

June 2023



**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 AD HOC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON
CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC
RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

5 – 6 JULY 2023

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

INTRODUCTION

1. At its Ninth Session, the Governing Body, through Resolution 6/2022¹, decided to reconvene the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ACSU or Committee) with the Terms of Reference contained in *Appendix 2* to this document.
2. Pursuant to its Terms of Reference, the ACSU comprises up to five members each from the Africa Region, the Asia Region, the Europe Region and the Latin America and the Caribbean Region; three from the Near East Region; and two each from the North America Region and the South West Pacific Region; as well as seven technical experts designated by the Bureau, upon proposal by the FAO Regions and relevant stakeholders, in particular farmers' organizations, taking into account the required range of technical expertise, and regional and gender balance.
3. At its last meeting, the Bureau of the Tenth Session of the Governing Body agreed to designate an additional expert, representing the Civil Society Organization, noting the need to keep a balance of expertise in the composition of the Committee. The Bureau also advised the Secretary to make recommendations to the Governing Body regarding the future composition of the Committee to facilitate the nomination of experts from different stakeholder groups.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The eighth meeting of the Committee will be held virtually from 5 to 6 July 2023, in three-hour sessions each day. The meeting will start at 12:00 Central European Summer Time (CEST), on Wednesday, 5 July 2023.
5. Further details on the practical arrangements for the virtual meeting are contained in the document, IT/GB-10/ACSU-8/23/1/Inf.3, *Note for Participants*.

¹ [Resolution 6/2022](#), Annex 1.

ITEM 1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

6. The present document annotates the Provisional Agenda and contains in its *Appendix 1* an indicative timetable for the consideration of the ACSU, so that it could adopt its Agenda and organize its work.
7. The list of documents for this meeting is contained in the document, IT/GB-10/ACSU-8/23/1/Inf.1, *List of documents*. The documents are available on the website of the International Treaty at www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/1628021/.
8. The meeting will be conducted in English.
9. As this meeting of the ACSU will be held virtually, and given some of the specific challenges of virtual meetings, including time zone differences, it is proposed that the meeting will only have one session each day of the meeting, organized in three-hour blocks on 5 and 6 July 2023.

ITEM 2. CONCEPT NOTE OF THE JOINT PROGRAMME ON BIODIVERSITY IN AGRICULTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

10. At its last meeting, the Committee provided inputs for the revision of the Concept Note of the Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and furthermore, requested the Secretary to suggest activities for the different outcomes and to consider developing additional short sections to the Concept Note such as: Implementation; Governance and management and added value of the Joint Programme.
11. The document, IT/GB-10/ACSU-8/23/2, *Concept Note of the Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA*, presents the updated draft Concept Note on the Joint Programme together with the suggested inputs and additional information, as requested by the Committee at its seventh meeting.
12. The Committee is invited to consider the revised Concept Note, including the suggested activities and milestones, and provide any additional elements of advice or suggestions, as appropriate, for the consideration of the Governing Body at its Tenth Session.

ITEM 3. STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS THE BOTTLENECKS AND CHALLENGES TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLES 5 AND 6 OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

13. Pursuant to its Terms of Reference, the Committee will develop suggestions on future strategies to address the bottlenecks identified in the *Background Study on the bottlenecks and challenges to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty*, for the consideration of the Governing Body at its Tenth Session.
14. At its seventh meeting, the Committee welcomed the indicative strategies presented by the Secretariat,² shared its views, and agreed that further discussions and additional information regarding the processes were needed.³
15. The document, IT/GB-10/ACSU-8/23/3, *Strategies to address the bottlenecks and challenges to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty*, presents possible activities for each of the proposed future strategies, and some elements for the consideration of the Committee in providing relevant recommendations to the Governing Body.
16. The Committee is invited to consider the information provided in this document and develop suggestions on future strategies to address the bottlenecks identified in the *Background Study*, for the consideration of the Governing Body at its Tenth Session.

² [IT/GB-10/ACSU-7/23/3](http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/1628021/)

³ [IT/GB-10/ACSU-7/23/Report](http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/1628021/)

ITEM 4. REPORT TO THE GOVERNING BODY ON THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

17. The Terms of Reference provide that the Committee will report to the Governing Body on its work, for further consideration at the Tenth Session.
18. The Committee is invited to prepare its report to the Tenth Session of the Governing Body or to indicate how it wishes to proceed and how the Secretariat may assist it in that regard.

ITEM 5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19. Under this agenda item, and with time permitting, the ACSU may wish to discuss any other relevant matters that may have arisen or were raised by its members and experts, which have not been covered in the agenda.

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

20. Under this agenda item, the ACSU is invited to adopt its report of this meeting.

*Appendix 1***Proposed indicative timetable**

Time	Agenda Item	Title
Wednesday, 5 July 2023		
12:00-15:00 Rome Time zone (CEST), UTC+2		Opening of the meeting
	1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	2	Concept Note of the Joint Programme on biodiversity in agriculture for sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
	3	Strategies to address the bottlenecks and challenges to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty
Thursday, 6 July 2023		
12:00-14:00 Rome Time zone (CEST), UTC+2	3	Strategies to address the bottlenecks and challenges to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty
	4	Report to the Governing Body on the work of the Committee
	5	Any other business
	6	Adoption of the Report

Appendix 2

**Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(Resolution 6/2022, Annex 1)**

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture will:
 - i. provide inputs to the Secretariat for the revision and finalization of the Concept Note of the Joint Programme;
 - ii. develop suggestions on future strategies to address the bottlenecks identified in the Background Study, for the consideration of the Governing Body at its Tenth Session.

2. The Committee will comprise up to five members each from the Africa Region, the Asia Region, the Europe Region and the Latin America and the Caribbean Region; three from the Near East Region; and two each from the North America Region and the South West Pacific Region; as well as seven technical experts designated by the Bureau, upon proposal by the FAO Regions and relevant stakeholders, in particular farmers' organizations, taking into account the required range of technical expertise, and regional and gender balance. Two Co-Chairpersons from Contracting Parties to the International Treaty will form part of the Committee – one from a developing country and one from a developed country. The two Co-Chairpersons shall be in addition to the members of the Committee nominated by the Regions. The Governing Body delegates the authority to designate the Co-Chairpersons to the Bureau of the Tenth Session.

3. The Secretary will continue to maintain and update the list of experts for future reference. This will be made available to Contracting Parties, with a possible view to expanding the pool of experts on the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

4. The Committee may hold two virtual meetings in 2023, subject to the availability of financial resources. The Secretary will facilitate the process and assist the Committee in its work.

5. The Committee will report to the Governing Body on its work, for further consideration at the Tenth Session.