



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



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

THE FUNDING STRATEGY OF THE ITPGRFA 2020-2025

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document sets out the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the International Treaty) for the period 2020 to 2025. This Strategy was adopted by the Governing Body of the International Treaty, at its Eighth Session, in November 2019.
2. Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture make an essential contribution to increasing and safeguarding food security and nutrition, improving rural livelihoods and economies, supporting the maintenance of biodiversity and to meeting the challenges of adapting to climate change.
3. The objectives of the International Treaty are the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security.
4. The implementation of the International Treaty contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
5. An effective Funding Strategy is critical to the implementation of the International Treaty and its regular review and improvement supports the enhancement of other Treaty mechanisms, such as the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing.

II. VISION, RATIONALE AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Vision

6. A new Vision for the Funding Strategy:

The Funding Strategy enables the Governing Body, Contracting Parties, funding agencies, farmers and other relevant actors to secure funding and other resources for the programmatic implementation of the International Treaty in a long-term, coordinated, synergistic and effective manner.

Rationale

7. The implementation of the International Treaty is achieved through a wide range of financial resources provided via a range of channels that connect enabling partners of the Treaty. The Results Framework of the Funding Strategy set out in Section III further details this operating framework. Whilst the Governing Body has established key instruments that hold financial resources under its guidance and control (e.g. the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Fund for Agreed Purposes) that it uses to play a catalytic role to fill gaps and enhance synergies, the majority of the financial resources contributing to the implementation of the Treaty are not under its direct control. For this reason, the Funding Strategy strives to ensure that sufficient resources are mobilized through all channels mentioned in Section III for the implementation of the Treaty.

8. The first Funding Strategy was adopted in 2006 which the Governing Body decided to review in 2017 with a view to enhancing its functioning. The Funding Strategy has been enhanced to be more responsive to emerging funding trends, more flexible to adapt to a changing environment, and to

ensure an efficient and coherent funding approach across Treaty mechanisms. The Funding Strategy takes into account global trends and realities of the financial environment and the need for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

9. Contracting Parties recognize that funding opportunities for Treaty implementation can be improved by making the case to national decision-makers and development agencies of the importance of PGRFA as well as the interlinkages with other development issues. This Funding Strategy utilizes a programmatic approach to strengthen linkages between different funding sources and partners, as set out in Section III.

10. The updated Funding Strategy has an increased focus on resources other than those provided by the Benefit-sharing Fund, including by addressing cooperation with other international mechanisms and improving reporting on national, bilateral and multilateral funding for the activities relevant to Treaty implementation.

11. It builds on the experience gained and lessons learned in the management of resources under the direct control of the Governing Body, in particular those of the Benefit-sharing Fund. Such resources should be used strategically to leverage additional resources and cover critical gaps in programmatic implementation for the ultimate benefit of farmers, which are the target beneficiaries identified in Article 18.5 of the Treaty. The Operational Manuals of the Fund for Agreed Purposes and the Benefit-sharing Fund have been developed to adapt and evolve to donor and recipient needs, thus increasing its potential to attract adequate, and diverse funding that ensures a long-term perspective.

12. This Funding Strategy has been designed to improve linkages with the implementation of other programmes of work of the International Treaty, such as the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, and national reporting on Treaty implementation in accordance with the Compliance Procedures. It also improves links with other areas of work including FAO's Second Global Plan of Action (GPA) for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its monitoring through the World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS) on PGRFA. The GPA states that through the monitoring of the Funding Strategy, the Governing Body of the Treaty will be able to monitor resources available for the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action.

13. 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.

Strategic Objectives

14. The objective of the Funding Strategy is to enhance the availability, predictability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement activities under the Treaty, in accordance with Article 18 of the Treaty.

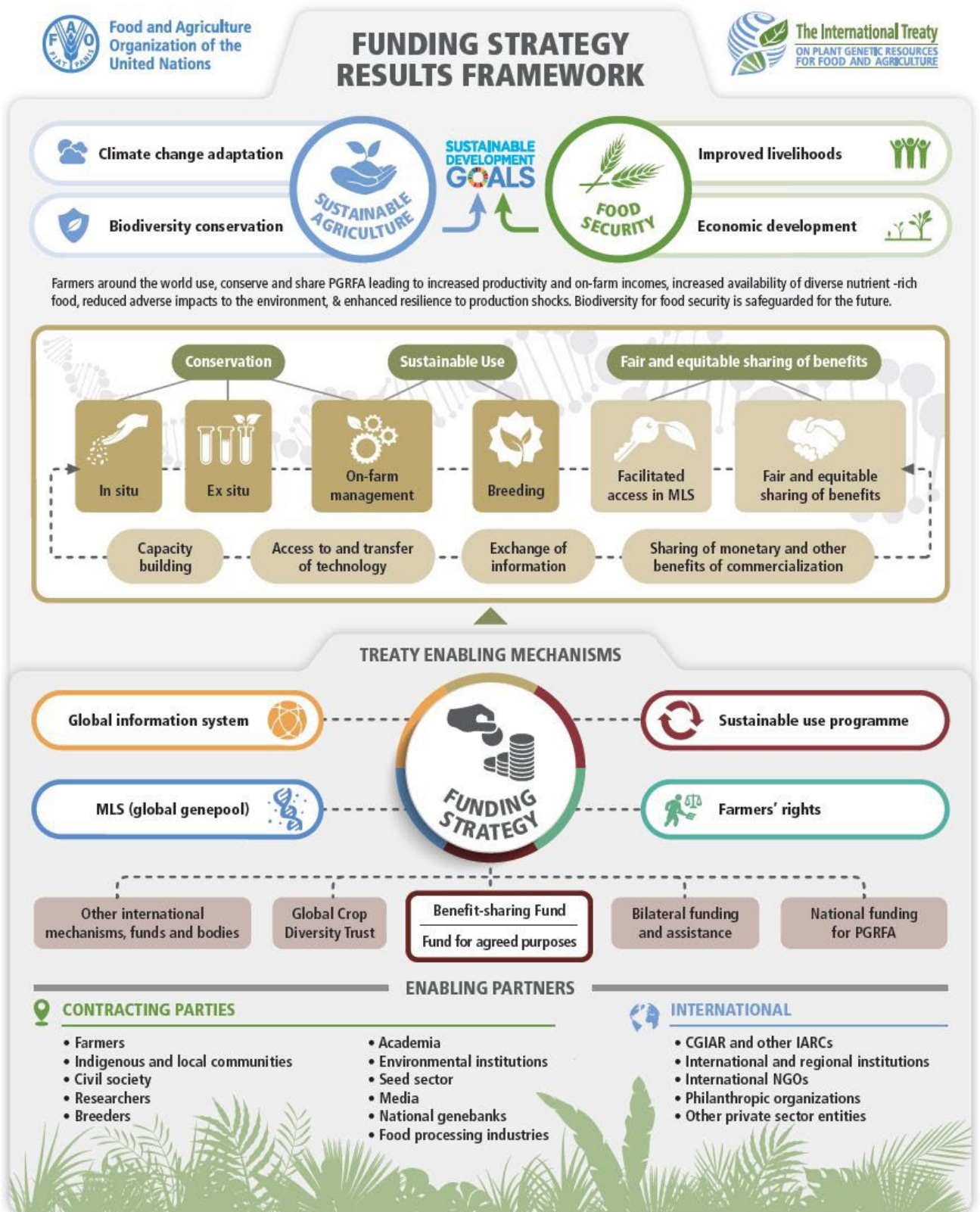
15. The Funding Strategy gives priority to implementation of agreed plans and programmes for farmers in developing countries who conserve and sustainably utilize PGRFA.

III. ENABLING TREATY IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH THE FUNDING STRATEGY: PROGRAMMATIC APPROACH

16. The programmatic approach of the Funding Strategy aims to identify and recognize the many contributions made by partners enabling the implementation of the Treaty. It also identifies and addresses the gaps in its implementation and resourcing. It aims at leveraging further support of current and new partners including by pursuing collaborative planning and co-spending opportunities, and identifying appropriate channels to make such linkages.

17. A Results Framework for the Funding Strategy has been developed to underpin the programmatic approach. The Results Framework is provided in Figure 1 and further described in the paragraphs below.

Figure 1 Results Framework of the Funding Strategy



18. Food security and sustainable agriculture are the purpose of the International Treaty objectives, and PGRFA conservation and use contribute directly and indirectly to the implementation of the United Nation's Agenda 2030, including SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption), 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). This is represented in the top level of the Results Framework.

19. The three objectives of the International Treaty are the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use. Benefit-sharing through the Treaty is realized through multiple types of multilateral benefit-sharing. This is reflected in the second tier of the Results Framework.

20. The third tier of the Results Framework sets out the Treaty enabling mechanisms and the main type of funding mechanisms and channels within the Funding Strategy. The International Treaty has established a number of unique mechanisms that enable the implementation of the Treaty, including in particular: the Funding Strategy itself; the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing which provides for a global genepool to enable PGRFA research, training and breeding; the Global Information System; and the programme on Sustainable Use and Farmers' Rights.

21. The Funding Strategy encompasses a range of funding mechanisms and channels which include:

- a. Funding channels not under direct control of the Governing Body:
 - i. National Funding for PGRFA;
 - ii. Bilateral funding and assistance;
 - iii. Other relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies such as FAO, CGIAR, World Bank, GEF, GCF and IFAD.
- b. Funding mechanisms for which the Governing Body provides policy guidance:
 - i. The Global Crop Diversity Trust, with which the Governing Body has entered into an agreement in relation to the Funding Strategy.
- c. Tools under direct control or guidance of the Governing Body:
 - i. Fund for agreed Purposes;
 - ii. Benefit-sharing Fund.

22. The success of the Funding Strategy will require the participation and contributions of all partners enabling the implementation of the International Treaty, at national and international levels. The most relevant Treaty actors are listed in the final level of the Results Framework.

23. Important contributions are made to the effective implementation of the International Treaty that are not funding contributions as such, including the in-kind contributions of farmers to agrobiodiversity conservation. Enabling partners of the Treaty provide non-monetary benefit-sharing through a wide range of mechanisms. The implementation of the Funding Strategy provides an avenue to identify synergies between the provision of financial resources and the delivery of non-monetary benefit-sharing, and to develop specific measures as needed for promoting non-monetary benefit-sharing within the Funding Strategy.

24. In order to mobilize funding for priority activities, plans and programmes, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and taking the Global Plan of Action into account, the Governing Body has established a target range for the Funding Strategy of an additional USD. \$0.9 – 1.1 billion per year over a period of 10 years with a milestone of 40% to be achieved by 2026.

25. Given the critical role that PGRFA play in food security and sustainable agriculture, the target for the Funding Strategy is necessarily ambitious. The methodology to establish the Funding Strategy target aims for a high level of implementation for all GPA priority actions to be achieved by 2030.

However, there are various caveats that need to be understood by Contracting Parties and Treaty enabling partners.

a. While a comprehensive methodology has been used for the first time to calculate the target, there remain several areas of uncertainty that need to be highlighted. The process of establishment of the Funding Strategy target needs to be viewed as iterative, and one which would be improved over time as more information becomes available on funding flows from all Treaty enabling partners. The limitations of the current methodology include the possibility of double-counting, under-reporting and the need to estimate the current flow of resources. While in reality the priorities of the GPA are realized in a synergistic and integrated manner, the methodology makes no assumption that there is any interdependence between them.

b. The overall Funding Target is to be met through multiple channels and by multiple Treaty enabling partners. Contracting Parties provide financial resources to support national activities for PGRFA conservation and use. The private sector invests in breeding and wider PGRFA research and development. Donors support the Treaty through bilateral, regional and multilateral channels. The Global Crop Diversity Trust supports ex situ conservation. Philanthropic organizations and new and innovative funding sources and mechanisms will also contribute to the realization of the target.

c. The methodology for target setting builds upon the information available on the status of implementation of second Global Plan of Action on PGRFA, which relies on national assessments made by National Focal Points.

26. In calling for an increase of resources for the implementation of the Treaty, it is recognised that there is also a need to use existing resources more efficiently and effectively and this can be supported, inter alia, by using the synergies enabled by the programmatic approach.

27. This target will be periodically reviewed through the regular reviews of the overall Funding Strategy, as guided by the monitoring framework contained in Section V.

28. The Governing Body calls upon all Contracting Parties, other Members of the FAO and all enabling partners of the Treaty to take an active role in mobilizing the funding needed to reach the target established by the Funding Strategy. Resource Mobilization efforts and allocation should be undertaken in accordance with Art.18.4 and 18.5 of the International Treaty.

29. In order to achieve the Funding Strategy target by 2025, the Governing Body:

a. 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);

b. 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 ;

c. 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;

d. 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;

e. 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;

f. 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;

g. 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;

h. 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;

i. Calls on the Funding Committee to develop a range of initiatives to mobilize funds from innovative sources and mechanisms;

j. 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;

k. 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.

30. The Funding Committee of the Governing Body will play a leading role in advancing the realization and monitoring of this programmatic approach, including through the measures outlined above and in its Terms of Reference.

IV. PROGRAMMATIC APPROACH AND THE INSTRUMENTS UNDER THE GUIDANCE AND DIRECT CONTROL OF THE GOVERNING BODY

31. As described in the Results Framework, the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Fund for Agreed Purposes are essential to the realization of the programmatic approach of the Funding Strategy and will play a catalytic role in its implementation.

32. The Fund for Agreed Purposes was established in 2006 by the Governing Body. It is a FAO Trust Fund for purposes agreed between a donor and the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty. It plays a critical role in the implementation of decisions of the Governing Body, in particular to strengthen the global Treaty-enabling mechanisms, implement agreed priorities, build capacity at international and regional levels, and facilitate decision-making of the Governing Body to enhance Treaty implementation. It offers a flexible and responsive mechanism for the Secretary to secure and manage funds from a range of donors to take forward the programmatic implementation of the Treaty. Annex 1 contains the Operations Manual for the Fund, which details scope, resource mobilization and information and reporting.

33. The Benefit-sharing Fund is an essential element of the Funding Strategy and of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing. The Fund is the operational mechanism for receiving, utilizing and sharing the monetary benefits arising from Multilateral System, as specified in Article 19.3.f of the Treaty. The Benefit-sharing Fund was established by the Governing Body and has been evolving since it first became operational in 2009; its integration into the programmatic approach of the Funding Strategy is another step in its development.

34. The methodology used to calculate the target for the Benefit-sharing Fund derives from that used to calculate the overall target of the Funding Strategy, which aims for a high level of implementation of all priority areas within the Global Plan of Action by 2030. Consequently, similar limitations apply, as noted in paragraph 25.

35. As specified in the Operational Manual of the Benefit-sharing Fund, the programmatic approach of the Benefit-sharing Fund focuses on:

- Priority area 2 (PA2) of the Second Global Plan of Action of PGRFA: Supporting on-farm management and improvement of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and
- Priority area 11 (PA11) of the Second Global Plan of Action of PGRFA: promoting the development and commercialization of all varieties, primarily farmers' varieties/landraces and underutilized crops.

Nevertheless, the programmatic approach puts in place supportive practices and enabling initiatives for the implementation of other priorities of the Second Global Plan of Action.

36. The Governing Body establishes a target range for the Benefit-sharing Fund:

By 2025, the annual income of the Benefit-sharing Fund would have to reach the range of [A – B] USD million in order for the Benefit-sharing Fund to contribute [C – D] % of the multilateral-bilateral effort to achieve a high-level of implementation of priorities PA2 and PA11 by 2030.

37. Consistent with the overall target for the Funding Strategy, the target for the Benefit-sharing Fund will be periodically reviewed through the regular reviews of the Funding Strategy.

38. The primary beneficiaries of the Benefit-sharing Fund, in accordance with Article 13.3 of the International Treaty, are farmers around the world, especially in developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, who conserve and sustainably utilize plant genetic resources.

39. The Benefit-sharing Fund supports in-situ and on-farm management and improvement and creates linkages with broader ex-situ conservation efforts. It enhances and facilitates both, farmer-to-farmer exchanges of seed and enables the flow of PGRFA material from farmers to ex-situ collections and back. Funded projects put in place efforts to improve local seed value chains and make a wide range of adapted and improved varieties available to small scale farmers. Plant breeding efforts with the participation of farmers are supported and the capacity to develop varieties particularly adapted to socio-environmental conditions and of high quality are being strengthened.

40. The Operations Manual for the Benefit-sharing Fund in Annex 2 brings together resource mobilization, allocation and disbursement in an integrated manner. Lessons learnt from previous project cycles have been integrated into the development of the Manual, which now contains a storyline and theory of change for the Benefit-sharing Fund for the period 2020-2025.

V. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, REVIEW AND RE-PLANNING

41. In recognition of its critical role to the Treaty, the Funding Strategy has been designed to be regularly reviewed so that it can be continuously improved, and remain dynamic, responsive and relevant. It integrates processes for implementing, monitoring, evaluating and learning, and for identifying and filling in gaps.

42. 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 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.

43. 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.

44. The Committee will develop an Operational Plan for the implementation of the Funding Strategy that will be reviewed and updated on a biennial basis and will include the following considerations related to its implementation, monitoring, review and re-planning:

- a. The implementation, monitoring and review of the Funding Strategy should be dynamic and support the programmatic approach outlined in this Funding Strategy.
- b. 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.
- c. Periodic monitoring and reporting on the use of the different funding channels and the current donor environment so to make necessary adjustments, identify and structure new funding opportunities.
- d. Biennial reviews of the implementation of the Funding Strategy and a five-year strategic period review.
- e. The monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Fund for Agreed Purposes are established in the Operations Manuals and include regular reporting to the Governing Body. These frameworks are an integral part of the monitoring of the Funding Strategy. The monitoring and review of the overall Funding Strategy should be coherent with these processes. As funds under the control of the Governing Body, the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Fund for Agreed Purposes are also subject to FAO's existing standard procedures, including financial audits and reports.
- f. The monitoring and review of the Funding Strategy should take into account monitoring, evaluating and learning from lessons, experiences and information gained in previous reviews of the Funding Strategy, as decided by the Governing Body through Paragraph 2, iii) of Resolution 3/2017.
- g. The implementation, regular review and improvement of the Funding Strategy should support the enhancement of other Treaty mechanisms, such as the Multilateral System (Resolution 2/2015, paras. 1 and 2).