

# Development of the Capacity Development Strategy (2022-25) of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Introductory on-line expert meeting, 10 December 2020

## Summary report

**Kent Nnadozie**, Executive Secretary of the International Treaty, **welcomed the participants**, and recalled the programmatic rationale for a capacity development strategy for the International Treaty. In particular, the Secretary expressed the need to build synergies across different sectors – such as agriculture and environment – and with other multilateral instruments, frameworks or processes, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Nagoya Protocol, the process towards the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The meeting was facilitated by **Mario Marino**, who reminded participants that the meeting was informal and designed to provide invited experts the opportunity to provide advice and views in their personal capacity. After a brief introduction by the experts, **Daniele Manzella** provided an **overview of the process for development of the draft Capacity Development Strategy 2022-25**, with particular emphasis on the mandate received by the Governing Body at its Eighth Session and the appraisal of the work of the informal expert group in consultation with relevant subsidiary bodies of the Treaty.

The discussion was structured around three clusters based on the draft framework endorsed by the Governing Body. Inputs were presented around a series of questions for each of the clusters.

### 1. Overall goal, guiding principles and outcomes

*What elements/pillars should be considered for the Strategy to be outcome-oriented? Are the outcomes included in the draft framework sufficient to achieve the overall goal?*

*What is the problem that the Strategy will aim to address? Does the overall goal reflect a shared vision or value to address that?*

*Are there any additional guiding principles that should be considered?*

Experts made the following key inputs:

- The strategy should be complemented by a **theory of change** with clear assumptions, linking activities and outcomes and reflecting the needs of the International Treaty;
- Concerning the **principles**, the following points should be considered:
  - **Country ownership** is pivotal to the strategy and should be fully articulated in the strategy; national institutions are the leading actors in capacity development;
  - Strengthening institutions and creating an enabling institutional environment are essential to retaining capacities and mitigate the effects of high turnover in administrations;
  - A balance between outcome- vs. impact-oriented may be sought;

- The principles should also reflect the issue of **sustainability**;
- Additional relevant principles, i.e. not currently included in the draft framework, are the whole-of-government approach and community-building.
- Implementation of the strategy should generate a shift in behavior and to that effect consider **culture-dependent variables**;
- The strategy and a possible future **action plan** for the effective implementation of the ITPGRFA at the national level should establish clear links to **national development plans and strategies**, including on food security and climate change.

## 2. Activities and target groups

*Are there any activities missing from the list, or dimensions from the Treaty's implementation that should be better reflected?*

*What mechanisms should be used to understand/identify the needs of different target groups and their different potential to engage?*

*Should the Strategy be oriented towards specific target groups?*

*How should priorities be made/decided upon in implementing the Strategy?*

Experts made the following key inputs:

- The strategy may adopt a **multi-stakeholder approach** to activities, so to facilitate exchange among stakeholders at the national level;
- With regard to specific **target groups**, some experts pointed out governments as an essential group. Others emphasized that the strategy should be more generic so to apply to diverse groups;
- Genebank managers were mentioned as a key group to be considered;
- Undertaking a full stakeholders' analysis instead of just mapping, may improve the consideration of target groups;
- The strategy should not follow a top-down approach; a bottom-up approach may be more effective at grassroots level;
- Activities could include setting up a **helpdesk**;
- The strategy may benefit from a study analyzing existing initiatives into which Treaty capacity development activities could be embedded;
- Existing **training** materials on the International Treaty provide a solid asset for conducting capacity development and should be expanded (e.g., training modules on the International Treaty added or enhanced in existing courses on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture or plant breeding); besides providing technical information, training could also present **good practices**, possibly presented by implementing stakeholders;
- With regard to establishing **priorities**, it was suggested that such prioritization should be at country/local level that is where implementation occurs;
- Other points of advice related to understanding the political economy context, integrating social and environmental safeguards and the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in capacity development activities.

### 3. Coordination and cooperation, resources for implementation and monitoring and review

*What should be the mechanisms for implementation of the Strategy? Would the focus be at the global level (or regional/national)?*

*How should the effectiveness and impact of the Strategy's implementation be assessed?*

*Are there any missing elements/building blocks that should be included as part of the Strategy?*

Experts made the following key inputs:

- Concerning the **mechanisms for implementation**, global, regional and national levels should be addressed, and the subnational level should also be taken into account;
- **Positioning strategy within the evolving global context** is critical. The strategy should trigger a mechanism to collaborate with key players external to the Treaty circles, so to embed the strategy within larger frameworks;
- **Monitoring and evaluation** are key, and consideration should be given to data collection strategies and timelines as well as to the issue of impact and in particular the complexity of attributing a particular change to capacity development interventions;
- Learning should be a component of monitoring and evaluation;
- Monitoring and evaluation should be instrumental to linking the framework to the theory of change;
- The issue of **sustainability** and resources should be addressed, in particular in relation as to whether to plan according to existing resources or according to needs/best scenarios.

Following the inputs made in relation to three clusters above, **Olivier Rukundo** gave a brief overview of the next steps in particular on the themes that would be covered during the **online discussion forum**, planned for February 2021, namely:

- Theme 1: How to integrate the Strategy into developments in other fora
- Theme 2: Sustainability of the strategy, monitoring and evaluation
- Theme 3: Role of different actors in implementing the Strategy

The Secretariat indicated that the online discussion forum will be closed and experts would receive the e-mail invitation in January. Following the forum, the Secretariat will work on the zero draft of the Strategy by April 2021, for further inputs by the experts. Once the informal expert process is completed, the Secretary will undertake consultations with the inter-sessional bodies.

The Executive Secretary closed the expert meeting by thanking all participants for sharing their experiences and knowledge. He welcomed the opportunity for continued collaboration with the experts as the strategy concretizes and, subject to the guidance by the Governing Body of the International Treaty, moves into the implementation phase.

## List of participants

### Experts in attendance

1. Ms. Regine Andersen, Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway
2. Mr. Mohammed Bakarr, Lead Environmental Specialist, GEF Secretariat
3. Mr. Riccardo Bocci, Rete Semi Rurali, Italy
4. Mr. Santiago Carrizosa, Global Access and Benefit-Sharing Project, UNDP
5. Mr. Rinchen Dorji, Benefit-Sharing Fund project, Bhutan
6. Mr. Yon Fernandez Larrinoa, FAO, Indigenous People Unit
7. Ms Mariana Ferreyra, Benefit-Sharing Fund project, Argentina
8. Mr. Luigi Guarino, Director of Science, Global Crop Diversity Trust
9. Mr. Patrick Kalas, FAO, Office for Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment
10. Ms. Tammy Jones, IPC, Australia
11. Mr. Joseph Ndunguru, Benefit-Sharing Fund project, Tanzania
12. Mr. Taukondjo Sem Shikongo, Senior Programme Manager on Access and Benefit-Sharing, CBD Secretariat
13. Mr. Erie Tamale, Head, Capacity-Building and Knowledge Management, CBD Secretariat
14. Mr. Mahlet Teshome Kebede, ABS Implementation, African Union Commission

### Secretariat of the International Treaty

1. Kent Nnadozie, Secretary
2. Mario Marino, Technical Officer
3. Daniele Manzella, Technical Officer
4. Olivier Rukundo, Treaty policy and legal specialist

### UNEP-WCMC

1. Daniela Guarás
2. Nadia Deckert
3. Jerry Harrison