

Web Annex 2:**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 (the “International Treaty”), held on 19-24 September 2022 in New Delhi, India, adopted a full work programme for the 2022-2023 biennium, providing policy guidance to strengthen its operational systems and further advance implementation of the International Treaty.
2. Under the theme “Celebrating the Guardians of Crop Diversity: Towards an Inclusive Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework”, the Governing Body (GB) recognized and acknowledged the contributions of farmers to the effective management of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA), and also the role of genebanks. The Governing Body also emphasized the importance of an inclusive approach to the implementation of the International Treaty in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which was adopted by the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in December 2022.

Summary Outcomes of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on PGRFA (GB-9)

3. Ms Yasmina El Bahloul (Morocco) was re-elected as the Chair of the Tenth Session (GB-10). The plenary agreed to convene GB-10 in the last quarter of 2023 in Rome, Italy, noting 20-25 November 2023 as the tentative dates.

Enhancement of the Multilateral System (MLS)

4. The Governing Body re-established the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group and nominated Mr Michael Ryan (Australia) and Mr Sunil Archak (India) as Working Group Co-Chairs. The Working Group should aim to hold at least one session before GB-10. The Governing Body noted that, while a range of views exist among parties on the matter, parties committed to working together towards adopting a package of measures to enhance the functioning of the MLS.
5. The Working Group Co-Chairs are requested to, among others, structure the process so as to accord early attention to key issues such as Digital Sequence Information (DSI), payment rates, and other relevant aspects, and to provide a checkpoint report to GB-10 on progress and any further guidance regarding the continuation of the process.

Funding Strategy

6. On the funding strategy, the Governing Body noted that the first three years of the Funding Strategy 2020-2025 had been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and requested the Funding Committee to consider the resulting impacts, challenges, and opportunities when making recommendations for updating the Funding Strategy; it also encouraged FAO to facilitate the delivery of programmes and projects that support implementation of the Treaty.
7. On resource mobilization, the Governing Body encouraged parties to mobilize resources from various sources to meet the targets of the Funding Strategy, approved *the Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy*, and requested the Funding Committee to regularly monitor and review progress on its implementation.
8. On the operations of the Benefit-Sharing Fund (BSF), the Governing Body welcomed the launch of the Fifth Cycle of the BSF and the finalization of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework of the BSF as an integral part of the monitoring of the overall Funding Strategy. It stressed the importance of communicating the results of ongoing projects under the Fourth Cycle and the expected results of the Fifth Cycle. On monitoring, learning and review, the Governing Body invited parties, international mechanisms, funds, bodies, stakeholder groups and other international

organizations to provide information to the Secretariat to assist regular reviews of the Funding Strategy.

Global Information System (GLIS)

9. The Governing Body took note of the progress made with the promotion of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) and encouraged the Secretariat 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. It took 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, and invited the Secretariat to facilitate the development of further descriptor lists. The Governing Body requested the Secretariat to support 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 crop wild relatives in plant breeding.

10. The Governing Body also adopted the revised Programme of Work on GLIS, as contained in the annex to the relevant Resolution, and decided 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 person and, if necessary, additional virtual meetings.

Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA

11. The Governing Body requested the Secretariat, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders and subject to the availability of financial resources, to organize regional consultations; revise and finalize the concept note of the Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA, for consideration at GB-10; to strengthen collaboration with organizations such as the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), CGIAR, and FAO; to continue to facilitate training and capacity building aimed at advancing characterization and sustainable use of PGRFA; and support national programmes in policy development for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, and in building partnerships and mobilizing resources. It also reconvened the Ad Hoc Technical Advisory Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA.

Farmers’ Rights

12. The Governing Body requested the Secretariat to: (i) continue to disseminate and promote the use of the educational module on farmers’ rights, and to update it as necessary; (ii) 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; (iii) provide support for parties and relevant stakeholders on the promotion, protection, and realization of farmers’ rights; (iv) make an assessment based on compliance reports and submissions in the inventory on the state of implementation of Article 9 of the Treaty, and present criteria and an outline of the assessment to GB-10 and the full report to GB-11; (v) organize a global symposium to share experiences and discuss possible future work on farmers’ rights, welcoming India’s offer to host it; (vi) strengthen collaboration between the Treaty and other units and partners that work for the promotion of farmers’ rights within and outside FAO, and the broader UN, including with international human rights bodies in order to promote the realization of farmers’ rights; and (vii) include the possible impact of DSI on farmers’ rights according to Article 9 in the assessment of DSI foreseen in the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW).

Compliance

13. The Governing Body invited all parties and organizations to continue submitting and updating their Compliance Reports, and urged those that have not yet done so to submit their own reports, and reiterated that the second reports shall be submitted by 1 October 2023. It requested the Secretariat to send regular reminders to parties to submit and/or update their reports and to provide support to them, as appropriate; and invited the members of the Compliance Committee to communicate with parties in

their respective regions to sensitize, and provide information and support in matters related to compliance.

FAO Contribution to the Implementation of the Treaty

14. The Governing Body invited FAO to continue supporting the efforts to increase the membership of the Treaty by undertaking concrete measures to promote ratification by FAO Members that have not yet done so, with a view to making it a universal agreement; integrate the Treaty 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; continue its active support to the activities of the Treaty as a key international instrument required for the fulfilment of Sustainable Development Goals 2 (Zero Hunger) and 15 (Life on Land), and to build awareness of the importance of the implementation of, and compliance with, the Treaty at the highest national levels; and continue providing a comprehensive report at each session on its contributions to the implementation of the Treaty, and the Secretary to continue providing updates on the status of implementation of invitations made to FAO as well as on ongoing and new collaborations and partnerships within FAO.

15. GB-9 requested the Secretary to continue pursuing collaboration with other units and instruments within FAO, including on outreach, resource mobilization, and private sector engagement.

Cooperation with the CGRFA

16. The Governing Body, among others, welcomed the ongoing close cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body, and the joint activities undertaken by their Secretariats during the intersessional period; and agreed to keep the matter of the functional division of tasks and activities between the Governing Body and the Commission under review and requested the Secretary to regularly report any relevant developments in the cooperation with the Commission.

17. The Governing Body further requested the Secretary to continue strengthening collaboration and coordination with the Commission to promote coherence in the development and implementation of the respective programmes of work of the two bodies, in particular with regard to the preparation of the Third Report on the State of the World's PGRFA, the review and possible update of the Second Global Plan of Action for PGRFA, and the revision of the World Information and Early Warning System on PGRFA (WIEWS) reporting system; the organization of symposia on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA; the effects of seed policies, laws, and regulations; the implementation and monitoring of the Second Global Plan of Action for PGRFA, including technical instruments that facilitate its implementation, such as the Genebank Standards for PGRFA and work on sustainable use of PGRFA; and the access and benefit-sharing (ABS) and DSI/genetic sequence data on PGRFA.

Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Nagoya Protocol

18. The Governing Body invited CBD parties to adopt the global biodiversity framework (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, and to take into account the experience gained in the operations and implementation of the Treaty's Multilateral System on Access and Benefit-sharing when finalizing discussions on the text of the GBF and a potential decision on DSI to ensure that the framework fully recognizes the importance of the food and agriculture sector in implementing the framework when it is adopted; parties to consider the best practices and lessons 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; the Global Environmental Facility (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 ABS frameworks; and the UN Environment Programme to continue strengthening cooperation and coordination among biodiversity-related conventions contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the GBF, when adopted.

Work Programme and Budget

19. The Governing Body adopted the Treaty's Work Programme and the Core Administrative Budget for the Biennium 2022-2023 in the sum of USD **7 255 016** (of which USD 2 000 000 is the contribution from FAO), the indicative scale of contributions, Secretariat staffing structure, and Terms of Reference for the Budget Committee.

Selection and Appointment of the Secretary

20. The Governing Body adopted the *Procedure for the Selection and Appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies*, as approved by the 168th Session of the FAO Council, 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 Tenth Governing Body Session.