



**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**

**NINTH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE
FUNDING STRATEGY AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION
(VIRTUAL)**

27 June 2024

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The ninth meeting (SFC-9) of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee or Committee) was opened by the Secretary of the Treaty, Mr Kent Nnadozie.
2. In his welcoming remarks, Mr Nnadozie noted that SFC-9 was the first meeting of the Committee since the Tenth Session of the Governing Body (GB-10) and as such, one two-hour virtual meeting had been arranged in order to elect the Co-Chairs of the Committee and provide the Committee with background information and updates for planning its work in the biennium ahead.
3. Mr Nnadozie recalled that through Resolution 4/2023, GB-10 had welcomed the report of the Committee and the progress made in implementing the Funding Strategy since its adoption and requested the Funding Committee to continue to play a leading role in advancing the implementation and monitoring of the Funding Strategy in order to provide the necessary strategic guidance as well as operational oversight of relevant processes and activities relating to the Funding Strategy.
4. The Secretary welcomed the Members of the Committee and Observers to the meeting. The List of Participants is provided in Appendix 2 to these Proceedings.

ITEM 2: ELECTION OF THE CO-CHAIRS

5. The Committee elected Ms Catherine Karr-Colque (USA) and Ms Yasmina El-Bahloul (Morocco) to serve as Co-Chairs of the Committee during the biennium. Ms El-Bahloul, who was unable to attend the meeting, was elected in absentia.

ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

6. The Committee adopted its Agenda, as given in Appendix 1 to these Proceedings.

ITEM 4: ENHANCEMENT OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING: UPDATE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

7. The Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (the Working Group), Mr Michael Ryan and Mr Sunil Archak, briefed the Committee on the work being undertaken to finalize the enhancement of the functioning of the Multilateral System by the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body (GB-11), recalling that the Governing Body, through Resolution 3/2022, had underscored the necessity to liaise closely with the Funding Committee, including with regard to non-monetary benefit-sharing and the Benefit-sharing Fund.

8. The Co-Chairs further recalled that, at its Eleventh Meeting in April 2024, the Working Group had highlighted the importance of liaising with the Funding Committee as well as with the Compliance Committee and provided initial ideas on trust-building measures, and ratification and compliance support, for the enhanced Multilateral System that could be prepared by these committees.

9. The Co-Chairs provided an update on the work being undertaken to further develop the “June 2019 draft package” (2019 draft package) that was prepared in the previous phase of negotiations, noting that the key areas for further work are the expansion of Annex I of the International Treaty, digital sequence information/genetic sequence data (DSI/GSD), and payment structure and rates.

10. The Co-Chairs emphasized that there are important intersections between its work and that of the Funding Committee. The Co-Chairs noted that the 2019 draft package had wording on voluntary contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) that would need to be updated to reflect the updated Funding Strategy 2020-2027. They highlighted the importance for the Funding Committee to provide recommendations to the Governing Body on the BSF target that would include user-based income arising from the Multilateral System and voluntary contributions.

11. In relation to the Committee’s work on non-monetary benefit-sharing (NMBS), the Co-Chairs highlighted the importance of recognising the substantial benefits that the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (MLS) provides to stakeholders and those accessing the MLS, noting the importance for the Funding Committee to advance on the further development of NMBS methodology.

12. In relation to the Committee’s work on the provision of policy and criteria as called for in Article 13.4 of the Treaty, the Co-Chairs recalled that the 2019 draft package proposed a number of criteria that the Funding Committee may wish to consider.

13. The Committee thanked the Co-Chairs for the useful update and agreed to continue liaising with the Working Group, including through the Co-Chairs of the two groups, to take forward work on the areas of intersection highlighted.

ITEM 5: REVISED TIMELINE OF FUNDING STRATEGY AND OPERATIONAL PLAN 2020-2027

14. The Committee thanked the Secretariat for the background information provided on the Treaty’s Funding Strategy. It considered the document, IT/GB-11/SFC-9/24/3 *Revised Timeline of the Funding Strategy and Operational Plan, and Future Work of the Funding Committee*, and discussed its future work, taking note of the proposal to organise its work in the 2024/2025 biennium as contained in Section IV of the document, and presented below:

Q4 2024: Tenth Meeting of the Funding Committee (SFC-10)

- Preceded by a Special Event on the Food Processing Engagement Strategy

Proposed areas of discussion to include on the SFC-10 agenda:

1. Update from the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System
2. Update on the outcomes of sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-16) of relevance to the Funding Strategy
3. Resource Mobilisation:
 - National budgets and priorities
 - Compilation of tools and best practices
 - Overview of opportunities and synergies with respect to the GBF
 - Guidance on bilateral programs
 - Food processing industry strategy - Treaty's value proposition
 - Update on innovative funding initiatives, Emergency Reserve and Article 15 Facility
 - Policy and criteria options
4. Benefit-sharing Fund
 - Update on BSF operations, monitoring and learning
 - Campaign to raise funds for BSF-6
5. Monitoring and Review
 - Non-monetary Benefit-sharing – update on finalising and testing of NMBS methodology
 - Guidance on Provisionally Populated Matrix of Funding Tools

Q2 2025: Eleventh Meeting of the Funding Committee (SFC-11)

Proposed areas of discussion to include on the SFC-11 agenda:

1. Update from the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System
2. Resource Mobilisation:
 - National Budgets and priorities - guidance on progress report
 - Multilateral mechanisms - update on priorities and opportunities
 - Food processing industry strategy – update on models of engagement and dialogue
 - Update on innovative funding initiatives, Emergency Reserve and Article 15 Facility
 - Policy and criteria – submission to GB-11
 - Update on visibility, outreach and communication initiatives
3. Benefit-sharing Fund
 - Update on BSF operations, monitoring and learning
 - Update on BSF-4 independent evaluation
 - Update on campaign to raise funds for BSF-6
4. Monitoring and Review
 - Non-monetary Benefit-sharing – update on testing of NMBS methodology
 - Operational Plan review and update
 - Funding Strategy review and options paper
 - Report of SFC to GB-11

ITEM 6: UPDATE OF WORKSTREAMS OF THE OPERATIONAL PLAN 2020-2027

- a) **Benefit-sharing Fund Operations: Update on the fifth project cycle of the BSF**

15. The Committee thanked the Secretariat for the presentation it provided on the status of BSF-4 and BSF-5 and noted the good progress that had been made to enhance communication, visibility, knowledge management and learning, including publication of the BSF Report 2022-2023, as well as the BSF exhibition and side event during GB-10 and the ongoing webinars with BSF-5 partners on knowledge management, visibility, and scaling up and mainstreaming PGRFA innovations.

16. The Committee recalled the extensive process it had led in 2023 to finalise the approval of 28 BSF-5 projects for funding and noted the progress made by the Secretariat since that time to conclude the contractual arrangements with BSF-5 partners, with 80% of partners having signed agreements with FAO for their projects, while the remaining were in the final stages of doing so.

17. The Committee discussed the request made by Egypt to consider it as part of the Near East region for future Calls for Proposals of the BSF, and other Treaty processes. The Committee requested the Secretariat to provide further background information on regional classifications for the BSF at the next meeting of the Committee for its consideration.

b) Resource Mobilization: Update on “national budgets and priorities” and “food processing industry engagement strategy” workstreams

National budgets and priorities

18. The Committee thanked the Secretariat for the presentation of outcomes from the workshop “Policy training and national planning for agrobiodiversity and climate resilience” held in Bangkok in June 2024 and recommended the replication of the initiative in other regions. The workshop was funded by the Biodiversity for Opportunities, Livelihoods and Development (BOLD) project and jointly organized by the Secretariat of the International Treaty, the Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). It included a presentation from UNDP’s Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) program, with which the Treaty Secretariat is collaborating on integrating PGRFA in BIOFIN’s Biodiversity Finance Plans to support countries in financing their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

19. The Committee welcomed the workshop and emphasized the importance of holding similar workshops in other regions. It also welcomed the joint development of a communication product by the Secretariat and the Crop Trust on the contribution of PGRFA to the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) as a tool for supporting countries to integrate PGRFA into their updated NBSAPs, and requested that it be shared with the members of the Committee and other Treaty stakeholders once finalised.

20. The Committee emphasized the importance of continuing to build capacities and raise awareness at national level on the importance of integrating PGRFA into the revised or updated NBSAPs and into other relevant national plans and policies.

Food processing industry engagement strategy

21. The Committee thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and for organising a side event at GB-10 on defining the Treaty’s value proposition for engaging with the Food Processing Industry. The results from informal consultations with experts, industry representatives, and the Treaty’s Funding Committee were presented to a wide range of stakeholders and was moderated by a diverse panel.

22. The Committee took note of the proposal for organizing an in-person Special Event involving food industry players prior to the next meeting of the SFC to further build on the work being undertaken to implement the Food Processing Engagement Strategy and as foreseen in the Committee's Operational Plan for 2024.

c) Monitoring and Review: Update on finalization and testing of methodology to measure non-monetary benefit-sharing

23. The Committee thanked the Secretariat for the update provided and took note of the plans for the further development and testing of the methodology to measure non-monetary benefit-sharing, based on the guidance provided by SFC-8. The Committee further noted that the testing would be carried out with a limited set of partners representing the diversity of the actors involved in the process, such as national research institutes, the CGIAR, breeding programmes, NGOs and the private sector. The Committee requested the Secretariat to provide an update to the Committee on the testing of the methodology and lessons learnt from the process at its next meeting.

ITEM 7: OTHER BUSINESS

24. The Committee noted that its current meeting coincided with the 20th anniversary of the Treaty and encouraged the Secretariat to use the occasion to emphasise the relevance of the Treaty and its main achievements since the entry into force in relevant communication, visibility and social media activities.

ITEM 8: MEETING PROCEEDINGS

25. These Meeting Proceedings contain a summary of the Committee's discussions at its ninth meeting. The final version incorporates any comments which members of the Committee may have subsequently provided electronically.

INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
NINTH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FUNDING STRATEGY AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION (VIRTUAL)
27 June 2024
PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of the Co-Chairs
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Enhancement of the Multilateral System on Access and Benefit-sharing: update from the Co-Chairs
5. Revised timeline of Funding Strategy and Operational Plan 2020-2027
6. Update of work streams of the Operational Plan 2020-2027
 - (a) Benefit-sharing Fund Operations: Update on the fifth project cycle of the BSF
 - (b) Resource Mobilization: Update on “national budgets and priorities” and “food processing industry engagement strategy” work streams
 - (c) Monitoring and Review: Update on finalization and testing of methodology to measure non-monetary benefit-sharing
7. Other business
8. Meeting proceedings

Appendix 2

List of Participants
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FUNDING STRATEGY
AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION (SFC)

27 June 2024

(Virtual)

	MEMBER	Remarks
AFRICA	<p>M. Koffi KOMBATE Point Focal National TIRPAA Responsable de la Recherche sur le manioc et autres amylacés Point focal des Ressources Phytogénétique pour l'amentation et l'agriculture Institut Togolais de Recherche Agronomique Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage et du Développement Rural B.P.1163 Lomé, Togo Phone: +228 90 19 46 84 Email: kombate_koffi@yahoo.fr</p>	
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