

IT/GB-Sp1/21/Report

***FIRST SPECIAL SESSION OF
THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE INTERNATIONAL
TREATY ON PLANT
GENETIC RESOURCES FOR
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE***

7 December 2021

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FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

December 2021

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

2021

The documents of the First Special Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture are available on the Internet at: www.fao.org/plant-treaty

They may also be obtained from:

The Secretariat of the International Treaty
on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
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INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

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REPORT OF THE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

INTRODUCTION

1. The First Special Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was held on 7 December 2021. The list of registered delegates and observers is available on the website of the International Treaty.
2. The First Special Session was convened under the provisions of Article 19 of the International Treaty. Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic and the associated public-health concerns and constraints, the Session was convened in virtual modality based on the guidance of the Bureau of the Ninth Session.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

3. Ms Yasmina El Bahloul, Chairperson of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, welcomed the participants and opened the First Special Session.
4. In her opening remarks, the Chairperson recalled that the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 global pandemic had led to the postponement of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body to May 2022 and clarified that the Special Session was convened to adopt an *interim* budget for 2022. She noted that the adoption of such a budget was critical to enable the continued operations of the International Treaty and its Secretariat. Ms El Bahloul thanked the other members of the Bureau of the Ninth Session for their commitment and constructive engagement and the Secretariat for its efficient work throughout the biennium 2020-2021 despite the enormous challenges. She also thanked FAO's management and the Legal Office and Conference Services, in particular, for their effective support to the organization of the Special Session.
5. Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, FAO, provided introductory remarks. Ms Semedo welcomed Mozambique and South Sudan as new Contracting Parties to the International Treaty since the Eighth Session. In noting that 3 November marked the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the International Treaty by the FAO Conference in 2001, Ms Semedo emphasized how plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are a fundamental asset for sustainable and resilient agricultural food systems, and remain essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals related to food security and improved nutrition, sustainable food production systems and adaptation to climate change. She noted that effective implementation of the International Treaty would contribute to the achievement of the major outcomes of the *2021-23 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors*. She reaffirmed FAO's ongoing commitment to the International Treaty as a flagship instrument for multilateral cooperation that brings different stakeholders together under a common operational framework for crop diversity management.
6. Mr Kent Nnadozie, Secretary of the Governing Body, provided a brief review of the intersessional work undertaken during the biennium by the subsidiary bodies, which continued to operate in accordance with the respective mandates. Such intersessional work consisted of ten formal

meetings of subsidiary bodies, in addition to multiple briefings and other preparations. Mr Nnadozie also reviewed the COVID-19 response activities that he coordinated under the guidance of the Bureau of the Ninth Session. The activities included two surveys and the analysis of the impact of the pandemic, three technical webinars on emerging priority themes and follow up initiatives related to cryopreservation, and the administrative management of projects of the Benefit-sharing Fund. Mr Nnadozie expressed his appreciation for the valuable guidance provided by the Chairperson and the other members of the Bureau of the Ninth Session in steering the work of the International Treaty in extraordinary circumstances. He also expressed his appreciation of all the participants in meetings of subsidiary bodies and other events organized by the Secretariat during the biennium, for their flexibility in adapting to online modalities and their commitment to achieving successful outcomes. He thanked his staff for ensuring the continuous maintenance functions.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The Governing Body confirmed that the virtual meeting constituted a formal Session of the Governing Body. It also confirmed that the Governing Body's standard rules and practices would apply, except to the extent that any rule or practice would be incompatible with the virtual modality and/or could not be followed due to exceptional circumstances, in which case those rules or practices would be suspended on a case-by-case basis.

8. The Governing Body adopted the *Special Procedures for the First Special Session of the Governing Body*, as outlined in the Appendix of document, IT/GB-Sp1/21/1.2, and agreed that the *Special Procedures* and amended working modalities would not set a precedent for the Governing Body's or any other subsidiary body's working methods.

9. The Governing Body adopted the *Agenda for the First Special Session of the Governing Body*, as contained in *Appendix A*.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

10. The Governing Body elected Ms Christine Dawson (United States of America) as Rapporteur.

11. The Governing Body took note of the observers who had requested to be present at the First Special Session and welcomed their participation.

12. The Governing Body confirmed the delegation of the functions of the Credentials Committee for the First Special Session, to the Bureau of the Ninth Session. The Chairperson informed that credentials submitted by Contracting Parties for their participation at the First Special Session had been reviewed by the Bureau of the Ninth Session. She reported that 85 valid credentials had been received.

THE *INTERIM*BUDGET FOR 2022

13. The Governing Body considered the agenda item through the correspondence procedure as described in the *Special Procedures*. The Chairperson presented summary conclusions for the agenda item for the consideration of the Governing Body.

14. The Governing Body adopted the Resolution, *The Interim Budget for 2022*, as contained in *Appendix B*.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NINTH REGULAR SESSION

15. The Governing Body took note of the current schedule of the Ninth Session for the period 9 to 14 May 2022 and thanked the Government of India for its continuing commitment to hosting the Session.

16. The Governing Body took note of the arrangements for the Ninth Session to be convened in-person and requested the Bureau, in consultation with the Host Government and the Secretary, to continue monitoring the preparations and make the arrangements that may be necessary in the context of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

17. The Governing Body adopted its report and the Resolution as contained in *Appendix B*.

APPENDIX A

AGENDA OF THE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Organizational matters
3. The *Interim* Budget for 2022
4. Adoption of the Report

APPENDIX B

RESOLUTION GB-Sp1/2021**THE *INTERIM* BUDGET FOR 2022**

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling Resolution 14/2019 - Work Programme and Budget 2020–2021, in which it approved the Core Administrative Budget for the 2020–21 biennium, and requested the Secretary to submit a draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2022–23 biennium for the consideration of the Governing Body at its Ninth Session;

Considering that the Ninth Session of the Governing Body has been postponed to May 2022 due to constraints arising from the COVID-19 global pandemic;

Noting the need, therefore, to make arrangements to keep the operations of the International Treaty and functions of the Governing Body and its Secretariat, and to enable Contracting Parties to pay their contributions in 2022;

Taking note that, according to the modalities agreed by the Bureau of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, Contracting Parties addressed questions to or sought clarifications from the Secretary on the draft *Interim* Budget prior to the Special Session;

Recognizing the exceptional nature of the circumstances arising from the pandemic;

1. **Adopts** the International Treaty's *Interim* Budget for 2022 as contained in *Annex 1* to this Resolution, to allow the continuation of the implementation of all the functions envisaged under Articles 19 and 20 of the International Treaty;
2. **Adopts** the indicative scale of voluntary contributions, in accordance with Financial Rule V.1 b), as contained in *Annex 2* to this Resolution;
3. **Notes** with concern that the number of Contracting Parties contributing to the Core Administrative Budget remains low and **requests** all Contracting Parties to increase efforts to provide the resources required in the *Interim* Budget, emphasizing the necessity for the Secretariat to find economies to conduct operations amid uncertain circumstances;
4. **Takes note** of the provisional proposed contribution from FAO of USD 2 million for the 2022–2023 biennium;
5. **Affirms** that the approval of the *Interim* Budget is without any prejudice to a final budget to be approved by the Governing Body at its Ninth Session, which will integrate the *Interim* Budget, as may be adjusted, and take into account any relevant developments that might have occurred after the adoption of the *Interim* Budget;
6. **Requests** the Secretary to take into account the present Resolution in preparing a draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2022–2023 biennium.

Annexes to the Resolution:

Annex 1: Interim Budget for 2022

Annex 2: Indicative Scale of Contributions

*Annex 1***Interim Budget for Treaty Maintenance Functions in 2022**

Treaty Article	19 – 20
GB Doc reference	-
	Cost - USD
A. Human resources	
A.1 Established staff positions	
In accordance with approved Secretariat staffing table	2,365,824
<i>D1 (Secretary)</i>	249,528
<i>P5 (Deputy Secretary & Senior Technical Officer, Policy and Governance)</i>	243,389
<i>P4 (Programme Officer, Programme and Management)</i>	191,328
<i>P4 (Technical Officer, MLS Operations, Reporting and Global Information System)</i>	206,633
<i>P4 (Technical Officer, Multilateral System, Legal and Policy Support, and Compliance)</i>	206,633
<i>P4 (Technical Officer, Funding Strategy, Project Dev. and Strategic Partnerships)</i>	103,316
<i>P4 (Technical Officer, Liaison with CBD, CGIAR and other organizations)</i>	206,633
<i>P3 (Technical Officer, Funding Strategy Support)</i>	169,673
<i>P3 (Technical Officer, Systems Operations Support)</i>	169,673
<i>P3 (Technical Officer, Implementation Support and Capacity Development)</i>	169,673
<i>G6 Administrative support clerk</i>	133,268
<i>G5 Meetings support clerk</i>	110,292
<i>G5 Secretary</i>	110,292
<i>G4 Clerk</i>	95,496
A.3 Consultancy costs	237,195
Treaty maintenance and Statutory meeting related	154,575
Communications and editorial related	82,620
Total A. Human Resources	2,603,019
B. Meetings -Statutory Bodies	
B.1 Governing body (funding of the 10th Session)	360,000
<i>Consultants</i>	25,000
<i>Contracts</i>	30,000
<i>Locally Contracted Labour & Overtime</i>	12,500
<i>Travel (Secretariat & Interpreters)</i>	60,000
<i>Expendable Procurement</i>	3,500
<i>General Operating Expenses</i>	2,500
<i>General Operating Expenses - external common services</i>	1,500
<i>General Operating Expenses - internal common services (interpretation, translation & printing)</i>	225,000
B.2 Bureau	12,500
B.3 Compliance Committee	20,000
B.4 Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization	20,000
B.5 Hospitality expenses for meetings of Statutory Bodies	5,000

Total B. Meetings	417,500
C. Other costs	
C.1 Staff duty travel	150,000
C.2 Publications and communication	32,500
C.3 Supplies and equipment	12,500
C.4 Contracts	-
<i>Hosting SMTA in UNICC</i>	11,000
<i>Hosting GLIS in FAO & website hosting and maintenance</i>	21,250
C.5 Staff Training	12,500
C.6 Miscellaneous	10,000
Total C. Other Costs	249,750
Total A + B + C	3,270,269
D. General Operating Services (4% of A + B + C)	130,811
Operating Budget	3,401,080
E. Support Costs (6% of Operating Budget excluding FAO contribution)	144,065
Core Administrative budget	3,545,144
F. FAO contribution for 2022 (C 2021/3 para.60)	1,000,000
Balance to be funded by Contracting Parties	2,545,144

*Annex 2***INDICATIVE SCALE OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE CALENDAR YEARS 2022–2023***(2020–2021 scale is shown for comparison purposes)*

Contracting Party	Scale¹ 2022–23	Scale² 2020–21
Afghanistan	0.009%	0.009%
Albania	0.011%	0.011%
Algeria	0.182%	0.182%
Angola	0.013%	0.013%
Antigua and Barbuda	0.003%	0.003%
Argentina	1.206%	1.206%
Armenia	0.009%	0.009%
Australia	2.912%	2.913%
Austria	0.892%	0.892%
Bangladesh	0.013%	0.013%
Belgium	1.082%	1.082%
Benin	0.004%	0.004%
Bhutan	0.001%	0.001%
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.021%	0.021%
Brazil	3.886%	3.887%
Bulgaria	0.061%	0.061%
Burkina Faso	0.004%	0.004%
Burundi	0.001%	0.001%
Cambodia	0.008%	0.008%
Cameroon	0.017%	0.017%
Canada	3.603%	3.604%
Central African Republic	0.001%	0.001%
Chad	0.005%	0.005%
Chile	0.536%	0.536%
Congo, Republic of	0.008%	0.008%
Cook Islands	0.001%	0.001%
Costa Rica	0.082%	0.082%
Côte d'Ivoire	0.017%	0.017%
Croatia	0.101%	0.101%
Cuba	0.105%	0.105%
Cyprus	0.047%	0.047%
Czechia	0.410%	0.410%
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.008%	0.008%
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.013%	0.013%
Denmark	0.730%	0.730%
Djibouti	0.001%	0.001%
Ecuador	0.105%	0.105%

¹ Indicative Scale of Contributions for 2022–23 based on the UN Scale of Assessments for 2019–21, as established by General Assembly Resolution 73/271 adopted on 22 December 2018

² Indicative Scale of Contributions for 2020–21 based on the UN Scale of Assessments for 2019–21, as established by General Assembly Resolution 73/271 adopted on 22 December 2018

Contracting Party	Scale¹ 2022–23	Scale² 2020–21
Egypt	0.245%	0.245%
El Salvador	0.016%	0.016%
Eritrea	0.001%	0.001%
Estonia	0.051%	0.051%
Eswatini	0.003%	0.003%
Ethiopia	0.013%	0.013%
Fiji	0.004%	0.004%
Finland	0.555%	0.555%
France	5.835%	5.836%
Gabon	0.020%	0.020%
Georgia	0.011%	0.011%
Germany	8.027%	8.028%
Ghana	0.020%	0.020%
Greece	0.482%	0.482%
Guatemala	0.047%	0.047%
Guinea	0.004%	0.004%
Guinea-Bissau	0.001%	0.001%
Guyana	0.003%	0.003%
Honduras	0.012%	0.012%
Hungary	0.271%	0.272%
Iceland	0.037%	0.037%
India	1.099%	1.099%
Indonesia	0.716%	0.716%
Iran, Islamic Republic of	0.524%	0.525%
Iraq	0.170%	0.170%
Ireland	0.489%	0.489%
Italy	4.359%	4.360%
Jamaica	0.011%	0.011%
Japan	11.287%	11.289%
Jordan	0.028%	0.028%
Kenya	0.032%	0.032%
Kiribati	0.001%	0.001%
Kuwait	0.332%	0.332%
Kyrgyzstan	0.003%	0.003%
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.007%	0.007%
Latvia	0.062%	0.062%
Lebanon	0.062%	0.062%
Lesotho	0.001%	0.001%
Liberia	0.001%	0.001%
Libya	0.039%	0.040%
Lithuania	0.094%	0.094%
Luxembourg	0.088%	0.088%
Madagascar	0.005%	0.005%
Malawi	0.003%	0.003%
Malaysia	0.449%	0.449%
Maldives	0.005%	0.005%
Mali	0.005%	0.005%

Contracting Party	Scale¹ 2022–23	Scale² 2020–21
Malta	0.022%	0.022%
Marshall Islands	0.001%	0.001%
Mauritania	0.003%	0.003%
Mauritius	0.014%	0.014%
Mongolia	0.007%	0.007%
Montenegro	0.005%	0.005%
Morocco	0.072%	0.072%
Mozambique	0.005%	
Myanmar	0.013%	0.013%
Namibia	0.012%	0.012%
Nepal	0.009%	0.009%
Netherlands	1.787%	1.787%
Nicaragua	0.007%	0.007%
Niger	0.003%	0.003%
Norway	0.994%	0.994%
Oman	0.152%	0.152%
Pakistan	0.152%	0.152%
Palau	0.001%	0.001%
Panama	0.059%	0.059%
Papua New Guinea	0.013%	0.013%
Paraguay	0.021%	0.021%
Peru	0.200%	0.200%
Philippines	0.270%	0.270%
Poland	1.057%	1.057%
Portugal	0.461%	0.461%
Qatar	0.372%	0.372%
Republic of Korea	2.988%	2.988%
Republic of Moldova	0.004%	0.004%
Romania	0.261%	0.261%
Rwanda	0.004%	0.004%
Saint Lucia	0.001%	0.001%
Samoa	0.001%	0.001%
Sao Tome and Principe	0.001%	0.001%
Saudi Arabia	1.545%	1.545%
Senegal	0.009%	0.009%
Serbia	0.037%	0.037%
Seychelles	0.003%	0.003%
Sierra Leone	0.001%	0.001%
Slovakia	0.202%	0.202%
Slovenia	0.100%	0.100%
South Sudan	0.008%	-
Spain	2.828%	2.829%
Sri Lanka	0.058%	0.058%
Sudan	0.013%	0.013%
Sweden	1.194%	1.194%
Switzerland	1.517%	1.517%

Contracting Party	Scale ¹ 2022–23	Scale² 2020–21
Syrian Arab Republic	0.014%	0.014%
Togo	0.003%	0.003%
Tonga	0.001%	0.001%
Trinidad and Tobago	0.053%	0.053%
Tunisia	0.033%	0.033%
Turkey	1.807%	1.807%
Tuvalu	0.001%	0.001%
Uganda	0.011%	0.011%
United Arab Emirates	0.812%	0.812%
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	6.020%	6.021%
United Republic of Tanzania	0.013%	0.013%
United States of America	22.000%	22.000%
Uruguay	0.115%	0.115%
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.960%	0.960%
Yemen	0.013%	0.013%
Zambia	0.012%	0.012%
Zimbabwe	0.007%	0.007%
	100.000%	100.00%