



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



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

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

**EIGHTH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE  
FUNDING STRATEGY AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

**18–20 September 2023**

**MEETING PROCEEDINGS**

**ITEM I. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

1. The Eighth Meeting (SFC-8) of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee or Committee) was opened by the Co-Chairs, Ms. Katlyn Scholl (USA) and Mr. Eric Bentsil Quaye (Ghana).
2. In his welcoming remarks, the Secretary of the Treaty, Mr Kent Nnadozie noted that the Committee had managed a particularly heavy workload over the past year with three meeting held and commended the significant progress made, particularly the finalisation of the approval of projects to be funded under the Fifth Project Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF-5).
3. The Co-Chairs welcomed the Members of the Committee and Observers to the meeting. The List of Participants is provided in *Appendix 5* to these Proceedings.

**ITEM II. AGENDA AND TIMETABLE**

4. The Committee adopted its Agenda, as given in *Appendix 4* to these Proceedings.

**ITEM III. BENEFIT-SHARING FUND OPERATIONS:  
UPDATE ON THE FIFTH PROJECT CYCLE OF THE BSF**

5. The Committee thanked the Secretariat for the update it provided on the status of BSF-5 projects selected for funding. It noted that successful applicants had been formally notified of the Committee's decision to approve their project proposals for funding and that the list of approved projects had been published on the Treaty's website.
6. The Committee welcomed the follow-up actions undertaken by the Secretariat with selected applicants to further refine and improve project proposals, including the significant progress made towards closing the financial gap for BSF-5.
7. The Committee took note of the plans for an inception phase for approved projects, including the upcoming workshops for second phase projects. It also noted that contractual arrangements for the first batch of projects are currently being processed.

## **ITEM IV. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION: UPDATE ON RESOURCE MOBILISATION WORK-STREAMS OF THE OPERATIONAL PLAN**

8. The Committee thanked the Secretariat for the update it provided on the short-term support for international collections, the Emergency Reserve, including the new requests made by Laos and Sudan, and the ongoing plans to safeguard the Ukrainian Plant Genetic Resources System.
9. The Committee took note of the ongoing discussions between the European Union and the Secretariat to further enhance the current partnership to support the Treaty implementation and its Benefit-sharing Fund. It recalled that the Operations Manual of the Benefit-sharing Fund, adopted by the Governing Body, specifies that the “new programmatic approach of the Fund will enable the development of long-term partnerships with donors for the provision of predictable and long-term funding.” It recommended the Secretary to enhance the current partnership as one model for possible replication with others and to report back to the Committee on this matter during the next biennium. It also recommended that the Governing Body invite donors, such as the European Union, to build on the fruitful collaboration with a view to establishing a longer-term strategic partnership with the International Treaty in areas of common interests.
10. The Committee thanked the Secretariat for the update it provided on the inception phase activities of the Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy, particularly the consultation process being undertaken to develop the Treaty’s value proposition for engaging with the Food Processing Industry. It noted that a broad range of stakeholders should be consulted through the process, including from developed and developing countries. The outcome of the first phase of consultations is planned to be presented at a side event at GB-10 to gather additional inputs, while the result of the consultation process and text of value proposition will be presented to the Committee at its Ninth meeting, for further discussion.
11. The Committee took note of the update provided by the Secretariat that the preliminary plans to organise a business forum to engage the food processing industry and initiate a positive narrative among food system actors on the importance of PGRFA would be reconsidered in biennium 2024-2025.

## **ITEM V. MONITORING AND REVIEW**

### ***Methodology for measuring Non-Monetary Benefit-sharing***

12. The Committee recalled that, at its Seventh meeting, it provided guidance to the Secretariat on the development of a draft Methodology for Measuring Non-Monetary Benefit-Sharing.
13. The Committee considered the document, IT/GB-10/ SFC-8/23/4, *Draft Methodology: Measuring Non-Monetary Benefit-Sharing*. The Committee thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and for the substantial work undertaken to develop of the draft methodology and provided guidance for its further development in the 2024-2025 biennium.
14. In developing the methodology document further, the Committee requested the Secretariat to:
- i. Improve consistency in the use of terminologies, particularly those contained in Section C, *Technology release or transfer*, in relation to beneficiaries, end users and stakeholders.
  - ii. Consider including descriptions of scale in the methodology document, as had been included in the presentation provided to the Committee by the Secretariat under this item.

- iii. Consider using an alternative terminology to replace “exploitation”, “exploiting party” etc.
  - iv. Remove value-based language in definitions, such as those appearing in indicator C1.
  - v. As part of the list of institutional characteristics, consider including a question on institutions’ annual budget and date of establishment to understand their size and maturity.
15. In undertaking the testing phase, including the surveys, the Committee requested the Secretariat to:
- i. Consider including CGIAR, institutions holding Article 15 collections, FAO, the seed sector and relevant members involved in the NMBS expert workshop.
  - ii. Consider undertaking survey samples multiple times with staff from within the same organizations.
  - iii. Include descriptions of scale in the survey document.
16. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat further elaborate options for the financial quantification of NMBS categories and explore options to facilitate the testing of the framework in the next biennium, including through an on-line survey.
17. The Committee stressed the importance of testing and finalizing the methodology for measuring non-monetary benefit-sharing and noted that it should give attention to this matter early in the biennium 2024–2025.
18. The updated draft methodology is provided in *Appendix 1*, for further refinement during next biennium.

#### ***Finalisation of the updated Operational Plan***

19. The Committee considered the document, IT/GB-10/SFC-8/23/3, *Draft updated Operational Plan for the Funding Strategy* and agreed to update the Operational Plan. The updated Operational Plan is contained in *Appendix 2* to these Proceedings.
20. The Committee agreed to adjust the concluding date of the Operational Plan from 2025 to 2027, providing an additional biennium to the Committee to implement its work. It noted that extending the Operational Plan to 2027 would also enable the Treaty to build upon the opportunities and momentum arising from the recent adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and the SFC to prioritize support to the finalisation of the process for the enhancement of the Multilateral System in the biennium ahead.
21. It further noted that the comprehensive review of the Funding Strategy could be conducted once further progress has been made on its implementation. This includes the possibility of making use of the new or strengthened monitoring systems for biodiversity finance that will be supported through the monitoring of GBF implementation. On this basis, the Committee agreed to recommend to GB-10 that the date of the Funding Strategy is extended to 2027, accordingly.

### **ITEM VI. REPORT OF THE FUNDING COMMITTEE TO THE TENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

22. The Committee discussed the document, IT/GB-10/SFC-8/23/5, *Draft Report of the Funding Committee to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body including elements for a draft Resolution*.
23. The Committee finalised its Report to the Governing Body and agreed on the draft Resolution to be presented to the Tenth Session for its consideration, as contained in *Appendix 3* to these proceedings.

## **ITEM VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

24. The Committee thanked the representative from Norway for the short update provided on the Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights, held in New Delhi, India, from 12 to 15 September 2023, and took note of the discussions of relevance to the Funding Committee, including the BSF.

## **ITEM VIII. PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING**

25. The Co-Chairs expressed their appreciation for the constructive contributions of the members at its eighth meeting and thanked the Secretariat for the significant efforts made in preparing for the meeting.

26. The Committee noted, with concern, the absence or low participation of some regions in its meetings.

27. These Meeting Proceedings contain the summary of the Committee's discussions at its eighth meeting. The final version incorporates any comments which members may have subsequently provided electronically.

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*Appendix 1*

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## **Updated draft Methodology for Measuring Non-monetary Benefit-sharing**

### **1. Background**

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In addition to facilitating access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing arising from the use of such PGRFA is the cornerstone of the Multilateral System of the International Treaty. In accordance with its Funding Strategy, benefit-sharing constitutes a prerequisite for achieving all of the three objectives of the International Treaty.

Non-monetary benefit-sharing (NMBS) consists of a set of practices and incentives that should motivate the supply of genetic resources and thereby facilitate the wider use of the pooled material. Thus, NMBS is critical for achieving the balance sought by the International Treaty among innovation, openness and equity. Yet, resources enabling NMBS are unequally distributed among stakeholders and countries, which raises equity issues that the International Treaty wishes to address.

Based on Article 13.2 of the International Treaty, NMBS is grouped into three categories, i.e. exchange of information, capacity building and access to and transfer of technology. Indeed, access to information, capacities and technologies are key elements to ensure effective use of PGRFA by a wide range of stakeholders and for the benefit of all.

One of the tasks of the current intersessional work on the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty is to develop a methodology for measuring NMBS, so as to facilitate the monitoring and reviewing of the implementation of NMBS measures. CIRAD has been commissioned to develop a first draft of the methodology for review by the Funding Strategy Committee.

Previous work on NMBS in the context of the International Treaty mainly focused on a normative approach based on describing best practices. The goal is to complement previous work with a more empirical approach building on established practices in a diversity of genetic resource-based R&D contexts. By capturing the widest range of existing practices, a practical NMBS assessment framework can be developed in an inductive way.

### **2. Methodology towards the development of a NMBS monitoring framework**

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An empirical framework that structures and describes NMBS practices has been developed as a methodology allowing Contracting Parties to develop reports on their NMBS practices under the Funding Strategy. This empirical framework follows a multi-scale and bottom-up approach based on the sequence ‘project - institution/organization - country/government’. By doing so, we tried to capture the diversity of practices occurring at the institutional level, considering both transactional operations and collaboration contexts in which the provider of PGRFA takes an active part in the research and development process. The framework starts from the project level (not reported here) in order to select practices that are transposable to the institutional level, which is the focus of this first report. This approach led to defining new NMBS categories beyond the three usual categories described in Article 13.2.

In developing the framework, an open and collaborative approach has been followed. An online meeting held on 15 June 2023 gathered an interdisciplinary panel of experts in the field of genetic resources utilization and benefit sharing, whose members are listed in Appendix 1. The meeting discussed the overall methodology and reviewed an initial draft framework by providing additional or refining proposed meta-categories (hereinafter referred to as “dimensions”) and categories, and improving the metrics and indicators.

The next section describes the framework developed to enable reporting at the institutional level, and discusses possible ways to move to the aggregate national level, i.e. contracting parties. In order to clarify the terminology used both in the framework and present document to designate the potential beneficiaries of benefit sharing, we propose the following definitions:

"**PGRFA providers**" refers to organizations that provide the PGRFA used for Research and Development (R&D).

"**PGRFA users**" refers to organizations that receive the resources from PGRFA providers and use them in R&D.

"**Relevant stakeholders**" refers either to:

- actors from the providing country (including "PGRFA providers") to whom PGRFA users could directly provide benefit-sharing measures.

or to:

- actors that PGRFA users may decide to involve in the R&D process to promote benefit-sharing.

### **3. Institutional framework: NMBS dimensions, categories, metrics and indicators**

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It is first proposed to provide a general overview of the organization's profile by informing on general features related to its maturity and size (date of creation, number of employees, annual budget), as well as particular features which may influence its NMBS strategy and practices:

- Global mandate of the organization. This feature relates to the extent to which the organization has an explicit mandate in relation to NMBS such as capacity building and training, technology transfer or data management, with a specific focus on international collaboration (as opposed to a national mandate).
- Specific mandate on PGRFA conservation and characterization. Organizations with a PGRFA conservation mandate are contributing to the sustainable use of PGRFA, which globally benefits countries and relevant stakeholders.
- Primary goal orientation. The institution can pursue more or less specific aims and/or allocate different priorities to them. These aims could be primarily market-oriented, scientific (production of knowledge and data), technological (development of technological innovation), service provision (offering access to resources, tools, facilities, services...), development (impact at the level of relevant stakeholders), training, education and capacity building, policy-oriented, community building, or a mix of these various aims.
- Partners (implementing stakeholders). This feature characterizes the stakeholder categories with whom organizations are conducting their projects or activities, thereby informing on their collaboration practices and scope. The following classification<sup>1</sup> may be used:
  - National Agricultural Research Centre (NARO)
  - National higher education institution/University National public institution (other than the above two)
  - National public institution from another country Centre of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)
  - International Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
  - National Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)

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<sup>1</sup> List from the 2014 study « Non-monetary benefit sharing mechanisms within the projects funded by the Benefit Sharing Fund » by Gea Galluzzi, Isabel López Noriega and Michael Halewood.

- Private sector stakeholder
- Farmer organization
- Geographical scope. In case the organization's interventions target a specific geographical area, it can be indicated here.
- Funding sources. This feature refers to the main type(s) of funding it relies on for its R&D interventions (market, governmental, public research funding bodies, public development funding bodies, private foundations, private companies, mixed funding...)
- PGRFA used. This feature refers to the frequency of exchange/use of PGRFA by the organizations (i.e. Occasional; Frequent; Intensive).

Following the general overview of the organization, the framework unfolds with the description of NMBS practices. It is proposed to breakdown the organization's NMBS practices into multiple categories. For each category, the following elements are suggested in the table: i) indicators to monitor the NMBS practices in an operational manner; ii) a measurement scale ("Metric" column), which could be either binary (yes/no) or based on ordinal variables (such a Low, Medium, High); iii) possible sources to inform such indicators.

The analysis is organized around six key dimensions of NMBS: **A. Collaboration practices; B. Capacity building; C. Technology release or transfer; D. Access to services; E. Exchange of information; F. Publication/recognition**

#### **A. Collaboration practices**

This dimension aims at giving insights on general mechanisms that may be in place at the organization level to promote collaboration with relevant stakeholders, pursue equitable partnerships, and create a general benefit-sharing enabling environment. It is further sub-divided into two categories addressing distinct aspects of collaboration processes.

##### **A.1. Commitment to collaboration with relevant stakeholders and operational translation:**

this category describes practices whereby regular use or exchange of PGRFAs becomes an opportunity to build a more comprehensive cooperation framework between PGRFA providers and users, which may take the form of R&D projects, innovative cooperation approaches (i.e. participatory plant breeding), platforms in partnerships and/or other initiatives (e.g. the co-organization of conferences). The suggested indicators for this category include the existence of framework agreements between the organization and diverse categories of relevant stakeholders, the running of collaborative projects and the participation of the organization to long-term platforms in partnerships with national organizations, pooling human, technological and/or financial resources around strategic priorities. Altogether, the commitment to collaboration is proposed to be measured through a Low/Medium/High scale, defined as follows:

LOW = the organization favors transactional operations rather than long-term collaboration with relevant stakeholders. No or few specific collaborative projects are ongoing around the use of PGRFA;

MEDIUM = the organization has long term collaboration frameworks with relevant stakeholders on an occasional basis, as well as an occasional number of collaboration projects. In such projects, stakeholders usually take part in some reduced parts of the whole R&D process;

HIGH = the organization strongly commits to collaboration with, and is proactively developing collaboration frameworks with, relevant stakeholders. It further facilitates participation of the stakeholders in its interventions, in all dimensions of the R&D process, thereby creating a highly favorable environment for Benefit Sharing.

A.2. **Monitoring mechanisms:** it is proposed to measure the extent to which organizations have mechanisms in place to measure and monitor, assess and evaluate their NMBS practices. These mechanisms are deemed necessary for creating more transparency about NMBS practices and a reflexive environment conducive for enhanced NMBS practices over time. The extent to which organizations monitor their NMBS practices is proposed to be measured through a Low/Medium/High scale as follows:

LOW = no monitoring or evaluation mechanisms are in place;

MEDIUM = occasional surveys and/or reports about NMBS practices are conducted by the organization;

HIGH = Annual survey and report are implemented and produced about NMBS practices. An evaluation is used to enhance these practices on a regular basis.

## ***B. Capacity building***

Capacity Building (CB) has been the focus of several studies. Here, we propose to distinguish CB practices specifically conducted on technological or scientific aspects, from CB practices conducted on institutional aspects, with the rationale that both levels deliver distinct benefits and thereby differentially impact institutions and countries.

B.1. **Capacity building on technological or scientific aspects** may include:

- Training sessions in scientific or technological aspects, provided to relevant stakeholders. When linked to PGRFA, the focus of the scientific or technological training includes the following aspects:
  - o Training on agronomic practices (including farmer field schools)
  - o Training on climate change, gender, nutrition, processing, participatory learning
  - o Training on PGRFA (collection, evaluation, handling, storage, drying)
  - o Training on PGRFA (other aspects, as database management, spatial analyses)
- Exchange or hosting of scientific or technical staff
- Co-supervision of students and/or postdocs.

Each of these three groups of practices could be monitored on a low to high scale depending on the volume of such activities conducted, a « Low » score corresponding to an absence of CB activities and a « High » score to organizations proposing CB activities in the majority of its interventions.

B.2. **Organizational capacity building** may include:

- Training sessions addressing policy or regulatory aspects surrounding the use of PGRFA (i.e. variety registration)
- Workshops addressing research management, financial and legal management, governance principles, equity in partnerships, impact pathways, monitoring and evaluation...
- Exchange of staff.

Each of these three groups of practices could be monitored on a low to high scale depending on the volume of such activities conducted, a « Low » score corresponding to an absence of institutional CB activities; a medium score for such activities proposed on an occasional basis and a high score to organizations proposing these institutional CB activities on a regular basis.



### ***C. Technology release or transfer***

When defining this dimension with the aim of efficiently assessing the level of benefits that technology transfer practices may bring to relevant stakeholders, it may first be useful to distinguish the following types of technology:

- Technologies in the form of new or improved genomic and phenotypic data
- Technologies related to the collection and conservation of PGRFA
- Technologies related to PGRFA characterization, including molecular marking and genotyping
- Technologies related to PGRFA evaluation
- Technologies related to breeding
- Technologies related to PGRFA information management, including software
- Technologies related to the production and distribution of seed (for cultivation)
- Technologies related to the cultivation of PGRFA, including agronomic practices
- Technologies related to processing of products of PGRFA.<sup>2</sup>

Under this dimension, two relevant categories are proposed. For each of these two categories, indicators are proposed in the table, in order to ultimately measure, on a low to high scale, the benefit potential of each of these technology transfer practices.

**C.1. Co-development and co-ownership of technologies and outputs:** this category consists of the co-development of a technology (or other research output) by the PGRFA user and the relevant stakeholder(s), resulting in i) a technology responding to the stakeholder's needs and constraints; and ii) a joint-ownership between co-developers on this technology.

The proposed scale for this category consists in the following scores:

LOW = the PGRFA user mostly develops its technologies on its own, or with limited collaboration with relevant stakeholders, and transfers them while retaining its exclusive property;

MEDIUM = the PGRFA user transfers a mix of co-developed technologies and technologies developed on its own;

HIGH = in their vast majority, technologies transferred by the PGRFA user have been co-developed with relevant stakeholders and are part of a long-term partnership.

**C.2. Access to a technology (or other strategic research outputs) and associated know-how:** this second category is characterized by access to a technology that the NMBS provider grants. Access can be graded as facilitated or restrictive on a low to high scale.

A **restrictive technology transfer**, typically involving a technology protected through intellectual property rights, would consist of a transfer restricted to a particular geography and to specific utilizations, and excluding subsequent transfer.

A **facilitated technology transfer** would consist of offering legal and physical access to an innovation (or other research output) free of any restriction to use and authorizing subsequent transfer. In this case, the organization also ensures effective adoption of the technology by relevant stakeholders, by transferring the associated know-how and providing them with the necessary expertise and training.

The proposed scale for this category consists in the following scores:

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<sup>2</sup> List from the 2014 study «Non-monetary benefit sharing mechanisms within the projects funded by the Benefit Sharing Fund».

LOW = the organization does not follow any specific practice favoring openness and effective utilization;

MEDIUM = the organization releases and transfers technologies and other research outputs, with variable degrees of openness or facilitation depending on the context and involved stakeholder(s), including at preferential or concessional terms;

HIGH = the organization puts particular efforts on technology transfer activities and effective utilization by relevant stakeholders (associated know-how is transferred in addition to the technology itself) and favors openness in most cases (technologies mostly remain unprotected or otherwise free for utilization and subsequent transfer).

#### ***D. Access to services***

It may be critical for relevant stakeholders to access certain services at concessional terms to be able to achieve their scientific or technical objectives. Such external services contribute to building sustainable research and development ecosystems in less-developed countries and can therefore be considered as important benefit sharing mechanisms.

This dimension is composed of three categories based on the nature of the service offered:

- D.1. **PGRFA characterization services** (i.e. genotyping or phenotyping services);
- D.2. **PGRFA conservation services** (i.e. storage or regeneration services);
- D.3. **Access to PGRFA collections** (gene banks).

The proposed indicators are described in the table and the measurement scale consists in the following scores:

LOW = the organization does not offer access to PGRFA collections or PGRFA characterization services;

MEDIUM = the organization offers such services but no preferential terms are offers to PGRFA providers;

HIGH = the organization offers such services and proposes highly favorable conditions to PGRFA providers.

#### ***E. Exchange of information***

Based on existing practices, the following categories target the importance and the strategic nature of the information/data communicated on the one hand, and the level of utilization by relevant stakeholders targeted by the organization communicating the information/data on the other hand.

- E.1. **Participative governance of data.** Similar to the first category of the « technology transfer » dimension, it is proposed to consider co-production as a category likely to have the highest impact. Implementing participating governance principles throughout the data generation processes - from design to collect to analysis and utilization - has been shown in multiple contexts to increase the potential use of the data by the targeted stakeholders, and their relevance to the needs and constraints of such stakeholders.

The measurement scale consists in the following scores :

LOW = the organization does not implement any collaborative projects based on co-production and joint utilization of data;

MEDIUM = the organization takes part, on occasional basis only, to collaborative projects based on co-production and joint utilization of data;

HIGH = the organization takes part, on a regular basis, to collaborative projects based on co-production and joint utilization of data.

- E.2. **Communication of strategic data and associated know-how.** This consists, for the organization, of proactively giving relevant stakeholders access to strategic data, results or information, and to facilitate their utilization by providing the necessary input and training for the data to be effectively used. Concrete practices within this category may include access granted to existing databases with relevant hands-on training, communication of strategic results from previous or ongoing projects/initiatives, or, at the institutional scale, the communication of strategic information arising from funding bodies, networks, global initiatives, international platforms.

The measurement scale consists in the following scores :

LOW = the organization does not provide any access to database and to training

MEDIUM = the organization provides, on occasional basis only, access to database and to training

HIGH = the organization provides, on a regular basis, access to database and to training

- E.3. **Public release of information and research results.** This consists, for the organization, of broadly releasing non-strategic and non-confidential information or research results, through various communication tools (e.g. public conferences, media, websites, flyers).

The measurement scale consists in the following scores :

LOW = the organization does not communicate on the work performed with the use of PGRFA;

MEDIUM = the organization communicates, on an occasional basis only, on the work performed with the use of PGRFA and associated results;

HIGH = the organization communicates, on a regular basis, on the work performed with the use of PGRFA and associated results.

#### **F. Publication/recognition**

Under this category, it is proposed to group all practices recognizing the contribution of PGRFA providers - in the broadest sense of the term (countries, organization, individuals) - in publications arising from the use of PGRFA. Within this category, three categories are suggested:

- F.1. **Co-production of publications** corresponds to situations where the PGRFA user recognizes the provision of the genetic resources as a valuable step of the research process, and offers in return to include key staff from the PGRFA provider in the author list of the manuscript. Beyond numbers of publications, the suggested indicators are proposed to reflect on the place of the authors (first author/last author) as important aspects of the recognition principle. The proposed metric is a three-step Low to High scale.

The measurement scale consists in the following scores :

LOW = the organization's publications never include authors from PGRFA providers;

MEDIUM = the organization's publications mostly include at least one author from PGRFA providers;

HIGH = staff from Provider of PGRFA systematically has a central place in the organization's publications, as evidenced by the number of authors from PGRFA provider organization(s), place in the author list etc...

- F.2. **Recognition of origin** consists of the organization mentioning the PGRFA source in its publications (typically, in the Acknowledgements or Materials and Methods sections). The proposed metric is binary (yes = the organization systematically states the geographical origin of the PGRFA used in its publications, and PGRFA provider identity; no = the

organization does not indicate the geographical origin of the PGRFA used in its publications, and PGRFA provider identity).

- F.3. **Disclosure of origin in patent applications** consists of an organization mentioning the PGRFA origin in its IPR application. The proposed metric is binary (yes = the organization systematically states the geographical origin of the PGRFA used in its patents, and PGRFA provider identity; no = the organization does not indicate the geographical origin of the PGRFA used in its patents, and PGRFA provider identity).

4. Summary

Institutional features, NMBS dimensions and categories proposed throughout this methodology are summarized in the following table:

Institutional features		Non-Monetary Benefit Sharing practices					
		NMBS DIMENSION	A. Collaboration practices	B. Capacity building	C. Technology release or transfer	D. Access to services	E. Exchange of information
Date of creation							
Number of employees							
Annual budget							
Global mandate of the organization							
Specific mandate on PGRFA conservation and characterization							
Primary goal orientation							
Partners (implementing stakeholders)							
Geographical scope							
Funding sources							
PGRFA used							
<b>NMBS CATEGORY</b>							
	A.1. Commitment to collaboration with stakeholders and operational translation						
	A.2. Monitoring mechanisms						
	B.1. Capacity building on technological or scientific aspects						
	B.2. Organizational capacity building						
	C.1. Co-development and co-ownership of technologies and outputs						
	C.2. Access to a technology (or other strategic research outputs) and associated know-how						
	D.1. PGRFA characterization services						
	D.2. PGRFA conservation services						
	D.3. Access to PGRFA collections						
	E.1. Participative governance of data						
	E.2. Communication of strategic data and associated know-how						
	E.3. Public release of information and research						
	F.1. Co-production of publications						
	F.2. Recognition of origin						
	F.3. Disclosure of origin in patent applications						

## 5. How to use this framework

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The framework could be further refined through empirical testing by organizations/countries to allow to bring more specific methodological details in future versions.

Importantly, as explained in section 2, this framework has been developed in such a way that it can be used at the level of organizations involved in PGRFA use and exchange and which are actually undertaking NMBS. Thanks to this methodology, the tool could be used in several ways:

1. Organizations could adapt and use this framework as a self-assessment tool to get a clearer picture of their own NMBS practices and hence, increase their reflexivity and institutional learning about ways to make progress towards the enhancement of their NMBS practices.
2. Countries could use this tool as a basis to develop tailored surveys to collect data about NMBS by their national organizations.
3. Countries could agree on a standardized version of this self-assessment tool, to facilitate reporting by the main organizations in their country. Having such an agreed and comprehensive framework would allow to report uniformly across countries in an aggregate manner at country and global levels, with the potential to inform on national positions on possible future global policy reviews by the International Treaty constituency
4. This framework could also be used by the Secretariat to collect comprehensive data from Article 15 organizations, in an effort to go beyond only “best practices”.

In developing such bottom-up approach, it is also important to note that using this framework for national reporting would consist, at a first approximation, of gathering the individual institutional reports and/or survey responses and assembling country data from such reports/surveys. Yet, it is important to acknowledge that organizations are integrated into larger systems, including the economic system as a whole, the political-institutional system, the scientific system, the educational system, and others. The extent to which organizations undertake NMBS is influenced by the larger systems and the policy frameworks driving it. For this reason, it may be useful to add, in a subsequent step, categories on administrative, regulatory or policy measures that influence NMBS practices by institutions/organizations and/or are specifically meant to create incentives and favor NMBS practices.

Such national practices, whose complete characterization would require further/complementary work, could include the existence of, *inter alia*:

- A governmental organization specifically dedicated to research and development towards sustainable agriculture in developing countries;
- National funding schemes deployed by governments to fund cross-national collaborative research on PGRFA and/or sustainable agriculture;
- R&D system spanning mechanisms such as coordination mechanisms among PGRFA providers and users in relation to NMBS activities.

## 6. Possible future steps for completing the NMBS methodology

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It is important to keep in mind that this framework, even when refined in the testing phase (see section 5 above), may not exhaust the steps needed to establish a complete and applicable tool for assessing NMBS. In this regard, two activities are suggested to deepen this initial study.

### 6.1. Undertaking a testing phase

A direct perspective of this work could be to undertake a testing phase of this framework for some institutions and countries to report on their NMBS practices. To do so, the proposed methodology could easily be translated into an online survey which would carry, for each category, the description

of the proposed indicators, metric and scale. Importantly, to be as representative as possible at the organizational level, such a survey would need to be completed independently by multiple individuals, and/or as part of a collective exercise. Among the surveyed institutions, it could be interesting to include national and international research organizations, Article 15 organizations, the FAO, representatives of the seed sector as well as other organizations that were invited to participate to this work as experts (see Appendix 1).

## **6.2. Addressing the recipient's level**

The methodology could be expanded towards a better consideration of the mechanisms and practices in place at the level of organizations and countries receiving the NMBS, which could maximize the impact of NMBS. Indeed, the approach presented above is mainly suitable for organizations that use PGRFA and undertake NMBS activities towards providing countries or relevant stakeholders, which are most often the recipients of NMBS.

## **6.3. Quantification of NMBS into monetary terms**

Because it is often claimed that non-monetary benefit sharing can be very costly despite the absence of direct financial flows, it could be interesting to translate NMBS practices into monetary terms. Yet, if at all feasible, such a financial quantification may be particularly challenging due to the complexity of the quantification and its level of reliability.

First of all, it seems clear that quantification into monetary terms may apply to only some NMBS practices (i.e. technology transfer, access to services or capacity building) while being unfeasible or irrelevant for others, such as institutional commitment to collaboration with relevant stakeholders or exchange of information. Therefore, precisely because not all NMBS dimensions and categories may be quantified financially, at the institutional level, NMBS quantification into monetary terms may only be very partial - a bias likely to be exacerbated at the national level.

Besides, the quantification would be more or less straightforward and demanding for institutions, depending on the NMBS practices themselves. For instance, the monetary quantification of a technology transfer process can follow very distinct methodologies, all being complex. Having such quantification made individually by each reporting organization, provided they have the resources and capacity to perform the exercise, may lead to unreliable or non-comparable data. Therefore, in order to get comparable data, specific methods for approximative quantification need to be developed. This follow-up work requires careful thinking and the involvement of expert economists. Once available, such methods would need to be proposed and transferred to other organizations to harmonize the quantification and subsequent reporting – the transfer and adoption representing further challenges which must be anticipated and taken on board in the detailed feasibility study required to address the issue of financial evaluation of NMBS.

**Appendix 1****Composition of the expert panel**

The following persons were invited to participate to the participatory online workshop held on June 15, 2023, facilitated by Selim Louafi and Servane Baufumé (CIRAD), in the presence of the Treaty secretariat (Daniele Manzella and Elly Barrett). The experts underlined in bold were able to participate, while the others were excused.

**Beatriz Gomez Castro** (CBD Secretariat); **Rachel Wynberg** (Cape Town University); **Szonja Csorgo** (EuroSeeds); **Michael Halewood** (Bioversity-CIAT Alliance); **Isabel Lopez Noriega** (Bioversity-CIAT Alliance); Amber Scholz (Leibniz Institut DSMZ); **Davide Faggionato** (Leibniz Institut DSMZ); **Genuar Vega** (Leibniz Institut DSMZ) ; Asseffa Seyoum (Addis Ababa University) ; Carel IJsselmuiden (Cohred) ; Andrew Mushita (Community Technology Development Organisation); **Frederic Perron-Welch** (WIPO) ; **Christian Leclerc** (Cirad) ; **Chloé Alexandre** (Cirad).





NMBS DIMENSION	NMBS CATEGORY	Category description	NMBS practices	Monitoring indicators	Metric	Scale description	Source of data to compile indicators	Comments
A. Collaboration practices	A.1. Commitment to collaboration with stakeholders and operational translation	Regular use or exchange of PGRFA becomes an opportunity to build a more comprehensive cooperation framework between PGRFA providers and users	Discussions on global cooperation frameworks, Implementation of joint R&D projects Innovative cooperation approaches (i.e. participatory breeding) Other initiatives (co-organization of conferences...)	<input type="checkbox"/> Existence of MoU, MoA, framework agreements or other organizational agreements with relevant stakeholders <input type="checkbox"/> Existence of collaborative projects and level of participation of the relevant stakeholders in these projects <input type="checkbox"/> Existence of platforms in partnerships and role of the relevant stakeholders in these projects	LOW/MEDIUM/HIGH	LOW = the organization favors transactional operations rather than long-term collaboration with relevant stakeholders. No or few specific collaborative projects are ongoing around the use of PGRFA MEDIUM = the organization has long term collaboration frameworks with relevant stakeholders on an occasional basis, as well as an occasional number of collaboration projects. In such projects, stakeholders usually take part in some reduced parts of the whole R&D process HIGH = the organization strongly commits to collaboration with, and is proactively developing collaboration frameworks with, relevant stakeholders. It further facilitates participation of the stakeholders in its interventions, in all dimensions of the R&D process, thereby creating a highly favorable environment for Benefit Sharing	Organizational contract database Organizational project dashboards Organizational reports on partnerships and collaborative activities	
	A.2. Monitoring mechanisms	Internal processes established in the organization to assess and evaluate NMBS activities		<input type="checkbox"/> Implementation of regular surveys on NMBS practices <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation of regular reports made transparent on NMBS practices <input type="checkbox"/> Existence of internal mechanisms intended to increase reflexivity/organizational learning about NMBS and enhance their delivery	LOW/MEDIUM/HIGH	LOW = no monitoring or evaluation mechanisms are in place MEDIUM = occasional surveys and/or reports about NMBS practices are conducted by the organization HIGH = Annual survey and report are implemented and produced about NMBS practices. An evaluation is used to enhance these practices on a regular basis	Organizational reports on partnerships and collaborative activities	
B. Capacity building	B.1. Capacity building on technological or scientific aspects	The organization undertakes capacity building activities in relevant scientific and technical fields, targeting relevant stakeholders	Training sessions in scientific or technological aspects, targeting relevant stakeholders Exchange / hosting of scientific and/or technical staff Co-supervision of students and/or postdocs	<input type="checkbox"/> Training sessions organized towards research organizations <input type="checkbox"/> Training sessions organized towards civil society organizations <input type="checkbox"/> Training sessions organized towards farmer organizations <input type="checkbox"/> Training sessions organized towards other relevant stakeholders <input type="checkbox"/> Staff exchange organized <input type="checkbox"/> Students co-supervised	LOW/MEDIUM/HIGH LOW/MEDIUM/HIGH LOW/MEDIUM/HIGH	LOW = the organization does not plan capacity building activities in its intervention MEDIUM = the organization may propose, in particular situations and on an occasional basis, capacity building activities towards relevant stakeholders directly involved in the projects, to pursue specific objectives of the projects HIGH = in the frame of the organization's interventions, capacity building activities are in most cases proposed to relevant stakeholders LOW = the organization does not plan staff exchange in its intervention MEDIUM = the organization may propose staff exchange operations in order to address the project objectives HIGH = in the frame of the organization's interventions, staff exchanges are often planned LOW = student/postdocs are supervised by the organization on its own MEDIUM = the organization has both students supervised on its own and co-supervised students/postdocs HIGH = students are in most cases co-supervised by the organization and relevant stakeholders	Organizational annual reports on capacity building indicators of the Training / Capacity building services	
	B.2. Organizational capacity building	The organization undertakes capacity building activities in research management (including financial and legal management), governance principles, impact, equity in partnerships...	Training sessions addressing policy or regulatory aspects surrounding the use of PGRFA (variety registration processes...) Organizational workshops addressing research management, financial and legal management, governance principles, impact, equity in partnerships... Exchange of organizational support staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Training sessions organized <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops organized <input type="checkbox"/> Staff exchanges organized	LOW/MEDIUM/HIGH	LOW = no organizational capacity building is undertaken MEDIUM = the organization may include organizational capacity building for specific needs/purposes on an occasional basis HIGH = the organization puts strong and regular efforts in organizational capacity building towards relevant stakeholders		
C. Technology release or transfer	C.1. Co-development and co-ownership of technologies and outputs	The concerned technology has been co-developed between the organization and relevant stakeholder(s), resulting in joint ownership of this technology, thereby facilitating effective utilization and use by such stakeholders		<input type="checkbox"/> Frequency of co-developed technologies becoming effectively used by a relevant stakeholder	LOW/MEDIUM/HIGH	LOW = the PGRFA user mostly develops its technologies on its own, or with limited collaboration with relevant stakeholders, and transfers them while retaining its exclusive property MEDIUM = the PGRFA user transfers a mix of co-developed technologies and technologies developed on its own HIGH = in their vast majority, technologies transferred by the PGRFA user have been co-developed with relevant stakeholders and are part of a long-term partnership	Agreements signed between the PGRFA users and PGRFA providers or relevant stakeholders, with as object a technology or other output developed from the use of the PGRFA	
	C.2. Access to a technology (or other strategic research outputs) and associated know-how	The organization provides (legally and physically) access and adoption of a technology or other research output developed from the use of PGRFA to/by relevant stakeholders	Protected technology transferred under a free license together with associated know-how Unprotected technology transferred or released without associated know-how	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of licensing or commercial agreements signed on unprotected technologies, which include a transfer of know-how and the necessary training to allow effective utilization of the technology by the relevant stakeholders <input type="checkbox"/> Frequency of PVP/patents subject of technology transfer agreements <input type="checkbox"/> New plant varieties and/or improved plant material made publicly available by the organization (through seed catalogues for instance) <input type="checkbox"/> Release/publication of "other products" arising from the use of the PGRFA (methods, DSI, DNA Markers...)	LOW/MEDIUM/HIGH LOW/MEDIUM/HIGH	LOW = the organization does not follow any specific practice favoring openness and effective utilization MEDIUM = the organization releases and transfers technologies and other research outputs, with variable degrees of openness or facilitation depending on the context and involved stakeholder(s), including at preferential or concessional terms HIGH = the organization puts particular efforts on technology transfer activities and effective utilization by relevant stakeholders (associated know-how is transferred in addition to the technology itself) and favors openness in most cases (technologies mostly remain unprotected or otherwise free for utilization and subsequent transfer).	Agreements signed between the PGRFA users and PGRFA providers or relevant stakeholders, with as object a technology or other output developed from the use of the PGRFA	
D. Access to services	D.1. PGRFA characterization services (i.e. genotyping or phenotyping services...)	The organization offers access to specific services associated with the use of PGRFA (sequencing, genotyping) at concessional terms	Provision of services classically offered from a platform from the organization (PGRFA user) Provision of on-demand extra-services (beyond services routinely offered by a Provider's platform for instance)	<input type="checkbox"/> Frequency of "routine" services provided to PGRFA providers free of charge <input type="checkbox"/> Frequency of customized services provided to PGRFA providers free of charge	LOW/MEDIUM/HIGH LOW/MEDIUM/HIGH	LOW = the organization does not offer PGRFA characterization services MEDIUM = the organization offers PGRFA characterization services; no conditional conditions are offers to PGRFA providers (nature of the services offered and cost remain the same as for any client) HIGH = the organization offers PGRFA characterization services and proposes highly favorable conditions to PGRFA providers LOW = the organization does not offer PGRFA characterization services MEDIUM = the organization may offer customized PGRFA characterization services to PGRFA providers but this remains occasional and payable HIGH = the organization regularly provides PGRFA providers with customized PGRFA characterization services to PGRFA providers, under favorable conditions		
	D.2. PGRFA conservation services (i.e. storage or regeneration services)	The organization offers facilities and/or services PGRFA conservation, such as storage or regeneration services		<input type="checkbox"/> Frequency of conservation services provided to PGRFA providers free of charge	LOW/MEDIUM/HIGH	LOW = the organization does not offer PGRFA conservation services MEDIUM = the organization offers PGRFA conservation services; no conditional conditions are offers to PGRFA providers HIGH = the organization offers PGRFA conservation services for free to PGRFA providers		
	D.3. Access to PGRFA collections (gene Banks)	The organization offers open access to PGRFA collections		<input type="checkbox"/> Frequency of storage services provided to PGRFA providers free of charge	LOW/MEDIUM/HIGH	LOW = the organization does not have PGRFA collections open to stakeholders MEDIUM = the organization conserves PGRFA collections (or is a gene bank) which are open to relevant stakeholders. Provision of PGRFA is occasional. HIGH = the organization's PGRFA collections are fully open to relevant stakeholders. Transfers occur on a regularly basis		
E. Exchange of information	E.1. Participative governance of data	The data used have been co-produced and shared between the PGRFA user(s) and provider(s), and are therefore jointly owned and used		<input type="checkbox"/> Frequency of collaborative projects based on co-production and joint utilization of data	LOW/MEDIUM/HIGH	LOW = the organization does not have any collaborative projects based on co-production and joint utilization of data MEDIUM = the organization has, on occasional basis only, collaborative projects based on co-production and joint utilization of data HIGH = the organization has, on a regular basis, collaborative projects based on co-production and joint utilization of data		
	E.2. Communication of strategic data and associated know-how	The organization favors access by relevant stakeholders to strategic data, results or information, and facilitates their utilization by giving the necessary input and training for the data to be effectively used	Access granted to existing databases with relevant hands-on training Communication of strategic (non-confidential) results from previous or ongoing work Communication of strategic information from funding bodies, networks, global initiatives, international platforms...	<input type="checkbox"/> Frequency of authorized / recorded access to database and associated training	LOW/MEDIUM/HIGH	LOW = the organization does not provide any access to database and to training MEDIUM = the organization provides, on occasional basis only, access to database and to training HIGH = the organization provides, on a regular basis, access to database and to training		
	E.3. Public release of information and research results	The organization publicly releases results or information arising from the use of the PGRFA		<input type="checkbox"/> Frequency of public communication made by the organization on the work performed with the use of PGRFA	LOW/MEDIUM/HIGH	LOW = the organization does not communicate on the work performed with the use of PGRFA MEDIUM = the organization communicates, on occasional basis only, on the work performed with the use of PGRFA HIGH = the organization communicates, on a regular basis, on the work performed with the use of PGRFA		
F. Publication/recognition	F.1. Co-production of publications	The organization co-publishes scientific papers including staff from stakeholders as co-authors		<input type="checkbox"/> Frequency of publications displaying at least one individual from the PGRFA provider in the author list <input type="checkbox"/> Frequency of publications displaying as first and/or last author a staff of the PGRFA provider	LOW/MEDIUM/HIGH	LOW = the organization's publications never include authors from organizations providing the PGRFA used MEDIUM = the organization's publications mostly include at least one author from the organization(s) providing the PGRFA HIGH = the providing organization systematically have a central role in the organization's publications, as evidenced by the place of the authors, number of authors from the providing organizations etc...	Organization's list of publications, scientific lit databases or various communication sources conducted by the intervention	
	F.2. Recognition of origin	The organization mentions the origin of the PGRFA in its publications (acknowledgement or M&M sections)		<input type="checkbox"/> Frequency of publications acknowledging the source of the PGRFA used (geographical origin, identity of the PGRFA provider(s))	Yes/No	Yes = the organization systematically states the geographical origin of the PGRFA used in its publications No = the organization does not indicate the geographical origin of the PGRFA used in its publications	List of publications arising from the intervention, available on dedicated websites (project or consortium members), scientific lit databases or various communication sources conducted by the organization	
	F.3. Disclosure of origin in patent applications	The organization mentions the origin of the PGRFA in its patent applications		<input type="checkbox"/> Frequency of IP applications referring to the origin of the PGRFA used	Yes/No	Yes = the organization systematically states the geographical origin of the PGRFA used (and identity of the PGRFA providers) in its patent applications No = the organization does not indicate the geographical origin of the PGRFA used (and identity of the PGRFA providers) in its patent applications	List of patents held by the organization WIPO database	

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*Appendix 2***OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR THE FUNDING STRATEGY 2023-2027****Operational Plan for the Funding Strategy 2023-2027****Contents**

- I. Overview
- II. Focus Area 1: Resource Mobilization
- III. Focus area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations
- IV. Focus area 3: Monitoring and Review
- V. Table of references – Resolution 3/2019

**I. OVERVIEW**

1. The Operational Plan is a multi-year plan designed to guide the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee or Committee) on the implementation of the Funding Strategy over the period 2023-2027 and will be reviewed and updated by the Committee at two-year intervals so that it remains relevant and responsive to the operational environment and needs.

2. As part of the review of the Operation Plan, the Committee, at its Seventh meeting, considered a number of developments since the adoption of the Funding Strategy that may be relevant in updating the Operational Plan. At its Eighth meeting it agreed to adjust the dates of some key milestones and outputs that may have been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, changes to the dates of Governing Body Sessions or other developments in the operational or policy environment. This in effect extends the Operational Plan by two years to 2027.

3. As was agreed by the Committee at its first meeting, the Operational Plan identifies the following three areas to focus efforts on and sets out major milestones, outputs and timelines within these:

- Focus Area 1: Resource Mobilization
- Focus Area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations
- Focus Area 3: Monitoring and Review

4. Given the substantive work required and the multitude of stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Treaty's Funding Strategy, the Operational Plan is set at a high level, marking the major milestones and outputs required in order to achieve the Funding Strategy's Vision and Targets. The related activities required to implement the Funding Strategy, detailed through Resolution 3/2019 and its Annexes, will be further discussed, operationalized and monitored through the continuous work of the Committee and the enabling partners of the Treaty over the 2023-2027 period.

**II. FOCUS AREA 1: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

5. The requests made by the Governing Body, through Resolution 3/2019 and its Annexes, related to Resource Mobilization fall into seven main work-streams:

- i. National budgets and priorities
- ii. Bilateral programs
- iii. Multilateral mechanisms
- iv. Food processing industry engagement strategy

- v. Innovative Funding
- vi. Provision of criteria as called for in Article 13.4 of the Treaty
- vii. Visibility, outreach and communication

6. The Operational Plan identifies the major milestones and outputs within each of the above work-streams for the 2023-2027 period. These are listed below with references provided to the relevant paragraphs of Resolution 3/2019. A summary table is provided at the end of this section showing the major milestones and outputs by work-stream and biennium.

### **Major milestones and outputs by work-stream**

#### **i. National budgets and priorities:**

**Milestone:** By 2027 Contracting Parties have better integrated PGRFA into national development plans, national budgets and priorities for increased financing, including external funding.

- Tools and best practices compiled by the Secretariat for better integrating PGRFA into national development plans (e.g., SDG plans, climate change, etc) and shared with the Committee by 2024
- Overview shared with the Committee by 2024 of opportunities and potential synergies arising from the adoption of the GBF, for integrating PGRFA into national priorities.
- By 2025, Contracting Parties submit the results of integration of PGRFA into national budgets and priorities, and progress report submitted by Secretariat to the Committee for guidance.
- Further update provided by the Secretariat to the Committee for guidance by 2026.

**Related Funding Strategy provisions:** *Funding Strategy 2020-2025, paragraph 29, a & b*

#### **ii. Bilateral programs:**

**Milestone:** By 2027, bilateral programs have promoted the implementation of the Funding Strategy and further integrated implementation of the Treaty.

- By 2024, progress report provided by the Secretariat to the Committee for guidance, on the integration of Treaty implementation in bilateral programs.
- By 2026, further update provided by the Secretariat to the Committee for guidance, on the integration of Treaty implementation in bilateral programs.

**Related Funding Strategy provisions:** *Funding Strategy 2020-2025, paragraph 29, c & d*

#### **iii. Multilateral mechanisms:**

**Milestone:** By 2027 relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies have increased the priority and attention given to the Treaty, including through exploiting synergies with the GBF implementation.

- Secretariat / FAO provides regular updates to the Committee on priorities and opportunities of relevant international funding mechanisms for advice and action.

**Related Funding Strategy provisions:** *Funding Strategy 2020-2025, paragraph 29, c-g*

#### **iv. Food processing industry engagement strategy**

**Milestone:** By 2027, an engagement strategy with the food processing industry has been developed and is operational.

- By 2024, the food processing industry sounding board has been consulted on Treaty value proposition, tools and approaches for further engagement
- By 2025, with guidance from the Funding Committee, potential models of engagement are identified, and a dialogue has been organized with the food processing industry
- By 2026, a review of activities undertaken during the inception phase is carried out and the Committee will consider learnings so far and further implementation actions (2027)

**Related Funding Strategy provisions:** *Funding Strategy 2020-2025, paragraph 29 h*

v. **Innovative Funding**

**Milestone:** By 2027, a range of initiatives to mobilize funds from innovative sources and mechanisms, including from philanthropic organizations, has been developed, including through joint initiatives with organisations such as the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

- Secretariat / FAO provides regular updates to the Committee on existing and potential innovative funding initiatives for advice and action.
- Secretariat provides regular updates to the Committee on the Emergency Reserve for Germplasm Collections at Risk and other PGRFA interventions in humanitarian and other crises.
- Secretariat provides regular updates to the Committee for the Funding Facility for short-term support of International Collections.

**Related Funding Strategy provisions:** *Funding Strategy 2020-2025, paragraph 29, i*

vi. **Provision of criteria as called for in Article 13.4 of the Treaty**

**Milestone:** By 2025, relevant policy and criteria for specific assistance under the Funding Strategy, as called for in Art.13.4 of the Treaty,<sup>3</sup> have been developed and utilized.

- By 2024, options paper for policy and criteria have been developed by the Secretariat and submitted to the Committee for consideration
- By 2025, policy and criteria have been developed by the Committee and put forward for consideration of GB-11

**Related Funding Strategy provisions:** *Funding Strategy 2020-2025, paragraph 29, k*

vii. **Visibility, outreach and communication**

**Milestone:** By 2027, the visibility and recognition of Contracting Parties, donors, users of the Multilateral System, and other stakeholders that have contributed to the Funding Strategy is increased as well as outreach to new potential donors. Over the period 2023-2027, joint communications and outreach activities (e.g., international panels, outreach at international forums) are developed with relevant partners, such as the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

- By 2024, initiate a campaign to raise funds for BSF-6, in time for donors to announce their contributions at GB-11.
- By 2025, online presence of the Treaty is developed in a manner to support resource mobilization efforts.
- By 2025, outreach to users of the Multilateral System is enhanced through adapted communication tools.
- Over the period 2025-2027, visibility and recognition of donors is heightened through special communication products.

**Related Funding Strategy provisions:** *Funding Strategy 2020-2025, paragraph 29, c-e; Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section II, paragraphs 22 - 24; Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph i*

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<sup>3</sup> Art. 13.4 of the Treaty reads: “The Governing Body shall, at its first meeting, consider relevant policy and criteria for specific assistance under the agreed funding strategy established under Article 18 for the conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in developing countries, and countries with economies in transition whose contribution to the diversity of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the Multilateral System is significant and/or which have special needs.”

**Table 1: Summary of major milestones and outputs by work-stream and biennium – Focus Area 1: Resource Mobilization**

	<b>Biennium 2022/23</b>	<b>Biennium 2024/25</b>	<b>Biennium 2026/27</b>
<b>Focus Area 1: Resource Mobilization</b>			
<b>National Budgets and priorities</b>		<p>Compilation of tools and best practices (2024)</p> <p>Overview of opportunities and synergies with respect to the GBF (2024)</p> <p>Results submitted of integration of PGRFA into national budgets and priorities (2025)</p> <p>Progress report for guidance (2025)</p>	<p>Further update provided (2026)</p> <p>Milestone achieved (2027)</p>
<b>Bilateral programs</b>		Progress report for guidance (2024)	<p>Further update provided (2026)</p> <p>Milestone achieved (2027)</p>
<b>Multilateral mechanisms</b>	Regular updates provided on priorities and opportunities (ongoing)	Regular updates provided on priorities and opportunities (ongoing)	<p>Regular updates provided on priorities and opportunities (ongoing)</p> <p>Milestone achieved (2027)</p>
<b>Food processing industry RM strategy</b>		<p>Food processing industry consulted (2024)</p> <p>Models of engagement identified and dialogue organized (2025)</p>	<p>Review of activities (2026)</p> <p>Further implementation actions (2027)</p> <p>Milestone achieved (2027)</p>

	<b>Biennium 2022/23</b>	<b>Biennium 2024/25</b>	<b>Biennium 2026/27</b>
<b>Innovative Funding</b>	Regular updates provided on innovative funding initiatives (ongoing)	Regular updates provided on innovative funding initiatives (ongoing)  Regular updates provided on Emergency Reserve (ongoing)  Regular updates provided on Article 15 Facility (ongoing)	Regular updates provided on innovative funding initiatives (ongoing)  Regular updates provided on Emergency Reserve (ongoing)  Regular updates provided on Article 15 Facility (ongoing)  Milestone achieved (2027)
<b>Provision of criteria</b>		Options paper for policy and criteria developed (2024)  Policy and criteria submitted to GB11 (2025)  Milestone achieved (2025)	
<b>Visibility, outreach and communication</b>	Joint initiatives with partners such as GCDT (ongoing)	Campaign to raise funds for BSF-6 initiated (2024)  Joint initiatives with partners such as GCDT (ongoing)  Online presence of Treaty developed (2025)  Outreach to users of MLS enhanced (2025)  Visibility and recognition of donors heightened (2025-2027)	Joint initiatives with partners such as GCDT (ongoing)  Visibility and recognition of donors heightened (2025-2027)  Milestone achieved (2027)

### **III. FOCUS AREA 2: BENEFIT-SHARING FUND OPERATIONS**

7. The requests made of the Governing Body, through Resolution 3/2019 and its Annexes, in relation to the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) operations encompass activities regarding the

individual BSF cycles that either fall, or are anticipated to fall, within the 2023-27 period, as well as the broader BSF program and operations for the 2020-2025 period, as indicated below:

- i. BSF-3-6
- ii. BSF program and operations 2023-27

8. These are presented visually against a timeline in the diagram shown in Figure 1 below. The major milestones and outputs are also listed below. A summary table is provided at the end of this section showing the major milestones and outputs by work-stream and biennium. Responsibilities related to the Benefit-sharing Fund project cycles are detailed in Section III, Operational Procedures for the Use of Resources Under the Benefit-sharing Fund, of the Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund.<sup>4</sup>

9. It may be necessary for the Committee to consider the impacts, challenges and opportunities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic in taking forward its work on the Benefit-sharing Fund Operations.

#### **Major milestones and outputs of the BSF work-stream:**

##### **i. BSF-4**

**Milestone:** By 2025 BSF 4 operations have concluded

- By 2025 BSF 4 implementation has concluded
- By 2025 Independent Evaluation of BSF 4 has been launched

##### **ii. BSF-5**

**Milestone:** By 2028 BSF-5 operations have concluded

- By 2024 inception phase for BSF 5 projects is concluded;
- Over the 2024-2027 period, the Committee regularly receives reports on monitoring and learning on BSF-5 and Community of Practice on learning and knowledge management is operational.
- By 2027 Independent Evaluation of BSF 5 has commenced

##### **iii. BSF-6**

**Milestone:** By 2025 the BSF 6 is initiated

- By 2024 BSF 6 raised initial funds
- By 2026 BSF 6 is designed and launched

##### **iv. BSF Program and operations 2023-2027**

**Milestone:** By 2027 the Benefit-sharing Fund is strengthened and the MEL Framework fully operational and integrates learning arising from the implementation of the Funding Strategy over the 2023-2027 period

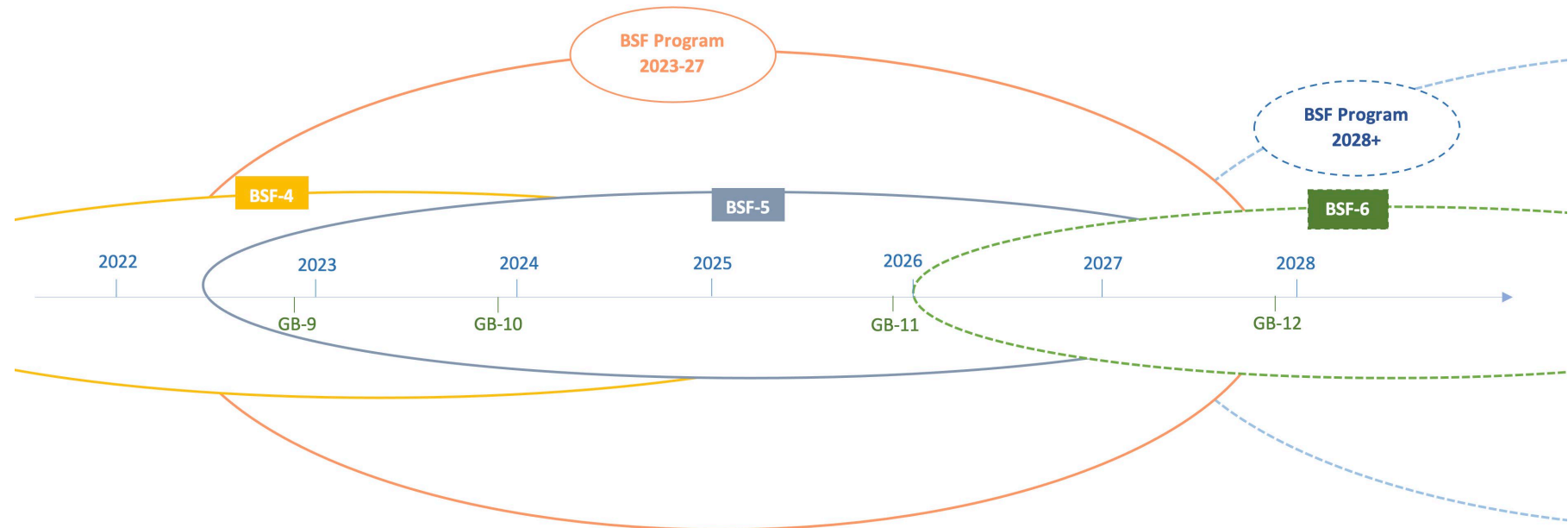
- BSF progress reports submitted to GB-10 (2023), GB-11 (2025) and GB-12 (2027)
- GB-11 considers BSF target (2025)
- Independent review of BSF is carried out 2026
- By 2027 the BSF Operational Manual and, if needed, the MEL framework, is reviewed by the Committee

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<sup>4</sup> Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019



*Figure 1: The cycles of the Benefit-sharing Fund over the Funding Strategy implementation period 2023-27*



**Table 2: Summary of major milestones and outputs by work-stream and biennium – Focus Area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations**

	<b>Biennium 2022/23</b>	<b>Biennium 2024/25</b>	<b>Biennium 2026/27</b>
<b>Focus Area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations</b>			
<b>BSF-4</b>		BSF 4 implementation has concluded (2025) Independent evaluation of BSF 4 has been launched (2025) Milestone achieved (2025)	
<b>BSF-5</b>		BSF 5 inception phase concluded (2024) Regular reports on monitoring and learning (2024-2027)	Regular reports on monitoring and learning (2024-2027) BSF 5 Independent Evaluation commenced (2027) Milestone achieved (2028)
<b>BSF-6</b>		BSF-6 initiated (2025) BSF-6 raised initial funds (2024) Milestone achieved (2025)	BSF 6 is designed and launched (2026)
<b>BSF Program and operations 2023-2027</b>	BSF progress report submitted to GB10 (2023)	BSF progress report submitted to GB11 (2025)  GB-11 considers BSF target (2025)	BSF independent review (2026) BSF progress report submitted to GB12 (2027) BSF Operational Manual reviewed (2027) Milestone achieved (2027)

#### IV. FOCUS AREA 3: MONITORING AND REVIEW

10. The requests made of the Governing Body, through Resolution 3/2019 and its Annexes, in relation the monitoring and review of the Funding Strategy and its components fall into the following three work-streams:

- i. Monitoring
- ii. Review and learning
- iii. Reporting

11. The major milestones and outputs within each work-stream for the 2023-2027 period are listed below, with references provided to the relevant paragraphs of Resolution 3/2019.

##### **Monitoring, review & learning**

**Milestone:** By 2027, an integrated review process for monitoring, evaluation and learning is under consideration, supporting engagement of new funding opportunities, identification and filling of gaps, as well as recommendations for adjustments to the Funding Strategy to keep it dynamic, responsive and relevant.

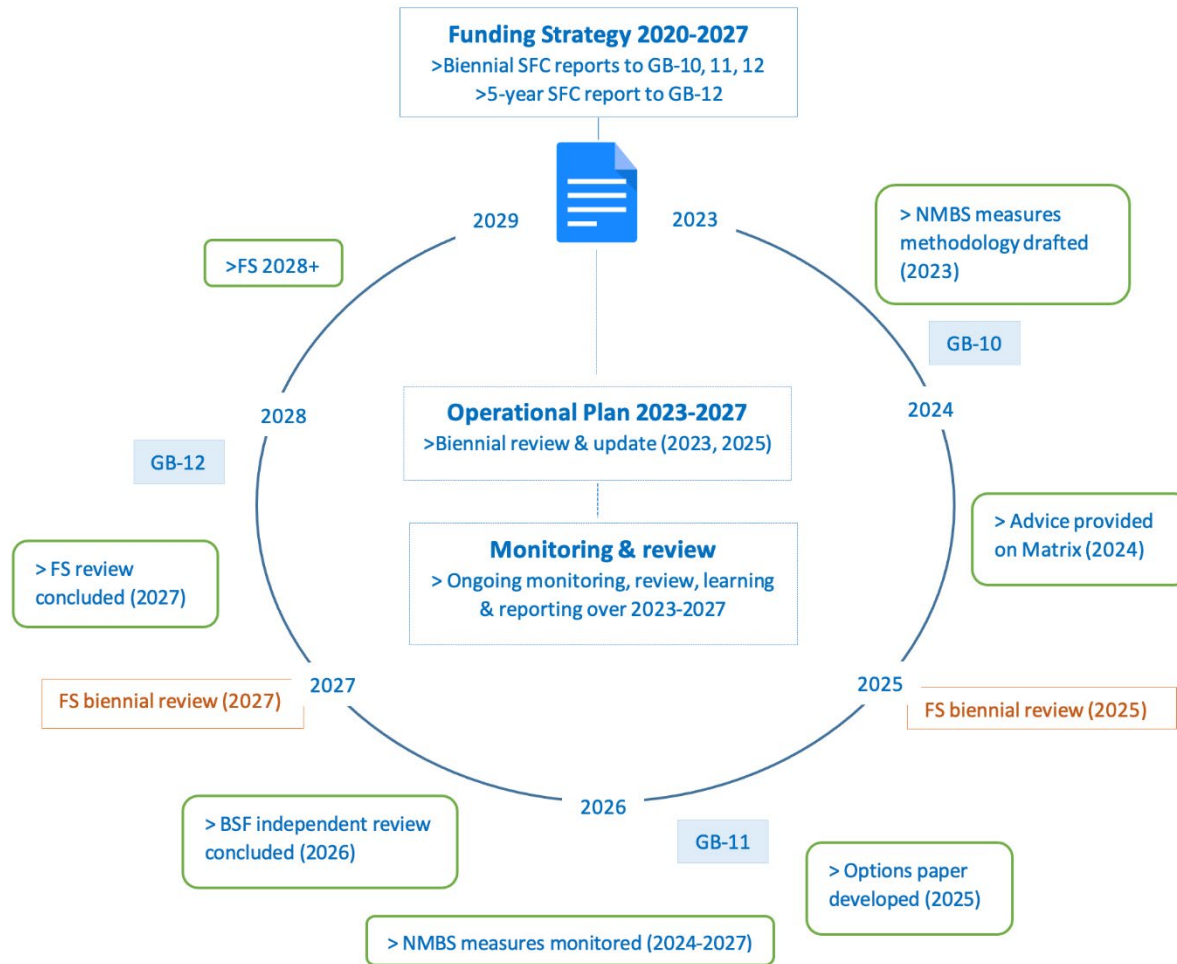
- The Committee agrees on the methodology for measuring Non-Monetary Benefit-sharing (NMBS) (2023) and NMBS measures are monitored in synergy with other monitoring and review processes (incl. GBF) (2024-2027)
- Operational Plan of the Funding Strategy is reviewed and updated (2023, 2025)
- Biennial reviews of the Funding Strategy implementation (2023, 2025, 2027)
- The Committee provides advice on the further development of the provisionally populated Matrix in view of the new monitoring framework of the GBF, M&E under the Treaty's Capacity Development Strategy, and other review processes as appropriate (2024)
- Periodic reviews of the Target for the Funding Strategy and the target for the Benefit-sharing Fund (2025)
- Periodic reviews of financial flows (2025)
- BSF program and operations independent review concluded by (2026)  
Funding Strategy review concluded by 2027

##### **Reporting**

**Milestone:** By 2027, information on the implementation, monitoring and review of the overall Funding Strategy will be available, including through integration of Funding Strategy-relevant reporting into existing reporting formats.

- Biennial report of the Committee to the Governing Body on implementation of the Funding Strategy, including elements on the BSF and FAP (2023, 2025, 2027)
- By 2025, options paper developed by the Secretariat on integration of Funding Strategy-relevant reporting into existing reporting formats, compliance reporting.
- Final report on implementation of the Funding Strategy and new Funding Strategy post 2027 put before GB-12 (2027)

**Figure 2: Monitoring and Review of the Funding Strategy over the period 2023-27**



**Table 3: Summary of major milestones and outputs by work-stream and biennium –Focus Area 3: Monitoring and Review**

	<b>Biennium 2022/23</b>	<b>Biennium 2024/25</b>	<b>Biennium 2026/27</b>
<b>Focus Area 3: Monitoring and Review</b>			
<b>Monitoring, review and learning</b>	<p>NMBS methodology agreed (2023)</p> <p>Operational Plan reviewed/updated (2023)</p> <p>Biennial reviews of FS implementation (2023)</p>	<p>NMBS measures monitored (2024-2027)</p> <p>Advice provided on Matrix (2024)</p> <p>Operational Plan reviewed/ updated (2025)</p> <p>Review of FS and BSF target (2025)</p> <p>Review of financial flows (2025)</p> <p>Biennial reviews of FS implementation (2025)</p>	<p>NMBS measures monitored (2024-2027)</p> <p>BSF independent review concluded (2026)</p> <p>Biennial reviews of FS implementation (2027)</p> <p>FS review concluded (2027)</p> <p>Milestone achieved (2027)</p>
<b>Reporting</b>	<p>Biennial report of the Committee to the Governing Body (2023)</p>	<p>Biennial report of the Committee to the Governing Body (2025)</p> <p>Options paper developed (2025)</p>	<p>Biennial report of the Committee to the Governing Body (2027)</p> <p>5-year report on FS implementation and new FS 2025+ put to GB12 (2027)</p> <p>Milestone achieved (2027)</p>

## V. TABLE OF REFERENCES–RESOLUTION 3/2019

The following table contains paragraphs from Resolution 3/2019 that are considered relevant to the Focus Areas of the Operational Plan.

Focus Area 1: Resource Mobilization
Calls on Contracting Parties to enhance integration of PGRFA in national development plans, national budgets and priorities for donor support and external funding, including the national prioritization of the GEF System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) <sup>5</sup>
Calls upon Contracting Parties to share information about the results of the further integration of PGRFA in national budgets and priorities with the Secretariat, and requests the Secretariat to use such information to develop strategic tools that National Focal Points and others can use to leverage new resources <sup>6</sup>
Encourages bilateral and multilateral donors to promote the implementation of the Strategy and further integrate the Treaty implementation in their programmes, and increase the visibility and recognition of their efforts <sup>7</sup>
Encourages Contracting Parties to share information about the results and impact of donor initiatives related to the implementation of the Treaty with the Secretariat and requests the Secretariat to use such information in the development of communication tools and products to help resource mobilization efforts and increase visibility and recognition of donors <sup>8</sup>
Requests the Secretariat to increase the visibility and recognition of donors making voluntary contributions to mechanisms under its control or guidance, such as the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Fund for Agreed Purposes, including through donor relations initiatives and donor reporting <sup>9</sup>
Calls on relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies, including within FAO's programmes, partnerships with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other multilateral mechanisms, to increase the priority and attention given to the Treaty <sup>10</sup>
Calls on the Secretariat to establish a network of Treaty enabling partners which have successfully integrated PGRFA in larger sustainable development and climate change programmes, and share the lessons learned to build the capacity of others to participate in such programmes <sup>11</sup>
Calls on the Funding Committee to develop a strategy to mobilize funds from food processing industries, as called for in Article 13.6 of the Treaty <sup>12</sup>
Calls on the Funding Committee to develop a range of initiatives to mobilize funds from innovative sources and mechanisms <sup>13</sup>
Calls on the Funding Committee to strengthen the monitoring and reporting of the Funding Strategy, including by undertaking periodic overviews of finance flows to areas of Treaty implementation by combining existing tools, as well as those of Governing Body and other institutions such as the OECD and FAO, as well as expert input <sup>14</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 a

<sup>6</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 b

<sup>7</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 c

<sup>8</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 d

<sup>9</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 e

<sup>10</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 f

<sup>11</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 g

<sup>12</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 h

<sup>13</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 i

<sup>14</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 j

### Focus Area 1: Resource Mobilization

Calls on the Funding Committee to develop relevant policy criteria for specific assistance under the Funding Strategy for the conservation of PGRFA in developing countries, and countries with economies in transition whose contributions to the diversity of PGRFA in the Multilateral System is significant and / or has special needs, as is called for in Article 13.4 of the Treaty<sup>15</sup>

Providing to the Governing Body draft guidance for the implementation of the Funding Strategy, taking into account the reports on the Funding Strategy and other reports, as well as submissions from Contracting Parties and minimizing extra reporting burdens to Contracting Parties<sup>16</sup>

Developing cooperation for the implementation of the Funding Strategy, and in doing so, Members are encouraged to promote the implementation of the Funding Strategy in their capacity as Funding Committee Members<sup>17</sup>

Strengthening cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust, in its role as an essential element of the Funding Strategy of the Treaty in relation to ex situ conservation<sup>18</sup>

Providing a forum for communication and continued exchange of information among bodies and entities dealing with finance for agrobiodiversity and climate change in order to promote linkages and coherence, as appropriate<sup>19</sup>

The Funding Committee will regularly provide advice on new prospects for voluntary contributions, donor partnerships for the Benefit-sharing Fund and donor recognition activities. In providing such advice, the Committee may draw upon the elements of the former Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund of the previous Funding Strategy.<sup>20</sup>

Achieving the Benefit-sharing Fund target will require the Treaty to maximise all funding opportunities. This section provides an overview of the various constituencies that are considered viable prospects for the Benefit-sharing Fund in the 2020-2025 period.<sup>21</sup>

Prospects for voluntary contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund include: Contracting Parties and their respective ministries of agriculture, foreign affairs, development assistance and other relevant institutions.<sup>22</sup>

Other contributors may include: States which are not yet Contracting Parties of the Treaty; philanthropic organizations; the private sector, including the food processing industry and relevant international mechanisms.<sup>23</sup>

### Focus Area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations

The Committee, during the biennium, may establish and launch a new round of the project cycle, as needed<sup>24</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 k

<sup>16</sup> Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph b

<sup>17</sup> Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph c

<sup>18</sup> Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph h

<sup>19</sup> Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph i

<sup>20</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section II, paragraph 29

<sup>21</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section II, paragraph 22

<sup>22</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section II, paragraph 23

<sup>23</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section II, paragraph 24

<sup>24</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section III, paragraph 31 a

## Focus Area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations

The Committee, during the biennium, may decide whether to provide funding to projects that previously received a Certificate of Excellence from the Panel of Experts or to a second phase of projects previously funded by the Benefit-sharing Fund<sup>25</sup>

The Committee, during the biennium, may decide whether to contribute to larger development programmes to support the implementation of interventions that are aligned with the programmatic approach of the Benefit-sharing Fund<sup>26</sup>

The Committee, during the biennium, may decide whether to provide project preparation funding for larger project proposal development contributing to the programmatic approach of the Fund<sup>27</sup>

Opening a call for proposals:

- i. issued by the Committee, in the official languages of the Treaty, and containing relevant information on the thematic focus, expected outcomes, steps and procedures of the Call;
- ii. advertisement on the Treaty website and through the national focal points and relevant regional bodies;
- iii. responsibility: prepared by the Secretariat, under the guidance of the Committee.<sup>28</sup>

The Panel of Experts will conduct a final review of the project proposals to ensure that the recommendations made during the screening have been taken into account in the development of project proposals and make suggestions for further improvement of project proposals, if needed. The Secretary will provide regular updates to the Committee on the finalization of project proposals<sup>29</sup>

The MEL framework will be further developed under the guidance of the Funding Committee and will link outcomes and outputs within the storyline and Theory of Change of the Benefit-sharing Fund with clear targets and indicators established to enable the monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes. The MEL framework will include but not be limited to the following targets:

- a. PGRFA re-introduced, conserved, disseminated or bred with farmers' participation;
- b. Farmers supported to sustainably use and conserve PGRFA;
- c. Young scientists and researchers supported;
- d. Co-funding mobilized to support Treaty implementation through BSF interventions;
- e. Plans and policies strengthened or developed to support national Treaty implementation;
- f. Gender mainstreaming and inclusion of vulnerable groups.<sup>30</sup>

The evaluation team is led by independent experts not otherwise involved with projects of the Benefit-sharing Fund. An Approach Paper and Terms of Reference for evaluation are prepared by the Secretary and the FAO Evaluation Office, in consultation with the Standing Funding Committee. The evaluation team is solely responsible for the independent evaluation report. The evaluation report shall contain findings and recommendations and will be made public through the website. The response to the evaluation report will also be made available through the website.<sup>31</sup>

### Learning

- i. enabled within and between projects and programmes and the external environment;

<sup>25</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section III, paragraph 31 b

<sup>26</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section III, paragraph 31 c

<sup>27</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section III, paragraph 31 d

<sup>28</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section III, paragraph 34 a

<sup>29</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section III, paragraph 34 f

<sup>30</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section III, paragraph 41

<sup>31</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section IV, paragraph 42, i, vi



## Focus Area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations

- ii. lessons learned and continuous learning are regularly provided to all Regions so to increase commitment to the Fund;
- iii. should occur on a continuous basis so that knowledge and lessons can be applied and facilitated through a community of practice of enabling partners.
- iv. responsibility: the executing entities and the Secretariat, and the wider dissemination of synthesis of lessons learned by National Focal Points, donors, the Funding Committee and others enabling partners;
- v. should inform the regular review of the Funding Strategy.<sup>32</sup>

## Focus Area 3: Monitoring and Review

Recognizing its critical role to the Treaty, the Funding Strategy has been designed to be regularly reviewed. It now integrates a process for monitoring, evaluating and learning and for structuring new funding opportunities and identifying and filling in gaps. The Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee) established by the Governing Body will facilitate such processes<sup>33</sup>

(The Governing Body) Calls on the Funding Committee to strengthen the monitoring and reporting of the Funding Strategy, including by undertaking periodic overviews of finance flows to areas of Treaty implementation by combining existing tools, as well as those of Governing Body and other institutions such as the OECD and FAO, as well as expert input;<sup>34</sup>

The Funding Committee established by the Governing Body will regularly monitor and review progress of the Funding Strategy's implementation and make recommendations for adjustments, as reflected in its Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference may be revised according to the cycles of Funding Strategy. The Committee will keep the Governing Body updated on a regular basis on the progress in the implementation of the Funding Strategy. It will provide a comprehensive review of the Funding Strategy after a 5-year period for the consideration of the Governing Body at its subsequent session.<sup>35</sup>

Information related to the implementation, monitoring and review of the overall Funding Strategy will be provided by Contracting Parties and other relevant organizations at reporting intervals agreed to by the Committee. The Funding Committee will work in collaboration with the Compliance Committee so as to agree the best way to integrate information in existing reporting formats.<sup>36</sup>

The Funding Committee will assist the Governing Body in exercising its functions with respect to the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty through activities such as:

- a. Making recommendations on how to improve the coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of the Funding Strategy<sup>37</sup>
- b. Providing to the Governing Body draft guidance for the implementation of the Funding Strategy, taking into account the reports on the Funding Strategy and other reports, as well as submissions from Contracting Parties and minimizing extra reporting burdens to Contracting Parties<sup>38</sup>

<sup>32</sup> Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund, Annex 2 of Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, Section IV, paragraph 42, j

<sup>33</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 13

<sup>34</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 29 j

<sup>35</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 42

<sup>36</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 43

<sup>37</sup> Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph a

<sup>38</sup> Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph b

**Focus Area 3: Monitoring and Review**

- e. Monitoring and reviewing the implementation of non-monetary benefit-sharing measures, with a view to recommending any additional measures as appropriate, using a methodology agreed by the Committee<sup>39</sup>
- f. Providing expert input, including through independent reviews and assessments on the implementation of the Funding Strategy<sup>40</sup>
- g. Preparing periodic overviews of finance flows to areas of Treaty implementation, including information on the sources and thematic balance of such flows, and use of the different funding tools, inter alia by continuing to develop the provisionally populated Matrix as contained in the Appendix to these Terms of Reference<sup>41</sup>
- k. Considering options on how to address data gaps in order to revise assumptions and refine estimates, as necessary, to obtain an achievable target for the overall Funding Strategy<sup>42</sup>

The targets of the Funding Strategy and Benefit-sharing Fund will be reviewed periodically. This will include monitoring progress towards targets, reviewing the targets themselves and identifying gaps, including by undertaking overviews of finance flows to areas of Treaty implementation by combining existing tools of the Governing Body and other institutions such as the OECD and FAO, as well as expert input.<sup>43</sup>

<sup>39</sup> Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph e

<sup>40</sup> Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph f

<sup>41</sup> Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph g

<sup>42</sup> Terms of Reference of the Funding Committee, Annex 2 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph k

<sup>43</sup> Funding Strategy 2020-2025, Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, paragraph 44b

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*Appendix 3*

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**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FUNDING STRATEGY AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION TO THE TENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY****I. INTRODUCTION***Background*

1. At its Eighth Session, through Resolution 3/2019, the Governing Body decided to adopt the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty for the period 2020 to 2025, as contained in Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, in order to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement activities under this Treaty.
2. It decided to establish, within the Funding Strategy, a target of USD 0.9-1.1 billion per year over a period of 10 years with a milestone of 40 percent to be achieved by 2026 to support the implementation of the International Treaty through a wide range of sources and channels, and to postpone establishing a target for the Benefit-sharing Fund.
3. It also decided to make the Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization a standing Committee.
4. This report details the work undertaken by the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee or Committee) since the Ninth Session of the Governing Body (GB-9), in relation to the implementation of the Funding Strategy.
5. The Information Document related to this Report are provided to the Governing Body through IT/GB-10/23/10/Inf.1, *The Benefit-sharing Fund: 2022-2023 Report*.

*Overview of procedural arrangements*

6. The Funding Committee has held three meetings since GB-9. The Committee's sixth meeting (SFC-6) was held virtually on 17 and 18 January 2023, its seventh meeting (SFC-7) was held in-person on 3 to 5 May 2023, and its eighth meeting (SFC-8) was held virtually over 18 to 20 September 2023. The Reports and Proceedings of these meetings are published on the Treaty's website.<sup>44</sup>
7. Ms. Katlyn Scholl (USA) and Mr. Eric Bentsil Quaye (Ghana) continued to serve as the Co-Chairs of the Committee.
8. In accordance with Resolution 3/2019, the Funding Committee is composed of up to three representatives from each region. However, the Committee noted, with concern, the continued absence or low participation of some regions in its meetings and discussed the importance of Regional Groups considering expertise and availability in nominating members to the Committee.
9. A wide range of observers, including active observers, participated in the meetings of the Funding Committee on the basis of expertise and relevance. The full lists of participants are contained in the Appendices of the Proceedings of the Funding Committee's meetings.<sup>44</sup>

**II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUNDING STRATEGY**

10. In order to take the implementation of the new Funding Strategy forward, the Funding Committee, in the previous biennium, developed an Operational Plan for the Funding Strategy 2020-2025 (the Operational Plan), as foreseen in paragraph 44 of the Funding Strategy 2020–2025.
11. The Operational Plan is a multi-year plan designed to guide the Funding Committee in the implementation of the Funding Strategy, and encompasses the requests made by the Governing

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<sup>44</sup> [SFC reports/proceedings](#)

Body through Resolution 3/2019 and its Annexes. It is designed to be regularly reviewed and updated by the Committee.

12. It identifies the following three areas to focus efforts on, and sets out major milestones, outputs and timelines within these:

- i. Focus Area 1: Resource Mobilization
- ii. Focus Area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations
- iii. Focus Area 3: Monitoring and Review

13. The following sub-sections of this report detail the work undertaken by the Funding Committee since GB-9 under the three thematic focus areas of the Funding Strategy's Operational Plan.

## **A. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

### **Progress since GB-9**

#### *National budgets and priorities*

14. Through Resolution 4/2022, GB-9 called upon Contracting Parties to share information about the results of the further integration of PGRFA in national budgets and priorities with the Secretariat for the development of strategic tools that National Focal Points and others can use to leverage new resources.

15. As part of the development of such tools, SFC-6 and SFC-7 considered and provided guidance on the work undertaken to collect and analyse information on the integration of PGRFA in national plans, budgets and priorities.<sup>45</sup>

16. The Committee encouraged the Secretariat to continue to take forward the work in this area, noting that it is extremely timely when many Contracting Parties will be revising and updating their NBSAPs, and that National Focal Points and others will benefit from having access to information and strategic tools that help them integrate PGRFA into biodiversity planning and priority setting.

#### *Food processing industry engagement strategy*

17. Through Resolution 4/2022, GB-9 approved the Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy, as contained in the Annex to the Resolution, and requested the Committee to review progress on the implementation of the Strategy, and provide regular updates to the Governing Body on its implementation, and make recommendations for adjustments, if any.

18. At SFC-6, SFC-7 and SFC-8, updates were provided to the Committee on the inception phase activities of the Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy related to the development, testing and refining of concepts, approaches and tools to inform a targeted and effective set of actions for the Treaty's engagement with the Food Processing industry, as relevant and appropriate.<sup>46</sup>

19. SFC-6 expressed its support for the proposal of using an agri-food systems approach in implementing the Food Processing Industry Engagement.

20. SFC-8 received an update on the consultation process being undertaken to develop the Treaty's Value Proposition for engaging with the Food Processing Industry. A broad range of stakeholders are being consulted through the process, including from developed and developing countries. The outcome of the first phase of consultations is planned to be presented at a side

<sup>45</sup> For the background report and analysis, see: IT/GB-10/SFC-7/23/Inf.4, *Integration of PGRFA in national development plans, budgets and priorities for donor support and external funding*, available at: [www.fao.org/3/cc5724en/cc5724en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/cc5724en/cc5724en.pdf)

<sup>46</sup> *Implementation, Monitoring and Review plan of the Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy (Inception Phase)*, Appendix 1, SFC-5 Proceedings [www.fao.org/3/cb9206en/cb9206en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/cb9206en/cb9206en.pdf)

event at GB-10 to gather additional inputs and will be presented to the Committee at its Ninth meeting for further discussion.

### ***Multilateral mechanisms***

21. Through Resolution 4/2022, GB-9 encouraged FAO to facilitate the delivery of programmes and projects supportive of implementation of the Treaty, in particular, through its involvement in the Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund, as appropriate, and to actively contribute to the work of the Committee.

22. SFC-7 received briefings on, and provided inputs to, ongoing work and developments under FAO's GEF Programmes, in particular the Eighth Replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-8). Developments of relevance to the International Treaty within GEF-8 were highlighted, including: the rolling out of the FAO-led New Food System Integrated Program; the renewed Small Grants Program, which prioritizes sustainable agriculture actions at community level and has the potential to build synergies with the BSF; and the establishment of a Global Biodiversity Framework Fund.

23. SFC-7 also received a briefing on the implementation of a FAO-led GEF-7 Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (DSL-IP), which leverages the Treaty's experience in implementing projects under the BSF and connects with the BSF's network of partners. The overall program comprises of USD 104 million under GEF-7, along with over USD 800 million in co-financing. It integrates a work-stream on Community Seed Banks in five countries in Southern Africa, which includes actions to support International Treaty implementation and the provision of a regional knowledge hub based on experience gained through the BSF.

24. The Committee encouraged the continued collaboration between FAO's GEF Unit and the Treaty Secretariat and FAO to engage with national partners in the development of projects for the mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty, as called for in the GEF-8 programming directions.

### ***Innovative funding***

25. SFC-7 received briefings and provided advice on several joint resource mobilization initiatives between the Treaty Secretariat and the Global Crop Diversity Trust, as detailed in the document, IT/GB-10/23/16.2, *Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust*. This included: the Funding Facility for short-term support of International Collections; Biodiversity for Opportunities, Livelihood and Development (BOLD); the Emergency Reserve for Germplasm Collections at Risk; and, support for the relocation of Ukraine's national seed collection and the future rehabilitation of the national seed system.

26. The Committee took note of the ongoing discussions between the European Union and the Secretariat to further enhance the current partnership to support the Treaty implementation and its Benefit-sharing Fund. It recalled that the Operations Manual of the Benefit-sharing Fund, adopted by the Governing Body, specify that the "new programmatic approach of the Fund will enable the development of long-term partnerships with donors for the provision of predictable and long-term funding." It recommended the Secretary to enhance the current partnership as one model for possible replication with others and to report back to the Committee on this matter during the next biennium. It also recommended that the Governing Body invite donors, such as the European Union, to build on the fruitful collaboration with a view to establishing a longer-term strategic partnership with the International Treaty in areas of common interests.

27. The Committee commended the joint efforts of the Treaty and the Crop Trust. It requested the Secretariat and the Crop Trust to look into possible support through the Emergency Reserve for Sudan, should it be needed, and to also consider providing support to areas affected by natural disaster, such as the recent cyclone in Malawi. It welcomed the proposal to undertake a lessons learned exercise based upon the experiences from Yemen, Ukraine and the Cyclone Idai emergency project to further inform the operations of the Emergency Reserve and responses to emergency disaster situations affecting PGRFA more generally.

## B. BENEFIT-SHARING OPERATIONS

28. Through the adoption of the updated Funding Strategy, the Governing Body delegated the authority for the operations of the Benefit-sharing Fund during the biennium to the Funding Committee.<sup>47</sup>

29. As requested by the Governing Body, a report on the Benefit-sharing Fund is provided through IT/GB-10/23/10/Inf.1, *The Benefit-sharing Fund: 2022-2023 Report*. The Report provides details on the operations of the Benefit-sharing Fund for the 2022–2023 period.

### **Progress since GB-9**

30. Through Resolution 4/2022, GB-9 welcomed the launch of BSF-5 and thanked the Funding Committee for providing guidance on the operations of the BSF during the biennium and, in particular, for its work in the design and launch the Fifth Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund, which contributes to the realization of the programmatic approach for the Fund, as adopted by the Governing Body.

31. A significant focus of the Funding Committee's work in this period has been to finalise the process of BSF-5, including the approval of projects to be funded. This required the Committee to undertake an extensive process to oversee and implement the numerous steps under the Operational Procedures for the Use of Resources under the Benefit-sharing Fund.<sup>48</sup>

### ***Approval of BSF-5 pre-proposals***

32. SFC-6 considered the *Report of the Panel of Experts: Fifth Call For Proposals Of The Benefit-Sharing Fund*,<sup>49</sup> including on the methodology used to assess the BSF-5 pre-proposals, findings and recommendations, and a table of short-listed pre-proposals and their scores.

33. It took note of the Report of the Panel of Experts and welcomed, in particular, the methodology used in the screening process as well as the summary of findings and recommendations, and agreed that the Report provided a good basis for the deliberations and decisions of the Committee.

34. The Committee discussed the different scenarios presented and approved a list of pre-proposals to be invited to develop a full project proposal, as contained in Appendix 4 of the SFC-6 Proceedings, and provided guidance on the full project proposal development phase of the programme.

### ***Approval of BSF-5 projects recommended for funding by the Panel of Experts***

35. SFC-7 approved the list of projects recommended for funding by the Panel of Experts as contained in Appendix 1 to the SFC-7 Report, and commended the work undertaken by the Secretariat to support the development of full project proposals by applicant organizations and the appraisal undertaken by the Panel of Experts. It expressed its appreciation for the transparency and efficiency of the process undertaken to identify the project proposals to be funded.

36. The Committee noted that, although all the regions are represented in BSF-5, some regions, in particular Near East and Asia, are relatively under-represented in this project cycle, both, in terms of the number of eligible pre-proposals submitted and number of projects approved. The Committee requested the Secretariat to discuss this matter with the National Focal Points of these regions in order to identify possible measures that could be taken to encourage the submission of more pre-proposals from these regions in future project cycles.

37. SFC-7 provided guidance to the Secretariat on the next steps in the Fifth Call for Proposal and on future BSF project cycles. The Committee recommended that the role of the National Focal Points be further strengthened throughout the different stages of the call for proposals,

<sup>47</sup> Resolution 3/2019 paragraph 31, Annex 2: Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund available at [www.fao.org/3/nb780en/nb780en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/nb780en/nb780en.pdf)

<sup>48</sup> Resolution 3/2019, Funding Strategy, Annex 2: Operations Manual: Benefit-Sharing Fund

<sup>49</sup> Final Report of the Panel of Experts: Fifth Call for Proposals of the Benefit-sharing Fund, [Final Report of the Panel of Experts: Fifth Call for Proposals of the Benefit-sharing Fund \(fao.org\)](http://www.fao.org/3/nb780en/nb780en.pdf)

including in project implementation. It also recommended that greater participation and awareness raising on the Treaty and the BSF is needed, especially among the National Focal Points from under-represented countries in the BSF. There should be broader dissemination of future funding opportunities within the BSF, in order to reach out to a wider range of organizations working on Treaty implementation, especially among national organisations

38. SFC-8 received an update on the status of the BSF-5 projects selected and noted that the successful applicants had been formally notified of the decision of the Committee, and the list of approved project proposals published on the Treaty's website. The Committee also noted the planned two-phase approach for contracting BSF partners, and that contractual agreements for approved projects in the first phase were in process and inception workshops planned;

### **C. MONITORING, LEARNING AND REVIEW**

39. Through the Operational Plan, a monitoring, learning and review cycle has been established for period of the Funding Strategy that enables the regular monitoring and review of the implementation of the Funding Strategy, as requested by the Governing Body through Resolution 3/2019 and its Annexes.

#### **Progress since GB-9**

##### ***Review and update of the Operational Plan of the Funding Strategy***

40. The Committee recalled that paragraph 44 of the Funding Strategy calls for it to review and update the Operational Plan on a biennial basis. It also recalled that through Resolution 4/2022, GB-9 noted that the first three years of the Funding Strategy 2020–2025 has been implemented mostly during the COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly affected and will continue to affect the global policy, fiscal and operational environment, and requested the Committee to consider the resulting impacts, challenges and opportunities in taking forward its work on implementing and making recommendations for updating the Funding Strategy.

41. SFC-7 undertook a review of the Operational Plan, including giving consideration to numerous developments that have impacted the operational environment since the adoption of the Funding Strategy. These included: the COVID-19 Pandemic; date changes to Governing Body Sessions; relevant outcomes of GB-9; and the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).<sup>50</sup> SFC-8 agreed to update the Operational Plan and, through doing so, adjusted its concluding date from 2025 to 2027, providing an additional biennium to the Committee to implement its work. Extending the Operational Plan to 2027 enables the Treaty to build upon the opportunities and momentum arising from the recent adoption of the GBF. It would also enable the SFC to support the finalisation of the MLS enhancement process in the biennium ahead. The comprehensive review of the Funding Strategy could then be conducted once further progress has been made on its implementation. This includes the possibility of making use of the new or strengthened monitoring systems for biodiversity finance that will be supported through the monitoring of GBF implementation. On this basis, the Committee recommends to GB-10 that the date of the Funding Strategy is extended to 2027 accordingly.

##### ***Development of a draft methodology for measuring Non-Monetary Benefit-sharing***

42. According to its Terms of Reference, the Funding Committee is tasked with monitoring and reviewing the implementation of non-monetary benefit-sharing (NMBS) measures, with a view to recommending any additional measures, as appropriate, using a methodology agreed by the Committee.<sup>51</sup>

43. In Resolution 4/2022, the Governing Body reiterated its invitation to Contracting Parties, relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies, stakeholder groups and other international organizations to provide information to the Secretariat that will enable the Committee to better

<sup>50</sup> IT/GB-10/SFC-7/23/4, Section II, Key developments since the adoption of the Funding Strategy impacting its implementation, [Review and update: Operational Plan for the Funding Strategy 2020-2025 \(fao.org\)](#)

<sup>51</sup> Annex 2, paragraph e.

leverage funding from all sources for International Treaty implementation and to develop the methodology for measuring NMBS during the biennium 2022–2023.<sup>52</sup>

44. SFC-7 considered the document, *Measuring Non-Monetary Benefit-Sharing: Steps Towards a Methodology*,<sup>53</sup> which provided a summary of NMBS in the context of the Funding Strategy, the previous consideration of NMBS by the Committee as well as of the on-going developments at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

45. The Committee provided guidance on the development of the methodology, including to maximize the synergies with existing reporting mechanisms and processes, noting, in particular, the reporting by Contracting Parties on Article 13.2 of the International Treaty (i.e., on exchange of information, access to and transfer of technology and capacity building) under the Compliance Procedures.

46. It also recommended to follow a broad and inclusive approach to NMBS so as to reflect facilitated access to germplasm and other benefit-sharing practices beyond the three categories listed under Article 13.2. It also recommended to design a methodology that would minimize administrative burden and costs and allow, where possible, for financial quantifications of benefits and the comparison of such quantifications.

47. SFC-8 considered a first draft of the methodology to measure NMBS and provided guidance for its further development in the 2024-2025 biennium.

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<sup>52</sup> Resolution 4/2022, paragraph 28. Resolution 4/2022 is available at: [www.fao.org/3/nk239en/nk239en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/nk239en/nk239en.pdf).

<sup>53</sup> IT/GB-10/SFC-7/23/Inf.5 Rev.1



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**DRAFT RESOLUTION [XX]****THE GOVERNING BODY,**

**Recalling** Articles 13.2, 13.3, 18 (in particular 18.4) and 19.3f of the International Treaty;

**Recalling** Resolution 3/2019 through which the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty for the period 2020 to 2025 was adopted, in order to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement activities under this Treaty, and through which it decided to make the Committee a standing Committee;

**Recalling** its previous Resolutions on the Funding Strategy, in particular, Resolution 4/2022;

1. **Welcomes** the report of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee or Committee) and the progress made in implementing the Funding Strategy since its adoption.

**PART I: FUNDING STRATEGY**

2. **Recalls** that the first three years of the Funding Strategy 2020–2025 were implemented mostly during the COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly affected the global policy, fiscal and operational environment, and **thinks** the Committee for the recommendations for updating the Funding Strategy to effectively respond to the situation and, to new and emerging issues.

3. **Decides** to revise the timeline of the Funding Strategy from 2020-2025 to 2020-2027 to enable the Treaty to build upon the opportunities and momentum arising from the recent adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), and to enable the Funding Committee to support the finalisation of the process for the enhancement of the Multilateral System in the next biennium.

4. **Requests** the Funding Committee to continue to play a leading role in advancing the implementation and monitoring of the Funding Strategy in order to provide the necessary strategic guidance as well as operational oversight of relevant processes and activities relating to the Funding Strategy;

5. **Invites** FAO to prioritize the delivery of programmes and projects supportive of implementation of the Treaty, and to support the nexus between biodiversity and climate change, in particular, through its involvement in the Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund, as appropriate, and to actively contribute to the work of the Committee;

6. **Recalls** that the Global Crop Diversity Trust is an essential element of the Funding Strategy and **thinks** it for the significant efforts made to engage with the Committee as an active observer, providing inputs to the work of the Committee, and collaborating with the Treaty Secretariat on a number of resource mobilization and communication initiatives;

7. **Notes** with concern, the absence or low participation of some regions in the meetings of the Funding Committee, and **urges** Regional Groups and Contracting Parties to consider both expertise and availability in nominating members to the Committee.

8. **Decides** that the costs of the meetings of and the relevant preparatory work for the Funding Committee shall be included in the Core Administrative Budget as may be adopted by the Governing Body, supplemented by any voluntary contributions made available for that purpose, and requests the Secretary to include such costs into the Core Administrative Budget that is presented to the Governing Body for approval at its Regular Sessions;

9. **Invites** Contracting Parties and donors in a position to do so to support the work of the Committee, in particular for the participation of developing countries.

## PART II: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

10. **Encourages** Contracting Parties to mobilize resources from various sources to meet the targets of the Funding Strategy;
11. **Welcomes** the progress made in implementing the approved Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy, and **requests** the Committee to continue to provide regular updates to the Governing Body on its implementation;
12. **Thanks** Germany, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America for their financial contributions during the period 2022–2023 to the Fund for Agreed Purposes of the International Treaty and other funds under the direct control of the Governing Body, and **encourages** other Contracting Parties and donors to also make financial contributions to the Fund to further support the implementation of the International Treaty;
13. **Further thanks** the European Union, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland for their financial contributions in support of the fifth cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund, and **invites** them, through its ongoing discussions with the Secretariat, to further enhance this relationship with a view to establishing a longer term strategic partnership with the International Treaty in areas of common interest;
14. **Welcomes** the further payments of the mandatory user-based income from the Multilateral System on Access and Benefit-sharing to the Benefit-sharing Fund, and **stresses** the urgent need for ensuring an enhanced and predictable flow of resources to the Fund;
15. **Thanks** the French Inter-professional Organisation for Seeds and Plants (SEMAE) and the Federation of Seed Industry of India for their generous contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund and **invites** the private sector and others to make or continue making and increasing financial contributions in order to meet the targets of the Funding Strategy;
16. **Recalls** that text regarding a target range for the Benefit-sharing Fund remains bracketed in paragraph 36 of the Funding Strategy, and **notes** the need to resolve this matter;
17. **Emphasizes** the importance of continuing the work on resource mobilization, communication, promotion and the International Treaty’s branding and media presence to enhance funding for, and the visibility of the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Fund for Agreed Purposes of the International Treaty, in particular, and for the Funding Strategy.

## PART III: BENEFIT-SHARING FUND OPERATIONS

18. **Thanks** the Funding Committee for providing guidance to the operations of the Benefit-sharing Fund during the biennium and, in particular, for its work in launching the Fifth Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund and finalising the project selection, which contributes to the realization of the programmatic approach for the Fund, as adopted by the Governing Body;
19. **Welcomes** the report on the Benefit-sharing Fund for the 2022-2023 period submitted to the Governing Body, and **stresses** the importance of communicating the results of the on-going projects under the Fourth Cycle and the expected results of the Fifth Cycle within the framework of the broader communication strategy of the International Treaty, and in this regard **encourages** the Secretariat to continue to hold regional briefings to update Contracting Parties and stakeholders on progress and relevant developments, as well as to receive feedback

## PART IV: MONITORING, LEARNING AND REVIEW

20. **Invites** Contracting Parties, international mechanisms, funds, bodies, stakeholder groups and other international organizations to provide information to the Secretary to assist the Funding Committee in undertaking regular reviews of the Funding Strategy and **requests** the Funding Committee to continue to work in collaboration with the Compliance Committee so as to agree the best way to integrate information in existing reporting formats;
21. **Calls** upon Contracting Parties to share information about the results of the further integration of PGRFA in national budgets and priorities with the Secretariat for the development of strategic tools that National Focal Points and others can use to leverage new resources;

22. **Invites** relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies, stakeholder groups and other international organizations to provide information to the Secretariat that will enable the Funding Committee to better leverage funding from all sources for Treaty implementation and the delivery of non-monetary benefit-sharing.

23. **Stresses** the importance of finalizing and testing the methodology for measuring non-monetary benefit-sharing and requests the Funding Committee to give attention to this matter early in the biennium 2024–2025;

*Appendix 4*

<b>INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE</b>
<b>EIGHTH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FUNDING STRATEGY AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION</b>
<b>18–20 September 2023</b>
<b>AGENDA</b>

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Agenda and timetable
3. Benefit-sharing Fund Operations: Update on the Fifth project cycle of the BSF
4. Resource Mobilization: Update on Resource Mobilisation work-streams of the Operational Plan
5. Monitoring and Review:
  - a) Methodology for measuring Non-Monetary Benefit-sharing
  - b) Finalisation of the updated Operational Plan
6. Report of the Funding Committee to the Tenth Session of the Governing Body
7. Other business
8. Meeting proceedings

*Appendix 5***List of Participants****EIGHTH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE  
FUNDING STRATEGY AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION (SFC-8)**

18-20 September 2023 (Virtual)

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