



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



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

Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda

TENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Rome, Italy, 20–24 November 2023

**Report of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and
Resource Mobilization to the Tenth Session of the Governing Body**

Note by the Secretary

This document contains the Report of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee) to the Tenth Session of the Governing Body. It describes the work undertaken by the Funding Committee since the Ninth Session of the Governing Body and contains a draft Resolution for the consideration of the Governing Body.

Guidance Sought

The Governing Body is invited to welcome the Report of the Funding Committee, and to adopt a Resolution in order to provide guidance on the further implementation of the Funding Strategy.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FUNDING STRATEGY AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION TO THE TENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

I. INTRODUCTION

Background

1. At its Eighth Session, through Resolution 3/2019, the Governing Body decided to adopt the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty for the period 2020 to 2025, as contained in Annex 1 to Resolution 3/2019, in order to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement activities under this Treaty.
2. It decided to establish, within the Funding Strategy, a target of USD 0.9-1.1 billion per year over a period of 10 years with a milestone of 40 percent to be achieved by 2026 to support the implementation of the International Treaty through a wide range of sources and channels, and to postpone establishing a target for the Benefit-sharing Fund.
3. It also decided to make the Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization a standing Committee.
4. This report details the work undertaken by the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee or Committee) since the Ninth Session of the Governing Body (GB-9), in relation to the implementation of the Funding Strategy.
5. The Information Document related to this Report are provided to the Governing Body through IT/GB-10/23/10/Inf.1, *The Benefit-sharing Fund: 2022-2023 Report*.

Overview of procedural arrangements

6. The Funding Committee has held three meetings since GB-9. The Committee's sixth meeting (SFC-6) was held virtually on 17 and 18 January 2023, its seventh meeting (SFC-7) was held in-person on 3 to 5 May 2023, and its eighth meeting (SFC-8) was held virtually over 18 to 20 September 2023. The Reports and Proceedings of these meetings are published on the Treaty's website.¹
7. Ms. Katlyn Scholl (USA) and Mr. Eric Bentsil Quaye (Ghana) continued to serve as the Co-Chairs of the Committee.
8. In accordance with Resolution 3/2019, the Funding Committee is composed of up to three representatives from each region. However, the Committee noted, with concern, the continued absence or low participation of some regions in its meetings and discussed the importance of Regional Groups considering expertise and availability in nominating members to the Committee.
9. A wide range of observers, including active observers, participated in the meetings of the Funding Committee on the basis of expertise and relevance. The full lists of participants are contained in the Appendices of the Proceedings of the Funding Committee's meetings.¹

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUNDING STRATEGY

10. In order to take the implementation of the new Funding Strategy forward, the Funding Committee, in the previous biennium, developed an Operational Plan for the Funding Strategy 2020-2025 (the Operational Plan), as foreseen in paragraph 44 of the Funding Strategy 2020–2025.
11. The Operational Plan is a multi-year plan designed to guide the Funding Committee in the implementation of the Funding Strategy, and encompasses the requests made by the Governing

¹ [SFC reports/proceedings](#)

Body through Resolution 3/2019 and its Annexes. It is designed to be regularly reviewed and updated by the Committee.

12. It identifies the following three areas to focus efforts on, and sets out major milestones, outputs and timelines within these:

- i. Focus Area 1: Resource Mobilization
- ii. Focus Area 2: Benefit-sharing Fund Operations
- iii. Focus Area 3: Monitoring and Review

13. The following sub-sections of this report detail the work undertaken by the Funding Committee since GB-9 under the three thematic focus areas of the Funding Strategy's Operational Plan.

A. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Progress since GB-9

National budgets and priorities

14. Through Resolution 4/2022, GB-9 called upon Contracting Parties to share information about the results of the further integration of PGRFA in national budgets and priorities with the Secretariat for the development of strategic tools that National Focal Points and others can use to leverage new resources.

15. As part of the development of such tools, SFC-6 and SFC-7 considered and provided guidance on the work undertaken to collect and analyse information on the integration of PGRFA in national plans, budgets and priorities.²

16. The Committee encouraged the Secretariat to continue to take forward the work in this area, noting that it is extremely timely when many Contracting Parties will be revising and updating their NBSAPs, and that National Focal Points and others will benefit from having access to information and strategic tools that help them integrate PGRFA into biodiversity planning and priority setting.

Food processing industry engagement strategy

17. Through Resolution 4/2022, GB-9 approved the Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy, as contained in the Annex to the Resolution, and requested the Committee to review progress on the implementation of the Strategy, and provide regular updates to the Governing Body on its implementation, and make recommendations for adjustments, if any.

18. At SFC-6, SFC-7 and SFC-8, updates were provided to the Committee on the inception phase activities of the Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy related to the development, testing and refining of concepts, approaches and tools to inform a targeted and effective set of actions for the Treaty's engagement with the Food Processing industry, as relevant and appropriate.³

19. SFC-6 expressed its support for the proposal of using an agri-food systems approach in implementing the Food Processing Industry Engagement.

20. SFC-8 received an update on the consultation process being undertaken to develop the Treaty's Value Proposition for engaging with the Food Processing Industry. A broad range of stakeholders are being consulted through the process, including from developed and developing

² For the background report and analysis, see: IT/GB-10/SFC-7/23/Inf.4, *Integration of PGRFA in national development plans, budgets and priorities for donor support and external funding*, available at: www.fao.org/3/cc5724en/cc5724en.pdf

³ *Implementation, Monitoring and Review plan of the Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy (Inception Phase)*, Appendix 1, SFC-5 Proceedings www.fao.org/3/cb9206en/cb9206en.pdf

countries. The outcome of the first phase of consultations is planned to be presented at a side event at GB-10 to gather additional inputs and will be presented to the Committee at its Ninth meeting for further discussion.

Multilateral mechanisms

21. Through Resolution 4/2022, GB-9 encouraged FAO to facilitate the delivery of programmes and projects supportive of implementation of the Treaty, in particular, through its involvement in the Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund, as appropriate, and to actively contribute to the work of the Committee.

22. SFC-7 received briefings on, and provided inputs to, ongoing work and developments under FAO's GEF Programmes, in particular the Eighth Replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-8). Developments of relevance to the International Treaty within GEF-8 were highlighted, including: the rolling out of the FAO-led New Food System Integrated Program; the renewed Small Grants Program, which prioritizes sustainable agriculture actions at community level and has the potential to build synergies with the BSF; and the establishment of a Global Biodiversity Framework Fund.

23. SFC-7 also received a briefing on the implementation of a FAO-led GEF-7 Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (DSL-IP), which leverages the Treaty's experience in implementing projects under the BSF and connects with the BSF's network of partners. The overall program comprises of USD 104 million under GEF-7, along with over USD 800 million in co-financing. It integrates a work-stream on Community Seed Banks in five countries in Southern Africa, which includes actions to support International Treaty implementation and the provision of a regional knowledge hub based on experience gained through the BSF.

24. The Committee encouraged the continued collaboration between FAO's GEF Unit and the Treaty Secretariat and FAO to engage with national partners in the development of projects for the mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty, as called for in the GEF-8 programming directions.

Innovative funding

25. SFC-7 received briefings and provided advice on several joint resource mobilization initiatives between the Treaty Secretariat and the Global Crop Diversity Trust, as detailed in the document, IT/GB-10/23/16.2, *Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust*. This included: the Funding Facility for short-term support of International Collections; Biodiversity for Opportunities, Livelihood and Development (BOLD); the Emergency Reserve for Germplasm Collections at Risk; and, support for the relocation of Ukraine's national seed collection and the future rehabilitation of the national seed system.

26. The Committee took note of the ongoing discussions between the European Union and the Secretariat to further enhance the current partnership to support the Treaty implementation and its Benefit-sharing Fund. It recalled that the Operations Manual of the Benefit-sharing Fund, adopted by the Governing Body, specify that the "new programmatic approach of the Fund will enable the development of long-term partnerships with donors for the provision of predictable and long-term funding." It recommended the Secretary to enhance the current partnership as one model for possible replication with others and to report back to the Committee on this matter during the next biennium. It also recommended that the Governing Body invite donors, such as the European Union, to build on the fruitful collaboration with a view to establishing a longer-term strategic partnership with the International Treaty in areas of common interests.

27. The Committee commended the joint efforts of the Treaty and the Crop Trust. It requested the Secretariat and the Crop Trust to look into possible support through the Emergency Reserve for Sudan, should it be needed, and to also consider providing support to areas affected by natural disaster, such as the recent cyclone in Malawi. It welcomed the proposal to undertake a lessons learned exercise based upon the experiences from Yemen, Ukraine and the Cyclone Idai

emergency project to further inform the operations of the Emergency Reserve and responses to emergency disaster situations affecting PGRFA more generally.

B. BENEFIT-SHARING OPERATIONS

28. Through the adoption of the updated Funding Strategy, the Governing Body delegated the authority for the operations of the Benefit-sharing Fund during the biennium to the Funding Committee.⁴

29. As requested by the Governing Body, a report on the Benefit-sharing Fund is provided through IT/GB-10/23/10/Inf.1, *The Benefit-sharing Fund: 2022-2023 Report*. The Report provides details on the operations of the Benefit-sharing Fund for the 2022–2023 period.

Progress since GB-9

30. Through Resolution 4/2022, GB-9 welcomed the launch of BSF-5 and thanked the Funding Committee for providing guidance on the operations of the BSF during the biennium and, in particular, for its work in the design and launch the Fifth Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund, which contributes to the realization of the programmatic approach for the Fund, as adopted by the Governing Body.

31. A significant focus of the Funding Committee's work in this period has been to finalise the process of BSF-5, including the approval of projects to be funded. This required the Committee to undertake an extensive process to oversee and implement the numerous steps under the Operational Procedures for the Use of Resources under the Benefit-sharing Fund.⁵

Approval of BSF-5 pre-proposals

32. SFC-6 considered the *Report of the Panel of Experts: Fifth Call For Proposals Of The Benefit-Sharing Fund*,⁶ including on the methodology used to assess the BSF-5 pre-proposals, findings and recommendations, and a table of short-listed pre-proposals and their scores.

33. It took note of the Report of the Panel of Experts and welcomed, in particular, the methodology used in the screening process as well as the summary of findings and recommendations, and agreed that the Report provided a good basis for the deliberations and decisions of the Committee.

34. The Committee discussed the different scenarios presented and approved a list of pre-proposals to be invited to develop a full project proposal, as contained in Appendix 4 of the SFC-6 Proceedings, and provided guidance on the full project proposal development phase of the programme.

Approval of BSF-5 projects recommended for funding by the Panel of Experts

35. SFC-7 approved the list of projects recommended for funding by the Panel of Experts as contained in Appendix 1 to the SFC-7 Report, and commended the work undertaken by the Secretariat to support the development of full project proposals by applicant organizations and the appraisal undertaken by the Panel of Experts. It expressed its appreciation for the transparency and efficiency of the process undertaken to identify the project proposals to be funded.

36. The Committee noted that, although all the regions are represented in BSF-5, some regions, in particular Near East and Asia, are relatively under-represented in this project cycle, both, in terms of the number of eligible pre-proposals submitted and number of projects approved. The Committee requested the Secretariat to discuss this matter with the National Focal

⁴ Resolution 3/2019 paragraph 31, Annex 2: Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund available at www.fao.org/3/nb780en/nb780en.pdf

⁵ Resolution 3/2019, Funding Strategy, Annex 2: Operations Manual: Benefit-Sharing Fund

⁶ Final Report of the Panel of Experts: Fifth Call for Proposals of the Benefit-sharing Fund, [Final Report of the Panel of Experts: Fifth Call for Proposals of the Benefit-sharing Fund \(fao.org\)](#)

Points of these regions in order to identify possible measures that could be taken to encourage the submission of more pre-proposals from these regions in future project cycles.

37. SFC-7 provided guidance to the Secretariat on the next steps in the Fifth Call for Proposal and on future BSF project cycles. The Committee recommended that the role of the National Focal Points be further strengthened throughout the different stages of the call for proposals, including in project implementation. It also recommended that greater participation and awareness raising on the Treaty and the BSF is needed, especially among the National Focal Points from under-represented countries in the BSF. There should be broader dissemination of future funding opportunities within the BSF, in order to reach out to a wider range of organizations working on Treaty implementation, especially among national organisations

38. SFC-8 received an update on the status of the BSF-5 projects selected and noted that the successful applicants had been formally notified of the decision of the Committee, and the list of approved project proposals published on the Treaty's website. The Committee also noted the planned two-phase approach for contracting BSF partners, and that contractual agreements for approved projects in the first phase were in process and inception workshops planned;

C. MONITORING, LEARNING AND REVIEW

39. Through the Operational Plan, a monitoring, learning and review cycle has been established for period of the Funding Strategy that enables the regular monitoring and review of the implementation of the Funding Strategy, as requested by the Governing Body through Resolution 3/2019 and its Annexes.

Progress since GB-9

Review and update of the Operational Plan of the Funding Strategy

40. The Committee recalled that paragraph 44 of the Funding Strategy calls for it to review and update the Operational Plan on a biennial basis. It also recalled that through Resolution 4/2022, GB-9 noted that the first three years of the Funding Strategy 2020–2025 has been implemented mostly during the COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly affected and will continue to affect the global policy, fiscal and operational environment, and requested the Committee to consider the resulting impacts, challenges and opportunities in taking forward its work on implementing and making recommendations for updating the Funding Strategy.

41. SFC-7 undertook a review of the Operational Plan, including giving consideration to numerous developments that have impacted the operational environment since the adoption of the Funding Strategy. These included: the COVID-19 Pandemic; date changes to Governing Body Sessions; relevant outcomes of GB-9; and the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).⁷ SFC-8 agreed to update the Operational Plan and, through doing so, adjusted its concluding date from 2025 to 2027, providing an additional biennium to the Committee to implement its work. Extending the Operational Plan to 2027 enables the Treaty to build upon the opportunities and momentum arising from the recent adoption of the GBF. It would also enable the SFC to support the finalisation of the MLS enhancement process in the biennium ahead. The comprehensive review of the Funding Strategy could then be conducted once further progress has been made on its implementation. This includes the possibility of making use of the new or strengthened monitoring systems for biodiversity finance that will be supported through the monitoring of GBF implementation. On this basis, the Committee recommends to GB-10 that the date of the Funding Strategy is extended to 2027 accordingly.

⁷ IT/GB-10/SFC-7/23/4, Section II, Key developments since the adoption of the Funding Strategy impacting its implementation, [Review and update: Operational Plan for the Funding Strategy 2020-2025 \(fao.org\)](#)

Development of a draft methodology for measuring Non-Monetary Benefit-sharing

42. According to its Terms of Reference, the Funding Committee is tasked with monitoring and reviewing the implementation of non-monetary benefit-sharing (NMBS) measures, with a view to recommending any additional measures, as appropriate, using a methodology agreed by the Committee.⁸

43. In Resolution 4/2022, the Governing Body reiterated its invitation to Contracting Parties, relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies, stakeholder groups and other international organizations to provide information to the Secretariat that will enable the Committee to better leverage funding from all sources for International Treaty implementation and to develop the methodology for measuring NMBS during the biennium 2022–2023.⁹

44. SFC-7 considered the document, *Measuring Non-Monetary Benefit-Sharing: Steps Towards a Methodology*,¹⁰ which provided a summary of NMBS in the context of the Funding Strategy, the previous consideration of NMBS by the Committee as well as of the on-going developments at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

45. The Committee provided guidance on the development of the methodology, including to maximize the synergies with existing reporting mechanisms and processes, noting, in particular, the reporting by Contracting Parties on Article 13.2 of the International Treaty (i.e., on exchange of information, access to and transfer of technology and capacity building) under the Compliance Procedures.

46. It also recommended to follow a broad and inclusive approach to NMBS so as to reflect facilitated access to germplasm and other benefit-sharing practices beyond the three categories listed under Article 13.2. It also recommended to design a methodology that would minimize administrative burden and costs and allow, where possible, for financial quantifications of benefits and the comparison of such quantifications.

47. SFC-8 considered a first draft of the methodology to measure NMBS and provided guidance for its further development in the 2024-2025 biennium.

⁸ Annex 2, paragraph e.

⁹ Resolution 4/2022, paragraph 28. Resolution 4/2022 is available at: www.fao.org/3/nk239en/nk239en.pdf.

¹⁰ IT/GB-10/SFC-7/23/Inf.5 Rev.1

DRAFT RESOLUTION **/2023
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUNDING STRATEGY

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling Articles 13.2, 13.3, 18 (in particular 18.4) and 19.3f of the International Treaty;

Recalling Resolution 3/2019 through which the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty for the period 2020 to 2025 was adopted, in order to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement activities under this Treaty, and through which it decided to make the Committee a standing Committee;

Recalling its previous Resolutions on the Funding Strategy, in particular, Resolution 4/2022;

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee or Committee) and the progress made in implementing the Funding Strategy since its adoption.

PART I: FUNDING STRATEGY

2. *Recalls* that the first three years of the Funding Strategy 2020–2025 were implemented mostly during the COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly affected the global policy, fiscal and operational environment, and *thinks* the Committee for the recommendations for updating the Funding Strategy to effectively respond to the situation and, to new and emerging issues.

3. *Decides* to revise the timeline of the Funding Strategy from 2020-2025 to 2020-2027 to enable the Treaty to build upon the opportunities and momentum arising from the recent adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), and to enable the Funding Committee to support the finalisation of the process for the enhancement of the Multilateral System in the next biennium.

4. *Requests* the Funding Committee to continue to play a leading role in advancing the implementation and monitoring of the Funding Strategy in order to provide the necessary strategic guidance as well as operational oversight of relevant processes and activities relating to the Funding Strategy;

5. *Invites* FAO to prioritize the delivery of programmes and projects supportive of implementation of the Treaty, and to support the nexus between biodiversity and climate change, in particular, through its involvement in the Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund, as appropriate, and to actively contribute to the work of the Committee;

6. *Recalls* that the Global Crop Diversity Trust is an essential element of the Funding Strategy and *thinks* it for the significant efforts made to engage with the Committee as an active observer, providing inputs to the work of the Committee, and collaborating with the Treaty Secretariat on a number of resource mobilization and communication initiatives;

7. *Notes* with concern, the absence or low participation of some regions in the meetings of the Funding Committee, and *urges* Regional Groups and Contracting Parties to consider both expertise and availability in nominating members to the Committee.

8. *Decides* that the costs of the meetings of and the relevant preparatory work for the Funding Committee shall be included in the Core Administrative Budget as may be adopted by the Governing Body, supplemented by any voluntary contributions made available for that purpose, and requests the Secretary to include such costs into the Core Administrative Budget that is presented to the Governing Body for approval at its Regular Sessions;

9. **Invites** Contracting Parties and donors in a position to do so to support the work of the Committee, in particular for the participation of developing countries.

PART II: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

10. **Encourages** Contracting Parties to mobilize resources from various sources to meet the targets of the Funding Strategy;

11. **Welcomes** the progress made in implementing the approved Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy, and **requests** the Committee to continue to provide regular updates to the Governing Body on its implementation;

12. **Thanks** Germany, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America for their financial contributions during the period 2022–2023 to the Fund for Agreed Purposes of the International Treaty and other funds under the direct control of the Governing Body, and **encourages** other Contracting Parties and donors to also make financial contributions to the Fund to further support the implementation of the International Treaty;

13. **Further thanks** the European Union, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland for their financial contributions in support of the fifth cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund, and **invites** them, through its ongoing discussions with the Secretariat, to further enhance this relationship with a view to establishing a longer term strategic partnership with the International Treaty in areas of common interest;

14. **Welcomes** the further payments of the mandatory user-based income from the Multilateral System on Access and Benefit-sharing to the Benefit-sharing Fund, and **stresses** the urgent need for ensuring an enhanced and predictable flow of resources to the Fund;

15. **Thanks** the French Inter-professional Organisation for Seeds and Plants (SEMAE) and the Federation of Seed Industry of India for their generous contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund and **invites** the private sector and others to make or continue making and increasing financial contributions in order to meet the targets of the Funding Strategy;

16. **Recalls** that text regarding a target range for the Benefit-sharing Fund remains bracketed in paragraph 36 of the Funding Strategy, and **notes** the need to resolve this matter;

17. **Emphasizes** the importance of continuing the work on resource mobilization, communication, promotion and the International Treaty's branding and media presence to enhance funding for, and the visibility of the Benefit-sharing Fund and the Fund for Agreed Purposes of the International Treaty, in particular, and for the Funding Strategy.

PART III: BENEFIT-SHARING FUND OPERATIONS

18. **Thanks** the Funding Committee for providing guidance to the operations of the Benefit-sharing Fund during the biennium and, in particular, for its work in launching the Fifth Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund and finalising the project selection, which contributes to the realization of the programmatic approach for the Fund, as adopted by the Governing Body;

19. **Welcomes** the report on the Benefit-sharing Fund for the 2022-2023 period submitted to the Governing Body, and **stresses** the importance of communicating the results of the on-going projects under the Fourth Cycle and the expected results of the Fifth Cycle within the framework of the broader communication strategy of the International Treaty, and in this regard **encourages** the Secretariat to continue to hold regional briefings to update Contracting Parties and stakeholders on progress and relevant developments, as well as to receive feedback

PART IV: MONITORING, LEARNING AND REVIEW

20. **Invites** Contracting Parties, international mechanisms, funds, bodies, stakeholder groups and other international organizations to provide information to the Secretary to assist the Funding Committee in undertaking regular reviews of the Funding Strategy and **requests** the Funding

Committee to continue to work in collaboration with the Compliance Committee so as to agree the best way to integrate information in existing reporting formats;

21. ***Calls*** upon Contracting Parties to share information about the results of the further integration of PGRFA in national budgets and priorities with the Secretariat for the development of strategic tools that National Focal Points and others can use to leverage new resources;

22. ***Invites*** relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies, stakeholder groups and other international organizations to provide information to the Secretariat that will enable the Funding Committee to better leverage funding from all sources for Treaty implementation and the delivery of non-monetary benefit-sharing.

23. ***Stresses*** the importance of finalizing and testing the methodology for measuring non-monetary benefit-sharing and requests the Funding Committee to give attention to this matter early in the biennium 2024–2025;