



**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**

SIXTH MEETING OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Rome, Italy, 19–20 March 2025

Other Functions of the Compliance Committee and Future Work

Executive Summary

This document provides a brief overview of relevant activities regarding the functions of the Compliance Committee other than the monitoring and reporting, and contains elements that the Committee may wish to consider when discussing its future work.

Guidance Sought

The Compliance Committee is invited to note the developments described in this document. Moreover, the Committee may wish to prepare its conclusions and suggestions for future work on compliance with the International Treaty and to consider the possible elements for a draft Resolution for submission to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body, as provided in *Appendix 2*.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Governing Body, at its Tenth Session, encouraged Contracting Parties to avail themselves of the opportunities that the functions of the Compliance Committee provide.¹
2. Pursuant to Section IV of the *Procedures and Operational Mechanisms to Promote Compliance and Address Issues of Non-Compliance*² (*Compliance Procedures*), the Committee shall, with a view to promoting compliance and addressing issues of non-compliance, and under the overall guidance of the Governing Body, have the following functions:
 - a) Consider information submitted to it regarding matters relating to compliance and issues of non-compliance;
 - b) Offer advice and/or facilitate assistance, as appropriate, to any Contracting Party, on matters relating to compliance with a view to assisting it to comply with its obligations under the International Treaty;
 - c) Assist the Governing Body in its monitoring of the implementation by Contracting Parties of their obligations under the International Treaty on the basis of reports of the Contracting Parties in accordance with Section V of the *Compliance Procedures*;
 - d) Address issues of non-compliance and identify the specific circumstances of the issue referred to it, in accordance with Sections VI to VIII of the *Compliance Procedures*;
 - e) Promote compliance by addressing statements and questions concerning the implementation of obligations under the International Treaty, in accordance with Section IX of the *Compliance Procedures*;
 - f) Carry out any other functions as may be assigned to it by the Governing Body pursuant to Article 21 of the International Treaty;
 - g) Submit a report to each regular session of the Governing Body reflecting:
 - i) the work that the Committee has undertaken;
 - ii) the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee; and
 - iii) the future programme of work of the Committee.
3. Pursuant to the same provision, the Committee shall not consider any questions concerning the interpretation of, implementation of, or compliance with the Standard Material Transfer Agreement by parties or potential parties to it.
4. This document provides a brief overview of relevant activities regarding these functions of the Compliance Committee and contains elements that the Committee may wish to consider when discussing its future work.

II. REVISIONS TO THE COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES AND THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

5. At its Tenth Session, the Governing Body approved the recommendation of the Compliance Committee to make changes in the *Compliance Procedures* and in the *Rules of Procedure of the Compliance Committee (Rules of Procedure)*. The Secretary accordingly replaced the words “Chair” and “Vice-Chair” with the words “Co-Chair” or “Co-Chairs” and made the related editorial changes.
6. The revised *Compliance Procedures* and *Rules of Procedure* are available on the website of the International Treaty.³
7. Regarding the *Compliance Procedures*, the Compliance Committee held an initial discussion at its fifth meeting in 2023 on their possible review. Given the still limited experience accumulated with their implementation, however, it agreed to continue the review once information and submissions from 80% of

¹ [Resolution 8/2023](#).

² [Compliance Procedures](#).

³ [Compliance Procedures](#); [Rules of Procedure of the Compliance Committee](#).

Contracting Parties would be available, with a view to making appropriate recommendations to the Governing Body.⁴

8. As indicated in the document, IT/GB-11/CC-6/25/3, *Monitoring and Reporting*, 63% of Contracting Parties have currently submitted at least one national report.

9. The document prepared by the Secretary for the review of the *Compliance Procedures* for the fifth meeting of the Compliance Committee remains available for possible future discussions on this item.⁵

III. UPDATE ON THE ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM

10. To facilitate the submission of reports, the Secretariat launched the Online Reporting System (ORS or System) during the first reporting cycle. The System was developed in collaboration with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (WCMC). This same framework is used by several multilateral environmental agreements and biodiversity-related conventions because it is customizable with the corresponding reporting formats and requirements. It offers functions that have been tested with other treaties and conventions, and both the users and the parties benefit from previous experience. The System allows Contracting Parties to update single questions or groups of questions and resubmit these without having to rewrite the entire report. It also serves as a repository of information and could eventually help to study and analyze similar biodiversity topics across conventions.

11. The System has been the preferred method for the submission of national reports and has facilitated the update of information even when the national focal point frequently changed within short periods of time.

12. WCMC is working on a new version of the System that would eventually benefit Contracting Parties of the International Treaty during the third reporting cycle. Although the use of the System has been at no cost to the Secretariat so far, thanks to the resources and collaboration currently in place, the need to contribute to its future maintenance and operation is foreseen through the conclusion of a service agreement.

13. The new version will be significantly more user-friendly, making it easier to input data, attach files, and navigate across sections. It will also benefit from the logical relations between questions and answers, which will streamline the reporting process and reduce the time needed for completion. These enhancements aim to provide a more efficient and intuitive experience for users, ultimately facilitating the submission and management of reports.

14. One of the top features suggested by the Secretariat for the new version is the capability to produce quantitative statistics and graphics on the fly because the current process involves several data cleaning and aggregation activities, which is time-consuming.

15. The migration of the ORS instance of the International Treaty to the new version will conserve the data already inserted in the last cycle, as to facilitate the update by the national focal points. Before the new version is launched, the Secretariat will collaborate with WCMC to develop a brief user manual and training materials.

16. In *Appendix 1*, some of the expected features of the updated System are presented.

IV. UPDATE ON THE DRAFT CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND DRAFT ACTION PLAN

17. At its Tenth Session, the Governing Body requested the Secretary to develop the draft Action Plan for the implementation of the Capacity Development Strategy, under the guidance of the Bureau and in consultation with Contracting Parties as well as relevant stakeholders. It further requested the Secretary to present the updated draft Capacity Development Strategy and the draft Action Plan to the Governing Body for consideration, at its Eleventh Session.⁶

⁴ IT/GB-10/CC-5/23/Records, para. 11.

⁵ IT/GB-10/CC-5/23/4, *Reviews Under the Mandate of the Compliance Committee and Future Work*.

⁶ [Resolution 10/2023](#).

18. The Secretary has been working on these requests during the biennium. The Bureau of the Eleventh Session advised the Secretary on the finalization of the draft Capacity Development Strategy and the consultation process for developing the Action Plan.

19. Based on the guidance from the Bureau, the Secretary will soon publish a notification, inviting Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders to provide comments and inputs on the draft Capacity Development Strategy and the outline for the Action Plan, with a specified timeframe for submissions.

20. The Committee may wish to note these developments and invite its members to provide comments and inputs, once the notification is published.

V. FUTURE WORK

Data Collection and Analysis

21. The current workflow of data collection and processing based on the national reports is undertaken mainly by the Secretariat, in order to prepare the draft synthesis and analysis report for the Committee. The analysis encompasses both quantitative and qualitative assessments of the data. Over the years, the report has been expanded and enriched with graphics, charts and maps. Following the advice of the Committee, the report has also increased the segregation of analyses, by regions, for the relevant questions.

22. Following the advice of the Committee, all reports received by the Secretary are published online in the form and language in which they were received, with only the addition of a cover note, where necessary.

23. The Secretary followed the guidance received from the Committee on the methodology for the preparation of the draft synthesis report and on its structure. The draft synthesis report prepared for this meeting and contained in the document, IT/GB-11/CC-6/25/3, *Monitoring and Review*, is the fifth of its kind.

24. The Committee may therefore wish to take stock and discuss potential adjustments to the methodology or structure, as well as practical aspects in the preparation of the reports, and provide guidance to the Secretary, where necessary. For example, the Committee has so far not discussed its potential role in processing incoming national reports during the biennium. The Secretariat could send national reports to the members of the Committee as they are submitted and/or published, if it deems it appropriate.

25. The Committee could also discuss whether it wishes to continue to update the synthesis and analysis for each session of the Governing Body or rather establish a threshold of additional reports, below which the update would be deferred.

Monitoring and reporting

26. As indicated in the document, IT/GB-11/CC-6/25/3, *Monitoring and reporting*, some Contracting Parties in their national reports made observations and suggestions regarding the Standard Reporting Format and raised questions on the relevant timeframes for reporting.

27. The Committee may wish to address them when discussing its future work.

Advice and technical support by the Compliance Committee

28. The Tenth Session of the Governing Body “encourage[ed] Contracting Parties to avail themselves of the opportunities that the functions of the Compliance Committee provide, including by submitting to the Committee, through the Secretary, statements and questions concerning their implementation of the International Treaty.”⁷

29. No request for advice or technical support was received during this biennium.

30. The Committee is invited to discuss possibilities to encourage Contracting Parties to submit technical questions, so as to further enhance compliance with and implementation of the International Treaty.

31. In this context, the Committee may wish to recall its important role to provide assistance and advice to Contracting Parties on the implementation of the International Treaty. This is a unique function of the Compliance Committee and no other committee or subsidiary body established by the Governing Body has the mandate to exercise this function.

⁷ [Resolution 8/2023](#), para. k.

32. Therefore, the Committee may wish to discuss how it could best offer advice and/or facilitate assistance to Contracting Parties on matters relating to compliance with a view to assisting them to comply or improve compliance with their obligations under the International Treaty (Section IV.1b of the *Compliance Procedures*).

33. Moreover, the Committee may wish to discuss how to consider, in the future, measures to promote compliance and address issues of non-compliance that are brought to its attention and provide guidance to the Secretary on the support that may be provided to this process. The Committee may wish to discuss what a possible procedure on non-compliance could look like.

34. Finally, the Committee may wish to discuss how best to promote compliance based on the information submitted in the national reports. This might relate both to issues of general non-compliance that come to the attention of the Committee through the reports received or to indications by a Contracting Party of difficulties in complying with its obligations under the International Treaty. One example previously discussed by the Committee is the availability of PGRFA in the Multilateral System (Question 20 of the Standard Reporting Format).

Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System

35. At its Ninth Session in New Delhi, India, the Governing Body decided to re-establish the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (Working Group), to finalize the enhancement of the functioning of the Multilateral System by the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body,⁸ scheduled for 24–29 November 2025.⁹

36. The package of measures currently being discussed by the Working Group may bring about important enhancements of the Multilateral System, possibly leading to the need for technical advice to Contracting Parties implementing the changes.

37. The Committee may wish to discuss how it could proactively engage in offering advice or assistance to Contracting Parties, following the possible adoption of the enhanced Multilateral System by the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body.

VI. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

38. The Compliance Committee is invited to note the developments described above. Moreover, the Committee may wish to prepare its conclusions and suggestions for future work on compliance with the International Treaty.

39. Finally, the Committee is invited to prepare a draft Resolution for the consideration of the Governing Body at its Eleventh Session, and may wish to consider the possible elements provided in *Appendix 2* as a basis.

⁸ [Resolution 3/2022](#).

⁹ Further details are provided in the document IT/GB-11/CC-6/25/4, *Update on Relevant Intersessional Processes*.

Appendix 1

UPDATES ON THE CHANGES TO THE ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM

The new version of the Online Reporting System will present various advances. These are just some examples:

- Possibility to quickly create report framework from previous cycles

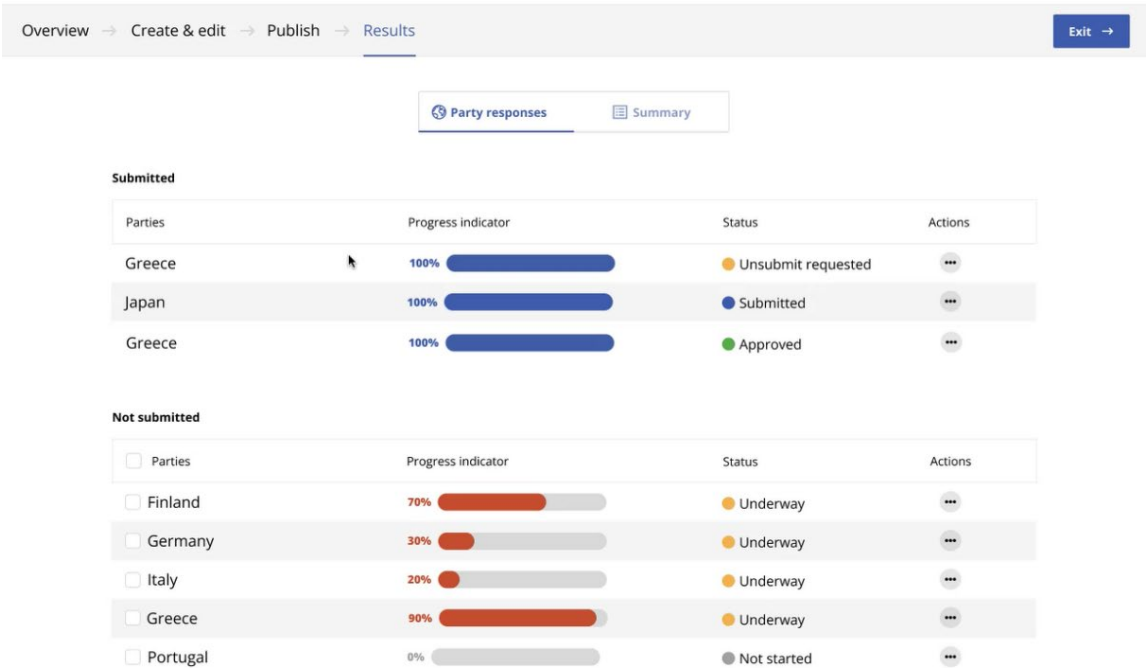
The screenshot shows the 'Dashboard' of the Online Reporting System. At the top, there are navigation links: Dashboard, Trends & Analysis, Activity, My account, Log out, and a language dropdown set to English. A blue box on the right says 'ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM' with the UN WCMC logo. Below this is a 'Create a new questionnaire' button. A table lists existing questionnaires with columns: Created on, Deadline, Status, Responses, and Quick links.

Created on	Deadline	Status	Responses	Quick links
12/2023	10/2024	Draft	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edit See results Duplicate Close
05/2016	05/2017	Published	120	
05/2016	05/2017	Published	120	
04/2014	12/2016	Closed	120	
		Draft	0	

- It will be possible to use a single questionnaire to report in English, French and Spanish. The user will be able to edit the text on screen and benefit from contextual support functions.

The screenshot shows the 'Create & edit' interface of the Online Reporting System. At the top, there are tabs for 'Overview', 'Create & edit', 'Publish', and 'Results'. The 'Create & edit' tab is active. On the left, there's a 'Questionnaire structure' sidebar with options for 'EN', 'FR', and 'ES'. The main area shows a text editor with a toolbar (bold, italic, underline, link, unlink, list, list-group, indent, outdent, undo, redo) and a 'Title (mandatory)' field. Below the editor, there are 'Cancel' and 'Save' buttons. A link to online tutorials is provided at the bottom.

- It will be possible to monitor the progress in the completion and submission of reports online.



- It will be easier to filter questions and replies for its analysis.

The screenshot shows a filter sidebar on the left side of the interface. At the top of the sidebar is a 'Filter by:' label and a 'Clear all' link. Below this, there are four filter categories, each with a dropdown menu:

- Parties**: A dropdown menu with the text 'Choose parties' and a downward arrow.
- Sections**: A dropdown menu with the text 'Select sections' and a downward arrow.
- Questions**: A dropdown menu with the text 'Select question' and a downward arrow. There is a question mark icon next to the label.
- Goals/Targets**: A dropdown menu with the text 'Choose goals/targets' and a downward arrow. There is a question mark icon next to the label.

Appendix 2

POSSIBLE ELEMENTS OF A DRAFT RESOLUTION

The Governing Body:

1. *Recalling* its previous decisions on compliance, particularly regarding capacity development and the support available to Contracting Parties from the Compliance Committee;

Monitoring and reporting

2. *Thanks* the Compliance Committee for the synthesis and analysis provided in the document, IT/GB-11/25/xx, *Report of the Compliance Committee*;
3. *Thanks* those Contracting Parties that have submitted their reports pursuant to Section V of the Compliance Procedures on time as well as those that submitted or updated their reports subsequently;
4. *Invites* all Contracting Parties, including Contracting Party Organizations and States that have recently become Contracting Parties, to continue submitting or updating their reports, pursuant to Section V of the Compliance Procedures, and *notes* that such reports are to be submitted every five years;
5. *Notes* that the national reports are an important self-assessment tool to measure progress in implementation of the International Treaty and *emphasizes* the value of the information provided so far to make informed decisions;
6. *Appreciates* the efforts and *thanks* the Secretary for the support and assistance provided to Contracting Parties during the reporting process, and *requests* the Secretary to continue doing so;

Support and Capacity Development

7. *Welcomes* the capacity development activities undertaken by the Secretary and *requests* the Secretary to continue supporting Contracting Parties to actively participate in the compliance mechanism;
8. *Requests* the Secretary to support Contracting Parties in the use of the Online Reporting System, and to continue the collaboration with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (WCMC) to further adapt and upgrade it, and to inform Contracting Parties of relevant developments;
9. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to avail themselves of the opportunities that the functions of the Compliance Committee provide, including by submitting to the Committee, through the Secretary, statements and questions concerning their implementation of the International Treaty;
10. *Encourages* Contracting Parties and other donors to consider providing support and financial resources for capacity development activities as important and effective means to enhance compliance with and the implementation of the International Treaty;

Other Matters

11. *Invites* Contracting Parties to avail themselves of the information contained in the national reports submitted to the International Treaty to update their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), as may be most appropriate, in the context of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
12. *Recognizes* that the Global Plan of Action is a supporting component of the International Treaty and *invites* Contracting Parties to use such information, as appropriate, for the purpose of reporting under the compliance mechanism of the International Treaty;
13. *Invites* Contracting Parties to provide or update the contact details of their national focal points and, possibly, nominate an alternate reporting officer;

14. *Elects* the members of the Compliance Committee in accordance with Section III.4 of the Compliance Procedures, as contained in the [Annex] to this Resolution.
15. [...]