



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



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

Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Kigali, Rwanda, 30 October - 3 November 2017

Annotated Provisional Agenda and Timetable

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Governing Body is convened under the provisions of Article 19 of the Treaty, and is open to all Contracting Parties to the International Treaty, and to observers.
2. In accordance with Rule 4.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Body, the Session is convened by the Chairperson, in agreement with the Bureau, and in consultation with the Director-General of the FAO and the Secretary. The meeting will be held from 30 October to 3 November 2017.
3. In accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Body, the Secretary has notified those governmental or non-governmental bodies and agencies, which have informed the Secretariat of their wish to be represented at the meeting, so that they may be admitted as observers. A list of such bodies and agencies will be made available to the Governing Body for its consideration.
4. This document annotates the *Provisional Agenda*¹ and provides a proposed timetable for the consideration of the Governing Body.

Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body

5. At the end of its Sixth Session, the Governing Body elected its Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons for its Seventh Session. Mr Muhamad Sabran (Asia) was elected Chairperson. Six Vice-Chairpersons were elected: Mr Javad Mozafari (Near East Region); Mr Michel Ryan (South West Pacific); Mr Antonio Sa Ricarte (Latin America and Caribbean); Ms Felicitas Katepa-Mupondwa (North America); Ms Svanhild-Isabelle Batta Torheim (Europe); and Mr Francis Leku Azenaku (Africa).

¹ Document IT/GB-7/17/1, Provisional Agenda.

This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page; an FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications. Other documents can be consulted at <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/888771/>



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6. In accordance with Rule 2.1 of the *Rules of Procedure*,² the Government of Australia designated Ms Cathrine Stephenson, in place of Mr Michel Ryan, as the Vice-Chairperson representing the South West Pacific. The Government of Canada designated Ms Christiane Deslauriers, in place of Ms Felicitas Katepa-Mupondwa. Furthermore, after the sad passing away of Mr Francis Leku Azenaku, the Government of Cameroon designated Mr Médi MOUNGUI to serve in the Bureau as Vice Chair for the Africa region.

Opening of the Session

7. The opening session will begin at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 30 October 2017. The Governing Body will hear welcoming addresses by representatives of the Government of Rwanda, and by local authorities, as well as special addresses by the Director-General of FAO and invited expert speakers representing major stakeholders of the International Treaty.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

8. Under this Section, the Governing Body is invited to consider organizational matters that pertain to the organization of the Seventh Session, including the adoption of the Agenda and the Timetable, election of the Rapporteur, appointment of the Credentials Committee and establishment of a Budget Committee.

ITEM 1 Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

9. The provisional agenda was prepared by the Secretary under the guidance of the Bureau of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body, in accordance with Rule 5.1 of the Rules of Procedure. The agenda for this meeting has been organized in five parts as follows:

- I. Organizational Matters
- II. Introductory and General Policy Matters
- III. Implementation of the International Treaty
- IV. Programme of Work and Budget and Related Matters
- V. Administrative and Other Matters

10. In order to help with the organization of future Governing Body session agendas and following the request of the Governing Body at its Fifth Session, the Secretariat prepared a Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty. As mandated by the Governing Body at its Sixth Session, the Programme has been updated with the inputs from Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders covering four biennia as contained in the document, IT/GB-7/17/26.

11. All substantive agenda items have corresponding working documents, in addition to several information documents, where relevant. The structure of the working documents has been streamlined to reduce their length, whilst maintaining the necessary elements for consideration by the Governing Body. As is the usual practice, most working documents contain elements for possible Resolutions or indicate the guidance being sought from the Governing Body.

² If a Bureau member resigns from his or her position or finds him or herself permanently unable to exercise his or her functions, the Contracting Party of that Bureau member shall designate another representative so that he or she may replace the said member during the remainder of the term.

12. The Governing Body is invited to consider the provisional agenda contained in document IT/GB-7/17/1, *Provisional Agenda*, and the provisional timetable suggested in this document, in order to adopt its Agenda and organize its work for this session.

ITEM 2 Election of the Rapporteur of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body

13. In accordance with Rule II.1 of the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Governing Body at its First Session, “*the Governing Body shall elect [...] a Rapporteur from among the delegates, alternates, experts and advisers of the Contracting Parties*”. The Governing Body is invited to do so, under this Item.

ITEM 3 Appointment of the Credentials Committee

14. Article 19.4 of the International Treaty provides that each Contracting Party shall have one vote and may be represented at sessions of the Governing Body by a single delegate, who may be accompanied by an alternate, and by experts and advisers. Alternates, experts and advisers may take part in the proceedings of the Governing Body, but may not vote, except in the case of their being duly authorized to substitute for the delegate.

15. According to Rule IV.5 of the Rules of Procedure, “*...each Contracting Party shall communicate to the Secretary of the Treaty the name of its representatives on the Governing Body before the opening of each session of the Governing Body*”.

16. Rule XIII of the Rules of Procedure further states that “*the provisions of the General Rules of the FAO shall apply mutatis mutandis to all matters not specifically dealt with under the Treaty or the present Rules*”. According to Rules III.3 and III.4 of the General Rules of the FAO, a Credentials Committee shall be established to examine credentials.

17. The Governing Body may wish to establish a Credentials Committee, comprising one representative per region, to examine the credentials at this session, and report back to the Governing Body in Plenary.

ITEM 4 Establishment of the Budget Committee

18. According to Rule II of the *Financial Rules of the Governing Body* (Financial Rules), the financial period is two calendar years, coinciding with the financial period of FAO, and Rule III.4 provides that the draft budget shall be prepared by the Secretary and circulated to Contracting Parties before regular sessions of the Governing Body. The draft Work Programme and Budget for the biennium 2018-2019 is contained in document IT/GB-7/17/28, *Draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2018-2019 biennium*, and in its addenda.

19. The Governing Body may wish to establish a Budget Committee, which may meet following Plenary proceedings, to translate the decisions taken by the Plenary into budgetary terms, review the draft budget accordingly, and recommend a draft Budget for the 2018-2019 Work Programme for the consideration of the Plenary.

20. In accordance with established practice, it is suggested that the Budget Committee consist of a maximum of two representatives per region acting as the spokespersons for their respective regions, and that all Contracting Parties be able to attend as observers. It is also suggested that there be two Co-Chairs, one from a developing country and one from a developed country.

III. INTRODUCTORY AND GENERAL POLICY MATTERS

21. Under this Section, the Governing Body is invited to consider reports on introductory and general policy matters. The Governing Body is invited to take note of these reports and provide any further guidance it considers appropriate.

ITEM 5 Report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body

22. At its Sixth Session, the Governing Body requested the Chairperson and the Bureau of the Seventh Session to undertake a range of tasks. Since the election of its members, the Bureau met two times and held several telephone conferences. The Chairperson will present his report on actions taken by himself and the Bureau in accordance with the requests of the Governing Body. The report of the Chairperson is contained in the document, IT/GB-7/17/4.

ITEM 6 Report of the Secretary of the Governing Body

23. In accordance with Article 20 of the International Treaty, the Secretary will report to the Governing Body on activities undertaken in accordance with the decisions of the Governing Body during the current biennium. The report of the Secretary is contained in the document, IT/GB-7/17/5.

ITEM 7 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Role of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

24. By Resolution 13/2015, the Governing Body agreed on the theme for this Session: “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Role of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture”. In order to facilitate its discussion on the theme and, in particular, the linkages between the International Treaty and the 2030 Agenda, the Secretariat has prepared the document”, IT/GB-7/17/6. The document contains elements for a Resolution in the *Appendix*, which the Governing Body is invited to consider and adopt, as guidance on the contribution of the International Treaty to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

25. Under this Section, the Governing Body will be invited to review and adopt resolutions on the major substantive issues arising in the implementation of the core systems, mechanisms and strategies of the Treaty. In accordance with Articles 19.3a and 19.3b, these resolutions will “*adopt plans and programmes for the implementation of this Treaty*” and will “*provide policy direction and guidance to monitor, and adopt such recommendations as necessary, for the implementation of the Treaty, in particular for the operation of the Multilateral System*”. Through the resolutions the Governing Body also “*establish[es] and maintain[s] cooperation with other relevant international organizations and Treaty bodies, including in particular the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, on matters covered by this Treaty, including their participation in the funding strategy.*”

26. This section presents the relevant agenda items in two blocks. The first one groups the items most closely related to the enhancement of the functioning and implementation of the International Treaty and the second one with the monitoring of the implementation.

ITEM 8 Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing

27. At its Fifth Session, the Governing Body established the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System (Working Group), by Resolution 2/2013, with the mandate to develop a range of measures for consideration and decision by the Governing Body that will:

- (a) increase user-based payments and contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund in a sustainable and predictable long-term manner, and
- (b) enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System by additional measures.

28. At its Sixth Session, the Governing Body, by Resolution 1/2015, decided to extend the mandate of the Working Group, for the 2016-2017 biennium. In the same decision, the Governing Body requested the Working Group, amongst others, to elaborate a full draft revised Standard Material Transfer Agreement, focusing especially on the development of a Subscription System; to elaborate options for adapting the coverage of the Multilateral System; to consider issues regarding genetic information associated with the material accessed from the Multilateral System; and to liaise with the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy, including on the link between increased user-based payments and on proposals to develop a mechanism of Contracting Party contributions.

29. The Working Group held three meetings during this biennium, being its fifth, sixth and seventh meetings. At its fifth meeting, upon the retirement of Mr Modesto Fernandez, the Working Group elected Mr Javad Mozafari (Iran) to serve as Co-Chairperson together with Mr Bert Visser (The Netherlands).

30. As was requested by the Governing Body, the Working Group submitted the results of its discussions six months before the Seventh Session of the Governing Body. The document, IT/GB-7/17/7, *Report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System*, contains the previously published Report of the sixth meeting of the Working Group, presenting the package of measures to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System resulting from the work of the Working Group during this biennium. The draft revised Standard Material Transfer Agreement proposed by the Working Group is contained in *Appendix 2* of the Report.

31. The document, IT/GB-7/17/7 Add.1, contains the Report of the seventh meeting of the Working Group, providing further results from the work of the Working Group during this biennium, including on the “Growth Plan” for a coordinated and balanced process for the package of measures to come into effect.

32. The Co-Chairs of the Working Group will provide an oral report on the outcomes of the work of the Working Group this biennium and introduce the document IT/GB-7/17/31, *Co-chairs’ Proposal from the Outcomes of the Meetings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System*. In this document, the Co-chairs of the Working Group present their proposals to the Governing Body, building on the outcomes of the deliberations of the Working Group during the 2016-2017 biennium. It includes elements for a draft Resolution (*Appendix 1*) that comprise the “Growth Plan” (*Annex 1*) and draft text for amending *Annex 1* of the International Treaty (*Annex 3*).

ITEM 9 Proposal for an Amendment of the International Treaty

33. Under Article 23 of the International Treaty, amendments may be proposed by any Contracting Party for adoption at a session of the Governing Body. Under this item, the Governing Body is invited to consider document IT/GB-7/17/8, containing a proposal by the Government of Switzerland for an amendment of *Annex 1* to the International Treaty transmitted to the Secretary on 21 April 2017. The proposal was submitted in the context of the ongoing discussions on the enhancement of the functioning of the Multilateral System.

34. The Governing Body is invited to consider the proposed amendment of the International Treaty, and may wish to consider the proposal either separately or in conjunction with the discussions on the enhancement of the functioning of the Multilateral System. Should it not reach consensus on

the proposal, it may wish to postpone the decision until its next session or provide any further guidance it deems appropriate.

ITEM 10 Enhancement of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty

35. At its Sixth Session, the Governing Body decided to reconvene the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy (the Committee), in order to provide a basis for the review of the Funding Strategy, with a view to enhance its functioning, at the Seventh Session of the Governing Body. The Committee held two meetings during this biennium, being its eighth and ninth meetings, respectively, in March 2017 and in June 2017, both in Rome, Italy. The Committee elected Mr. Pierre du Plessis (Namibia) and Mr. Alwin Kopse (Switzerland) as its Co-Chairpersons.

36. The Co-Chairpersons of the Committee will provide an oral report of the work undertaken during the biennium. The Governing Body is invited to consider document IT/GB-7/17/12, *Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy*, which describes the work undertaken by the Committee during the biennium in preparing the basis for a review of the Funding Strategy by the Governing Body. The Committee prepared, for the consideration of the Governing Body, elements of a draft Resolution on Enhancing the Functioning of the Funding Strategy, as contained in *Annex 1* of the document, and which also provides an Annotated Outline for an Updated Funding Strategy.

ITEM 11 The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing

37. Under this item on operations and implementation of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, the Governing Body is invited to consider issues related to the ongoing operations and general implementation of the Multilateral System. These include, *inter alia*, the availability of material in the Multilateral System, the reviews and assessments provided for in the International Treaty, the operations of the Third Party Beneficiary, and the practice of the CGIAR Centres regarding plant genetic resources for food and agriculture that are under development.

General Operations and Implementation

38. Through Resolution 1/2015, the Governing Body,

Decid[ed] to include in the agenda of the Seventh Session a general review of the availability of material in the Multilateral System including the new accessions during the biennium, and **request[ed]** the Secretariat to prepare a document providing information on materials included in the Multilateral System by Contracting Parties and from natural and legal persons.

39. Document IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 4, *Report on the Availability of Material in the Multilateral System*, has been prepared pursuant to the request of the Governing Body.

40. The Governing Body is also invited to consider document IT/GB-7/17/9, *Implementation and Operations of the Multilateral System*, which provides an overview of developments in the operation of the Multilateral System during the 2016-2017 biennium. It includes detailed information on the support provided to users to facilitate the generation and use of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, the reporting activities and the coverage of the Multilateral System. It contains an update on new notifications to the Secretary of material in the Multilateral System and analyses, at an aggregated level, of the data contained in the International Treaty's Data Store. Furthermore, it provides a brief overview of the reviews and assessments provided for in the International Treaty in relation to the Multilateral System.

The Third Party Beneficiary

41. Under this agenda item, the Governing Body is also invited to consider the biennial report from the FAO, acting as Third Party Beneficiary, on the implementation of the related Procedures.³ The document, IT/GB-7/17/10, *Report on the Operations of the Third Party Beneficiary*, contains information on the closure of a potential case for the Third Party Beneficiary, the status of the Third Party Beneficiary Operational Reserve and the technical implementation of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures through the daily operations of the Easy-SMTA Data Store.

42. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the report and provide further guidance for the effective operation of the Third Party Beneficiary. In particular, the Governing Body is invited to re-emphasize the importance of Article 4.2 of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures. This Article stipulates that the Third Party Beneficiary may receive information on possible non-compliance related to the obligations of the provider and recipient under a Standard Material Transfer Agreement from the parties, or from any other natural or legal persons.

Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Development

43. At its Sixth Session, the Governing Body requested the Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR Centres) that are signatories to Agreements under Article 15 of the Treaty, to provide further information on the additional terms and conditions that the Centres apply when transferring Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Development. The document, IT/GB-7/17/11, *Report on the Practice of the CGIAR Centres for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Development*, contains a review of the information that CGIAR Centres provided to the Secretariat.

44. The Governing Body is invited to request that the CGIAR Centres continue the practice of including information on the scope and content of additional terms and conditions in their biennial reports on implementation of the Article 15 agreements. In addition, given the apparent relevance of mechanisms for the management of intellectual assets by CGIAR Centres to the management of PGRFA under development, the Governing Body may also wish to invite the CGIAR System to ensure regular communication to the Governing Body, and intersessionally to the Contracting Parties through the Secretariat, on the status of the implementation of the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets, as it relates to germplasm under the International Treaty.

45. The Governing Body is invited to consider the relevant documentation and the elements for a resolution contained in *Appendix 2* of document IT/GB-7/17/9, *Appendix 1* of document IT/GB-7/17/10; and in the *Appendix* to document IT/GB-7/17/11 and in any other relevant documents.

ITEM 12 The Funding Strategy

46. The Funding Strategy seeks to attract financial resources from a wide range of funding mechanisms in support of International Treaty implementation. These include funding sources under the direct control of the Governing Body, such as the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF), as well as other multilateral channels, such as the Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), regional and bilateral channels, and various funding mechanisms for national activities on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture .

47. The document, IT/GB-7/17/13, *Report on Implementation of the Funding Strategy*, seeks the guidance of the Governing Body on implementation of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty. The current biennium will mark a transition towards a more programmatic and strategic approach to implementation of the Funding Strategy that is more sustainable and diversified than in the past. A number of policy developments relating to implementation of the Funding Strategy have occurred since the last session of the Governing Body. Providing a summary of the various policy

³ The Governing Body approved the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures at its Third Session, through Resolution 5/2009.

developments that have occurred during the biennium related to implementation of the Funding Strategy, this document also reports on progress made in implementation of the BSF. The document IT/GB-7/17/Inf.5, *Report on the Benefit-sharing Fund: 2016-2017*, provides a progress report on activities related to the Benefit-sharing Fund during the biennium to the Governing Body.

48. The Governing Body is invited to adopt a Resolution to provide further guidance on the implementation of the Funding Strategy, which will have two parts. Part I relates to the review of the Funding Strategy, and the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy has provided elements for this part of the resolution. Part II relates to the on-going implementation of the Funding Strategy and elements for this part are contained in the *Appendix* to the document, IT/GB-7/17/13.

ITEM 13 The Global Information System

49. At its last Session, the Governing Body adopted the first Programme of Work on the Global Information System (GLIS). Under this item, the Governing Body is invited to take into consideration document IT/GB-7/17/14, which provides an update on the implementation of the Programme, including the development and adoption of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs), the GLIS Portal, training activities at regional and national levels, mobilization of resources and the strengthening of partnerships and collaborations. The document also reflects the advice provided by the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System. The reports of the two meetings of the Committee have been also made available as information documents, IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 6 and IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 7.

50. At its Sixth Session, the Governing Body invited the stakeholders of the DivSeek Initiative to report on the implications of the technologies underlying the initiative for the objectives of the International Treaty. At this session, the Governing Body is invited to consider the document, IT/GB-7/17/15, which presents the inputs received and provides an update on the status of the relationship between the International Treaty and the DivSeek Initiative.

51. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the progress report and other relevant documents, and provide any guidance it may consider appropriate for the further implementation of the Programme of Work on GLIS and related activities. The *Appendix* to document IT/GB-7/17/14 contains elements for a possible Resolution for consideration by the Governing Body.

ITEM 14 The Programme of Work on Sustainable Use

52. At its Sixth Session, the Governing Body endorsed the revised *Programme of Work on the Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its Supporting Initiatives for the period 2016–2019*, and reconvened the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use (the Committee).

53. The Committee met once in October 2016 in Vienna, Austria, and provided advice to the Secretary and recommendations to the Governing Body, as contained in the document, IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 9, *Report of the Third Meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use*. A number of other activities and initiatives were also carried out by the Secretariat, Contracting Parties and other stakeholders towards the implementation of Article 6 of the International Treaty and related provisions.

54. On the basis of the advice provided by the Committee, document IT/GB-7/17/16, *Implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, contains elements for a possible Resolution as a basis for the Governing Body to provide further guidance for the effective implementation of Article 6 and the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of PGRFA. These elements include reconvening the Committee under its current or revised terms of reference, and requesting the Secretary to explore the possibility of undertaking future activities to enhance the Programme of Work on the Sustainable Use of PGRFA.

55. The Governing Body is also provided with additional information on the elements and the structure of the prototype of the *Toolbox for Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* in document IT/GB-6/15/Inf.8, and on the *Strategy Paper on the Programmatic Approach of the Platform for the Co-development and Transfer of Technologies, for the Biennium 2018/2019*, in document IT/GB-6/15/Inf.16.

ITEM 15 Farmers' Rights

56. Through Resolution 5/2015, the Governing Body, *inter alia*, requested the Secretariat to engage Contracting Parties and relevant organizations in taking initiatives to gather information at national, regional and global levels for exchanging knowledge, views, experiences and best practices on the implementation of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty. The Governing Body is invited to consider document IT/GB-7/17/17, *Report on the Implementation of Farmers' Rights*, that reports on activities undertaken on Article 9 during this biennium and provides information on stakeholder initiatives, as well as on discussions and partnerships with other relevant fora and processes.

57. Under this agenda item, the Governments of Indonesia and Norway have also made a submission to the Governing Body, for its consideration, contained in the document, IT/GB-7/17/Circ. 1, *Submission from Norway and Indonesia containing the Co-Chairs proposal from the Global Consultation on Farmers' Rights*. The Governing Body has also been provided the following documents:

IT/GB-7/17/Inf.10, *Proceedings of the Global Consultation on Farmers' Rights*;

IT/GB-7/17/Inf.11, *Results of the Online Consultation to Gather Views and Needs for the Implementation of Farmers' Rights*; and

IT/GB-7/17/Inf.14, *Proceedings of the Symposium on Possible Interrelations between the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants*.

58. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the information contained in these documents, and to provide guidance on the implementation of Farmers' Rights, taking into account the elements for a possible Resolution provided in the *Appendix* to document IT/GB-7/17/17.

ITEM 16 Compliance

59. The Compliance Committee held its second meeting from 21 to 22 February 2017 in Rome, Italy. The meeting was convened in accordance with Section III.5 and Section V of the *Compliance Procedures*.

60. The document, IT/GB-7/17/18, *Report of the Compliance Committee*, describes the work undertaken by the Committee during the current biennium in exercising its function, in accordance with Section V of the *Compliance Procedures*, to assist the Governing Body in monitoring implementation by Contracting Parties of their obligations under the International Treaty, on the basis of reports provided by Contracting Parties. Accordingly, the Committee prepared a synthesis and an analysis of their findings based on the reports received.

61. The report also provides information on the necessity for the election of new members of the Compliance Committee, as the term to be served by six members will expire on 31 December 2017.

62. The Governing Body is invited to consider the Report of the Compliance Committee and the draft Resolution on Compliance contained in *Annex 3* of the Report, prepared by the Committee.

ITEM 17 Cooperation with International Instruments and Organizations

17.1 Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Nagoya Protocol

63. Under this Agenda item, the Governing Body is invited to consider document IT/GB-7/17/19, *Report on Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity*, which provides a summary of key areas for decision-making by the Governing Body on cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as well as of recent developments in the continuing close relationship between the its Secretariat and Secretariat of the CBD.

64. The report of the Executive Secretary of the CBD on cooperation with the International Treaty is provided in document IT/GB-7/17/Inf.13, *Report of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on Cooperation with the International Treaty*.

17.2 Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust

65. Under this Agenda item, the Executive Director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust (the Crop Trust) will present a report from its Executive Board, which is contained in the document IT/GB-7/17/21, *Report from the Global Crop Diversity Trust*. The Report is submitted to the Governing Body pursuant to Article 3 of the *Relationship Agreement with the Global Crop Diversity Trust* and provides an update on the institutional and programmatic developments in the Crop Trust that occurred during the current biennium.

66. In addition, the document IT/GB-7/17/20, *Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust*, provides a summary of collaborative activities and initiatives undertaken by the Secretariat with the Crop Trust in this biennium, in particular with regard to Resolution 8/2015, *Policy Guidance to the Global Crop Diversity Trust*. The Governing Body is invited to consider the elements contained in the *Appendix II* to document IT/GB-7/17/20, and adopt a Resolution as its policy guidance to the Crop Trust for the 2018-19 biennium.

17.3 Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

67. The Governing Body has consistently urged close cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. At its Sixth Session, the Governing Body further agreed to keep the matter of the functional division of tasks and activities between the Commission and the Governing Body under review and requested the Secretary to regularly report any relevant developments in the cooperation with the Commission.

68. The document IT/GB-7/17/22, *Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, is prepared jointly by the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the Commission. It summarizes the main developments in the cooperation with the Commission since the Sixth Session of the Governing Body and contains information on how to further expand on-going and possible future cooperation with the Commission in specific areas. The report from the Secretariat of the Commission is provided in the document, IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 23, *Report from the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

69. By Resolution 9/2015, the Governing Body agreed to keep the matter of the functional division of tasks and activities between the Governing Body and the Commission under review and requested the Secretary to regularly report any relevant developments in the cooperation with the Commission. The Governing Body is invited to, again, keep the matter under review or provide any further guidance it considers appropriate.

70. The *Appendix* to document IT/GB-7/17/22 contains elements for a possible Resolution for consideration by the Governing Body.

17.4 Cooperation with Other International Bodies and Organizations

71. In accordance with the provisions of the International Treaty and the Resolutions of the Governing Body, collaboration and partnerships with other international bodies and organizations is essential to support and advance the implementation of the International Treaty. The document, IT/GB-7/17/25, *Report on Cooperation with Other International Bodies and Organizations*, provides a summary report on cooperation and collaborative activities that have taken place during the current biennium.

72. At its second meeting, the Bureau recalled that the adoption of the International Treaty gave the impetus to the Norwegian government to proceed with the establishment of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault and considered how to further improve the linkages between the International Treaty and the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. It agreed that these issues should be brought to the attention of the Governing Body for discussion. *Addendum 1* to document IT/GB-7/17/25 contains the report on the management and operation of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, submitted by the Government of Norway to the Governing Body, following ten years of operation of the Vault. *Inter alia*, the Government of Norway extends an invitation for the Chairperson of the Governing Body to act as the Chairperson of the Seed Vault's International Advisory Panel.

73. Under this agenda item, the Governing Body may also wish to consider additional information received from other partner organizations. The Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation has provided a report, IT/GB-7/17/Inf.12, *Report of the Secretary of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation on the Collaboration with the International Treaty*.

74. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the information provided under this agenda item and consider elements for a Resolution, contained in the *Appendix* to the document IT/GB-7/17/25 and in *Appendix II* to the document IT/GB-7/17/25 Add.1, *Report from Norway on the Management of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault*, to provide further guidance for continued and effective cooperation with relevant organizations and bodies.

75. Furthermore, under this sub-item of the agenda, the Governing Body is invited to consider the biennial report from international institutions that have signed agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty. The document, IT/GB-7/17/24, *Reports from Institutions that have concluded Article 15 Agreements*, contains a review of the two reports that the Secretariat received, respectively from the CGIAR Centres collectively, and from the Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. Given the increasing level and scope of interface and the engagement by relevant institutions with different work tracks of the International Treaty, the Governing Body may wish to consider requesting the Secretary to actively undertake more regular consultations with the signatory institutions in the next biennium.

76. The document, IT/GB-7/17/24, also provides updates on certain recent developments and related actions taken by the Secretary in regard to international germplasm collections that are held under Article 15 of the Treaty, whose continued maintenance has been reported to be experiencing major difficulties or are under threat. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the ongoing efforts to secure the international collections whose orderly maintenance is at risk or threatened, and to request that the Secretary continue exercising his responsibilities under the agreements concluded under Article 15, in partnership with host governments and other relevant technical institutions.

V. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET AND RELATED MATTERS

77. Under this Section, and in accordance with Article 19.3d of the International Treaty, the Governing Body is invited to adopt the Work Programme and Budget of the International Treaty for 2018 - 2019 and consider related matters, including a Multi-year Programme of Work covering the period up to 2025.

ITEM 18 Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2018-2025

78. At its last Session, the Governing Body requested the Secretariat to prepare an updated draft Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2018-2025 with a list of activities, outputs, outcomes and cost estimates. As requested by Resolution 13/2015, document IT/GB-7/17/26 incorporates the inputs received during the biennium from Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders.

79. The Governing Body is invited to consider and adopt the draft Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2018-2025, as contained in the *Appendix* to the document, IT/GB-7/17/26.

ITEM 19 Adoption of the Work Programme and Budget

80. Article 19.3 of the International Treaty provides for the Governing Body to develop plans and programmes for the implementation of the International Treaty and to adopt a budget for the International Treaty. Furthermore, by Resolution 11/2015, the Governing Body requested the Secretary to prepare and submit the draft Work Programme and Budget for the biennium 2018-2019 at this Session, including a Secretariat staffing table and a draft resolution.

81. The two main working documents in relation to the budget for the forthcoming biennium are IT/GB-7/17/27, *Financial Report on Progress of the Work Programme and Budget for the 2016-2017 Biennium*, and IT/GB-7/17/28, *Draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2018-19 Biennium*.

82. While the first document deals with the financial position of the International Treaty in its entirety and has been prepared using the financial data available as of 30 June 2017, the second one presents the draft Core Work Programme and Core Administrative Budget. Document IT/GB-7/17/28 also contains elements for a Resolution for consideration by the Governing Body.

83. The Core Work Programme and related activities, as presented in Document IT/GB-7/17/28, may be subject to variation depending on the decisions taken by the Governing Body, particularly in relation to the “Core Implementing Functions” contained in *Annex 3* of the Document. Accordingly, the Budget Committee is invited to assess that any eventual variations and the ensuing financial implications are correctly reflected in the Core Administrative Budget. In accordance with established practice, the Budget Committee evaluates the financial reasonableness of the variations in the proposed activities while respecting the integrity of the decisions adopted by the Governing Body in Plenary.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER MATTERS

84. Under this Section, the Governing Body is invited to consider any other business and approve the Report of its Seventh Session, embodying “*its decisions, views, recommendations and conclusions*”.⁴ Matters under this section relate to the appointment of the Chairperson, Vice-chairpersons and Secretary of the Governing Body, as well as the consideration of a Communication Strategy for the International Treaty, and the determination of the date and place of its Eighth Session. Under its final agenda item, the Governing Body is invited to approve its Report, which shall include all Resolutions adopted at its Seventh Session.

ITEM 20 Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

85. By Resolution 12/2015, the Governing Body decided to include an item on the appointment of the Secretary of the International Treaty in the Agenda for the Seventh Session. Under Article 20.1 of

⁴ Rule 8.1, Rules of Procedure of the Governing Body

the International Treaty, the Secretary of the International Treaty is appointed by the Director-General of FAO with the approval of the Governing Body.

86. Under this agenda item, two separate issues are before the Governing Body for its consideration. The first relates to the approval, by the Governing Body, of the current appointment of the Secretary made by the Director-General of FAO. The second issue relates to the consideration and adoption of the long-term procedures for the selection, appointment and renewal of the Secretary.

87. In December 2016, the FAO Council stressed the urgency of filling the vacant position of Secretary of the International Treaty. It also agreed, on an exceptional basis, to a process for the selection of the Secretary of the International Treaty, based on FAO's standard procedures for the appointment of senior staff. The procedures required the inclusion of two representatives from Contracting Parties of the International Treaty on the interview panel.

88. Following consideration of the Report of the Interview Panel, the Director-General decided to select Mr Kent Nnadozie (a national of Nigeria) for the position. Additional information on the process and on the selected candidate are contained in document IT/GB-7/17/29, *Selection and Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body*. The Governing Body is invited to approve the candidate selected by the Director-General for the position of the Secretary of the Governing Body.

89. At its last session, the Governing Body,

Request[ed] the FAO Secretariat to prepare, in close consultation with the Bureau, a procedure for renewal of the appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the Treaty, for consideration and adoption by the Governing Body at its next session in 2017.

90. In this context, the FAO Secretariat has prepared document IT/GB-7/17/30, *Procedures for the Appointment and Renewal of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty*, for the consideration of the Governing Body. The document proposes new procedures for the selection and appointment of the Secretary of the International Treaty for adoption by the Governing Body. The proposed procedures would supersede the interim procedures set out in *Appendix J.2 of the Report of the First Session of the Governing Body*, IT/GB-1/06/Report. They also address the renewal of the term of office of a Secretary in view of the request from the Governing Body, as contained in Resolution 12/2015.

91. The Governing Body is invited to review and adopt the draft resolution set out in *Annex II* to the document, IT/GB-7/17/30.

ITEM 21 Any Other Matters

92. At its meeting in March 2017, the Bureau of this Session requested the Secretariat to develop a Communication Strategy for the International Treaty, to be considered by the Governing Body at its Seventh Session.

93. Pursuant to this request, the Secretariat has developed a proposed Communication Strategy for the International Treaty, designed to guide outreach and communication activities, as contained in document IT/GB-7/17/23. The document provides, *inter alia*, a strategic framework for the development of future communication material and activities.

94. The Governing Body is invited to consider and approve the Communication Strategy, which will guide the development of appropriate communication products and activities for its stakeholders, and stress the importance of implementing it.

95. Under this item, the Governing Body may also consider any other matters of relevance for this Session.

ITEM 22 Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Eighth Session

96. In accordance with Rule 2.1 of its Rules of Procedure of the Governing Body,

the Governing Body shall elect a Chairperson and one Vice-Chairperson per FAO region other than the region of the Chairperson (hereinafter collectively referred to as "the Bureau") and in addition a Rapporteur from among the delegates, alternates, experts and advisers (hereinafter referred to as "representatives") of the Contracting Parties.

97. The Governing Body is invited to elect the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body. In accordance with Rule II.2 of the Rules of Procedure, the term of office of the Bureau of the Eighth Session will commence with immediate effect upon the closure of this Seventh Session.

ITEM 23 Date and Place of the Eighth Session

98. The Governing Body is requested to indicate the place and date of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body.

ITEM 24 Adoption of the Report

99. According to Rule VIII.1 of the Rules of Procedure,

[a]t each session, the Governing Body shall approve a report embodying its decisions, views, recommendations and conclusions.

100. This final agenda item, therefore, provides for the approval of the Report of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body.

Appendix: Provisional Timetable

PLENARY			
Time	Agenda Item	Title	Documents
Monday, 30 October 2017			
Morning			
10:00-13:00	Opening Ceremony of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body		
	I. Organizational Matters		
	1	Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable	IT/GB-7/17/1 IT/GB-7/17/2 IT/GB-7/17/3 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 1 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 3
	2	Election of the <i>Rapporteur</i>	None
	3	Appointment of the Credentials Committee	None
	4	Establishment of a Budget Committee	None
	II. Introductory and General Policy Matters		
	5	Report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body	IT/GB-7/17/4
	6	Report of the Secretary of the Governing Body	IT/GB-7/17/5
	7	The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Role of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	IT/GB-7/17/6

Monday, 30 October 2017			
Afternoon			
15:00-18:00	III. Implementation of the International Treaty		
	11	The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing	IT/GB-7/17/9 IT/GB-7/17/10 IT/GB-7/17/11 IT/GB-7/17/24 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 4 IT/GB-7/17/Inf.20
	9	Proposal for an Amendment of the International Treaty	IT/GB-7/17/8
	8	Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing	IT/GB-7/17/7 IT/GB-7/17/7 Add.1 IT/GB-7/17/31
	12	The Funding Strategy	IT/GB-7/17/13 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 5 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 18
Tuesday, 31 October 2017			
morning			
10:00-13.00	10	Enhancement of the Funding Strategy	IT/GB-7/17/12 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 15
	15	Farmers' Rights	IT/GB-7/17/17 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 10 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 11 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 14 IT/GB-7/17/Inf.20 IT/GB-7/17/Circ. 1

Tuesday, 31 October 2017			
afternoon			
	13	The Global Information System	IT/GB-7/17/14 IT/GB-7/17/15 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 6 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 7 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 17 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 19
	14	The Programme of Work on Sustainable Use	IT/GB-7/17/16 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 8 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 9 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 16
	18	Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2018-2025	IT/GB-7/17/26
Wednesday, 1 November 2017			
morning			
10:00-13.00	16	Compliance	IT/GB-7/17/18 IT/GB-7/17/Inf.17
	17.1	Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Nagoya Protocol	IT/GB-7/17/19 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 13
	17.2	Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust	IT/GB-7/17/20 IT/GB-7/17/21
Wednesday, 1 November 2017			
Afternoon			
15:00-18.00	III. Implementation of the International Treaty (continued)		
	17.3	Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	IT/GB-7/17/22 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 17 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 23

	17.4	Cooperation with other International Bodies and Organizations	IT/GB-7/17/24 IT/GB-7/17/25 IT/GB-7/17/25 Add.1 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 12 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 15 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 19 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 21
	9	Proposal for an Amendment of the International Treaty <i>Continued</i>	IT/GB-7/17/8
IV. Programme of Work and Budget and Related Matters			
	18	Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2018-2025 <i>Continued</i>	IT/GB-7/17/26
Thursday, 2 November 2017			
morning			
10:00-13:00	III. Implementation of the International Treaty (continued)		
	8	Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing <i>Continued</i>	IT/GB-7/17/7 IT/GB-7/17/7 Add.1 IT/GB-7/17/31
	15	Farmers' Rights <i>Continued</i>	IT/GB-7/17/17 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 10 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 11 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 14 IT/GB-7/17/Circ. 1
	13	Global Information System <i>Continued</i>	IT/GB-7/17/14 IT/GB-7/17/15 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 6 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 7 IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 17

			IT/GB-7/17/Inf. 19
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Thursday, 2 November 2017			
Afternoon			
15:00-18:00	IV. Programme of Work and Budget and Related Matters		
	19	Adoption of the Work Programme and Budget	IT/GB-7/17/27 IT/GB-7/17/28 IT/GB-7/17/28 Add.1 IT/GB-7/17/28 Add.2
	V. Administrative and Other Matters		
	20	Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	IT/GB-7/17/29 IT/GB-7/17/30
	21	Any Other Matters	IT/GB-7/17/23
	22	Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Eighth Session	None
	23	Date and place of the Eighth Session	None
	Friday, 3 November 2017		
morning			
10:00-13:00	Preparation of the Report		
Friday, 3 November 2017			
Afternoon			
15:00-18:00	24	Adoption of the Report	
		Closing of the Session	