



FIRST MEETING OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Rome, Italy, 20-22 April 2013

DRAFT STANDARD REPORTING FORMAT FOR USE BY CONTRACTING PARTIES

I. Introduction

- 1. Under the International Treaty, all Contracting Parties have undertaken the obligation to comply with and implement the provisions of Treaty and, in general, ensure the conformity of their laws, regulations and procedures with those obligations (Articles 4).
- 2. By Resolution 2/2006, the Governing Body established the Compliance Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty. By Resolution 2/2011, the Governing Body approved the *Procedures and Operational Mechanisms to Promote Compliance and Address Issues of Non-Compliance* (Compliance Procedures). ¹
- 3. The objective of the Compliance Procedures "shall be to promote compliance with all the provisions of the International Treaty and to address issues of non-compliance". The Compliance Procedures, *inter alia*, stipulate the functions of the Committee (Section IV).
- 4. By Section V.1 of the Compliance Procedures, "[e]ach Contracting Party is to submit to the Committee, through the Secretary, a report on the measures it has taken to implement its obligations under the International Treaty in one of the six languages of the United Nations."
- 5. The Compliance Procedures also stipulate that the first report is to be submitted three years after the approval by the Governing Body of a standard reporting format, developed by the Committee (Section V.1).
- 6. By Resolution 2/2011, the Governing Body requested the Compliance Committee to undertake a number of tasks for the consideration and approval of the Governing Body at its Fifth Session, including the development of succinct standard reporting format, in accordance with Section V of the Compliance Procedures.
- 7. This document addresses this issue. The *Appendix* contains the list of those provisions of the Treaty that establish specific obligations on Contracting Parties as well as some guidance on reporting, which the Committee may wish to consider in developing the draft Reporting Format to be submitted to the Governing Body at its Fifth Session.

II. General Considerations

¹ IT/GB-4/11/Report, Resolution 2/2011.

8. In developing the draft reporting format, the Committee may wish draw attention to the need for the submission of accurate, consistent and comparable information on the state of the implementation of the Treaty. This will be essential for the Governing Body and Contracting Parties to take the most appropriate action on the further implementation of Treaty and achieving the objectives of the Treaty.

- 9. The Committee might also need to consider the need for the provision of information in a format that will promote the collation of coherent and uniform information from Contracting Parties with a view to enabling an aggregated comparative analysis as well as reliable statistical data.
- 10. The Committee may further need to take into account that Contracting Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition may require technical and other assistance in preparing their reports.

III. Elements of the Draft Reporting Format

- 11. The elements for the consideration of the Committee are provided in the form of a table as contained in the *Appendix* to this document.
- 12. However, in developing the draft Reporting Format, the Committee may wish to consider whether to organize it along a number of general questions. In that case, there may be a need to develop further guidelines in the form of detailed annotations, in particular with regard to the scale of reporting (i.e. suggested content or information to be included in each part), and tables that Contracting Parties could use for analyses. Such guidelines could also direct to relevant reference materials that Contracting Parties could use while preparing each part of the report, including the work already performed by the FAO in the course of the preparation of the Second State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

IV. Electronic Submission and Compilation of Reports

- 13. In accordance with the Compliance Procedures, the Secretariat compiles the reports received and makes them available to the Compliance Committee to provide a comprehensive technical assessment of Contracting Parties' implementation of the Treaty. The Committee subsequently provides a synoptic report to the Governing Body, in order to facilitate the work of the Governing Body in assessing measures taken by Contracting Parties towards the implementation of their obligations under the Treaty and the effectiveness of such measures.
- 14. Therefore, as one of the functions of the format is to facilitate the presentation of information in a standard form, it would be pertinent to choose a format that can be easily computerized in order to enable fast and efficient compilation for the tasks of the Compliance Committee and the Governing Body.
- 15. To facilitate a process for Contracting Parties to officially submit their periodic reports under the Treaty and other information as may, from time to time, be requested by the Governing Body, it would be necessary to create a simple and user-friendly web-based interface or portal which would also allow Contracting Parties to easily and securely upload the required submissions. The portal would also allow Parties to view the status of the submissions made using the system, and update them as necessary.
- 16. Such a system, if created, could progressively replace paper or other forms of submissions. Furthermore, it would be integrated into the secretariat's internal processes for receiving and processing submissions.
- 17. Given the availability of relevant resources and technologies, such a portal could be fully operational within a few months from the approval of the Reporting Format by the Governing Body. Consequently, the Committee may wish to emphasise or strongly recommend

the computerized preparation of reports and their submission in electronic format wherever possible, with a view to making it a standard mode of reporting as soon as possible after the adoption of the standard format.

V. Conclusion

18. The Committee is invited to develop the standard reporting format taking into account the issues identified and the relevant provisions of the Treaty.

Appendix

Obligations under the Treaty that may require reporting

Treaty Article	Specific Provisions	Information that could be included in the Report	Additional remarks
Article 4 - General Obligations	Each Contracting Party shall ensure the conformity of its laws, regulations and procedures with its obligations as provided in this Treaty.	Contracting Parties could report on this regardless of whether they have specific legislation implementing the Treaty or not. If no specific law is in place, countries could report on existing laws and regulations that are of relevance to the Treaty. Contracting Parties could provide a list and summary of relevant legislation, and submit copies of such legislation.	
Article 5 – Conservation, Exploration, Collection, Characterization, Evaluation and Documentation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	 5.1 Each Contracting Party shall, subject to national legislation, and in cooperation with other Contracting Parties where appropriate, promote an integrated approach to the exploration, conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and shall in particular, as appropriate: (a) Survey and inventory plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, taking into account the status and degree of variation in existing populations, including those that are of potential use and, as feasible, assess any threats to them; 	Contracting Parties could provide information on current policy and practices as well as any laws, regulations or policy measures that they have undertaken to implement the provisions of Article 5 of the Treaty. Contracting Parties could also provide an analysis of the effectiveness of the actions that have been taken and provide supporting cases studies or examples where possible, instead of listing all the actions taken to implement their obligations under this Article.	

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	(b) Promote the collection of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and relevant associated information on those plant genetic resources that are under threat or are of potential use;		
	(c) Promote or support, as appropriate, farmers and local communities' efforts to manage and conserve on-farm their plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;		
	(d) Promote <i>in situ</i> conservation of wild crop relatives and wild plants for food production, including in protected areas, by supporting, <i>inter alia</i> , the efforts of indigenous and local communities;		
	(e) Cooperate to promote the development of an efficient and sustainable system of <i>ex situ</i> conservation, giving due attention to the need for adequate documentation, characterization, regeneration and evaluation, and promote the development and transfer of appropriate technologies for this purpose with a view to improving the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;		
	(f) Monitor the maintenance of the viability, degree of variation, and the genetic integrity of collections of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.		
	5.2 The Contracting Parties shall, as appropriate, take steps to minimize or, if possible, eliminate threats to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.		
Article 6 – Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources	6.1 The Contracting Parties shall develop and maintain appropriate policy and legal measures that promote the	Countries could report on actions taken and outcomes achieved in regard to implementation of the	

sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

- 6.2 The sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture may include such measures as:
- (a) pursuing fair agricultural policies that promote, as appropriate, the development and maintenance of diverse farming systems that enhance the sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and other natural resources:
- (b) strengthening research which enhances and conserves biological diversity by maximizing intraand inter-specific variation for the benefit of farmers, especially those who generate and use their own varieties and apply ecological principles in maintaining soil fertility and in combating diseases, weeds and pests;
- (c) promoting, as appropriate, plant breeding efforts which, with the participation of farmers, particularly in developing countries, strengthen the capacity to develop varieties particularly adapted to social, economic and ecological conditions, including in marginal areas;
- (d) broadening the genetic base of crops and increasing the range of genetic diversity available to farmers;
- (e) promoting, as appropriate, the expanded use of local and locally adapted crops, varieties and underutilized species;
- (f) supporting, as appropriate, the wider use of diversity of varieties and species in on-farm

provisions of Article 6 since becoming Contracting Parties. Actions taken could include (however are not limited to) relevant legislation and policies developed, the strengthening of institutional and human capacities, implementation of relevant programmes and projects and various other related investments.

Contracting Parties could also provide an analysis of the effectiveness of the actions that have been taken and provide supporting cases studies or examples where possible, instead of simply listing all the actions taken to implement their obligations under this Article.

	management, conservation and sustainable use of crops and creating strong links to plant breeding and agricultural development in order to reduce crop vulnerability and genetic erosion, and promote increased world food production compatible with sustainable development; and (g) reviewing, and, as appropriate, adjusting breeding strategies and regulations concerning variety release and seed distribution.	
Article 7 – National Commitments and International Cooperation	integrate into its agriculture and rural development policies and programmes, activities referred to in Articles 5 and 6, and cooperate with other Contracting Parties, directly or through FAO and other relevant international organizations, in the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. 7.2 International cooperation shall, in particular, be directed to: (a) establishing or strengthening the capabilities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition with respect to conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;	Contracting Parties could focus on describing: (i) how conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture concerns are considered and addressed in various sectors and integrated into the key sectoral and cross-cutting policy instruments, such as sustainable development strategies, and poverty reduction strategies; (ii) how conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture is integrated into relevant planning processes or mechanisms; (iii) actions taken and outcomes achieved by each sector to implement conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture actions identified in their respective strategies, policies and programmes; and (iv) how synergies are achieved at the national level for implementing relevant conventions such as the CBD, and the UNFCC.

	(c) maintaining and strengthening the institutional arrangements provided for in Part V; and (d) implement the funding strategy of Article 18.		
Article 8 – Technical Assistance	The Contracting Parties agree to promote the provision of technical assistance to Contracting Parties, especially those that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition, either bilaterally or through the appropriate international organizations, with the objective of facilitating the implementation of this Treaty.	Contracting Parties could report on how conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are considered in various cooperation activities undertaken at various levels to provide technical assistance, including those related to South-South Cooperation.	
Article 9 – Farmers' Rights	 9.1 The Contracting Parties recognize the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world, particularly those in the centres of origin and crop diversity, have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources which constitute the basis of food and agriculture production throughout the world. 9.2 The Contracting Parties agree that the responsibility for realizing Farmers' Rights, as they relate to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, rests with national governments. In accordance with their needs and priorities, each Contracting Party should, as appropriate, and subject to its national legislation, take measures to protect and promote Farmers' Rights, including: (a) protection of traditional knowledge relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; 	In accordance with the various Resolutions of the Governing Body, Contracting Parties could provide information on their national measures affecting the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, including any reviews, adjustments, experiences and best practices.	
	(b) the right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; and		

	 (c) the right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. 9.3 Nothing in this Article shall be interpreted to limit any rights that farmers have to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed/propagating material, subject to national law and as appropriate. 		
Article 11 – Coverage of the Multilateral System	11.2 The Multilateral System, as identified in Article 11.1, shall include all plant genetic resources for food and agriculture listed in Annex I that are under the management and control of the Contracting Parties and in the public domain. With a view to achieving the fullest possible coverage of the Multilateral System, the Contracting Parties invite all other holders of the plant genetic resources for food and agriculture listed in Annex I to include these plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the Multilateral System. 11.3 Contracting Parties also agree to take appropriate measures to encourage natural and legal persons within their jurisdiction 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.	Contracting Parties could provide information on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture that are in the Multilateral System, in accordance with the various Resolutions of the Governing Body. Contracting Parties could also provide information on relevant measure and the progress made in encouraging natural and legal persons to include plant genetic resources for food and agriculture listed in the Annex I in the Multilateral System.	
Article 12 – Facilitated access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture within the Multilateral System	12.2 The Contracting Parties agree to take the necessary legal or other appropriate measures to provide such access to other Contracting Parties through the Multilateral System. To this effect, such access shall also be provided to legal and natural persons under the jurisdiction of any Contracting Party, subject to the provisions of Article 11.4. 12.3 Such access shall be provided in accordance with	Contracting Parties could provide information on the relevant legal and other measures that they have undertaken to provide access through the Multilateral System and with the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA). Information to be provided could include measures taken to ensure that recourse is available, consistent with applicable jurisdictional requirements, under	

the conditions below:	their legal systems, in case of contractual disputes arising under the SMTA.	
(a) Access shall be provided solely for the purpose of utilization and conservation for research, breeding and training for food and agriculture, provided that such purpose does not include chemical, pharmaceutical and/or other non-food/feed industrial uses. In the case of multiple-use crops (food and non-food), their importance for food security should be the determinant for their inclusion in the Multilateral System and availability for facilitated access.		
(b) Access shall be accorded expeditiously, without the need to track individual accessions and free of charge, or, when a fee is charged, it shall not exceed the minimal cost involved;		
(c) All available passport data and, subject to applicable law, any other associated available nonconfidential descriptive information, shall be made available with the plant genetic resources for food and agriculture provided;		
(d) Recipients shall not claim any intellectual property or other rights that limit the facilitated access to the plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, or their genetic parts or components, in the form received from the Multilateral System;		
(e) Access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture under development, including material being developed by farmers, shall be at the discretion of its developer, during the period of its development;		

- (f) Access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture protected by intellectual and other property rights shall be consistent with relevant international agreements, and with relevant national laws;
- (g) Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture accessed under the Multilateral System and conserved shall continue to be made available to the Multilateral System by the recipients of those plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, under the terms of this Treaty; and
- (h) Without prejudice to the other provisions under this Article, the Contracting Parties agree that access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture found in *in situ* conditions will be provided according to national legislation or, in the absence of such legislation, in accordance with such standards as may be set by the Governing Body.
- 12.4 To this effect, facilitated access, in accordance with Articles 12.2 and 12.3 above, shall be provided pursuant to a standard material transfer agreement (MTA), which shall be adopted by the Governing Body and contain the provisions of Articles 12.3a, d and g, as well as the benefit-sharing provisions set forth in Article 13.2d(ii) and other relevant provisions of this Treaty, and the provision that the recipient of the plant genetic resources for food and agriculture shall require that the conditions of the MTA shall apply to the transfer of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to another person or entity, as well as to any subsequent transfers of those plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

	12.5 Contracting Parties shall ensure that an opportunity to seek recourse is available, consistent with applicable jurisdictional requirements, under their legal systems, in case of contractual disputes arising under such MTAs, recognizing that obligations arising under such MTAs rest exclusively with the parties to those MTAs. 12.6 In emergency disaster situations, the Contracting Parties agree to provide facilitated access to appropriate plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the Multilateral System for the purpose of contributing to the reestablishment of agricultural systems, in cooperation with disaster relief co-ordinators.		
Article 13 - Benefit-sharing in the Multilateral System	13.1 The Contracting Parties recognize that facilitated access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture which are included in the Multilateral System constitutes itself a major benefit of the Multilateral System and agree that benefits accruing therefrom shall be shared fairly and equitably in accordance with the provisions of this Article. 13.2 The Contracting Parties agree that benefits arising from the use, including commercial, of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture under the Multilateral System shall be shared fairly and equitably through the following mechanisms: the exchange of information, access to and transfer of technology, capacity-building, and the sharing of the benefits arising from commercialization, taking into account the priority activity areas in the rolling Global Plan of Action, under the guidance of the Governing Body: (a) Exchange of information: The Contracting Parties agree to make available	Contracting Parties could provide information on non-monetary benefits shared, in particular through the exchange of information, access to and transfer of technology, capacity-building.	

information which shall, *inter alia*, encompass catalogues and inventories, information on technologies, results of technical, scientific and socio-economic research, including characterization, evaluation and utilization, regarding those plant genetic resources for food and agriculture under the Multilateral System. Such information shall be made available, where nonconfidential, subject to applicable law and in accordance with national capabilities. Such information shall be made available to all Contracting Parties to this Treaty through the information system, provided for in Article 17.

(b) Access to and transfer of technology

The Contracting Parties undertake to (i) provide and/or facilitate access to technologies for the conservation, characterization, evaluation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture which are under the Multilateral System. Recognizing that some technologies can only be transferred through genetic material, the Contracting Parties shall provide and/or facilitate access to such technologies and genetic material which is under the Multilateral System and to improved varieties and genetic material developed through the use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture under the Multilateral System, in conformity with the provisions of Article 12. Access to these technologies, improved varieties and genetic material shall be provided and/or facilitated, while respecting applicable property rights and

access laws, and in accordance with national capabilities. Access to and transfer of technology to (ii) countries, especially to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, shall be carried out through a set of measures, such as the establishment and maintenance of, and participation in, cropbased thematic groups on utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, all types of partnership in research and development and in commercial joint ventures relating to the material received, human resource development, and effective access to research facilities. Access to and transfer of technology as (iii) referred to in (i) and (ii) above, including that protected by intellectual property rights, to developing countries that are Contracting Parties, in particular least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, shall be provided and/or facilitated under fair and most favourable terms, in particular in the case of technologies for use in conservation as well as technologies for the benefit of farmers in developing countries, especially in least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, including on concessional and preferential terms where mutually agreed, inter alia, through partnerships in research and development under the Multilateral System. Such access and transfer shall be provided on terms

which recognize and are consistent with the adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights.

(c) Capacity-building

Taking into account the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as expressed through the priority they accord to building capacity in plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in their plans and programmes, when in place, in respect of those plant genetic resources for food and agriculture covered by the Multilateral System, the Contracting Parties agree to give priority to (i) establishing and/or strengthening programmes for scientific and technical education and training in conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, (ii) developing and strengthening facilities for conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in particular in developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, and (iii) carrying out scientific research preferably, and where possible, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in cooperation with institutions of such countries, and developing capacity for such research in fields where they are needed.

- (d) <u>Sharing of monetary and other benefits of</u> commercialization
 - (i) The Contracting Parties agree, under the Multilateral System, to take measures in order to achieve commercial benefit-

	sharing, through the involvement of the private and public sectors in activities identified under this Article, through partnerships and collaboration, including with the private sector in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in research and technology development;		
	(ii) The Contracting Parties agree that the standard Material Transfer Agreement referred to in Article 12.4 shall include a requirement that a recipient who commercializes a product that is a plant genetic resource for food and agriculture and that incorporates material accessed from the Multilateral System, shall pay to the mechanism referred to in Article 19.3f, an equitable share of the benefits arising from the commercialization of that product, except whenever such a product is available without restriction to others for further research and breeding, in which case the recipient who commercializes shall be encouraged to make such payment.		
	13.6 The Contracting Parties shall consider modalities of a strategy of voluntary benefit-sharing contributions whereby Food Processing Industries that benefit from plant genetic resources for food and agriculture shall contribute to the Multilateral System.		
Article 14 – Global Plan of Action	Recognizing that the rolling Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is important to this Treaty, Contracting Parties should promote its effective	Contracting Parties could provide information already provided in the course of the updating of the Global Plan of Action, on actions taken in regard to its effective implementation.	

	implementation, including through national actions and, as appropriate, international cooperation to provide a coherent framework, <i>inter alia</i> , for capacity-building, technology transfer and exchange of information, taking into account the provisions of Article 13.		
Article 16 – International Plant Genetic Resources Networks	16.2 The Contracting Parties will encourage, as appropriate, all relevant institutions, including governmental, private, non-governmental, research, breeding and other institutions, to participate in the international networks.	Contracting Parties could provide information on Plant Genetic Resources Networks in which institutions in their jurisdictions participate.	
Article 17 – The Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	17.1 The Contracting Parties shall cooperate to develop and strengthen a global information system to facilitate the exchange of information, based on existing information systems, on scientific, technical and environmental matters related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, with the expectation that such exchange of information will contribute to the sharing of benefits by making information on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture available to all Contracting Parties. In developing the Global Information System, cooperation will be sought with the Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity.	The Contracting Parties should consider any guidance in regard to the Global Information System based on the deliberations that the Governing Body may provide, including any possible programme of work it may decide to adopt on the issue in future.	
Article 18 – Financial Resources	18.1 The Contracting Parties undertake to implement a funding strategy for the implementation of this Treaty in accordance with the provisions of this Article. 18.4 Pursuant to this funding strategy: (a) The Contracting Parties shall take the necessary and appropriate measures within the Governing Bodies of relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies to ensure due priority and attention to the effective allocation of predictable and agreed resources for the implementation	Contracting Parties could provide information on actions they have taken and any successes achieved within the Governing Bodies of relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies to ensure that due priority and attention are given to the allocation of resources for the implementation of plans and programmes under the Treaty. Contracting Parties that are developed countries could provide information on allocation of financial resources for the implementation of plans and programme under the Treaty.	

of plans and programmes under this Treaty.

- (b) The extent to which Contracting Parties that are developing countries and Contracting Parties with economies in transition will effectively implement their commitments under this Treaty will depend on the effective allocation, particularly by the developed country Parties, of the resources referred to in this Article. Contracting Parties that are developing countries and Contracting Parties with economies in transition will accord due priority in their own plans and programmes to building capacity in plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.
- (c) The Contracting Parties that are developed countries also provide, and Contracting Parties that are developing countries and Contracting Parties with economies in transition avail themselves of, financial resources for the implementation of this Treaty through bilateral and regional and multilateral channels. Such channels shall include the mechanism referred to in Article 19.3f.
- (d) Each Contracting Party agrees to undertake, and provide financial resources for national activities for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in accordance with its national capabilities and financial resources. The financial resources provided shall not be used to ends inconsistent with this Treaty, in particular in areas related to international trade in commodities.;
- (e) The Contracting Parties agree that the financial benefits arising from Article 13.2d are part of the funding strategy.
- (f) Voluntary contributions may also be provided by

All Contracting Parties could provide information on the levels of financial resources provided for national activities for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Contracting Parties may also provide information on any voluntary contributions they have provided in accordance with the provisions of Article 18.

	Contracting Parties, the private sector, taking into account the provisions of Article 13, non-governmental organisations and other sources. The Contracting Parties agree that the Governing Body shall consider modalities of a strategy to promote such contributions.	