



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



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

## RESOLUTION 14/2023

### COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

#### PART I: INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

##### THE GOVERNING BODY,

**Recalling** Resolution 14/2022 and other previous Resolutions on the Cooperation with Other International Bodies and Organizations;

**Reaffirming** that the International Treaty is the lead intergovernmental agreement for international cooperation on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA);

**Noting with appreciation** the new and continued cooperation, collaboration and support provided by relevant international organizations and other stakeholder groups, in order to advance the objectives and implementation of the International Treaty;

**Cognizant** of the importance of harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty with relevant instruments and processes, especially at national level, and noting the continued importance of assisting developing country Contracting Parties in this regard;

1. **Reaffirms** the need to continue the efforts necessary to ensure that the International Treaty's objectives and role in the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA are recognized and supported by relevant international institutions, organizations and processes;
2. **Encourages** Contracting Parties to take initiatives to strengthen the harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty and other relevant international instruments and their various goals and commitments in a coherent and mutually supportive manner, as appropriate, and **requests** the Secretary to facilitate such initiatives and in collaboration with partner organizations, upon request and subject to the availability of financial resources;
3. **Welcomes** the ongoing discussions between the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the International Organisation of Wine and Vine (OIV), and **requests** the Secretary to continue these discussions with a view to establishing effective cooperation between the two institutions, and to seek practical means and activities to further enhance this cooperation; **further requests** the Secretary to report on these efforts at the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body;
4. **Welcomes** the implementation of the Joint Capacity Building Programme with the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, and **reaffirms** the need to expand the Programme and to ensure that the Secretary continues to play an active role in the coordination, monitoring and analysis of results and impacts, subject to the availability of financial resources, and **calls upon** Contracting Parties and donors to provide additional funding to support its continuation;
5. **Invites** the Secretary to continue strengthening cooperation and synergies with other Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) members, establishing or renewing cooperation frameworks, as needed, and **encourages** the members of the BLG to continue their collaboration in accordance with their respective mandates, legal authority and responsibilities and, subject to the availability of financial resources;

6. **Requests** the Secretary to continue actively participating in relevant meetings and processes of the BLG to enhance collaboration among the members for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in accordance with their respective mandates;
7. **Requests** the Secretary, subject to availability of financial resources, to continue participating in relevant activities of the InforMEA Initiative and collaborating with the World Conservation Monitoring Center (UNEP-WCMC) for the development of a new version of the Online Reporting System and other related activities in support of the CBD's monitoring of the implementation of the GBF;
8. **Welcomes** the continued support and coordination provided by the African Union Commission for Contracting Parties from the African Region in implementation of the International Treaty, and **requests** the Secretary to continue strengthening this collaboration, as well as to seek opportunities to establish cooperation with other relevant regional organizations and institutions for the promotion and implementation of the International Treaty;
9. **Encourages** the Secretary to continue collaborating with the UPOV Office on relevant matters, as appropriate;
10. **Takes note of** the status of UPOV's FAQ on the interrelations between the International Treaty, the CBD and UPOV;
11. **Requests** the Secretary, as appropriate and subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue participating in relevant meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of WIPO; to attend the 2024 Diplomatic Conference to conclude an International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources;
12. **Encourages** other relevant stakeholder groups, in particular civil society organizations, farmers' organizations and the seed industry, to continue strengthening their engagement and cooperation to advance implementation of the International Treaty;
13. **Requests** the Secretary to continue fostering cooperation with other international organizations, regional initiatives and relevant stakeholders, and strengthen existing cooperative arrangements with a view to developing synergies consistent with their respective mandates, governance structures and agreed programmes, and subject to the availability of financial resources;
14. **Requests** the Secretary to continue to report to the Governing Body on cooperation with other relevant international bodies and organizations, including with the Human Rights Council and other international human rights bodies, and related collaborative activities.

## PART II: ARTICLE 15 INSTITUTIONS

### THE GOVERNING BODY,

**Recalling** the provisions of Article 15.1 and Article 15.5 of the International Treaty, and its previous Resolutions related to Institutions that signed agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty;

15. **Takes note of** the information provided in the reports by institutions that have concluded agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty, **commends** those institutions that submitted reports for the valuable contents and **invites** them to continue providing similar information to future sessions of the Governing Body;
16. **Further commends** the eleven CGIAR centres that signed agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty for submitting a joint report to the Governing Body, and **further invites** them to continue providing a similar joint report to future sessions of the Governing Body;
17. **Urges** those institutions that have not submitted any report, to do so at the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body and **requests** the Secretary to communicate this urgent request to such institutions;
18. **Further requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue holding regular or periodic consultations with institutions that signed agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty, on implementation of the agreements and policy guidance, including on the

transfer of PGRFAs in the collections with the SMTA, and report to the Governing Body at each Session;

19. **Takes note** of the on-going efforts to secure the international collections whose orderly maintenance is at risk or threatened, and **requests** the Secretary to continue exercising his responsibilities and providing support under Article 15 of the International Treaty, in close collaboration with host governments, as applicable, and in partnership with other interested governments and relevant institutions that are capable of providing financial, technical and other necessary support to these efforts;
20. **Urges** Contracting Parties, donors and other stakeholders to provide the necessary financial and material support to facilitate these efforts;
21. **Reiterates** its invitation the host governments of international collections in COGENT that have not yet done so, to sign agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty so to bring all the international collections in the network under the purview of the International Treaty, and **further invites** interested host countries of collections under COGENT to consider signing agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty so to establish new international collections;
22. **Requests** the Secretary to continue in the efforts to secure agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty with all relevant institutions;
23. **Further requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to liaise with the CGIAR Centres promoting the Global Plant Cryopreservation Initiative, the Crop Trust and other relevant stakeholders in order to support governance and policy arrangements for cryopreservation in the framework of the International Treaty, and **invites** the relevant CGIAR Centres and the Crop Trust to report on progress with the Initiative at the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body.

### **PART III: MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS OF THE SVALBARD GLOBAL SEED VAULT**

#### **THE GOVERNING BODY,**

**Recalling** Resolutions 12/2017, 12/2019 and 14/2022;

**Recalling** that the adoption of the International Treaty gave the impetus to the Government of Norway to proceed with the establishment of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault (Seed Vault);

**Reaffirming** that the Seed Vault is a crucial element of the global system for ex situ conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; and

**Acknowledging** the close links between the operations and function of the Seed Vault to the objectives of the International Treaty and its contribution to the implementation of the Treaty's provisions;

24. **Thanks** the Government of Norway for the submission of the 2023 report on the management and operations of the Seed Vault and invites it to continue updating the Bureau and Governing Body on the operations and management of the Seed Vault;
25. **Notes** the new deposits of seed samples made at the Seed Vault during its three openings in 2022;
26. **Commemorates** the 15-year anniversary of the establishment of the Seed Vault;
27. **Notes** the positive impacts of the technical improvement of the facility implemented since 2019 and the development of new security and control systems and administrative measures;
28. **Commends** the efforts to support national genebanks to further deposit materials in the Seed Vault and encourage other donors to contribute to these activities;
29. **Welcomes** the reconvening of the Seed Vault's International Advisory Panel and **requests** the Chairperson of the Governing Body to continue chairing the Panel and carrying out such functions as the role may require;
30. **Reiterates** the invitation to Contracting Parties, international institutions and other relevant eligible bodies and organizations to consider making use of the Seed Vault as part of their strategy for securing

their important seed collections and for long-term storage of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

31. **Requests** the Secretary to explore further with the Government of Norway other practical means to enhance the linkages between the International Treaty and the Seed Vault, including linking data through the Global Information System, and report to the Bureau of the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body;
32. **Requests** the Secretary to continue collaborating with the Government of Norway and its partners in related activities, including supporting relevant communication and outreach efforts as well as promoting utilization of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault.