



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



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

E

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

**TWELFTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING
GROUP TO ENHANCE THE FUNCTIONING OF THE
MULTILATERAL SYSTEM**

Rome, Italy, 16–19 September 2024

Annotated Provisional Agenda and Timetable

INTRODUCTION

1. At its Ninth Session in New Delhi, India, the Governing Body decided to re-establish the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (Working Group), to finalize the enhancement of the functioning of the Multilateral System by the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body,¹ tentatively scheduled for 24–29 November 2025.
2. The Governing Body noted that while a range of views exist among Contracting Parties on the matter, Contracting Parties commit to working together towards adopting a package of measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System through the process established in the Resolution, with the following shared aims:
 - Increase the benefits that arise from the Multilateral System for all Contracting Parties and users, both monetary and non-monetary;
 - Increase user-based income to the Benefit-sharing Fund in a sustainable and predictable long-term manner;
 - Expand the crops and plant genetic diversity available through the Multilateral System;
 - Improve the availability of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the Multilateral System;
 - Make the Multilateral System more dynamic given that there are developments and emerging issues in science, innovation, plant breeding and global policy environment;
 - Create legal certainty, administrative simplicity and transparency for everyone participating in the Multilateral System.
3. The Governing Body decided that the process to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System will have the following features:
 - Be inclusive, regionally and gender balanced and including all stakeholder groups;

¹ [Resolution 3/2022](#)

FAO-ITPGRFA documents can be consulted at www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/1674748/

- Be open-ended, so that any Contracting Party may attend, provided that speaking rights are limited to a certain number of members;
- Be supported by robust regional or interregional consultations; and
- Be supported by virtual meetings and/or consultations (including hybrid meetings) as well as physical meetings which are held in a transparent manner, while decisions would be made at physical meetings.

4. The Governing Body appointed Mr. Sunil Archak (India) and Mr. Michael Ryan (Australia) as the two Co-Chairs of the Working Group.

5. At its Tenth Session, the Governing Body further elaborated the mandate of the Working Group. In particular, it endorsed the proposal of the Working Group to use the “June 2019 draft package” as a starting point for its further work; and it requested the Co-Chairs to give early attention to the three identified “hotspots”: digital sequence information/genetic sequence data, expansion of Annex I, and payment structure and rates.²

6. It noted that, with a view to make sufficient progress, four formal in-person meetings of the Working Group will be required in the biennium 2024-2025. This meeting is the second meeting during the biennium.

7. Also, the Governing Body took note of decision 15/9 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources and urged the Working Group to take this decision and related developments into account when addressing the issue of digital sequence information/genetic sequence data in the context of the process to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral system.³

8. The Working Group had originally been established by the Governing Body at its Fifth Session.⁴ It met nine times between 2014 and 2019, and twice so far between 2023 and 2024, following its re-establishment in 2022. The reports of all its previous meetings are available on the website of the International Treaty at www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/en/.

9. A general overview and summary of relevant background information, as well as an indicative timeline, are available at www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/the-multilateral-system/enhancement-process/en/.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

10. The twelfth meeting of the Working Group will be held at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, from 16 to 19 September 2024. Arrangements have been made to allow Regions to hold regional and interregional consultations on Sunday, 15 September 2024.

11. The opening session will begin at 10.00 on Monday, 16 September 2024.

12. The meeting will be held in Arabic, English, French and Spanish, in accordance with Resolution 3/2022.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

13. The present document annotates the *Provisional Agenda* and contains a provisional indicative timetable, for the consideration of the Working Group, so that it could adopt its agenda and organize its work for this meeting.

14. The list of documents prepared for this meeting is contained in document IT/OWG-EFMLS-12/24/2/Inf.1, *List of documents*. The documents are available on the website of the International Treaty at <https://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/1674748/>.

² [Resolution 3/2023](#)

³ [Resolution 3/2023](#)

⁴ [Resolution 2/2013](#), Part IV

ITEM 3. PACKAGE OF MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE FUNCTIONING OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM

15. At its eleventh meeting, the Working Group reviewed the main elements and concepts of the “June 2019 draft package” and provided recommendations to the Co-Chairs for updating the package to prepare a negotiating text for the twelfth meeting.⁵ Regions, Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders provided further inputs on issues other than the three hotspots through written submissions in reply to a notification issued by the Secretary.⁶

16. Considering these inputs, recommendations and suggestions, the Co-Chairs revised the “June 2019 draft package” and prepared their proposal of a draft package of measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System, as contained in the document IT/OWG-EFMLS-12/24/3.1 Rev.1, *Package of measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System: Proposal by the Co-Chairs*.

17. The Co-Chairs’ proposal contains text of a draft resolution, a draft revised Standard Material Transfer Agreement, and draft text for an amendment of Annex I to the International Treaty.

18. The Co-Chairs provide further information and explanations on the options chosen and revisions made in the document IT/OWG-EFMLS-12/24/3.2 Rev.1, *Explanatory notes on the Co-Chairs’ proposal for a package of measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System*.

19. For the discussions under this agenda item, the Working Group may also want to consider the documents, IT/OWG-EFMLS-12/24/3/Inf.1, *Policy brief on digital sequence information/genetic sequence data*, and IT/OWG-EFMLS-12/24/3/Inf.2, *Updated analysis on sales and profitability within the seed sector* (in-session presentation). The inputs received from Regions, Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders are provided in the document, IT/OWG-EFMLS-12/24/3/Inf.3, *Compilation of submissions received*.

20. The Working Group is invited to review the Co-Chairs’ proposal and to agree on a draft negotiating text for its thirteenth meeting.

ITEM 4. DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER RELEVANT FORA

21. The Working Group, at its eleventh meeting, recommended that the Secretary continue to monitor and participate in relevant processes, to that he could provide updates to the Working Group.⁷

22. During the meeting, the Working Group will receive a number brief summaries of major developments under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Health Organization, and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

23. The Working Group may wish to consider the relevance and possible implications of these developments for its work.

ITEM 5. FUTURE WORK

24. The Co-Chairs updated the indicative timeline of the process, which continues to be available on the website of the International Treaty at <https://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/the-multilateral-system/enhancement-process/en/>.

25. Under this agenda item, the Co-Chairs will present their plans for the next steps in the process, for discussion with the Working Group, based on the document IT/OWG-EFMLS-12/24/5.

26. The Working Group is invited to provide input to the Co-Chairs on its future work. It may also want to provide guidance on any further documents it may wish to be prepared for its thirteenth meeting.

⁵ [IT/OWG-EFMLS-11/24/Report](#), paras. 6 and 7.

⁶ [NCP GB11-005](#), issued on 30 April 2024.

⁷ [IT/OWG-EFMLS-11/24/Report](#), para. 14.

ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS

27. Under this agenda item, the Working Group may wish to discuss any other relevant matters that may be raised by its members.

ITEM 7. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

28. Under this agenda item, the Working Group is invited to consider and approve the report of its meeting.

29. The draft report will be available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

30. The meeting is expected to end at 18.00 on 19 September 2024.

*Appendix***PROVISIONAL INDICATIVE TIMETABLE**

Time	Agenda Item	Title	Documents
Monday, 16 September 2024			
Morning			
10.00-13.00	1	Opening of the meeting	
	2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work	Resolution 3/2023 Resolution 3/2022 IT/OWG-EFMLS-12/24/2.1 IT/OWG-EFMLS-12/24/2.2 Rev.1 IT/OWG-EFMLS-12/24/2/Inf.1
	3	Package of measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System	IT/OWG-EFMLS-12/24/3.1 Rev.1 IT/OWG-EFMLS-12/24/3.2 Rev.1 IT/OWG-EFMLS-12/24/3/Inf.1 IT/OWG-EFMLS-12/24/3/Inf.2 IT/OWG-EFMLS-12/24/3/Inf.3
Monday, 16 September 2024			
Afternoon			
15.00-18.00	3	<i>Package of measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System (continued)</i>	
Tuesday, 17 September 2024			
Morning			
10.00-13.00	4	Developments in other relevant fora	In-session updates
	3	<i>Package of measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System (continued)</i>	
Tuesday, 17 September 2024			
Afternoon			
15.00-18.00	3	<i>Package of measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System (continued)</i>	
Wednesday, 18 September 2024			
Morning			

10.00-13.00	3	<i>Package of measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System (continued)</i>	
Wednesday, 18 September 2024			
Afternoon			
15.00-18.00	3	<i>Package of measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System (continued)</i>	
	5	Future work	IT/OWG-EFMLS-12/24/5
	6	Other matters	
Thursday, 19 September 2024			
Morning			
10.00-13.00		[open]	
Thursday, 19 September 2024			
Afternoon			
15.00-18.00	7	Adoption of the Report	