



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

RESOLUTION 10/2017

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;

Recalling that pursuant to the Relationship Agreement, the Executive Board of the Crop Trust shall submit an annual report on the activities of the Crop Trust to the Governing Body;

Taking note of the report from the Crop Trust, which addresses matters requested by Resolution 8/2015;

PART I: POLICY GUIDANCE

1. *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 to update the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty, of which the Crop Trust is an essential element, and *provides* policy guidance to the following key areas:

A. Resource Mobilization

2. *Thanks* governments and other donors that have provided funds for the Crop Trust Endowment Fund, including those participating in the 2016 Pledging Conference, which was an important milestone in the implementation of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty, in particular towards enabling to secure long-term funding for collections held pursuant to Article 15 of the Treaty, with contributions pledged standing, as reported by the Crop Trust, at USD 313.9 million;

3. *Welcomes* the steps being taken by the Crop Trust towards more funding from sources other than governments, and *invites* the Executive Board of the Crop Trust to transmit, once finalized, the fundraising strategy for the period 2017-2022 to the Bureau of the Governing Body, for information to the Contracting Parties, and to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization as a valuable input for updating the Funding Strategy, including in relation to the funding targets;

4. *Invites* the Crop Trust to continue its active support to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization, including to develop a programmatic approach of

the updated Funding Strategy while respecting the respective mandates of the International Treaty and the Crop Trust and demonstrating the linkages between the different elements of the Funding Strategy;

5. **Recommends** the Crop Trust to expand cooperation with the International Treaty on resource mobilization during the next biennium 2018-2019, in particular on joint fundraising activities with the Secretariat, to enhance complementarities and synergies, and to demonstrate how linkages between different elements of the Funding Strategy could be built in a concrete manner in the updated Funding Strategy;

6. **Invites** the Crop Trust to provide information, at the Eighth 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 to support selected national genebanks in developing countries;

B. Scientific and Technical Matters

7. **Welcomes** the support provided by the Crop Trust during the current biennium for the further implementation of the International Treaty to enable long-term conservation and availability of crop diversity, in partnership with CGIAR and in support to regional and national genebanks;

8. **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 the collections of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture held under Article 15 of the International Treaty;

9. **Recommends** the Crop Trust to further enhance its collaboration and complementarity with the International Treaty on scientific and technical matters, including through improved linkages in the updating and implementation of the Global Crop Conservation Strategies;

10. **Invites** the Crop Trust to collaborate with the International Treaty on the development of concepts for quality management regarding the conservation of, and access to collections of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture managed by the Contracting Parties in the framework of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing of the International Treaty, to assure their proper conservation, and to allow proper access as defined in the Multilateral System on Access and Benefit-sharing;

C. Global Information System

11. **Welcomes** the close collaboration of the Crop Trust with the International Treaty and FAO, through WIEWS, on providing support to genebanks in developing countries for the upgrading of their information management systems and infrastructure;

12. **Invites** the Crop Trust to continue collaborating with the Secretariat on the implementation of the Global Information System, *inter alia*, through the operations of Genesys and the support to GRIN-Global, the CGIAR Genebank Platform and other similar initiatives relevant to the implementation of Article 17 of the International Treaty;

13. **Encourages** the Crop Trust to support synergies and complementarities in its activities with the Programme of Work on the Global Information System, in recognition of the mandate and standard setting capacity of the Governing Body, and **further recommends** the Secretariat to formalize the relationship and create synergies between the Global Information System and Genesys through, *inter alia*, a Memorandum of Understanding;

14. **Recommends** the Crop Trust to submit relevant information to the Secretary so to enable further consideration by the Governing Body of any potential implications of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources for the three objectives of the International Treaty;

15. **Further invites** the Crop Trust to appoint one expert to continue participating in the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Global Information System and provide regular updates on the implementation of its activities relevant to the Global Information System;

D. Communication and Outreach

16. **Recommends** the Crop Trust to jointly develop outreach and communication products with the International Treaty on the contribution of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular on the importance of implementing the International Treaty to reach Target 2.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals;

PART II: OTHER

17. **Calls upon** the Executive Board of the Crop Trust to submit its report annually on the activities of the Crop Trust to the Governing Body for its regular session and for an intervening year to the Bureau of the Governing Body, as provided in Article 3(3) of the Relationship Agreement, and **decides** that the submission to the Bureau of such reports shall constitute a fulfilment of the obligation under the Relationship Agreement;

18. **Requests** the Bureau of the Eight Session to carry out selection and appointment of members to the Executive Board during 2019 in accordance with the *Procedures for the Selection and Appointment of Members of the Executive Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust*, so to ensure the continued smooth and efficient functioning of the Executive Board.