



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



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

## RESOLUTION 16/2023

### CONSIDERATION OF DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION / GENETIC SEQUENCE DATA ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE FOR THE OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

#### THE GOVERNING BODY,

**Recalling** that, in Resolution 16/2022, it requested the Secretary to report at this Tenth Session on developments in all relevant international for a regarding digital sequence information (DSI)/Genetic Sequence Data (GSD), for the consideration of the implications of those developments for the objectives and the functioning of the International Treaty;

**Noting** the various recent developments in other relevant international for a regarding DSI/GSD since the Ninth Session;

**Recalling** that, in Resolution 7/2022, it requested the Secretary to include the possible impact of 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;

1. **Acknowledges** that there is not yet an agreed definition of, or official terminology for, digital sequence information / genetic sequence data and, therefore, uses "DSI/GSD" until a terminology is agreed;
2. **Thanks** those Contracting Parties and stakeholders that provided information about their capacity building needs for accessing and using DSI/GSD;
3. **Welcomes** Decision 15/9 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which includes, among other elements, an agreement that the benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources should be shared fairly and equitably;
4. **Encourages** Parties to the CBD, in further developing a solution for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, to consider how it might be mutually supportive of, and adaptable to, the Treaty;
5. **Requests** the Secretary to continue monitoring developments in all relevant international fora with regard to DSI/GSD and to support the subsidiary bodies, in particular those relating to the enhancement of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, Farmers' Rights, and Sustainable Use, in taking into account related developments when addressing the issue of DSI/GSD, and to report to the Governing Body at its Eleventh Session;
6. **Further requests** the Secretary to continue coordinating with the Secretariats of the CBD and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in any activities related to DSI/GSD, in order to ensure coherence and avoid duplication of work;
7. **Acknowledges** that aspects of DSI/GSD are among the matters under consideration by the Open-Ended Working Group on the Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing;
8. **Invites** the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing to examine possible ways to address DSI/GSD in the package of

measures, taking into account developments in the CBD, including progress in the development of the multilateral mechanism, as well as initiatives in other relevant fora;

9. ***Welcomes and acknowledges*** the technical assistance and actions undertaken by the CGIAR Centres in order to reduce the existing gap on capacity regarding generation, access to and use of DSI/GSD and ***recommends*** that this work be continued and strengthened;
10. ***Reiterates the call*** for Contracting Parties and other stakeholders, with the capacity to do so, to promote the provision of financial resources and technical assistance, and ***invites*** them to promote technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, training and capacity development, and scientific cooperation to reduce the existing gap on capacity regarding DSI/GSD between developed and developing countries and facilitate collaborations, as appropriate, and ***invites*** Contracting Parties and other stakeholders to provide information on such activities, and ***requests*** the Secretary to compile the information provided for the consideration of the Governing Body at its Eleventh Session.