

February 2017



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



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

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**INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**EIGHTH MEETING OF THE *AD-HOC* ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE FUNDING
STRATEGY**

Rome, Italy, 20-21 March 2017

EXECUTION OF THE PROJECT CYCLE OF THE BENEFIT-SHARING FUND

The Bureau of the Governing Body regularly receives an update on the execution of the project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund. This document was recently considered by the Bureau and it provides an overview of the progress made in the execution of the project cycles of the Benefit-sharing Fund during the last 9 months.

The document provides information which will be relevant to the Committee, including a report on on-going efforts on resource mobilization and lessons learned during 2016 in this area. It also briefly discusses on-going efforts in the implementation of the project cycle with a focus on the launch of the fourth Call for Proposals of the Benefit-sharing Fund. The Bureau considered the Report and decided to launch the fourth Call for Proposals before the Seventh Session of the Governing Body. The text of the Call for Proposals will be revised and simplified by the Secretariat and then further considered by the Bureau.

As indicated in the report, the independent evaluation report for the second project cycle should be ready for the ninth meeting of the Committee on the Funding Strategy.

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ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda

INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

SECOND MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Oslo, Norway, 2 – 3 February 2017

EXECUTION OF THE PROJECT CYCLE OF THE BENEFIT-SHARING FUND

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document provides an overview of the progress made in the execution of the project cycles of the Benefit-sharing Fund since the first meeting of the Bureau of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body. It first provides a report on resource mobilization for the fourth project cycle, including lessons learned in 2016, as requested by the Bureau. Following the request by the Bureau, the Secretariat has prepared a draft of the Fourth Call for Proposals that is available in *Appendix 1*. A brief update is provided on the operations of the second and third rounds of the project cycle. The guidance sought from the Bureau is contained in Section IV of this document.

II. FOURTH ROUND OF THE PROJECT CYCLE OF THE BENEFIT-SHARING FUND

A. REPORT ON RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Background

2. The Governing Body at its Sixth Session:
 - extended the *Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund* for the 2015-2017 biennium, to enable the continuation of the work on resource mobilization, communication, promotion and the Treaty's branding and media presence to enhance funding for, and the visibility of, the Benefit-sharing Fund.
 - called on Contracting Parties and others to make contributions to allow the launch of the fourth project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund for at least US\$ 10 million, and decided on an exceptional basis, to welcome contributions with a regional or crop priority focus.¹
3. The Bureau of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body, at its first meeting:
 - requested the Secretary to work on the mobilization of further resources to support the organization of the Global Consultation on Farmers' Rights;² and

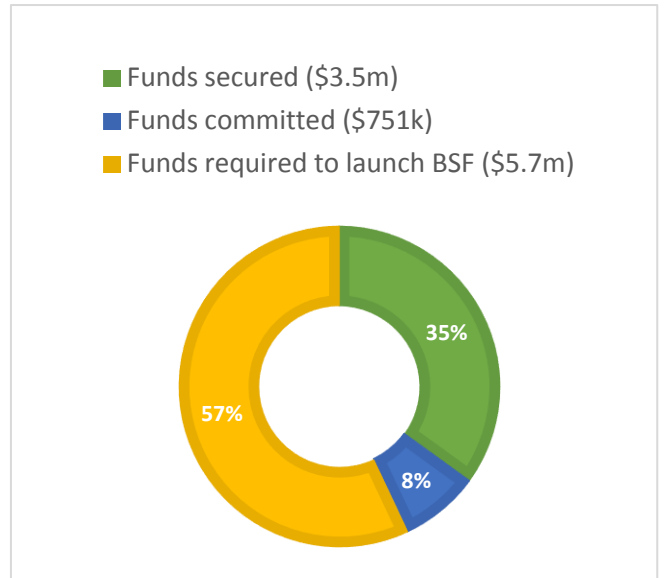
¹ Resolution 2/2015.

² IT/GB7-Bureau 1/16/Report, paragraph 18.

- emphasized the strategic importance of making available simplified general communication products to easily convey the objectives and work of the Treaty and its mechanisms.³
4. The Bureau, at its Teleconference on 15 December 2016, also requested that the documentation on the Benefit-sharing Fund for this meeting provide information on lessons learned on resource mobilization from 2016.

Status of secured and committed funds for the BSF 4th CFP (as at 31 January 2017)

Donor	Secured funds	Committed funds
Italy	\$1,899,347	\$530,000
Australia	\$718,815	
ESA	\$339,750	
Norway	\$190,578	\$190,578
Sweden	\$179,095	\$30,300
Indonesia	\$100,000	
ISF	\$49,280	
Austria	\$24,176	
Canada	\$971	
Total	\$3,502,012	\$750,878
Grand total (Secured + committed)	US\$4,252,890	



- Secured funds** are those funds which have been transferred by donors to the Treaty for the 4th project cycle.
- Committed funds** are those funds which have been committed by donors for the 4th project cycle, but not yet deposited.

Status of pipeline funds for the BSF 4th Call for Proposals (as at 31 January 2017)

- Funds in the pipeline expected to be available by GB7 are estimated between \$2 million - \$4.5 million.
- This is based on securing an expected minimum of one x Tier 1 or two x Tier 2 contributions⁴ prior to October 2017 or contributions from a regional approach funding model.⁵

Secured funds	Committed funds	Pipeline Funds	Forecasted total funds available by GB-7
\$3,502,012	\$750,878	\$2m – \$4.5m	\$6.2m - \$8.2m

Detailed progress report on experience of resource mobilization

Establishing the foundations

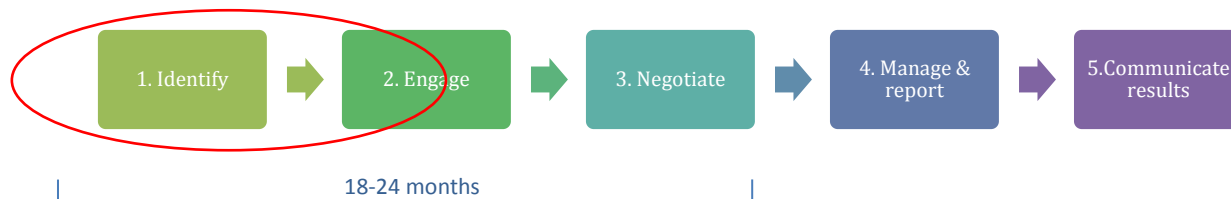
³ IT/GB7-Bureau 1/16/Report, paragraph 14.

⁴ **Tier 1 contributions** are \$2.2 million and **Tier 2 contributions** are \$870,000 as set out in the Strategic Plan for resource mobilization.

⁵ The pipeline is based on face-to-face agreements with prospective interested donors and on the development of proposals where the Treaty is establishing partnerships with governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as responding to calls for funds related to refugees, migration and rural development where biodiversity conservation and use is an important component.

5. With a four year gap of in-house RM capacity, the Secretariat's resource mobilization activities in 2016 has focused mainly on the initial stages of the prospect engagement process, as demonstrated in the diagram below:

Steps to RM implementation (source: FAO guide to resource mobilization)



Identifying potential funding partners

6. Based on their levels of involvement, interest and commitment to the Treaty and the BSF, twelve Contracting Parties were identified as priority funding targets.

7. In accordance with the Strategic Plan, Contracting Parties are priority prospects for the BSF.

8. Further additional prospects, where there are existing strong links and good potential for funding, have also been considered. These include the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the European Commission (EC).

9. Whilst the private seed sector was not a prospect for direct resource mobilization, engaging them for the purpose of raising awareness of the Multilateral System and its enhancement within the sector has led to the first contribution from the private sector to the BSF. This model could be developed further and replicated where possible.

10. In line with the Strategic Plan, private sector donors and foundations have not been prioritized as the main donors to the BSF. However, implementation of other parts of the Treaty might present suitable financing opportunities for these such organisations.

11. Activities exploring potential partnerships and regional opportunities have also been undertaken to identify alternative entry-points and the possibility of multi-stakeholder and multi-institutional funding initiatives.

Prospect engagement & cultivation

12. Priority prospects have been approached, including through face to face meetings, with an invitation to make a contribution to the Benefit-sharing Fund, with deeper engagement and discussions undertaken where there has been perceived momentum.

13. As detailed in the status of funds tables, numerous contributions have been secured, committed or are in the pipeline for the 4th Call for Proposals of the BSF. **\$3.5m** from nine donors has been secured, **\$750k** from three donors committed and an expected **\$2m-4.5m** from between one and three donors is in the pipeline.

14. Several international foundations have been approached for funding and multiple proposals developed and submitted, including mobilizing resources in support of Farmers' Rights.

15. All requests for follow-up from prospective donors have been actioned promptly by Secretariat.

16. Engagement activities with other relevant stakeholders have been undertaken to explore or leverage opportunities for mobilizing funding for the Benefit-sharing Fund, including with over 10 trusts and foundations, several institutional donors.

Communicating impact and results – enhancing the visibility of the Treaty and the Benefit-sharing Fund

17. The Bureau, at its Teleconference on 15 December 2016 requested that the documentation on the Benefit-sharing Fund should provide information on communication of results achieved in projects funded.

18. Numerous events have been planned and executed since the first meeting of the Bureau to engage and leverage relationships between donors and other key stakeholders, provide opportunities to showcase the work of the BSF, and to remind, inform, educate and cultivate prospective investors on the relevance of the work of the Treaty. Key events include:

- **European Seed Association General Assembly** (Rome, Oct 2016)

A BSF focused side event and exhibition was organised in collaboration with ESA at their annual general assembly where 5000 participants attended from across the seed sector in Europe and internationally. Two BSF beneficiaries participated as guest speakers to raise awareness and support, and highlight the importance of funding the Benefit-sharing Fund. A BSF booth was put in place as part of an exhibition promoting pioneering projects in developing countries.

- **UNFCCC COP 22 parallel event, SAP NENA launch** (Marrakesh, November 2016)

This side event was for the purpose of raising awareness of and launching the Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the Treaty in the NENA region (SAP NENA). The BSF is a key component of the SAP NENA and the budget required for its implementation (\$140m by 2020) was determined by the NENA region and established in the strategic plan.

19. Numerous communication activities have been undertaken as part of a strategy to simplify general communication products so that the objectives and work of the Treaty and its mechanisms are easily conveyed, including to a donor audience. These include:

- **New ‘Case for Support’** and call for funding brochure which communicates the urgency and importance of the Treaty’s mission and the BSF’s full range of funding priorities, including in the context of the SDGs and Paris Accord;
- **Fact sheets** on the Treaty and key Treaty mechanisms (the Treaty, PGRFA, Global Information System (GLIS), the Multilateral System, Benefit-sharing Fund, climate change, Farmers’ Rights, technology transfer, capacity development and the SAP NENA);
- **Letters to prospective donors** including to Ministries and high-level representatives;
- **Speeches** written for delivery at high-level events with messages in support of the Benefit-sharing Fund and 4th Call for Proposals imbedded within;
- **Event communication materials**, including banners, leaflets and posters;
- **Website enhancement**, including the publication of relevant webstories.

20. Communication and promotion of BSF results and impact will continue and intensify in the lead up to the Seventh Session of the Governing Body. Planned activities include several high-level regional meetings,⁶ the development and distribution of multi-media communication products, including using new analysis and findings from the BSF evaluation report. Additionally, a BSF field visit showcasing the impact of the BSF to key stakeholders is under consideration in Africa.

21. Resource mobilization efforts would benefit from a longer-term and broader Treaty communication strategy. A Treaty-wide communication strategy which considers the varied audience of the Treaty and communicates information about the Treaty in a holistic and coherent way is under discussion.

Lessons learned on resource mobilization from 2016

<p>Lesson learned #1: The funding landscape is changing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced funding available - current donor government funding data trends downward, revealing record 20 year lows in funding from a number of countries⁷. • Focus on domestic issues - redirecting aid toward covering the costs of hosting refugees domestically is a new trend identified within ODA data. • Competitive environment – institutional donations are not keeping pace with the development finance gap; the demand for financial resources, including for PGRFA, is growing. Additionally, donors are increasingly directing larger amounts of funding towards new financial institutions such as the Green Climate Fund, reducing the funding available elsewhere. • Private giving is increasing – businesses, foundations and individuals are contributing a larger proportion of overall aid than before. • Project oriented and results driven - governments are increasingly under scrutiny to demonstrate the impact of their aid and how it contributes to their national interests and priorities. Similarly, private funding requires the capacity to communicate attributable and relevant results. Donors are increasingly favouring funding work where they can engage in project design, report relevant results and demonstrate value for money.
<p>Lesson learned #2: The BSF can evolve and adapt to donor and recipient needs and increase its potential to attract adequate, diverse and sustainable funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSF has the potential to be a high-performing vehicle for achieving results and attracting funds – existing unique features of the BSF such as the key priority areas which align with SDG targets, independent appraisal, help-desk and network of global partners could be further promoted, utilized and enhanced to demonstrate the value of the BSF mechanism to donors and the international community. • Increased flexibility welcomed but more is needed - donors have commented positively on the new option for BSF contributions to have a regional and crop priority focus. Greater flexibility can be achieved and needs to be explored in ways that are attractive for donors and recipients. • Adapting BSF processes attracts new and diverse funding options – the current BSF model limits funding options at scale such as from the private sector, trusts and foundations. • Time-lag is a constraint – current processes require that funding targets are reached for a project cycle before launching a call for proposals. In some cases this has led to delays of up to four years between funding received and the implementation of project work.
<p>Lesson learned #3: The Funding Strategy review should consider and respond to emerging funding trends, provide flexibility to adapt to a changing environment and ensure an efficient and coherent funding approach across Treaty mechanisms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assumptions need to be reviewed and updated – the methodologies by which financial resources were expected to feed the Treaty have not delivered as expected. The original assumptions underpinning the resource mobilization strategy since 2009 should be reviewed and updated, including in view of emerging funding trends. • Analysis on barriers and enablers - securing diverse, sustainable and predictable income will support the BSF and other Treaty mechanisms to be more efficient and effective. Understanding the barriers and enablers of the previous strategy will be critical to informing the Funding Strategy review process.

⁷ Based on the latest official development assistance data from the OECD, published in December 2016.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying efficient models – significant investment of time and resources is required to mobilize resources for the Treaty and its mechanisms. Existing models that have generated more sustainable and predictable income streams should be considered. • Adaptive planning – to ensure the new Funding Strategy is relevant and effective, it is important that there is sufficient flexibility to enable adaptations to be made to respond to the environment it is operating in. • Coordinated and coherent approach – the complete financial resources required to support the Treaty should be clearly identified and packaged to help Contracting Parties ensure that there are sufficient financial resources incorporated into national budget setting processes. The Funding Strategy should ensure efforts to mobilize funds for the Treaty are complimentary, coherent and coordinated.
<p>Lesson learned #4: A collaborative and coordinated effort to raise awareness of PGRFA could be included in the Funding Strategy to help direct more funds to the sector as a whole</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for greater coordination - some regions and Contracting Parties have expressed a desire for communication and fundraising efforts between the Treaty and the Trust to be more coordinated. • Presenting a powerful message – jointly communicating the importance of PGRFA and providing clarity on the roles and complementarity of existing initiatives, bodies and programs in the field of PGRFA could strengthen support more broadly.

B. FOURTH CALL FOR PROPOSALS OF THE BENEFIT-SHARING FUND

22. At its first meeting, the Bureau considered:

the concept note on the Call for Proposals for the fourth round of the project cycle and urged the Secretariat to further develop it as the basis for the preparation of the fourth call. For its update, the Bureau took note of the importance of technology transfer and capacity development and the need to maintain a focus on climate change adaptation.

The Bureau also agreed on the need for the call to continue supporting small-scale farmers in developing countries on the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA). It recommended future projects to continue contributing to the implementation of the national plans and priorities related to PGRFA. The Bureau further recognized the importance of long-term programmes to facilitate support to sustainable efforts, as well as regional programmes.

The Bureau also requested the Secretary to elaborate the draft elements with the comments of the Bureau, to include a timeline in the draft and to transmit it for comments to the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy for the development of the final draft of the fourth call. It further requested the Secretary to include the final draft call in the agenda and documentation of the second bureau meeting.

23. Following the advice of the Bureau, the Secretariat has prepared the first draft of the Fourth Call for Proposals for the Benefit-sharing Fund (CfP-4). The first draft is contained in *Appendix 1* of this document.

24. The recommendations provided by the Bureau, at its first meeting, emphasized the importance of continuing support for the activities funded through the Third Call for Proposals of the Benefit-sharing Fund. The first draft Call has therefore been prepared by revising the text of the Third Call for Proposals (CfP-3). The CfP-3 text was prepared by the Secretariat, under the guidance of the Bureau of the Fifth Session of the Governing Body, as described by the Operational Procedures of the Benefit-sharing Fund.

25. The Bureau had suggested to receive comments from the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy. At the time of the first meeting of the Bureau, the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy was scheduled to meet prior to the second meeting of the Bureau. However, the eighth meeting of the Committee will be held from 20 to 21 March 2017.

Annotations to changes made to previous Call for Proposals.

The following paragraphs provide notes on the changes made to the text of the CFP-3 in order to prepare the first draft CFP-4. The conventions followed in order to indicate changes to the text of CFP-3 are as follows:

1. Text deleted is indicated as ~~struck through and grey highlight~~.
2. Text inserted is indicated by **yellow highlight**.

Section 1: Introduction

Reference to the Sustainable Development Goals has been introduced.

Section 2: Background to the Third Call for Proposals

Editorial changes made in Section 2.1

The deadlines on section 2.2 have been left blank for the time being.

In section 2.3, the target for CFP-4 has been set to at least US\$ 6 million, in line with the pipeline funds expected by the Seventh Session of the Governing Body.

In section 2.3, the phrase discussing that funding targeted to multi-country or single-country projects has been deleted as it was unclear. The Bureau will have to provide, before the opening of the Call, a clear indication on how much funding will be dedicated to the different projects being funded.

Section 3: Windows of the Call for Proposals

Old Section 3.1 has been deleted as it is not needed anymore.

Section 3.A (funding window supporting Immediate Action Projects): the descriptions of rationale, scope and expected outputs have not been changed, other than for minor editorial changes.

Section 3.B (funding window supporting co-development and transfer of technologies): the descriptions of rationale, scope and expected outputs have not been changed, other than for minor editorial changes.

The section on Single-Country projects for the co-development and transfer of technologies has been deleted. The experience gained in the implementation of the third funding cycle of the of the Benefit-sharing Fund indicates that there were very few quality proposals submitted for these types of projects under this Window, so the transaction costs of running the screening and appraisal of single-country projects on co-development and transfer of technology was rather high for low returns.

Section 4: Eligibility and screening criteria for pre-proposals

There are no changes to the criteria.

List of Appendixes: the list of appendixes will be finalized before the opening of the Call.

26. The first draft of the CFP-4 has been prepared by making few and key changes to the text approved for CFP-3. The text could be further improved by simplifying the texts of rationale, scope, expected outputs of the call. The decision on funds available and project size are correlated and the Bureau will be in a better position to decide on this matters before the call is launched.

27. The Bureau is invited to discuss a timeline in order to be able to launch CfP-4 at the Seventh Session of the Governing Body. This will give momentum to resource mobilization in the months preceding the meeting and will enable a number of communication and awareness raising activities on the Treaty to be undertaken at the meeting. The Bureau is invited to consider the draft Call for Proposal for the Fourth Project Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund, and approve or stipulate further steps for its further development. The Secretariat could be asked to provide a second version of the draft CfP-4 in order to incorporate the comments received by the Bureau at its second meeting, in order to have the text of the CfP-4 ready for adoption by the Bureau through a teleconference in May 2017.

IV. OPERATIONS OF THE SECOND AND THIRD ROUNDS OF THE PROJECT CYCLE OF THE BENEFIT-SHARING FUND

28. The Secretariat informed the Bureau, at its first meeting, that six out of the nine projects favourably appraised but not funded until 2013 had already been concluded and the rest of projects will be concluded in 2016.

29. By 31 December 2016, all implementation activities for the projects funded through the second round of the project cycle had been finalized. The Secretariat is awaiting for the final report by the executing entity, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), in order to be able to close the project PR-83-Fiji “Strengthening the resilience of Pacific agricultural systems to climate change through enhancing access to and use of diversity”. The project had to be extended for nine months due to a number of climatic events in the countries targeted. Changes in the management structures of SPC have also affected the finalization of the project. The Secretariat held a teleconference recently with executing entity SPC with a view to have the final report approved by 31 March 2017 and be able to close the project.

30. The Operational Procedures for the Benefit-sharing Fund include, as the last step of the project cycle, an independent evaluation to be carried out at the portfolio level. The Governing Body adopted, through Resolution 3/2011, *Interim Procedures for Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation*.

31. The Bureau was informed that the FAO Office Evaluation Secretariat will manage the evaluation of the project portfolio funded through the second funding cycle, including the hiring of the independent experts that will carry out the bulk of the work. The timeline proposed initially by the FAO evaluation office was to finalize the independent evaluation by October 2016 but the timeline had to be extended for causes beyond the control of the Secretariat. The evaluation report should be ready for the ninth meeting of the Committee on the Funding Strategy. The Secretariat will keep the Bureau informed on further developments on this matter.

32. A snapshot of some of the practical results that will arise from the project portfolio funded through the third funding cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund is as follows:

- More than 55.000 resource-poor farmers will directly benefit from activities to bolster on-farm PGRFA management, with at least 50 new community seed banks established;
- Nearly 1,500 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 in the developing world.

33. As of February 2016, all multi-country projects approved for funding are operational with the exception of the project “Using modern biotechnologies to sustain food security in Pacific

islands countries.” The executing entity for this project is also SPC. The project agreement with SPC will not be concluded until the previous project with them reported above is closed and lessons learned and measures for improved implementation are agreed between the executing entity and the Secretariat. There are two short-duration single-country projects for which agreements still need be finalized.

34. Finally, there are a number of projects on technology transfer that require the purchase of research equipment for improved use and study of crop genetic diversity, as well of contracting specialized services, such as the provision of genotyping and genomic sequencing services or the development of informatics tools for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. There are limitations within the internal FAO rules governing the development of project agreements used for Benefit-sharing Fund projects with regard to purchase of goods (equipment) and the subcontracting of services. Each project funded was reviewed on a case-by-case manner basis to determine whether these items should be included or excluded from the Letters of Agreement to ensure full compliance with FAO’s procurement rules. Following such review, the Secretariat, together with the administrative services of FAO, and in consultation with our partners, concluded that a number of services and goods should be provided outside of the Letters of Agreement. The procurement will not be done by the implementing partners but carried out directly by FAO procurement and handed to the partner. FAO generally has better capacity and procedures to procure these goods and services so delays in implementation are not anticipated and could be significantly reduced for some projects.

V. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

35. The Bureau is invited to:

1. take note of the progress made in mobilizing resources for the execution of the fourth call for proposals under the Benefit-sharing Fund;
2. take note of the lessons learnt from the resource mobilization efforts of the Secretariat;
3. provide advice on measures that will build momentum within Contracting Parties in order to launch the CFP4 by GB7.
4. provide advice and inputs on how it could assist in securing additional resources to augment the funds currently available for the fourth Call for Proposals;
5. to consider the draft Call for Proposal for the Fourth Project Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund, and approve or stipulate further steps for its further development, or provide any further guidance it deems appropriate;
6. provide any other guidance it might consider useful regarding the execution of the project cycle.

APPENDIX 1
FOURTH CALL FOR PROPOSALS
OF THE BENEFIT-SHARING FUND:
FIRST DRAFT

1. INTRODUCTION

The *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Treaty) aims to promote and support the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Treaty provides for a Funding Strategy, which aims to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources for the implementation of the Treaty. It includes a Benefit-sharing Fund (Fund) that holds those financial resources for benefit-sharing that are under the direct control of the Governing Body of the Treaty.

The international community is increasingly recognizing the vital role that plant genetic diversity plays in sustainable development. For the first time, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) set concrete targets acknowledging the critical need to conserve, exchange and invest in plant genetic resources to achieve global food security.

The Benefit-sharing Fund will contribute to the realization of SDG Target 2.5:

By 2020 maintain genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at national, regional and international levels, and ensure access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as internationally agreed.

The Contracting Parties of the Treaty have agreed that priority for the allocation of financial resources from the Fund will be given to implementing agreed plans and programmes for farmers in developing countries who conserve and sustainably use plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The Governing Body uses the funds in the Benefit-sharing Fund strategically, to play a catalytic role in international cooperation in the conservation and use of plant genetic resources. The Governing Body at its Second Session adopted three priorities for the Benefit-sharing Fund, based on FAO's Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. These priorities, which remain valid for this current call for proposals, are:

1. Information exchange, technology transfer and capacity-building;
2. Managing and conserving plant genetic resources on farm; and,
3. The sustainable use of plant genetic resources.

Since there is limited funding available, projects selected must have a large impact on the visibility for the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Treaty at political, policy and technical conferences and stakeholder forums in order to raise awareness about how monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing under the Treaty is functioning.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE **FOURTH** CALL FOR PROPOSALS.

2.1 Thematic Focus

There is widespread agreement that climate change represents one of the greatest threats to agriculture and food security. The Governing Body has emphasized the importance of using the Fund to help enhance sustainable food security by assisting farmers to adapt to climate change. Thus the focus and scope of projects to be funded in this ~~Third~~**Fourth** Call for Proposals will remain similar to those supported in the Second **and Third** Calls. The Fund will provide financial resources for a targeted set of programmes, projects and activities of high potential impact that help farmers adapt to climate change through the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

2.2 Overview and timeline of project cycle

The Fund follows a process of calling for pre-proposals and selecting from among them the proposing institutions that will be invited to submit a full proposal. Approximately 2x the number of full proposals are invited compared to the number finally funded, i.e. each applicant at the full proposal stage has an approximately 50% chance of being funded.

Following are the steps to be followed in this ~~Third~~ Call for Proposals for the submission and approval of project pre-proposals and full proposals. Find below indicative dates by which steps important for applicants are to be completed. Further information on the process is presented in *Appendix 1*.

- Submission of pre-proposals, through National Focal Points, Permanent Representatives or other official channels to FAO, received by the Secretariat of the Treaty. Deadline: **XXX**;
- Invitations to submit full project proposals sent out by the Secretariat: **XXX**;
- Submission of full project proposals, through National Focal Points, Permanent Representatives to FAO or other official channels, received by the Secretariat of the Treaty. Deadline: **XXX**;
- Announcement of projects to be funded. Deadline: **XXX**.

2.3 Funds available and type of projects to be funded

~~The target will be to dedicate more funding to the multi-country projects, rather than to single-country projects.~~

2.4 Applicants

Pre-proposals may be submitted by governmental or non-governmental organizations in Contracting Parties eligible to apply for support, as listed in Appendix 2.

Any governmental or non-governmental organization, including farmers and farmers' organizations, genebanks and research institutions, as well as regional and international organizations, based in countries that are Contracting Parties to the International Treaty, may apply for grants under the Benefit-sharing Fund. Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria established by the Governing Body⁸ and found in section 4.1 of this Call for Proposals.

2.5 Submissions

⁸ IT/GB-2/07/Report, *Appendix D.2*. <http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/gb2repe.pdf>

All applications must be submitted through the recognized authorities of an eligible Contracting Party of the Treaty, i.e. through the National Focal Points or the Permanent Representatives to FAO. A list of National Focal Points and Permanent Representatives to FAO of eligible Contracting Parties is included in Appendix 3.

All applications must be made using the Submission Form for pre-proposals in Appendix 4. Pre-proposals may be submitted in any of the Treaty languages, plus, where necessary, a translation to a working language (English, French, Spanish), as stipulated by the Operational Procedures adopted by the Governing Body.

Applications must be sent by the national authorities of eligible Contracting Parties to the Secretariat of the Treaty at Treaty-Fund@fao.org or by fax (39) 0657056347.

2.6 Helpdesk

In order to facilitate the process of preparing pre-proposals and full proposals for funding from the Benefit-sharing Fund, the Secretariat of the Treaty has established a Helpdesk. Applicant are invited to contact the Helpdesk at Treaty-Fund@fao.org for further elaboration and explanation of the information contained in this document or to seek answers to any other questions that they may have regarding the submission of pre-proposals or proposals. The Helpdesk will operate in English, French, Spanish and Arabic and may conduct regional workshops for institutions invited to submit full proposals. More information about the Helpdesk function is provided in Appendix 1.

3. WINDOWS OF THE **FOURTH** CALL FOR PROPOSALS

3.1 Overview of Funding Windows

~~In the Second Call for Proposals, there were two funding windows: Window 1: The Development of Strategic Action Plans, and Window 2: Immediate Action Projects. Through this process, however, the co-development and transfer of technologies did not receive the substantive and coherent focus expected by the Contracting Parties. It was thus decided that for this Third Call for Proposals, an additional funding window, Window 3, would be opened up specifically to support the co-development and transfer of technology. This will enhance non-monetary benefit sharing by enhancing technology transfer, capacity building and information exchange as foreseen in the first priority of the Benefit sharing Fund.~~

~~As a consequence of opening this additional window, and as a result of the need to learn lessons from the implementation of current projects, Window 1 will not be operative during this Third Call for Proposals.~~

~~In summary, the Third Call for Proposals will be implemented through two funding windows:~~

- ~~• Window 2: Immediate Action Projects, and~~
- ~~• Window 3: The Co-development and Transfer of Technology.~~

~~More information about each of these windows is given below, together with information on projects that combine activities covered by both windows.~~

3.2 Window 2: Support to the Implementation of Immediate Action Projects

FUNDING WINDOW SUPPORTING IMMEDIATE ACTION PROJECTS

Rationale

Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture underpin farmers' efforts to achieve sustainable food security, but this objective is made significantly more difficult by the adverse effects of climate change. For many developing countries climate change poses what is arguably the most serious threat to agriculture and is already leading to less predictable harvests and the emergence of new pests and diseases. In many areas such change is beginning to undermine rural development, resulting in greater pressures on the most vulnerable farming communities, those that are least able to cope with extreme weather events such as floods or droughts, and by shifts in the timing and duration of growing seasons.

Managing and sustainably deploying plant genetic diversity is one of the key – and often one of the very few – options available to resource-poor farmers in their efforts to adapt their farming systems to climate change. However, greatly increased attention and support are needed if farmers are to reap the full benefits of genetic diversity. Such attention needs to also take into account the key role that women play in agricultural production and processing in most parts of the developing world. The genepool of the Multilateral System offers huge opportunities for introducing new diversity to respond to farmers needs, and the diversity that already exists on-farm must be wisely used and conserved.

Recognizing that no country is self sufficient in the plant genetic resources needed for its food and agriculture, it is important that institutions work together across national boundaries. Thus, efforts at the local and national level need to be supported and supplemented through multi-country, regional and international approaches if plant genetic diversity is to be wisely and efficiently conserved and used. Such approaches enhance the delivery of non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms of the Treaty: access to and transfer of technology, capacity-building and exchange of information.

Scope

The primary beneficiaries of projects supported through **this Window** ~~Window 2~~ will be resource-poor rural populations in the target countries. Projects will aim primarily to strengthen the on-farm conservation and management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture through appropriate action, primarily at the farm and community levels. The interventions developed and introduced will have the potential for making a significant impact in the short term and will include such activities as climate analysis; community action to conserve local varieties; the introduction and testing of new varieties; plant breeding and selection by farmers and rural communities carried out in partnership with professional plant breeders; and the development and promotion of appropriate seed production and dissemination systems.

In order to complement such direct, on the ground action interventions, it is important that projects have strong scientific and policy back up. Proposals may thus also include supporting activities in areas such as linking with national and international genebanks, information exchange, policy development and capacity building.

In addition, and in order to maximize the potential impact of projects supported by the Fund, all proposals are expected to include activities designed to share and exchange genetic materials, technologies, information and lessons learned and facilitate training to support further replication of relevant activities after project conclusion. Proposals are expected to focus on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture listed in *Annex I* of the Treaty. Other plant genetic resources that are significant for local food security and adaptation to climate change can only be included if they are important for the development of diversification strategies (see supporting outputs below).

Support from the Benefit-sharing Fund must be consistent with national and regional strategies, action plans and priorities. Projects funded will contribute to improve adaptation to climate change and enhance food security of resources-poor farmers in selected developing countries, by strengthening the sustainable management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Expected outputs

Key outputs expected from Immediate Action Projects funded through ~~this Window~~ Window 2 may include:

- Community conservation systems developed (e.g. community seed banks), recognizing different gender roles, that ensure the long-term survival of locally adapted landraces and farmer varieties, as well as the local knowledge related to them;
- Stronger links with national, regional and international genebanks, to underpin conservation measures at the local level and to make local materials more widely available to the Multilateral System;
- New varieties and other genetic material introduced, tested and the best disseminated; in particular materials from the genepool of the Multilateral System, from national genebanks, public and private breeding programmes and through exchange with other rural communities;
- New varieties developed through participatory breeding methods in which farmers, including women farmers where appropriate, work together with professional plant breeders from national, regional and international institutions. Such varieties will be widely adopted, meeting local needs and circumstances and, in particular, have traits that enable farmers to better meet the challenges of climate change;
- Seed production, seed quality determination and dissemination systems developed and successfully introduced including, if needed, the promotion of quality seed production by private and/or public bodies, and the widespread testing and distribution of seeds through commercial or other channels;
- In the case of multi-country programmes, genetic material, technologies and associated knowledge and capacities co-developed and transferred by the participating institutions and local communities of countries involved.
- In the case of single-country projects, genetic material and technologies, as well as lessons learned and other information shared with local communities and institutions elsewhere in the country.

In addition to these key outputs, limited funding will also be available for complementary and supportive outputs that might include, for example:

- Stronger links forged with research and development institutions in the region and globally;
- A better understanding of likely future environmental conditions, and information systems to keep local communities apprised of the possible negative consequences of climate change and how they can be alleviated through the wise management of plant genetic resources;
- Strategies developed for the diversification of local agricultural and food systems through the use of a wider range of locally adapted crops and varieties;
- Information relevant to policy setting disseminated to appropriate opinion and policy-makers;
- The capacity of local and national institutions strengthened to better understand and respond to the probable effects of climate change and to better conserve, manage, improve and disseminate plant genetic resources;

- Links with rural communities in other areas strengthened, especially with those that currently face environmental conditions that are likely to prevail in the home area in the future.

SINGLE-COUNTRY PROJECTS

Institutional setting

In the case of “single-country” projects, organizations based in the developing Contracting Party will collaborate by bringing together complementary expertise to improve the livelihoods of a targeted set of rural communities. Additional partners may help to share the results and lessons learned within and outside the country. A “typical” project might involve, for example, a non-governmental organization working in partnership with national research institution or university working in partnership to build capacity of farmers in participatory plant breeding.

Expected size

The cost of these Immediate Action Projects will be up to XXX US\$ between US\$ 150,000 and US\$ 300,000 for projects involving a single country.

Duration

Immediate Action Projects involving a single country shall run for a maximum of three years.

MULTI-COUNTRY PROJECTS

Institutional setting

In the case of “multi-country projects”, a consortium of institutions will come together to help resolve a similar problem being faced in different countries. A typical project will have a large number of farmers in different eligible countries directly benefiting from the actions supported. The consortium will include local or national partners of the countries targeted with regional or international partners that have complementary skills, know-how and understanding of the local needs and aspirations of rural communities. The lead institution in the project will be based in a developing Contracting Party of the Treaty.

Expected size

The cost of Immediate Action Projects will be up to US\$ XXX between US\$ 400,000 and US\$ 800,000 for multi-country, regional and international projects.

Duration

Immediate Action Projects involving multiple countries shall run for a maximum of four years.

~~3.3 Window 3: Support to the Co-development and Transfer of Technology~~

FUNDING WINDOW SUPPORTING THE CO-DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

Rationale

Technologies are being developed or are already available at institutions throughout the world, South and North, public and private, which could make a very significant contribution to the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in developing countries. Identifying such technologies and promoting their transfer has been seen by the Governing Body of the Treaty, since its outset, as a key component of the overall benefit-sharing strategy and an important area for support by the Benefit-sharing Fund.

Transfer of technology does not generally take place in isolation but in the context of a ‘package’ of activities, which, apart to the technology itself, also includes information exchange and capacity building. In addition, technology transfer and information exchange also often require policy and infrastructural support. Technology needs to be understood in a very wide sense and its transfer should aim to solve important problems rather than seek to impose specific solutions, i.e. there should be a ‘demand pull’ rather than a ‘technology push’. To help ensure this happens, the developing country ‘beneficiary’ institutions will be responsible for identifying the problem to be addressed and proposing the solutions to overcome these problems.

The likelihood of technologies being relevant to the needs of poor rural communities in developing countries may be increased if they have been developed jointly by partner institutions having complementary expertise and resources, including partners in developing Contracting Parties who are working with farming communities. This likelihood can be further increased by focusing on key emerging technologies and information resources which will have a strong impact on the livelihoods of farmers and have not yet been fully integrated by institutions in developing Contracting Parties, such as technologies and information repositories for the combined use of genomic sequence data, phenotypic, accession-level and other data providing inputs for the improved use of PGRFA. International data repositories and regional hubs for making such integrated information and technologies available to beneficiary institutions in developing Contracting Parties, who work directly with farmers, now exist and are being further developed. Projects may connect lead beneficiary institutions to these repositories and hubs, and transfer to them the skills and technologies they need to identify and make use of the benefits which these new tools might provide for farmers in their countries.

Important benefits arising from the co-development and transfer of technologies, in addition to the technology itself, are the building of capacity in the lead institution through increased human capital (e.g. through participatory learning), strengthened infrastructure (e.g. through provision of key items of equipment), and useful information generated by transferred technologies (e.g. when applied to the needs of farmers and other local agricultural stakeholders). For example, this applies particularly to technologies which can help to develop climate-ready crops for farmers by generating, integrating and exchanging value-added phenotypic, molecular and environmental data about food crops most relevant for local farmers.

At the same time, information exchange and technology transfer are increasingly connected. On the one hand, technology development increasingly draws upon high value-added information about plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA). On the other hand, the creation of PGRFA information, such as molecular, phenotypic and genotypic information, is increasingly technology-intensive. This window will therefore seek to focus on the transfer of technologies which create such value-added information for the development of climate-ready traits and plant varieties for the benefit of farmers in developing Contracting Parties.

Although described as a largely ‘non-monetary’ benefit, in many cases the co-development and transfer of technology cannot be achieved without a certain amount of catalytic funding. Window 3 will thus provide a channel for supporting key activities in this area.

Scope

Projects supported through this **funding window** Window 3 will aim to promote international cooperation in support of the Treaty by linking institutions across national boundaries. Funding will be provided for both the co-development and transfer of key technologies which will enable the exchange of value added information about PGRFA, and in particular those that are related to the use of species in the genepool of the Multilateral System. Projects are thus expected, ~~as in the case of Window 2,~~ to focus on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture listed in *Annex I* of the Treaty.

Even though the primary ‘beneficiary’ will be, in the first instance, the lead institution in a developing country Contracting Party, technologies to be co-developed and/or transferred with support from this **funding window** the Window 3 must have the potential to make a significant impact on the conservation and/or use of plant genetic resources by resource-poor rural

communities. Special attention should be paid to technologies which generate information and germplasm that could enhance the ability of farmers to adapt to climate change, especially through increased resistance to drought, heat and associated biotic stresses. Projects will involve a partnership between the institution or institutions located in developing Contracting Parties, and institutions from either the private or public sector in another Contracting Party (South or North). Research institutions and gene banks in developing countries that are Contracting Parties have to be actively involved in these partnerships and participation and knowledge sharing with farmers needs to be ensured. There is a multitude of possible areas that would benefit from the co-development and transfer of technology, from bioinformatics to biotechnologies to seed production systems. In the area of bioinformatic technologies, the involvement of international repositories and regional hubs for relevant data in the co-development and transfer project will be particularly important.

Where projects give rise to, or make use of, protected technology (e.g. genes or processes), all appropriate legislation and regulations regarding intellectual property protection must be adhered to. In addition, all projects must comply with relevant legislation and regulations concerning human and environmental safety. All materials developed through projects funded by the Benefit-sharing Fund must be available to the Multilateral System through the use of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement. Information generated by funded projects must be made publicly available through the information system provided through Article 17 of the Treaty with the expectation that such exchange of information will contribute to the sharing of benefits by making information available to all Contracting Parties.

Projects funded will contribute to improve adaptation to climate change and enhance food security of resources-poor farmers in selected developing countries, by strengthening the sustainable management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Expected outputs

Outputs expected from Co-development and Transfer of Technology Projects funded through Window 3 may include, for example:

- Local varieties genetically analysed to discover the presence of potentially useful alleles, with such alleles exploited in the development of new varieties adapted to climate change;
- Germplasm phenotyped for traits of potential value, particularly those relevant for farmers' adaptation to climate change;
- Marker assisted selection systems to facilitate breeding for traits that are important for adaptation to climate change;
- Potentially useful breeding populations developed through crossing with crop wild relatives having traits that are useful for adaptation to climate change; new, locally-adapted varieties bred from these populations;
- Information created, disseminated and accessed by lead institutions on scientific, technical and environmental matters related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including genotypic and phenotypic data;
- The capacity of the lead developing country institutions strengthened to use information management systems that support the discovery and use of traits that facilitate adaptation to the possible effects of climate change;
- Technologies transferred, co-developed and deployed to support use of bioinformatics tools by beneficiary institutions for exchange of information on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
- specialized tools available, transferred and deployed for integrated data analysis and interpretation of germplasm, genomic and phenotypic data by the lead institution and local stakeholders,

- needs of farmers and agricultural stakeholders identified and contributed to the development of international or regional data repositories, and other components of the Global Information System under article 17 of the Treaty;
- Methods and techniques for appropriate and regionally adapted seed quality testing systems for ensuring supply of high quality seeds to farmers;
- Training delivered to developing country scientists and stakeholders and fellowships granted to a new generation of researchers to support delivery of non-monetary benefit-sharing as promoted by the International Treaty;
- Lessons learned on technology transfer models explored for further replication by all partners, including at national, regional and international levels.

SINGLE-COUNTRY PROJECTS

Institutional setting

In the case of “single country” projects, a leading developing Contracting Party “beneficiary” institution will be responsible for identifying a problem to be addressed in its country and a partner in another country that has complementary know-how, technologies and information. The “beneficiary” institution will submit the pre-proposal and will be the lead institution in the project. A “typical” project might involve, for example, a national research institution in a developing country—the lead institution—working in partnership with a research institute elsewhere, to develop a particular item of technology and transferring it to the lead institution for further adaptation, testing, use and dissemination. Indeed, in some cases three-way partnerships (partner institution—local lead institution—local rural community) might well be the best means of developing appropriate technologies.

Expected size of projects

The cost of these Co-development and Transfer of Technology Projects will be between US\$ 80,000 and US\$ 150,000.

Duration

Co-development and Transfer of Technology Projects targeting a single country shall run for a maximum of two years.

MULTI-COUNTRY PROJECTS

Institutional setting

In the case of “multi-country projects”, a consortium of institutions will come together to help resolve a similar problem being faced in different eligible countries. A typical project would support a lead institution in a developing Contracting Party to partner with institutions or consortia, which are creating integrated repositories of genomic, phenomic and germplasm data, in order to transfer and co-develop technologies which will allow the use of such data for the lead institution (e.g., customized data analysis-, interpretation- and other bioinformatic tools). This will allow the lead institution to access, interpret, and apply the genomic, phenomic and germplasm data available in the repositories in an integrated manner in order to address the needs of local farmers, as well as of local researchers and breeders. As a result of these projects developing country institutions will be able to identify, articulate and translate the needs of these local stakeholders into technical and management specifications for these emerging models of technology transfer and information exchange, including for the development and use of international data repositories and other components of the Global Information System under article 17 of the Treaty. The supported consortia will include national partners of the beneficiary countries partnering with regional or international partners who have complementary technologies and information, and are operating or creating large-scale data hubs and repositories. The partners

in the consortium will work together in the co-development and utilization of technologies that enable the utilization of PGRFA for the generation, exchange and utilization of molecular, phenotypic and genotypic information. For example, partner institutions work together to co-develop and transfer a technology and generate the associated information required to develop a drought or heat resistance in a locally important smallholder crop, by genomic sequencing work and using resulting data with phenotypic information about the characterized germplasm. The lead institution in the project will be based in a developing Contracting Party of the Treaty.

Expected size

The cost of these Co-development and Transfer of Technology Projects will be up to **US\$ XXX** ~~between US\$ 200,000 and US\$ 500,000~~ for multi-country, regional and international projects.

Duration

Co-development and Transfer of Technology Projects targeting multiple countries shall run for a maximum of three years.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND SCREENING CRITERIA FOR PRE-PROPOSALS

4.1 Eligibility Criteria

To be judged eligible for funding from the Benefit-sharing Fund in this Third Call for Proposals, all pre-proposals must meet the following eligibility criteria.

The proposed project must comply with the eligibility criteria established by the Governing Body:

1. Contribute to the objectives of the International Treaty;
2. Fall within the priorities established by the Governing Body;
3. Benefit Contracting Parties that are developing countries;
4. Be presented through the Contracting Party or Parties concerned;

In addition, the following criteria will also need to be met:

5. Be submitted on or before the deadline set for submissions;
6. Adhere to the guidelines for submission;
7. Not reproduce the same or very similar actions with similar activities, objectives and beneficiaries as has already been used in another submitted pre-proposal;

The Secretariat will check that pre-proposals meet the eligibility criteria.

4.2 Screening Criteria

Providing a pre-proposal meets all the above criteria, it will be assessed by independent experts against the criteria listed below that were developed drawing on the Selection Criteria (section III of the Operational Procedures of the Benefit-sharing Fund). The applicants of those pre-proposals judged to be the best will be invited to submit a full proposal.

The independent Panel of Experts will conduct the screening of pre-proposals and the appraisal of full project proposals. The Bureau is responsible of providing the responses to applicants that have submitted pre-proposals, on the basis of preparatory work by the independent Panel of Experts. The Bureau is also responsible for the approval of projects for funding within the project cycle.

1. Does the project contribute to poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability?

The experts will assess to what extent the proposed project will address, in particular, one or more pressing food security problems relating to plant genetic resources and climate change - preferably ones that have been identified in existing regional or national strategies or plans - and have clear objectives linked to the problems defined.

Sections of the pre-proposal particularly relevant for this criterion: *Problem Definition and Objectives*.

2. Who are the immediate beneficiaries?

The experts will assess to what extent the proposed project will address a clearly defined set of immediate beneficiaries whether local communities (Window 2) or institutions (Window 3), and if the ultimate beneficiaries are also identified.

Sections of the pre-proposal particularly relevant for this criterion: *Beneficiaries*.

3. Is the proposed project feasible in terms of methodology, resources and timing?

The experts will assess to what extent the proposed project will have outputs that are realistic given the proposed level of funding, project duration and methodology.

They will specifically assess if the proposed project encompass an appropriate set of methodologies and activities to accomplish the proposed objectives and outputs, including if the project will:

- Have appropriate links with communities elsewhere in the country and internationally to catalyze the widespread dissemination of any technologies developed or lessons learned;
- Contribute to the use and/or further development of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing under the Treaty;

Sections of the pre-proposal particularly relevant for this criterion: *Outputs, Methodology and Budget*.

4. What is the extent of collaboration promoted in the project proposal? Can the capacity of the team be considered sufficient?

The experts will assess to what extent the proposed project will develop a partnership or partnerships involving the most appropriate local, national, regional and international institutions and organizations and a project team with sufficient capacity and expertise, to achieve the objectives. The partners will have to demonstrate that they have the experience and track record to manage projects of similar nature to those for which funds are being requested to the Benefit-sharing Fund.

Sections of the pre-proposal particularly relevant for this criterion: *Collaboration and Project Team*.

5. To what extent is the expected positive impact measurable?

The experts will assess to what extent the proposed project will have the potential for a significant, short-term impact relating to the ability of local communities in countries that are Contracting Parties of the Treaty to achieve or maintain food security in the face of climate change.

Section of the pre-proposal particularly relevant for this criterion: *Potential Development Impact*.

6. *Is the budget adequate to cover fully the proposed activities and produce the expected outputs?*

The experts will assess to what extent the proposed project has a balanced budget that adequately addresses the various budget categories and if it links with, or have access to additional or complementary resources from other sources, whether counterpart or in-kind resources from the institutions involved, or from national or international funding sources.

Section of the pre-proposal particularly relevant for this criterion: *Budget*.

4.3 Appraisal Criteria for Full Proposals

In addition to the criteria listed above, further criteria will be applied at the full proposal stage, using the Selection Criteria (section III of the Operational Procedures of the Benefit-sharing Fund).⁹ These will include a more detailed assessment of the likelihood of project success, and an assessment of the proposed measures for monitoring and evaluating progress and impact.

⁹ Selection Criteria; *Operational Procedures for the use of resources under the direct control of the Governing Body*; Annex 1 of Resolution 2/2013 of the Governing Body (pages 7-8)
http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/RES2_2013_en.pdf

LIST OF APPENDIXES

APPENDIX 1: OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT CYCLE

Notes: This Appendix will contain the information on the timeline and deadlines for the different steps of the 4th Call for Proposals.

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR SUPPORT UNDER THE BENEFIT-SHARING FUND

Notes: The list is elaborated based on the classification of economies of most the recent World Bank's list. The list will be produced before the opening of the call.

APPENDIX 3: LIST OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO FAO OF ELIGIBLE CONTRACTING PARTIES

Notes: Contact information of National Focal Points and Permanent Representatives of eligible Contracting Parties will be provided to applicants. The information will be updated before the opening of the call.

APPENDIX 4: SUBMISSION FORM FOR PRE-PROPOSALS

Notes: The Submission Form for Pre-proposals can be downloaded at: [URL]

Guidelines for Submission of Pre-proposals can be downloaded at: [URL]

APPENDIX 5: INFORMATION ON PROJECT AGREEMENTS

Notes: This Appendix will provide basic information on basic provisions of the project agreements for those proposals that will get approved. This information provides practical insights for finance and operation officers in applicant organizations. It also informs applicants that, in line with the decision of the Governing Body, the agreement will require applicants (1) to make all plant genetic resources for food and agriculture listed in Annex I of the International Treaty that are within the scope of the project available according to the terms and conditions of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing; and (2) to make all information generated by the project publicly available within one year from the date of completion of the project.