



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



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

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda

TENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Rome, Italy, 20–24 November 2023

**Proposal by the Government of Switzerland for an Amendment of the
International Treaty**

Executive Summary

This document contains a proposal by the Government of Switzerland for an amendment of Annex I to the International Treaty, in accordance with Articles 23 and 24 of the International Treaty.

Guidance Sought

The Governing Body is invited to consider the proposed amendment of the International Treaty.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to Article 23 of the International Treaty, amendments may be proposed by any Contracting Party for adoption at a session of the Governing Body. The text of any proposed amendment shall be communicated to Contracting Parties by the Secretary at least six months before the session at which it is proposed for adoption. All amendments shall be made by consensus of the Contracting Parties present at the Governing Body session.
2. Under Article 24.2 of the International Treaty, these provisions shall apply to the amendment of Annexes to the International Treaty.
3. This document contains a proposal by the Government of Switzerland for an amendment of Annex I to the International Treaty, in accordance with Articles 23 and 24 of the International Treaty.

II. PROPOSAL FOR AN AMENDMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

4. On 21 April 2017, the Secretary received the proposal through a communication from the Permanent Representation of Switzerland to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) and brought it to the attention of Contracting Parties through Notification NCP GB7-023, dated 21 April 2017. This proposal was brought to the attention of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body in November 2017.¹
5. Switzerland proposed the following new paragraph to be added to the text of Annex I to the International Treaty, below the current list of crops contained in Annex I, for adoption by the Governing Body:
In addition to the Food Crops and Forages listed above, and in furtherance of the objectives and scope of the International Treaty, the Multilateral System shall cover all other plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in accordance with Article 3 of the International Treaty.
6. At its Seventh Session, the Governing Body took note of the Proposal, while extending the mandate of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing (Working Group).²
7. During the Intersessional period between the Seventh and the Eighth Sessions of the Governing Body, the Working Group also considered this proposal, as well as further proposals made at the Seventh Session of the Governing Body, as reflected in its report to the Eighth Session.³
8. At the Eighth Session of the Governing Body, in November 2019, the Government of Switzerland reaffirmed its proposal for an amendment of the International Treaty and requested that it be considered at the next Session of the Governing Body.⁴
9. At the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, in September 2022, Switzerland reaffirmed its proposal for the consideration of the Governing Body at its next Session.⁵

III. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

10. The Governing Body is invited to consider the proposed amendment of the International Treaty.

¹ [IT/GB-7/17/8](#), *Proposal for an Amendment of the International Treaty*.

² [Resolution 2/2017](#), *Measures to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing*.

³ [IT/GB-8/19/8.2 Rev.1](#), *Report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System*.

⁴ [IT/GB-8/19/Report](#), *Report of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, para. 35.

⁵ [IT/GB-9/22/Report](#), *Report of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, para. 45.