



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



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

*IT/GB-10/23/Report*

***TENTH SESSION OF THE  
GOVERNING BODY OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL TREATY  
ON PLANT GENETIC  
RESOURCES FOR FOOD  
AND AGRICULTURE***

*Rome, Italy, 20–24 November 2023*

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS



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FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**Rome, Italy, 20–24 November 2023**

**SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC  
RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Rome, 2023**

The documents of the Tenth Session of the Governing Body  
of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
are available on the Internet at: [www.fao.org/plant-treaty](http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty)

They may also be obtained from:

The Secretariat of the International Treaty  
on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
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**REPORT OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

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## **REPORT OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Tenth Session) was held in Rome, Italy, from 20 to 24 November 2023. The list of delegates and observers is available on the website of the International Treaty.
2. The Tenth Session was convened under the provisions of Article 19 of the International Treaty.

### **OPENING CEREMONY**

3. An opening ceremony was held on 20 November 2023. The Chairperson of the Tenth Session, Ms Yasmina El Bahloul (Africa Region), opened the ceremony and welcomed all participants. She underscored how the presence of delegates signifies the commitment of each Contracting Party and of each individual towards fostering a resilient and equitable global agricultural landscape, by working together to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the world's crop diversity and future food security.
4. Mr Qu Dongyu, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), addressed the Tenth Session. He thanked Member Nations and other partners for their ongoing support to preserve biodiversity for sustainable agrifood systems. He highlighted the integral link between biodiversity and agriculture, stressing the role of plant genetics in research and innovation for resilience and food security. Noting the recent study, "The plants that feed the world", he emphasized the need for a diverse global food basket to sustainably meet food and nutrition needs, while conserving biodiversity. Furthermore, he welcomed Nigeria and Somalia as new Contracting Parties to the International Treaty, bringing the number of Contracting Parties to one-hundred-and-fifty-one. Mr Dongyu concluded with a call for collective efforts to promote the conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits from plant genetic resources.
5. Mr Kaveh Zahedi, Director, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, FAO, addressed the Tenth Session on behalf of Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, FAO. He referred to cascading crises – climate change, biodiversity loss, conflicts, global pandemics, and a narrowing of the diversity of the crops on which the world depends for food and for agriculture. He acknowledged the International Treaty as being essential to advancing the crucial role of plant

genetic resources in furthering the symbiotic relationship between biodiversity conservation and climate resilience. In reaffirming the support to the International Treaty by the Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment that he leads, Mr Zahedi encouraged the Governing Body to facilitate the mainstreaming of climate considerations into the into policies, research, and practices related to plant genetic resources. Mr Zahedi expressed his wishes for the Session to make a positive contribution towards a diverse, nutritious and plentiful world food basket.

6. Mr David Cooper, Acting Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), addressed the Tenth Session. He noted with appreciation the close and historic interlinkage between the CBD and the International Treaty and noted that the adoption of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was an opportunity to further strengthen the collaboration. In this regard, he specifically thanked the Bureau for the choice of the theme of the Tenth Session: “From Seeds to Innovative Solutions, Safeguarding our Future: Contributing to the Implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework for Sustainable Food Systems”. He noted that the achievement of the goals of the GBF will only be possible with everyone’s engagement. Mr Cooper further highlighted some of the Targets of the GBF that have strong links with the provisions of the International Treaty. Mr Cooper wished the Governing Body fruitful deliberations on the several complex issues, including on the enhancement of the functioning of the Multilateral System.

7. Ms Sonja Vermeulen, Managing Director of Genetic Innovation, CGIAR, addressed the Tenth Session. She emphasized the positive role that agriculture and the conservation and use of biological diversity can play in addressing challenges of environmental degradation, biological diversity loss, climate change, inequality and malnutrition. Ms. Vermeulen underscored the far-sightedness of the International Treaty in making connections between biological diversity, environmental sustainability, food systems. She noted that the cooperative framework and policy support it provides are crucial for achieving many of the GBF Targets. In Ms Vermeulen’s view, the International Treaty also provides a platform for contracting parties, international organizations, and other stakeholders to redouble their conservation efforts, working together to identify gaps in the coverage of the global system of conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) and to ensure that the diversity we have is not lost. She hoped that the high profile of the GBF will create additional stimulus for proactive engagement of contracting parties and stakeholders under the International Treaty. Ms Vermeulen shared two positive developments in the ongoing CGIAR reform process – the confirmation of the CGIAR Fund Council's commitment to supporting the core operation of CGIAR genebanks that are part of the reform effort, and ICRISAT joining the One CGIAR governance mechanism.

8. Ms Catherine Bertini, Chair of the Executive Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust), addressed the Tenth Session. She highlighted the success of the recent Global Crop Diversity Summit in Berlin, Germany, which she co-chaired with the Chairperson of the Tenth Session



of the Governing Body, and presented a Co-Chairs' summary of the outcomes. She outlined some of the key discussions and proposed actions identified during the summit. The summary emphasized the critical role of genebanks in transforming agrifood systems, and contributing to issues such as food and nutrition security, environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation, resilience, and social equity. The adoption of the GBF was acknowledged as a milestone for genebanks, calling for proactive engagement towards the achievement of the relevant global goals and targets, and engaging with new and existing partners to enhance the complementarity of *ex situ* conservation with other approaches. Ms Bertini stressed the need for a global genebank partnership, emphasizing collaboration, knowledge exchange, and mutual support and highlighted the International Treaty as a unique framework to facilitate collaboration among genebanks globally. To maintain awareness and advocacy, Ms Bertini noted the proposal to initiate an annual "Crop Diversity Day", to serve as a global platform for stakeholders to share knowledge, reflect on progress, and advocate for increased support.

9. Mr Michael Keller, Secretary General, International Seed Federation, addressed the Tenth Session indicating that it was always a privilege for the private sector to be invited to intervene during the opening ceremony at the sessions of the Governing Body. He observed that the International Treaty helps to ensure the exploration, conservation and availability of plant genetic resources for plant breeding, training and research, and noted the private sector's vital role in sustainable agriculture and food security. Mr Keller also highlighted the seed sector's contributions to biodiversity through the generation of new varieties, the multiplication of collections, the evaluation and screening of genetic material. He urged collaborative efforts to enhance seed systems for farmers, addressing seed insecurity. Mr Keller encouraged continued discussions on the enhancement of the Multilateral System, while expressing concern about the potential implications of ongoing discussions on "digital sequence information" (DSI) for the International Treaty. He concluded by encouraging the Governing Body to look for solutions that address all plant genetic resources and DSI within one system.

10. Mr Mugasho Digracious Kansly, a Ugandan farmer and partner of the International Treaty's Benefit-sharing Fund project, "Exploring wide crosses derived crop biodiversity (sorghum and maize) for climate resilience and food and nutrition security in Eastern and Southern Africa", addressed the Tenth Session. He expressed gratitude for the project's impact on farmers in Northern Uganda, and highlighted how the project, focusing on sorghum, provided knowledge, improved seeds, and market opportunities, leading to increased income and improved livelihoods. While Mr Kansly used to grow mainly maize, he shared how he got engaged in seed multiplication and participatory evaluation of local landraces of sorghum and was part of a group exploring new market opportunities by using sorghum for different products, including local brews and organic syrup. Mr Kansly emphasized the importance of continued support for crop diversity studies, understanding local plant genetic resources, and promoting the significance of good seeds for farmers. He concluded by acknowledging the life-changing opportunity to travel and share his story on an international platform.

11. Ms Sophie Healy-Thow, Youth Campaign Coordinator, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, and founder of Act4Food, addressed the Tenth Session. She drew attention to the crucial connection between recipes, seeds, food systems, and biodiversity, and advocated for a stronger recognition of crop diversity as fundamental to resilience, sustainability and equity of agrifood systems. She observed that crop diversity remained the silent hero of our agrifood systems, unrecognized by many. Ms Healy-Thow noted the observed decline in diversity within diets, which also risking loss of cultural food identities and essential nutrients for future generations. She advocated the empowering of young people as co-creators of policies and programs for health and nutrition, leading to tangible solutions towards a future where crop diversity enriches our plates, and the legacy of our agricultural traditions thrives for generations.

12. Mr Dan Leskien, Officer-in-charge, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO, addressed the Tenth Session, and emphasized the close collaboration between the Commission and the International Treaty, highlighting their shared history. Mr. Leskien noted the cooperation between the International Treaty and the Commission in periodic reports on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources and in the updating of the Global Plan of Action. He drew attention to the invitation of the Commission to the Governing Body to participate in the upcoming review and updating of the reports. Observing recent global developments, he commended the Treaty's Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing as an international 'success story', stressing that its further improvement is in the hands of the Governing Body.

13. Mr Kent Nnadozie, Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO, addressed the Tenth Session. He reminded participants of the spirit of cooperation and shared responsibility embodied in the International Treaty, and of its implementation as key to achieving the goals set forth in the GBF, a thematic focus of this Session. As the genetic diversity within seeds is essential to developing crops that can withstand the challenges posed by climate change and contribute to the sustainability of our agrifood systems, Mr Nnadozie underscored that the International Treaty provides a space for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and the development of best practices that contribute to such overarching goals.

14. The statement delivered by Mr Qu Dongyu is contained in *Appendix G*. The other statements delivered during the opening ceremony are available on the website of the International Treaty.

## **CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS**

15. At the end of its Ninth Session, the Governing Body had elected Ms Yasmina El Bahloul (Africa Region) as Chairperson of the Tenth Session, and the following Vice-Chairpersons: Ms Sabnam Shivakoti Aryal (Asia Region), Ms Kim Van Seeters (Europe Region), Mr Joaquín Salzberg

(Latin America and the Caribbean Region), Mr Ali Chéhadé (Near East Region), Ms Christine Dawson (North America Region) and Ms Alison Curran (Southwest Pacific Region).

16. In the course of the biennium and in accordance with Rule II.1 of the Rules of Procedure,<sup>1</sup> the Government of Argentina designated Ms María Antonella Parodi in place of Mr Joaquín Salzberg for Latin America and the Caribbean.

17. The Chairperson of the Tenth Session welcomed all the participants and opened the Tenth Session.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

18. The Governing Body adopted the Agenda of the Tenth Session, as given in *Appendix A*. The List of Documents and all pre-session documents are available on the website of the International Treaty.

## **PARTICIPATION OF OBSERVERS**

19. The Governing Body took note of the observers who had requested to be present at the Tenth Session,<sup>2</sup> and welcomed their participation.

## **ELECTION OF THE *RAPPORTEUR***

20. The Governing Body elected Ms Milena Savic Ivanov (Serbia) as *Rapporteur*.

## **APPOINTMENT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

21. The Report of the Credentials Committee to the Governing Body is contained in *Appendix C*. The list of Contracting Parties, as of 24 November 2023, is contained in *Appendix D*.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF A BUDGET COMMITTEE**

22. The Secretary introduced the document, *Draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2024–2025 biennium*<sup>3</sup> and the other documents<sup>4</sup> submitted under Item 18, Adoption of the Work Programme

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<sup>1</sup> “If a Bureau member resigns from his or her position or finds him or herself permanently unable to exercise his or her functions, the Contracting Party of that Bureau member shall designate another representative so that he or she may replace the said member during the remainder of the term. Except as provided for in Rule 2.3, if a Bureau member is unable to temporarily carry out any of his or her functions, the Contracting Party of that Bureau member may designate an alternate.”

<sup>2</sup> IT/GB-10/23/1.3

<sup>3</sup> IT/GB-10/23/18 Rev.2

<sup>4</sup> IT/GB-10/23/18 Add.1, Draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2024–2025 Biennium – Donor-supported activities under the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes

IT/GB-10/23/18.1, Implementation Report of the Work Programme for the 2022–2023 Biennium

IT/GB-10/23/18.2 Rev.1, Financial Report on Progress of the Work Programme and Budget for the 2022–2023 Biennium

and Budget, for the Governing Body to decide on the Work Programme and Budget 2024-2025. The Governing Body decided to establish a Budget Committee and elected Mr Jujjavarapu Balaji (India) and Mr Alwin Kopse (Switzerland) as the Co-Chairs of the Committee.

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

23. In her report,<sup>5</sup> the Chairperson of the Tenth Session, Ms Yasmina El Bahloul recalled that the Governing Body had met three times in three years, including the Special Session in 2021, and praised the enduring resilience and commitment of the Bureau Members and the Secretariat. Ms El Bahloul provided an overview of the work of the Bureau and the other subsidiary bodies during the one-year intersessional period. In particular, she referred to the updating of the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Governing Body by the Bureau following the decisions of the Ninth Session, and the re-establishment of the Open-ended Working Group on the Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System, for which she urged Contracting Parties to exercise understanding and spirit of compromise in order to come to a workable agreement.

24. With regard to the theme of this Tenth Session, Ms El Bahloul referred to the consideration that the Bureau gave to major developments in the multilateral environment, and specifically arising from COP-15 of the CBD, regarding the need to respond to the biodiversity crisis and accelerate efforts for its conservation and sustainable use, and new approaches to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and from DSI on genetic resources.

25. Ms El Bahloul also noted the work by the Bureau on cooperation with the Crop Trust, including the appointment of new members of the Executive Board, the Crop Diversity Summit and the support to PGRFA collections at risk.

26. In closing her intervention, Ms El Bahloul recalled that, in the framework of the biodiversity agenda at the United Nations level, the International Treaty provides the most important platform to safeguard the diversity of the plants that feed the world.

27. The Governing Body took note of the Chairperson's Report and thanked her and the Bureau for the excellent work performed.

## **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

28. In his report,<sup>6</sup> the Secretary, Mr Kent Nnadozie provided a summary of the intersessional processes and activities he had overseen in 2023. These included the processes and activities related to the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, the Funding Strategy, the Global Information

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<sup>5</sup> IT/GB-10/23/5

<sup>6</sup> IT/GB-10/23/6 Rev.1

System, Compliance, Farmers' Rights, and Conservation and Sustainable Use. With regard to operational developments that occurred in the intersessional period, Mr Nnadozie reported on the portfolio of projects under the Fifth Cycle of the Benefit-Sharing Fund, which resulted in an investment of USD 11 million.

29. He also referred to the support provided for the relocation of Ukraine's seed collection in collaboration with the Crop Trust and relevant FAO units under a project funded by the European Union, in coordination with other emergency assistance by the Nordic Genetic Resource Center and the Novo Nordisk Foundation. The United States provided complementary financial support to these efforts. Mr Nnadozie further informed of the on-going joint work with the Crop Trust on the Operational Framework of the Funding Facility for short-term support of International Collections.

30. With regard to the Capacity Development Strategy, Mr Nnadozie highlighted that the adoption of the GBF brought new opportunities for collaboration and presented a revised proposal for finalizing the Strategy and Action Plan for the International Treaty in the following biennium. Mr Nnadozie also reported on collaboration with the FAO Secretariat for the International Year of Millets 2023 through various initiatives and events to celebrate this international observance.

31. Mr Nnadozie informed the Governing Body of progress with the Communication Strategy for the International Treaty in 2023, consisting of efforts in refreshing messaging and developing new communication products. Mr Nnadozie welcomed Nigeria and Somalia as new Contracting Parties to the International Treaty and reported on progress with the membership campaign in several Regions.

32. In closing, Mr Nnadozie recalled the recently adopted GBF, and underscored the importance of collaboration among the biodiversity-related conventions and other international partners. With regard to the process for the enhancement of the Multilateral System, he noted the willingness of Contracting Parties to re-engage in negotiations as well as the relevance of the studies the Secretariat made available at this Session for understanding the existing gaps in the System and the benefits that an enhanced mechanism could bring to increase use and income for the benefit of the International Treaty's community.

33. The Governing Body noted the efforts undertaken by the Secretary on the implementation and operations of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, as well as the approval of the new projects under the Fifth Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund. The Governing Body welcomed the support provided by the Secretary and other partners for the relocation of Ukraine's seed collection and thanked the donors and the technical partners that made the assistance possible.

34. The Governing Body further noted the activities in the area of communication and requested the Secretary to continue increasing the visibility and impact of the Benefit-sharing Fund projects by all possible means so that the international community become aware of the contribution

of the Fund to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and to the sharing of benefits, mainly for small farmers.

35. The Governing Body welcomed the collaboration with the Secretariat of the International Year of Millets and other technical partners.

36. The Secretary invited the Governing Body to consider the work mandated in the intersessional period on the Capacity Development Strategy. Accordingly, the Governing Body considered the document, *Draft Capacity Development Strategy for the International Treaty 2023-2030*.<sup>7</sup> The Governing Body adopted Resolution 10/2023, as contained in *Appendix B.10*. It further requested that the draft Action Plan contain a section on resource mobilization, including in-kind resources, for implementing the Action Plan.

## **FROM SEEDS TO INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS, SAFEGUARDING OUR FUTURE: CONTRIBUTING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

37. The Governing Body considered the document, *The Role of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture within the Global Biodiversity Framework*,<sup>8</sup> and adopted Resolution 1/2023, as contained in *Appendix B.1*.

## **PROPOSAL FOR AN AMENDMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY**

38. The Governing Body considered the document, *Proposal by the Government of Switzerland for an Amendment of the International Treaty*.<sup>9</sup> The Government of Switzerland reaffirmed its proposal for the amendment of the International Treaty for the consideration of the Governing Body at its Eleventh Session.

## **IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATIONS OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING**

39. The Governing Body considered the documents: *Report on the Implementation and Operations of the Multilateral System*,<sup>10</sup> *Report on Implementation and Operations of the Multilateral*

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<sup>7</sup> IT/GB-10/23/6.1

<sup>8</sup> IT/GB-10/23/7

<sup>9</sup> IT/GB-10/23/8

<sup>10</sup> IT/GB-10/23/9.1

*System - Addendum*;<sup>11</sup> *Report on Possible Measures to Encourage Natural and Legal Persons to Include Material in the Multilateral System and other Reviews under the Multilateral System*;<sup>12</sup> and, *Report on the Operations of the Third-Party Beneficiary*.<sup>13</sup> The Governing Body adopted Resolution 2/2023, as contained in *Appendix B.2*.

## **ENHANCEMENT OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM**

40. The Governing Body considered the document, *Checkpoint Report of the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing*<sup>14</sup> and adopted Resolution 3/2023, as contained in *Appendix B.3*.

## **THE FUNDING STRATEGY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY**

41. The Governing Body considered the document, *Report of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization to the Tenth Session of the Governing Body*,<sup>15</sup> and adopted Resolution 4/2023, as contained in *Appendix B.4*.

## **THE GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**

42. The Governing Body considered the document, *Report on the Implementation of the Global Information System*,<sup>16</sup> and adopted Resolution 5/2023, as contained in *Appendix B.5*.

## **CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

43. The Governing Body considered the documents: *Report on the Implementation on Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA*;<sup>17</sup> *Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to the Tenth Session of the Governing Body*;<sup>18</sup> and, *The Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.<sup>19</sup> The Governing Body adopted Resolution 6/2023, as contained in *Appendix B.6*.

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<sup>11</sup> IT/GB-10/23/9.1 Add.1

<sup>12</sup> IT/GB-10/23/9.1.2

<sup>13</sup> IT/GB-10/23/9.1.4

<sup>14</sup> IT/GB-10/23/9.2

<sup>15</sup> IT/GB-10/23/10

<sup>16</sup> IT/GB-10/23/11

<sup>17</sup> IT/GB-10/23/12

<sup>18</sup> IT/GB-10/23/12.1

<sup>19</sup> IT/GB-10/23/12.2

## FARMERS' RIGHTS

44. The Governing Body considered the document, *Report on the Implementation of Farmers' Rights*,<sup>20</sup> and adopted Resolution 7/2023, as contained in *Appendix B.7*.

## COMPLIANCE

45. The Governing Body considered the document, *Report of the Compliance Committee*.<sup>21</sup> The Governing Body adopted Resolution 8/2023, as contained in *Appendix B.8*, which includes the list of the new members elected to serve in the Compliance Committee from January 2024.

## CONTRIBUTION OF FAO TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

46. The Governing Body considered the document, *Report from FAO on its Contribution to the Implementation of the International Treaty*,<sup>22</sup> and adopted Resolution 9/2023, as contained in *Appendix B.9*.

## COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

47. The Governing Body considered the document, *Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*,<sup>23</sup> and adopted Resolution 11/2023, as contained in *Appendix B.11*.

48. The Governing Body considered the documents: *Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust*,<sup>24</sup> *Report of the Global Crop Diversity Trust to the Governing Body*,<sup>25</sup> and, *Report on the Emergency Reserve for Germplasm Collections at Risk*.<sup>26</sup> The Governing Body adopted Resolution 12/2023, as contained in *Appendix B.12*.

49. The Governing Body considered the document, *Report on Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity*,<sup>27</sup> and adopted Resolution 13/2023, as contained in *Appendix B.13*.

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<sup>20</sup> IT/GB-10/23/13

<sup>21</sup> IT/GB-10/23/14

<sup>22</sup> IT/GB-10/23/15

<sup>23</sup> IT/GB-10/23/16.1

<sup>24</sup> IT/GB-10/23/16.2

<sup>25</sup> IT/GB-10/23/16.2.2

<sup>26</sup> IT/GB-10/23/9.1.3

<sup>27</sup> IT/GB-10/23/16.3



50. The Governing Body considered the documents: *Report on Cooperation with Other International Bodies and Organizations*;<sup>28</sup> *Reports from Institutions that have concluded Agreements with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the International Treaty*;<sup>29</sup> and, *Report from Norway on the Management and Operations of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault*.<sup>30</sup>

51. Several international organizations reported on their activities of relevance to, or in support of, the implementation of the International Treaty. The statements are contained in *Appendixes G.1-6*.

52. In the margins of the Tenth Session of the Governing Body, the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV) signed a Letter of Intent with a view to establishing effective cooperation between the two institutions with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of vine and grape genetic resources.

53. On the occasion of the observance of the World Olive Day 2023, the Government of Spain highlighted the importance of olive genetic resources and of the international olive collections established under the International Olive Council (IOC). One such international collection is hosted by Spain. The Governing Body welcomed the ongoing discussions between the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the IOC to strengthen collaboration, and requested the Secretary to continue discussions with the IOC and with the countries that hold international olive collections, with a view to establishing effective cooperation. It requested the Secretary to report on these efforts at the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body.

54. The Governing Body integrated several decisions regarding cooperation and adopted Resolution 14/2023, as contained in *Appendix B.14*.

## **MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY**

55. The Governing Body considered the document, *Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty*.<sup>31</sup> The Governing Body adopted Resolution 15/2023, as contained in *Appendix B.15*.

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<sup>28</sup> IT/GB-10/23/16.4

<sup>29</sup> IT/GB-10/23/16.4.2

<sup>30</sup> IT/GB-10/23/16.4.3

<sup>31</sup> IT/GB-10/23/17.1

## **CONSIDERATION OF “DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION/GENETIC SEQUENCE DATA” ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR THE OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY**

56. The Governing Body considered the document, *Consideration of “Digital Sequence Information/Genetic Sequence Data” on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for the Objectives of the International Treaty*.<sup>32</sup> The Governing Body adopted Resolution 16/2023, as contained in *Appendix B.16*.

### **ADOPTION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET**

57. The Co-Chairpersons of the Budget Committee presented the recommendations of the Committee with a proposed budget for the 2024–2025 Work Programme. The Governing Body adopted Resolution 17/2023, as contained in *Appendix B.17*.

## **PROPOSAL FOR THE RENEWAL AND TERM OF OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

58. The Governing Body considered the document, *Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body*.<sup>33</sup> The Governing Body agreed to the proposal to extend the appointment of Mr Kent Nnadozie as Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty for four years and congratulated him on the extent and quality of the work achieved.

59. The Governing Body considered the document, *Term of office of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – proposed amendment to the Rules of Procedure*,<sup>34</sup> and in accordance with Rule XII of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Body, adopted the proposed amendment to Rule III of the Rules of Procedure set out in paragraph 7 of the document to introduce a term of office of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty, in accordance with Rule XII.

60. The Governing Body recommended that the assessment of the performance of the Secretary for the renewal of the term of office be undertaken in a timely manner, with the involvement

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<sup>32</sup> IT/GB-10/23/17.2

<sup>33</sup> IT/GB-10/23/19.1

<sup>34</sup> IT/GB-10/23/19.2

of the Bureau, based on a clear set of criteria, and in accordance with the FAO performance assessment procedures for senior management.

## **ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION**

61. The Governing Body elected the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons for the Eleventh Session. Mr Alwin Kopse (Europe Region) was elected as Chairperson of the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body. Six Vice-Chairpersons were elected: Mr John Wasswa Mulumba (Africa Region), Ms Sabnam Shivakoti (Asia Region), Ms Mariana Marshall Parra (Latin America and the Caribbean Region), Ms Neveen Abd El Fattah Hassan (Near East Region), Ms Katlyn Scholl (North America Region), and Ms Alison Curran (Southwest Pacific Region).

## **DATE AND PLACE OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION**

62. The Eleventh Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty will be held in the last quarter of 2025, noting that the Secretary is still in discussions with certain Contracting Parties as possible hosts for the Session and would inform the Bureau and Contracting Parties as soon as an agreement is reached. It will be convened by the Chairperson of the Eleventh Session, with the agreement of the Bureau and in consultation with the Director-General of FAO and the Secretary. The Secretary will communicate the exact date and place of the Eleventh Session to all Contracting Parties.

63. The Governing Body called on Contracting Parties wishing to host any future Sessions of the Governing Body to communicate their intention well in advance of the Session they wish to host, preferably during a preceding Session.

## **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

64. The Governing Body adopted its report and all Resolutions as contained in *Appendixes B.1-B17*.

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**APPENDIX A****AGENDA OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

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1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
2. Election of the *Rapporteur*
3. Appointment of the Credentials Committee
4. Establishment of the Budget Committee
5. Report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body
6. Report of the Secretary of the Governing Body
  - 6.1 Capacity Development Strategy
7. From Seeds to Innovative Solutions, Safeguarding our Future: Contributing to the Implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework for Sustainable Food Systems
8. Proposal for an Amendment of the International Treaty
9. The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing
  - 9.1 Implementation and Operations of the Multilateral System
  - 9.2 Enhancement of the Multilateral System
10. The Funding Strategy of the International Treaty
11. The Global Information System
12. Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA
13. Farmers' Rights
14. Compliance
15. Contribution of FAO to the Implementation of the International Treaty
16. Cooperation with International Instruments and Organizations
  - 16.1 Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
  - 16.2 Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust
  - 16.3 Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol
  - 16.4 Cooperation with other International Bodies and Organizations
17. Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty
  - 17.1 Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty
  - 17.2 Consideration of "Digital Sequence Information/Genetic Sequence Data" on Genetic Resources for the Objectives of the International Treaty

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- 18 Adoption of the Work Programme and Budget
  - 19 Proposal for the renewal and term of office of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
  - 20 Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Eleventh Session
  - 21 Date and Place of the Eleventh Session
  - 22 Adoption of the Report

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**APPENDIX B****RESOLUTIONS OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

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**APPENDIX B.1****RESOLUTION 1/2023****THE ROLE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE WITHIN THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

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**THE GOVERNING BODY,**

**Recalling** Article 1.2 and Article 19.3 (g) and (l) of the International Treaty, which provide for the Governing Body to establish and maintain cooperation with, as well as take note of the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as well as Article 20.5, which requires the Secretary to cooperate with the Secretariat of the CBD;

**Further recalling** Resolution 13/2022 and, in particular, its decision to consider the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) at its Tenth Session, as well as follow-up actions to support its implementation of the framework and the integration of those actions into its Multi-Year Programme of Work, as appropriate, and its invitation to UNEP to build on the Bern process and continue to strengthen cooperation and coordination among biodiversity-related conventions contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the GBF;

**Noting** that the CBD COP, at its fifteen meeting, adopted the GBF and emphasized the importance of cooperation among all relevant conventions to implement and monitor progress in the implementation of the GBF in an effective and timely manner in order to achieve its targets, goals, 2030 mission and 2050 Vision;

**Further noting** the COP Decision 15/13, by which the COP, inter alia, “invite[d] the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions and relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as international organizations and other relevant programmes, to formally endorse the GBF through their own governance processes, as appropriate, in order to support its operationalization and contribute to the transparency and monitoring of progress in its implementation”;

1. **Welcomes** the GBF, and highlights its full relevance to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
2. **Acknowledges** that the achievement of the goals and targets of the GBF would contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the International Treaty;
3. **Emphasises** that implementation of the International Treaty would make a significant contribution to the achievement the GBF’s Vision, Goals and Targets, particularly in relation to sustainable food systems;
4. **Recognises** that, as a result of the GBF’s adoption, biodiversity is receiving higher attention on the policy agenda, at national and international level, which presents an opportunity to

strengthen Treaty implementation, by strengthening actions to meet mutually supportive Goals and Targets of the GBF;

5. **Invites** Contracting Parties to:
  - encourage effective liaison between the respective national focal points of the CBD and the International Treaty in national processes related to the KM-GBF implementation;
  - mainstream the implementation of the International Treaty within National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other relevant policies, plans and programmes to support the GBF implementation;
  - share lessons learned regarding the integration of PGRFA in NBSAPs and other relevant policies, plans and programmes with other Contracting Parties and **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to bring together Parties and Treaty enabling partners to share success stories, knowledge gained and lessons learned in this area and to liaise with the Ad Hoc Expert Team on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as appropriate;
6. **Emphasises** the importance of developing a monitoring framework for the GBF that relies, inter alia, on established monitoring systems and reporting processes, including those related to PGRFA, in particular those of the International Treaty and FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
7. **Encourages** non-Contracting Party countries to become members of the International Treaty, for example through active awareness raising by the Secretary in partnership with regional plant genetic resources networks or in other fora. This will strengthen the efforts of the international community to achieve the GBF targets related to PGRFA;
8. **Joins** the COP to **encourage** Contracting Parties and other Governments to work together with all stakeholders to jointly implement the GBF in a spirit of cooperation and mutual support, at global, regional, subregional, national and subnational levels, across areas and sectors, through bilateral joint work programmes where appropriate, and through existing global, regional, subregional, national and subnational instruments, mechanisms and processes;
9. **Thanks** the intersessional/subsidiary bodies of the Governing Body for having considered possible implications of the outcomes of the GBF for the work of the International Treaty in their respective areas of work and **requests** the Secretary to continue to engage them in the processes of implementation and monitoring of the GBF;
10. **Thanks** the Secretary for having brought the considerations made by the Governing Body during the development of the Framework to the Executive Secretary of the CBD for transmission to the fifteenth meeting of the COP to the CBD and its relevant subsidiary bodies;
11. **Requests** the Secretary to continue engaging and providing inputs in relevant CBD processes related to the GBF and to report back to the Governing Body;
12. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to report to the Governing Body on cooperation with other relevant international bodies and organizations, including with the Human Rights Council and other international human rights bodies, and related collaborative activities;
13. **Emphasises** the importance of maintaining cooperation, complementarity and coherence as well as avoiding duplication between the International Treaty and the CBD, and with other biodiversity-related conventions, in the implementation of the GBF and **requests** the Secretary to strengthen cooperation in the implementation of goals and targets related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
14. **Noting** that the COP of the CBD, at its Sixteenth Session, will finalise a number of elements of the GBF, including on the monitoring framework, resource mobilization,

national planning processes and a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources DSI, **decides** to add “GBF implementation and follow-up actions” as a GB-11 milestone for the GB-11 in the Multi-Year Programme of Work;

15. **Welcomes** the Bern process on cooperation and coordination among Parties of biodiversity-related conventions, contributing to an effective and efficient implementation of the GBF.
16. **Welcomes** the draft resolution endorsed by the CGRFA at its Nineteenth Regular Session on the GBF and **encourages** the FAO Council to adopt it at its next session.



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## RESOLUTION 2/2023

### IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING

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#### THE GOVERNING BODY,

*Recalling* previous Resolutions on the operations and implementation of the Multilateral System, in particular, Resolution 2/2022;

*Recalling* the need to provide regular guidance to Contracting Parties and institutions that have concluded agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty for the effective and efficient operations of the Multilateral System;

*Recalling* the provisions of Article 15.1 (a) of the International Treaty;

*Recalling* further the provisions of Articles 6.5 and 6.6 of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA);

#### PART I: AVAILABILITY AND TRANSFER OF MATERIAL IN THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM

1. *Welcomes* the information provided on the availability of material in the Multilateral System and its exchange and *reiterates* the request to the Secretary to update the report for the Eleventh Session, consistent with paragraph 4 of Resolution 2/2022;
2. *Appeals* to both Contracting Parties, and natural and legal persons to make their plant genetic resources for food and agriculture available in the Multilateral System, together with the relevant non-confidential characterization and evaluation data; and *further appeals* to donors to support characterization and evaluation of collections conserved in national gene banks of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
3. *Requests* the Secretary to make Treaty National Focal Points aware of the briefing note for natural and legal persons interested in including material in the Multilateral System, so that they can use it as a basis to encourage and support natural and legal persons in their respective countries to make material available in the Multilateral System;
4. *Invites* Contracting Parties and other holders of material to use, on a voluntary basis, the Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) of the Global Information System for the identification of material available in the Multilateral System;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue its collaboration with the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on updating the report on the availability of material in the Multilateral System, including reasons why there are Contracting Parties that have not placed any material in the Multilateral System.

#### PART II: OPERATIONS OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM

6. *Takes note* of the progress made since the Ninth Session with Easy-SMTA and the Data Store and *requests* the Secretary to continue to maintain the help-desk function on the operations of the Multilateral System;
7. *Welcomes* the publication of the online training course based on the Educational Module on the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing and *requests* the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to make it available in other official languages;
8. *Takes note* of the online training events and webinars organized since the Ninth Session to facilitate implementation of the Multilateral System and *requests* the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue to organize regional implementation workshops

to support Contracting Parties, providers, users and other stakeholders in strengthening use of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) and operations of the Multilateral System;

9. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to support Contracting Parties in the documentation and exchange of national experiences on implementation of the Multilateral System and to publish them on the website of the International Treaty;
10. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to work with the Article 15 institutions to build capacity among a broader range of providers, including natural and legal persons, to implement the Multilateral System and to report on use of the SMTA;

### **PART III: PRACTICE OF THE CGIAR CENTERS ON THE MANAGEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL ASSETS RELATED TO PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE<sup>35</sup>**

11. **Thanks** the CGIAR System for the submission of the report on the Status of Implementation of the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets and the increased transparency in Centers' communications when entering into restrictive agreements concerning plant germplasm or information generated from the use of such germplasm;
12. **Invites** the CGIAR System to continue to report on the application of the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets to germplasm managed under the framework of the International Treaty, parts thereof, or information generated from the use of this germplasm;

### **PART IV: OPERATION OF THE THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARY<sup>36</sup>**

**Recalling** that the Governing Body, at its Third Session, had approved the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures for the carrying out of the roles and responsibilities of the Third Party Beneficiary, as identified and prescribed in the SMTA under the direction of the Governing Body;

**Recalling further** that, in accordance with Article 4.2 of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures, the Third Party Beneficiary may receive information on possible non-compliance with the obligations of the provider and recipient under an SMTA from any natural or legal persons;

**Recognizing** that the Third Party Beneficiary will require adequate financial and other resources, and that FAO acting as Third Party Beneficiary shall not incur any liabilities in excess of the funds available in the Third Party Beneficiary Operational Reserve;

13. **Notes** the Report on the Operation of the Third Party Beneficiary and further **requests** the Secretary and FAO to continue to provide, at each Session of the Governing Body, such a report;
14. **Stresses** the importance, for the effective functioning of the Third Party Beneficiary, of Article 4.2 of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures, according to which the Third Party Beneficiary may receive information on possible non-compliance with the obligations of the provider and recipient under an SMTA from the parties under the SMTA, or any other natural or legal persons;
15. **Decides** to maintain the Third Party Beneficiary Operational Reserve for the 2024–2025 biennium at the current level of USD 283 280 and to review the same at its Eleventh Session, and **calls** upon Contracting Parties that have not yet done so, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other entities, to contribute to the Reserve;
16. **Authorizes** the Secretary to draw on the Third Party Beneficiary Operational Reserve as may be needed for implementation of the functions of the Third Party Beneficiary;
17. **Welcomes** the functional and cost-effective information technology tools and infrastructure that the Secretary has developed to facilitate the submission, collection and storage of information in the implementation of Article 4.1 of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures and **requests** the Secretary to continue applying adequate measures to ensure the integrity and,

<sup>35</sup> See also document IT/GB-10/23/16.4.2

<sup>36</sup> As proposed in document IT/GB-10/23/9.1.4

where required, the confidentiality of information, while continuing, subject to the availability of financial resources, the further development of the International Treaty information technology tools and infrastructure, including in accordance with the Vision and the Programme of Work of the Global Information System.

**PART V: REVIEWS AND ASSESSMENTS UNDER THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM AND OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF THE STANDARD MATERIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT<sup>37</sup>**

18. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue capacity development activities and awareness-raising efforts on the voluntary inclusion of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the Multilateral System by natural and legal persons, with the participation of national focal points and relevant stakeholders;
19. **Decides** to undertake the reviews and assessments foreseen under Articles 11.4 [and 13.2d(ii)] of the International Treaty at its Eleventh Session, and **requests** the Secretary to prepare the relevant documentation;
20. **Requests** the Secretary to undertake further research and consultation on possible measures to encourage natural and legal persons to make plant genetic resources for food and agriculture available in the Multilateral System, and prepare a set of recommendations for the consideration of the Governing Body at its Eleventh Session.

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<sup>37</sup> As proposed in document IT/GB-10/23/9.1.2

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## RESOLUTION 3/2023

### ENHANCEMENT OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING

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#### THE GOVERNING BODY,

**Recalling** Resolution 3/2022, by which it 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;

**Having considered** the checkpoint report by the Co-Chairs, and **thanking** the Co-Chairs for their efforts to facilitate interactions and informal consultations, to build trust and mutual understanding;

**Thanking** the Government of Switzerland for the financial support provided to hold a physical informal meeting in Prangins, Switzerland, which was a further trust-building measure and produced input for the meeting of the Working Group;

**Thanking** the Governments of the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland for providing the financial resources to allow the Working Group to hold its tenth meeting in all languages;

1. **Endorses** the suggestion of the Working Group to use the “June 2019 draft package” as a starting point for its further work;
2. **Requests** the Co-Chairs to give early attention to the three identified “hotspots”: digital sequence information/genetic sequence data, expansion of Annex I, and payment structure and rates;
3. **Stresses** the importance of an open and inclusive process and **requests** the Co-Chairs of the Working Group, in keeping with Resolution 3/2022, to continue to organize stakeholder and regional consultations, as appropriate on a regular basis;
4. **Takes note** of decision 15/9 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources and **urges** the Working Group to take this decision and related developments into account when addressing the issue of digital sequence information/genetic sequence data in the context of the process to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System;
5. **Welcomes** the preliminary timeline developed by the Co-Chairs in their checkpoint report contained in the document IT/GB-10/23/9.2 and **invites** the Co-Chairs to publish an updated indicative timeline and a package of relevant information in relation to the process;
6. **Notes** that, with a view to make sufficient progress, four formal in-person meetings of the Working Group will be required; in addition, **invites** the Co-Chairs to organize informal consultations, as appropriate, in the next biennium, and, where needed, small ad hoc Friends of the Co-Chairs groups while ensuring that the process is undertaken in a transparent and representative manner;
7. **Invites** the Co-Chairs to seek written inputs or reports from all relevant stakeholders;
8. **Invites** Contracting Parties and Regions to fully commit to continuing the negotiations on the package of measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System and to ensure that participants in the process, especially spokespersons in the Working Group, receive the necessary support and have the necessary knowledge, skills and experience to represent them;
9. **Urges** Contracting Parties to provide support and financial resources, as necessary, for the Working Group to be able to fulfil its mandate effectively and on schedule.

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## RESOLUTION 4/2023

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUNDING STRATEGY

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#### THE GOVERNING BODY,

**Recalling** Articles 13.2, 13.3, 18 (in particular 18.4) and 19.3f of the International Treaty;

**Recalling** Resolution 3/2019 through which the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty for the period 2020 to 2025 was adopted, in order to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement activities under this Treaty, and through which it decided to make the Committee a standing Committee;

**Recalling** its previous Resolutions on the Funding Strategy, in particular, Resolution 4/2022;

1. **Welcomes** the report of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee or Committee) and the progress made in implementing the Funding Strategy since its adoption.

#### PART I: FUNDING STRATEGY

2. **Recalls** that the first three years of the Funding Strategy 2020–2025 were implemented mostly during the COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly affected the global policy, fiscal and operational environment, and **thinks** the Committee for the recommendations for updating the Funding Strategy to effectively respond to the situation and, to new and emerging issues.
3. **Decides** to revise the timeline of the Funding Strategy from 2020-2025 to 2020-2027 to enable the Treaty to build upon the opportunities and momentum arising from the recent adoption of the GBF, and to enable the Funding Committee to support the finalisation of the process for the enhancement of the Multilateral System in the next biennium.
4. **Requests** the Funding Committee to continue to play a leading role in advancing the implementation and monitoring of the Funding Strategy in order to provide the necessary strategic guidance as well as operational oversight of relevant processes and activities relating to the Funding Strategy;
5. **Invites** FAO to prioritize the delivery of programmes and projects supportive of implementation of the Treaty, and to support the nexus between biodiversity and climate change, in particular, through its involvement in the Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund, as appropriate, and to actively contribute to the work of the Committee;
6. **Recalls** that the Global Crop Diversity Trust is an essential element of the Funding Strategy and **thinks** it for the significant efforts made to engage with the Committee as an active observer, providing inputs to the work of the Committee, and collaborating with the Treaty Secretariat on a number of resource mobilization and communication initiatives;
7. **Notes** with concern, the absence or low participation of some regions in the meetings of the Funding Committee, and **urges** Regional Groups and Contracting Parties to consider both expertise and availability in nominating members to the Committee.
8. **Decides** that the costs of the meetings of and the relevant preparatory work for the Funding Committee shall be included in the Core Administrative Budget as may be adopted by the Governing Body, supplemented by any voluntary contributions made available for that purpose, and requests the Secretary to include such costs into the Core Administrative Budget that is presented to the Governing Body for approval at its Regular Sessions;
9. **Invites** Contracting Parties and donors in a position to do so to support the work of the Committee, in particular for the participation of developing countries.

## PART II: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

10. **Encourages** Contracting Parties to mobilize resources from various sources to meet the targets of the Funding Strategy;
11. **Welcomes** the progress made in implementing the approved Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy, and **requests** the Committee to continue to provide regular updates to the Governing Body on its implementation;
12. **Thanks** Germany, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America for their financial contributions during the period 2022–2023 to the Fund for Agreed Purposes of the International Treaty and other funds under the direct control of the Governing Body, and **encourages** other Contracting Parties and donors to also make financial contributions to the Fund to further support the implementation of the International Treaty;
13. **Further thanks** the European Union, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland for their financial contributions in support of the fifth cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund, and **invites** them, through its ongoing discussions with the Secretariat, to further enhance this relationship with a view to establishing a longer term strategic partnership with the International Treaty in areas of common interest;
14. **Welcomes** the further user-based payments to the Benefit-sharing Fund, and **stresses** the ongoing need for ensuring an enhanced and predictable flow of resources to the Fund;
15. **Thanks** the French Inter-professional Organisation for Seeds and Plants (SEMAE) and the Federation of Seed Industry of India for their generous contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund and **invites** the private sector and others to make or continue making and increasing financial contributions in order to meet the targets of the Funding Strategy;
16. **Recalls** that text regarding a target range for the Benefit-sharing Fund remains bracketed in paragraph 36 of the Funding Strategy, and **notes** the need to resolve this matter;
17. **Emphasizes** the importance of continuing the work on resource mobilization, communication, promotion and the International Treaty’s branding and media presence to enhance funding for, and the visibility of the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Fund for Agreed Purposes of the International Treaty, in particular, and for the Funding Strategy.

## PART III: BENEFIT-SHARING FUND OPERATIONS

18. **Thanks** the Funding Committee for providing guidance to the operations of the Benefit-sharing Fund during the biennium and, in particular, for its work in launching the Fifth Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund and finalising the project selection, which contributes to the realization of the programmatic approach for the Fund, as adopted by the Governing Body;
19. **Welcomes** the report on the Benefit-sharing Fund for the 2022-2023 period submitted to the Governing Body, and **stresses** the importance of communicating the results of the on-going projects under the Fourth Cycle and the expected results of the Fifth Cycle within the framework of the broader communication strategy of the International Treaty, and in this regard **requests** the Secretariat to continue to hold regional on-line briefings to update Contracting Parties and stakeholders on progress and relevant developments, as well as to receive feedback.

## PART IV: MONITORING, LEARNING AND REVIEW

20. **Invites** Contracting Parties, international mechanisms, funds, bodies, stakeholder groups and other international organizations to provide information to the Secretary to assist the Funding Committee in undertaking regular reviews of the Funding Strategy and **requests** the Funding Committee to continue to work in collaboration with the Compliance Committee so as to agree the best way to integrate information in existing reporting formats;

21. ***Calls*** upon Contracting Parties to share information about the results of the further integration of PGRFA in national budgets and priorities with the Secretariat for the development of strategic tools that National Focal Points and others can use to leverage new resources;
22. ***Invites*** relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies, stakeholder groups and other international organizations to provide information to the Secretariat that will enable the Funding Committee to better leverage funding from all sources for Treaty implementation and the delivery of non-monetary benefit-sharing.
23. ***Stresses*** the importance of finalizing and testing the methodology for measuring non-monetary benefit-sharing and requests the Funding Committee to give attention to this matter early in the biennium 2024–2025.

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## RESOLUTION 5/2023

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

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#### THE GOVERNING BODY,

**Recalling** its previous Resolutions and decisions on the Vision and the Programme of Work on the Global Information System (PoW-GLIS), and particularly Resolutions 5/2022;

**Further recalling** the contribution of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System of Article 17 of the International Treaty (SAC-GLIS) to the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, in particular to the provisions of Article 13.2.a;

1. **Takes note** of the integration of the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA into the GLIS Portal and **requests** the Secretary to raise awareness of the Toolbox and its integration into GLIS;
2. **Welcomes** the development of the module to document Crop Wild Relatives and **requests** the Secretary to promote the module and expand the content of the Directory of Links;
3. **Takes note** of the progress made in the promotion of the use of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) and **encourages** the Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to continue to promote their use, on a voluntary basis, and to expand efforts to build the capacity of relevant stakeholders, especially in developing countries;
4. **Requests** the Secretary to promote capacity building for the improvement of national databases, the access and use of information in the GLIS Portal, and the voluntary use of DOIs, which will contribute to the implementation of the five objectives of the PoW-GLIS;
5. **Takes note** of the publication of the new crop descriptor booklets and **acknowledges** all the institutions and individuals that have contributed to their accomplishment, and **invites** the Secretary to actively promote their use as well as facilitate the development of further descriptor lists, as appropriate, and subject to the availability of financial resources;
6. **Takes note** of the collaboration with WIEWS, Genesys, Web-SDIS, the DivSeek International Network, EURISCO, and the CGIAR Genebank Initiative on PGRFA documentation and **invites** the Secretary to continue the collaboration with these entities and systems to enhance synergies and mutual support;
7. **Takes note** of the development of the CWR Descriptor Tool v.1 and **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to further improve it and promote its use;
8. **Reiterates** the invitation to Contracting Parties that have not done so to consider the development of national inventories on Crop Wild Relatives and **requests** the Secretary, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, to support Contracting Parties in these efforts through extra-budgetary resources such inventories should be listed in the GLIS Portal;
9. **Decides** to reconvene the Scientific Advisory Committee with the same terms of reference as the previous biennium, and subject to the availability of financial resources, to hold at least one meeting in presence and, if necessary, additional virtual meetings, and **requests** the Secretary to continue to update the Committee on progress in the implementation of the PoW-GLIS;
10. **Requests** the Scientific Advisory Committee to continue considering scientific and technical issues related to the conservation and use of PGRFA with relevance to DSI/GSD, as they relate to Article 17, and the implications of the relevant outcomes of COP 15 of the CBD and their implementation on the PoW-GLIS in future years;



11. **Requests** the Secretary to provide a report to the SAC-GLIS and the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body on relevant updates on documentation and information exchange of PGRFA in the context of the Global Biodiversity Framework;
12. **Requests** the Secretary to advance on the exchange of relevant information and links with the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House (ABSCH) in the context of the PoW-GLIS;
13. **Thanks** the Government of Germany for the financial support provided for the documentation of Crop Wild Relatives conserved *in situ*;
14. **Invites** Contracting Parties, other governments and stakeholders, bearing in mind Article 18 of the International Treaty, to provide the necessary resources to implement the PoW-GLIS, in particular for the further development of the GLIS Portal, the development of national inventories of CWR, and support of training and capacity development activities in developing countries;
15. **Thanks** the members of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System of Article 17 for the advice provided to the Secretary and their inputs to the various work tracks on GLIS;
16. **Requests** the Secretary to follow up on implementation of the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee and to provide a summary report to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body.

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## RESOLUTION 6/2023

### IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLES 5 AND 6, CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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#### THE GOVERNING BODY,

**Acknowledging** the paramount importance of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) and the vital role of their conservation and sustainable use in addressing global challenges, including food insecurity, biodiversity loss, climate change adaptation, and poverty alleviation;

**Taking note** that the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty will contribute to the goals and relevant targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and vice versa;

**Recalling** its previous Resolutions on Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA, in particular, Resolutions 7/2011, 7/2013, 4/2015, 6/2017, 5/2019 and 6/2022;

1. **Takes note** of the Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Committee), and **thinks** the Committee for its work, including defining future strategies to support countries in the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty through the possible development or establishment of:
  - voluntary guidelines on the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;
  - an inclusive process to develop voluntary guidelines during the next biennium, possibly including a global symposium and expert input or small groups to address each type of bottleneck;
  - a mechanism to identify the levels and forms of implementation and providing assistance to countries in need of support in implementing Articles 5 and 6, according to specific contexts and local needs.
2. **Decides** to reconvene the Committee with the Terms of Reference contained in the Annex to this Resolution, subject to the availability of financial resources;
3. **Takes note of** the revised Concept Note of the Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Joint Programme), and **thinks** the Committee, experts and initial partners for their work;
4. **Welcomes** the efforts of the Secretary to implement the new prototype of the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA (Toolbox) as a useful online database of valuable information for the conservation, management and sustainable use of PGRFA;
5. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to promote, disseminate, regularly update and monitor the Toolbox, and invites Contracting Parties and stakeholders to continue to share information resources and to enhance its utility;
6. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to analyse and monitor the identified gaps and needs highlighted in the Background study on the bottlenecks and challenges to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty, and **calls upon** Contracting Parties to share information on the difficulties and challenges encountered in the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty, as well as possible new initiatives, activities, and approaches that could be undertaken to address them;

7. **Requests** the Secretary, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, and subject to the availability of financial resources, to:
  - organize regional consultations on the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty, with a particular focus on identified bottlenecks and possible approaches to address them, and to update Contracting Parties and stakeholders on progress and relevant developments;
  - facilitate and assemble information about the activities carried out by Contracting Parties, stakeholders, and international organizations in support of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;
  - continue to facilitate training and capacity building activities and initiatives aimed at advancing the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, including sustainable biodiverse production systems, participatory approaches, as well as the assessment of needs of local farmers and other relevant local stakeholders and the identification of possible means to address those needs;
  - support national programmes and processes in policy development for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, and in building partnerships and mobilizing resources.
8. **Calls upon** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue to collaborate and cooperate with relevant units within FAO, the CBD, the CGIAR Centers, other entities and institutions, such as the national and International Agricultural Research Centres, as well as the public and private sector and civil society, in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and in strengthening the interaction between different stakeholders of genetic resources, community and farmer-led activities, and protected area systems, while avoiding duplication of work;
9. **Calls upon** Contracting Parties to support the activities outlined in this Resolution, including through the provision of financial resources in line with the provisions of Articles 7 and 8 of the International Treaty;
10. **Thanks** the Government of Italy for the generous financial and in-kind support it has continued to provide towards the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty and the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA; and **calls on** Contracting Parties and other donors to provide additional financial resources for the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty, in line with the provisions of its Articles 7 and 8.

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*Annex*

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**Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

1. The Ad hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture will continue to advise the Secretariat on the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty, in particular by:
  - i. Developing a mechanism to identify the status of implementation of Articles 5 and 6 and support Contracting Parties that need assistance with regard to their specific contexts and local needs;
  - ii. Providing inputs and to begin to draft the voluntary guidelines on possible approaches to address the bottlenecks identified in *Background Study on Bottlenecks and Challenges to the Implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty* (IT/GB-9/22/12/Inf.2), in consultation with Contracting Parties, and taking into account relevant work conducted by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
  - iii. Providing recommendations on the current work and future strategies to support countries in the implementation of Articles 5 and 6, based on areas of action of the proposed Joint Programme;
  - iv. Providing guidance on scope, format, timing, priority crops, and other issues related to global crop conservation strategies; and
  - v. Offering advice on how to promote cooperation, mainstreaming and partnership to enhance the implementation of Articles 5 and 6.
2. The Committee will comprise up to five members each from Africa Region, Asia Region, Europe Region, Latin America and the Caribbean Region; three from the Near East Region; and two each from the North America Region and the South West Pacific Region; as well as technical experts designated by the Bureau, comprising of seven experts, based on proposals by the FAO Regions, and up to three representatives from relevant stakeholders, in particular farmers' organizations, taking into account the required range of technical expertise, and regional and gender balance. Two Co-Chairpersons from Contracting Parties to the International Treaty will form part of the Committee – one from a developing country and one from a developed country. The two Co-Chairpersons shall be in addition to the members of the Committee nominated by the Regions. The Governing Body delegates the authority to designate the Co-Chairpersons to the Bureau of the Eleventh Session.
3. The Committee may hold up to two meetings in the next biennium, one of which is a physical meeting subject to the availability of financial resources. The Secretary will facilitate the process and assist the Committee in its work.
4. The Committee will report to the Governing Body on its work for further consideration at the Eleventh Session.

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## RESOLUTION 7/2023

### IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 9, FARMERS' RIGHTS

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#### THE GOVERNING BODY,

**Recalling** the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world have made, and will continue to make, to the conservation, development and use of plant genetic resources as the basis of food and agriculture production throughout the world;

**Reaffirming** the important role of female farmers as guardians of crop diversity and contributing to sustainable agricultural systems and food security;

**Recalling** its previous Resolutions 2/2007, 6/2009, 6/2011, 8/2013, 5/2015, 7/2017, 6/2019 and 7/2022;

1. **Welcomes** the publication of *Options for Encouraging, Guiding and Promoting the Realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty* (the Options), noting that the options under Category 10 are Co-Chairs' proposal, and **requests** the Secretariat to increase awareness of the Options, and **encourages** Contracting Parties and other stakeholders to consider using *the Options* in encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights, in accordance with their needs and priorities, as appropriate, and subject to national legislation;
2. **Invites** Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders, especially farmers' organizations, to continue submitting to the Secretary, for inclusion in the *Inventory*, experiences and best practices for national implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, or to update previous submissions, as appropriate, and subject to national legislation;
3. **Takes note** of the outcomes of the Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights and **thanks** the Government of India for generously and successfully hosting the Symposium, and **encourages** Contracting Parties to consider hosting future Symposiums as a platform for sharing experiences and learning from each other in the realisation of Farmers' Rights;
4. **Takes note** of the annotated outline for the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, as requested at the Ninth Session, and **takes note** of the request that the assessment also set out the measures limiting the realisation of Farmers' Rights;
5. **Decides** to reconvene the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (AHTEG-FR) with the Terms of Reference contained in Annex 2 to this Resolution;
6. **Requests** the Secretary to invite Contracting Parties and other interested stakeholders, especially farmers' organizations, to submit inputs and comments on the annotated outline contained in Annex 1 to this Resolution, including suggestions on how measures limiting the realization of Farmers' Rights could be included, and to compile and publish the submissions at least four weeks before the first meeting of the AHTEG-FR;
7. **Requests** the Secretary to carry out and finalize the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, and present the full report to the Governing Body, in accordance with paragraph 12 of Resolution 7/2022;
8. **Invites** Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing to take account of the implications for Farmers' Rights across three hotspots in developing solutions for enhancing MLS;
9. Again, **invites** Contracting Parties and relevant organizations to take initiatives to convene regional workshops and other consultations including among different regions within the framework of South-South and triangular cooperation, with the participation of a broad range of stakeholders, including with farmers' organizations, particularly those in the centres of

origin and crop diversity, for the exchange of knowledge, views, best practices, as well as raising awareness, in order to assist Contracting Parties at the national level, or at the regional level as appropriate, in implementing Article 9 of the International Treaty;

10. **Requests** the Secretary to facilitate such initiatives upon request and subject to the availability of financial and human resources;
11. **Requests** the Secretary to facilitate such initiatives, including through the facilitation of developing regional cooperation plans among the involved stakeholders, with emphasis on South-South Cooperation and how to develop legal measures supporting the promotion, protection and realization of Farmers' Rights with the effective participation of farmers' organizations, with reference to Article 18.5 of the International Treaty;
12. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to disseminate and promote the use of the Educational Module on Farmers' Rights, and to update it as necessary, including information on new developments of relevant international human rights instruments and declarations, and to translate it into the United Nations official languages, subject to the availability of financial resources, and **invites** Contracting Parties and other relevant stakeholders to use it;
13. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to 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, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty;
14. **Requests** the Secretary to strengthen, to the extent feasible, collaboration between the International Treaty and other units and partners that work for the promotion of Farmers' Rights within and outside FAO, and the broader United Nations including with international human rights bodies and the relevant targets of the GBF, in order to promote the protection and realization of Farmers' Rights in accordance with Article 9 of the International Treaty;
15. **Requests** the Secretary to include the possible impact of Digital Sequence Information / Genetic Sequence Data (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;
16. **Invites** each Contracting Party that has not already done so, to consider reviewing, and, if necessary, adjusting national measures that affect the realization of Farmers' Rights, in particular legislation concerning variety release and seed distribution, to protect, promote and realize Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, as appropriate and subject to national legislation;
17. **Invites** Contracting Parties to engage farmers' organizations and relevant stakeholders in matters related to the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and to promote awareness-raising and capacity-building towards this aim;
18. **Invites** Contracting Parties to promote sustainable biodiverse production systems and facilitate participatory approaches such as community seed banks, community biodiversity registries, participatory plant breeding and seed fairs, including considering to provide legal recognition of such approaches as tools for realizing Farmer's Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, as appropriate;
19. **Appreciates** the participation of farmers' organizations in activities to support the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, and **invites** them to continue to actively participate in Sessions of the Governing Body and in relevant intersessional meetings of relevant subsidiary bodies established by the Governing Body, as appropriate and according to the Rules of Procedure of the International Treaty, and giving due consideration to the FAO Strategy for Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations;
20. **Thanks** the Governments of Italy and Norway for their generous financial support to the implementation of Farmers' Rights;

21. ***Urges*** Contracting Parties and other donors to continue providing financial resources to support the work on Farmers' Rights under the International Treaty and ***calls upon*** Contracting Parties to support the activities outlined in this Resolution;
22. ***Requests*** the Secretary to report to the Governing Body, at its Eleventh Session, on the implementation of this Resolution.

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*Annex 1*

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## **Draft Outline of the Assessment of the State of Implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty**

### **Section 1: Executive Summary**

This section will present the summary results of the assessment. It will have key findings/key messages and recommendations.

It will provide a brief summary of the assessment of the state of implementation by region.

### **Section 2: Background and Introduction**

This section will provide a brief summary of the origin, the conceptual foundation of Farmers' Rights, developments, and the resolutions adopted by the Governing Body, and this may include noting the developments or considerations on Farmers' Rights from other relevant fora.

This section will also provide the introduction, purpose, scope, and limitations or uncertainties associated with the assessment.

### **Section 3: Methodology and Approach**

This section will present the assessment methodology and approach. It will include the following:

#### ***A. Methodology and timeframe***

General description of the methodology. The detailed methodology and timeframe are provided in Table 1.

#### ***B. Criteria***

Base criteria: Questions 19, 19A and B of the Compliance Report, and the additional information, as provided by the Contracting Parties.

Scope of assessment: focus on Article 9 of the International Treaty

The assessment shall use the general guiding and supplementary questionnaire criteria, such as:

##### ***1. General guiding questionnaire***

In conducting the assessment of the state of implementation of Farmers' Rights, it will be guided by the following questionnaire criteria:

- Have Contracting Parties taken any measures to protect and promote Farmers' Rights?
- How many countries have fully implemented it?
- How many countries have partially implemented it?
- How many countries have adopted policies and legal measures to implement Farmers' Rights?
- How many countries have implemented or linked the implementation of Farmers' Rights to broader national development agenda, action plans or programmes?

##### ***2. Supplementary questionnaire:***

- What are the efforts/ways/means/modes of protecting and promoting the implementation of Farmers' Rights undertaken by the Contracting Parties and stakeholders? The information shall be summarized and presented following the existing typologies in the Inventory.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> Such as: Technical, Administrative, Legal, Others. See the Inventory, available at: [www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/farmers-rights/overview-inventory/en/](http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/farmers-rights/overview-inventory/en/)



- What are the most frequently cited measures and practices of protecting and promoting Farmers' Rights?
- What are the lessons learned from the implementation of Farmers' Rights?
- What are the challenges and difficulties encountered in implementing the provisions of Article 9?
- Any other supplemental or relevant information from the national reports, shall be included in the summary.

### **C. *Source of Information***

This section will explain what information sources were used for the assessment and describe each of them briefly.

The assessment of the state of implementation of Farmers' Rights will utilize the available information resources, such as the:

- Compliance Reports (Article 9, Questions 19 and other relevant information provided in the National Reports.
- The 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, shall also be used as a data source for the assessment, taking into account the details and information presented by the Contracting Parties and stakeholders.
- other relevant sources of information, as appropriate

## **Section 4: The State of Implementation of Farmers' Rights**

This section will present the state of implementation of Farmers' Rights by region resulting from the analysis. It will summarize the work and initiatives of the Contracting Parties and stakeholders, such as legal and policy measures, technical programmes and other means undertaken to protect and promote the realization of Farmers' Rights.

Lessons learned from the realization of Farmers' Rights, and the challenges encountered by the Contracting Parties and stakeholders in protecting and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights shall also be summarized.

To complement the analysis, the work of different international organizations and bodies in support of the realization of Farmers' Rights, such as UN bodies, CGIAR centers, civil society organizations, and public and private sectors, operating at different levels, shall also be included in this section.

This section will be structured by region, accompanied by data and figures, and thematic studies, as appropriate:

- Africa
- Asia
- Europe
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Near East
- North America
- South West Pacific

## **Section 5. Summary and Recommendations**

This section will present the summary and recommendations.

### **Appendices**

Glossary of Terms and Definitions Used in this document

Thematic Studies (case studies), produced during the assessment, as appropriate.

**Table 1. Indicative methodology and timeframe for the preparation of the Assessment of the State of Implementation of Farmers' Rights to be presented at the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body**

<b>INFORMATION GATHERING, COLLECTION AND DOCUMENT ANALYSIS</b>	
<b>1:</b> Organizing, gathering information resources and reviewing all the available information.	January to April 2024
<p>Gathering and assessing information<sup>39</sup> contained in the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Compliance Report<sup>40</sup></li> <li>• Inventory<sup>41</sup></li> <li>• Global Plan of Action, and</li> <li>• Other relevant documents</li> </ul> <p>In this phase, the established criteria will help to identify, consolidate and organize the information on the implementation of Farmers' Rights, such as the different measures<sup>42</sup> and practices implemented, challenges, and other issues confronting the implementation of Farmers' Rights, at the national level.</p> <p>Any relevant and useful information indicated in the Reports, shall be included as appropriate.</p>	
<b>2:</b> Information and data analysis, drafting of the first assessment	May to July 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewing the submission by country, and by region<sup>43</sup></li> <li>• Preparation of Case/thematic studies based on Farmers' Rights' provisions (i.e., Article 9.1; 9.2a to c and 9.3) while drafting, writing the state of implementation by region.</li> </ul>	
<b>REGIONAL PRESENTATION</b>	
<b>3:</b> Presentation and validation of the assessment reports, by region <sup>44</sup>	September to November 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional presentation will be organized through webinars, or hybrid meetings, for each region to present and validate the preliminary regional assessment, and gather any additional inputs, if there is.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidation and integration of all the feedback gathered by region.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize the assessment of the state of implementation of Farmers' Rights, by region.</li> </ul>	
<b>SYNTHESIS AND WRITING THE STATE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FARMERS' RIGHTS</b>	
<b>4:</b> Review the assessments by region, and update if necessary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of the (first) Assessment of the State of Implementation of Farmers' Rights</li> </ul>	January to March 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the Assessment, of "the State of Implementation of Farmers' Rights" to the Governing Body at the Eleventh Session</li> </ul>	November 2025

<sup>39</sup> A notification inviting the CPs and interested stakeholders to submit and/or update their submission on the implementation of Farmers' Rights may be issued

<sup>40</sup> National Reports ([www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/compliance/compliance-reports/en/](http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/compliance/compliance-reports/en/)), Question 19, 19A and B of the Compliance Report

<sup>41</sup> 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 ([www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/farmers-rights/inventory-on-frs/en/](http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/farmers-rights/inventory-on-frs/en/))

<sup>42</sup> Administrative, legal, technical, and other measures

<sup>43</sup> Given the regional differences and specificities, a regional approach may be undertaken

<sup>44</sup> Seven Regional Assessment Reports shall be part of the Assessment Report

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*Annex 2*

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**Terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights**

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights will:
  - i) Review and agree to the outline for the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, as contained in Annex 1 to this Resolution, considering the compilation of the submissions;
  - ii) Review the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, and provide conclusions for the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body; and
  - iii) Provide advice to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body on how the use of Options, as contained in the Annex to Resolution 7/2022 for the implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, can be promoted.
2. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will comprise up to five members each from the Africa Region, Asia Region, the Europe Region and the Latin America and the Caribbean Region; three from the Near East Region; and two each from the North America Region and the South West Pacific Region; up to five representatives of farmer organizations, particularly smallholder farmers from the centers of origin and crop diversity, and up to three other stakeholders, one each from academia, civil society organizations, seed sector designated by the Bureau of the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body. Representations should take into account regional and gender balance.
3. The Bureau of the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body will appoint two Co-Chairs from the Contracting Parties of the International Treaty - one from a developing country and one from a developed country. The two Co-Chairpersons shall be in addition to the members of the Committee nominated by the Regions.
4. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group may hold up to two meetings in the biennium 2024-2025, subject to the availability of financial resources.
5. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will report back to the Governing Body on its work for further consideration at the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body.
6. The Secretary will facilitate the process and assist the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group in its work.

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## RESOLUTION 8/2023

### COMPLIANCE

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#### THE GOVERNING BODY,

**Recalling** its previous decisions on compliance, particularly regarding capacity development and the support available to Contracting Parties from the Compliance Committee;

#### Monitoring and reporting

- a) **Thanks** the Compliance Committee for the synthesis and analysis provided in the document, IT/GB-10/23/14, *Report of the Compliance Committee*;
- b) **Thanks** those Contracting Parties that have submitted their reports pursuant to Section V of the *Compliance Procedures* on time, as well as those that submitted or updated their reports subsequently;
- c) **Decides** to extend the deadline for the second reporting cycle to 1 October 2024;
- d) **Urges** those Contracting Parties that have not yet submitted their reports to submit them by 1 October 2024;
- e) **Invites** the Compliance Committee to use its report to the Eighth Session as the baseline for identifying progress in and constraints to implementation of the International Treaty when comparing results from the first and the second reporting cycles;
- f) **Invites** all Contracting Parties, including Contracting Party Organizations, to continue submitting or updating their reports, pursuant to Section V of the *Compliance Procedures*, regardless of the deadline of the reporting cycles;
- g) **Notes** that the national reports are an important self-assessment tool to measure progress in implementation of the International Treaty and **emphasizes** the value of the information provided so far to make informed decisions.
- h) **Appreciates** the efforts and **thanks** the Secretary for the support and assistance provided to Contracting Parties during the reporting process, and **requests** the Secretary to continue doing so;

#### Support and Capacity Development

- i) **Welcomes** the capacity development activities undertaken by the Secretary and **requests** the Secretary to continue supporting Contracting Parties to actively participate in the compliance mechanism;
- j) **Requests** the Secretary to support Contracting Parties in the use of the Online Reporting System and to continue the collaboration with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme to further adapt and upgrade it;
- k) **Encourages** Contracting Parties to avail themselves of the opportunities that the functions of the Compliance Committee provide, including by submitting to the Committee, through the Secretary, statements and questions concerning their implementation of the International Treaty;
- l) **Encourages** Contracting Parties and other donors to consider providing support and financial resources for capacity development activities as important and effective means to enhance compliance with and implementation of the International Treaty;

### **Reviews under the Mandate of the Compliance Committee and Future Work**

- m) **Thanks** the Compliance Committee for its assessment and recommendations provided in document IT/GB-10/23/14, *Report of the Compliance Committee*, and **notes** that the Compliance Committee will continue the assessment to make recommendations to the Governing Body on the effectiveness of the *Compliance Procedures* in the future, based on the draft framework provided in document, IT/GB-10/CC-5/23/4;
- n) **Approves** the recommendation of the Compliance Committee to replace, in the *Rules of Procedure of the Compliance Committee* and in the *Procedures and Operational Mechanisms to Promote Compliance and Address Issues of Non-Compliance*, the words ‘Chair’ and ‘Vice-Chair’ with the words ‘Co-Chair’ or ‘Co-chairs’, and to make the related editorial changes;

### **Other Matters**

- o) **Invites** Contracting Parties to avail themselves of the information contained in the national reports submitted to the International Treaty to update their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), as may be most appropriate, in the context of the Global Biodiversity Framework;
- p) **Recognizes** that the GPA is a supporting component of the International Treaty and invites Contracting Parties to use such information, as appropriate, for the purpose of compliance reporting under the International Treaty;
- q) **Invites** Contracting Parties to provide or update the contact details of their national focal points and, possibly, to nominate an alternate reporting officer;
- r) **Elects** the members of the Compliance Committee in accordance with Section III.4 of the *Compliance Procedures*, as contained in the Annex to this Resolution.

*Annex***MEMBERS OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE\***

<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>Mariem BOUHADIDA</b> (2024)	<b>Ndawana NOREST</b> (2023)
<b>ASIA</b>	<b>Koukham VILAYHEUANG</b> (2020)	<b>Sheryl R. JACOB</b> (2024)
<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>Kim VAN SEETERS</b> (2018)	<b>Linn Borgen NILSEN</b> (2023)
<b>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>Mahendra PERSAUD</b> (2018)	<b>Mónica MARTÍNEZ</b> (2020)
<b>NEAR EAST</b>	<b>Javad MOZAFARI</b> (2020)	<b>Neveen ABDEL FATTAH HASSAN</b> (2024)
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>	<b>Indra THIND</b> (2018)	<b>Priya BHANU</b> (2023)
<b>SOUTH WEST PACIFIC</b>	<b>Birte NASS-KOMOLONG</b> (2020)	<b>Emily CARROLL</b> (2023)

\*The year in parenthesis indicates the beginning of the first term of the candidate. According to the Rules of Procedures of the Compliance Committee, members shall be elected by the Governing Body for a period of four years, this being a full term, commencing on 1 January of the first year of the financial period of the International Treaty following their election. Members shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms (Rule III.4).

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## RESOLUTION 9/2023

### CONTRIBUTION OF FAO TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

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#### THE GOVERNING BODY,

*Recalling* Resolution 9/2022 and other previous Resolutions on the Contribution of FAO to the implementation of the International Treaty;

1. *Thanks* FAO for the financial and administrative support it provides to the Secretariat of the International Treaty and to the implementation of the International Treaty, and *invites* FAO to continue its support to the International Treaty;
2. *Emphasizes* the importance of FAO's continued assistance with the implementation of the International Treaty at the national level, including through the provision of technical, capacity building and operational support where appropriate to the International Treaty and its mechanisms, such as the Benefit-Sharing Fund;
3. *Invites* FAO to recognize the importance of the implementation of the Treaty at the national level, through different FAO programs and initiatives, such as through the Decade for Family Farming and the National Action Plans of Family Farming, given their catalytic role.
4. *Invites* FAO to continue supporting the efforts to increase the membership of the International Treaty by undertaking concrete measures to promote ratification by FAO Member Countries that have not yet done so, with a view to making it a universal agreement;
5. *Further invites* FAO to continue its active support to and consider funding the needs of the International Treaty as a key international instrument for the fulfilment of Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 15 and the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), including by raising awareness of the importance of the implementation of, and compliance with, the International Treaty at the highest national levels through the FAO country, sub-regional and regional offices;
6. *Welcomes* progress made in the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and its 2021-23 Action Plan, and *notes* the important role of the Strategy as coordination mechanism for activities through which FAO supports countries in integrating biodiversity, including the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture and other components of biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture, into relevant programmes, policies and legislation;
7. *Invites* FAO to take into consideration new developments within the International Treaty in the review and updating of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors by the FAO Council and to integrate the relevant components of the International Treaty into the implementation of initiatives and strategies, with a view to providing additional channels for the International Treaty to contribute to addressing complex social, economic and environmental challenges of agrifood systems in a globally equitable, inclusive and sustainable manner;
8. *Encourages* FAO to support Member Countries, upon request, to integrate biodiversity for food and agriculture in the updating and revision of National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans, and in doing so to emphasize opportunities for strengthening implementation of the International Treaty, and *calls upon* donors to support FAO in this important work and to jointly mobilize resources with the International Treaty;
9. *Takes note* of the current efforts of the FAO Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment to enhance synergies and mutual support among its component teams in order to

improve synergies in delivering on and contributing to the overall Strategic Objectives of FAO.

10. **Requests** the Secretary to continue pursuing collaboration with units and instruments within FAO, including on outreach, resource mobilization and private sector engagement;
11. **Invites** FAO to continue providing a comprehensive report at each Session on its contributions to the implementation of the International Treaty and **requests** the Secretary to continue providing updates on the status of implementation of the above invitations extended by the Governing Body of the International Treaty to FAO, as well as on ongoing and new collaborations and partnerships within FAO.



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## RESOLUTION 10/2023

### CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY 2023–2030

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#### 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. take into account other instruments and bodies, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and in particular its Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and the related Long-Term Strategic Framework for Capacity Building and Development, and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, in particular to address the capacity gap and needs identified in the Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
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 Contracting Parties as well as 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.

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## RESOLUTION 11/2023

### COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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#### THE GOVERNING BODY,

**Recalling** Resolution 11/2022 and other previous Resolutions on cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission);

1. **Welcomes** the ongoing cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body and the joint activities undertaken by the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the Commission in the period between the Ninth and Tenth Sessions of the Governing Body;
2. **Agrees** to keep the matter of the functional division of tasks and activities between the Governing Body and the Commission under review and **requests** the Secretary to regularly report any relevant developments in the cooperation with the Commission;
3. **Recalling** Article 17.3 of the International Treaty, **invites** Contracting Parties that have still not done so, to cooperate with the Commission in the preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Third Report) in order to facilitate the updating of the *Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Second GPA);
4. **Thanks** the Commission for sharing the draft Third Report with the Governing Body for inputs and comments, and **invites** the Contracting Parties to provide additional comments and inputs through the process of the Commission;
5. **Welcomes** the joint activities of the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the Commission during the past intersessional period and **requests** the Secretary to continue strengthening collaboration and coordination with the Secretary of the Commission to promote coherence in the development and implementation of the respective programmes of work of the two bodies, and in particular with regard to:
  - i. the finalization of the Third Report;
  - ii. the updating of Second GPA, including through regional consultations for identifying gaps, needs and priorities, and the revision of the reporting system of the World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (WIEWS) and the Global Information System (GLIS);
  - iii. the organization of symposia addressing *in situ*, *ex situ* and on-farm conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) using virtual conferencing tools;
  - iv. the effects of seed policies, laws and regulations, including a scoping study, based on the availability of additional financial resources, by external partners on the impact of such policies, laws and regulations;
  - v. the implementation and monitoring of the Second GPA, including technical instruments that facilitate its implementation, such as the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and work on sustainable use of PGRFA, including to strengthen crop breeding systems and crop improvement capacity;
  - vi. assembling relevant information for measuring and monitoring monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing, within their respective mandates and existing frameworks;
  - vii. access and benefit-sharing and digital sequence information/genetic sequence data (DSI/GSD) on PGRFA, including virtual and/or in-person open-ended workshops, as

appropriate, with a view to sharing information about gaps in knowledge and technical capacity-building needs and activities related to DSI/GSD;

viii. joint efforts to advocate for the consideration of the objectives and relevant work and policies of the Commission and the Governing Body of the International Treaty in global strategies and frameworks, such as the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), as well as to update FAO Members on progress in the implementation of their respective mandates and work programmes, for example through briefings for Permanent Representations;

ix. the Global Information System and WIEWS, and relevant targets and indicators; and

x. the development and implementation of national strategies for PGRFA, in close collaboration with the International Treaty and its Funding Strategy.

6. **Invites** Contracting Parties and other donors, with the capacity to do so, to provide financial resources for collaboration with the Commission in the areas listed in paragraph 5 above.

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## RESOLUTION 12/2023

### POLICY GUIDANCE TO THE GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST

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#### THE GOVERNING BODY,

**Recalling** that the Global Crop Diversity Trust (the Crop Trust) is an essential element of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty, in relation to the *ex situ* conservation and availability of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

**Recalling** that pursuant to Article 1(5) of its Constitution the Crop Trust shall operate in accordance with the overall policy guidance to be provided by the Governing Body of the International Treaty;

**Taking note** of the Report from the Crop Trust, which addresses matters requested by Resolution 10/2019;

**Recalling** the importance of cooperation with the Crop Trust on resource mobilization, including for national genebanks in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

#### PART I: POLICY GUIDANCE

1. **Thanks** the Executive Board of the Crop Trust for having regularly submitted its annual report on the activities of the Crop Trust to the Governing Body and its Bureau;
2. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Governing Body and the Secretary to inform the Executive Board of the Crop Trust on the decisions made by the Governing Body and provides policy guidance on the following key areas;

##### A. Resource Mobilization

3. **Thanks** governments and other donors that have provided funds for the Crop Trust Endowment Fund, in particular towards enabling it to secure long-term funding for collections held pursuant to Article 15 of the International Treaty, with contributions paid into the endowment, as reported by the Crop Trust, currently at USD two hundred and fifty three million;
4. **Invites** the Crop Trust to provide information, at the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body, on progress made with resource mobilization during the next biennium for the Crop Trust Endowment Fund, as well as in relation to mobilization of project-based funds, including to support selected national genebanks in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
5. **Welcomes** and **commends** the substantial increase in cooperation on resource mobilization by the Executive Director of the Crop Trust and the Secretary of the International Treaty, and thanks donors that have given priority to support implementation of joint initiatives, such as the Biodiversity for Opportunities, Livelihoods and Development (BOLD) project and the development of the global crop conservation strategies;
6. **Recommends** that the Crop Trust continue sustaining and expanding its cooperation with the International Treaty on mobilizing resources, and further encourages donors to give priority to initiatives, projects and programmes that are jointly designed and implemented by the Crop Trust and the Secretariat;
7. **Recalling** that at its Ninth Session it had recommended the Crop Trust continue engaging with the Secretariat of the International Treaty to fulfil the important role of both institutions to mobilize support for the maintenance of collections held pursuant to Article 15 of the International Treaty (Article 15 collections), **welcomes** the establishment of the Funding Facility for short-term support of International Collections and **recommends** that both

institutions further collaborate in this area and in doing so, engage the wide range of donors and partners that host or support these international collections.

8. **Thanks** the Crop Trust for its active support to the work of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (Funding Committee) and **invites** the Crop Trust to continue strengthening its support to the Funding Committee;
9. **Commends** the Crop Trust and Treaty Secretariat, as well as other partners, on their efforts to coordinate and provide support for the rescue and relocation of the national seed collection of Ukraine, including the development of a long-term plan for Ukraine's PGRFA system and **encourages** them to continue to collaborate with relevant FAO units and the PGRFA community to leverage further support for the initiative, and **calls on** donors to provide financial support to facilitate this initiative;

### B. Scientific and Technical Matters

10. **Welcomes** the support provided by the Crop Trust during the current biennium to enable the long-term conservation and availability of crop diversity within Article 15 collections, and **invites** the Crop Trust to continue and expand cooperation with the Secretary, in accordance with Article 15.1(g) of the International Treaty, on mobilizing technical support for the orderly maintenance of such collections;
11. **Welcomes** the range of initiatives promoted by the Crop Trust to support national genebanks including training in genebank management and the development of standard operating protocols; **encourages** further collaboration with the Secretariat to undertake joint capacity building of national partners on Treaty implementation; and **reaffirms** that capacity building for ex-situ conservation at the national level is a crucial element for the success of the International Treaty;
12. **Welcomes** the organization of a high-level panel of experts on genetic diversity of sorghum and millets for food security and sustainable agriculture during the International Year of Millets and **encourages** the two institutions to continue jointly delivering scientific and technical training and expertise through all available means, including on-line tools;

### C. Global Information System

13. **Welcomes** the close collaboration of the Crop Trust with the International Treaty and FAO in the area of PGRFA information, and **invites** them to continue collaborating on training and capacity development activities in the area of information systems and documentation of PGRFA;
14. Further **invites** the Crop Trust to continue participating in the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System and provide regular updates on the implementation of its activities relevant to the Global Information System;

### D. Communication and Outreach

15. **Appreciates** the first-ever Global Crop Diversity Summit held in November 2023 in Berlin, Germany and **recommends** the Crop Trust to continue to strengthen cooperation with the International Treaty to jointly develop outreach and communication products and to further systematize and strengthen such cooperation in the next biennium;

### E. Mainstreaming Global Crop Conservation Strategies

16. **Thanks** the Crop Trust for making the *White Paper: Mainstreaming Global Crop Conservation Strategies in Plant Treaty Processes* available and **takes note** of the recommendations it contains on governance, development and implementation of the Global Crop Conservation Strategies (GCCS);
17. **Encourages** Contracting Parties to raise awareness of existing GCCS and to make use of the GCCS, as appropriate, in implementing their national plans and strategies and **invites**

- Contracting Parties and donors to make funding available for the implementation of existing GCCS, and development, publication, promotion and implementation of future GCCS;
18. **Encourages** the Crop Trust and other stakeholders involved in developing GCCS, including national experts, to further elaborate areas of relevance to the implementation of the International Treaty;
  19. **Welcomes** the recommendation that an international technical advisory committee composed of technical experts on crop genetic diversity, conservation, and sustainable use is established to provide guidance on the scope, format, timing and priority crops for the GCCS;
  20. **Emphasizes** the importance of contributions that national experts can make to the development and implementation of GCCS;
  21. **Requests** the Crop Trust and the Treaty Secretary to develop a concept note on the establishment and funding of an international technical advisory committee, composed of technical experts on crop genetic diversity, conservation, and sustainable use, for consideration of the Governing Body at its Eleventh Session. The concept note should address:
    - the mandate of the committee to provide guidance on the scope, format, timing and priority crops for the GCCS as well as its proposed composition, and
    - the funding and implementation modalities for future GCCS, including through contributions by national crop technical experts.
  22. **Emphasizes** the importance of crop networks for the implementation of GCCS and **encourages** Contracting Parties and other stakeholders to establish new crop networks, and revive historical ones;
  23. **Requests** the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System to further explore integration and synergies between the GCCS and the International Treaty's Data Store and other components of the Global Information System (GLIS), as well as the WIEWS and Genesys data-bases;

#### F. Emergency Reserve for Germplasm Collections at Risk

24. **Welcomes** the continued availability and operation of the Emergency Reserve for Germplasm Collections at Risk (Reserve) to facilitate the rapid response to imminent threats to unique germplasm collections that fall under the framework of the International Treaty, in particular its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing;
25. **Thanks** the Governments of Italy, Norway and the United States of America for the financial contributions to the Reserve, and **calls upon** Contracting Parties, intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations and other entities to contribute to the Reserve;
26. **Further thanks** the donors that have supported projects for the rapid response to imminent threats to unique germplasm collections, including those that fall under the framework of the International Treaty, in particular its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing;
27. **Requests** the Secretary to communicate the availability of the Reserve and the related eligibility criteria more widely, including through the website of the International Treaty;
28. **Requests** the Secretary to provide the Bureau of the Eleventh Session with a financial and technical report on the joint operation of the Emergency Reserve, including on the lessons learned exercise that the Secretary and the Crop Trust will undertake, at the request of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy, in order to further inform the operations of the Emergency Reserve and responses to emergency disaster situations affecting plant genetic resources for food and agriculture more generally;
29. **Further requests** the Secretary to provide a summary report on the Reserve and on other emergency assistance and interventions to the Eleventh Session.

## PART II: OTHER

30. ***Requests*** the Bureau of the Eleventh Session to carry out the selection and appointment of members to the Executive Board of the Crop Trust to fill any vacancy that may arise before the Eleventh Session, in accordance with the Procedures for the Selection and Appointment of Members of the Executive Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

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## RESOLUTION 13/2023

### COOPERATION WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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#### THE GOVERNING BODY,

**Recalling** Article 1.2 of the International Treaty, as well as Article 19.3 (g) and (l), which provide for the Governing Body to establish and maintain cooperation with, as well as take note of the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP), and the provisions of Article 20.5, which requires the Secretary to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

**Recalling** Resolution 13/2022 regarding cooperation with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), its subsidiary bodies and Secretariat;

**Acknowledging** the need for continued capacity building support to Parties, especially developing countries, for the mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol;

1. **Takes note, with appreciation** of the recent developments and ongoing processes under the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol that are of relevance to the International Treaty;
2. **Requests** the Secretary to continue monitoring and participating in the relevant processes related to the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol, in order to promote practical, harmonious and appropriate interfaces among them, both nationally and internationally;
3. **Emphasizes** the importance of maintaining cooperation, complementarity and coherence as well as avoiding duplication between the International Treaty and the CBD, and with other biodiversity-related conventions, in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF);
4. **Takes note** of the Bern Process on cooperation and coordination among Parties of the biodiversity-related conventions and its contribution to the effective and efficient implementation of the GBF;
5. **Recalls** that, at its Ninth Session, it welcomed relevant reports of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and recognized their importance to the mandate and work of the International Treaty, and **emphasizes** the importance of including plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, where relevant;
6. **Welcomes** the adoption of a strategy for resource mobilization to support the implementation of the GBF and **requests** the Secretary to keep the Standing Committee for the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (Funding Committee) regularly informed of relevant developments in this area and report back to the Governing Body, at its Eleventh Session;
7. **Welcomes** the establishment of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and **requests** the Secretary to follow developments in the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and to keep the Funding Committee informed regularly and report back to the Governing Body, at its Eleventh Session;
8. **Thanks** the COP to the CBD for its invitation to the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions to develop strategic guidance, in accordance with CBD COP Decision XIII/21, for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, and **requests** the Funding Committee to assess the efficiency and practicality of providing further strategic guidance on this area and, if appropriate, to develop, with the support of the Secretariat, elements of advice concerning the funding of the objectives and priorities the



Treaty, consistent with the mandates of the Global Environment Facility, and **requests** the Secretary to transmit the elements of advice, if developed, to the sixteenth meeting of the CBD COP, consistent with COP decision XV/15;

9. **Takes note** of the previous work and ongoing processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity in relation to its “Gender plan of action” and “Programme of Work on Article 8(j) and other Provisions of the Convention Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities” that are of relevance to a gender responsive approach and supportive of the implementation of the International Treaty, in particular Article 9;
10. **Thanks** the Secretariat for the activities undertaken to enhance cooperation, coordination and complementarity among the biodiversity-related conventions and **requests** the Secretary to continue this engagement during the next biennium;
11. **Commends** the Secretariat for its efforts to cooperate with the Secretariat of the CBD and **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue exploring with the Secretariat of the CBD, practical means and activities to further enhance this cooperation, including by renewing the Memorandum of Cooperation and continue to develop joint initiatives between the two Secretariats, and to report to the Governing Body;
12. **Requests** the Secretary to cooperate with the Executive Secretary of the CBD by providing information on developments and practical implementation experiences within the International Treaty;
13. **Requests** the Secretary to explore measures that will facilitate the mainstreaming of issues related to plant genetic resource for food and agriculture (PGRFA) into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans in line with programme priorities that relate to PGRFA;
14. **Welcomes** the on-going collaboration between the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the CBD in the development of indicators on benefit-sharing under the GBF and the monitoring process on the achievement of SDG Target 15.6 “Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed” and **requests** the Secretary to report back to the Governing Body at each Session on any relevant developments regarding such collaboration;
15. **Welcomes** the engagement of the Secretariat of the International Treaty in capacity development activities on harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the Treaty and the CBD, and its Nagoya Protocol, and **requests** the Secretary to continue engaging in such activities, subject to the availability of financial resources;
16. **Welcomes** the efforts of the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the CBD in collaborating with the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and other partners to bring together stakeholders and experts involved in the implementation of the International Treaty, the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol, and **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue facilitating such interaction on the mutual supportiveness and harmonious implementation of the instruments, and to report the outcomes of such activities to the Governing Body;
17. **Requests** the Secretary to continue reporting on cooperation with the CBD at each Session of the Governing Body;
18. **Further requests** the Secretary, in keeping with paragraph 17 of Resolution 13/2022 to continue following processes within the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol concerning “digital sequence information / genetic sequence data” (DSI/GSD) on genetic resources and providing information on relevant International Treaty activities and collaborate and, as appropriate, coordinate with the Secretariat of the CBD on issues related to DSI/GSD on genetic resources in order to promote coherence and mutual supportiveness between the respective conventions and implementing processes, and report to the Governing Body at its next Session.

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## RESOLUTION 14/2023

### COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

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#### PART I: INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

##### THE GOVERNING BODY,

**Recalling** Resolution 14/2022 and other previous Resolutions on the Cooperation with Other International Bodies and Organizations;

**Reaffirming** that the International Treaty is the lead intergovernmental agreement for international cooperation on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA);

**Noting with appreciation** the new and continued cooperation, collaboration and support provided by relevant international organizations and other stakeholder groups, in order to advance the objectives and implementation of the International Treaty;

**Cognizant** of the importance of harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty with relevant instruments and processes, especially at national level, and noting the continued importance of assisting developing country Contracting Parties in this regard;

1. **Reaffirms** the need to continue the efforts necessary to ensure that the International Treaty's objectives and role in the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA are recognized and supported by relevant international institutions, organizations and processes;
2. **Encourages** Contracting Parties to take initiatives to strengthen the harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty and other relevant international instruments and their various goals and commitments in a coherent and mutually supportive manner, as appropriate, and **requests** the Secretary to facilitate such initiatives and in collaboration with partner organizations, upon request and subject to the availability of financial resources;
3. **Welcomes** the ongoing discussions between the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the International Organisation of Wine and Vine (OIV), and **requests** the Secretary to continue these discussions with a view to establishing effective cooperation between the two institutions, and to seek practical means and activities to further enhance this cooperation; **further requests** the Secretary to report on these efforts at the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body;
4. **Welcomes** the implementation of the Joint Capacity Building Programme with the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, and **reaffirms** the need to expand the Programme and to ensure that the Secretary continues to play an active role in the coordination, monitoring and analysis of results and impacts, subject to the availability of financial resources, and **calls upon** Contracting Parties and donors to provide additional funding to support its continuation;
5. **Invites** the Secretary to continue strengthening cooperation and synergies with other Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) members, establishing or renewing cooperation frameworks, as needed, and **encourages** the members of the BLG to continue their collaboration in accordance with their respective mandates, legal authority and responsibilities and, subject to the availability of financial resources;
6. **Requests** the Secretary to continue actively participating in relevant meetings and processes of the BLG to enhance collaboration among the members for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in accordance with their respective mandates;

7. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to availability of financial resources, to continue participating in relevant activities of the InforMEA Initiative and collaborating with the World Conservation Monitoring Center (UNEP-WCMC) for the development of a new version of the Online Reporting System and other related activities in support of the CBD's monitoring of the implementation of the GBF;
8. **Welcomes** the continued support and coordination provided by the African Union Commission for Contracting Parties from the African Region in implementation of the International Treaty, and **requests** the Secretary to continue strengthening this collaboration, as well as to seek opportunities to establish cooperation with other relevant regional organizations and institutions for the promotion and implementation of the International Treaty;
9. **Encourages** the Secretary to continue collaborating with the UPOV Office on relevant matters, as appropriate;
10. **Takes note of** the status of UPOV's FAQ on the interrelations between the International Treaty, the CBD and UPOV;
11. **Requests** the Secretary, as appropriate and subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue participating in relevant meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of WIPO; to attend the 2024 Diplomatic Conference to conclude an International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources;
12. **Encourages** other relevant stakeholder groups, in particular civil society organizations, farmers' organizations and the seed industry, to continue strengthening their engagement and cooperation to advance implementation of the International Treaty;
13. **Requests** the Secretary to continue fostering cooperation with other international organizations, regional initiatives and relevant stakeholders, and strengthen existing cooperative arrangements with a view to developing synergies consistent with their respective mandates, governance structures and agreed programmes, and subject to the availability of financial resources;
14. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to report to the Governing Body on cooperation with other relevant international bodies and organizations, including with the Human Rights Council and other international human rights bodies, and related collaborative activities.

## PART II: ARTICLE 15 INSTITUTIONS

### THE GOVERNING BODY,

**Recalling** the provisions of Article 15.1 and Article 15.5 of the International Treaty, and its previous Resolutions related to Institutions that signed agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty;

15. **Takes note of** the information provided in the reports by institutions that have concluded agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty, **commends** those institutions that submitted reports for the valuable contents and **invites** them to continue providing similar information to future sessions of the Governing Body;
16. **Further commends** the eleven CGIAR centres that signed agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty for submitting a joint report to the Governing Body, and **further invites** them to continue providing a similar joint report to future sessions of the Governing Body;
17. **Urges** those institutions that have not submitted any report, to do so at the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body and **requests** the Secretary to communicate this urgent request to such institutions;
18. **Further requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue holding regular or periodic consultations with institutions that signed agreements under Article

- 15 of the International Treaty, on implementation of the agreements and policy guidance, including on the transfer of PGRFAs in the collections with the SMTA, and report to the Governing Body at each Session;
19. **Takes note** of the on-going efforts to secure the international collections whose orderly maintenance is at risk or threatened, and **requests** the Secretary to continue exercising his responsibilities and providing support under Article 15 of the International Treaty, in close collaboration with host governments, as applicable, and in partnership with other interested governments and relevant institutions that are capable of providing financial, technical and other necessary support to these efforts;
  20. **Urges** Contracting Parties, donors and other stakeholders to provide the necessary financial and material support to facilitate these efforts;
  21. **Reiterates** its invitation the host governments of international collections in COGENT that have not yet done so, to sign agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty so to bring all the international collections in the network under the purview of the International Treaty, and **further invites** interested host countries of collections under COGENT to consider signing agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty so to establish new international collections;
  22. **Requests** the Secretary to continue in the efforts to secure agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty with all relevant institutions;
  23. **Further requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to liaise with the CGIAR Centres promoting the Global Plant Cryopreservation Initiative, the Crop Trust and other relevant stakeholders in order to support governance and policy arrangements for cryopreservation in the framework of the International Treaty, and **invites** the relevant CGIAR Centres and the Crop Trust to report on progress with the Initiative at the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body.

### PART III: MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS OF THE SVALBARD GLOBAL SEED VAULT

#### THE GOVERNING BODY,

**Recalling** Resolutions 12/2017, 12/2019 and 14/2022;

**Recalling** that the adoption of the International Treaty gave the impetus to the Government of Norway to proceed with the establishment of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault (Seed Vault);

**Reaffirming** that the Seed Vault is a crucial element of the global system for ex situ conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; and

**Acknowledging** the close links between the operations and function of the Seed Vault to the objectives of the International Treaty and its contribution to the implementation of the Treaty's provisions;

24. **Thanks** the Government of Norway for the submission of the 2023 report on the management and operations of the Seed Vault and invites it to continue updating the Bureau and Governing Body on the operations and management of the Seed Vault;
25. **Notes** the new deposits of seed samples made at the Seed Vault during its three openings in 2022;
26. **Commemorates** the 15-year anniversary of the establishment of the Seed Vault;
27. **Notes** the positive impacts of the technical improvement of the facility implemented since 2019 and the development of new security and control systems and administrative measures;
28. **Commends** the efforts to support national genebanks to further deposit materials in the Seed Vault and encourage other donors to contribute to these activities;

29. **Welcomes** the reconvening of the Seed Vault's International Advisory Panel and **requests** the Chairperson of the Governing Body to continue chairing the Panel and carrying out such functions as the role may require;
30. **Reiterates** the invitation to Contracting Parties, international institutions and other relevant eligible bodies and organizations to consider making use of the Seed Vault as part of their strategy for securing their important seed collections and for long-term storage of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
31. **Requests** the Secretary to explore further with the Government of Norway other practical means to enhance the linkages between the International Treaty and the Seed Vault, including linking data through the Global Information System, and report to the Bureau of the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body;
32. **Requests** the Secretary to continue collaborating with the Government of Norway and its partners in related activities, including supporting relevant communication and outreach efforts as well as promoting utilization of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault.

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**RESOLUTION 15/2023****MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE GOVERNING  
BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC  
RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

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**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 the Annex to this Resolution.

*Annex*

## 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

		<b>11<sup>th</sup> Session (2025)</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Session (2027)</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> Session (2029)</b>
<b>Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA (Art 5&amp;6)</b>	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consideration of proposal on mechanism to identify the status of implementation of Articles 5 and 6 to support Contracting Parties that need assistance</li> <li>- Consideration of draft voluntary guidelines to address bottlenecks in the implementation of Articles 5 and 6</li> <li>- Consideration of guidance on issues related to global crop conservation strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Voluntary guidelines on the implementation of Articles 5 and 6</li> <li>- Assessment of the mechanism to identify the status of implementation of Articles 5 and 6</li> </ul>	
<b>Farmers' Rights (Art 9)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of the assessment of the state of implementation of Art. 9 and any conclusions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Updated Inventory of national measures, best practices and lessons learned on the implementation of Farmers' Rights</li> </ul>	

		- Consideration of further use of the Options		
<b>Multilateral System (Art 10-13)</b>	—	- Enhancement of the Multilateral System finalized  - Report on global availability of material in MLS and transfer of germplasm, according to Resolution 2/2022		
<b>Global Information System (Art 17)</b>	-		- Review of the Programme of Work on GLIS 2023–2028, and consideration of an updated Programme of Work	
<b>Funding Strategy (Art 18)</b>		- Benefit-sharing Fund target finalized	- Review of the Funding Strategy, and consideration of a new Funding Strategy	
<b>Compliance (Art 21) &amp; National Reporting</b>	—	- Review of the analysis of national reports under the 2 <sup>nd</sup> cycle	- Review of the effectiveness of the Compliance Procedures	
<b>Capacity Development</b>	—	- Consideration of the draft Capacity Development Strategy and the draft Action Plan		
<b>Digital Sequence Information/Genetic Sequence Data</b>		- Report by the Secretary on DSI/GSD covering:  (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		
<b>Other items</b>	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Participation in the process of updating the Second Global Plan of Action for PGRFA</li><li>- Global Biodiversity Framework implementation and follow-up actions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Stocktaking of international goals and targets related to PGRFA (Sustainable Development Goals, GBF etc.)</li></ul>	

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## 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

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#### 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.

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## RESOLUTION 17/2023

### WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET 2024–2025

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#### THE GOVERNING BODY,

##### *Recalling* that:

- a) The FAO Governing Bodies have determined that the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty) is a priority FAO activity;
- b) The FAO Conference has recommended that “statutory bodies and conventions will be strengthened, enjoying more financial and administrative authority within the framework of FAO and a greater degree of self-funding by their Members”;

##### *Recognizing* that:

- a) The execution of the Work Programme is subject to adequate resources being available, in a timely manner, within the Core Administrative Budget, the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes, as well as other resources that are not under the direct control of the Governing Body but are addressed in the Funding Strategy, and this will be essential to the future functioning, integrity and effectiveness of the International Treaty;
  - b) The Core Administrative Budget is structurally under-resourced, impacting the execution of the Work Programme;
1. **Thanks** the Secretariat for providing information on implementation of the Work Programme and Budget of the previous biennium, and its efforts to improve transparency and accountability, including through reporting on the outcomes and impact of activities under the Work Programme, and **requests** the Secretariat to continue these efforts;
  2. **Requests** the Secretariat to provide a financial update to the Bureau of the Eleventh Session, to include information on the actual income and actual expenditure for the 2020 – 2021 and 2022 – 2023 biennia, and information on the balance carried forward from previous biennia;
  3. **Adopts** the International Treaty’s Work Programme and the Core Administrative Budget for the Biennium 2024–2025, as contained in Annex 1 to this Resolution, recognizing that all proposed activities are subject to the availability of funding;
  4. **Adopts** the indicative scale of contributions, in accordance with Financial Rule V.1 b), as contained in Annex 3 to this Resolution;
  5. **Confirms** the authorization to the Secretary, on an exceptional basis, to draw upon the available carry-forward balances from prior financial periods an amount up to USD 173,465 to offset contributions in the 2024-2025 biennium, provided that the use of the balance does not reduce the working capital reserve, and that any such utilization be distributed to the work programme proportionate to the approved budget;
  6. **Urges** all Contracting Parties to provide the resources required in the Core Administrative Budget, recognizing that the budget as adopted reflects the consensus of Contracting Parties, including in regard to voluntary payments in accordance with Annex 3 to this Resolution;
  7. **Requests** the Secretariat to maintain and regularly keep an updated, accessible, exhaustive and up-to-date information section on the International Treaty website Treaty, reflecting the status of payments to the Core Administrative Budget;
  8. **Notes with concern** that the number of Contracting Parties that contribute to the Core Administrative Budget remains low, and **urges** Contracting Parties that make no, or only limited contributions, to make contributions to the Core Administrative Budget;

9. **Requests** the Secretary to explore, under the guidance of the Bureau, possible mechanisms or approaches to improve the rate of contributions to the Core Administrative Budget by Contracting Parties, including lessons that may be learnt from other similar instruments, and to report back to the Governing Body at its Eleventh Session;
10. **Approves**, on an exceptional one-time basis, the supplementary appropriation of carry-forward from previous biennia, an amount up to USD 408 404 to fund up to four formal meetings of the Ad-hoc Working Group on the Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System, and **notes** that this approval does not create a precedent for future Work Programmes and Budgets of the Governing Body;
11. **Recommends** the project proposals contained in the Addendum to Annex 1 to this Resolution to donor Governments and institutions, and **invites** them to provide the funding necessary for the implementation of these projects, which will be critical for the continued successful implementation of the International Treaty in the 2024–2025 biennium, in particular by contributing to the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes;
12. **Invites** States that are not Contracting Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other entities to also contribute to the Core Administrative Budget, consistent with relevant FAO rules;
13. **Takes note** of the contribution from FAO of USD 2 million, and **thanks** it for its continued support to implementation of the International Treaty;
14. **Noting** the determination by FAO Governing Bodies that the International Treaty is a priority FAO activity, **encourages** FAO to increase, through the appropriate processes and procedures, the contribution to the International Treaty and mobilizing additional financial resources for its work;
15. **Invites** Contracting Parties that are also members of relevant Governing Bodies of FAO to consider possibilities for enhancing sustainable regular programme funding for the International Treaty, as appropriate;
16. **Decides** to retain the level of the Working Capital Reserve at USD 580 000;
17. **Notes** that Contracting Parties that have not contributed to the Working Capital Reserve will be requested to contribute the balance necessary to bring the reserve up to its established level, in the call for contributions for the 2024–2025 biennium, by separate voluntary contributions, in addition to their voluntary contributions to the Core Administrative Budget;
18. **Approves** the Secretariat staffing structure for the Biennium 2024–2025 set out in Annex 2 to this Resolution, recognizing that the precise staffing arrangements are a matter of the normal executive authority of the Secretary;
19. **Thanks** those Governments that have generously donated substantial funds for additional project activities, outside the Core Administrative Budget, in support of implementation of the International Treaty and, in particular, implementation of the Work Programme for the 2022–2023 biennium;
20. **Thanks** the Government of Italy for the staff resources that it has made available to support and extend the activities of the International Treaty;
21. **Encourages** Contracting Parties to contribute to the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes, to support projects that will be critical for the continued successful implementation of the International Treaty in the 2024–2025 biennium;
22. **Confirms** that Contracting Parties that are developing countries and countries with economies in transition should be informed by the Secretary, in a timely manner before a meeting, of the availability of resources to support their participation in that meeting from the Fund referred to in the International Treaty’s Financial Rule VI.2 c), and that, where such funding is limited, priority should be given to the least developed countries;

23. **Encourages** Contracting Parties and other donors to replenish the Fund to Support the Participation of Developing Countries in the amount of USD 700 000 for the 2024–2025 biennium, and **requests** the Secretary to include a call for funds to this effect in the annual letters calling for contributions to the Core Administrative Budget;
24. **Agrees and collectively grants its advance consent** to the budget revisions to the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes and the Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Developing Countries that may arise from any additional contribution to these Trust Funds, in accordance with the financial rules or administrative requirements of FAO and with the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty;
25. **Agrees** that all interests accruing to the multi-donor Trust Funds of the International Treaty be used in accordance with the terms and purposes of the respective Funds;
26. **Invites** FAO to take into account the specific nature and structure of the International Treaty's Trust Funds and to make necessary arrangements to minimize administrative burdens that might impede the receipt of contributions into those funds;
27. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to seek opportunities to hold International Treaty meetings virtually and back-to-back with other relevant meetings, to save on travel and other costs, without negatively impacting the delivery of the agreed work programme;
28. **Requests** the Secretary to submit a draft Work Programme and Budget for the Biennium 2026–2027, including a Secretariat staffing table and a Draft Resolution, for the consideration of the Governing Body at its Eleventh Session;
29. **Requests** the Secretary to provide a detailed financial report and statement, and a summary narrative report on the implementation of the Work Programme 2024–2025, at least six weeks in advance, to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body.

***Annexes to the Resolution:***

Annex 1: Work Programme and the Core Administrative Budget for the Biennium 2024–2025

Addendum to Annex 1: Donor-supported activities under the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes

Annex 2: Secretariat staffing structure for the Biennium 2024–2025

Annex 3: Indicative Scale of Contributions

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*Annex 1*

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## Work Programme for the 2024-2025 Biennium

### I. INTRODUCTION

1. It is recalled that due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, originally scheduled to hold in 2021, was significantly postponed to September 2022. The disruptions caused by the extraordinary situation also led to the approval of the *interim* budget, for 2022 only, by the Governing Body at its First Special Session, held in December 2021, to ensure that the Governing Body's functions and the necessary operations of the Secretariat continue effectively throughout the year 2022.
2. The organisation of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body during the gradual to limited easing of the restrictions and measures put in place in response to the global pandemic presented significant procedural and logistic challenges for the Session. The after-effects of the pandemic are still being felt or dealt with in the ongoing activities of the Treaty and the work of the Governing Body.
3. At the Ninth Session in September 2022, the Governing Body, on an exceptional basis, decided to hold the Tenth Session in the last quarter of 2023, to realign the cycle of the Session of the Governing Body with that of the FAO financial period. This meant that there were, effectively, three Sessions of the Governing Body within a period of three years, during and after which very significant developments occurred.
4. After the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted by the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in December 2022. This marked a major development for the global biodiversity community and has focused greater attention on the work of the International Treaty and its achievements to date, in particular, in relation to access and benefit-sharing and sustainable use.
5. As agreed by the Bureau of the Tenth Session, the intersessional subsidiary bodies have been considering the possible implications of the GBF for the International Treaty, in their respective areas of work, with a view to making relevant observations and recommendations for consideration by the Governing Body at this Session.
6. One of the key FAO strategies, to which the International Treaty contributes, is the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors. Its Action Plan addresses several key issues of relevance to the International Treaty, including access and benefit-sharing, and sustainable use of biodiversity. The FAO Council will be invited to consider the draft 2024–2027 Action Plan at the end of 2023, which would offer an opportunity to build synergies with other relevant strategies, such as FAO's new Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031, the Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work on Nutrition, and FAO's Science and Innovation Strategy.
7. Within the International Treaty, one of the major developments since the Ninth Session has been the approval of 28 projects to be funded under the Fifth Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) in May 2023. This Cycle will invest more than USD 11 million to support a portfolio projects from all regions, and includes several countries and institutions that will be participating in the BSF for the first time.
8. A number of other important developments also took place under various work tracks of the Treaty and in the implementation of the Work Programme approved by the Ninth Session of the Governing Body for the 2022–2023 biennium. One of the most significant developments is the commencement of the work of the Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System, following its re-establishment by the Ninth Session of the Governing Body. Subject to the guidance of the Governing Body, adequate provision would need to be made for the continuation of the work of the Working Group during the next biennium.

## II. WORK PROGRAMME 2024-2025

9. The draft Work Programme for the 2024–2025 biennium has been prepared primarily based on the work delivered, and major developments since the Ninth Session, as well as reflecting other relevant achievements made from the beginning of the current biennium, in the implementation of the Work Programme for the 2022–2023 biennium. The highlights of the outputs delivered by the Secretary and Secretariat during the current biennium are provided in the document, IT/GB-10/23/18.1, *Implementation Report of the Work Programme for the 2022–2023 Biennium*.

10. The reports submitted by the relevant subsidiary bodies and inter-sessional committees of the Governing Body at this Session provide information on the outcomes of their work and make recommendations on future programmes and activities, also considering key developments that have occurred beyond the sphere of the International Treaty. Other documents, such as those related to cooperation with partner organizations, also report on relevant developments and possible future collaborations. Further, the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty (MYPOW) provides information on the expected outputs and milestones to be achieved by the Governing Body at its Eleventh Session.<sup>45</sup>

11. The key strategic objectives reflected in the Work Programme for the biennium seek to maintain and build on progress made in the previous biennium and to prepare for new areas of work, taking into account recent developments both within the Treaty sphere and in the global policy landscape, in particular to:

- continue the enhancement of the core Treaty systems and strategies, particularly the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (Multilateral System), the Funding Strategy, strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Work on the Global Information System (GLIS) on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), advance the policy and technical work on conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, and Farmers' Rights, in a synergistic manner;
- subject to further guidance by the Governing Body at this Session, continue and finalise the work of the Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System, to be considered at the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body;
- continue to ensure balanced and comprehensive realization of the Treaty's objectives;
- address the funding needs for the overall Work Programme to enable the full implementation of the Treaty;
- amplify the Treaty's profile, policy outreach and governance role in areas of its mandate, and engage in strategic partnerships to enable the Treaty's contributions to, and benefits from, the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and other relevant global initiatives and policies.
- continue the harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the Treaty, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Nagoya Protocol, as complementary and essential parts of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing, ensuring that the Treaty maintains its critical role in the global governance of PGRFA;
- continue facilitating the Governing Body's consideration of the implications of digital sequence information on genetic resources for the objectives of the International Treaty as well as for its relevant components (i.e. the Multilateral System, Farmers' Rights, the Global Information System);

12. At the systemic and governance levels, the aim is to:

- Continue advancing the implementation and consolidate the enhancement of the Treaty systems on a sustainable financial basis;

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<sup>45</sup> IT/GB-10/23/17.1, *Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty*



- Utilize available resources in the most effective way possible and facilitate structured reporting as a basis for measuring and assessing progress in implementation;
- Enhance the transparency of governance of the Treaty and enhance the effective capacity of the Governing Body to decide on the work programme of the Treaty and its biennial budget;
- Make possible a clear comparison of the approved work programme of the 2022-2023 biennium with the proposed work programme for 2024-2025 biennium, by maintaining the same basic structure, while laying the foundation for a transition towards a streamlined and more coherent format for presenting the budget and work programme from the Eleventh Session;

13. Concrete outcomes and results to be achieved in the 2024–2025 biennium are provided in the relevant draft Resolutions of the Tenth Session. This document therefore particularly focuses on possible outputs to be delivered by the Secretary, to support the Governing Body in its implementation of the Work Programme in the next biennium, and to further strengthen and advance implementation of the International Treaty. To this end, a commensurate Budget is being proposed. As provided in Article 20.5 of the Treaty, in order to achieve the objectives of the International Treaty, cooperation and synergies with partner organizations and stakeholders will continue to be sought in all areas.

### *Maintenance Functions of the Work Programme*

14. The Maintenance Functions are required in order to maintain the existence of the International Treaty as an international instrument, and to service the Governing Body and its statutory bodies. They derive directly from Articles 19 and 20 of the International Treaty. As a basic and fundamental part of the Work Programme, the Secretary shall perform all the functions envisaged under Articles 19 and 20 of the International Treaty with regard to its administration and maintenance, with particular attention to Article 20.2 to 20.5, including representation and cooperation with relevant organizations.

### *Compliance*

15. The compliance procedures and mechanisms established under Article 21 of the International Treaty aim to support the Governing Body in monitoring implementation and providing support, advice and assistance, especially to developing countries regarding compliance.

16. The Compliance Committee is a standing subsidiary body of the International Treaty and is called to meet at least once every biennium to prepare a report to the Governing Body, based on the reports and inputs submitted by Contracting Parties, and other matters that are brought to its consideration according to the approved procedures. The Committee also provides advice to Contracting Parties on request, on issues related to compliance.

17. The following outputs are envisaged for the 2024-2025 biennium in relation to compliance:

- At least one in-person meeting of the Compliance Committee is organized (in accordance with Articles 19.3 and 21 of the International Treaty).
- Contracting Parties are assisted in the preparation and submission of the national implementation reports.
- Capacity development and training activities are developed in support of reporting.
- Issues of possible cases of non-compliance are brought to the attention of the Compliance Committee.
- Requests for advice or assistance by Contracting Parties on matters of compliance are brought to the attention of the Compliance Committee.
- Research, information and analyses, as may be requested by the Committee, are completed.

### ***Funding Strategy***

18. Since the adoption of the Funding Strategy by the Eighth Session of the Governing Body, the Funding Committee has developed and updated an Operational Plan for its implementation. The Operational Plan encompasses the requests made by the Governing Body through Resolution 3/2019 and Resolution 4/2022, including those related to the new Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy agreed by the Governing Body at its Tenth Session.

19. A number of activities are envisaged to implement the Funding Strategy and its Operational Plan during the next biennium, including holding, at least, two meetings of the Funding Committee and the provision of technical expertise for planned activities under the Operational Plan's focus areas of 'resource mobilization' and 'monitoring and review'. The following outputs are expected to be achieved:

- implementation of the approved Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy;
- analysis of opportunities and potential synergies arising from adoption of the GBF, for integrating PGRFA into national priorities;
- compilation of tools and best practices for better integration of PGRFA into national development plans;
- development of communication tools, products and platforms to help resource mobilization efforts and increase outreach with users of the Multilateral System, new donors and stakeholders, and the visibility and recognition of donors;
- development and streamlining of monitoring and review processes and tools for the Funding Strategy, including those related to the GBF monitoring framework;
- development of draft policy criteria for specific assistance under the Funding Strategy, as called for in Art.13.4 of the International Treaty; and
- rollout of a methodology for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of Non-Monetary Benefit-sharing.

### ***Implementation Functions of the Work Programme***

20. The Implementation Functions make provision for activities required to support and enhance the primary functions of the International Treaty and its systems, as well as meetings of ad hoc bodies convened by the Governing Body. They reflect the progressive development of key systems of the International Treaty and achievements made in the past biennia.

### ***Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA - Articles 5 and 6***

21. Conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA are crucial objectives of the International Treaty. The Secretary will continue to:

- Promote concrete activities towards the attainment of these objectives, including through strengthening collaboration with partner organizations and joint efforts that would be mutually reinforcing;
- facilitate training and capacity building aimed at advancing characterization, conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, including the assessment of needs of local farmers and other relevant local stakeholders, and the identification of possible means to address those needs; and
- support regional and/or national programmes in policy development for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, and in building networks and partnerships, and mobilizing resources.

22. The Secretary will also continue to strengthen and capitalize on ongoing initiatives to increase their benefit, impact and visibility, including the Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA and the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA, as a

valuable source of information to support Contracting Parties and stakeholders in implementing Articles 5 and 6.

23. Furthermore, based on the recent recommendations of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA, the Secretary will facilitate the possible development of:

- voluntary guidelines on the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;
- an inclusive process to develop voluntary guidelines, and other relevant tools and means to address identified bottlenecks and challenges to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6, possibly including a global symposium and expert input, or small groups to address each type of bottleneck; and
- a mechanism to identify the levels and forms of implementation and countries in need of support in implementing Articles 5 and 6, according to specific contexts and local needs.

### ***Farmers' Rights – Article 9***

24. The Governing Body recognizes the importance of realizing Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty. The development of the *Inventory of national measures, best practices, and lessons learned on the implementation of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty (the Inventory)*, and the *Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty (the Options)*, represents milestone achievements in the implementation of Article 9.

25. Building on the significant progress made in the implementation of Article 9, the Secretary will continue to facilitate and organize capacity-building, awareness-raising and outreach activities aimed at promoting and protecting Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, including:

- updating and promoting use of the Inventory and the Options, along with an updated version of the educational module on Farmers' Rights;
- organizing seminars, workshops and consultations to support and facilitate initiatives of Contracting Parties and relevant organizations on promotion of the implementation and realization of Farmers' Rights;
- facilitating the development of regional cooperation plans, with emphasis on South-South cooperation, with reference to Article 18.5 of the International Treaty; and
- strengthening collaboration with other units of FAO and partners that work for the promotion of Farmers' Rights, and the broader United Nations community, including with international human rights bodies, in order to promote the realization of Farmers' Rights.

26. Based on the guidance of the Governing Body at this Session, the Secretary will facilitate and prepare an assessment report regarding the state of implementation of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty.

### ***Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (MLS)***

- ***MLS Enhancement***

27. 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, based on a process supported by regional and interregional consultations, informal meetings, and expert advice.

28. In order for the Working Group to be able to present a full package of measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body, sustained efforts will be required throughout the 2024-2025 biennium.

29. The following outputs are envisaged:

- Four formal in-person meetings of the Working Group will be organized.
- Periodic informal regional and stakeholder consultations will be organized to support the work of the Working Group.
- At least one informal interregional meeting will be organized to build trust and mutual understanding in support of the meetings of the Working Group.
- Meetings of Friends of the Co-Chairs and small/expert groups, as needed, will be organized by the Co-Chairs to provide input to the Working Group.

30. As advised by the Working Group at its eleventh meeting and recommended by the Co-Chairs in their Checkpoint Report, adequate budgetary provisions would need to be made, including for translation and interpretation, to carry out the work foreseen to conclude the process successfully by the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body.

31. In this context, it is proposed that a one-off supplementary appropriation be exceptionally made by the Governing Body to fund the formal meetings of the Working Group from accumulated savings from previous biennia.

- ***MLS Operations***

32. The Multilateral System (MLS) is a core mechanism of the International Treaty, ensuring the availability of PGRFA at global level and the sharing of benefits arising from the use of more than 2.4 million PGRFA worldwide. The Secretary will continue to organize training sessions and update manuals and educational resources, to further assist users of the Multilateral System.

33. The function of the Easy-SMTA system to facilitate the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) reporting from the MLS Data Store for the generation of statistics and the helpdesk to provide direct support to users are critical structural elements in the operations of the Multilateral System. The data is also a reliable source of information to assist the Governing Body with the review of reports and for the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures.

34. The Secretary will continue to maintain the essential operations of the Multilateral System. This will also help to increase information on the material available in the Multilateral System at the accession level, and fully characterized and evaluated.

35. The Secretary will also continue liaising with and supporting Article 15 institutions, including for strengthening of existing, and establishing of new, funding channels; new agreements will also be pursued with interested organizations.

36. The following outputs are envisaged for implementation of the Multilateral System:

- All the core information systems and tools that support operation of the Multilateral System continue to function effectively.
- Contracting Parties are supported in the notification of material available in the Multilateral System.
- Article 15 institutions are supported with the effective implementation of the agreements.
- SMTA users and collection holders are assisted in actively participating in and benefiting from operations of the Multilateral System.
- A report on the availability of material and germplasm exchange is prepared for consideration by the Governing Body at its Eleventh Session.

37. An enhanced Multilateral System would, however, require further/new measures, approaches and additional resources to support national implementation.

### ***Information Systems for PGRFA – Global Information System***

38. At its Ninth Session, the Governing Body approved the revised Programme of Work on the Global Information System on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (GLIS), incorporating the inputs and advice provided by the Scientific Advisory Committee.<sup>46</sup>

39. The envisaged outputs have been structured around five main objectives, with related activities. They include the management and enhancement of the GLIS Portal, including the expansion and translation of the directory of links and services, and promotion of interoperability among existing systems through the provision of principles, technical standards and tools. Implementation of the Programme of Work will also promote transparency on the rights and obligations of users for accessing, sharing and using PGRFA-associated information, as well as the creation and enhancement of opportunities to increase knowledge about PGRFA.

40. Capacity building, including operations of the GLIS help-desk, will continue to be a key objective in the next biennium. The Governing Body has also identified, as a priority, capacity strengthening for genebanks and other PGRFA providers to document their holdings, such as taxonomy, information management and bioinformatics, in collaboration with relevant partners, as well as facilitated access to training materials and e-learning products.

41. The following outputs are envisaged for implementation of the Global Information System:

- The GLIS Portal is up and running and the directory of links expanded.
- Contracting Parties and users are supported through a functional GLIS help-desk.
- There is improved interoperability among existing systems.
- There is strengthened capacity of gene banks and other providers on the documentation of PGRFA.

### ***Capacity building***

42. To support the Governing Body with intergovernmental policy processes and operations of the main systems of the International Treaty, capacity development and training for effective implementation of International Treaty provisions will continue to be provided to Contracting Parties and other stakeholders.

43. In order to improve the coherence, efficiency and effectiveness of capacity development efforts, the Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty is expected to be finalized at this Session. During the next biennium, a draft action plan to implement the Strategy will be developed for consideration at the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body. It will take into account the outcomes of the GBF, and will involve consultation with relevant stakeholders.

### ***Cross-cutting themes***

44. The continuous consideration of the implications of Digital Sequence Information/Genetic Sequence Data on Genetic Resources (DSI/GSD) on the objectives of the International Treaty is a theme in the MYPOW, which cuts across both the main components of the International Treaty (i.e., the Multilateral System, Farmers' Rights, the Global Information System) and the relationship with the Access and Benefit-Sharing goals and targets of the GBF, with important implications for the Funding Strategy. The Secretary will continue facilitating such a consideration in accordance with the guidance that the Governing Body will provide on the relevant components of the International Treaty as well as by contributing to the on-going processes and initiatives at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other relevant fora.

45. Cooperation with other organizations and partner institutions will continue to contribute to advancing implementation of the International Treaty. Major outputs planned for the Eleventh Session include contributions to the implementation of the GBF and the review of the Second Global Plan of Action for PGRFA in cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

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<sup>46</sup>Annex to Resolution 5/2022 [www.fao.org/3/nk240en/nk240en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/nk240en/nk240en.pdf)

46. Effective communication continues to be key to advancing the implementation of the International Treaty, by increasing visibility and advocating the value of the International Treaty in the PGRFA community, as well as in the wider agricultural and biodiversity sectors and among the general public. Highlighting the contribution of the International Treaty to global food security and sustainable agriculture in the context of climate change is critical. This would include further demonstration of the linkage and contribution of the International Treaty to relevant global agendas, such as the GBF and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## Core Administrative Budget and Work Programme: 2024-2025 Biennium

	A	B	C
	Core Maintenance Function	Core Implementation Functions	Core Administrative
All amounts in USD			
<b>A. Human resources</b>			
A.1 Established staff positions	4,922,716	-	4,922,716
A.2 Other consultancy costs	689,558	569,101	1,258,659
<b>Total A. Human Resources</b>	<b>5,612,274</b>	<b>569,101</b>	<b>6,181,375</b>
<b>B. Meetings</b>			
B.1 Governing body	760,320	-	760,320
B.2 Bureau	26,400	-	26,400
B.3 Compliance Committee	42,240	-	42,240
B.4 Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization	42,240	-	42,240
B.5 Hospitality expenses for meetings of Statutory Bodies	10,560	-	10,560
<b>Total B. Meetings</b>	<b>881,760</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>881,760</b>
<b>C. Other costs</b>			
C.1 Core staff duty travel	240,768	19,000	259,768
C.2 Publications and communication	52,800	28,000	80,800
C.3 Supplies and equipment	26,400	6,000	32,400
C.4 Contracts	68,112	38,000	106,112
C.5 Staff training	26,400	-	26,400
C.6 Miscellaneous	21,120	-	21,120
<b>Total C. Other Costs</b>	<b>435,600</b>	<b>91,000</b>	<b>526,600</b>
<b>Total A + B + C</b>	<b>6,929,634</b>	<b>660,101</b>	<b>7,589,735</b>
D. General Operating Services	277,185	26,403	303,588
<b>Operating Budget</b>	<b>7,206,820</b>	<b>686,504</b>	<b>7,893,323</b>
E. Support Costs	312,409	41,190	353,599
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7,519,229</b>	<b>727,694</b>	<b>8,246,923</b>

Funding of the Proposed CAB and amount to be funded by Contracting Parties	
Total Core Work Programme	8,246,923
One-time Special provision for the formal processes of the MLS Working Group (WG)	408,404
Less:	
F. FAO contribution	- 2,000,000
Contribution to CAB from the Projected balance for carry-forward of the 2022-23 biennium	- 173,465
Contribution for the MLS WG from the Projected balance for carry-forward of the 2022-23 biennium	- 408,404
<b>Net amount to be funded by Contracting Parties</b>	<b>6,073,458</b>

## Resource Requirements for Treaty Maintenance Functions in 2024 - 2025

Treaty Article GB Doc reference	Core Maintenance Function		
	19-20		
	18, 18 add		
	Cost - USD	FAO inflation increase 5.6%	Total Cost - USD
<b>A. Human resources</b>			
<b>A.1 Established staff positions</b>	<b>4,922,716</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,922,716</b>
In accordance with approved Secretariat staffing table			
<i>D1 (Secretary)</i>	510,648		
<i>P5 (Deputy Secretary &amp; Senior Technical Officer, Policy and</i>	498,519		
<i>P4 (Programme Officer, Programme and Management)</i>	392,472		
<i>P4 (Technical Officer, MLS Operations, Reporting and Global</i>	423,870		
<i>P4 (Technical Officer, Multilateral System, Legal and Policy Support,</i>	423,870		
<i>P4 (Technical Officer, Funding Strategy, Project Dev. and Strategic</i>	423,870		
<i>P4 (Technical Officer, Liaison with CBD, CGIAR and other</i>	423,870		
<i>P3 (Technical Officer, Systems Operations Support)</i>	348,831		
<i>P3 (Technical Officer, Implementation Support and Capacity</i>	174,416		
<i>G6 Programme Associate</i>	252,824		
<i>G6 Meetings Associate</i>	252,824		
<i>G5 Office Assistant - Secretary</i>	209,304		
<i>G4 Meetings Assistant</i>	195,800		
<i>G4 Office Assistant</i>	195,800		
<i>G4 Office Assistant</i>	195,800		
<b>A.2 Consultancy costs</b>	<b>689,558</b>		<b>689,558</b>
Treaty maintenance and Statutory meeting related	465,998	-	
Communications and editorial related	223,560	-	
<b>Total A. Human Resources</b>	<b>5,612,274</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,612,274</b>
<b>B. Meetings -Statutory Bodies</b>			
<b>B.1 Governing body</b>	<b>720,000</b>	<b>40,320</b>	<b>760,320</b>
<i>Consultants</i>	50,000	2,800	52,800
<i>Contracts</i>	60,000	3,360	63,360
<i>Locally Contracted Labour &amp; Overtime</i>	25,000	1,400	26,400
<i>Travel (Secretariat &amp; Interpreters)</i>	120,000	6,720	126,720
<i>Expendable Procurement</i>	7,000	392	7,392
<i>General Operating Expenses</i>	5,000	280	5,280
<i>General Operating Expenses - external common services</i>	3,000	168	3,168
<i>General Operating Expenses - internal common services (interpretation, translation &amp; printing)</i>	450,000	25,200	475,200
<b>B.2 Bureau</b>	25,000	1,400	26,400
<b>B.3 Compliance Committee</b>	40,000	2,240	42,240
<b>B.4 Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization</b>	40,000	2,240	42,240
<b>B.5 Hospitality expenses for meetings of Statutory Bodies</b>	10,000	560	10,560
<b>Total B. Meetings</b>	<b>835,000</b>	<b>46,760</b>	<b>881,760</b>
<b>C. Other costs</b>			
<b>C.1 Staff duty travel</b>	228,000	12,768	240,768
<b>C.2 Publications and communication</b>	50,000	2,800	52,800
<b>C.3 Supplies and equipment</b>	25,000	1,400	26,400



<b>C.4 Contracts</b>			
<i>Hosting SMTA in UNICC</i>	22,000	1,232	23,232
<i>Hosting GLIS in FAO &amp; website hosting and maintenance</i>	42,500	2,380	44,880
<b>C.5 Staff Training</b>	25,000	1,400	26,400
<b>C.6 Miscellaneous</b>	20,000	1,120	21,120
<b>Total C. Other Costs</b>	<b>412,500</b>	<b>23,100</b>	<b>435,600</b>
<b>Total A + B + C</b>	<b>6,859,774</b>	<b>69,860</b>	<b>6,929,634</b>
<b>D. General Operating Services (4% of A + B + C)</b>	274,391	2,794	277,185
<b>Operating Budget</b>	<b>7,134,165</b>	<b>72,654</b>	<b>7,206,820</b>
<b>E. Support Costs (6% of Operating Budget excluding FAO contribution)</b>	308,050	4,359	312,409
<b>Core Administrative budget</b>	<b>7,442,215</b>	<b>77,014</b>	<b>7,519,229</b>
<b>F. FAO contribution</b>	2,000,000	-	2,000,000
<b>Contribution to CAB from the Projected balance for carry-forward of the 2022-23 biennium</b>	<b>173,465</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>173,465</b>
<b>Balance to be funded by Contracting Parties</b>	<b>5,268,750</b>	<b>77,014</b>	<b>5,345,764</b>

### Core Implementation Functions: 2024 - 2025 Biennium - Summary

Reference	Activity	Related Annex	A.	B.	C.	Total A+B+C	D.	Operating Budget	E.	Total USD
			Human Resources	Meetings	Other Costs		General Operating Services (4% of A+B+C)		Support Costs (6% of Operating Budget)	
CIF-1	Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing	3.1	138,461	-	15,000	153,461	6,137	159,599	9,576	169,175
CIF-2	Information Systems for PGRFA	3.2	211,831	-	42,000	253,831	10,153	263,984	15,839	279,824
CIF-3	Funding Strategy	3.3	83,160	-	34,000	117,160	4,686	121,846	7,311	129,157
CIF-4	Implementation of Articles 5 & 6 and related provisions	3.4	81,648	-	-	81,648	3,266	84,914	5,095	90,009
CIF-5	Implementation of Article 9 and related provisions	3.5	54,000	-	-	54,000	2,160	56,160	3,370	59,530
<b>Total Core Implementation Functions</b>			<b>569,101</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>91,000</b>	<b>660,101</b>	<b>26,403</b>	<b>686,504</b>	<b>41,190</b>	<b>727,694</b>

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*Addendum to Annex 1*

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**Donor-supported activities under the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes****Supporting Projects****Conservation, Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Farmers' Rights under Articles 5, 6 and 9 of the International Treaty**

1. Supporting Contracting Parties in their efforts to promote conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), as well as in the realization of Farmers' Rights, as provided for in the International Treaty, requires the development and dissemination of a broad spectrum of policy, administrative, legal and technical measures. It also depends on the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders, including farmers and farmers' organizations, civil society, and both public and private institutions.
2. Following the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA (ACSU), possible activities to enhance implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty would focus on:
  - a. Strengthening and capitalizing on ongoing initiatives to increase effectiveness, impact, and visibility, including through the following:
    - i. the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA, as a valuable source of information supporting Contracting Parties and stakeholders in implementing Articles 5 and 6;
    - ii. the Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA;
    - iii. country/region-specific studies to address bottlenecks in the implementation of Articles 5 and 6;
    - iv. development of a series of training materials on conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, including on cryopreservation;
    - v. policies and regulatory frameworks supporting conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, including Crop Wild Relatives, and recognition schemes for local and indigenous communities and farmers;
    - vi. awareness-raising of the value of crop genetic diversity;
    - vii. regional briefings among Contracting Parties and interested stakeholders on the implementation of Articles 5 and 6; and
    - viii. enhanced coordination and partnerships among public institutions, researchers, private entities, and other stakeholders.
  - b. Possible future strategies to address bottlenecks to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty, through the following:
    - i. development by the ACSU of voluntary guidelines on the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;
    - ii. elaboration of an inclusive process to develop voluntary guidelines, such as a global symposium, with expert inputs to address different types of bottlenecks; and
    - iii. development of a mechanism to identify levels and forms of implementation of Articles 5 and 6, and support for countries in need, according to specific contexts and local conditions.
3. To sustain the progress made in the implementation of Article 9, the Secretariat will continue to update, promote and disseminate: the Inventory of national measures, best practices and lessons learned on the implementation of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty; the Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in

Article 9 of the International Treaty; and the Educational Module and other available information resources on Farmers' Rights.

4. The Secretariat will also continue to support and facilitate initiatives of Contracting Parties and relevant organizations to promote and realize Farmers' Rights, such as training, workshops, consultations, and other capacity-building activities.

5. Document IT/GB-10/23/13, *Report on the implementation of Farmers' Rights*, provides an overview of the priority activities and proposals for future work on Farmers' Rights.

**Estimated cost: USD 450 000**

### **Multilateral System Support and Extension Programme: expanding operations and safeguarding germplasm collections**

6. The International Treaty community benefits from a rational and science-based system of *ex situ* conservation of germplasm collections, in order to make them available for research, breeding and training on a global scale. A global network of national and international collections is essential for the future of global food security and sustainable agriculture. It therefore remains critical to strengthen the operations of those collections operating within the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (Multilateral System), and to safeguard collections and conserve unique and globally valuable genetic diversity.

7. The operations of the Multilateral System will benefit from enhanced knowledge and sharing of experiences between users and providers. Active participation of all actors in workshops and in mechanisms to exchange experiences will contribute to increased availability and accessibility of material, including samples recently included in the Multilateral System.

8. Germplasm collections of important food crops around the world continue suffering significant damage, or under imminent threat of damage due to a range of emergencies or rapidly changing circumstances. These include pandemics, natural disasters, pest and pathogen outbreaks, institutional changes, land use and ownership issues, and conflict. Damage to unique germplasm collections not only represents a loss for the holding institution concerned, but also for global agricultural research and breeding communities, as well as for farmers and the society at large. The International Treaty will continue cooperating with partners, such as the Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust) and the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, in order to safeguard and rehabilitate plant germplasm collections and assist farmers in rehabilitating affected crop systems based on locally adapted germplasm.

9. The network of Article 15 collections can be expanded through new agreements with interested international institutions and host governments. The Governing Body has regularly mandated the Secretary to explore prospects for new agreements. In cases where new agreements are in place, the Secretary, in close collaboration with technical partners, should also provide initial support to facilitate the availability of germplasm and related data in the Multilateral System, e.g. through Easy-SMTA, Digital Object Identifiers, and Genesys. The allocation of financial resources for expansion of the network of Article 15 agreements would enable these activities to be upgraded into a coherent programme, jointly designed, and implemented together with CGIAR Centers and the Crop Trust, and coordinated with an updated, rational system of international germplasm conservation and availability.

10. Field collections play an essential role, both in terms of conservation of unique material and as a complement to *in situ* conservation in the context of local agricultural systems. *In situ* and field collections are particularly vulnerable, as they are exposed to environmental and development threats. Therefore, there continues an urgent need to secure resources that can be mobilized rapidly to respond to immediate threats to unique, international germplasm field collections that fall under the framework of the International Treaty, with a status that is in all respects equivalent to the *ex situ* collections under the management of CGIAR Centers.

11. Proposed activities will include:

- organizing regional implementation workshops to support Contracting Parties and other users of the Multilateral System, including for the identification and notification of material available in the Multilateral System and use of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement;
- supporting Contracting Parties in the documentation and exchange of national experiences on implementation of the Multilateral System, and publishing them on the website of the International Treaty;
- undertaking further research on possible measures to encourage natural and legal persons to include material in the Multilateral System, including the convening of a small focus groups;
- translating the Educational Module on the Multilateral System into Arabic, French and Spanish;
- facilitating the rapid mobilization and deployment of technical and financial assistance in emergency situations for Article 15 collections, alongside existing mechanisms, (e.g., the Benefit-sharing Fund), and mandates, (e.g., the Crop Trust and the CGIAR);
- devising and implementing short-term measures to safeguard and ensure continuous availability of threatened unique germplasm;
- planning and implementing a programme of expansion of Article 15 collections; and
- for new signatory institutions, delivering backstop support on the operation of the Multilateral System.

***Estimated cost: USD 600 000***

### **Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

12. The Ninth Session of the Governing Body adopted a revised Programme of Work on the Global Information System (PoW-GLIS) for 2023–2028, with five objectives: i) the GLIS Portal; ii) interoperability; iii) access and use of information; iv) information and knowledge sharing; and v) capacity development and technology transfer.<sup>47</sup>

13. Document IT/GB-10/23/11, *Report on the Implementation of the Global Information System*, provides information on the priorities identified by the Fifth meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the GLIS, including further improvement of the GLIS Portal, and support to developing countries on capacity building related to documentation, catalogues, inventories, and information exchange.<sup>48</sup>

14. Possible activities to be supported would include:

- at least one meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee;
- further development of the GLIS Portal through a graphic relationship browser to enable breeders and farmers to find germplasm through national and international inventories and specialized data repositories;
- provision of direct technical assistance for publishing and sharing information about national collections available in the Multilateral System, particularly for developing countries;
- provision of training and capacity-building workshops for the development of national inventories of Crop Wild Relatives in selected developing countries, by linking *ex situ* and *in situ* information; and
- development and publication of crop descriptor lists, in partnership with relevant organizations.

<sup>47</sup> [www.fao.org/3/nk240en/nk240en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/nk240en/nk240en.pdf)

<sup>48</sup> [www.fao.org/3/nn142en/nn142en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/nn142en/nn142en.pdf)

**Estimated cost: USD 450 000**

### **Implementation of the Funding Strategy**

15. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body adopted a new Funding Strategy of the International Treaty for the period 2020 to 2025.

16. Since the adoption of the new Funding Strategy, the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee) developed a 5-year Operational Plan for its implementation, which encompasses the requests made by the Governing Body through Resolution 3/2019. The Funding Strategy and Operational Plan set a heavy agenda for the Funding Committee to take forward, and as such, it is imperative that progress is made in the next biennium.

17. The proposed activities to be supported, derived from the Funding Strategy and its Operational Plan, are as follows:

- implementation of the approved Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy;
- analysis of opportunities and potential synergies arising from the adoption of the GBF, for integrating PGRFA into national priorities;
- compilation of tools and best practices for better integration of PGRFA into national development plans;
- development of communication tools, products, and platforms to help resource mobilization efforts and to increase outreach with users of the Multilateral System and with new donors and stakeholders, and enhance the visibility and recognition of donors;
- development and streamlining of monitoring and review processes and tools for the Funding Strategy, including those related to the GBF monitoring framework;
- development of draft and policy criteria for specific assistance under the Funding Strategy, as called for in Art.13.4 of the International Treaty; and
- rollout of a methodology for measuring non-monetary benefit-sharing.

**Estimated cost: USD 350 000**

### **Benefit-sharing Support Programme**

18. The Funding Strategy of the International Treaty includes, in its Annex 2, the *Benefit-sharing Fund: Operations Manual* (BSF Manual), which further defines the programmatic approach of the BSF, with targeted priorities, an improved monitoring, evaluation and learning framework, and a stronger focus on knowledge management, communication and visibility.

19. In 2023, the Funding Committee approved a portfolio of 28 projects for funding, as part of the Fifth Call for Proposals of the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF-5). The BSF-5 will contribute to the realization of both strategic and operational aspects of the new programmatic approach. The programmatic approach focuses on the long-term and strategic arrangement of individual, yet interlinked, projects that aim to achieve large-scale impacts on the global conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA. Thus, selected partners will work together on developing the BSF-5 programme, by creating synergies and complementarities, and by connecting with relevant PGRFA stakeholders.

20. This component will include activities to support the enhancement of the programmatic approach of the BSF in the context of the implementation of the Funding Strategy, as follows:

- establishment of the BSF community of practice for communication and knowledge sharing, to enable partners to build linkages between different funding sources and explore collaborative planning and co-spending opportunities;

- analysis of appropriate channels and activities for mobilizing co-funding resources and pursuing co-spending opportunities, to strengthen linkages between different funding sources and partners;
- implementation of a programme-wide inception phase for BSF-5 projects, for grounding an evidence-based planning and monitoring, evaluation, and learning;
- demonstration of functional, scalable, and sustainable models of access and benefit-sharing of PGRFA management, from local, national to global levels, through piloting of Phase 2 projects;
- deployment of a communication toolkit to support BSF partners in effectively communicating the results and achievements arising from BSF projects, within the framework of the broader communication strategy of the International Treaty; and
- further promotion of non-monetary benefit-sharing under the International Treaty (exchange of information; access to and transfer of technology; capacity building) and dissemination of the information and data arising from such schemes.

***Estimated cost: USD 500 000***

### **Capacity Development Programme for Mutual Supportiveness between the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol, in the context of the GBF**

21. The objectives of the International Treaty are attained through close linkages with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Governing Body has repeatedly stressed the need to enhance such connections. The CBD's Conference of the Parties, in adopting the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (Nagoya Protocol), formally recognized the International Treaty as one of the complementary instruments that constitute the International Regime of Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS). Since the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol, the Secretariat and the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT have been implementing capacity-building activities for mutual supportiveness with the International Treaty, in the context of the ongoing Joint Capacity Building Programme. Such activities have contributed to maintaining the relevance of the International Treaty in the context of wider ABS initiatives, and to promoting implementation of the Multilateral System within, or in parallel with, new or revised ABS frameworks.

22. Continuing and enhancing such activities will be critical in light of the new, overarching GBF. The GBF sets specific targets for monetary and non-monetary benefits linked to access to genetic resources (Goal C, Target 13). The GBF promotes coherence, complementarity and cooperation between the CBD and other biodiversity-related conventions and relevant multilateral agreements and international institutions, respecting their mandates, and creates opportunities for cooperation and partnerships among diverse actors to enhance implementation of the Framework (paragraph 6). While several processes under the Nagoya Protocol – for example on digital sequence information, on its Article 10 regarding global benefit-sharing mechanisms, and on Article 4 regarding the relationship with other international instruments – continue to have implications for the implementation of the International Treaty in terms of global ABS policy, the GBF offers the opportunity to generate new impetus for mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty. The GBF highlights the need to strengthen, on a wider scale, policy dialogue and operational coordination between national authorities responsible for the International Treaty and environmental authorities in charge of implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, at international, regional and national levels. This coordination would contribute to the whole-of-government approach that is at the heart of GBF implementation (paragraph 7 (c)).

23. Under the proposed Capacity Building Programme for Mutual Supportiveness, dialogue and coordination will be promoted through:

- preparation of joint decision-support tools for relevant ministries engaged in implementing the Nagoya Protocol and the Multilateral System and in meeting the relevant GBF goals

and targets, and the development of specialized awareness-raising and outreach material on both the International Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol;

- joint capacity-building workshops for the national focal points and competent authorities of both agreements, on selected themes of reciprocal, immediate relevance that are linked to the relevant GBF goals and targets; and
- technical and expert advice to governments, on request, for the harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the Multilateral System and the Nagoya Protocol.

24. Through these activities, it will also be possible to connect International Treaty stakeholders to the frameworks and initiatives for capacity building under the CBD, through coordination with the various implementing entities. A coherent and coordinated approach to capacity development will be pursued in order to integrate the programme into wider ABS experience sharing and lesson learning, for the efficient utilization of available resources and expertise.

***Estimated cost: USD 800 000***



**Secretariat staffing structure for the 2024-2025 biennium*****Professional***

D1 (Secretary)  
P5 (Deputy Secretary and Senior Technical Officer, Policy and Governance)  
P4 (Programme Officer, Programme and Management)  
P4 (Technical Officer, MLS Operations, Reporting and Global Information System)  
P4 (Technical Officer, Multilateral System, Legal and Policy Support, and Compliance)  
P4 (Technical Officer, Funding Strategy, Project Development and Strategic Partnerships)  
P4 (Technical Officer, Liaison with CBD, CGIAR and other organizations)  
P3 (Technical Officer, Systems Operations Support)  
P3 (Technical Officer, Implementation Support and Capacity Development)

***General Service***

G6 (Programme Associate)  
G6 (Meetings Associate)  
G5 (Office Assistant - Secretary)  
G4 (Meetings Assistant)  
G4 (Office Assistant)  
G4 (Office Assistant)

*Annex 3*

## INDICATIVE SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE CALENDAR YEARS 2024–2025

*(2022–2023 scale is shown for comparison purposes)*

Contracting Party	Scale <sup>49</sup> 2024-25	Scale <sup>50</sup> 2022-23
Afghanistan	0.008%	0.008%
Albania	0.011%	0.011%
Algeria	0.151%	0.150%
Angola	0.014%	0.014%
Antigua and Barbuda	0.003%	0.003%
Argentina	0.987%	0.990%
Armenia	0.010%	0.010%
Australia	2.898%	2.908%
Austria	0.932%	0.935%
Bangladesh	0.014%	0.014%
Belgium	1.137%	1.141%
Benin	0.007%	0.007%
Bhutan	0.001%	0.001%
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.026%	0.026%
Brazil	2.765%	2.773%
Bulgaria	0.077%	0.077%
Burkina Faso	0.005%	0.005%
Burundi	0.001%	0.001%
Cambodia	0.010%	0.010%
Cameroon	0.018%	0.018%
Canada	3.608%	3.620%
Central African Republic	0.001%	0.001%
Chad	0.004%	0.004%
Chile	0.578%	0.579%
Congo, Republic of	0.007%	0.007%
Cook Islands	0.001%	0.001%
Costa Rica	0.095%	0.095%
Côte d'Ivoire	0.030%	0.030%
Croatia	0.125%	0.125%
Cuba	0.130%	0.131%
Cyprus	0.049%	0.050%
Czechia	0.467%	0.468%
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.007%	0.007%
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.014%	0.014%
Denmark	0.759%	0.762%
Djibouti	0.001%	0.001%
Dominican Republic	0.092%	0.092%
Ecuador	0.106%	0.106%
Egypt	0.191%	0.191%

<sup>49</sup> Indicative Scale of Contributions for 2024-25 based on the UN Scale of Assessments for 2022-24, as established by General Assembly Resolution 76/238 adopted on 24 December 2021

<sup>50</sup> Indicative Scale of Contributions for 2022-23 based on the UN Scale of Assessments for 2022-24, as established by General Assembly Resolution 76/238 adopted on 24 December 2021

<b>Contracting Party</b>	<b>Scale<sup>49</sup> 2024-25</b>	<b>Scale<sup>50</sup> 2022-23</b>
El Salvador	0.018%	0.018%
Eritrea	0.001%	0.001%
Estonia	0.060%	0.061%
Eswatini	0.003%	0.003%
Ethiopia	0.014%	0.014%
Fiji	0.005%	0.005%
Finland	0.572%	0.574%
France	5.928%	5.948%
Gabon	0.018%	0.018%
Georgia	0.011%	0.011%
Germany	8.390%	8.418%
Ghana	0.033%	0.033%
Greece	0.446%	0.448%
Guatemala	0.056%	0.056%
Guinea	0.004%	0.004%
Guinea-Bissau	0.001%	0.001%
Guyana	0.005%	0.005%
Honduras	0.012%	0.012%
Hungary	0.313%	0.314%
Iceland	0.049%	0.050%
India	1.433%	1.438%
Indonesia	0.754%	0.756%
Iran, Islamic Republic of	0.509%	0.511%
Iraq	0.176%	0.176%
Ireland	0.603%	0.605%
Italy	4.378%	4.393%
Jamaica	0.011%	0.011%
Japan	11.028%	11.065%
Jordan	0.030%	0.030%
Kenya	0.041%	0.041%
Kiribati	0.001%	0.001%
Kuwait	0.321%	0.322%
Kyrgyzstan	0.003%	0.003%
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.010%	0.010%
Latvia	0.069%	0.069%
Lebanon	0.049%	0.050%
Lesotho	0.001%	0.001%
Liberia	0.001%	0.001%
Libya	0.025%	0.025%
Lithuania	0.106%	0.106%
Luxembourg	0.093%	0.094%
Madagascar	0.005%	0.005%
Malawi	0.003%	0.003%
Malaysia	0.478%	0.479%
Maldives	0.005%	0.005%
Mali	0.007%	0.007%
Malta	0.026%	0.026%

<b>Contracting Party</b>	<b>Scale<sup>49</sup> 2024-25</b>	<b>Scale<sup>50</sup> 2022-23</b>
Marshall Islands	0.001%	0.001%
Mauritania	0.003%	0.003%
Mauritius	0.026%	0.026%
Mongolia	0.005%	0.005%
Montenegro	0.005%	0.005%
Morocco	0.077%	0.076%
Mozambique	0.005%	0.005%
Myanmar	0.014%	0.014%
Namibia	0.012%	0.012%
Nepal	0.014%	0.014%
Netherlands	1.890%	1.897%
Nicaragua	0.007%	0.007%
Niger	0.004%	0.004%
Nigeria	0.250%	-
Norway	0.932%	0.935%
Oman	0.152%	0.153%
Pakistan	0.158%	0.157%
Palau	0.001%	0.001%
Panama	0.125%	0.124%
Papua New Guinea	0.014%	0.014%
Paraguay	0.036%	0.036%
Peru	0.224%	0.224%
Philippines	0.291%	0.292%
Poland	1.149%	1.153%
Portugal	0.485%	0.486%
Qatar	0.369%	0.371%
Republic of Korea	3.534%	3.546%
Republic of Moldova	0.007%	0.007%
Romania	0.428%	0.430%
Rwanda	0.004%	0.004%
Saint Lucia	0.003%	0.003%
Samoa	0.001%	0.001%
Sao Tome and Principe	0.001%	0.001%
Saudi Arabia	1.627%	1.631%
Senegal	0.010%	0.010%
Serbia	0.044%	0.044%
Seychelles	0.003%	0.003%
Sierra Leone	0.001%	0.001%
Slovakia	0.213%	0.213%
Slovenia	0.108%	0.109%
South Sudan	0.003%	0.003%
Spain	2.930%	2.940%
Sri Lanka	0.062%	0.062%
Sudan	0.014%	0.014%
Sweden	1.196%	1.200%
Switzerland	1.557%	1.562%
Syrian Arab Republic	0.012%	0.012%
Togo	0.003%	0.003%

<b>Contracting Party</b>	<b>Scale<sup>49</sup> 2024-25</b>	<b>Scale<sup>50</sup> 2022-23</b>
Tonga	0.001%	0.001%
Trinidad and Tobago	0.051%	0.051%
Tunisia	0.026%	0.026%
Türkiye	1.160%	1.164%
Tuvalu	0.001%	0.001%
Uganda	0.014%	0.014%
United Arab Emirates	0.872%	0.875%
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	6.006%	6.027%
United Republic of Tanzania	0.014%	0.014%
United States of America	22.000%	22.000%
Uruguay	0.126%	0.127%
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.240%	0.241%
Yemen	0.012%	0.011%
Zambia	0.012%	0.011%
Zimbabwe	0.010%	0.010%
	<b>100.000%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

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***APPENDIX C*****REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

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1. The Governing Body elected seven Members of the Credentials Committee from the following Contracting Parties: Ms Katerina Drobilkova (Czechia - EUROPE), Mr Alvaro Ramos (Guatemala - GRULAC), Ms Asta Tamang (Bhutan - ASIA), Mr Thembinkosi Gumedze (Eswatini - AFRICA), Ms Mele Taipe Kioa (Tonga - SOUTH WEST PACIFIC), Ms Priya Bhanu (United States of America - NORTH AMERICA), and Ms Samia Bitik (Sudan - NEAR EAST). Ms Asta Tamang (Bhutan) served as Chairperson of the Committee.
2. The Credentials Committee met on 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 to review the credentials submitted by Contracting Parties attending the Tenth Session of the Governing Body.
3. The Credentials Committee noted the content of Rule III of FAO's General Rules of the Organization on "delegations and credentials", as well as the practice and criteria followed by FAO with respect to the acceptance of credentials, in line with the practice of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the matter.
4. The Credentials Committee recommends the acceptance of 99 credentials in accordance with the FAO rules. The number to establish a quorum for the meeting was set at seventy-six, in accordance with Article 19.8 of the International Treaty.

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***APPENDIX D*****LIST OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES**

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Afghanistan	El Salvador
Albania	Eritrea
Algeria	Estonia
Angola	Eswatini
Antigua and Barbuda	Ethiopia
Argentina	Fiji
Armenia	Finland
Australia	France
Austria	Gabon
Bangladesh	Georgia
Belgium	Germany
Benin	Ghana
Bhutan	Greece
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Guatemala
Brazil	Guinea
Bulgaria	Guinea-Bissau
Burkina Faso	Guyana
Burundi	Honduras
Cambodia	Hungary
Cameroon	Iceland
Canada	India
Central African Republic	Indonesia
Chad	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Chile	Iraq
Congo	Ireland
Cook Islands	Italy
Costa Rica	Jamaica
Croatia	Japan
Cuba	Jordan
Cyprus	Kenya
Czechia	Kiribati
Côte d'Ivoire	Kuwait
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Kyrgyzstan
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Lao People's Democratic Republic
Denmark	Latvia
Djibouti	Lebanon
Dominican Republic	Lesotho
Ecuador	Liberia
Egypt	Libya

Lithuania	Rwanda
Luxembourg	Saint Lucia
Madagascar	Samoa
Malawi	Sao Tome and Principe
Malaysia	Saudi Arabia
Maldives	Senegal
Mali	Serbia
Malta	Seychelles
Marshall Islands	Sierra Leone
Mauritania	Slovakia
Mauritius	Slovenia
Mongolia	Somalia
Montenegro	South Sudan
Morocco	Spain
Mozambique	Sri Lanka
Myanmar	Sudan
Namibia	Sweden
Nepal	Switzerland
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	Syrian Arab Republic
Nicaragua	Togo
Niger	Tonga
Nigeria	Trinidad and Tobago
Norway	Tunisia
Oman	Tuvalu
Pakistan	Türkiye
Palau	Uganda
Panama	United Arab Emirates
Papua New Guinea	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Paraguay	United Republic of Tanzania
Peru	United States of America
Philippines	Uruguay
Poland	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Portugal	Yemen
Qatar	Zambia
Republic of Korea	Zimbabwe
Republic of Moldova	European Union (Member Organization)
Romania	



***APPENDIX E*****LIST OF DOCUMENTS****Working Documents**

IT/GB-10/23/1 Rev.1	Provisional Agenda
IT/GB-10/23/1.2 Rev.2	Annotated Provisional Agenda and Timetable
IT/GB-10/23/1.3	List of Observers
IT/GB-10/23/5	Report of the Chair
IT/GB-10/23/6 Rev.1	Report of the Secretary
IT/GB-10/23/6.1	Draft Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty 2023–2030
IT/GB-10/23/7	The Role of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture within the Global Biodiversity Framework
IT/GB-10/23/8	Proposal by the Government of Switzerland for an Amendment of the International Treaty
IT/GB-10/23/9.1	Report on Implementation and Operations of the Multilateral System
IT/GB-10/23/9.1 Add.1	Report on Implementation and Operations of the Multilateral System - Addendum
IT/GB-10/23/9.1.2	Report on Possible Measures to Encourage Natural and Legal Persons to Include Material in the Multilateral System and other reviews under the Multilateral System
IT/GB-10/23/9.1.3	Report on the Emergency Reserve for Germplasm Collections at Risk
IT/GB-10/23/9.1.4	Report on the Operations of the Third Party Beneficiary
IT/GB-10/23/9.2	Checkpoint Report of the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System
IT/GB-10/23/10	Report of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization to the Tenth Session of the Governing Body
IT/GB-10/23/11	Report on the Implementation of the Global Information System
IT/GB-10/23/12	Report on the Implementation on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
IT/GB-10/23/12.1	Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to the Tenth Session of the Governing Body
IT/GB-10/23/12.2	The Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
IT/GB-10/23/13	Report on the Implementation of Farmers' Rights
IT/GB-10/23/14	Report of the Compliance Committee
IT/GB-10/23/15	Report from FAO on its Contribution to the Implementation of the International Treaty
IT/GB-10/23/16.1	Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

IT/GB-10/23/16.2	Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust
IT/GB-10/23/16.2.2	Report of the Global Crop Diversity Trust to the Governing Body
IT/GB-10/23/16.3	Report on Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity
IT/GB-10/23/16.4	Report on Cooperation with other International Bodies and Organizations
IT/GB-10/23/16.4.2	Reports from Institutions that have concluded Agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty
IT/GB-10/23/16.4.3	Report of Norway on the Management and Operations of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault
IT/GB-10/23/17.1	Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty
IT/GB-10/23/17.2	Consideration of "Digital Sequence Information/Genetic Sequence Data" on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for the Objectives of the International Treaty
IT/GB-10/23/18 Rev.2	Draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2024–2025 Biennium
IT/GB-10/23/18 Add.1	Draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2024–2025 Biennium: Donor-supported activities under the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes
IT/GB-10/23/18.1	Implementation Report of the Work Programme for the 2022–2023 Biennium
IT/GB-10/23/18.2 Rev.1	Financial Report on Progress of the Work Programme and Budget for the 2022–2023 Biennium
IT/GB-10/23/19.1	Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body
IT/GB-10/23/19.2	Term of office of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – proposed amendment to the Rules of Procedure

### Information Documents

IT/GB-10/23/1/Inf.1	List of Documents
IT/GB-10/23/1/Inf.2	Information Note for Participants
IT/GB-10/23/1/Inf.3	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights Submitted by the European Union (EU) and its Member States
IT/GB-10/23/6/Inf.1	Report on the Implementation of the Communication Strategy of the International Treaty
IT/GB-10/23/6.1/Inf.2	Results of the Survey on Capacity Development Initiatives, Gaps and Needs
IT/GB-10/23/9.1/Inf.1	The Status of Implementation of the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets
IT/GB-10/23/10/Inf.1	The Benefit-sharing Fund: 2022–2023 Report
IT/GB-10/23/11/Inf.1	Report by the DivSeek International Network
IT/GB-10/23/12/Inf.1	Background Study on Bottlenecks and Challenges to the Implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty
IT/GB-10/23/13/Inf.1	Report from the Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights
IT/GB-10/23/15/Inf.1	Progress Report on the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors

IT/GB-10/23/16.1/Inf.1	Report from the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, including on FAO Activities Related to the Supporting Components of the International Treaty
IT/GB-10/23/16.1/Inf.2	Draft Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
IT/GB-10/23/16.2/Inf.1	White Paper Mainstreaming Global Crop Conservation Strategies in Plant Treaty Processes
IT/GB-10/23/16.2/Inf.2	The plants that feed the world: Baseline data and metrics to inform strategies for the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
IT/GB-10/23/16.3/Inf.1	Report from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on Cooperation with the International Treaty
IT/GB-10/23/17.2/Inf.1	Compilation of submissions on capacity building needs for accessing and using digital sequence information / genetic sequence data

### Other Documents

IT/GB-10/23/13/Circ.1	Submission by the Government of India on Future Work on Farmers' Rights
IT/GB-10/SFC-7/23/Report	Report of the Seventh meeting of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (SFC-7)
IT/GB-10/SAC-GLIS-5/23/Report	Report of the Fifth meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System (GLIS 5)
IT/GB-10/ACSU-7/23/Report	Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ACSU 7)
IT/GB-10/ACSU-8/23/Report	Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ACSU 8)
IT/GB-9/22/9.1.2 Rev.1	Report on Possible Measures to Encourage Natural and Legal Persons to Include Material in the Multilateral System and other Reviews and Assessments under the Multilateral System
IT/GB-10/SFC-6/23/Proceedings	SFC-6 Meeting Proceedings
IT/GB-10/SFC-8/23/Proceedings	SFC-8 Meeting Proceedings
IT/OWG-EFMLS-10/23/Report	Report of the Tenth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System

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*APPENDIX F*

**OPENING CEREMONY STATEMENTS**

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*APPENDIX F.1*

**Statement by Mr Qu Dongyu, Director-General, Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the United Nations**

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Excellences,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to address the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

I wish to thank the participating Members and all partners for the ongoing support to preserve our planet's biodiversity for sustainable agrifood systems.

This year's theme 'From Seeds to Innovative Solutions: Safeguarding our Future' recognizes the farmers, plant breeders, agricultural researchers, and seedbank curators who work to conserve and improve plant genetic resources around the world.

Biodiversity conservation needs agriculture, and agriculture depends on biodiversity.

Each growing season starts with the sowing of seeds.

The diversity of plant genetics makes meaningful agricultural research and innovation possible to foster resilience, enhance food security and support the livelihoods of rural communities, including women and youth.

Biodiversity, through the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources, is a key entry point to transforming global agrifood systems to be more efficient, more inclusive, more resilient, and more sustainable.

Today, as the world faces multiple environmental, social and economic crises, we must leverage synergies, bringing together the work of the International Treaty as a vital instrument to achieve the ambitious goals of related multilateral processes.

*Dear Colleagues,*

Last month the International Treaty launched a landmark study on the plants that feed the world, noting significant shifts in demand, trade and popularity over time and place – all relevant metrics to inform strategies and policies for plant genetic resources.

We need to ensure a more abundant variety in the world's food basket if we are to sustainably meet food and nutrition needs, while conserving biodiversity.

To do this, we need to:

**One:** empower smallholder farmers with tools, knowledge and resources; and

**Two:** foster partnerships between public and private actors, academia, and civil society.

In closing, I would like to welcome the Treaty's newest members: Nigeria and Somalia, bringing the number of Contracting Parties to 151.

Let's continue to work together and strengthen our efforts to promote the conservation, sustainable use, and equitable sharing of plant genetic resources.

For people, planet and prosperity.

Thank you.

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## *APPENDIX G*

### **Statement from International Instruments and Organizations on activities of relevance to, or in support of, the implementation of the International Treaty**

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#### *APPENDIX G.1*

#### **Statement from the CGIAR**

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The eleven Centers with Article 15 agreements hold 713,000 accessions of crop, forage and tree germplasm which they make available under the standard material transfer agreement (SMTA).

From January 2007 to December 2022 inclusive, CGIAR Centers' genebanks and breeding programs distributed close to 6 million PGRFA samples under more than 62,000 SMTAs.

In a single year, germplasm health units of the eleven Centers have carried out more than a million diagnostics preventing the spread of contaminated samples for more than 320 pests and pathogens.

It costs millions of dollars per year to maintain the collections to international standards and making clean materials available to recipients round the world.

The maintenance of the clonal collections is particularly expensive, with a range of challenges that need to be addressed which do not exist with seed crops. Indeed, half of our genebank budget goes to the maintenance of the clonal collections including putting them into cryopreservation.

(Parenthetically it is because of the challenges and ongoing need for maintenance of accessions that clonal crops are not included in the Svalbard seed vault, and it is important to develop a globally coordinated approach to cryopreservation back up for clonal crop diversity.)

We pursue cost-efficiency as a constant pursuit and indeed we have shown an overall annual saving of USD 3 million since 2012 in our operations.

The raising and allocation of funds for maintenance of the collections is of course an ongoing challenge,

The good news in this regard, as reported by Dr Sonja Vermeulen in the opening session of this meeting, is that the CGIAR Fund Council has guaranteed funds for the essential operations of the genebanks for the current funding period.

And in this regard, we wish to thank the governments of Germany, UK, Australia and Korea and India for designating funds from their contributions to CGIAR particularly for the support of the Genebanks. We also recognize support from BMGF. And of course the GCDT which contributes approximately a quarter of the cost of our essential operation, and 16% of the annual costs of the Genebank Initiative.

It is our hope, expectation and intention to continue to attract the requisite funding for the genebanks in the years, decades to come. But we do want this body to appreciate that it is an ongoing challenge. Indeed, it always has been.

Explicitly expressed support from this body is helpful and appreciated in our ongoing efforts to ensure we attract the support necessary.

CGIAR genebanks and breeding programs are deeply involved in capacity sharing partnerships with national agricultural research institutes, universities, civil society organizations and farmers organizations to increase the scale and scope of materials conserved worldwide.

For example, in 2022, the CG Genebanks and Germplasm Health Units coordinated 57 training workshops with 625 people from over 50 countries focusing on genebank data management, seed quality management, in vitro conservation, collection gap analyses, virus indexing, cryopreservation, and comparative analysis of the coverage of national collections within regions.

In the last year, the CGIAR Genebank Initiative signed letters of agreement with 15 national genebanks, for projects to build the core capacity of those genebanks to manage their collections and to develop measures to operate under the Plant Treaty framework,

The organization of the calls for expression of interest from national partners for these projects, and technical execution of the projects, is done in collaboration with the Plant Treaty Secretariat, under the overall aegis of Plant Treaty's joint capacity development initiative.

We also coordinate our support for national genebanks capacity building with the GCDT, to ensure complementary and to organize participation in each other's projects with national partners depending on required expertise.

Finally, we invite you all to attend a side event that we have organized together with the GCDT and that will take place this evening. The side event is entitled 'Capacity-sharing to enhance the Global System for PGRFA' and it will involve scientists from national and international agricultural research organizations, members of the civil society, African Union and other luminaries in the field to discuss where there are outstanding needs for capacity sharing to improve the scale and effectiveness of the global system for Plant Genetic Resources for Agriculture.

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## *APPENDIX G.2*

### **Statement from the International Coconut Community (ICC)**

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Honorable Madam Chair, esteemed Secretariat, and distinguished Delegates,

The International Coconut Community expresses sincere gratitude for the insightful report and ongoing support from the Secretariat, crucial for the success of the Coconut Genetic Resources Networks (COGENT) and International Coconut Gene Banks. These efforts play a vital role in meeting the rising global demand for coconut-based products.

With 39 member countries, COGENT, organized into regional sub-networks, and its gene banks have amassed over 1,000 coconut accessions. Generous support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia (DFAT), alongside Secretariat support, has enabled essential initiatives, including capacity building and the revitalization of thematic action groups.

Addressing the demand for coconut-based food products and the non-standard coconuts for food security and sustainable aviation fuel is crucial for combating global warming. ICC is dedicated to providing capacity building and technology sharing to meet these challenges.

Acknowledging COGENT's new host, the ICC, the International Coconut Genebanks in Ivory Coast and PNG have signed agreements with FAO under Article 15 of the Plant Treaty. Collaboration with host countries is encouraged for the remaining three ICGs to establish agreements under Article 15 of the plant treaty, considering ICC as the new host for COGENT.

We call on national governments and international entities to contribute to research efforts for coconut micropropagation, pest and disease management, aiming to expedite sustainable coconut conservation, germplasm exchange, data management and benefit sharing.

Thank you for your attention and ongoing support in these critical endeavors.



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### ***APPENDIX G.3***

## **Statement from the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)**

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to make this brief statement on behalf of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics.

As an Article 15 Genebank, we hold in trust over 129,000 accessions of dryland cereals and grain legumes from 144 countries.

ICRISAT, while always a CGIAR Research Center, joined the One CGIAR governance structure in October 2023. ICRISAT, however, has yet to receive funding for 2022 or 2023 towards the gene bank operations, beyond a very small amount from the Crop Trust.

Following Resolution 14/2022 of GB9, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation announced partial support to the ICRISAT genebank for 2023. ICRISAT expresses its gratitude to the Crop Trust and Norad for supporting the ICRISAT genebank, and we understand that BMGF and Germany will also provide some bridging support in 2023.

Noting however, that this support, even if received in full this year, will cover only one quarter of the running costs we have expended from our reserves on the ICRISAT genebank. We hope that the funding from the CGIAR Trust Fund will provide the necessary support for 2024 and beyond, and also for 2023.

As a signatory to the International Plant Treaty, ICRISAT has continued to comply with the international obligations for conservation, characterisation, and distribution. ICRISAT carried out this responsibility, in spite of the funding deficit, without lowering any of the global standards as prescribed by FAO.

ICRISAT completed Second Level safety duplication of 96% of its collection in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault and over 90% is First Level safety duplicated in four gene banks (IITA, ICARDA, WorldVeg, and USDA). Thank you to these close partners for supporting safety duplication of these precious resources. The viability of all conserved seeds must be monitored regularly, including in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault where first monitoring must begin in 2028 (when it completes 20 years).

More significant gaps in germplasm collections exist for Annex 1 and non-Annex 1 crops. Before it is too late, the gaps in as many crop collections as possible must be filled through international cooperation. This will require special funding and support.

We need to ensure utilisation of our genebanks. We heard time and again in the Crop Diversity Summit 2023 last week of the urgent need, in the face of climate change, to utilise the accessions for the good of humanity – this needs to be done using the best technologies we have today to be able to tackle the needs of tomorrow. Again, another issue that requires prioritisation and resources.

We all need to prioritise these issues to find ways to fund ongoing and additional activities to maintain and use these valuable crop assets for the future, the future of humanity.

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## *APPENDIX G.4*

### **Statement from the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty**

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Thank you madame Chair,

I am Omer Agoligan, a peasant from Benin, representing COASP, the West African Peasants' Seed Committee. I am speaking on behalf of the IPC, a global platform of small-scale food producers.

Pertaining to the Resolutions outlined in the GB9 meeting, we will read out the following lines from Resolution 14/2022 that relates to collaboration with other international instruments:

We think that collaboration with human rights bodies is key to better implementing the Treaty provisions so they fully recognise, promote and protect human rights. We are concerned as to why this paragraph has not been included in GB10 draft resolutions and request it be reinstated.

We also request the Contracting Parties to ask Treaty Secretariat to report on collaboration between the Treaty and human rights bodies during GB9 and GB10 to determine progress over the past two years, with particular reference to the outcomes of discussions on how to integrate principles contained in UNDROP and UNDRIP in the implementation of the Treaty.

Given that to peasant farmers and Indigenous Peoples “seed is life”, the right to seed and right to food are inextricably linked to ensuring peoples’ fundamental human rights are met. We are deeply disappointed that there is little to no mention of human rights in reporting over the intersessional period, and further reporting does not seem to be included in the scope of the MYPOW. Here, we are not merely talking about agricultural development, rather the broader notion linked to food sovereignty, where everyone has the right to self-determine socially-just, ecologically-sound and culturally-appropriate food systems, particularly farmers and other food producers.

We also need the Governing Body to become a space where there are real connections with human rights bodies and institutions. That’s why we our final request is to include in the resolution a paragraph where Contracting Parties ask the Treaty to invite the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food to present the outcomes of its analysis when related to agricultural biodiversity and Farmers’ Rights.

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## ***APPENDIX G.5***

### **Statement from the Nordic Genetic Resources Centre (NordGen)**

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Dear Madam Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of the Nordic Genetic Resource Centre, NordGen, the genebank of the five Nordic countries – and one of the partners operating Svalbard Global Seed Vault. As I am taking the floor for the first time, I would like to express my appreciation for you in the role as chairperson and also thank the Secretariat for its excellent preparation of the GB10.

I would also like to thank Norway and the Global Crop Diversity Trust for the ongoing fruitful collaboration with operating the world's largest backup facility for crop diversity.

Supporting Norway's statement, NordGen would like to underline the fact that backing up ex situ genebank collections is of utmost importance.

I would also like to stress that there is no transfer of ownership of seeds deposited at Svalbard Global Seed Vault. Further, the seeds are available for withdrawal at all times, but only the depositing genebank can withdraw its own seeds.

We appreciate the long-term and excellent cooperation with the ITPGRFA, its Secretariat and the Governing Body. This cooperation is manifested not least by the chair of GB being invited to chair the International Advisory Panel to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault.

For questions on depositing genebank safety duplicates to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, do not hesitate to reach out to NordGen, Crop Trust or Norway.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

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## *APPENDIX G.6*

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### **Statement from the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV)**

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Madam Chairman

It is an honour for me to address this Governing Body for the 1<sup>st</sup> time on behalf of the International Organisation of Vine and Wine and its 50 Member states.

The OIV is an intergovernmental organisation created in 1924. We will celebrate its centenary next year.

The OIV is considered to be the international scientific and technical reference on all subjects relating to vines and wine.

As the document 16.4 refers, during this year, the General Secretariat of the OIV and the Secretariat of the International Plant Treaty began fruitful discussions to examine the framework for the development of collaboration between our two organisations.

#### **Why this cooperation?**

The conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources within the vine and wine sector is increasingly seen as an important sustainable topic within the OIV's activities.

In addition, based on the relevance value of the grapevine genetic resources, it has been identified the need to

- Protect and preserve the grapevine genetic resources from the increasing erosion and conserve biodiversity
- Enhance the access and the exchange of the grapevine genotypes
- Develop joint communications on biodiversity and best practices in viticulture
- Explore the inclusion of Vitis in the Multilateral system
- Evaluate the application of the treaty tools to the grapevine collections

Considering the objectives of the International Treaty, which in particular ensures the conservation, exchange and use of the rich diversity of the world's food crops by ensuring that farmers and plant breeders have easy access to the raw germplasm needed to develop new crop varieties. It provides a global solution to the challenges of loss of crop diversity and adaptation to climate change through mechanisms such as the multilateral system and the fund for sharing benefits between the contracting parties of the treaty.

For the OIV, I believe it is important to develop cooperation between our two intergovernmental organisations, which have common objectives.

As part of this meeting, and in collaboration with the Treaty Secretariat, the OIV organised yesterday a side event in which, the President of the OIV and the Secretary of the Treaty signed a Letter of Intent, in which the Organisations expressed their interest in further developing and finalising a cooperation agreement on issues related to the conservation and exchange of grapevine genetic resources.

Therefore, the OIV welcomes the draft resolution proposed especially paragraph 3

I hope that the parties to the treaty will support this interest in cooperation between our two organisations and we welcome further fruitful discussions with the Secretariat of the Treaty.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

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## ***APPENDIX G.7***

### **Statement from the the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

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Thank you, Madam Chair

As the Acting Executive Secretary noted in his remarks during the opening plenary on Monday, there are close connections between the CBD and the Treaty as set out in Article 1 of the Treaty.

In the spirit of the Convention and the Treaty as ‘best friends’, there are many areas of work where both the Convention and the Treaty are engaged and where we cooperate. With the outcomes from the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties, these areas include, in particular, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the package of decisions adopted to guide and support its implementation. This package consists of decisions on:

- The monitoring framework for the GBF (decision 15/5),
- Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review (decision 15/6),
- Resource mobilization (decision 15/7),
- Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation (decision 15/8),
- Digital sequence information on genetic resources (decision 15/9), and
- Cooperation with other Conventions and international organizations (decision 15/13)

The report we submitted on cooperation with the Treaty, available as information document 16.3/Inf.1, summarizes relevant parts of these decisions as well as work that is underway further to these decisions. Many aspects of these decisions have already been referred to under other agenda items and I won’t repeat the information here. I invite delegations to review the document for further details.

I would, though, like to draw the attention of the meeting to one recent development. At its twenty-fifth meeting, held in October 2023, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice requested the Executive Secretary to undertake a comprehensive review and analysis of existing tools and guidance that can support the implementation of the targets and other elements of the Framework. This review and analysis is to include, among other things, tools and guidance developed under other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other relevant intergovernmental organizations in a manner consistent with their respective mandates.

Further to this request, the CBD Secretariat has recently issued a notification inviting submissions on, among other things, information on existing tools and guidance that can support the implementation of the targets and other elements of the Framework, which will enhance the current list of such resources, identified for each target and made available by the Secretariat on its website. Submissions are due by 4 December 2023.

The information submitted and the findings of the review and analysis will be made available to the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, which is to be held in May 2024.

The report we submitted for this meeting also includes information on other relevant decisions from COP-15 as well as the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.

In this regard, allow me to note that since the last session of this Governing Body in September 2022, the Nagoya Protocol has received 3 additional ratifications, namely from Bangladesh, Equatorial Guinea and Ireland, bringing the number of Parties to 141.

Distinguished delegates,

I would also like to make reference to an area of work not included in the report we submitted, and that is work on gender and the gender plan of action.

The Global Biodiversity Framework includes numerous references to gender including as part of the considerations for the implementation of the Framework in section C and in targets 22 and 23. In particular, target 23 calls for ensuring gender equality in the implementation of the Framework through a gender-responsive approach.

In addition, COP-15 agreed to decision 15/11 in which it adopted the Gender Plan of Action. In this invitation, the COP invited relevant organizations of the United Nations family to support coherent gender responsive implementation of the Framework

These developments may be of interest to the Governing Body in light of paragraph 9 of resolution 13/2022.

Dear colleagues,

We have been very pleased to hear many interventions over the past couple of days about how the Treaty can help implement the goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework and also how the GBF and the momentum it has provided to the biodiversity agenda can support implementation of the Treaty. We stand ready to work together with the Treaty Secretariat to further our common objectives.

To this end, and further to the call in decision 15/13 on ‘cooperation with other conventions and international organizations’ to renew cooperation frameworks, our two Secretariats (the CBD Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Treaty) are currently in the process of updating and renewing our memorandum of cooperation. We expect to finalize the MOU soon thus ensuring we remain ‘best friends forever’

Thank you, Madam Chair.