

**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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**Conference of the Parties to the
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Sixteenth meeting**

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Item 13 of the provisional agenda*

**Cooperation with international organizations
and bodies established under other conventions****Report on recent developments under the International Treaty on
Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of relevance to the
Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol on Access
to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits
Arising from their Utilization****Note by the Secretariat**

1. The Executive Secretary circulates herewith, for the information of participants in the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a report by the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on recent developments under the Treaty relevant to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.
2. The report provides information on the outcomes of the tenth Session of the Treaty's Governing Body related to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including Resolution 13/2023 on Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity.
3. The report is circulated in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.

* CBD/COP/16/1.

Report on recent developments under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of Relevance to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (“International Treaty” or “Treaty”) is pleased to provide information on relevant developments under the International Treaty to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention (COP-16) and to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. This document contains a summary of major outcomes of the Tenth Session of the Governing Body (GB-10), held in November 2023, and of progress with relevant processes of Treaty’s subsidiary bodies.¹
2. The International 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 informs, 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 the Treaty.
4. As of September 2024, the International Treaty has 152 Contracting Parties, including the European Union.

II. OUTCOMES OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY RELATED TO THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK AND COOPERATION WITH THE CBD

5. The Tenth Session of the Treaty’s Governing Body was held from 20 to 24 November 2023 under the theme “*From Seeds to Innovative Solutions, Safeguarding our Future: Contributing to the Implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework for Sustainable Food Systems*”.
6. A resolution by the Governing Body, on the role of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) within the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), addressed the general relationship with the GBF. Another resolution, on cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (“CBD” or “Convention”), referred to certain aspects of the GBF and addressed various interfaces between the International Treaty and the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol.

The role of PGRFA within the GBF

7. Through Resolution 1/2023, the Governing Body welcomed the GBF and acknowledged the synergistic implementation of the goals, targets of the GBF and the objectives of the GBF as particularly relevant to sustainable food systems.
8. The Governing Body recognized that, as a result of the GBF’s adoption, biodiversity is receiving higher attention on the policy agenda, at national and international levels. It invited Contracting Parties to the Treaty to:
 - encourage effective liaison between the respective national focal points in national processes related to GBF implementation;

¹ The documents and the final report of the Tenth Session as well as the documentation of intersessional meetings, are available at: <https://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/en/>.

- mainstream the implementation of the International Treaty within National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other relevant policies, plans and programmes;
- share lessons learned regarding the integration of PGRFA in NBSAPs and other relevant policies, plans and programmes with other Contracting Parties.

9. The Governing Body also emphasised 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.

10. In line with the invitation of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (CBD COP), the Governing Body encouraged 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.²

Cooperation with the Convention

11. Through Resolution 13/2023, the Governing Body specifically focused on cooperation with the Convention. The full text of the Resolution is contained in the Appendix of this document.

12. In relation to the GBF, the Governing Body emphasized the importance of maintaining cooperation, complementarity and coherence as well as avoiding duplication between the International Treaty and the CBD in the implementation of the GBF. Furthermore, the Governing Body:

- took note of the Bern process on cooperation and coordination among Parties to the biodiversity-related conventions;
- welcomed the adoption of a strategy for resource mobilization to support the implementation of the GBF;
- welcomed the establishment of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund;
- welcomed 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 on fair and equitable benefit-sharing.

13. Through the Resolution, the Governing Body also addressed other aspects of cooperation with the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol.

14. With regard to reports of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the Governing Body recognized their importance to the mandate and work of the International Treaty, and emphasized the importance of including PGRFA in the second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, where relevant.

15. In relation to capacity building, the Governing Body acknowledged the need for continued capacity building support to Parties, especially developing countries, for the mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty, the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol. In the context of capacity development activities on harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the Treaty and the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol, the Governing Body welcomed the efforts to bring together stakeholders and experts involved in the implementation of the instruments.

16. In relation to resource mobilization, the Governing Body thanked the CBD COP for its invitation to develop strategic guidance for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, and requested the Treaty's Funding Committee to provide further strategic guidance and elements of advice concerning the funding of the objectives and priorities the International Treaty, consistent with the mandates of the Global Environment Facility, so to transmit the elements of advice, if developed, to COP-16.

² The full text of the Resolution is available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/no025en/no025en.pdf>.

17. With regard to the “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, the Governing Body took note of ongoing processes for a gender responsive approach and supportive of the implementation of the International Treaty, in particular of Article 9 on Farmers’ Rights.

18. With regard to general cooperation among the Secretariats, the Governing Body requested its Secretary 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 developing joint initiatives between the two Secretariats, as well as to cooperate with the Executive Secretary of the CBD by providing information on developments and practical implementation experiences within the International Treaty.

19. In relation to the mainstreaming of issues related to PGRFA into NBSAPs, the Governing Body requested its Secretary to explore facilitative measures.

20. With regard to “digital sequence information / genetic sequence data” (DSI/GSD) on genetic resources, the Governing Body requested its Secretary to collaborate and, as appropriate, coordinate with the Secretariat of the CBD in order to promote coherence and mutual supportiveness between the respective conventions and implementing processes.

III. OTHER OUTCOMES OF THE TENTH SESSION RELEVANT TO THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CBD AND ITS NAGOYA PROTOCOL, AND PROGRESS WITH RELATED INTERSESSIONAL PROCESSES

21. At its Tenth Session, the Governing Body provided guidance on themes and work tracks where the relationship with the CBD is a relevant component of implementation.

Enhancement of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing

22. Through Resolution 3/2023, the Governing Body reaffirmed the mandate of 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 by the Eleventh Session in 2025.

23. The Governing Body requested the Co-Chairs of the Working Group to give early attention to three identified “hotspots”, namely: DSI/GSD; the expansion of Annex I; payment structure and rates. The Governing Body took note of decision 15/9 of the CBD COP on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources and urged the Working Group to take the decision and related developments into account when addressing the issue in the context of the enhancement process.³

24. Following GB-10, the Working Group held its eleventh meeting in April 2024. A representative of the CBD Secretariat briefed the Working Group on developments related to DSI benefit-sharing and progress by the CBD Ad Hoc Working Group. The Treaty’s Working Group emphasized the importance of the continued fruitful collaboration between the Secretariats and highlighted the need to ensure coordination within Contracting Parties and Regions. It welcomed the ongoing exchanges between the Co-Chairs of the Working Group and the Co-Chairs leading the negotiations under the CBD.

25. In relation to DSI/GSD, the Working Group agreed to consider the possibility of developing a specialized approach for DSI/GSD on PGRFA under the International Treaty, while monitoring the relevant processes under the CBD, to ensure mutual supportiveness. In the views of the Working Group, any solution should not restrict facilitated access to PGRFA or open access to DSI/GSD on PGRFA and should seek to exclude double payments by users.⁴

26. The twelfth meeting of the Working Group took place from 16 to 19 September 2024. Similar to the practice followed at the previous meeting, a representative of the CBD Secretariat briefed the

³ The full text of the Resolution is available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/no027en/no027en.pdf>.

⁴ The report of the meeting is available at: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/8ffa72f6-126e-48cd-b576-51f0e7d4032a/content>.

participants on, among other matters, the outcomes of the August meeting of the CBD Ad Hoc Working Group on DSI and benefit-sharing, which worked on a draft decision for COP-16.

27. The Treaty's Working Group undertook a first reading of Co-Chairs' proposal containing the Draft Resolution, the revised SMTA and the draft text for the amendment to the list of crops covered by the Multilateral System. It agreed to use the texts as the basis for further work at its next meeting.

28. The Working Group reviewed the section on DSI/GSD in the Draft Resolution. It reiterated that any proposals that address DSI/GSD within the International Treaty should aim at being mutually supportive with a possible mechanism developed under the CBD, including to avoid duplicative payments and obligations. The Working Group invited Contracting Parties, and requested the Co-Chairs and the Secretariat, to play a constructive role in raising awareness on the importance of the Treaty's Multilateral System and the prospects for its enhancement and by actively engaging with delegations and stakeholders in relevant ongoing CBD processes.

29. Further work planned by the Working Group includes an informal physical meeting to be co-organized with the Meridien Institute in mid-December. The informal gathering will focus on DSI/GSD, including with regard to mutual supportiveness with the CBD and how to address DSI/GSD in the context of the benefit-sharing payment options of the Multilateral System.⁵

The Funding Strategy

30. In Resolution 4/2023 on the Funding Strategy, the Governing Body welcomed the progress made in implementing the approved Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy.

31. The Governing Body invited relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies, stakeholder groups and other international organizations to provide information to the Secretariat that would enable the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy to better leverage funding from all sources for Treaty implementation and the delivery of non-monetary benefit-sharing.

32. The delivery of non-monetary benefit-sharing will be monitored by the methodology for measuring non-monetary benefit-sharing, which is being finalized and will be tested in the biennium 2024–2025 under the guidance of the Standing Committee.⁶

33. The Secretariat of the International Treaty is promoting close consultations and expert collaboration with the on-going CBD process regarding non-monetary benefit-sharing targets for the GBF Monitoring Framework.

The Global Information System (GLIS)

34. In Resolution 5/2023, the Governing Body requested the GLIS 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 of the International Treaty, and the implications of the relevant outcomes of the CBD COP and their implementation on the GLIS Programme of Work in future years. In particular, the Governing Body requested its Secretary to provide a report to the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body on relevant updates on documentation and information exchange of PGRFA in the context of the GBF.

35. The Governing Body also requested the Secretary to advance on the exchange of relevant information and links with the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House in the context of the GLIS Programme of Work.⁷

Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA

⁵ The report of the meeting is available at: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/8913618c-eac9-46c1-9797-5be3db68594a/content>.

⁶ The full text of the Resolution is available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/no028en/no028en.pdf>.

⁷ The full text of the Resolution is available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/no029en/no029en.pdf>.

36. In Resolution 6/2023, the Governing Body took note that the reciprocal implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty on conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and the GBF goals and relevant targets will contribute to synergistic implementation.

37. The Governing Body called upon its Secretary to continue collaborating and cooperating with, among others, the CBD in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and strengthening the interaction between different stakeholders of genetic resources, community and farmer-led activities, and protected area systems, while avoiding duplication of work.⁸

The Capacity Development Strategy and Action Plan

38. In Resolution 10/2023, the Governing Body requested the Secretary to finalize the draft Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty in order to, among other matters, take into account the GBF and the related Long-Term Strategic Framework for Capacity Building and Development. The Strategy and an accompanying Action Plan will be considered by the Governing Body at its Eleventh Session.⁹

Consideration of DSI/GSD for the objectives of the International Treaty

39. In Resolution 16/2023, the Governing Body acknowledged 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.

40. The Governing Body welcomed decision 15/9 of the CBD COP 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. It encouraged 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.

41. The Governing Body requested its Secretary to continue monitoring developments in all relevant international fora with regard to DSI/GSD and to support Treaty’s subsidiary bodies in taking into account related developments when addressing the issue of DSI/GSD.

42. The Governing Body further requested its Secretary to continue coordinating with the Secretariat of the CBD in any activities related to DSI/GSD, in order to ensure coherence and avoid duplication of work.

43. In acknowledging that aspects of DSI/GSD are among the matters under consideration by the Enhancement Working Group, the Governing Body invited the Working Group 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.

44. The Governing Body reiterated 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 invited 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. The Governing Body invited Contracting Parties and other stakeholders to provide information on such activities, for the Secretary to compile for the Governing Body at its Eleventh Session.¹⁰

Eleventh Session of the Governing Body

45. The Governing Body elected Mr. Alwin Kopse (Europe Region) as Chairperson of the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body. The Governing Body agreed to convene its Eleventh Session in the last quarter of 2025.

⁸ The full text of the Resolution is available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/no030en/no030en.pdf>.

⁹ The full text of the Resolution is available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/no024en/no024en.pdf>.

¹⁰ The full text of the Resolution is available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/no041en/no041en.pdf>.

46. Representatives of the Secretariat of the International Treaty will be present throughout COP-16 and will be available to brief delegations on any relevant topic concerning on-going and possible future cooperation.



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



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

RESOLUTION 13/2023

COOPERATION WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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, 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, 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 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
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 Bioersity 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.