



## Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.  
GENERAL

CBD/COP/14/INF/30  
9 November 2018

ENGLISH ONLY

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Fourteenth meeting

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 17-29 November 2018

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

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the third 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. The report includes a summary of major outcomes from the Seventh Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty, and an overview of recent developments and initiatives that have occurred under the International Treaty since the Seventh Session of the Governing Body, which are of relevance to the Convention on Biological Diversity and to the Nagoya Protocol.
2. The document is being circulated in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.

**UPDATE ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON  
PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE OF RELEVANCE TO  
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**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 fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention, and the third 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 Seventh Session of the Governing Body, and an overview of recent developments and initiatives that have occurred under the International Treaty since the Seventh 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, 2018, the International Treaty has 145 Contracting Parties, including the European Union. The United States of America became the latest Contracting Party to the International Treaty on 3 March 2017.

**II. OUTCOMES FROM THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

5. The Seventh Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty was held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 30 October to 3 November 2017 under the theme “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Role of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture”. A number of decisions included in Resolution 1/2017, which focused on the contribution of the International Treaty to the **2030 agenda for sustainable development**, are of relevance to cooperation with the Convention. The Governing Body:
  - Requested the Secretary to continue making available information provided by Contracting Parties and others to be used in the monitoring process on the achievement of SDG Target 15.6, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is the custodian UN agency for the indicator of this target;
  - Requested the Secretary to continue making available information provided by Contracting Parties and others to be used in the monitoring process on the achievement of SDG Target 2.5, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, taking into account that the FAO is the custodian UN agency for the indicators of this target;
  - Decided to take stock, at its Ninth Session in 2021, of progress made in the achievement of SDGs 2 and 15, in particular targets related to PGRFA;
6. The meeting also adopted other Resolutions on general policy and implementation of the Treaty, and in particular its Multilateral System of access and benefit-sharing. Among the Resolutions adopted, Resolution 09/2017, *Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity*, and Resolution 12/2017, *Cooperation with Other International Bodies and Organizations*, are of direct relevance to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.

7. In Resolution 9/2017, *Relationship with the Convention on Biological Diversity*, the Governing Body of the Treaty commended the Secretariat of the CBD and the Secretariat of the International Treaty for their efforts to cooperate and requested the Secretariat of the International Treaty to continue exploring with the Secretariat of the CBD practical means and activities to further enhance the existing cooperation according to the Memorandum of Cooperation and the Joint Initiative.

8. The Governing Body took note of the decisions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP-13) and the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol that are of relevance to the International Treaty, and:

- welcomed the decision of the Conference of the Parties to reflect **the Elements of Advice for the Global Environment Facility (GEF)** prepared by the Bureau of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body, at strategic level, in the four-year framework of programme priorities for the GEF, adopted at COP-13;
- invited Contracting Parties to ensure due attention to plans and programmes that support the implementation of the International Treaty within the governing bodies of the GEF, including by making use of the Elements of Advice;
- took note of the considerations made by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, through Decision XIII/21, to develop strategic guidance for the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund; and
- requested the Treaty Secretariat to develop, together with the Ad Hoc Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilisation and the Bureau, strategic guidance for the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund.

9. Acknowledging the need for continued **capacity-building support** to Contracting Parties for mutually supportive implementation of our respective instruments, the Governing Body welcomed our efforts to collaborate with other partners to bring together stakeholders and experts involved in the implementation of our instruments and the engagement in capacity-development activities on harmonious and mutually supportive implementation. Consequently, the Governing Body requested the Treaty Secretariat to continue engaging in such activities and facilitating such interaction on the mutual supportiveness and harmonious implementation of the instruments.

10. As regards **synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions**, the Governing Body welcomed the Options for Enhancing Synergies Among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at the National Level, and the Road Map for Enhancing Synergies Among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at the International Level 2017-2020, contained in Annexes I and II of Decision XIII/24 and invited Contracting Parties to consider supporting implementation of these options, in order to further strengthen cooperation and coordination with other relevant international instruments and to enhance synergies with them. Moreover, it requested the Treaty Secretariat to undertake relevant actions foreseen in these options, as appropriate and subject to the availability of financial resources, particularly in the context of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, joint work programmes with other relevant international instruments, information and knowledge management, reporting and monitoring, public communication and capacity-development activities.

11. Regarding the follow-up to the **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020**, the Governing Body noted that it provides an opportunity to further enhance coherence and cooperation between the International Treaty and the Convention and emphasized the importance of maintaining and strengthening targets for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including by relying on the monitoring of information available through the reporting processes of the International Treaty and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and by taking into account the experience gained in monitoring target 2.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals. It, furthermore, stressed that targets on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable use of the benefits arising out of their use should take into account the International Treaty and its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing.

12. On **digital sequence information**, the Governing Body requested the Secretariat of the International Treaty to continue collaborating and, as appropriate, coordinate with the CBD Secretariat, as well as with the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other relevant partners, on issues related to digital sequence information in order to promote coherence and mutual supportiveness in our respective activities.

13. The Governing Body also welcomed the invitation of the Treaty Secretariat to the CBD Secretariat to become key partners in joint research on Aichi Targets related to sustainability in agriculture, and the linkages between in situ conservation/on-farm management and community-based initiatives and programmes for the sustainable use of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species.

14. Moreover, the Governing Body requested the Treaty Secretariat to cooperate with the CBD Secretariat by providing information on developments and practical implementation experiences within the International Treaty, with a view to informing future discussions on Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol.

15. Finally, the Governing Body requested the Treaty Secretariat to continue exploring technical options for increasing the visibility of the **Global Information System of the International Treaty** with regard to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House of the Nagoya Protocol in areas of mutual interest for the benefit of Contracting Parties and users.

16. In Resolution 12/2017, *Cooperation with Other International Bodies and Organizations*, requested the Treaty Secretariat to continue and further strengthen and expand the collaboration with Bioversity International, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and other capacity building providers, in our support to Contracting Parties in implementing the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol in a harmonious and mutually supportive manner. It also encouraged the members of the **Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions** to continue our collaboration in accordance with our respective mandates and requested the Treaty Secretariat to continue participating actively in the relevant activities of the Biodiversity Liaison Group.

17. The Governing Body also urged Contracting Parties to take measures to enhance synergies in their implementation of or participation in 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.

18. Resolution 9/2017, *Relationship with the Convention on Biological Diversity*, and relevant parts of Resolution 12/2017, *Cooperation with Other International Bodies and Organizations*, are reproduced in the *Annex* to this document.

### III. UPDATE ON COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES

#### *Cooperation between the Governing Body and the Conference of the Parties*

19. 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.

20. 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.

#### *Collaboration between the Secretariats of the Treaty and the Convention*

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. The Secretariats the Treaty and the Convention recently renewed, at the margins of the second meeting of the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) held in Montreal, Canada, from 9-13 July 2018, their Memorandum of Cooperation to further enhance collaboration in areas of mutual interest related to genetic resources.

24. The Memorandum of Cooperation includes the development of synergies between the International Treaty's Global Information System and the CBD's Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House; a joint initiative for on-farm conservation; work on sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and protected areas; and the promotion of the importance of biodiversity and plant genetic resources for food and agriculture for food security and nutrition under a changing climate.

25. As part of the Memorandum of Cooperation, the two secretariats will work together in undertaking and promoting workshops, seminars and other events; and, in the coordination of technical assistance at the international, regional, sub-regional and national levels.

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

##### ***Operations of the Multilateral System***

26. 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.

27. 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.

28. The Secretariat estimates that over 2.3 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.

29. 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.

30. The System also facilitates the mandatory reporting requirements of the Standard Material Transfer Agreements. As of 22 October 2018, Easy-SMTA had 2,028 users with 6,174 unique recipients of material worldwide. It recorded 66,077 Standard Material Transfer Agreements from providers located in 47 countries that have distributed material to recipients based in 175 countries. These Standard Material Transfer Agreements had transferred 4.5 million accessions.

***Enhancement of the Multilateral System: the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System***

31. The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System (Working Group) was established by Resolution 2/2013, with the mandate to develop a range of measures that will (1) increase user-based payments and contributions to the Benefit sharing Fund in a sustainable and predictable long-term manner; and (2) enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System by additional measures.

32. The Working Group has focused, amongst others, on elaborating a full revised 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.

33. The Governing Body, at its Seventh Session, extended the mandate of the Working Group for the 2018-2019 biennium and requested it, with support from the Secretary, to (1) develop a proposal for a Growth Plan to attain the enhanced Multilateral System, (2) revise the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, based on its report to the Seventh Session of the Governing Body, (3) elaborate criteria and options for possible adaptation of the coverage of the Multilateral System, (4) make recommendations to the Governing Body on any other relevant issues, and (5) continue to liaise closely with the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization.

34. The Working Group has held so far eight meetings. The ninth meeting is scheduled to be held in Rome, Italy, in June 2019. 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)**

35. 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”.

36. 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.

37. At its Sixth Session, the Governing Body had 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. The Committee has since then met three times. The SCBD has participated in the meetings.

38. In consultation with major stakeholder, the Committee adopted the descriptors and the guidelines to better identify PGRFA by assigning Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) for which descriptors and guidelines were published in 2017. The Governing Body welcomed the DOIs and requested the ITPGRFA Secretariat to continue providing training to users, particularly in developing countries. DOIs help to identify the material in a permanent, global and unique way and they are offered free of charge. Since the DOI module was launched in October 2017 up to 22 October 2018, 728611 material have been registered.

39. The Treaty Secretariat also launched the first module of the Global Information System, which allow users to identify material and related resources globally, including the material that is placed in the

Multilateral System of the International Treaty.<sup>1</sup> The Secretariat is now connecting it to major global, regional and national databases and data sources with information on PGRFA.

40. In relation to Genetic Sequence Data with respect PGRFA, the Scientific Advisory Committee was of the view that applying DOIs to PGRFA information could be a useful starting point to address use of information, including DSI/GSD generated from the use of germplasm in the Multilateral System. The Committee was of the opinion that DOIs could be a tool to link DIS/GSD to the source germplasm and requested the development of quality standards for DOI relationship. Furthermore, it advised the Secretariat to gather information from GLIS users on the current application of DOIs to crop germplasm available in its Multilateral System.

41. At the various meetings, both the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Governing Body received information on the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House (ABSCH) and the experts and the Contracting Parties advised both Secretariats to continue collaborating to identify practical ways in which both systems could be connected for the benefit of users. Some preliminary datasets were identified like national focal points and basic statistics on transfers. The Global Information System now allows also for the visualization of the material available in the Multilateral System at country level.

42. The Secretariat of the International Treaty will continue providing inputs from several information systems towards the monitoring of the SDG indicator 15.6.1 *“Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits”* for which the CBD is the custodian agency and FAO the contributing agency through the International Treaty.<sup>2</sup>

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

43. 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.

44. The Benefit-sharing Fund of the International Treaty became operational in 2009 and, since then, more than US\$ 25 million have been mobilized. It works as a grant-making process that regularly opens competitive calls for proposals, and recently launched its fourth 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.

45. In the fourth round of the project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund a project portfolio of 20 projects was approved by the Bureau in 2015. The programmatic approach of the fourth cycle aims to develop partnerships within Africa, Asia, Near East, GRULAC, South West Pacific and eastern Europe to accelerate the use of agricultural biodiversity most needed by farmers to adapt their crops to climate change and other emerging challenges. The programme partners will, amongst other:

- Undertake innovative actions to bolster on-farm PGRFA management, including through establishment of new community seed banks and participatory plant breeding
- Develop strong gender strategies to agricultural biodiversity management and bring back lessons learned to the Governing Body of the International Treaty.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ssl.fao.org/glis/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/frameworks-for-sharing-of-genetic-resources-benefits/en/>

- Identify genetic material available from the Multilateral System and use it for the benefit of the local and national agricultural communities in their countries. The partners will also enrich the Multilateral System by placing the material arising from the projects in the System.
- Improve research on PGRFA, including by strengthening the capacities of young scientists in developing countries to characterize and evaluate PGRFA, including through phenotyping and genotyping.
- Strengthen national implementation of the International Treaty and enabling policy dialogue between stakeholders and government institutions at national level.

## VII. DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO FARMERS' RIGHTS (ARTICLE 9)

46. Through Resolution 7/2017,<sup>3</sup> *Implementation of Article 9, Farmers' Rights*, the Governing Body decided to establish an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (AHTEG) with the tasks to “*produce an inventory of national measures that may be adopted, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers' Rights*”, and “*based on the inventory, develop options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty*”, and to report back to the Governing Body on its work for consideration at the Eighth Session. The expert group is the first, formal intersessional process on Farmers' Rights since the inception of the International Treaty almost 15 years ago.

47. The experts group is comprised of up to five members designated by each region, three representatives of farmers' organizations particularly from the centers of origin or crop diversity; and three other stakeholders including the seed sector designated by the Bureau. The Bureau also requested the Secretary to invite the Secretariats of the CBD, the CGRFA, the CGIAR Centres and UNESCO to send experts, given their technical competence and the relevance of their work to the discussions of the AHTEG.

48. The first meeting of the expert group was held from 11-14 September 2018 in Rome, Italy, where the experts considered possible structures for the inventory based on a number of proposals made by members, and agreed that the inventory would only focus on measures and practices that had been or are in the process of being implemented.

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<sup>3</sup> IT/GB07/17/Res7



Annex



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**The International Treaty**  
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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RESOLUTION 9/2017

**COOPERATION WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY**

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***THE GOVERNING BODY,***

***Recalling*** Article 1.2 as well as 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 to take note of the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international organizations and treaty bodies, and the provisions of Article 20.5, which require the Secretary to cooperate with other organizations and treaty bodies, including in particular the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

***Recalling*** its Resolution 7/2015 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*** of the decisions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the 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 Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol, in order to promote practical, harmonious and appropriate interfaces among them, both nationally and internationally, including in relation to the development of any criteria for specialised instruments under the Nagoya Protocol;
3. ***Thanks*** the Bureau of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body for having prepared the Elements of Advice for the Global Environment Facility in relation to the International Treaty, and ***welcomes*** the decision by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to reflect such elements, at strategic level, in the four-year framework of programme priorities for the Global Environment Facility adopted at its thirteenth meeting and related to the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, and ***takes note*** of the considerations made by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, through Decision XIII/21, to develop strategic guidance for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund;
4. ***Requests*** the Secretary, together with the Ad Hoc Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilisation and the Bureau, to develop strategic guidance for the eighth replenishment of the

Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, according to the invitation contained in Decision XIII/21 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

5. **Invites** Contracting Parties, in line with Article 18.4 (a) of the International Treaty, to ensure due attention to plans and programmes that support the implementation of the International Treaty within the governing bodies of the Global Environment Facility including by making use, if appropriate, of the Elements of Advice for the Global Environment Facility in relation to the International Treaty prepared by the Bureau;

6. **Notes with appreciation** the options for action to enhance cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions developed by the workshop held in Geneva in February 2016;

7. **Welcomes** the Options for Enhancing Synergies Among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at the National Level, and the Road Map for Enhancing Synergies Among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at the International Level 2017-2020, contained in Annexes I and II of Decision XIII/24 of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

8. **Invites** Contracting Parties to consider supporting implementation of these options, in order to further strengthen cooperation and coordination with other relevant international instruments and to enhance synergies with them;

9. **Requests** the Secretary to undertake relevant actions foreseen in these options, as appropriate and subject to the availability of financial resources, particularly in the context of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, joint work programmes with other relevant international instruments, information and knowledge management, reporting and monitoring, public communication and capacity-development activities;

10. **Notes** that the follow up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 provides an opportunity to further enhance coherence and cooperation between the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as appropriate, and **emphasizes** the importance of maintaining and strengthening targets for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including by relying on the monitoring information available through the reporting processes of the International Treaty and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and by taking into account the experience gained in monitoring target 2.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and furthermore **stresses** that targets on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable use of the benefits arising out of their use should take into account the International Treaty and its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing;

11. **Welcomes** the Secretary's invitation to the Secretariat of the CBD to become key partners in joint research on Aichi Targets related to sustainability in agriculture, and the linkages between *in situ* conservation/on-farm management and community-based initiatives and programmes for the sustainable use of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species;

12. **Requests** the Secretary to continue collaborating and, as appropriate, coordinate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, but also with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other relevant partners, on issues related to digital sequence information<sup>1</sup> in order to promote coherence and mutual supportiveness in their respective activities, and to report to the Governing Body;

13. **Requests** the Secretary to cooperate with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity by providing information on developments and practical implementation experiences within the International Treaty, with a view to informing future discussions on Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Article 10 of its Nagoya Protocol;

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<sup>1</sup> The term is subject to further discussion. There is a recognition that there is a multiplicity of terms that have been used in this area (including, *inter alia*, "genetic sequence data", "genetic sequence information", "genetic information", "dematerialized genetic resources", "*in silico* utilization", etc.) and that further consideration is needed regarding the appropriate term or terms to be used.

14. **Requests** the Secretary to continue exploring technical options for increasing the visibility of the Global Information System of the International Treaty with regard to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House of the Nagoya Protocol in areas of mutual interest for the benefit of Contracting Parties and users;
15. **Welcomes** the efforts of the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaborating with Bioversity International, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and other partners to bring together stakeholders and experts involved in implementation of the International Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity 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;
16. **Welcomes** the engagement of the Secretariat of the International Treaty in capacity-development activities on harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol and of the International Treaty and **requests** the Secretary to continue engaging in such activities, subject to the availability of financial resources;
17. **Commends** the Secretary for its efforts to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and **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 this cooperation according to the Memorandum of Cooperation, and the Joint Initiative between the two Secretariats, and to report to the Governing Body;
18. **Requests** the Secretary to continue reporting on cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity at each Session of the Governing Body.



Food and Agriculture  
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**The International Treaty**  
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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## RESOLUTION 12/2017

### COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

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#### PART I: INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS THE GOVERNING BODY,

**Recalling** its Resolution 10/2015 and other previous relevant Resolutions and decisions;

**Reaffirming** the importance of maintaining and further strengthening cooperation with the relevant international organizations, institutions and partners in order to advance the objectives and implementation of the International Treaty;

**Noting with appreciation** the continued cooperation, collaboration and support provided by relevant international organizations during the current biennium;

**Welcoming** the active engagement of other relevant stakeholder groups, in particular civil society organizations, farmers' organizations and the seed industry, to support the implementation of the International Treaty and its relevant policy processes;

**Cognizant** of the importance of harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty with relevant instruments and processes especially at the 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 plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are recognized and supported by relevant international institutions, organizations and processes;

2. **Takes note** of the collaboration with the African Union Commission and welcomes its interest to promote the Treaty and support Contracting Parties from the African Region in the implementation of the Treaty and, as appropriate, to play a coordinating role for the delegates and representatives from the region, and **requests** the Secretary to continue strengthening this collaboration as well as to seek opportunities to establish cooperation with other relevant regional organisations and institutions for the promotion and implementation of the International Treaty;

[...]

4. **Encourages** Contracting Parties to take initiatives to strengthen the harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty and other relevant international instruments and processes, in order to promote policy coherence and improve efficiency at all levels and implement their various goals and commitments in a coherent, clear, and mutually supportive manner;

5. **Requests** the Secretary to facilitate such initiatives upon request and subject to the availability of resources;

6. ***Affirms*** the need to expand the Joint Capacity Building Programme with Bioversity International and to ensure that the Secretary continue play an active role of coordination, monitoring and analysis of results and impacts, and ***calls upon*** Contracting Parties and donors to provide additional funding to support its continuation;
7. ***Requests*** the Secretary to continue and further strengthen and expand the collaboration with Bioversity International, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and other capacity building providers, in their support to Contracting Parties in implementing the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol in a harmonious and mutually supportive manner;
8. ***Encourages*** the members of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions to continue their collaboration in accordance with their respective mandates and, subject to availability of financial resources, ***requests*** the Secretary to continue participating actively in the relevant activities of the Biodiversity Liaison Group;
9. ***Urges*** Contracting Parties to take measures to enhance synergies in their implementation of or participation in 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;
10. ***Requests*** the Secretary to continue participating in the Information and Knowledge Management Initiative (InforMEA) being coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme and making information available to Contracting Parties and other stakeholders through the InforMEA Portal, including the publication of online training courses;

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