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The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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Item 14.3 of the Provisional Agenda

SIXTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Rome, Italy, 5 – 9 October 2015

Additional information on financial and administrative implications related to the transfer of activities or tasks from the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Executive Summary

Following requests from the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Governing Body of the Treaty, this document has been jointly prepared by the Secretariats of the Commission and the International Treaty, together with relevant FAO Divisions, to provide additional information on financial and administrative implications related to the transfer of activities or tasks from the Commission to the Governing Body. It provides background information in support of document *Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.¹

¹ IT/GB-6/15/18.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Governing Body) and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission) have encouraged close cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body that may gradually lead to an agreed functional division of tasks and activities between the Commission and the Governing Body within the terms of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty).
2. The Governing Body, at its Fourth Session, and the Commission, at its Thirteenth Regular Session, requested their Secretariats to prepare, in collaboration, a paper on the legal, administrative and financial implications of transferring activities or tasks related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) from the Commission to the Governing Body.
3. The document *Transfer of activities or tasks from the Commission to the Governing body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: legal, administrative and financial implications* was jointly prepared by the secretariats and relevant FAO Divisions.
4. The document was considered by the Commission and the Governing Body. The Commission noted that there was no consensus among its Members on the transfer of tasks or activities. Both bodies agreed to keep the matter under review and requested the Secretaries to collaborate in providing additional information, particularly in respect of financial and administrative implications, that is necessary for an informed discussion on the transfer of tasks and activities, to the next sessions of the Governing Body of the Treaty and the Commission.
5. This document has been jointly prepared by the Secretariats of the Commission and the International Treaty, together with relevant FAO Divisions, to provide the additional information requested.

II. IMPLICATIONS

6. The 2013 document, *Transfer of activities or tasks from the Commission to the Governing body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: legal, administrative and financial implications*², provides information on the legal implications of a transfer of specific activities from the Commission to the Treaty.
7. If a task or activity is formally transferred from the Commission to the Governing Body of the Treaty, this could have financial implications if the Secretariat of the Governing Body of the Treaty has to shoulder related costs. In this case, the FAO Conference would need to consider whether to adjust FAO's contribution to the Treaty's Core Administrative Budget to cover some or all of the associated costs of activities transferred to the Treaty.
8. The document, *Transfer of activities or tasks from the Commission to the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: legal, administrative and financial implications*³, in section III, examined the legal implications of transferring certain tasks or activities from the Commission to the Governing Body. *Table 1* below provides a summary overview of the possible financial and administrative implications of transferring key activities.

² IT/GB-5/13/12.

³ IT/GB-5/13/12.

Table 1: Financial/ administrative implications of transferring key tasks/ activities from the Commission to the Treaty

Activity/Task	Financial/Administrative implications
The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (SoW PGR)	A provisional budget for the preparation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i> is given in the document, <i>Preparation of the Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i> ⁴ presented to the last session of the Commission. While the Commission Secretariat oversees the preparation of the report, technical officers of FAO's Plant Production and Protection Division are in charge of actually coordinating the preparation of the report. While the budgetary implications on the Commission Secretariat would therefore be minimal, the transfer of the SoWPGR to the Treaty would lead to additional costs for the Governing Body of the Treaty.
Updating and monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of PGRFA (Global Plan of Action)	Estimated costs of specific elements of the process leading to the preparation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture are given in the document, <i>Updating the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i> ⁵ . While the Commission Secretariat oversees the updating of Global Plans of Action, technical officers of FAO's Plant Production and Protection Division are in charge of actually coordinating the updating/ monitoring of the global action plan for plant genetic resources. While the budgetary implications for the Commission Secretariat would therefore be minimal, the transfer of the SoW PGR to the Treaty would lead to additional costs for the Governing Body of the Treaty.
The operation of the World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS)	The costs of WIEWS are estimated for the current year to be USD 300,000. They consist mainly of staff costs and may vary depending on the need to make major changes to the system. The Commission Secretariat relies with regard to the operation of WIEWS entirely on the relevant technical services of FAO. While the budgetary implications on the Commission Secretariat would therefore be minimal, the transfer of the activity to the Treaty would lead to additional costs for the Governing Body of the Treaty.

⁴ CGRFA-15/15/16.

⁵ CGRFA-12/09/8.