



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



**International Treaty
on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture**

**INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**TENTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING
GROUP TO ENHANCE THE FUNCTIONING OF
THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM**

Rome, Italy, 12–14 July 2023

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

INTRODUCTION

1. At its Ninth Session, the Governing Body adopted Resolution 3/2022, *Enhancement of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing*.¹
2. Through this Resolution, the Governing Body decided 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.
3. The Governing Body noted 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 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.
4. The Governing Body decided that the process to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System 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;

¹ [Resolution 3/2022](#).

- Be supported by robust regional or interregional consultations; and
 - 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.
5. Furthermore, the Governing Body decided 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.
6. The Governing Body appointed Mr. Sunil Archak (India) and Mr. Michael Ryan (Australia) as the two Co-Chairs of the Working Group.
7. The Working Group had originally been established by the Governing Body at its Fifth Session.² It met nine times between 2014 and 2019. The reports of all its previous meetings are available on the website of the International Treaty at www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/en/. A general overview is available at www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/the-multilateral-system/enhancement-process/en/.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

8. The tenth meeting of the Working Group will be held at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, from 12 to 14 July 2023. Arrangements have been made to allow delegates and stakeholders to hold regional and interregional consultations on Tuesday, 11 July 2023.
9. The opening session will begin at 10.00 on Wednesday, 12 July 2023.
10. The meeting will be held in Arabic, English, French and Spanish, in accordance with Resolution 3/2022.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

11. The present document annotates the *Provisional Agenda* and contains a provisional indicative timetable, for the consideration of the Working Group, so that it could adopt its agenda and organize its work for this meeting.
12. The list of documents prepared for this meeting is contained in document IT/OWG-EFMLS-10/23/2/Inf.1, *List of Documents*. The documents are available on the website of the International Treaty at www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/1628022/.

ITEM 3. UPDATE BY THE CO-CHAIRS ON CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

13. The Governing Body requested the Co-Chairs to allow space and facilitate interactions and consultations for building mutual understanding throughout the process.³
14. In preparation for this meeting, the Co-Chairs undertook a consultative process, including online consultations with Regions and stakeholder groups, and a physical informal meeting.
15. These efforts are summarized in document IT/OWG-EFMLS-10/23/3, *Update by the Co-chairs on Consultative Process*. A report on a physical informal meeting held in Prangins, Switzerland, is provided in information document IT/OWG-EFMLS-10/23/3/Inf.1, *Informal meeting on DSI/GSD, payment rates and other relevant aspects of the MLS enhancement: Facilitator's summary to the Co-Chairs*.
16. The Working Group is invited to consider these efforts and discuss the outcomes and their possible relevance for the discussions under agenda item 4.

² [Resolution 2/2013](#), Part IV.

³ [Resolution 3/2022](#), para. 10.

ITEM 4. CO-CHAIRS' PROPOSAL ON ENHANCING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM

17. The Governing Body requested the Co-Chairs to include, in the process, the preparation of a Co-Chairs' proposal, taking into account what has been achieved so far.⁴
18. The Governing Body decided 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
19. The Co-Chairs' proposal is provided in document IT/OWG-EFMLS-10/23/4, *Co-chairs' Proposal on Enhancing the Functioning of the Multilateral System*.
20. The Working Group is invited to provide input on the pathway forward in the enhancement process, both on process aspects and on the substance, aiming at the negotiations during the next biennium.
21. The Working Group is further invited to discuss the key issues that would be added to a draft negotiation text, especially on digital sequence information / genetic sequence data (DSI/GSD), an expansion of the coverage (Annex I), and payment structure and rates.
22. The Working Group is also invited to provide input and recommendations for a draft Resolution on enhancing the functioning of the Multilateral System that the Co-Chairs intend to include in their checkpoint report.

ITEM 5. DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER RELEVANT FORA, INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF COP-15 OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

23. Since the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, in September 2022, several meetings have taken place in other fora, whose outcomes are of relevance to the work of the Working Group or may be of interest to the Working Group.
24. In particular, the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the "Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework" (GBF), including four goals and 23 targets for achievement by 2030. COP-15 took a number of decisions regarding digital sequence information and introduced a goal within the GBF recognizing that the monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources need to be increased.
25. A summary of major developments in other relevant fora is provided in document IT/OWG-EFMLS-10/23/4, *Developments in other Relevant Fora*.
26. The Working Group may wish to consider the relevance of these developments and draft instruments for its work.

ITEM 6. PREPARATIONS FOR THE TENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

27. In the document IT/OWG-EFMLS-10/23/5, *Co-chairs' Proposal on Enhancing the Functioning of the Multilateral System*, the Co-Chairs propose next steps and possible elements for further work before the Tenth Session of the Governing Body, to be held from 20 to 24 November 2023.

⁴ [Resolution 3/2022](#), para. 10.

⁵ [Resolution 3/2022](#), para. 4.

28. In Resolution 3/2022, the Governing Body decided that the process should build upon current progress and achievements of other International Treaty intersessional groups and underscored 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.

29. The Working Group is invited to discuss possible ways of liaising with these two subsidiary committees and define possibilities for further work ahead of the Tenth Session of the Governing Body.

ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

30. Under this agenda item, the Working Group may wish to discuss any other relevant matters that may be raised by its members.

ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

31. Under this agenda item, the Working Group is invited to consider and approve the report of its meeting.

32. Following the practice of the Working Group at its earlier meetings, the draft report will be available in English only, while interpretation into the other languages will be provided during the report adoption session. This will optimize the use of time on the last day, since no time for the translation process needs to be scheduled.

33. The meeting is expected to end at 17.00 on 14 July 2023.

*Appendix***PROVISIONAL INDICATIVE TIMETABLE**

Time	Agenda Item	Title	Documents
Wednesday, 12 July 2023			
Morning			
10.00-13.00	1	Opening of the meeting	
	2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work	Resolution 3/2022 IT/OWG-EFMLS-10/23/2 IT/OWG-EFMLS-10/23/2.2 IT/OWG-EFMLS-10/23/2/Inf.1
	3	Update by the Co-chairs on consultative process	IT/OWG-EFMLS-10/23/3 IT/OWG-EFMLS-10/23/3/Inf.1
Wednesday, 12 July 2023			
Afternoon			
15.00-18.00	4	Co-chairs' proposal on enhancing the functioning of the Multilateral System	IT/OWG-EFMLS-10/23/4
Thursday, 13 July 2023			
Morning			
10.00-13.00	4	<i>Co-chairs' proposal on enhancing the functioning of the Multilateral System (continued)</i>	
	5	Developments in other relevant fora, including outcomes of COP-15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity	IT/OWG-EFMLS-10/23/5
Thursday, 13 July 2023			
Afternoon			
15.00-18.00	5	<i>Developments in other relevant fora (continued)</i>	
	6	Preparations for the Tenth Session of the Governing Body	IT/OWG-EFMLS-10/23/4
	7	Other matters	
Friday, 14 July 2023			
Afternoon			
14.00-17.00	8	Adoption of the Report	