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



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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

**FIRST MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE
FUNDING STRATEGY AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

21 – 23 July 2020

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

ITEM I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The First Meeting of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee) was opened by the Co-Chairs, Mr. Alwin Kopse (Switzerland) and Mr. Luis Fernando Ceciliano (Costa Rica). The Funding Committee had elected the two Co-Chairs, in advance of the meeting, by electronic means.
2. The Co-Chairs welcomed the Members of the Committee and silent observers, recalling that the Committee had agreed to hold its first meeting virtually, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was noted that all Regions were able to register and participate in the meeting. The List of Participants is provided in Annex 3.
3. The Co-Chairs emphasized that the first virtual meeting of the Funding Committee was intended to be an introductory meeting to assist the Committee to commence discussions and organize its work for the biennium and more generally for the period 2020 to 2025, and that no major decisions would be taken during this meeting. The Co-Chairs further clarified that, in principle and pending the public health situation, any major decisions by the Committee would be addressed at its first face-to-face meeting, which was provisionally scheduled to take place in the second quarter of 2021.
4. The Secretary provided a short introduction to the updated Funding Strategy and the mandate of the new Standing Funding Committee, recalling that at its Eighth Session, through Resolution 3/2019, the Governing Body adopted the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty for the period 2020 to 2025, and decided to make the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization a standing Committee.
5. Through this introduction, the Secretary recalled that the Funding Strategy was adopted in order to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement activities under the Treaty, noting the particular innovations of the new Funding Strategy and of the Standing Committee, and the leading role that the Committee would play in advancing the implementation of the Strategy.

ITEM II. AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

6. The Secretary presented the rules of engagement of the meeting, comprising of information on the technicalities and procedures for participating in the meeting for both Committee Members and silent observers.

7. The Co-Chairs recalled that the Provisional Agenda for its first meeting had been adopted by the Committee through electronic means, in advance of the meeting. It noted that no objections to the Provisional Agenda were received nor any changes proposed by the agreed deadline, and that the Provisional Agenda for the meeting was therefore considered adopted, on a no objection basis. The Co-Chairs accepted the proposal received by the Latin American and Caribbean Region to include the issue of cooperation with other intersessional bodies of the Governing Body as well as the Commission on Genetic Resources under Agenda item VI, *Other Business*. The meeting Agenda is provided in Appendix 1.

8. The Co-Chairs introduced the Provisional Timetable set out in Appendix 1 of the document SFC-1/20/2, *Provisional Annotated Agenda and Timetable*, which was adopted by the Committee.

ITEM III. OVERVIEW OF THE UPDATED FUNDING STRATEGY AND RELATED ANNEXES

9. The Secretary delivered a series of presentations on the updated Funding Strategy and related Annexes which were made available to the Committee through information documents IT/GB-9/SFC-1/20/Inf.3, 4, 5 and 6.

Funding Strategy

10. The Committee thanked the Secretary for the comprehensive overview on the new Funding Strategy and discussed that it may be necessary for the Committee to consider the challenges and opportunities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic in taking forward the work on the implementation of the Funding Strategy and its overall target.

11. The Secretary provided an update to the Committee on the work it is undertaking in relation to assessing the extent of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on areas of relevance to the implementation of the Treaty. The Committee was informed that this included an online global survey sent to National Focal Points and to Benefit-sharing Fund partners, and a planned international panel, bringing together high-level experts to discuss the current and potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the conservation, use and exchange of PGRFA most critical to food security and sustainable agriculture.

Operations Manual on the Fund for Agreed Purposes

12. The Committee noted that the Fund for Agreed Purposes is considered a key enabling mechanism of the Treaty's new Funding Strategy, and discussed the Committee's role in providing guidance of relevance to the Secretary in the implementation of the new Funding Strategy with regard to this Fund.

Operations Manual on the Benefit-sharing Fund

13. The Committee discussed the various new elements of the Benefit-sharing Fund's Operations Manual, noting the Committee's new role in making decisions about future funding cycles, the importance of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning framework that will be further developed under its guidance, and of continuing to make the results of the Benefit-sharing Fund projects visible for the purposes of resource mobilization.

Terms of Reference of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization

14. The Committee welcomed the presentation made, which notes that its Terms of Reference are comprehensive and that there are additional requests made of the Committee throughout the text of the Resolution 3/2019, including through the Funding Strategy and its Annexes.

ITEM IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE FUNDING COMMITTEE

15. The Committee discussed this item in two parts: the first was the implementation of the Funding Strategy, and the second was the further development of the Funding Strategy, as is reflected

in working the document, IT/GB-9/SFC-1/20/3, *Organisation of the work of the Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization*.

The implementation of the Funding Strategy

16. The Secretary presented the requests made of the Committee, through Resolution 3/2019 and its Annexes related to the implementation of the Funding Strategy. As detailed in working document IT/GB-9/SFC-1/20/3, these included those requests made of the Committee in relation to: Resource Mobilization; Operations of the Benefit-sharing Fund; and, monitoring and review of the implementation of the Funding Strategy. The Secretary provided an additional presentation on Resource Mobilization within the Funding Strategy, and an update on the Operations of the Benefit-sharing Fund. The Committee discussed and noted these items.

Resource Mobilization

17. The Secretary highlighted to the Committee that a number of priorities for resource mobilization had been set by the Governing Body for the 2020-2025 period. These included: enhancing the integration of PGRFA in national development plans, national budgets and priorities for donors, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF); developing strategic tools for National Focal Points and others to leverage new resources at national level; increasing the priority of the Treaty in bilateral and multilateral donor programmes; developing a strategy to mobilize funds from food processing industries and initiatives for innovative funding; and, building capacities to integrate PGRFA in large sustainable development and climate change programmes. The Secretary also noted that, additionally, the process to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing is still on-going and that such enhancement would be considered an innovative mechanism to mobilize new and additional resources for the implementation of the Treaty and its mechanisms.

18. The Committee noted and recognized the importance of utilizing innovative mechanisms and sources in order to mobilize the funding needed, as well as the need to prioritize certain resource mobilization activities when organizing its future work. It noted, in relation to the GEF, that given that the Treaty is not one of the conventions for which the GEF serves as a financial mechanism, it would be necessary to work through Contracting Parties of the Treaty and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Operations of the Benefit-sharing Fund

19. The Committee noted its new role in the operations of the Benefit-sharing Fund, particularly the tasks related to resource mobilization, and guidance and decisions on its operations, including in relation to future funding cycles of the Benefit-sharing Fund and the development of a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning framework. It also took note of the updates provided by the Secretary on the operations of the Benefit-sharing Fund, which included: the finalization of the third project cycle and the on-going independent evaluation; the implementation of the fourth project cycle; and the preparations for the next project cycle. The presentation was made available to the Committee as an in-session document.

Monitoring and review of the implementation of the Funding Strategy

20. Under this item, the Secretary informed the Committee of the requests made by the Governing Body in relation to the monitoring and review of the Funding Strategy, both in the implementation of the Funding Strategy and in its further development. It was noted that in order to implement the monitoring, review and re-planning tasks, it would be necessary to further develop the tools to do so, which is a task that also falls under the guidance of the Funding Committee. The Committee discussed that elements of the Funding Strategy's monitoring and evaluation would extend to the development of the Benefit-sharing Fund's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning framework.

The further development of the Funding Strategy

21. The Secretary presented the requests made of the Committee through Resolution 3/2019 and its Annexes related to the further development of the Funding Strategy. As set out in the working

document IT/GB-9/SFC-1/20/3, the requests include: the development of an operational plan; maintaining linkages with other relevant subsidiary bodies of the Governing Body; the development of relevant policy criteria for specific assistance; and, the review of the Funding Strategy and Benefit-sharing Fund targets. The Co-Chairs noted that the item related to monitoring and review of the implementation of the Funding Strategy had been covered under the first part of the agenda IV item, *The implementation of the Funding Strategy*.

Development of an operational plan

22. The Committee noted that the Operational Plan should be a multi-year plan for the Funding Strategy period of 2020-2025, with biennial reviews, covering the areas of resource mobilization, the operations of the Benefit-sharing Fund, and monitoring and review. They also noted that the section on resource mobilization should include scope for the provision of guidance on the Fund for Agreed Purposes, by the Committee to the Secretary, and that the monitoring and review section should reflect the notion of learning, and connect the Benefit-sharing Fund's Monitoring, Review and Learning (MEL) framework.

Maintaining linkages with other relevant subsidiary bodies of the Governing Body

23. The Committee noted the importance of maintaining links with the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Governing Body in planning its work, including related to the monitoring, review and reporting of the Funding Strategy. The subsidiary bodies of relevance were noted as being the *Ad Hoc* Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights, the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Compliance Committee, the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System under Article 17 of the Treaty, as well as the Bureau of the Ninth Governing Body Session.

Development of relevant policy criteria for specific assistance

24. In his introduction of the item, the Secretary recalled the request made of the Committee through its Terms of Reference to develop relevant policy criteria for specific assistance under the Funding Strategy for the conservation of PGRFA in developing countries, and countries with economies in transition whose contributions to the diversity of PGRFA in the Multilateral System is significant and/or have special needs, as is called for in Article 13.4 of the Treaty.

25. The Co-Chairs noted that the Committee does have a work item on this topic that should be included in the Operational Plan. The Committee discussed the possible links of this work item and the ongoing enhancement process of the Multilateral System, noting that different scenarios may have to be considered by the Committee in order to address this issue.

Review of the Funding Strategy and Benefit-sharing Fund targets

26. The Committee discussed the review of the Funding Strategy and Benefit-sharing Fund targets and the Co-Chairs noted in relation to the Funding Strategy target that there were two key tasks for the Committee to undertake. The first would be the monitoring of the progress made towards reaching the target over the course of the Funding Strategy period, and the second, to prepare the review by the Governing Body of the Funding Strategy target at a fixed checkpoint in 2026.

27. In relation to the Benefit-sharing Fund target, the Co-Chairs recalled that a target has not yet been established and, therefore, a review cannot not be undertaken.

28. The Co-Chairs concluded this agenda item by noting that the Committee had three main tasks ahead of it: the functional role of the Committee in relation to resource mobilization; the taking over of the tasks of the Bureau in relation to the Benefit-sharing Fund operations; and, the further development of the Funding Strategy.

ITEM V. NEXT STEPS AND FUTURE WORK OF THE FUNDING COMMITTEE

Inclusion of outside expertise and active observers

29. The Committee discussed the inclusion of outside expertise and active observers in its work to progress the implementation and further development of the Funding Strategy.

30. It noted the importance of the standing invitation of the Governing Body to the Global Crop Diversity Trust to participate as an active observer in its meetings, given that it is recognised as an essential element of the Treaty's Funding Strategy.

31. The Committee also discussed the importance of regularly inviting representatives of a number of partners who are recognised in the Funding Strategy, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), to participate in its meetings. The Committee noted that their participation would help to provide the Committee with a better understanding of priorities in relation to resource mobilization and funding flows under their respective instruments for biodiversity and PGRFA.

32. It also recognised that such institutions have highly specialised experts in areas of relevance to the implementation and further development of the Funding Strategy, who could be invited to participate as active observers in the meetings of the Committee. The Co-Chairs also reminded the Committee of the existing expertise available to it through the Panel of Experts and Helpdesk of the Benefit-sharing Fund.

33. The Committee recognised that the Global Plan of Action for PGRFA is a guiding instrument for the Funding Strategy and the Benefit-sharing Fund, and noted the importance of being kept informed of its developments, through cooperation between the Secretary and the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, particularly in relation to its planned review of the Second Global Plan of Action.

Preparations for subsequent meetings of the Committee and related arrangements

34. The Co-Chairs presented the proposed meeting schedule, arrangements and priorities of the Committee as contained in Table 1 of the document, IT/GB-9/SFC-1/20/3, *Organisation of the work of the Funding Committee in the 2020-21 biennium: planning phase*, noting the need for the Committee to continue to work virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and invited comments.

35. The Committee agreed that the main focus of its second virtual meeting would be the Operational Plan for the implementation of the Funding Strategy for the period 2020-2025. The Committee requested the Secretary to work with the Co-Chairs to develop a first draft of the Operational Plan, for the consideration of the Committee at its next meeting.

36. The Committee also agreed that the main focus of its third virtual meeting would be the Benefit-sharing Fund operations and on Resource Mobilization. In recognition of the importance of monitoring and evaluation, it suggested that the MEL framework of the Benefit-sharing Fund would be discussed under the Benefit-sharing Fund operations item at that particular meeting. It further noted that, once information on the schedule of the Independent Evaluation of the Third Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund was known, an additional item would be added to its second meeting or a special webinar could be undertaken before its third meeting that focused on this topic in order for the Committee to be briefed on the outcomes of the evaluation. On this basis, it highlighted the importance of making the related documentation available to the Committee well in advance of the meeting.

37. The Committee agreed that its fourth meeting would be held face-to-face unless the public health situation did not allow it to do so. It agreed that the focus of this meeting would be on the major decisions to be made by the Committee, and the preparation of its report and any relevant recommendations to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body.

38. The Committee requested the Secretariat to propose specific dates as soon as possible for the second and third virtual meetings of the Committee. The Table contained in *Appendix 2* of this document has been adjusted to reflect such dates and the further requests of the Committee.

39. In view of the new planned modalities of intersessional work, and the prevailing constraints caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee requested the Secretariat to provide documents well in advance of its meetings so that members may provide initial comments or any feedback they might have before the meeting.

ITEM VI. OTHER BUSINESS

40. The Co-Chairs recalled that the item proposed by the Latin American and Caribbean Region to be discussed under Other Business had been addressed under the previous agenda item. No other business was discussed by the Committee.

ITEM VII. PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING

41. The Co-Chairs expressed their appreciation for the constructive contributions of the Committee during its first meeting, noting that the meeting had provided a good understanding of the Treaty's new Funding Strategy, the role of the new Standing Funding Committee, and had provided the tools to plan its work. The Co-Chairs also thanked the silent Observers for their participation, and the efforts made by the Secretary to support the work of the Committee's first meeting.

42. These Meeting Proceedings contain the summary of the Committee's discussions at its first meeting. The final version incorporates any comments which members may have subsequently provided electronically.

*Appendix 1***INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE****FIRST MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE
FUNDING STRATEGY AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION****21 – 24 July 2020****Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Agenda, timetable and rules of engagement
3. Overview of Updated Funding Strategy and related Annexes
4. Organization of the work of the Funding Committee
5. Next steps and future work of the Funding Committee
6. Other business
7. Meeting proceedings

Appendix 2

**Proposed meeting schedule, arrangements and priorities for the biennium – Standing
Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization**

Meeting	Mode	Proposed dates	Proposed focus of meeting
First meeting	Virtual meeting	21-24 July 2020	- Introductory meeting
Second meeting	Virtual meeting	17-19 November 2020	- Operational Plan
Third meeting	Virtual meeting	9-11 February 2021	- Benefit-sharing Fund Operations, incl. MEL framework - Resource Mobilization
Fourth meeting	Face-to-face meeting	13-15 April 2021	- Major decisions to be made by the Committee - Finalisation of report to GB-9

*Note that once information on the schedule of the Independent Evaluation of the Third Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund is known, that an additional meeting item may be incorporated or special webinar added focused on this topic.

List of participants**SFC-1
21 – 24 July 2020****MEMBERS****AFRICA****Mr Eric Bentsil QUAYE**

Deputy Director
Ghana Seed Inspection Division
Ministry of Food and Agriculture
Accra, **Ghana**
Phone: +233 244 066655
Email: bequaye18@yahoo.co.uk

M. Charles Shey NYING

Directeur de la réglementation et du contrôle de qualité
des intrants et des produits agricoles
Ministry of Agriculture
Yaoundé, **Cameroon**
Phone: +237 675667000 - 680985891
Email: nyingcha@yahoo.com

ASIA**Ms Puji LESTARI**

Molecular Biology Div.
Indonesian Center for Agricultural Biotechnology and
Genetic Resources Research and Development
IAARD
Jl. Tentara Pelajar 3A Bogor 16111, **Indonesia**
Email: plestari129@yahoo.com
inahargun@gmail.com
kslitbang@gmail.com

Ms Yoshiko MOTOYAMA

Deputy Director
Global Environment Division
International Cooperation Bureau
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2-2-1 Kasumigaseki,
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919, **Japan**
Phone: +81 3 5501 8245
Fax: +81 3 5501 8244
Email: yoshiko.motoyama@mofa.go.jp

**Mr Muhammad Rudy KHAIRUDIN bin MOHD
NOR**

Agricultural Counsellor
Embassy of **Malaysia**
Via Nomentana
00162 Roma, Italy
Phone : +39 068415764
Email : rudy@moa.gov.my
aa.rome@ambasciatamalaysia.it

EUROPE**Mr Alwin KOPSE (Co-Chair)**

Deputy Assistant Director-General
Head International Affairs & Food Security Unit
Federal Office for Agriculture
Schwarzenburgstr. 165
3003 Berne, **Switzerland**
Phone: +41 584651700
Email: alwin.kopse@blw.admin.ch

Ms Imke THORMANN

Federal Office for Agriculture and Food
Deichmanns Aue 29
D-53179 Bonn, **Germany**
Phone: +49 (0) 228 6845 3438
Email: imke.thormann@ble.de

Mr Jean LANOTTE

Adjoint
Bureau du changement climatique et de la biodiversité
Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation
75349 Paris, **France**
Phone: 01 49 55 59 07
Email : jean.lanotte@agriculture.gouv.fr

GRULAC**Mr Luis Fernando CECILIANO (Co-Chair)**

Representante Permanente Alterno
Misión Permanente de **Costa Rica** ante los organismos
de la ONU-Roma
Via Alberico II, 33
00193 Roma, Italia
Tel: (0039) 0680660390
Fax: (0039) 0680660390
Email : lceciliano@rree.go.cr

Mr Manrique Lucio ALTAVISTA

Consejero
Dirección de Asuntos Ambientales (DIGMA)
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto
Esmeralda 1212 - Piso 14° - Of. 1408
CABA (CP 1007)
Buenos Aires, **Argentina**
Phone: +5411 4819 7405
Email : atv@mrecic.gov.ar

Sr. César TAPIA BASTIDAS

Punto Focal Nacional TIRFAA
Responsable
Departamento Nacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos
Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agropecuarias
Panamericana
Sur Km. 1 vía Tambillo, Cantón Mejía,
Provincia de Pichincha, Quito, **Ecuador**
Phone: +593 23006089
Fax: +593 2504240

Email: cesar.tapia@iniap.gob.ec
iniap@iniap-ecuador.gov.ec

NEAR EAST

Mr Yousef WJHANI
National Focal Point for ITPGRFA
Head of Genetic Resources
General Commission for Scientific Agricultural
Research
Syrian Arab Republic
Email: yowj2015@hotmail.com

Mr Maeen Ali Ahmed AL JARMOUZI
Director General
Yemen National Genetic Resources Centre
National Focal Point for ITPGRFA
P.O. Box 87148
Dhamar, **Yemen**
Phone: + 967 06423917
Fax: +967 6423914
Email: maeen1@yahoo.com

NORTH AMERICA

Mr David HEGWOOD
Senior Food Security Advisor
US Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington DC 20004, **USA**
Email: dhegwood@usaid.gov

Ms Jennifer FELLOWS
Trade Commissioner
Agriculture and processed foods, Fish and seafood
Canadian Embassy
Via Salaria 243
Rome, 00199 Italy
Tel: (011-39) 06-85.444.1
Fax: (011-39) 06-85.444.3915
E-Mail: rome.td@international.gc.ca
jennifer.fellows@international.gc.ca

**SOUTH WEST
PACIFIC**

Mr Metui FALESIVA
Deputy CEO
Policy & Planning Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests
Tonga
Phone: + (676) 23038
Email: metuisiva@gmail.com

SILENT OBSERVERS

COSTA RICA	Mr Josué GÓMEZ MASIS
INDONESIA	Ms Ida AYU RATIH
JAPAN	Mr Shun MINAMI
JAPAN	Mr Kazuho NAGATA
JAPAN	Mr Satoshi NAKANO
JAPAN	Mr Akio YAMAMOTO
NORWAY	Ms Svanhild-Isabelle BATTÅ TORHEIM
TONGA	Mr Viliami MANU

ITPGRFA SECRETARIAT**Mr Kent NNADOZIE**

Secretary

Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

Phone: +39 0657053441

Fax: +39 0657056347

E-mail: Kent.Nnadozie@fao.org**Mr Álvaro TOLEDO CHÁVARRI**

Technical Officer

Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

Phone: +39 0657054497

E-mail: alvaro.toledo@fao.org**Ms Elly BARRETT**

Technical Officer

Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

Phone: +39 0657056074

Email: elly.barrett@fao.org**Ms Rodica LEAHU**

Technical Officer

Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

Phone: +39 0657052731

Email: rodica.leahu@fao.org