



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



**International Treaty
on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture**

**INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**FIFTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON
FARMERS' RIGHTS**

Rome, Italy, 24 -26 June 2024

Annotated Provisional Agenda and Timetable

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Tenth Session, through Resolution 7/2023,¹ the Governing Body decided to reconvene the Ad Hoc Technical Experts Group on Farmers' Rights (AHTEG-FR, or Expert Group) to:

- i. *review and agree to the outline for the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, as contained in Annex 1 to this Resolution, considering the compilation of the submissions;*
- ii. *review the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, and provide conclusions for the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body; and*
- iii. *provide advice to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body on how the use of Options, as contained in the Annex to Resolution 7/2022 for the implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, can be promoted.*

2. The terms of reference for the AHTEG-FR are provided in *Appendix 2*.

3. Pursuant to Resolution 7/2023, the Bureau of the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body appointed Ms Kim Van Seeters of the Netherlands and Ms Modester Kachapila-Millinyu of Malawi as the Co-Chairs of the AHTEG-FR. The Bureau further designated five representatives of farmers' organizations, particularly smallholder farmers from the centers of origin and crop diversity, and three representatives of relevant stakeholder groups, considering gender and regional balance.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The fifth meeting of the Expert Group will be held at FAO headquarters (King Faisal room, D263) in Rome, Italy, from 24 to 26 June 2024.

5. The meeting will begin at 10.00 hrs on Monday, 24 June 2024.

6. Thanks to the generous extra-budgetary contribution by the Governments of Italy and Norway, the meeting will be conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation into Arabic, French, and Spanish. The working documents are also made available in all four languages.

¹ Resolution 7/2023, Implementation of Article 9, Farmers' Rights, available at: www.fao.org/3/no031en/no031en.pdf

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

7. This document annotates the *Provisional Agenda* and contains a provisional indicative timetable, for the consideration of the Expert Group, so that it could organize its work. All substantive items have corresponding documents, in addition to information documents, where relevant.
8. The list of documents prepared for this meeting is contained in document IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/2/Inf.1, *List of Documents*. The documents are available on the website of the International Treaty at: www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/1679035/.
9. The Co-Chairs will inform the Expert Group how they intend to guide the proceedings.
10. Given the availability of interpretation services, the meeting has been organized in blocks of 3 hours in the morning (10.00 to 13.00 hrs) and in the afternoon (14.30 to 17.30 hrs). The provisional indicative timetable is contained in *Appendix 1*.
11. With regard to the participation of observers, a brief note is provided in the information document, IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/2/Inf.3, *Note on Organizational Matters*.

ITEM 3. OUTLINE FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 9 OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

12. The Tenth Session of the Governing Body took note of the annotated outline for the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, as requested at the Ninth Session, and of the request that the assessment also set out the measures limiting the realisation of Farmers' Rights.
13. To prepare for the meeting of the Expert Group, the Secretary issued a Notification inviting Contracting Parties and other interested stakeholders, especially farmers' organizations, to submit inputs and comments on the annotated outline for the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, including suggestions on how measures limiting the realization of Farmers' Rights could be included.² Twenty submissions were received.
14. The document IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/3, *Outline for the assessment of the state of implementation of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty*, presents the outline with all the inputs and comments received from Contracting Parties, other interested stakeholders, and especially farmers' organizations.
15. All the submissions received are compiled in IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/3/Inf.1, *Inputs and comments received on the draft outline of the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty*.
16. With a view to provide available information and to further assist the AHTEG, the Secretariat has prepared the document IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/3/Inf. 2, *An overview of the implementation of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty*.
17. The Expert Group is invited to consider the information gathered as a possible basis for discussion in finalizing the outline for the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty.

² NCP-GB11-002, issued on 7 February 2024. Available at: www.fao.org/plant-treaty/notifications/detail-events/en/c/1677085/

**ITEM 4. ELEMENTS OF ADVICE TO THE GOVERNING BODY ON
HOW THE USE OF THE “OPTIONS FOR ENCOURAGING, GUIDING
AND PROMOTING THE REALIZATION OF FARMERS’ RIGHTS AS SET
OUT IN ARTICLE 9 OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY” CAN BE
PROMOTED**

18. In accordance with its Terms of Reference, the Expert Group is tasked “*to provide advice to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body on how the use of Options, as contained in the Annex to Resolution 7/2022 for the implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, can be promoted.*”
19. The Secretariat prepared the document, IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/4, *Elements of advice to the Governing Body on how the use of the Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty*” can be promoted.
20. The Expert Group may wish to use the elements contained in this document as a possible basis and input for developing advice to the Eleventh Session of the Governing body on how the use of Options can be promoted.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

21. Under this agenda item, the Expert Group may wish to discuss any other relevant matters that may be raised by its members and experts.

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

22. Under this agenda item, the Expert Group is invited to consider and approve the report of its meeting.
23. Due to limitations of financial resources, the draft report will be available in English only, while interpretation into other languages will be provided during the report adoption session.
24. It is expected that the meeting will be closed at 17.30 hrs on Wednesday, 26 June 2024.

Appendix 1**PROVISIONAL INDICATIVE TIMETABLE**

Time	Agenda Item	Title	Documents
Monday, 24 June 2024			
Morning			
10.00-13.00	1	Opening of the meeting	Resolution 7/2023
	2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work	Resolution 7/2023 IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/2 IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/2.1 IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/2/Inf.1 IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/2/Inf.2 IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/2/Inf.3
	3	Outline for the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty	IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/3 IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/3/Inf.1 IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/3/Inf.2
Afternoon			
14.30-17.30	3	Outline for the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty (<i>continued</i>)	IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/3
Tuesday, 25 June 2024			
Morning			
10.00-13.00	3	Outline for the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty (<i>continued</i>)	IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/3
Afternoon			
14.30-17.30	4	Elements of advice to the Governing Body on how the use of the “ <i>Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty</i> ” can be promoted	IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/4

Wednesday, 26 June 2024			
Morning			
10.00-13.00	4	Elements of advice to the Governing Body on how the use of the “ <i>Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty</i> ” can be promoted (<i>continued</i>)	
	5	Other Matters	
		(Report Writing, Adoption of the Report)	
Afternoon			
14.30-17.30	6	Adoption of the Report	

Appendix 2

Terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights will:
 - i. Review and agree to the outline for the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, as contained in Annex 1 to this Resolution, considering the compilation of the submissions;
 - ii. Review the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, and provide conclusions for the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body; and
 - iii. Provide advice to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body on how the use of Options, as contained in the Annex to Resolution 7/2022 for the implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, can be promoted.
2. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will comprise up to five members each from the Africa Region, Asia Region, the Europe Region and the Latin America and the Caribbean Region; three from the Near East Region; and two each from the North America Region and the South West Pacific Region; up to five representatives of farmer organizations, particularly smallholder farmers from the centers of origin and crop diversity, and up to three other stakeholders, one each from academia, civil society organizations, seed sector designated by the Bureau of the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body. Representations should take into account regional and gender balance.
3. The Bureau of the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body will appoint two Co-Chairs from the Contracting Parties of the International Treaty - one from a developing country and one from a developed country. The two Co-Chairpersons shall be in addition to the members of the Committee nominated by the Regions.
4. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group may hold up to two meetings in the biennium 2024-2025, subject to the availability of financial resources.
5. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will report back to the Governing Body on its work for further consideration at the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body.
6. The Secretary will facilitate the process and assist the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group in its work.