



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SERVING AS THE
MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE NAGOYA
PROTOCOL ON ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES
AND THE FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF
BENEFITS ARISING FROM THEIR UTILIZATION

Second meeting
Cancun, Mexico, 4–17 December 2016
Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

**UPDATE ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON
PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE OF RELEVANCE TO THE
NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND THE FAIR AND
EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENEFITS ARISING FROM THEIR UTILIZATION**

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, an update on recent developments under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture relevant to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including a summary of major outcomes from the Sixth Session of the Governing Body, held from 5 to 9 October 2015 in Rome.
2. The document is being circulated in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.

* UNEP/CBD/NP/COP-MOP/2/1/Rev.1.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (“International Treaty” or “Treaty”) is very pleased to provide a report of relevant developments at the International Treaty to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. This document, accordingly, contains a summary of major outcomes from the Sixth Session of the Governing Body, and an overview of recent developments and initiatives that have occurred under the International Treaty since the Sixth Session of the Governing Body, which are of relevance to the Protocol and to the Convention.
2. The Treaty provides, in Article 1.1, that the objectives of the Treaty are the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security.
3. Article 19.3 (m) provides that the Governing Body of the Treaty inform, as appropriate, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international organizations and treaty bodies of matters regarding the implementation of this Treaty.
4. As of October 2016, the International Treaty has 141 Contracting Parties, including the European Union. The Plurinational State of Bolivia has recently deposited the instrument of accession to the International Treaty and will become a Contracting Party on 4 December 2016. On 28 September 2016, the United States Senate provided its consent for President Obama to deposit the instrument of ratification for the country to become a Contracting Party to the International Treaty.

II. OUTCOMES FROM THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

5. The Sixth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty was held in Rome, Italy, from 5 to 9 October 2015. It adopted a total of 13 Resolutions, of which Resolution 7/2015, *Relationship with the Convention on Biological Diversity*, and Resolution 10/2015, *Cooperation with Other International Bodies and Organizations*, are of direct relevance to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.
6. In Resolution 7/2015, *Relationship with the Convention on Biological Diversity*, the Governing Body of the Treaty welcomed the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol and acknowledged the need for continued capacity-building support to Contracting Parties, especially developing countries, for the mutually supportive implementation of the Treaty, the Convention and the Protocol. The Governing Body called on Contracting Parties, in the review and updating of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, to ensure that their commitments under the Treaty are fully reflected, especially through enhanced involvement of all relevant stakeholders.
7. The Governing Body also welcomed decision XII/30 of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on the Financial Mechanism to enhance programmatic synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and, in response, requested the Bureau of the Treaty, with the support of the Secretariat, to develop elements of advice for the Global Environment Facility concerning the funding of the objectives and priorities the Treaty, consistent with the mandates of the Global Environment Facility. It requested the Secretary to transmit the elements of advice, as developed, to the thirteenth meeting of Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, so that they may be referred to the Global Environment Facility, and further requested the Secretary to include the elaboration of elements of advice to the Financial Mechanism of the Convention in the Agenda of future Sessions of the Governing Body, as appropriate. The elements are contained in the *Annex I* to this document, for information.

8. It further welcomed decision XII/6 of the Conference of Parties to the Convention to hold a workshop to explore ways for Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among them, without prejudice to the specific objectives and recognizing the respective mandates and subject to the availability of resources of these conventions, with a view to enhancing their implementation at all levels.

9. On cooperation between Secretariats, the Governing Body commended the Secretariat of the Treaty for its efforts to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention and, taking note of the Roadmap developed in the context of the Joint Initiative and the Memorandum of Cooperation entered into between the Secretary of the Treaty and the Executive Secretary of the Convention, requested the Secretary of the Treaty, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue exploring with the Secretariat of the Convention, practical means and activities to further enhance to this cooperation along the lines established in the Memorandum of Cooperation, the Joint Initiative, and Roadmap between the two Secretariats.

10. Regarding capacity-building for mutually supportive implementation, the Governing Body welcomed the efforts of the Secretariats of the Treaty and the Convention in collaboration with the African Union Commission, Bioversity International and ABS Capacity Development Initiative and other partners to bring together stakeholders and experts involved in the implementation of the Treaty, the Convention, and the Nagoya Protocol, and requested the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue facilitating such interaction on the mutual supportiveness, harmonious and appropriate implementation of the instruments.

11. In Resolution 10/2015, *Cooperation with Other International Bodies and Organizations*, noting with appreciation the work of the biodiversity-related conventions to strengthen synergies among them and further stressing the importance of supporting the biodiversity-related conventions to improve collaboration, communication and coordination at all levels, the Governing Body invited members of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions to continue their cooperation and coordination as a means to increase synergies in national implementation, in accordance with their respective mandates and subject to availability of financial resources, and requested the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue to participate in and actively contribute to the relevant activities of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, where relevant.

12. Furthermore, it urged Contracting Parties to take measures to enhance synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions to promote policy coherence, improve efficiency and enhance coordination and cooperation at all levels and invited international organizations and donors to provide financial resources to support efforts that encourage synergies in policy development and the fulfilment of obligations under the biodiversity-related conventions.

13. The Governing Body also invited Contracting Parties to take initiatives to strengthen the harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the Treaty and other relevant international instruments and processes and requested the Secretary to facilitate such initiatives upon request and depending on available resources.

14. Resolution 7/2015, *Relationship with the Convention on Biological Diversity*, and relevant parts of Resolution 10/2015, *Cooperation with Other International Bodies and Organizations*, are reproduced in *Annex II* to this document.

III. UPDATE ON COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES

Cooperation between the Governing Body and the Conference of the Parties

15. In accordance with Article 19.3g of the Treaty, the Governing Body shall establish and maintain cooperation with other relevant international organizations and treaty bodies, in particular with the

Conference of the Parties to the CBD, on matters covered by the Treaty; the Governing Body shall also take note of the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD.

16. The Governing Body of the International Treaty has had a long-standing close relationship with the Conference of Parties to the Convention and has repeatedly emphasized the need to maintain and enhance that close relationship at both the intergovernmental and Secretariat levels.

17. In February 2016, five of the six Vice-chairpersons of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body, actively participated in the “Workshop on synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions” held in Geneva, Switzerland. As one of the follow-up activities to this workshop, *inter alia*, the Secretariat of the Treaty has been working with the other Conventions of the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) through the InforMEA Initiative of UNEP on the interoperability of their relevant information systems.

18. As requested by the Governing Body through Resolution 7/2015, *Relationship with the Convention on Biological Diversity*, the Bureau of the International Treaty has developed elements of advice for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) concerning the funding of the objectives and priorities of the International Treaty. These elements of advice have been transmitted to the thirteenth meeting of Conference of Parties to the Convention for its consideration, and they have been included in document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/12/Add.4.

Collaboration between the Secretariats of the Treaty and the Convention

19. Article 20.5 of the Treaty provides that the Secretary shall cooperate with other organizations and treaty bodies, including in particular with the Secretariat of the Convention, in achieving the objectives of the Treaty.

20. The two Secretariats have continued to cooperate closely, including through participation in the relevant meetings and intergovernmental processes of both institutions, joint activities on capacity building for implementation, exchange of information, as well as participation in the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions.

21. It will be recalled that the Memorandum of Cooperation entered into between the two Secretariats in October 2010 is already being operationalized in accordance with the requests of the Governing Body and the Conference of Parties, and provides an important avenue for the harmonious implementation and cooperation between the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the Convention. The two Secretariats also agreed on a Joint Initiative for the Harmonious Implementation of the International Treaty and the Convention and its Nagoya Protocol. The Joint Initiative also identifies a number of concrete actions related to access and benefit-sharing; on-farm conservation, and the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

IV. DEVELOPMENTS UNDER THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Operations

22. The Governing Body of the International Treaty has stressed the importance of identifying the plant genetic resources for food and agriculture that are available under the Multilateral System, and the Secretariat makes available, through the Treaty website, information on material in the Multilateral System from Contracting Parties, the International Agriculture Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), other International Centres, and natural and legal persons within the jurisdiction of Contracting Parties.

23. It is also to be noted that an increasing number of Contracting Parties to the International Treaty have specific websites with detailed information on the material notified as falling under the Multilateral

System and available for distribution under the terms and conditions of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) approved by the Governing Body of the International Treaty.

24. The Secretariat estimates that over 1.8 million accessions have been notified as being in the Multilateral System. This includes material from International Institutions that have concluded agreements with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the Treaty, by Contracting Parties, by natural and legal persons, as well as the material included through the projects funded by the Benefit-sharing Fund of the Treaty.

25. In 2012 the Secretariat launched Easy-SMTA, an online non-mandatory application that assists users of the Multilateral System in the generation of the Standard Material Transfer Agreements and in the conclusion of agreements online.

26. The System also facilitates the mandatory reporting requirements of the Standard Material Transfer Agreements. As of 31 October 2016, Easy-SMTA had 1,272 users with 5,985 unique recipients of material worldwide. It recorded 48,313 Standard Material Transfer Agreements from providers located in 35 countries that have distributed material to recipients based in 175 countries. These Standard Material Transfer Agreements had transferred 3.25 million accessions.

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System

27. The establishment of the Working Group was a major development from the Fifth Session of the Governing Body in September 2013. The Working Group has the mandate to develop a range of measures for consideration and decision by the Governing Body that will (i) increase user-based payments and contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund in a sustainable and predictable long-term manner, and (ii) enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System by additional measures.

28. At its Sixth Session, the Governing Body decided to extend the mandate of the Working Group for the current biennium, through Resolution 1/2015, *Measures to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing*.

29. The Working Group held five meetings between 2014 and 2016 and the sixth meeting is scheduled to be held in Rome, Italy, in March 2017, back-to-back with the meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy.

30. The Working Group focuses, amongst others, on elaborating a full draft revised SMTA with particular emphasis on the development of a Subscription System for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and on elaborating options for adapting the coverage of the Multilateral System based on different scenarios and income projections.

31. The Secretariat of the Convention has been actively participating in all meetings of the Working Group.

V. DEVELOPMENTS UNDER THE GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (ARTICLE 17)

32. Article 17 of the Treaty provides that "Contracting Parties shall cooperate to develop and strengthen a global information system to facilitate the exchange of information, based on existing information systems, on scientific, technical and environmental matters related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture".

33. The large number of ongoing initiatives, their diverse nature and scope, and the variety of stakeholders involved makes it challenging to exchange information on PGRFA in an efficient and coordinate way. The need for stronger partnerships and collaboration at the technical, political and financial levels has been highlighted by the Governing Body of the International Treaty.

34. A fully effective and efficient global information system would contribute greatly to the sustainable use and conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and would support the Multilateral System. In order to facilitate progress in the development of the System, the Secretariat is

developing strategic partnerships and participates in the development of information systems, tools and policies, under the guidance of the Governing Body.

35. At its Sixth Session, the Governing Body adopted the Vision and the first Programme of Work on the Global Information System (GLIS) as contained in Resolution 3/2015, *The Vision and the Programme of Work on the Global Information System*. The Vision states that the GLIS “integrates and augments existing systems to create the global entry point to information and knowledge for strengthening the capacity for PGRFA conservation, management and utilization”. The Governing Body also translated the Vision into seven objectives and a programme of work with concrete activities for the period 2016-2022.

36. At its Sixth Session, the Governing Body also decided to establish a Scientific Advisory Committee on Article 17 to advise the Secretary on general recommendations on the development and deployment of the System and its components, the discovery of new areas of work with potential impact on the System, and the selection of pilot activities for the System.

37. The first meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee is scheduled to take place in Rome, Italy, on 24 and 25 November 2016.

VI. DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE BENEFIT-SHARING FUND OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

38. The Benefit-sharing Fund is one of the main operational systems of the International Treaty. The Benefit-sharing Fund invests directly in high impact projects supporting farmers in developing countries conserve crop diversity in their fields, and assisting researchers and breeders globally adapt crops to changing needs and demands. To ensure sustainability of efforts, the Fund focuses on building capacities in developing countries, enhancing the exchange of information and making the appropriate technology available for the conservation and use of crop genetic diversity.

39. The Benefit-sharing Fund of the International Treaty became operational in 2009 and, since then, more than US\$ 23 million have been mobilized. It works as a grant-making process that regularly opens competitive calls for proposals, and recently started its third funding cycle. The Treaty is committed to a rigorous, objective and efficient grant-making process. Projects to be funded are screened appraised by an independent Panel of Experts to ensure scientific value and technical merit. Fund disbursement and project monitoring and evaluation procedures guarantee high fiduciary standards for the Fund.

40. In its second funding cycle, the Fund involved more than 100 organizations in more than 36 countries directly reaching more than 14,000 farmers. In the third round of the project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund a project portfolio of 22 projects was approved by the Bureau in 2015. Some of the practical results that will arise from the project portfolio include the following:

- More than 55.000 small farmers will directly benefit from activities to bolster on-farm PGRFA management, with at least 50 new community seed banks established.
- Nearly 1500 varieties of crops such as rice, barley and potato will be phenotyped and genotyped in order to support the identification of traits of potential value, particularly those relevant for farmers adaptation to climate change.
- At least 30 PGRFA technologies co-developed and transferred to more than 80 research institutions of Contracting Parties in the developing world.
- More than 200 training workshops or other capacity development activities realized in Contracting Parties that are developing countries.

VII. DEVELOPMENTS ON FARMERS' RIGHTS (ARTICLE 9)

41. At its Sixth Session, through Resolution 5/2015, *Implementation of Article 9, Farmers' Rights*, the Governing Body recognized the relevance of consultations and workshops to exchange experiences and promote the implementation of Farmers' Rights among Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders. Moreover, it invited Contracting Parties and relevant organizations to take initiatives to convene regional workshops and other consultations including with farmers' organizations, for the exchange of knowledge, views and experiences to promote the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the Treaty, and present results at the next session of the Governing Body, and requested the Secretary to facilitate such initiatives upon request and depending on available resources.
42. A Global Consultation on Farmers' Rights was accordingly held in Bali, Indonesia, from 27 to 30 September 2016, co-organized by the governments of Indonesia and Norway, supported by the governments of Italy and Switzerland, and facilitated by the Secretariat of the Treaty.
43. Participants at the Global Consultation on Farmers' Rights shared views, experiences and examples of best practices related to the implementation of Farmers' Rights, as addressed in the International Treaty. They identified a range of issues that may affect the realization of Farmers' Rights, and explored ways to further strengthen the implementation of Farmers' Rights.
44. The outcome of this global consultation will be presented at the Seventh Session of the Governing Body in 2017.

Annex I

***Elements of Advice for the Global Environment Facility
in relation to the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture***

The Bureau of the International Treaty has developed these elements of advice for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) concerning the funding of the objectives and priorities of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as requested by the Governing Body of the Treaty through Resolution 7/2015. We welcome the invitation to provide such advice to GEF and consider it an important step to support the implementation of the Treaty's Funding Strategy.

The objectives of the International Treaty are the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security.

Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are crucial in feeding the world's population and realizing sustainable development goals. They are the living material that farmers and plant breeders constantly use to improve food security. The future of agriculture depends on international cooperation to safeguard these precious resources and on the exchange of the crops and their genes that farmers all over the world have developed and exchanged over millennia. All countries depend on crops and the genetic diversity within these crops from other countries and regions.

The International Treaty was established as a direct international response to the challenges of climate change, food security and agricultural biodiversity, and is now a fully operational global system. It facilitates the exchange of genetic material, and the sharing of benefits that arise with those who safeguard global diversity. The Treaty mechanisms under the direct control of its Governing Body have, since 2007, facilitated the exchange of more than 2.3 million genetic material and have supported 700,000 farmers and other stakeholders to strengthen their capacities to implement the Treaty. The Treaty is the only international agreement that specifically recognizes the enormous contribution of farmers to the conservation and development of the diversity of crops through Farmers' Rights (Article 9).

Achieving sustainable development: the role of the International Treaty

At the end of 2015, the international community adopted the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement. The Sustainable Development Goals acknowledge the important contribution of biodiversity to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and to promote sustainable agriculture. The Sustainable Development Goal 2 establishes targets to conserve, exchange and invest in plant genetic resources to achieve global food security. We believe that the implementation of the International Treaty will play a critical role in achieving Zero Hunger by 2030 and invite the GEF to continue giving priority to support programs, projects and initiatives that conserve and use plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to help achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2.

We emphasize the key role of crop genetic diversity to adapt agriculture to climate change and call upon GEF to take this into account in the future programming and implementation efforts that tackle climate change. The 2014 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change highlighted the need to develop and use climate-ready crop varieties as one key adaptation measure to be implemented to reduce the expected threats for food security in the coming decades. The unique attributes that cultivated plants

have acquired over millennia – their ability to survive hot summers or cold winters, to thrive in dry conditions or in areas prone to flood, to withstand pests and disease – are being lost forever with the genetic erosion of our crops. The sustainable use of plant genetic diversity is one of the key – and often of the very few – options available to family farmers in many countries in their efforts to adapt their farming systems to climate change.

The GEF promotes the delivery of integrated solutions to tackle environmental and development challenges. Under GEF-6, the GEF has launched a cross-cutting integrated program on food security. *Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa* focuses specifically on the natural resources - including genetic resources - that underpin food and nutrition security.

We invite the GEF to further mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture into broad sustainable development programs which address food security, sustainable agriculture and climate change adaptation and recommend that lessons learned arising from these programs and that relate to the Treaty implementation be shared with the Governing Body of the Treaty. This advice should be taken into account in planning for GEF-7.

The implementation of the International Treaty and the GEF Biodiversity Strategy

The International Treaty promotes an integrated approach to the conservation and the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including through the implementation of measures specified in Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty. A number of international mechanisms, funds and bodies, provide resources in support of activities of relevance to the implementation of the International Treaty.

The cooperation with these institutions has been facilitated with the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 by the CBD Conference of the Parties. The Strategic Plan provides an overarching framework on biodiversity for the entire United Nations system and the Treaty Contracting Parties are playing an active role to achieve the Aichi Targets. The Governing Body of the Treaty has recognized the importance of the Strategic Plan to enhance synergies and improve coherent implementation of the CBD and the Treaty.

The implementation of the International Treaty is fundamental to achieve Aichi Target 13 which focuses on maintaining genetic diversity of cultivated plants in particular, and agricultural biodiversity in general. The sustainable management of crop genetic diversity makes important contributions to facilitate the management of agricultural areas in a sustainable manner and to ensure biodiversity conservation (Target 7). The implementation of the Treaty at national level needs to be supportive of achieving Target 16 which relates to ratification and implementation of of the Nagoya Protocol.

GEF provides funding to help countries implement the Strategic Plan, and achieve the Aichi Targets. The GEF's project portfolio for biodiversity, including agricultural biodiversity, is currently the largest within the institution. Under GEF-6, two programs are of particular relevance to the implementation of the International Treaty:

- *Program 7: Securing Agriculture's Future: Sustainable Use of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources; and,*
- *Program 8: Implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing*

The program *Securing Agriculture's Future* recognizes that the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture is central to achieving food security and nutrition of a growing world population. The GEF Biodiversity Strategy recognizes that the results of this program may generate

important co-benefits for the International Treaty. We invite the GEF to consider continuing providing support for activities under this program under GEF-7. We also recommend that results from this program be made available to the Governing Body of the International Treaty for dissemination amongst the Treaty stakeholders, and in order to build synergies with other initiatives and programs in support of Treaty implementation.

In relation to access and benefit-sharing, the Governing Body and the CBD Conference of the Parties have acknowledged the need for continued capacity-building support to Parties, especially developing countries, for the mutually supportive implementation of the Treaty, the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol. We recommend that on-going and future efforts to support access and benefit-sharing activities at national level consider, where relevant, support for initiatives that promote the mutually supportive implementation of the Treaty, the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol.

Finally, we believe that national focal points of the International Treaty should play an active role in the implementation of GEF projects relevant to the Treaty implementation.

The Funding Strategy of the International Treaty

The Funding Strategy of the Treaty (Article 18) seeks to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement activities under this Treaty. Pursuant to this strategy, the Contracting Parties shall take the necessary and appropriate measures within the Governing Bodies of relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies, including GEF, to ensure that due priority and attention is given to the effective allocation of predictable and agreed resources for the implementation of plans and programs under this Treaty.

At its first meeting, the Governing Body adopted the Funding Strategy for implementation of the International Treaty. In doing so, it encouraged all funding bodies that provide resources in support of activities of relevance to the Treaty implementation to ensure that due priority and attention will be given to the effective allocation of predictable and agreed resources in support of the implementation of the International Treaty. They were invited to use, as appropriate, the priorities identified at Annex 1 of the Funding Strategy when allocating resources in support of the implementation of the Treaty, within the context of their mandates.

The priorities identified in the Funding Strategy take into account the rolling FAO's *Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* as presented below. We invite GEF to take these priorities into account, as appropriate and within the context of its mandate, in the design of GEF-7:

1. Information exchange, technology transfer and capacity-building:

a. Building strong national programmes is essential for capacity-building in developing countries and furthering the implementation of the Treaty. It is a prerequisite for sustainability of efforts to strengthen and develop national capacities in the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

b. Expanding and improving education and training in developing countries is a sine qua non, in order to build capacity. Education and training is a long lasting investment in the sustainable management of the diversity of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in developing countries.

2. Managing and conserving plant genetic resources on farm:

a. Supporting on-farm management and conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture is the most direct way of reaching farmers, indigenous and local communities in

developing countries to whom benefits should flow. It forms a strong contribution to the maintenance of on-farm diversity of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Only by strengthening these efforts can on-farm management of diversity complement ex situ conservation.

3. The sustainable use of plant genetic resources:

a. Expanding the characterization and evaluation of collections is necessary to promote and facilitate their use. More complete characterization and evaluation will increase the relevance of germplasm held ex situ and on farm for breeding.

b. Diversification of crop production, genetic enhancement and broadening the genetic base of crops will directly contribute to increasing the sustainability of agricultural production. This will lessen dependence on external inputs, increase productivity, and respond to the challenge of climate change.

8 September 2016,

The Bureau of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty

Mr Muhamad Sabran (Asia Region)

Chairperson of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body.

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr Francis Leku Azenaku (Africa Region);

Ms Svanhild-Isabelle Batta Torheim (Europe Region);

Mr Antonio Otávio Sa Ricarte (Latin America and the Caribbean Region);

Mr Javad Mozafari Hashjin (Near East Region),

Ms Felicitas Katepa-Mupondwa (North America), and;

Mr Michael Ryan (South West Pacific Region).



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

RESOLUTION 7/2015

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

THE GOVERNING BODY,

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

Recalling Resolution 5/2013 regarding cooperation with the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, its subsidiary bodies and Secretariat;

Welcoming the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization (the Nagoya Protocol)

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

1. **Notes** the decisions of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the first meeting of the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, that are of relevance to the Treaty;
2. **Requests** the Secretariat to continue monitoring and participating in the relevant processes related to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol and in order to promote practical, harmonious and appropriate interfaces among them, both nationally and internationally;
3. **Calls on** Contracting Parties, in the review and updating of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, to ensure that their commitments under the Treaty are fully reflected, especially through enhanced involvement of all relevant stakeholders;
4. **Recalling** Resolution 5/2013, **welcomes** the decision of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on the Financial Mechanism (decision XII/30) to enhance programmatic synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and, in this context, requests the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, to develop elements of advice for the Global Environment Facility 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, as

developed, to the thirteenth meeting of Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, consistent with COP decision XII/30, so that they may be referred to the Global Environment Facility, and **further requests** the Secretary to include the elaboration of elements of advice to the Financial Mechanism of the Convention in the Agenda of future Sessions of the Governing Body, as appropriate;

5. **Welcomes** the decision of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to hold a workshop to explore ways for Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among them, without prejudice to the specific objectives and recognizing the respective mandates and subject to the availability of resources of these conventions, with a view to enhancing their implementation at all levels, and **requests** the Secretary and the Bureau to facilitate the selection of the representatives to participate in this workshop and report on the outcomes to the Seventh Session of the Governing Body;

6. **Commends** the Secretariat for its efforts to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and, taking note of the Roadmap developed in the context of the Joint Initiative and the Memorandum of Cooperation entered into between the Secretary and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue exploring with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, practical means and activities to further enhance to this cooperation along the lines established in the Memorandum of Cooperation, the Joint Initiative, and Roadmap between the two Secretariats, and to report to the Governing Body;

7. **Welcomes** the efforts of the Secretariats of the Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaboration with the African Union Commission, Bioversity International and ABS Capacity Development Initiative and other partners to bring together stakeholders and experts involved in the implementation of the Treaty, the Convention, and the Nagoya Protocol, and **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue facilitating such interaction on the mutual supportiveness, harmonious and appropriate implementation of the instruments, and report to the Governing Body the outcomes of such activities;

8. **Draws the attention** of Contracting Parties to the ongoing work regarding Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing and **urges** the Secretariat to consider engaging in it;

9. **Requests** the Secretary to continue reporting on the cooperation with the Convention at each Session of the Governing Body.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

RESOLUTION 10/2015

COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

THE GOVERNING BODY:

Cognizant of the importance of developing and maintaining cooperation with the relevant international organizations, institutions and partners, whose work relate to the Treaty, in order to advance the Treaty's objectives;

Welcoming the ongoing activities and initiatives undertaken by the Treaty Secretariat during this biennium, aimed at enhancing partnerships and collaborations with relevant international organizations;

[...]

Noting the need to continue providing developing country Contracting Parties with assistance in the implementation of the Treaty and its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing in particular, and *further noting* the progress made during this biennium in the implementation of the Joint Capacity Building Programme;

Noting, with appreciation, the work of the biodiversity-related conventions to strengthen synergies among them, and further *stressing* the importance of supporting the biodiversity-related conventions to improve collaboration, communication and coordination at all levels;

Further taking note of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the sustainable development goals, in particular targets 2.5 and 15.6 related to the conservation, access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources;

1. *Reaffirms* the need to continue the efforts necessary to ensure that the Treaty's objectives and role in the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are recognized and supported by relevant international institutions, organizations and processes;
2. *Invites* Contracting Parties to take initiatives to strengthen the harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the Treaty and other relevant international instruments and processes;
3. *Requests* the Secretary to facilitate such initiatives upon request and depending on available resources;

[...]

11. **Requests** the Secretary to continue the collaboration with other Conventions and relevant international organizations for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets that interface with the Treaty's provisions;

12. **Invites** the members of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions to continue their cooperation and coordination as a means to increase synergies in national implementation, in accordance with their respective mandates and subject to availability of financial resources, and **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue to participate in and actively contribute to the relevant activities of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, where relevant;

13. **Urges** Contracting Parties to take measures to enhance synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions to promote policy coherence, improve efficiency and enhance coordination and cooperation at all levels and **invites** international organizations and donors to provide financial resources to support efforts that encourage synergies in policy development and the fulfilment of obligations under the biodiversity-related conventions;

14. **Notes** the results of the United Nations Environment Programme's project on improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies;

15. **Requests** the Secretary to continue participating in the Information and Knowledge Management Initiative of UNEP (InforMEA) and in the InforMEA Portal and to follow the work of the expert meeting on interoperability between reporting systems for biodiversity data;

[...]

20. **Reaffirms** the need to continue the Joint Capacity Building Programme, and **calls upon** Contracting Parties and donors, on a voluntary basis, to provide additional funding to support its continuation;

21. **Requests** the Secretary to continue and further strengthen collaboration with Bioversity International in the context of the implementation of Treaty benefit-sharing mechanisms and the Joint Capacity Building Programme.
