



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



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

RESOLUTION 12/2023

POLICY GUIDANCE TO THE GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling that the Global Crop Diversity Trust (the Crop Trust) is an essential element of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty, in relation to the *ex situ* conservation and availability of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

Recalling that pursuant to Article 1(5) of its Constitution the Crop Trust shall operate in accordance with the overall policy guidance to be provided by the Governing Body of the International Treaty;

Taking note of the Report from the Crop Trust, which addresses matters requested by Resolution 10/2019;

Recalling the importance of cooperation with the Crop Trust on resource mobilization, including for national genebanks in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

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PART I: POLICY GUIDANCE

1. **Thanks** the Executive Board of the Crop Trust for having regularly submitted its annual report on the activities of the Crop Trust to the Governing Body and its Bureau;
2. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Governing Body and the Secretary to inform the Executive Board of the Crop Trust on the decisions made by the Governing Body and provides policy guidance on the following key areas;

A. Resource Mobilization

3. **Thanks** governments and other donors that have provided funds for the Crop Trust Endowment Fund, in particular towards enabling it to secure long-term funding for collections held pursuant to Article 15 of the International Treaty, with contributions paid into the endowment, as reported by the Crop Trust, currently at USD two hundred and fifty three million;
4. **Invites** the Crop Trust to provide information, at the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body, on progress made with resource mobilization during the next biennium for the Crop Trust Endowment Fund, as well as in relation to mobilization of project-based funds, including to support selected national genebanks in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
5. **Welcomes** and **commends** the substantial increase in cooperation on resource mobilization by the Executive Director of the Crop Trust and the Secretary of the International Treaty, and thanks donors that have given priority to support implementation of joint initiatives, such as the Biodiversity for Opportunities, Livelihoods and Development (BOLD) project and the development of the global crop conservation strategies;
6. **Recommends** that the Crop Trust continue sustaining and expanding its cooperation with the International Treaty on mobilizing resources, and further encourages donors to give priority to initiatives, projects and programmes that are jointly designed and implemented by the Crop Trust and the Secretariat;

7. **Recalling** that at its Ninth Session it had recommended the Crop Trust continue engaging with the Secretariat of the International Treaty to fulfil the important role of both institutions to mobilize support for the maintenance of collections held pursuant to Article 15 of the International Treaty (Article 15 collections), **welcomes** the establishment of the Funding Facility for short-term support of International Collections and **recommends** that both institutions further collaborate in this area and in doing so, engage the wide range of donors and partners that host or support these international collections.
8. **Thanks** the Crop Trust for its active support to the work of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (Funding Committee) and **invites** the Crop Trust to continue strengthening its support to the Funding Committee;
9. **Commends** the Crop Trust and Treaty Secretariat, as well as other partners, on their efforts to coordinate and provide support for the rescue and relocation of the national seed collection of Ukraine, including the development of a long-term plan for Ukraine's PGRFA system and **encourages** them to continue to collaborate with relevant FAO units and the PGRFA community to leverage further support for the initiative, and **calls on** donors to provide financial support to facilitate this initiative;

B. Scientific and Technical Matters

10. **Welcomes** the support provided by the Crop Trust during the current biennium to enable the long-term conservation and availability of crop diversity within Article 15 collections, and **invites** the Crop Trust to continue and expand cooperation with the Secretary, in accordance with Article 15.1(g) of the International Treaty, on mobilizing technical support for the orderly maintenance of such collections;
11. **Welcomes** the range of initiatives promoted by the Crop Trust to support national genebanks including training in genebank management and the development of standard operating protocols; **encourages** further collaboration with the Secretariat to undertake joint capacity building of national partners on Treaty implementation; and **reaffirms** that capacity building for ex-situ conservation at the national level is a crucial element for the success of the International Treaty;
12. **Welcomes** the organization of a high-level panel of experts on genetic diversity of sorghum and millets for food security and sustainable agriculture during the International Year of Millets and **encourages** the two institutions to continue jointly delivering scientific and technical training and expertise through all available means, including on-line tools;

C. Global Information System

13. **Welcomes** the close collaboration of the Crop Trust with the International Treaty and FAO in the area of PGRFA information, and **invites** them to continue collaborating on training and capacity development activities in the area of information systems and documentation of PGRFA;
14. Further **invites** the Crop Trust to continue participating in the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System and provide regular updates on the implementation of its activities relevant to the Global Information System;

D. Communication and Outreach

15. **Appreciates** the first-ever Global Crop Diversity Summit held in November 2023 in Berlin, Germany and **recommends** the Crop Trust to continue to strengthen cooperation with the International Treaty to jointly develop outreach and communication products and to further systematize and strengthen such cooperation in the next biennium;

E. Mainstreaming Global Crop Conservation Strategies

16. **Thanks** the Crop Trust for making the *White Paper: Mainstreaming Global Crop Conservation Strategies in Plant Treaty Processes* available and **takes note** of the recommendations it contains on governance, development and implementation of the Global Crop Conservation Strategies (GCCS);
17. **Encourages** Contracting Parties to raise awareness of existing GCCS and to make use of the GCCS, as appropriate, in implementing their national plans and strategies and **invites** Contracting Parties and

- donors to make funding available for the implementation of existing GCCS, and development, publication, promotion and implementation of future GCCS;
18. **Encourages** the Crop Trust and other stakeholders involved in developing GCCS, including national experts, to further elaborate areas of relevance to the implementation of the International Treaty;
 19. **Welcomes** the recommendation that an international technical advisory committee composed of technical experts on crop genetic diversity, conservation, and sustainable use is established to provide guidance on the scope, format, timing and priority crops for the GCCS;
 20. **Emphasizes** the importance of contributions that national experts can make to the development and implementation of GCCS;
 21. **Requests** the Crop Trust and the Treaty Secretary to develop a concept note on the establishment and funding of an international technical advisory committee, composed of technical experts on crop genetic diversity, conservation, and sustainable use, for consideration of the Governing Body at its Eleventh Session. The concept note should address:
 - the mandate of the committee to provide guidance on the scope, format, timing and priority crops for the GCCS as well as its proposed composition, and
 - the funding and implementation modalities for future GCCS, including through contributions by national crop technical experts.
 22. **Emphasizes** the importance of crop networks for the implementation of GCCS and **encourages** Contracting Parties and other stakeholders to establish new crop networks, and revive historical ones;
 23. **Requests** the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System to further explore integration and synergies between the GCCS and the International Treaty's Data Store and other components of the Global Information System (GLIS), as well as the WIEWS and Genesys data-bases;

F. Emergency Reserve for Germplasm Collections at Risk

24. **Welcomes** the continued availability and operation of the Emergency Reserve for Germplasm Collections at Risk (Reserve) to facilitate the rapid response to imminent threats to unique germplasm collections that fall under the framework of the International Treaty, in particular its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing;
25. **Thanks** the Governments of Italy, Norway and the United States of America for the financial contributions to the Reserve, and **calls upon** Contracting Parties, intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations and other entities to contribute to the Reserve;
26. **Further thanks** the donors that have supported projects for the rapid response to imminent threats to unique germplasm collections, including those that fall under the framework of the International Treaty, in particular its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing;
27. **Requests** the Secretary to communicate the availability of the Reserve and the related eligibility criteria more widely, including through the website of the International Treaty;
28. **Requests** the Secretary to provide the Bureau of the Eleventh Session with a financial and technical report on the joint operation of the Emergency Reserve, including on the lessons learned exercise that the Secretary and the Crop Trust will undertake, at the request of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy, in order to further inform the operations of the Emergency Reserve and responses to emergency disaster situations affecting plant genetic resources for food and agriculture more generally;
29. **Further requests** the Secretary to provide a summary report on the Reserve and on other emergency assistance and interventions to the Eleventh Session.

PART II: OTHER

30. **Requests** the Bureau of the Eleventh Session to carry out the selection and appointment of members to the Executive Board of the Crop Trust to fill any vacancy that may arise before the Eleventh Session, in accordance with the Procedures for the Selection and Appointment of Members of the Executive Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust.