



NOTIFICATION

Reviews and Assessments under the Multilateral System – Invitation to send inputs for reports

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the honour to draw your attention to section V of [Resolution 2/2019](#), Implementation and Operation of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, by which the Governing Body requested the Secretary to prepare two reports related to the reviews and assessments of the Multilateral System, with inputs from Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders:

- 1. A report on possible measures to be considered by the Governing Body to encourage natural and legal persons to include material in the Multilateral System (Article 11.4 of the International Treaty);**
- 2. A report on the reviews under Article 13.2d(ii) of the International Treaty.**

I therefore invite Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders to provide inputs for these reports and the three reviews and assessments foreseen under Articles 11.4 and 13.2d(ii) of the International Treaty:

- i. Assessment of progress in the inclusion of material by natural and legal persons and decision on continued facilitated access for natural and legal persons – Article 11.4;
- ii. Assessment of whether the mandatory payment requirement shall be extended – Article 13.2d(ii); and
- iii. Review of payment levels – Article 13.2d(ii).

Accordingly, the inputs could include, for example, information on measures taken to encourage natural and legal persons who hold plant genetic resources for food and agriculture listed in *Annex I* to include such plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the Multilateral System (Article 11.3 of the International Treaty) and on experiences made by natural and legal persons to include their plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the Multilateral System.

Regarding the review of payment levels and the assessment of whether the mandatory payment requirement shall be extended, you may recall that these issues had also been discussed in the process to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System, as part of the revision of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement. Proposals were included in the reports of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System to previous sessions of the Governing Body.

To facilitate the timely preparation of these reports requested by the Governing Body, I would appreciate receiving such information by **30 November 2020** at PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org. In order to facilitate the provision of the relevant input, you may wish to consider using the template attached, the Word version of which can also be downloaded [here](#).



For any query or request for further information, please contact the Secretariat of the International Treaty at:

Kent Nnadozie
Secretary
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
00153 Rome, Italy
PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kent Nnadozie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kent Nnadozie
Secretary
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture

TEMPLATE

Inputs to the reviews and assessments under the Multilateral System:

Name:

Organization:

Email:

Country:

1. Assessment of progress in the inclusion of material by natural and legal persons – Article 11.4

Article 11.4 – Within two years of the entry into force of the Treaty, the Governing Body shall assess the progress in including the plant genetic resources for food and agriculture referred to in paragraph 11.3 in the Multilateral System. Following this assessment, the Governing Body shall decide whether access shall continue to be facilitated to those natural and legal persons referred to in paragraph 11.3 that have not included these plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the Multilateral System, or take such other measures as it deems appropriate.

Possible elements for input:

- Measures taken in your country to encourage natural and legal persons who hold Annex I PGRFA to include those resources in the MLS;
- Information on natural or legal persons in your country that included Annex I PGRFA in the MLS: name(s), crops, accession numbers, etc.;
- Possible difficulties for natural and legal persons to include Annex I PGRFA in the MLS;
- Possible difficulties in encouraging natural and legal persons to include Annex I PGRFA in the MLS;
- Possible suggested measures to be considered by the Governing Body to encourage natural and legal persons to include material in the Multilateral System;
- Others.

COMMENTS:

2. Assessment of whether the mandatory payment requirement shall be extended – Article 13.2d(ii)

Article 13.2d(ii) – ... The Governing Body ... may also assess, within a period of five years from the entry into force of this Treaty, whether the mandatory payment requirement in the MTA shall apply also in cases where such commercialized products are available without restriction to others for further research and breeding.

Possible elements for input:

- Experiences, views and lessons learnt regarding voluntary payments under the SMTA;
- Experiences, views and lessons learnt regarding the interlinkages between voluntary and mandatory payments under the SMTA;
- Views on possible positive or negative consequences of extending the mandatory payment requirement in the SMTA;
- Views on or possible lessons drawn from the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System;
- Possible suggestions on whether or not to extend mandatory payments under the SMTA;
- Possible measures for extending mandatory payments under the SMTA;
- Others.

COMMENTS:

3. Review of payment levels – Article 13.2d(ii)

Article 13.2d(ii) – ... The Governing Body may decide to establish different levels of payment for various categories of recipients who commercialize such products; it may also decide on the need to exempt from such payments small farmers in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition. The Governing Body may, from time to time, review the levels of payment with a view to achieving fair and equitable sharing of benefits. ...

Possible elements for input:

- Experiences, views and lessons learnt on establishing categories of users under the MLS, including small scale farmers;
- Experiences, views and lessons learnt on establishing a system of differentiated payment levels;
- Views on or possible lessons drawn from the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System;
- Possible suggestions on establishing different levels of payment for various categories of recipients under the SMTA;
- Others.

COMMENTS: