishment of a joint initiative with the Crop Trust, the Emergency Reserve for Germplasm Collections at Risk. The Emergency Reserve addresses requests for urgent and critical support and accelerates interventions to safeguard international and national collections. Cooperation with the Treaty's network of partners, including donors, is advancing to resolve emergencies being faced by national collections, such as the case of Ukraine.

21. With regard to international collections, agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty are in place with international institutions and host governments holding the collections (Article 15 agreements),

and the management of some of those collections, i.e. for the most part, those under the management of CGIAR Centers is supported by the Crop Trust.

22. Field collections play an essential role, both in terms of conservation of unique material and as a complement to in situ conservation in the context of local agricultural systems. In situ and field collections are particularly vulnerable as they are exposed to environmental and development threats. Hence, the need to secure resources that can be mobilized rapidly to respond to immediate threats to unique, international germplasm field collections that fall under framework the International Treaty, with a status in all respects equivalent to the ex situ collections under the management of CGIAR Centers.

23. In accordance with the responsibilities ensuing from the Article 15 agreements, the International Treaty has a mandate to respond to local situations where the orderly maintenance of collections is destabilized by unforeseen events. The agreements stipulate that the Secretary must provide assistance when collections are impeded or threatened by whatever event. However, no dedicated resources are currently available to the Secretary to facilitate the delivery of this vital support, which, as reported to the Governing Body at this Session, is currently needed in several cases.

24. Coupled with such support and on a mutually reinforcing basis, the network of Article 15 collections can be expanded through new agreements with interested international institutions and host governments. The Governing Body has regularly mandated the Secretary to explore prospects for new agreements and, in the execution of such mandate, new agreements have been signed or are under consideration. In cases where new agreements are in place, the Secretary, in close collaboration with technical partners, should also provide initial support to facilitate the availability of germplasm and related data in the Multilateral System, e.g. through Easy-SMTA, Digital Object Identifiers, and Genesys. The allocation of financial resources to the expansion of the network of Article 15 agreements would allow for upgrading these activities into a coherent programme that is jointly designed and implemented with CGIAR Centers and the Crop Trust, coordinated with an updated, rational system of international germplasm conservation and availability. Proposed activities will include:

- Facilitating the rapid mobilisation and deployment of technical and financial assistance in emergency situations for Article 15 field collections, in complementarity to existing mechanisms, e.g. the Benefit-Sharing Fund, and mandates e.g. the Crop Trust, CGIAR;
- Devising and implementing short-term measures to safeguard continuous accessibility of threatened unique germplasm;
- Planning and implementing a programme of expansion of Article 15 collections;
- For new signatory institutions, delivering backstop support for the operation of the Multilateral System.

Estimated cost: USD 450,000

Capacity Development Programme for Mutual Supportiveness between the International Treaty, and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol

25. The objectives of the International Treaty are attained by close linkages with the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Governing Body has repeatedly stressed the need to enhance such linkages. The Convention's Conference of the Parties, in adopting the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, formally recognized the International Treaty as one of the complementary instruments that constitute the International Regime of Access and Benefit-sharing. Since the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol, the Secretariat and Bioversity International (now, The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT) have been implementing capacity building activities for mutual supportiveness with the International Treaty in the context of the on-going Joint Capacity Building Programme. Such activities have contributed to maintaining the relevance of the International Treaty in the context of wider access and benefit-sharing initiatives, and to promoting the implementation of the Multilateral System within, or in parallel with, new or revised access and benefit-sharing frameworks.

26. However, continuing and enhancing such activities into an ad hoc, specific capacity development programme for mutual supportiveness between the International Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol in the next biennium is necessary and justified. While membership in the Nagoya Protocol continues to increase, the

upcoming fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention is likely to generate new impetus for implementation of the Protocol in the context of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and its supporting components. In addition, several processes under the Nagoya Protocol, e.g. on digital sequence information, on its Article 10 regarding global benefit-sharing mechanisms, on Article 4 regarding the relationship with other international instruments, are likely to impact on the positioning of the International Treaty. This continuous evolution generates the need to strengthen, on a wider scale, policy dialogue and operative coordination between national authorities responsible for the International Treaty and environmental authorities in charge of the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, at international, regional and national levels.

27. Under the proposed Capacity Building Programme for Mutual Supportiveness, dialogue and coordination will be promoted through:

- Preparing joint decision-support tools for relevant ministries in implementing the Nagoya Protocol and the Multilateral System, and the development of specialized awareness-raising and outreach material on the International Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol;
- Joint capacity-building workshops for the national focal points and competent authorities of both agreements, on selected themes of reciprocal, immediate relevance, including in the context of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
- Technical and expert advice to governments upon request for the harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the Multilateral System and the Nagoya Protocol.

28. With the resources made available for the Capacity Development Programme for Mutual Supportiveness, it will also be possible to connect International Treaty stakeholders to the frameworks and initiatives for capacity building under the Convention and the Protocol, through coordination with the various implementing entities. A coherent and coordinated approach to capacity development will be pursued in order to integrate the programme into wider ABS experience sharing and lesson learning, for the efficient utilization of available resources and expertise.

Estimated cost: USD 800,000

Secretariat staffing structure for the Biennium 2022–2023***Professional***

D1 (Secretary)

P5 (Deputy Secretary and Senior Technical Officer, Policy and Governance)

P4 (Programme Officer, Programme and Management)

P4 (Technical Officer, MLS Operations, Reporting and Global Information System)

P4 (Technical Officer, Multilateral System, Legal and Policy Support, and Compliance)

P4 (Technical Officer, Funding Strategy, Project Development and Strategic Partnerships)

P4 (Technical Officer, Liaison with CBD, CGIAR and other organizations)

P3 (Technical Officer, Systems Operations Support)

P3 (Technical Officer, Implementation Support and Capacity Development)

General Service

G6 (Administrative Support Clerk)

G6 (Meetings Support Clerk)

G5 (Secretary)

G4 (Meetings Support Clerk)

G4 (Clerk)

Annex 3**Indicative Scale of Contributions for the Calendar Years 2022–2023***(2020–2021 scale is shown for comparison purposes)*

Contracting Party	Scale¹ 2022-23	Scale² 2020-21
Afghanistan	0.008%	0.009%
Albania	0.011%	0.011%
Algeria	0.150%	0.182%
Angola	0.014%	0.013%
Antigua and Barbuda	0.003%	0.003%
Argentina	0.990%	1.206%
Armenia	0.010%	0.009%
Australia	2.908%	2.913%
Austria	0.935%	0.892%
Bangladesh	0.014%	0.013%
Belgium	1.141%	1.082%
Benin	0.007%	0.004%
Bhutan	0.001%	0.001%
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.026%	0.021%
Brazil	2.773%	3.887%
Bulgaria	0.077%	0.061%
Burkina Faso	0.005%	0.004%
Burundi	0.001%	0.001%
Cambodia	0.010%	0.008%
Cameroon	0.018%	0.017%
Canada	3.620%	3.604%
Central African Republic	0.001%	0.001%
Chad	0.004%	0.005%
Chile	0.579%	0.536%
Congo, Republic of	0.007%	0.008%
Cook Islands	0.001%	0.001%
Costa Rica	0.095%	0.082%
Côte d'Ivoire	0.030%	0.017%
Croatia	0.125%	0.101%
Cuba	0.131%	0.105%
Cyprus	0.050%	0.047%
Czechia	0.468%	0.410%
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.007%	0.008%
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.014%	0.013%
Denmark	0.762%	0.730%
Djibouti	0.001%	0.001%

¹ Indicative Scale of Contributions for 2022–2023 based on the UN Scale of Assessments for 2022–2024, as established by General Assembly Resolution 76/238 adopted on 24 December 2021.

² Indicative Scale of Contributions for 2020–2021 based on the UN Scale of Assessments for 2019–2021, as established by General Assembly Resolution 73/271 adopted on 22 December 2018.

Contracting Party	Scale¹ 2022-23	Scale² 2020-21
Dominican Republic	0.092%	-
Ecuador	0.106%	0.105%
Egypt	0.191%	0.245%
El Salvador	0.018%	0.016%
Eritrea	0.001%	0.001%
Estonia	0.061%	0.051%
Eswatini	0.003%	0.003%
Ethiopia	0.014%	0.013%
Fiji	0.005%	0.004%
Finland	0.574%	0.555%
France	5.948%	5.836%
Gabon	0.018%	0.020%
Georgia	0.011%	0.011%
Germany	8.418%	8.028%
Ghana	0.033%	0.020%
Greece	0.448%	0.482%
Guatemala	0.056%	0.047%
Guinea	0.004%	0.004%
Guinea-Bissau	0.001%	0.001%
Guyana	0.005%	0.003%
Honduras	0.012%	0.012%
Hungary	0.314%	0.272%
Iceland	0.050%	0.037%
India	1.438%	1.099%
Indonesia	0.756%	0.716%
Iran, Islamic Republic of	0.511%	0.525%
Iraq	0.176%	0.170%
Ireland	0.605%	0.489%
Italy	4.393%	4.360%
Jamaica	0.011%	0.011%
Japan	11.065%	11.289%
Jordan	0.030%	0.028%
Kenya	0.041%	0.032%
Kiribati	0.001%	0.001%
Kuwait	0.322%	0.332%
Kyrgyzstan	0.003%	0.003%
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.010%	0.007%
Latvia	0.069%	0.062%
Lebanon	0.050%	0.062%
Lesotho	0.001%	0.001%
Liberia	0.001%	0.001%
Libya	0.025%	0.040%
Lithuania	0.106%	0.094%
Luxembourg	0.094%	0.088%
Madagascar	0.005%	0.005%

Contracting Party	Scale¹ 2022-23	Scale² 2020-21
Malawi	0.003%	0.003%
Malaysia	0.479%	0.449%
Maldives	0.005%	0.005%
Mali	0.007%	0.005%
Malta	0.026%	0.022%
Marshall Islands	0.001%	0.001%
Mauritania	0.003%	0.003%
Mauritius	0.026%	0.014%
Mongolia	0.005%	0.007%
Montenegro	0.005%	0.005%
Morocco	0.076%	0.072%
Mozambique	0.005%	
Myanmar	0.014%	0.013%
Namibia	0.012%	0.012%
Nepal	0.014%	0.009%
Netherlands	1.897%	1.787%
Nicaragua	0.007%	0.007%
Niger	0.004%	0.003%
Norway	0.935%	0.994%
Oman	0.153%	0.152%
Pakistan	0.157%	0.152%
Palau	0.001%	0.001%
Panama	0.124%	0.059%
Papua New Guinea	0.014%	0.013%
Paraguay	0.036%	0.021%
Peru	0.224%	0.200%
Philippines	0.292%	0.270%
Poland	1.153%	1.057%
Portugal	0.486%	0.461%
Qatar	0.371%	0.372%
Republic of Korea	3.546%	2.988%
Republic of Moldova	0.007%	0.004%
Romania	0.430%	0.261%
Rwanda	0.004%	0.004%
Saint Lucia	0.003%	0.001%
Samoa	0.001%	0.001%
Sao Tome and Principe	0.001%	0.001%
Saudi Arabia	1.631%	1.545%
Senegal	0.010%	0.009%
Serbia	0.044%	0.037%
Seychelles	0.003%	0.003%
Sierra Leone	0.001%	0.001%
Slovakia	0.213%	0.202%
Slovenia	0.109%	0.100%
South Sudan	0.003%	-
Spain	2.940%	2.829%

Contracting Party	Scale¹ 2022-23	Scale² 2020-21
Sri Lanka	0.062%	0.058%
Sudan	0.014%	0.013%
Sweden	1.200%	1.194%
Switzerland	1.562%	1.517%
Syrian Arab Republic	0.012%	0.014%
Togo	0.003%	0.003%
Tonga	0.001%	0.001%
Trinidad and Tobago	0.051%	0.053%
Tunisia	0.026%	0.033%
Türkiye	1.164%	1.807%
Tuvalu	0.001%	0.001%
Uganda	0.014%	0.011%
United Arab Emirates	0.875%	0.812%
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	6.027%	6.021%
United Republic of Tanzania	0.014%	0.013%
United States of America	22.000%	22.000%
Uruguay	0.127%	0.115%
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.241%	0.960%
Yemen	0.011%	0.013%
Zambia	0.011%	0.012%
Zimbabwe	0.010%	0.007%
	100.000%	100.00%

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Composition

- i) The Committee shall be established at the beginning of a regular session of the Governing Body as an in-session committee.
- ii) The Committee shall be composed of up to two members nominated by each region, who act as the spokespersons for their respective regions.
- iii) Two Co-Chairpersons, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, are elected by the Governing Body separately from the Committee members. Co-Chairpersons shall act in their personal capacity and shall not be from a Contracting Party that is already a member of the Budget Committee.
- iv) All Contracting Parties have the right to attend as observers.
- v) Membership and attendance are restricted to Contracting Parties only.

Functions

- i) To review the Secretary's budgetary proposals and related financial implications;
- ii) To consider the financial implications with respect to future years of the activities provided for in the draft Work Programme and Budget;
- iii) To consider and make recommendations to the Governing Body regarding reserve funds, as appropriate;
- iv) To note the list of projects recommended for direct support through the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes as provided to the Governing Body in a Working Document or make further recommendations thereto;
- v) To review the financial implications of Resolutions adopted in the current session of the Governing Body that may affect the Secretary's budgetary proposals;
- vi) To finalize the Core Administrative Budget on the basis of the revised Core Work Programme incorporating the decisions of the Governing Body as contained in Resolutions adopted during its current session;
- vii) To finalize a consolidated proposal containing the Core Work Programme and Core Administrative Budget of the following biennium, in the form of a draft Resolution, for review and adoption by the Governing Body;
- viii) To make recommendations on possible amendments to the Financial Rules of the International Treaty for consideration by the Governing Body at its future sessions;
- ix) To advise on the structure and content for the preparation of future reports, including any modifications in the format to be adopted for the presentation of the draft Work Programme and Budget and to submit recommendations to the Governing Body, in order to enhance transparency and accountability of the financial administration of the International Treaty.

APPENDIX C

PROCEDURE FOR THE SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARIES OF ARTICLE XIV BODIES*

1. A Vacancy Announcement is drafted by technical departments with support of the Human Resources Division (“CSH”) as is done for all senior (D1 and above) staff positions. The draft Vacancy Announcement is shared with the Chairperson of the Body concerned who is invited to provide views thereon.
2. The Vacancy Announcement is issued and posted for 30 days.¹
3. A first review and screening of candidates is undertaken by CSH based on the minimum criteria and qualifications set out in the Vacancy Announcement.
4. A second review is undertaken by the offices of the relevant Deputy Director-General and the relevant Director (D2) and three representatives of the Members of the Article XIV Body to establish a shortlist of candidates for interview. The interview shortlist must contain at least seven candidates including at least one female candidate. If there is no female candidate in the shortlist, the Panel Report must contain a justification. If the interview shortlist does not contain seven candidates, the Report must contain a justification.
5. An Interview Panel is established, which is composed of:
 - a. the relevant Deputy Director-General or Director (D2);
 - b. two Senior FAO officers;
 - c. three representatives of the Members of the Article XIV Body;
 - d. one external member, to be selected by other Interview Panellists from among three candidates proposed by CSH; and
 - e. one representative of CSH, without the right to participate in decision-making. The role of the CSH representative is to offer administrative support to the panel. He/She will not be involved in interviewing or assessing the candidates.
6. Interviews of shortlisted candidates are conducted by the Interview Panel, which will prepare a report. The Panel Report will identify a minimum of three and a maximum of five qualified candidates. If no female candidate is selected at this stage, the Panel Report must contain a justification.
7. Both the shortlist of candidates for interview as well as the three to five candidates submitted to the Director-General is compiled with due regard to gender and geographic balance in line with the policy of the Organization. If this balance is not achieved, the Panel Report must contain a justification for this. All efforts should be made to reach a decision by consensus.
8. Reference checks are undertaken by CSH.
9. The Panel Report is submitted for consideration by the Director-General.
10. The Director-General identifies for appointment one candidate, from the proposed candidates identified in the Panel Report, whose name and curriculum vitae are referred to the relevant Article XIV Body for approval in accordance with the provisions of the treaty concerned. The name and curriculum vitae, and a written statement that reference checks have been conducted, will be transmitted to the Article XIV Body Chairperson, who will keep the information confidential, within ten weeks of the closure of the Vacancy Announcement.

* Annex I to CL 168/17.

¹ [Unless the Article XIV Body requests for a longer period up to maximum 45 days].

11. Upon approval of the Body, an offer is issued to the candidate. Should there be non-approval, the Director-General will propose to the Body another candidate, identified in the Panel Report, recommended for appointment. In case none of the candidates identified in the Panel Report are approved by the Body, the Vacancy shall be reissued.

12. Upon acceptance, the Director-General appoints the candidate.

APPENDIX D**REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

1. The Governing Body elected seven Members of the Credentials Committee from the following Contracting Parties: Eswatini, Honduras, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Spain, Sudan and United States of America. Ms Janet Shannon (United States of America) served as Chairperson of the Committee.
2. The Credentials Committee recommended the acceptance of ninety-four credentials in accordance with the FAO rules. The number to establish a quorum for the meeting was set at seventy-five, in accordance with Article 19.8 of the International Treaty.
3. The Governing Body accepted the recommendation of the Credentials Committee on the credentials to be accepted. The list of Contracting Parties, as of 24 September 2022, is contained in *Appendix E*.

APPENDIX E**LIST OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES**

Afghanistan	Eritrea
Albania	Estonia
Algeria	Eswatini
Angola	Ethiopia
Antigua and Barbuda	Fiji
Argentina	Finland
Armenia	France
Australia	Gabon
Austria	Georgia
Bangladesh	Germany
Belgium	Ghana
Benin	Greece
Bhutan	Guatemala
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Guinea
Brazil	Guinea-Bissau
Bulgaria	Guyana
Burkina Faso	Honduras
Burundi	Hungary
Cambodia	Iceland
Cameroon	India
Canada	Indonesia
Central African Republic	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Chad	Iraq
Chile	Ireland
Congo	Italy
Cook Islands	Jamaica
Costa Rica	Japan
Côte d'Ivoire	Jordan
Croatia	Kenya
Cuba	Kiribati
Cyprus	Kuwait
Czechia	Kyrgyzstan
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Lao People's Democratic Republic
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Latvia
Denmark	Lebanon
Djibouti	Lesotho
Dominican Republic	Liberia
Ecuador	Libya
Egypt	Lithuania
El Salvador	Luxembourg
Madagascar	Serbia

Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mongolia
Montenegro
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Niger
Norway
Oman

Pakistan
Palau
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Rwanda
Saint Lucia
Samoa
Sao Tome and Principe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta

Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Sudan
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Togo
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Türkiye
Tuvalu
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe
European Union (Member Organization)

APPENDIX F**LIST OF DOCUMENTS****Working Documents**

IT/GB-9/22/1	Provisional Agenda
IT/GB-9/22/1.2 Rev.1	Annotated Provisional Agenda and Timetable
IT/GB-9/22/1.3	List of Observers
IT/GB-9/22/4	Draft Terms of Reference for the Budget Committee
IT/GB-9/22/5	Report of the Chair
IT/GB-9/22/6	Report of the Secretary
IT/GB-9/22/6.1	Draft Capacity Development Strategy for the International Treaty
IT/GB-9/22/6.2	Report on the Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Implementation of the International Treaty
IT/GB-9/22/6.3	Review of Progress Made on the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals Related to PGRFA
IT/GB-9/22/7	Celebrating the Guardians of Crop Diversity: Towards an Inclusive Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
IT/GB-9/22/8	Proposal for an Amendment of the International Treaty
IT/GB-9/22/9.1	Report on Implementation and Operations of the Multilateral System
IT/GB-9/22/9.1.2 Rev.1	Report on Possible Measures to Encourage Natural and Legal Persons to Include Material in the Multilateral System and other Reviews and Assessments under the Multilateral System
IT/GB-9/22/9.1.3	Report on the Operations of the Third Party Beneficiary
IT/GB-9/22/9.1.i	Implementation of Article 12.3a of the International Treaty
IT/GB-9/22/9.1.i/Circ.1	Submission by the European Union and its Member States on the Implementation of Article 12.3a of the International Treaty
IT/GB-9/22/9.2	Reports from Informal Consultations on the Enhancement of the Multilateral System
IT/GB-9/22/10	Report of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body

IT/GB-9/22/11	Report on the Implementation of the Global Information System
IT/GB-9/22/12	Implementation of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
IT/GB-9/22/12.2	Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body
IT/GB-9/22/13	Implementation of Farmers' Rights
IT/GB-9/22/13.2	Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body
IT/GB-9/22/13.3	Options for Encouraging, Guiding and Promoting the Realization of Farmers' Rights as Set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty
IT/GB-9/22/14	Report of the Compliance Committee
IT/GB-9/22/15	Report from FAO on its Contribution to the Implementation of the International Treaty
IT/GB-9/22/16.1	Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
IT/GB-9/22/16.2	Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust
IT/GB-9/22/16.2.2	Report of the Global Crop Diversity Trust to the Governing Body
IT/GB-9/22/16.2.3	Report on the Emergency Reserve for Germplasm Collections at Risk
IT/GB-9/22/16.3	Report on Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity
IT/GB-9/22/16.4 Rev.1	Report on Cooperation with International Bodies and Organizations
IT/GB-9/22/16.4.2	Reports from Institutions that have Concluded Agreements with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the International Treaty
IT/GB-9/22/16.4.3 Rev.1	Report of Norway on the Management and Operations of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault
IT/GB-9/22/17.1	Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty
IT/GB-9/22/17.2 Rev.1	Consideration of Digital Sequence Information in Accordance with Resolution 13/2019 and the Multi-Year Programme of Work
IT/GB-9/22/17.3	Review of Subsidiary Bodies and Intersessional Processes
IT/GB-9/22/18	Draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2022-23 Biennium

IT/GB-9/22/18 Add.1	Draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2022-23 Biennium – Donor-Supported Activities Under the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes
IT/GB-9/22/18.2 Rev.1	Financial and Progress Report on the Work Programme and Budget for the 2020-2021 Biennium
IT/GB-9/22/18.3	Implementation Report of the Work Programme for the 2020–2021 Biennium
IT/GB-9/22/19.1 Rev.1	Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body
IT/GB-9/22/19.2	Procedures for the Selection and Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty.

Information Documents

IT/GB-9/22/1/Inf.1 Rev.1	List of Documents
IT/GB-9/22/1/Inf.2	Information Note for Participants
IT/GB-9/22/1/Inf.3	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights Submitted by the European Union (EU) and its Member States
IT/GB-9/22/6/Inf.1	Report on the Implementation of the Communication Strategy of the International Treaty
IT/GB-9/22/9.1/Inf.1 Rev.1	Compilation of Submissions on Possible Measures to Encourage Natural and Legal Persons to Include Material in the Multilateral System and on the Reviews and Assessments under the Multilateral System
IT/GB-9/22/9.1/Inf.2	The Status of Implementation of the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets: a Submission from CGIAR to the Ninth Session of the Plant Treaty’s Governing Body
IT/GB-9/22/9.2/Inf.1	Informal Consultation co-facilitated by India and Switzerland: Enhancing the Functioning of the Multilateral System – co-facilitators report
IT/GB-9/22/9.2/Inf.2	Enhancing the Functioning of the Multilateral System – Reports from Two Virtual Informal Consultations Organized by the Government of Switzerland
IT/GB-9/22/9.2/Inf.3	Overview of Resources Available under the Process to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System
IT/GB-9/22/10/Inf.1	Report of the Evaluation of the Third Project Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
IT/GB-9/22/10/Inf.2	The Benefit-sharing Fund: 2020-2021 Report
IT/GB-9/22/11/Inf.1	Towards a More Strategic Approach to the Documentation of Crop Wild Relatives

IT/GB-9/22/11/Inf.2	Report by the DivSeek International Network
IT/GB-9/22/11/Inf.3	Memorandum of Understanding with the DivSeek International Network
IT/GB-9/22/12/Inf.1	New Prototype of the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
IT/GB-9/22/12/Inf.2	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
IT/GB-9/22/12/Inf.3	Report of the First International Multi-Stakeholder Symposium on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
IT/GB-9/22/13/Inf.1	Updated Inventory of National Measures, Best Practices and Lessons Learned from the Realization of Farmers' Rights, as Set Out in Article 9 of the International Treaty
IT/GB-9/22/14/Inf.1	Indicators under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
IT/GB-9/22/16.1/Inf.1	Report from the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Including on FAO Activities Related to the Supporting Components of the International Treaty
IT/GB-9/22/16.2/Inf.1	Background Study on Crop Baseline Genetic Data Relevant for the Development of Conservation and Use Strategies
IT/GB-9/22/16.3/Inf.1	Report from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on Cooperation with the International Treaty
IT/GB-9/22/16.4/Inf.1	Reports by the United Nations Environment Programme
IT/GB-9/22/17.2/Inf.1	Compilation of Additional Inputs from Contracting Parties on "Digital Sequence Information"

Other Documents

IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/Report	Report of the Fifth Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
IT/GB-9/ACSU-6/22/Report	Report of the Sixth Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
IT/GB-9/AHTEG-FR-3/20/Report	Report of the Third Meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights
IT/GB-9/AHTEG-FR-4-R/21/Report	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (PART II)

IT/GB-9/AHTEG-FR-4/21/ Report	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (PART I)
IT/GB-9/CC-4/21/Record	Record of the Fourth Meeting of the Compliance Committee
IT/GB-9/SAC-GLIS-4/21/Report	Report of the Fourth Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System of Article 17 of the Treaty
IT/GB-9/SFC-1/20/Proceedings	Proceedings of the First Meeting of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization
IT/GB-9/SFC-2/20/Proceedings	Proceedings of the Second Meeting of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization
IT/GB-9/SFC-3/21/Proceedings	Proceedings of the Third Meeting of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization
IT/GB-9/SFC-4/21/Proceedings	Proceedings of the Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization
IT/GB-9/SFC-5/22/Proceedings	Proceedings of the Fifth Meeting of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization

APPENDIX G

OPENING CEREMONY STATEMENTS

APPENDIX G.1

**Statement by Mr Qu Dongyu, Director-General, Food and Agriculture
Organization of the United Nations**

Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you to Prime Minister Modi and the Government of India for hosting this Session of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

I am pleased that this session is celebrating smallholder farmers as guardians of crop diversity. They are food heroes, and their contributions should be recognized.

For almost two decades, the Treaty has brought together FAO Members to help conserve and sustainably use plant genetic resources, and it provides the largest global exchange mechanism for plant genetics.

The Treaty combines both food security and biodiversity protection, two issues that are at the core of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The world is heading for a population of nine billion. At the same time, the impacts of the climate crisis and biodiversity loss are putting pressure on agriculture. We must feed more people with less, with fewer inputs and safeguarding our natural resources.

The pandemic and ongoing conflicts are affecting the way we produce, supply, and consume our foods. They have shown us how fragile our agri-food systems are and have put our global supply chains under pressure.

To deal with these challenges, we must increase the use of diverse and resilient crops and their genetic resources. We must conserve the source of our food and agriculture – our seeds and other plant genetic material. The future of food depends on it.

The public and private sectors, farmers and academia need to pick up efforts to use genetic diversity sustainably, and ensure they are made available for breeders and researchers to enable innovation. It will allow us to adapt our crops to the growing impacts of the climate crisis and be more resilient to shocks in supply chains.

The Treaty is central to achieving these objectives. But to do so, we need capacity development, solid institutions and strong partnerships.

Currently, the number of Contracting Parties of the Treaty is 149, and I am committed to supporting efforts to get all FAO Members to sign up to the Treaty. Making this Treaty truly universal will help to ensure that agricultural diversity is saved, shared and cared for. We must conserve this treasure for our descendants, for the food security of current and future generations, and for the improved resilience and preservation of our planet.

Plant genetic resources are critical to Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment and a Better Life for all, leaving no one behind.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and successful outcomes.

Thank you.

APPENDIX G.2

Statement by H.E. Mr Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, India

Dear Brothers and Sisters representing all the nations, Namaskar!

On 11th Nov 2019, I had the opportunity to address the 8th Session of the Governing Body of the Treaty at Rome. I had proposed that 9th session of the Governing Body be held in INDIA. You all agreed to the proposal and here we are meeting again in New Delhi. Thank you and welcome.

I understand that the Plant Treaty aims to recognize enormous contribution of farmers and native communities to the diversity of crops. I am delighted to note that the theme for the Session organized in India is aptly chosen as “Celebrating the Guardians of Crop Diversity: Towards an Inclusive Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework”

From centuries, tribal and traditional farming communities have continuously adapted and shaped the dimensions of rich genetic material available with them. This has led to vast and diverse cultural (life and commerce around plant diversity), culinary (incredible variety, tastes and nutrition as per purpose and season) and curative (food as medicine) practices.

Covid pandemic has taught us a few lessons. Availability and accessibility to food is paramount to stability and peace. India has been steadfast in ensuring the food and nutritional security for the citizens.

However, population is increasing, arable land decreasing, water availability diminishing, and biotic and abiotic stresses are dragging down the production accentuated by climate change. How do we ensure bountiful harvest year after year?

Crop diversity and diversification has the answer. As I said last time, I represent farming community of India. I also represent those countries where farming is the backbone of their socio-economy; where crop biodiversity is part and parcel of life and whose indigenous people and peasants have shaped the crop genetic resources that form the basis of breeding anywhere in the world.

Therefore, I reiterate that “no negotiations are possible at the cost of food security”. All international forums must not forget that Food is the most fundamental right. Developing countries will be driven by the necessity to ensure “rights of farmers producing food” are never compromised. More so when this very community is also responsible for the very existence of the plant genetic resources that we have today.

Experts say that plant genetic resources are the source of solutions to breeding challenges. But I can tell you from my own experience that Plant genetic resources are also vulnerable due to habitat destruction and climate change. Their conservation is “the shared responsibility of the humanity”. We must use all the modern technologies as well as traditional knowledge to conserve and use them sustainably.

We have many places and people around the world who have conserved priceless genetic resources and precious traditional knowledge. How can Plant Treaty consultations support and harness native resources, knowledge and practices spanning hundreds of species? Treaty must support access and exchange of all crop genetic resources. In fact, I ask you to stress on conservation and utilization of minor millets, under-utilized potential crops as well as crop wild relatives before it is too late. Our fight for climate resilient agriculture and nutritional security leans heavily on your decisions and actions.

Genetic information mined using advanced genomic and bioinformatic tools has the potential to become subject of IPRs. On the other hand, traditional knowledge maintained and enriched over generations becomes common knowledge. Multilateral forums like ITPGRFA have the responsibility of balancing commercial interests and heritage values to ensure continuity of PGR conservation on earth.

India has been a strong advocate of sharing the wealth of plant genetic resources. A cursory look at the IARC genebanks and other national gene banks shows that about 10% of the germplasm is of Indian origin. We are clear in our mind that Plant genetic resources must be made available for research and sustainable use. However, it is

very vital that every dollar of commerce arising out of the Plant genetic resources accessed from the system must be shared equitably for the purpose of conservation of Plant genetic resources.

Last time I demanded that Treaty establish an “operational, pragmatic, future-ready and flexible” benefit sharing framework. It is unfortunate that lack of consensus and Covid pandemic did not allow usual transactions. I request you all to work towards that goal.

We cannot ignore the contribution of farmers, indigenous communities, tribal population and particularly women-folk in conserving and selecting the Plant genetic resources over the time. Therefore, it is our bounden duty to keep their interest in mind while the Treaty amendments and revisions are contemplated.

India stands firm in her belief and actions on the commitments to multilateral agreement. However, unless we eliminate the divide between North and South, and converge on the aspirations of the Treaty founders, we will fail to make any headway.

Article 9 of ITPGFRA specially deals with farmers’ rights and India is fully compliant with it and relevant provisions are enshrined in PPV&FR Act, 2001. India has provided for legal and institutional support to farmers’ rights by establishing the “Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights Authority” a Statutory Authority for effective protection of plant varieties as well as plant breeders’ and farmers’ rights harmonizing with the UPOV procedure.

I am happy to know that at its Seventh Session during 2017, the Governing Body of the International Treaty, decided to establish a Technical Expert Group on Farmers’ Rights for possible options in implementation of farmers rights. India has been providing her experience and leadership in this area. I am sure, inventory developed by this Expert Group shall make it possible for many contracting parties to understand the best practices in implementation of Farmers’ rights and suitably take measures in their legislation and national policies. In fact, India proposes to the Governing Body of ITPGRFA to consider putting into action a module of Awareness, Outreach and Capacity Building Programme related to Farmers’ Rights. India will support the implementation of the programme once the details are worked out.

I am aware that this august body of Plant Treaty is grappling to find consensus on issues like digital sequence information, multipurpose plant species, benefit sharing rates, etc. I am confident in your abilities and in your unwavering faith in multilateralism. You will certainly find best ways forward. I request all of you to revive, reset and recover, and I hope that Delhi GB meeting will be a point of inflection that will determine the future course of multilateral system in plant genetic resources.

Global agricultural research has been focusing on a few major crops for obvious reasons. However, I want to shift your focus to minor millets, minor pulses, minor fruits and leafy vegetables. Indian Council of Agricultural Research has a network of institutes working on these crops. How can we, together, build special programmes to document, research, exchange and use genetic resources of these groups of crops? They are our best weapons against irregular climate and malnutrition. We must use every available technology (from space to genomics) and every penny of resources (human and financial) by joining hands of public and private partners.

World subsists on a fine balance of forces. Genetic resources governance must also balance Conservation with Commerce; Utilization with Equity; Technology with Traditional Knowledge; Investment with Innovation; and Access with Benefit Sharing. Comity of minds gathered here, I am sure, will rise to the occasion, go beyond business as usual and make up for the time lost in the last two years to achieve a future-ready resolution.

We have encouraged our farmer-conservers to join us for GB9. Please take out time to visit exhibitions of our farmers and interact with them. I wish all of you fruitful deliberations and consultations.