



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



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

Item 6.1 of the Provisional Agenda

TENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Rome, Italy, 20–24 November 2023

Draft Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty 2023–2030

Executive Summary

At its Ninth Session, the Governing Body requested the Secretary, under the guidance of the Bureau, to finalize the draft Capacity Development Strategy and develop an outline of an Action Plan. It also invited countries to report on ongoing capacity development initiatives and activities, needs, or gaps.

This document presents the activities conducted in the period between the Ninth and Tenth Sessions of the Governing Body, under the guidance of the Bureau, and in the light of the need to coordinate the finalization of the Strategy with the new Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Guidance Sought

The Governing Body is invited to consider the document and provide further guidance on the draft Capacity Development Strategy and on the process for the development of Action Plan.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Ninth Session, the Governing Body adopted Resolution 10/2022 on the *Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty 2023–2030*. The draft Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty 2023–2030 (draft Strategy), follows a programmatic approach to capacity development. This approach aims to promote and enhance the 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.¹
2. Through Resolution 10/2022, the Governing Body requested the Secretary to:
 - finalize the draft Strategy under the guidance of the Bureau to be presented for consideration by the Governing Body at this 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;
 - 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 this Tenth Session;
 - 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.

II. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND GUIDANCE BY THE BUREAU

3. The Bureau considered the process for the development of the Strategy and the Action Plan in the light of the need to coordinate capacity development for the implementation of the International Treaty with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and its Long-Term Strategic Framework for Capacity Building and Development (Strategic Framework).²
4. The GBF includes four goals and 23 targets to be achieved by 2030. Goal C and Target 13 refer to access and benefit-sharing in accordance with internationally agreed, applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments. Target 20 aims to strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation.
5. The GBF promotes coherence, complementarity and cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, other biodiversity related conventions, and other relevant multilateral agreements and international institutions, respecting their mandates, and creates opportunities for cooperation and partnerships among diverse actors to enhance the implementation of the Framework.³ Furthermore, the GBF is to be implemented consistently and in harmony with other relevant international obligations.⁴
6. One of the key aims of the Strategic Framework is to align biodiversity capacity-building and development with broader cross-sectoral plans and programmes in order to apply the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to national implementation of the GBF. Focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and representatives of line ministries and sectors should adopt a road map for alignment and coordinated action.⁵ Along the same lines, another strategy in the Strategic Framework refers to enhancing synergies between capacity-building and development efforts of the implementation processes of the

¹ www.fao.org/3/nk298en/nk298en.pdf, Annex, paragraph 2.

² Decision 15/8 of the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-08-en.docx.

³ Paragraph 6 of the GBF.

⁴ Paragraph 7 j) of the GBF.

⁵ Paragraph 9 d) of the Strategic Framework.

biodiversity-related conventions, at the global, regional and national levels.⁶

7. At the meeting of the Bureau in May 2023, the Secretary proposed that the GBF and its relevant targets, especially the target on capacity development, should be taken into account in finalising the draft Strategy and developing the Action Plan so to maximize the role of the International Treaty in implementation of the GBF.

8. With regard to the Action Plan, the Secretary proposed an outline organised according to the following structure:

- Background;
- Methodology with actions, targets, indicators and expected outcomes (aligned with the GBF);
- Timeline;
- Financial resources needed to clarify what actions the Secretariat is expected to undertake;
- Recommendations (e.g. on cooperation).

9. The Secretary also noted the limitations of the current intersessional period between the Ninth and Tenth Sessions of the Governing Body, and proposed to finalise the draft Strategy and develop the Action Plan in the next biennium. This extended timeline would also be utilized to further consult the relevant stakeholders, as the Governing Body requested in Resolution 10/2022.

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

III. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

11. In order to facilitate reporting by countries on on-going capacity development initiatives and activities, as well as needs or gaps in capacity for achieving the objectives of the International Treaty, the Secretary launched an online survey in June 2023.⁷ The survey was based on some of the concepts introduced in the draft Strategy, such as: the distinction between functional and technical capacity; the expected outcomes of capacity development activities; the strategic approaches to capacity development. Furthermore, the survey enabled respondents to select the technical areas of work, based on Resolutions of the Governing Body, where gaps and needs in capacity development are experienced.⁸

13. The Secretariat received twenty-nine responses, from stakeholders in Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, Guinea, India (3), Jordan, Kenya (2), Lebanon, Namibia, Nepal (2), Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the United States of America, and Zimbabwe. The respondents were both providers and recipients of capacity development.

14. The respondents indicated that the focus of capacity development initiatives and activities is predominantly technical, often combined with functional aspects. Activities are primarily directed towards institutional capacity, followed by individual capacity and the cultivation of an enabling environment.

15. Almost all respondents indicated enhanced functional and technical capacities for implementation as the expected outcome, followed by the enhanced understanding of the International Treaty resulting in effective coordination across government agencies and other in-country actors. Approximately half of the respondents also selected enhanced compliance with International Treaty obligations by Contracting Parties, including for national reporting under the Compliance Procedures, and increased visibility and profile of the International Treaty. Less than half of the respondents indicated, as expected outcome, synergies between national programs concerning plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and broader development strategies and plans, as well as the involvement of a wider range of stakeholders in supporting the International Treaty.

⁶ Paragraph 9 h) of the Strategic Framework

⁷ www.fao.org/3/cc6778en/cc6778en.pdf.

⁸ The full results of the survey are available in the information document, IT/GB-10/23/6.1/Inf.2, *Results of the Survey on Capacity Development Initiatives, Gaps and Needs*.

16. With regard to gaps and needs, a weighted average of the responses indicate compliance as the area with the highest priority. At the same time, all other areas of work, including digital sequence information, were signaled as relevant to capacity development, with conservation and sustainable use slightly behind the others. Disaggregation of data at the regional level indicate significantly varying priorities.

17. With regard to the preferred strategic approaches, promoting partnerships and networks at global and regional levels resulted as the most frequently chosen approach, followed by the strengthening of collaboration between public and private institutions, and the expansion of scientific and technical capacities at the national and sub-national levels. The responses indicate different correlations between the approaches and the individual areas of work.

18. Respondents suggested a number of actions to implement the approaches. These suggestions will be considered in the process of developing the first Action Plan.

IV. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

19. The Governing Body is invited to consider the activities conducted in the period between the Ninth and Tenth Sessions of the Governing Body under the guidance of the Bureau, and provide further guidance on the finalisation of the draft Strategy and the development of the first Action Plan. Draft elements for a possible Resolution are provided in the *Annex* to this document.

DRAFT ELEMENTS FOR A RESOLUTION
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF THE INTERNATIONAL
TREATY

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling Resolution 10/2022 and **reaffirming** the importance of having a Capacity Development Strategy with a broad timeframe to support the full implementation of the International Treaty;

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

1. **Requests** the Secretary, under the guidance of the Bureau, to finalize the draft Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty, as contained in the *Annex* of Resolution 10/2022, in order to:
 - i. update the period of duration of the draft Strategy;
 - ii. ensure that the topics included in the draft Strategy are in line with the International Treaty and the relevant resolutions of the Governing Body;
 - iii. promote coherence in planning and delivering capacity development;
 - iv. enhance collaboration with other instruments and bodies, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and in particular its Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the related Long-Term Strategic Framework for Capacity Building and Development;
2. **Requests** the Secretary to develop the draft Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy, under the guidance of the Bureau and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, clarifying what actions the Secretariat is expected to undertake according to the applicable guiding principles;
3. **Further requests** the Secretary to present the updated draft Capacity Development Strategy and the draft Action Plan to the Governing Body for consideration at its Eleventh Session.