



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



The International Treaty
**ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

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Item 14.1 of the Provisional Agenda
SIXTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY
Rome, Italy, 5 – 9 October 2015
Report on cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity

Executive Summary

This document responds to the provisions of the Treaty, as well as the request of the Governing Body to the Secretary to report on the cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at each Session. It contains a summary of key collaborative activities and initiatives undertaken by the Secretariat to enhance cooperation with the CBD since the Fifth Session of the Governing Body, as well as recent developments in the on-going close relationship with the CBD and its Secretariat. It also highlights the outcomes of both the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 12) to the CBD and the first meeting of the COP serving as the Meeting of Parties (COP-MOP 1) to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, that are relevant to the Treaty.

Guidance Sought

The Governing Body is invited to consider the draft Resolution in the *Appendix* to this document and adopt a Resolution on Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

I. Introduction

1. Article 1.2 of the Treaty provides that the objectives of the Treaty “will be attained by closely linking this Treaty to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and to the Convention on Biological Diversity”, while Article 20.5 requires the Secretary, *inter alia*, to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in achieving the objectives of the Treaty. Article 19.3 (l) further provides that the Governing Body shall take note of the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD. Consequently, the Governing Body decided to keep the relationship with the CBD as a standing item on its Agenda at every Session.¹

2. By Resolution 5/2013, the Governing Body, *inter alia*, requested “the Secretary, to the extent possible, to continue exploring with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, practical means and activities to give effect to this cooperation, including through the organization of workshops, seminars and other events, coordination of technical assistance as well as the exchange of expertise and information”.

3. As requested, the Secretariat continued to strengthen its cooperation with the Secretariat of the CBD, to coordinate actions, create synergies and avoid duplication of efforts. Accordingly, the two Secretariats established a framework for collaboration consisting of a roadmap and joint work plan with practical activities, subject to availability of resources, in the context of the Memorandum of Cooperation and Joint Initiative agreed to between them.²

4. This document responds to the provisions of the Treaty, as well as the request of the Governing Body to the Secretary to continue reporting on the cooperation with the Convention at each Session. It also highlights the outcomes of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the CBD and the first meeting of the Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, that are relevant to the Treaty.

II. Outcomes of the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of Relevance to the International Treaty

5. The twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP-12), and the first meeting of the Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol were held in Pyeongchang, South Korea, between 6 and 17 October 2014. Both meetings adopted a number of decisions of immediate relevance to the Treaty.

The Financial Mechanism of the Convention

6. Attention is drawn to **Decision XII/30**, on the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, *Enhancing programmatic synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions*, as follows:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Invites* Parties to enhance coordination among their respective biodiversity-related convention national focal points, in order to identify national priorities in support of the implementation of the various biodiversity-related conventions, that are aligned with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and with the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and incorporate them into their national biodiversity strategy and action plans;
2. *Invites* the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions:
 - (a) To provide elements of advice, as appropriate, concerning the funding of the national priorities referred to in the paragraph above within their respective mandates and in accordance with the mandate of the Global Environment

¹ Resolution 8/2011, paragraph 11.

² Resolution 5/2013, paragraph 7.

Facility, and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility as per decision III/8, that may be referred to the Global Environment Facility through the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

- (b) To request their respective secretariats to transmit such advice in a timely manner to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to include any advice received in accordance with paragraph 2 above into the documentation for the appropriate agenda item, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its next meeting;
4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to further liaise with the various biodiversity-related conventions and the Global Environment Facility in order to find ways to facilitate the efforts of Parties as indicated in paragraph 1 above;
7. The guidance of the Governing Body is therefore being sought on how it might wish to respond to the invitation of the Conference of Parties to the CBD.³

Synergies among the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions

8. The Conference of Parties further encouraged “Parties to improve cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and other organizations at all levels to enhance effectiveness and efficiency in the implementation of the objectives of the Convention”.

9. Attention is drawn, in particular, to the following elements of **Decision XII/6**:

The Conference of the Parties

6. *Decides*, subject to the availability of resources, to establish a regionally balanced informal advisory group, composed of two members per region, selected by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on the basis of nominations by Parties, to prepare, in consultation with the Secretariat, prior to the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, a workshop with the task to prepare options which could include elements for a possible road map, for Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among them, without prejudice to the specific objectives and recognizing the respective mandates and subject to the availability of resources of these conventions, with a view to enhancing their implementation at all levels; and *invites* the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions to participate in the informal advisory group;

7. With a view to engaging the other biodiversity-related conventions in the workshop referred to in paragraph 6 above, while recognizing the respective mandates of these conventions, *invites* the executive heads of the other biodiversity-related conventions to facilitate the participation of representatives of Parties to their conventions, through their standing committees, bureaux or other processes, as appropriate; representatives of each of the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions; observers, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Union for

³ The governing bodies of two other Conventions have considered this request and requested their Bureaux/Standing Committees, working with their Secretariats, to provide such elements of guidance to the COP. See Resolution XII.4 of the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar), paragraph 7(g): http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/cop12_res04_sc_roles_e.pdf. Resolution 11.10 of the 11th Meeting Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species, paragraphs 20-21: http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/Res_11_10_Synergies_and_Partnerships_E_0.pdf.

Conservation of Nature, as the organizations which provide the secretariats to such conventions; as well as representatives of indigenous and local communities.

10. The Secretariat of the CBD has commenced the process of implementing the Decision of the Conference of Parties, including through convening telephone conferences of the Informal Advisory Group established by the COP. The Secretariat of the CBD has also indicated that, with the generous financial support of the Governments of Finland and Switzerland, the proposed workshop would most likely be held in January 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland. Information on any further developments in this regard will be provided to the Governing Body during the Session.

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

11. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its 20 Aichi Targets provide an agreed overarching framework for action on biodiversity, and also serves as a framework for cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions, having been recognized or supported by the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions and by the United Nations General Assembly.⁴ Furthermore, in their ongoing revision and implementation, national biodiversity strategy and action plans (NBSAPs) are expected to be fully aligned with the Strategic Plan.

12. At its twelfth meeting, the Conference of Parties to the CBD, in Decision XII/6:

2. *Welcome[d]* the efforts by the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions to align their own strategies and plans with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

3. *Call[ed]* on the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions to continue its work to enhance coherence and cooperation in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and to continue efforts to improve efficiency and reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication at all relevant levels among the biodiversity-related conventions;

13. In course of the past biennium, the Secretariat continued to follow the process for the revision of NBSAPs and has collaborated with the Secretariat of the CBD to ensure that the objectives and priorities of the International Treaty were taken into account.⁵

III. Relevant Outcomes of the First Meeting of the Conference Of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Serving as the Meeting Of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access And Benefit-sharing

14. Following the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization (the Nagoya Protocol), the Governing Body decided, upon entry into force of the Protocol, to establish and maintain cooperation with the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. The Governing Body further requested the Secretary to convey the Resolution to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.⁶

15. The Nagoya Protocol entered into force on 12 October 2014, and, in accordance with the request of the Governing Body, the Secretary brought the Resolution of the Governing Body to the attention the first Meeting of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol through an information document,⁷ and also made a number of oral interventions on various relevant agenda items.

16. Among its several decisions, in **Decision NP-1/8**, the Meeting of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol welcomed “the invitation of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant

⁴ CMS Resolution 10.18; CITES Resolution 16.4; Ramsar Resolution XI.6; ITPGRFA Resolution 8/2011; WHC Decision: 37 COM 5A; UN General Assembly Resolution 65/161 of 11 March 2011.

⁵ See Governing Body Resolution 5/2013, paragraph 4.

⁶ Resolution 8/2011.

⁷ UNEP/CBD/NP/COP-MOP/1/INF/5, *Outcomes of the Fifth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Relevant to the Convention on Biological Diversity*.

Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to establish and maintain cooperation with the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol” and recalled “the need to ensure that measures to assist in capacity-building under the two instruments are consistent and mutually supportive”.

17. In the same Decision, the Meeting of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol also *noted* the cooperative efforts of the Executive Secretary with other partners in promoting capacity-building and facilitating the exchange of views and experiences on the mutual supportiveness and harmonious implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and other international instruments relevant to the Protocol. It further called on Parties that are also Parties to other international instruments relevant to the Protocol to ensure that measures taken to assist in capacity-building are consistent and mutually supportive.

IV. Cooperation between the Two Secretariats

18. By Resolution 5/2013, the Governing Body, *inter alia*, requested the Secretary “to continue strengthening the collaboration with the Secretariat of the CBD”, and further took note of the Joint Initiative entered into between the Secretary and the Executive Secretary of the CBD, and requested the Secretary, “to the extent possible, to continue exploring with the Secretariat of the CBD, practical means and activities to give effect to this cooperation”⁸. In implementing these decisions of the Governing Body, the collaboration between the Secretary and the Executive Secretary of the CBD has been very good and as progress has been made in aligning and advancing collaborative activities.

Roadmap for cooperation

19. In accordance with the several requests of the Governing Body, and based on the provisions of the Treaty, the two Secretariats have continued to strengthen their cooperation including through the development of a roadmap and joint work plan for continued collaboration and practical activities, within their respective mandates and subject to available resources.⁹

20. The roadmap further strengthens the framework for collaboration between the two Secretariats in accordance with the Joint Initiative, covering such areas as on-farm conservation, the sustainable use of PGRFA, capacity building for mutually supportive implementation of the Treaty and the Convention and its Nagoya Protocol, as well as other activities including those related to the revision of NBSAPs, information systems, communication and outreach.

Joint or collaborative activities and initiatives

21. The Secretariats of the Treaty and the CBD have jointly organized a range of activities, including high-level briefings, information events and capacity-building workshops on mutual supportiveness of both instruments targeting focal points, indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders.

22. As part of the on-going activities to promote the harmonious implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the Treaty, Bioversity International and the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, in collaboration with the Secretariats of the Treaty and of the CBD, organized a tandem workshop for national focal points of the Treaty and their counterparts of the Nagoya Protocol to increase the understanding of the interfaces between the two instruments. The meeting provided an opportunity for the joint identification of lessons learnt, as well as priorities and needs for future support. The event, which took place in FAO Headquarters from 3 to 6 June 2014, included a wide range of invited stakeholders from the private sector, international research organizations, the Global Crop Diversity Trust and representatives from farmers’ organizations. Similar meetings are being planned by Secretariats and collaborating partners during the current

⁸ Resolution 5/2013, paragraph 7.

⁹ Available at: ftp://ftp.fao.org/ag/agg/planttreaty/gb6/CBD-ITPGRFA_Roadmap.pdf.

biennium, and will involve a broader range of Contracting Parties and regional organizations such as the African Union Commission and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

23. In accordance with Article 17 of the Treaty, the Secretariat sought further collaboration with the Clearing House Mechanism of the CBD and explored possible linkages with the Access and Benefit Sharing Clearing House Portal, which is a key tool for facilitating the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The Secretariat of the CBD participated and submitted written inputs in the Consultation on the Global Information System on PGRFA.

24. The Secretariat participated in several relevant activities and meetings organized by the Secretariat of the CBD, including a number of regional capacity-building workshops on the Nagoya Protocol during which the mutual supportive implementation of the Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol was also discussed.

25. The Secretariat will, subject to the availability of resources, continue to enhance cooperation with the Secretariat of the CBD, in accordance with the Memorandum of Cooperation and Joint Initiative and the Roadmap, which provide useful frameworks to continue the current joint activities and future collaborative work, in particular on capacity building and awareness-raising.

26. Given the possible budgetary implications of some of the proposed activities to enhance cooperation and synergies with the Convention in accordance with the request of the Governing Body, provision is made within the draft Work Programme (document IT/GB-6/15/25), to cover related activities, including attending meetings, capacity building, exchange of experiences and expertise, information gathering, awareness-raising, and possible joint activities with the Secretariat of the Convention.

V. Guidance Sought

27. The Governing Body is invited to:
Review the suggested elements contained in the *Appendix* to this document and **adopt** a Resolution on cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

DRAFT RESOLUTION **/2015

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The Governing Body,

Recalling Article 1.2 of the Treaty as well as Article 19.3 (g) and (l), which provides for the Governing Body to establish and maintain cooperation with, as well as take note of the relevant decisions of, the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the provisions of Article 20.5 that requires the Secretary to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Recalling Resolution 8/2013 regarding cooperation with the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, its subsidiary bodies and Secretariat;

Welcoming the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization (the Nagoya Protocol)

Acknowledging the need for continued capacity-building support to Parties, especially developing countries, for the mutually supportive implementation of the Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol;

1. **Notes** the decisions of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the first meeting of the Conference of Parties Serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, that are of relevance to the Treaty;
2. **Requests** the Secretariat to continue monitoring and participating in the relevant processes related to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol and in order to promote practical and harmonious interfaces among them, both nationally and internationally;
3. **Calls on** Contracting Parties, in the review and updating of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, to ensure that their commitments under the Treaty are fully reflected, especially through enhanced involvement of all relevant stakeholders;
4. **Recalling** Resolution 6/2013, **welcomes** the decision of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on the Global Environment Facility to enhance programmatic synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and, in this context, requests the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, to develop elements of advice for the Global Environment Facility concerning the funding of the objectives and priorities the Treaty, consistent with the mandates of the Global Environment Facility, and **requests** the Secretary to transmit the elements of advice, as developed, to the thirteenth meeting of Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity so that they may be referred to the Global Environment Facility;
5. **Welcomes** the decision of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to hold a workshop to explore ways for Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among them, without prejudice to the specific objectives and recognizing the respective mandates and subject to the availability of resources of these conventions, with a view to enhancing their implementation at all levels, and **requests** the Secretary and the Bureau to facilitate the selection of the representatives to participate in this workshop and report on the outcomes to the Seventh Session of the Governing Body;
6. **Commends** the Secretariat for its efforts to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and, taking note of the Roadmap developed in the context of

the Joint Initiative and the Memorandum of Cooperation entered into between the Secretary and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue exploring with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, practical means and activities to further enhance to this cooperation along the lines established in the Memorandum of Cooperation, the Joint Initiative, and Roadmap between the two Secretariats, and to report to the Governing Body;

7. **Welcomes** the efforts of the Secretariats of the Treaty and the Convention on Biological in collaboration with the African Union Commission, Bioversity International and ABS Capacity Development Initiative and other partners to bring together stakeholders and experts involved in the implementation of the Treaty, the Convention, and the Nagoya Protocol, and **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue facilitating such interaction on the mutual supportiveness and harmonious implementation of the instruments, and report to the Governing Body the outcomes of such activities;

8. **Requests** the Secretary to continue reporting on the cooperation with the Convention at each Session of the Governing Body.