



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



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

Item 17.1 of the Provisional Agenda

TENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Rome, Italy, 20–24 November 2023

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

Executive Summary

This document contains the draft Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Governing Body of the International Treaty 2024–2029, developed and revised primarily on the basis of outcomes of the work by relevant subsidiary bodies and implementation of the International Treaty, since the Ninth Session of the Governing Body. It also took into account the appropriate decisions made by relevant international bodies and the outcomes of related processes with implications for implementation of the International Treaty.

Guidance Sought

The Governing Body is invited to review and adopt the Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Governing Body of the International Treaty 2024–2029, subject to those revisions that it may consider appropriate.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. As noted in Resolution 13/2019 on the Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Governing Body of the International Treaty, the purpose of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) is to plan and structure implementation of the International Treaty and the work of the Governing Body in a coherent and integrated manner, and to highlight the expected major outputs and milestones to be achieved by the respective sessions of the Governing Body.¹ It is considered a useful programming tool and a living document – a rolling plan that is reviewed and updated at each session of the Governing Body, to address evolving needs and circumstances, as necessary.
2. At its Ninth Session, the Governing Body took note of the provisional MYPOW 2022–2027, and requested 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.² Accordingly, the MYPOW 2022–2027 was finalized under the guidance of the Bureau and published on the website of the International Treaty.³
3. This document presents an updated MYPOW for the period 2024–2029, as contained in Annex 1 to this document, for consideration and adoption by the Governing Body.⁴ The draft updated MYPOW spans the next three Sessions of the Governing Body's (from the Eleventh to the Thirteenth Sessions, inclusive), and has been developed primarily on the basis of the outcomes of the work by relevant subsidiary bodies, as well as on progress made in implementation of the International Treaty since the Ninth Session, in addition to the past decisions made by the Governing Body. It has also taken account of the appropriate decisions made by relevant international bodies and the outcomes of related processes with implications for implementation of the International Treaty.

II. REVIEW AND UPDATE

Review of the Tenth Session

4. Due to the extraordinary circumstances arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, originally scheduled for December 2021, was postponed to September 2022. Consequently, the intersessional period between the Ninth and the Tenth Sessions became shorter than usual.
5. Despite the exceptional situation, practically all outputs and milestones scheduled for the Tenth Session are likely to be achieved, as they are addressed in the relevant documentation of the Tenth Session.
6. For Compliance & National Reporting, the Governing Body had intended to review the effectiveness of the Compliance Procedures at its Tenth Session. However, the Compliance Committee, at its fifth meeting in March 2023, considered it premature to make appropriate recommendations to the Governing Body, given the limited information available from the national reports or from responses to the calls for information by the Secretary through notifications. In the meantime, it welcomed the framework developed by the Secretariat for the review and agreed to prepare respective recommendations to the Governing Body as soon as 80 percent of Contracting Parties have submitted their report.⁵ Given that the Governing Body will review the analysis of the second national reports at its Eleventh Session in 2025, it is therefore suggested to move the review of the effectiveness of the Compliance Procedures to the Twelfth Session, in 2027.
7. With regard to Capacity Development, the Secretary considered that it would be beneficial to take the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), and its relevant targets, including on capacity development, into account in finalising the draft Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty, and develop the Action Plan for implementation of the Strategy, so as to maximize the synergies with the GBF implementation.
8. In this regard, the Secretary, also taking into account the limitations of the current intersessional period between the Ninth and Tenth Sessions of the Governing Body, proposed to the Bureau to finalize the Strategy and develop the Action Plan in the 2024–2025 biennium. The Bureau agreed with the process and the timing proposed by the Secretary, noting that the adoption of the GBF is relevant for the implementation

¹ [Resolution 13/2019](#)

² [Resolution 15/2022](#)

³ [Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty](#)

⁴ 10th Session is included, only as a reference to facilitate the review by the Governing Body.

⁵ IT/GB-10/23/14, Report of the Compliance Committee

of capacity development activities and collaboration with other instruments and bodies, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Planning Future Sessions

9. The proposed updates to the draft MYPOW 2024–2029, as well as new outputs and milestones, are informed primarily by outcomes of the work of relevant subsidiary bodies since the Ninth Session. These proposed updates address evolving needs, as necessary, to respond to relevant developments that would impact implementation of the International Treaty. As the policy and operational environment relevant to the International Treaty continues to evolve and make an impact on its implementation, some outputs and milestones planned for future sessions may need further adjustment.

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

11. Developments in other relevant fora also need to be taken into consideration in the review and development of the MYPOW. These include the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal GBF, which is crucial to enhancing harmonious and synergistic implementation of the International Treaty with relevant instruments and processes.

12. The following provides highlights and information on the updates, as well as new outputs and milestones contained in the draft MYPOW 2024–2029. In Annex 1, both the updated and new outputs and milestones are presented in the table in **bold letters**. In addition, outputs and milestones that are subject to relevant decisions of the Governing Body at the Tenth Session are given in **[square brackets]**, while the milestones which are recommended to be deferred are **crossed-out**.

Eleventh Session (2025)

- **Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA)**
To address bottlenecks and challenges to implementation of Articles 5 and 6, draft voluntary guidelines on the implementation of conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA would be developed, based on the inputs to be gathered through a global symposium and/or expert inputs, and presented to the Governing Body for consideration at the Eleventh Session.
- **Digital Sequence Information/Genetic Sequence Data (DSI/GSD)**
In addition to being considered under other themes of the International Treaty (Farmers' Rights, the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (Multilateral System); the Global Information System (GLIS)), Digital Sequence Information remains a relevant policy and technical issue under consideration in other relevant fora, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA). The continuous consideration of DSI will enable the Governing Body to assess its implications for achieving the objectives of the International Treaty.
- **Other items**
Participation in the process of updating the Second Global Plan of Action for PGRFA
The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, at its Nineteenth Regular Session in July 2023, requested the continuation of strengthened collaboration and coordination between the Secretariats of the CGRFA and the International Treaty on various matters, including for the review of the Second Global Plan of Action for PGRFA, enabling the participation of the Governing Body in the updating process.

Twelfth Session (2027)

- **Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA**
Subject to the relevant decision to be made at the Eleventh Session, the Governing Body would review and consider the voluntary guidelines on the implementation of conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

- **Farmers' Rights**

An 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, would be presented.

- **Funding Strategy**

The Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization agreed, at its ninth meeting in September 2023, to recommend to the Tenth Session of the Governing Body to extend the present Funding Strategy to 2027. Consequently, subject to the relevant decision by the Governing Body at the present session, a report on implementation of the Funding Strategy (2020–2027), and an updated Funding Strategy (post-2027) will be presented to the Governing Body for consideration at the Twelfth Session.

Thirteenth Session (2029)

Based on decisions taken at the current session, the Governing Body may plan and schedule new outputs and milestones to be achieved at the Thirteenth Session.

III. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

13. The Governing Body is invited to review and adopt the Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Governing Body of the International Treaty 2024–2029, as contained in Annex 1, subject to those revisions that it may consider appropriate, based on the decisions taken at the present session regarding future work of the Governing Body to promote full implementation of the International Treaty. Elements for a possible Resolution are provided in Annex 2.

Annex 1

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

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

2024–2029

MAJOR OUTPUTS AND MILESTONES

	10 th Session ⁶ (2023)	11 th Session (2025)	12 th Session (2027)	13 th Session (2029)
Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA (Art 5&6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consideration of information on gaps and needs, bottlenecks and difficulties and challenges in implementation of Arts. 5 and 6 - Consideration of the revised Concept note for the Joint Programme for Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment of the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA - [Consideration of draft voluntary guidelines on the implementation of Articles 5 and 6] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - [Voluntary guidelines on the implementation of Articles 5 and 6] 	
Farmers' Rights (Art 9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report from the Global Symposium on the implementation of Farmers' Rights - Criteria and outline of an assessment on the state of implementation of Art. 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment of the state of implementation of Art. 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated Inventory of national measures, best practices and lessons learned on the implementation of Farmers' Rights 	
Multilateral System (Art 10-13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancement of the Multilateral System: checkpoint report by Co-chairs, including on DSI/GSD - Report on voluntary inclusion of material 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancement of the Multilateral System finalized-report of the Working Group - Report on global availability and transfer of 		

⁶ Included only as a reference.

	<p>by natural and legal persons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviews and assessments foreseen under Art. 13.2d(ii) 	germplasm, including gaps and lessons learned		
Global Information System (Art 17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report on joint activities with DivSeek - Progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of the Programme of Work on GLIS 2023–2028, and consideration of an updated Programme of Work 	
Funding Strategy (Art 18)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the Funding Strategy, and consideration of a new Funding Strategy - Benefit-sharing Fund target finalized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - [Review of the Funding Strategy, and consideration of a new Funding Strategy] 	
Compliance (Art 21) & National Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the effectiveness of the Compliance Procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of the analysis of national reports under the 2nd cycle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of the effectiveness of the Compliance Procedures 	
Capacity Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of the updated draft Capacity Development Strategy and of the outline of an Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - [Consideration of the draft Capacity Development Strategy and the draft Action Plan] 		
Digital Sequence Information/Genetic Sequence Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report by the Secretary on DSI/GSD covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) developments in all relevant international fora (2) information on capacity building needs (3) consideration of the possible impact of DSI/GSD on Farmers' Rights as set out in Art. 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - [Report by the Secretary on DSI/GSD covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) developments in all relevant international fora; (2) potential implications of the use of DSI/GSD on PGRFA for the objectives of the International Treaty] 		

Other items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Presentation of Third State of the World's PGRFA- Consideration of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and follow-up actions- Strengthening information-based decision-making in PGRFA management: results of two new global analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Participation in the process of updating the Second Global Plan of Action for PGRFA- [Global Biodiversity Framework implementation and follow-up actions]	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stocktaking of international goals and targets related to PGRFA (Sustainable Development Goals, GBF etc.)	
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Annex 2

DRAFT RESOLUTION **/2023**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 15/2022 and other previous Resolutions on the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for the Governing Body of the International Treaty;

1. *Adopts* the MYPOW 2024–2029 as contained in this Resolution.