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REPORT

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022) <i>- Declaration of Competence and Voting Rights and final statements</i>

Delegations will find in annex the Declaration of Competence and Voting Rights (ANNEX I) and the final statements delivered on behalf of the European Regional Group (ERG) or on behalf of the EU and its Member States (ANNEX II) for the Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022).

The Declaration of Competence and Voting Rights was approved by the Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture (Genetic Resources) at its meeting of 20 June 2022. All statements were agreed by the Working Party at its meeting of 7/8 September 2022, and then further discussed at ERG coordination with a view to reaching a common ERG position.

No agreement could be reached at ERG level on the statements on items 9.1.i and 9.2. These statements were therefore delivered on behalf of the EU and its Member States. All other statements were delivered on behalf of the ERG.

Statements on items 18 and 21 were agreed at ERG level but ultimately not delivered, due to the course of events at the Session.

**Ninth session of the GOVERNING BODY of
the INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE**

19 – 24 September 2022, New Delhi, India

**Statement of Competences and Voting Rights
Submitted by the European Union and its Member States**

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

MS Competence - MS Vote

2. Election of the Rapporteur

MS Competence - MS Vote

3. Appointment of the Credentials Committee

MS Competence - MS Vote

4. Establishment of a Budget Committee

Shared Competence - MS Vote

II. REPORTS AND GENERAL POLICY MATTERS

5. Report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body

Shared Competence - MS Vote

6. Report of the Secretary of the Governing Body

- 6.1 Capacity Development Strategy

Shared Competence - MS Vote

- 6.2 Report on the Impacts of COVID-19

Shared Competence - MS Vote

- 6.3 Review of Progress Made on the Achievement of SDGs Related to PGRFA

Shared Competence - MS Vote

7. Celebrating the Guardians of Crop Diversity: Towards an Inclusive Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Shared Competence - MS Vote

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

8. Proposal for an Amendment of the International Treaty

Shared Competence - MS Vote

9. The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing

9.1 Implementation and Operations of the Multilateral System

i. Implementation of Article 12.3.a of the International Treaty

Shared Competence - MS Vote

9.2 Updates on Any Informal Consultations on the Enhancement of the Multilateral System

Shared Competence - MS Vote

10. The Funding Strategy of the International Treaty

Shared Competence - MS Vote

11. The Global Information System

Shared Competence - MS Vote

12. Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA

Shared Competence - MS Vote

13. Farmers' Rights

Shared Competence - MS Vote

14. Compliance

Shared Competence - MS Vote

15. Contribution of FAO to the Implementation of the International Treaty

Shared Competence - MS Vote

16. Cooperation with International Instruments and Organizations

16.1 Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Shared Competence - MS Vote

16.2 Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust

Shared Competence - MS Vote

16.3 Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol

Shared Competence - MS Vote

16.4 Cooperation with other International Bodies and Organizations

Shared Competence - MS Vote

IV. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET AND RELATED MATTERS

17. Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty

17.1 Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty

Shared Competence - MS Vote

17.2 Consideration of "Digital Sequence Information" on Genetic Resources for the Objectives of the International Treaty

Shared Competence - MS Vote

17.3 Review of Subsidiary Bodies and Intersessional Processes

Shared Competence - MS Vote

18. Adoption of the Work Programme and Budget

Shared Competence - MS Vote

V. ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER MATTERS

19. Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

19.1 Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body

MS Competence - MS Vote

19.2 Procedures for the Appointment and Renewal of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty

MS Competence - MS Vote

20. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Tenth Session

MS Competence - MS Vote

21. Date and Place of the Tenth Session

MS Competence - MS Vote

22. Adoption of the Report

Shared Competence - MS Vote

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)**

**Opening Statement of the European Regional Group
19 September 2022**

Madam Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the European region, I would like to express our great appreciation to the Government of India for hosting this Session of the Governing Body and for exceptional hospitality that we have been enjoying already. The Special Event celebrating custodians of crop diversity has inspired us all to work hard during this week.

I would also like to express our gratitude to Dr Kent Nnadozie, the Secretary of the International Treaty and all his team for working tirelessly to make this event a success. We would also like to thank you Madam Chair and highlight all the work carried out by the Bureau of the Governing Body.

We are very glad that we can meet with other Contracting Parties, our colleagues and friends face to face after such a long period of lockdowns and other restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Madam Chair, we believe that plant genetic resources are the very basic toolbox required to develop resilient and efficient varieties to meet many challenges that we face today. Therefore, we recognise the ever-growing importance that the International Treaty has played in building knowledge and innovation in crop science and agriculture, and the management of crop diversity for food security.

We look forward to a fruitful and productive meeting.
Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)
Position paper of the European Regional Group
17 September 2022**

**Agenda item 4: Draft Terms of Reference for the Budget Committee
Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group**

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We would like to thank the Secretariat and the Bureau of the Ninth Session for preparing the Draft Terms of Reference for the Budget Committee as requested by the Eighth Session of the Governing Body through Resolution 14/2019.
3. Our understanding as clearly states in § i) of the ToR is that this is an *in-session committee*. However, § vi) mentions work during intersessional periods. We suggest deleting this § to solve the contradiction.
4. With this modification we could agree with the proposed draft.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)**

Position paper of the European Regional Group

17 September 2022

**Agenda item 5: Report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body
Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group**

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We would like to thank you for preparing the Report that describes the various activities undertaken either in your personal capacity as the Chair of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, or with close cooperation with the Bureau or Secretary of the International Treaty and his team.
3. This intersessional period was not only exceptionally long, but also affected by the COVID-19 global pandemic and, most recently, also by food security challenges in some regions or parts of the World. Therefore, we appreciate all efforts that have been made to continue our work. We would especially like to highlight the fact that the Bureau and all committees and working groups adapted very quickly to virtual modality of meetings and were able to deliver the outputs the Governing Body had requested. This also included providing advice to the Secretary in preparing for the very first Special Session of the Governing Body.
4. Several achievements were mentioned in your Report, for example, the analysis of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, arrangements for the Fifth Project Cycle, conducting the review of subsidiary bodies and intersessional processes, developing the terms of reference for the Budget Committee, or finalizing the long-term procedures for the selection and appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies. We welcome the progress made in various areas of the work, including strengthening the strategic cooperation and partnerships with other international bodies.
5. Madam Chair, we would like to thank you for the determined and efficient work and manner, in which you have led the implementation of the International Treaty towards this session.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)
Position paper of the European Regional Group
17 September 2022**

Agenda item 6: Report of the Secretary of the Governing Body

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group. We would like to thank the Secretary for the presentation of the Report, from which we would specifically point out the following four issues. Firstly, we would like to congratulate Mozambique, South Sudan and the Dominican Republic for joining the International Treaty as the new Contracting Parties. We also wish Nigeria to successfully conclude its ratification process soon.
2. Secondly, we notice with high appreciation the work of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilisation, especially their agreement to launch the Fifth Call for Proposals of the Benefit-Sharing Fund. It is very important to continue with selection and implementation of projects in fields and on farms to conserve PGRFA. In this regard, we would like to thank all donors for their contribution to the Benefit-Sharing Fund.
3. Thirdly, we would like to highlight the achievements of GLIS and specifically that in the past biennium 1,2 million PGRFA materials already received Digital Object Identifiers.
4. And lastly, we fully support the establishment of the Emergency Reserve for Germplasm Collections at Risk. The launch of the Reserve is an important step forward in terms of available tools that are needed for addressing possible emergency situations.
5. Madam Chair, we wish to express our sincere thanks to the Secretary and his entire team for the strong commitment and important work undertaken during the past biennium, and express our appreciation also for the preparation of the 9th Session of the Governing Body.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)
Position paper of the European Regional Group
18 September 2022**

Agenda item 6.1: Capacity Development Strategy

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We would like to thank the Secretariat, Bureau members, subsidiary bodies and all other stakeholders for the development of the Draft Capacity Development Strategy.
3. We would also like to thank the Government of Italy for its financial support to this process. In our view, Capacity Development Activities are crucial and must be continued and strengthened.
4. We appreciate the clear structure and the list of guiding principles within the draft strategy.
5. We support the overall goal that is focused on promotion and enhancement of the implementation of the International Treaty through improving the coherence, efficiency and effectiveness of capacity development efforts related to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA as well as access and benefit sharing. Accordingly, the major emphasis of the strategy should be on strategic approaches for capacity development needs addressing the objectives of the Treaty, while currently we note mainly proposals on networking, partnerships and general collaboration.
6. As a general principle, all capacity building activities should be based on what are agreed activities as reflected in the various resolutions of the Governing Body. Thus, the current text in brackets in the draft capacity building strategy should be deleted. The relationship with UPOV is discussed under agenda item 16.4.
7. The working document assumes that the Capacity Development Strategy is accompanied by two actions plans, each for four years. We would consider it helpful if an outline of the action plan for the first 4-year period were made available together with the draft strategy.

Therefore, we suggest that the draft strategy is further developed based on our inputs and presented at the next session of the GB together with the draft action plan.

8. We further suggest including the adoption of the Draft Capacity Building Strategy as an item of the MYPOW at the next GB.
9. Based on this Statement we propose amendments to the draft resolution and will submit those in writing.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)
Position paper of the European Regional Group
17 September 2022**

Agenda item 6.2: Report on the Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Implementation of the International Treaty

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing documents on this agenda item regarding the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the International Treaty.
3. We have also experienced significant impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Various restrictions that applied in daily business operations and administrative work revealed some critical points or limitations that need to be further reflected in order to make the system of conservation, sustainable use and exchange of crop genetic resources more resilient.
4. Therefore, we appreciate very much the organization of two surveys and the online International Panel that discussed and analysed the impact of the pandemic on the implementation of the International Treaty and the operation of Benefit-sharing Fund projects. In this regard, we would like to thank the Kingdom of Morocco and the Crop Trust for their support.
5. We would also like to thank the Crop Trust and the governments of Italy and Belgium for facilitating and sponsoring two webinars in 2021 that discussed, also in relation to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, the specific issues on fruit and vegetable genetic diversity and cryopreservation.
6. Generally, we feel the findings of the surveys and discussions are very relevant. In our region, the lockdown measures and limited access to facilities mainly affected the vegetatively propagated species conserved in *in vitro* conditions. Moreover, conservation and distribution of generatively propagated species were delayed. Therefore, we support the development and inclusion of contingency plans into relevant national programmes, policies or strategies and

the development of digital solutions to deliver continuous services and enable some of the genebank operations to be processed automatically.

7. Considering the Emergency Reserve for Germplasm Collections at Risk, we very much appreciate that the Secretary and the Crop Trust established this reserve. It has already proved to be very useful.
8. In finishing our statement, we would like to support and encourage the Secretary to continue to monitor and analyse the impact, challenges and opportunities of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of International Treaty and we also call for a closer cooperation with FAO to safeguard the unique national PGR collection in Ukraine to avoid its loss. In this context, Romania, through Suceava Gene Bank, offers storage space for the relocation of plant germplasm from Ukrainian collections. The available storage capacity varies depending on the species and the size of the seeds, and so will be between 20,000 and 150,000 accessions.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)
Position paper of the European Regional Group
17 September 2022**

**Item 6.3: Review of Progress Made on the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals
related to Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group**

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group. We thank the Secretariat for the working document.
2. We would like to reiterate the important role of the International Treaty in providing an effective governance framework for the management and exchange of PGRFA, and, therefore, its contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG Targets 2.5 and 15.6 as they relate to PGRFA.
3. We thank the Secretariat for the training workshops, webinars and other initiatives that it has organized and conducted with the aim to increase awareness about the contributions made by the Treaty implementation to the achievements of the two targets and request it to continue to do so.
4. We acknowledge the efforts made by Contracting Parties to make progress on the achievement of these targets. We welcome the increased number of accessions being made available under the Multilateral System (MLS), the increased number of materials being transferred through the SMTA, and the efforts made by Contracting Parties to promote the in situ conservation of crop wild relatives and wild plants for food production, and the on-farm management of PGRFA.
5. We also recognise that the newly approved Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning framework for the Benefit-sharing Fund, the updated Funding Strategy and its Results Framework, and the Operational Plan of the Funding Strategy constitute new developments that will help to monitor and illustrate how implementation of the International Treaty contributes to the achievement of relevant SDGs.

6. However, further efforts to maintain plant genetic diversity, both *ex situ* and *in situ*, should continue to be a priority. According to the FAO's 2021 progress report on the SDG indicators under FAO custodianship, the diversity of crop wild relatives, wild food plants, and neglected and underutilized crop species continues to be under-represented in *ex situ* collections.
7. Moreover, the role of the Multilateral System gains further importance as a consequence of current global challenges. Therefore, the inclusion of materials in the Multilateral System remains an important area where further analysis, additional support and capacity building is needed.
8. We also request the Treaty Secretariat to continue to support Contracting Parties, upon request and subject to the availability of financial resources, in their efforts to mainstream International Treaty implementation into national programmes and strategies relevant to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.
9. Finally - The achievement of SDG Targets 2.5 and 15.6 are very much related to the implementation of the Treaty, the Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources, the Convention on Biodiversity, and the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Therefore, we urge the Secretariats of the International Treaty, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and of the Convention of Biological Diversity to continue cooperating and frequently sharing the information that they receive through their corresponding national reports.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)**

**Position paper of the European Regional Group
17 September 2022**

**Agenda item 7: Celebrating the Guardians of Crop Diversity: Towards an Inclusive Post-2020
Global Biodiversity Framework**

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group. We thank the Secretariat for preparing the document on this agenda item. Considering the theme that was chosen for the GB9, i.e. Celebrating the Guardians of Crop Diversity: Towards an Inclusive Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, we think it is the right topic that is relevant for many agenda items of this session.
2. We congratulate the Government of India on the organisation of the Special Event and sharing their rich experience on supporting custodians of crop diversity. We also thank the other countries who shared their national experience in this regard.
3. In Europe, the community of crop guardians is very diverse, including farmers, genebank managers, breeders, researchers and users of PGRFA. Current strategies, for example, the European Green Deal, are increasingly focussing on more sustainable agriculture and food systems, biodiversity protection and other environmental issues, and the community of crop guardians is very much part of this.
4. We recognise the importance of the future Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, that will strengthen the connection between biodiversity management and agricultural and food production.
5. We note the continued contribution of the world's smallholder farmers, in particular women and youth, indigenous communities and other custodians of crop biodiversity to the effective management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and stress the crucial role of the ITPGRFA and its direct contribution to implement the future Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

6. We believe that effective implementation of the new Global Biodiversity Framework and its goals and targets will need to be supported by close collaboration of relevant actors, and particularly women, at international, but especially at national and local levels, and by relevant mechanisms and inputs, including capacity building, sharing of knowledge and best practices.
7. Madam Chair, we support the adoption of the draft resolution with no amendments.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)
Position paper of the European Regional Group
17 September 2022**

Agenda item 8: Proposal for an Amendment of the International Treaty

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Madam Chair,

1. This statement is about item 8 ; I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. Strengthening the implementation of all objectives of the Treaty, including the facilitation of the access of farmers, the scientific community and breeders worldwide to a broader range of PGRFA, is crucial. We need to enhance breeding and research for climate change adaptation of food systems and to improve food security, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. Access to PGRFA is an essential and intrinsic benefit provided by the Multilateral System (MLS) of Access and Benefit-sharing. Therefore, we consider that the amendment of Annex I of the International Treaty is one of the key aspects to improve the functioning of its MLS. The European Regional Group, therefore, supports the proposal made by Switzerland in this regard.
4. Therefore, the European Regional Group agrees with your proposal to consider this agenda item in the context of general discussions on the enhancement of the MLS, related to the Multilateral System.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)
Position paper of the European Regional Group
17 September 2022**

Agenda item 9.1: Implementation and Operations of the Multilateral System

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Madam Chair,

1. The European Regional Group wishes to thank the Secretariat for preparing the documentation and providing the analyses on germplasm flow and availability, and the CGIAR for the second report on the Status of Implementation of the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets.
2. We welcome the stable trend in the use of the SMTA and in transfers of PGRFA, as reflected in the report on the Implementation and Operations of the Multilateral System, with more than 6 million PGRFA distributed to recipients in 181 countries. In addition, we consider it would be useful to receive more detailed information on the transfers of PGRFA and SMTAs per country and per year, including on domestic transfers.
3. We welcome the support and capacity building activities carried out by the Secretariat and the publication of the Educational Module on the MLS and agree to its translation and conversion into an online training tool. We also appreciate the new website section on the MLS.
4. We welcome the very positive trend of information in the Global Information System about availability of accessions within the Multilateral System.
5. We note, based on the data presented in Appendix 2 of the report on the Implementation and Operations of the Multilateral System, that over 40% of Contracting Parties appear not to have included any material in the MLS. We would welcome a systematic analysis on the reasons for this lack of material inclusion and propose to include this aspect in the update of the report about global availability and transfer of material in point 4 of the draft resolution. We consider it important to further analyse the impediments, difficulties and gaps related to the inclusion and availability of material in the MLS, in order to improve the system, as well as to identify the specific needs that Contracting Parties may have, and, therefore, how they

could be supported to effectively include their materials in the MLS, including through the upcoming Capacity building Strategy.

6. Based on national experiences, we would also suggest that the Secretariat consider to what degree collections of vegetatively propagated material are well documented and identified and included in internationally available databases, in order to provide advice on how to enhance on the domestic implementation of the MLS.
7. We welcome the assessment about inclusion of material in the MLS by legal and natural persons and related measures. We agree that awareness raising is important and support the preparation of a briefing note. As it became clear from the information provided by Contracting Parties and Stakeholders, in particular awareness about the advantages of including material in the MLS is lacking. The briefing note, as per point 19 of the resolution, therefore, should include this aspect explicitly.
8. We agree with all other points in the draft resolution and will provide our above suggested additions to points 4 and 19 of the resolution in writing.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)
Position paper of the European Union and its Member States
19 September 2022**

**Agenda item 9.1.i: Implementation of Article 12.3.a of the International Treaty
Statement on behalf of the EU and its Member States**

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.
2. The Multilateral System (MLS) is a core asset of the International Treaty. The material contained in the MLS is a key resource for breeders, farmers and researchers around the world. The proper implementation and functioning of the MLS is, therefore, fundamental to its success.
3. The EU has identified, during its informal consultation related to the enhancement of the MLS a series of aspects, which the EU considers important to be addressed in order to enhance the existing MLS. Most of them were included in our statement to agenda item 9.2
4. One further aspect are the legal uncertainties related to the utilization of multiple-use crops as elaborated in working document IT/GB-9/22/9.1.i/Circ.1.
5. According to Article 12.3.a), the inclusion of multiple-use crops in the MLS depends on their relevance for food security. The term food security is not defined. This provides room for interpretation and leads to legal uncertainties in their utilization, when requested from the MLS.
6. These legal uncertainties would further increase through the reinforcement of article 8 of the SMTA on damages for breaches related to SMTA articles 6.1 and 6.2 as was foreseen in the draft package of measures for the enhancement of the MLS.
7. We therefore think that a clarification of Article 12.3.a, leading to the unequivocal and legally safe inclusion of multiple-use crops into the MLS, will improve the MLS and enhance the use of material from the MLS for the benefit of farmers worldwide.

8. The EU and its Member States understand and aim to implement Article 12.3.a based on the consideration that the importance for food security of PGRFA – including multiple-use crops – is determined by their use for agricultural production of food and feed, and/or by their use for generating income through the selling of food and feed products as well as of selling agricultural non-food/feed products.
9. Guidance from the Governing Body and the Secretariat of the Treaty on means and options for clarification would be appreciated, to reach a safe implementation of Article 12.3.a and utilization of multiple-use crops and thus enhancing the MLS.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)**

**Position paper of the European Union and its Member States
19 September 2022**

**Agenda item 9.2: Update on Any Informal Consultations on the Enhancement of the
Multilateral System**

Statement on behalf of the EU and its Member States

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.
2. We have taken note of the reports provided by Switzerland about the informal consultations they have organized during this intersessional period related to the enhancement of the Multilateral System and we thank our Swiss colleagues for their efforts. We agree with many of the points expressed in the reports by Switzerland and by the co-facilitators of the informal consultation held in Geneva in July 2022 while we take note that there are also some differences in views and vision.
3. The EU has held several consultations among its Member States related to the enhancement of the Multilateral System. Reviewing the past process and the results, we have identified a series of aspects, which we consider important to be addressed in order to improve the existing MLS and move further towards its enhancement. These aspects relate to, or are in addition to, major unresolved issues in the draft package of measures presented at GB-8 in November 2019.
4. Among these aspects are the following:
5. Firstly, that the GB develops a shared vision of the key roles and functions of the Multilateral System, as a necessary common basis on which the aims and approach of a new enhancement process can be developed.
6. Secondly, measures are required to improve the inclusion of material in the MLS which currently consists of fragmented and incomplete availability and accessibility of Annex I material.

7. Thirdly, the incomplete availability and accessibility of Annex 1 material creates the uncertainty of a real and effective increase in availability of additional material, if Annex I were expanded as part of the enhancement process. Mechanisms ensuring a real flow of additional material and its availability in the MLS could be developed to ensure users would buy into the system.
8. Fourthly, the EU also sees an urgent need to bring the key importance of non-monetary benefit sharing within the Treaty and the MLS back into focus. Facilitated access to and availability of the global genepool in the MLS already in itself represents an enormous non-monetary benefit, and users and farmers ultimately benefit from many other non-monetary benefit sharing within the MLS. We recommend that the Funding Committee addresses the development of measures of non-monetary benefit sharing as a priority in order to support the enhancement of the MLS.
9. Furthermore, the monetary benefit-sharing is an important aspect of the MLS and a regular and predictable flow of contributions into the Benefit sharing fund very desirable. We see the need for developing realistic expectations regarding a steady flow of income in an enhanced MLS, as well as a realistic view of the contribution that the Benefit-sharing Fund would provide to the overall Funding Strategy Framework and implementation of the Treaty.
10. The Multilateral System is a key resource for users in the EU. A well-functioning, user-friendly and simple Multilateral System provides critical support in addressing the growing challenges to agricultural and food security, posed by global changes. The EU stands ready to support and actively develop and contribute to a new process to jointly work on improving the multilateral system. [We therefore support the proposal of Switzerland to establish a contact group in this regard.]

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)
Position paper of the European Regional Group
17 September 2022**

Agenda item 10: Report of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We consider that the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilisation has conducted important work to develop and finalise an operational plan for the Funding Strategy and to draft a strategy to mobilize funds from food processing industries, as requested by GB-8. We would like to thank the Committee, as well as other stakeholders that actively took part in the working sessions, especially considering the circumstances of the global pandemic.
3. We strongly welcome the launch of the Fifth Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund and thank the donors who have contributed to it and thank the Funding Committee for its work in its design and launch. It is with great satisfaction that we take note of the results received so far through the fourth project cycle.
4. We appreciate the financial contributions made by Germany, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the European Union during the 2020/2021 biennium. They reaffirm the strong commitment of the ERG to the International Treaty.
5. We also welcome and thank the continued annual contribution of the French Interprofessional Organisation for Seeds and Plants (SEMAE) of EUR 175 000 since 2017, and appeal to other private sector organisations to consider making voluntary contributions.
6. Regarding resources mobilization, we would like to highlight the importance of the work undertaken by the Committee to build on existing strategies and to develop links with other international mechanisms and agencies. We hope that such partnerships will increase the visibility of the Treaty and create more synergies.

7. We agree with the proposal to amend the text of paragraph 29k of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty 2020–2025, in order to align it with Article 13.4 of the Treaty.
8. We very much welcome the draft Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy, which is an important first step in formally recognising the need for contributions from all actors and industries that benefit from plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.
9. We note, with appreciation, the mainstreaming of the Sustainable Development Goals within the text of the draft Strategy, and would like to stress the importance of also including this aspect within the text of the Resolution. We will provide a proposed amendment in relation to this.
10. We recognize the mutual benefits that would result from the involvement of the food processing industry, but would like to suggest a more cautious approach regarding a formal recognition of benefits for the industry resulting from such partnerships. We will propose amendments accordingly. In addition, when it comes to formal engagement with the private sector, the inclusion of considerations related to human and workers’ rights, as set out in FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement, should be specifically addressed. We will also provide a proposed amendment in relation to this, within the “Principles for engagement” section of the draft Strategy.
11. Early involvement of representative of the Food processing industry already in the Inception Phase of the Implementation, Monitoring and Review plan of the Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy is therefore key. Therefore, we strongly support the rapid establishment of the Food Processing Industry Sounding Board, along the decision and guidance given by the 5th meeting of the Standing Committee.
12. We also welcome the finalization of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework of the Benefit-sharing Fund as an integral part of the monitoring of the overall Funding Strategy.
13. As non-monetary benefit sharing is important for the successful implementation of the International Treaty, we appreciate that the development of a methodology to measure non-monetary benefit-sharing is included in the Committee’s operational plan for the biennium 2022/23. We propose to also invite Contracting Parties to share views and experiences in non-monetary benefit sharing.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)
Position paper of the European Regional Group
18 September 2022**

**Agenda item 11: The Global Information System
Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group**

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group. We thank the Secretariat for preparing the working document IT/GB-9/22/11 that reports on the implementation of the Global Information System (GLIS) and formulates a draft resolution for the implementation of GLIS in the next reporting period.
2. We welcome the progress made towards the implementation of the Programme of Work on the Global Information System (GLIS), including the promotion, and, on a voluntary basis, the registration and use of Digital Object Identifiers (DOI), the creation of the first version of the GLIS Portal and the development of various descriptor lists including the first version of a descriptor list for Crop Wild Relatives occurring *in situ*.
3. We welcome the start of establishing within GLIS, visualising the relationships between the DOI's and highlighting the movement and use of the germplasm accessions documented in the GLIS.
4. We also thank the members of the Scientific Advisory Committee for their efforts, and we support reconvening the Committee in the next biennium, subject to the availability of financial resources, in order to continue to receive its valuable advice.
5. It is important that the Secretary continues to collaborate with Genesys, WIEWS, GRIN-Global and the other databases. A key task of GLIS is to support the navigation between sources and databases.
6. Madam Chair, in line with these views expressed we have some amendments to be made to the draft resolution which we could read out now or provide to the Secretariat in written form.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)**

Position paper of the European Regional Group

19 September 2022

Item 12: Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group. We thank the Secretariat for the working document and the related information documents.
2. We recognise the importance of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty. In fact, we believe that, while the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, when adopted, will contribute to the enhancement of the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, the implementation of these articles will, in turn, contribute to the achievement of some of the Framework's goals and targets. We will provide, in writing, a proposal to include language in the draft resolution in this regard.
3. We thank the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use and the Secretariat for their work on the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 over the last biennium.
4. We also thank the Government of Italy for the generous financial and in-kind support that it has continued to provide towards the implementation of the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and call on other Contracting Parties and donors to do the same.
5. We thank the Secretariat for the *Background study on the bottlenecks and challenges to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6*. We consider it to be a useful document to inform about additional and future activities on conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.
6. We note that the information submitted by countries to the FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, with regard to the national implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for PGRFA, would have been an excellent additional source of information for the development of such a study. We recommend therefore that in the future better alignment between implementation of the respective POW of the Treaty and the CGRFA is better insured by the two Secretariats, and that the information between them is frequently shared.

7. We take note of, rather than endorse, the concept note of the proposed Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA. We are in favour of the Treaty Secretariat taking the lead in strengthening the synergies and partnerships with relevant agencies working on the sustainable use of PGRFA. However, we think that further work is necessary. We wish to request the Secretary to develop a detailed Plan of Action, based on the Concept Note of the Joint Programme, for consideration of the GB at its 10th session.
8. Given the number of difficulties and challenges still faced by Contracting Parties for implementing Articles 5 and 6 of the Treaty, as it has been highlighted in the Background Study, we support the regional briefings proposed in the draft resolution, but suggest that they focus on the identified bottlenecks.
9. There is not so much time until the next session of the GB to accomplish the proposed activities under this agenda item, we propose to postpone reconvening the ACSU. The results of all the proposed activities under this agenda item could form the basis for discussing the possible next steps, including to consider reconvening the ACSU with new terms of reference.
10. We thus also consider it necessary to limit the number of activities proposed for the coming year, as listed in the draft resolution. Our suggestion is to focus on developing a plan of action for the Joint Programme and conducting the regional briefings with focus on identified bottlenecks.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)
Position paper of the European Regional Group
18 September 2022**

Item 13: Farmers' Rights

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group. We thank the Secretariat for the working document and the related information documents.
2. We thank the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights for the report and for the significant progress made in fulfilling its tasks.
3. We welcome the updated Inventory of National Measures, Best Practices and Lessons Learned on the Realization of Farmers' Rights and its online version, as well as the work carried out to develop the draft Options for Encouraging, Guiding and Promoting the Realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty.
4. We welcome the work of the Expert Group. We note that Options under Category 10 are presented as co-chairs' proposals. We have to admit that it is tempting to propose changes to that text. However, we take note of the Options and request the Secretary to publish them.
5. We agree that the Options may serve as a tool for Parties and other stakeholders to guide and promote the realization of Farmers' Rights. Therefore, we encourage the translation, dissemination and use of the document by Contracting Parties.
6. We welcome most of the proposed future activities to enhance the implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty on Farmers' Rights included in the draft Resolution. We do not see the need of a major background study as proposed in point 12 of the draft resolution. We suggest that, instead, the Secretary makes an assessment based on all compliance reports submitted by end of the second compliance reporting cycle and on the submissions in the Inventory.

7. Finally, given the considerable links between Articles 5, 6 and 9, we would like to stress the need to coordinate the implementation of proposed activities and efforts with those to be conducted on Conservation and Sustainable Use proposed under agenda item 12.
8. We will submit, in writing, our changes to the proposed draft Resolution and the draft options paper.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)
Position paper of the European Regional Group
18 September 2022**

Item 14: Compliance

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group. We thank the Secretariat for providing us with the working document.
2. We are grateful to the Compliance Committee for its work, and we wish to thank the 79 Contracting Parties that have submitted their reports in due time to allow their consideration by the Committee. However, we would have liked to see a greater number of reports as the basis for a more comprehensive and in-depth analysis by the Compliance Committee, on the state of the implementation of the Treaty for this Session of the Governing Body.
3. We note with concern that about a third of respondents have still not included any PGRFA in the MLS and that there is no change compared to the previous report; we urge CPs to do so and encourage the Secretariat to keep supporting CPs in this matter. It is of particular concern to see that the low perception of benefits deriving from inclusion of material in the MLS is mentioned as an important reason. Therefore, adequate outreach becomes essential.
4. The synthesis and analysis of the 79 reports is nevertheless useful for monitoring the implementation of the Treaty. It also provides transparency through its publication in the online Reporting System. In our region, we will continue to encourage any Contracting Parties with pending reports to submit them as soon as possible, making it possible for the Compliance Committee to analyse them before GB10.
5. Therefore, we support the postponement of the review of effectiveness of the Compliance Procedures to the 10th session of the Governing Body, to allow the Committee to prepare the assessment and provide recommendations that will form the basis for the 10th session to undertake the review.

6. We encourage the Compliance Committee to continue its work on simplification of the Standard Reporting Format, as more user experience on the Reporting Format is brought to the attention of the Committee through reports, or other sources. We ask the Committee to continue taking into account other reporting obligations of Contracting Parties under other international instruments, such as the GPA, the SDG's and the Global Biodiversity Framework, when adopted. In addition, we request the Committee, while they revise the Standard Reporting Format, to identify where and how relevant cross cutting issues such as gender and youth, which are not covered by the current reporting format, could be included. While the simplification of the Reporting Format is key, we find it fundamental to identify how these issues are taken into account in the national implementation of the International Treaty.
7. To avoid overlapping reporting systems, we support the production of indicators that re-use data previously submitted by Contracting Parties to show their contribution towards the global development agenda and frameworks through the implementation of the International Treaty.
8. We congratulate the Secretariat for their work to facilitate reporting, with a dedicated helpdesk, keeping the online Reporting System updated, organizing webinars, pro-actively reaching out to National Focal Points, using multimedia resources and developing partnerships. We encourage them to continue doing so during the next biennium.
9. Madam Chair, we invite Contracting Parties to use the Compliance Committee's full mandate, including monitoring implementation, and offering advice or assistance when needed. We also call those Contracting Parties which have been unable to submit their national reports this time to do so as soon as possible through the Compliance Committee. We support that the Compliance Committee assist Contracting Parties, **upon their request**, but we suggest to delete "development of legal, policy and administrative options" and replace "ensuring" with "considering". We will submit this proposal in writing.
10. We can support the proposed Resolution, with one small addition in small 'n', to clarify the role of the Compliance Committee, which we will provide to you in writing. As regards Compliance Committee elections, for the European Region we nominate Linn Borgen Nilsen from the Norwegian delegation to serve as a member for the 2023-2025 term. We further nominate Vlastimil Zedek from the Czech delegation as her alternate.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)
Position paper of the European Regional Group
19 September 2022**

**Item 15: Contribution of FAO to the Implementation of the International Treaty
Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group**

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group. We thank the Secretariat for the working document related to this agenda item.
2. Our Region welcomes the ongoing support provided by FAO that helps to implement the Treaty. Its annual financial contributions to the Core Administrative Budget of the Treaty have safe-guarded the fulfilment of the Treaty's mandate.
3. We note with appreciation the range of recent initiatives taken by FAO that all relate to food security, such as the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture, the Food Systems Coordination Hub, the Science and Innovation Strategy and the paper on genome editing technologies. Such initiatives may assist in building bridges to new stakeholders, in particular the food industry, the increased engagement of which could prove vital to improve implementation of our Treaty.
4. We wish to express our appreciation for the newly developed Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors which, in our view, will provide valuable assistance to Parties within a range of Treaty-related core action areas, including capacity-development and use of biodiversity-related information in decision-making.
5. We take note of the Report provided and encourage FAO to continue to actively support the Treaty as a key international instrument required for the fulfilment of Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 15, particularly in FAO's activities at the national level.
6. Finally, Madam Chair, we thank FAO and the Treaty Secretariat for their commitment in providing emergency assistance to the National Plant Genetic Resources System of Ukraine, one of the largest plant genetic resources collections in Europe and currently suffering from the war imposed upon their country by the Russian Federation.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)**

Position paper of the European Regional Group

19 September 2022

**Item 16.1: Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group**

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group. We thank the Secretariat for the working document related to this agenda item.
2. We are pleased to learn about the work on the thematic background study on germplasm exchange, jointly prepared by the two secretariats, the Crop Trust and CIAT. We are confident that the report will provide valuable input to the development of the Third State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the planned review of the 2nd GPA.
3. In this regard, we would like to reiterate that, given the strong linkages between the GPA and the national implementation of the International Treaty, the information received by both Secretariats through their respective national reports should be shared between the two Secretariats, for the benefit of the PGRFA community.
4. We welcome FAO's provision of assistance to countries in reporting for the Third Report, as we are well aware of the need for resource enhancement when preparing national reports.
5. As a region, we appreciated the virtual 1st International Multi-Stakeholder Symposium on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management held in March last year, and we encourage the Secretariat to consider holding, subject to the availability of the necessary resources, similar online symposia at regular intervals, in collaboration with the CGRFA, IUCN and other relevant organisations. This could also include webinars in support of the implementation of the Second GPA and Articles 5, 6 and 9 of the Treaty.
6. We wish to express our warm support of any activities that assist countries in strengthening their crop improvement capacities to meet the challenges of climate change and sustainable food security. In this regard, we wish to highlight Governing Body Resolution 3/2019 on the updated funding strategy and the importance of involving GEF and the Green Climate Fund.

7. We note, with satisfaction, the joint efforts to develop GLIS and strengthen cooperation with WIEWS and Genesys to promote coherence and to avoid duplication of efforts.
8. Finally, Madam Chair, we have some suggestions for amending the draft Resolution that we will provide in writing.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)
Position paper of the European Regional Group
19 September 2022**

Agenda item 16.2: Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of all working documents related to this agenda item.
3. We appreciate the active support of the Crop Trust to the work of the Treaty's Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization during the past biennium and, in particular, its support to develop a strategy for engagement with the food processing industry. In this regard, we call upon the Secretariat and the Crop Trust to continue the collaboration on joint resources mobilization and fundraising activities.
4. We welcome the establishment of the Emergency Reserve for Germplasm Collection at Risk as a joint initiative between the Secretariat of the International Treaty and the Crop Trust. It is important to safeguard and rehabilitate germplasm collections at risk, as we have experienced recently with the COVID-19 pandemic and armed conflicts such as those in Syria, Yemen, Iraq and currently in Ukraine. We thank the Norwegian and Italian governments for their financial support in this regard.
5. We would like to thank the Crop Trust for its active support to the implementation of GRIN-Global and Genesys and for its participation in the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Treaty's Global Information System.
6. We also highly appreciate the launch of the recently launched BOLD Project. In our view it will help the Secretariat to train staff of relevant partner institutions in policy matters regarding implementation of the International Treaty. We thank the Norwegian government for its financial support in this regard.

7. We welcome the development of new, and the update of existing, global crop conservation strategies. We thank the German Federal Ministry of Agriculture for its financial support in this regard.
 8. We will provide, in writing, our suggested amendments to the draft Resolution.
- Thank you, Madam Chair.
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**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)
Position paper of the European Regional Group
19 September 2022**

Item 16.3: Report on Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group. We thank the Secretariat for the working and information documents related to this agenda item.
2. As we meet here in New Delhi, the negotiations concerning the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework are still on-going. From a global perspective, we consider it vitally important that they are successfully concluded in order to get the new framework in place. We acknowledge the direct relevance of the Framework to the Treaty, and therefore wish to express our appreciation to the Secretariat for being proactive in the process.
3. Notwithstanding, the situation for the World's biodiversity, including that of food and agriculture, is dire. We all know this, as shown by the IPBES' Global Assessment Report and the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, both released in 2019. The importance for global instruments to collaborate even more closely in order to change the current avenue is growing. Consequently, we welcome the close cooperation with IPBES – recently exhibited at the Panel's 9th meeting in Bonn – and wish to express our appreciation for the work carried out through the Biodiversity Liaison Group as a joint vehicle for better implementation and monitoring at national and international levels. This relates, in particular, to the updating and alignment of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.
4. We welcome the inputs made for the 8th replenishment process of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as requested by the Governing Body at its 8th Session. We note that the GEF-8 biodiversity focal area now more strongly recognizes the interdependency between human well-being and a healthy environment, including the transformation of food systems.

5. Concerning Digital Sequence Information (DSI), we request the Secretary to continue following the processes on this matter within the Convention on Biological Diversity and coordinate closely with the Secretary of the Convention.
6. We welcome the report presented by UNEP (IT/GB-9/22/16.4/Inf.1) on the Second Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Bern II). We note with interest the proposal to establish a stronger Coordination mechanism among Parties from all biodiversity related Conventions to contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, when adopted. This Coordination mechanism is envisaged to be composed of Parties and a representative of the Secretariat of each of the Biodiversity related Convention and facilitated by UNEP. We support full participation of the International Treaty in this process.
7. We appreciate the close cooperation between the two Secretariats, notably within capacity-development and relevant management areas, and express our gratitude to the Governments of Finland and Switzerland for providing funds in this respect.
8. Finally, Madam Chair, concerning the draft Resolution we would like to propose some amendments that we will provide in writing.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)
Position paper of the European Regional Group
20 September 2022**

Item 16.4: Cooperation with other International Bodies and Organizations

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group. We thank the Secretariat for the working documents and information documents related to this agenda item.
2. We would like to thank all the international bodies, organisations and other relevant stakeholder groups that have provided support during the current biennium for the implementation of the International Treaty and the achievement of its objectives.
3. We wish to express our sincere thanks to the organizations for their reports and our appreciation for the work carried during the last biennium despite the effects of the pandemic.
4. We note with satisfaction the Memorandum of Understanding with the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources, ECPGR, that has been in force since 2017. In our view, this is an agreement which can serve as a model for other regional networks to support mutual efforts in conserving and sustainably using our plant genetic resources, as well as capacity building.
5. We welcome the ongoing interactions with UPOV according to Resolution 6/2019 in pertinent matters of relevance for both instruments and encourage the Secretary to continue this interaction.
6. The safe-guarding of our genetic resources is an endeavour for all relevant stakeholders. We therefore see the collaboration with civil society and farmers' organizations, the seed industry and academia as being absolutely crucial, and strongly support its continuation.
7. Given the importance of Article 15 collections to the MLS of the Treaty, we would like to thank all institutions that have concluded agreements with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the International Treaty for their reports.

8. We welcome the Global Plant Cryopreservation Initiative and consider this to be a good example of close collaboration between the Treaty, CGIAR Centers and the Global Crop Diversity Trust.
9. We thank the Government of Norway for its report on the Svalbard Global Seed Vault and we appreciate the close linkages between the International Treaty and the Seed Vault.
10. Furthermore, Madam Chair, along with Article 19.3(g) of the Treaty, we encourage all relevant international organisations and treaty bodies, including in particular the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to participate in the funding strategy as adopted in Resolution 3/2019.
11. We will submit, in writing, a minor amendment to point 2 in the draft resolution.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)
Position paper of the European Regional Group
20 September 2022**

**Agenda item 17.1: Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty
Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group**

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We thank the Bureau and the Secretary for preparing the Draft Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW). In our view, it provides a helpful structure for the Treaty's future work, incorporating the activities and outputs to be achieved, facilitating the intersessional work and including indicators and milestones for monitoring and evaluation.
3. We can accept the draft resolution as proposed in Annex 2. Regarding Annex 1, depending on the discussions on other agenda items, of course, we may need to come back to the MYPoW and propose further amendments during the course of this session.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and
Agriculture(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)
Position paper of the European Regional Group
20 September 2022**

**Agenda item 17.2: Consideration of “Digital Sequence Information” on Genetic
Resources for the Objectives of the International Treaty
Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group**

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. Firstly, we would like to thank the Secretariat for providing the working document on "Digital Sequence Information" which provides a good overview of discussions and outcomes on this subject in other fora. However, Section II does not fully reflect the latest outcomes from the Open-ended Working Group Sessions 3 and 4 on the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, in which Regions and Parties have suggested additional policy options for DSI.
3. We take note of the ongoing discussion process under the CBD, of which important details and results are not available yet.
4. We also take note of the discussions and outcomes at the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and welcome the envisaged awareness-raising workshop on the role of DSI for the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA and the sharing of benefits derived from them, as well as for research and development. We see the outcomes of this workshop as an important input for the “consideration of potential implications of the use of DSI for the objectives of the Treaty”, as foreseen in the MYPoW for GB 10.
5. We reiterate that open access to DSI on PGRFA is an important form of non-monetary benefit-sharing. Open access to the complete datasets of genetic sequences on genetic resources is key for conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and to developing solutions towards the transformation of food systems for sustainability and resilience to meet future global challenges.

6. Furthermore, any solution on DSI should be compatible with, and supportive of, the objectives and the functioning of the Treaty as the specialised instrument for PGRFA and also needs to recognise the characteristics of genetic resources for food and agriculture. We therefore call on Contracting Parties during negotiations under the CBD to consider solutions accordingly.
7. In preparation of the consideration of DSI, as foreseen in the MYPoW for GB10, we request the Secretary to assess the impacts of the outcome of COP15 of the CBD on all the objectives and the functioning of the ITPGRFA and make the results available for consideration by the Governing Body.
8. Furthermore, we request the Secretary to invite Contracting Parties and stakeholders to provide information about their capacity building needs.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)
Position paper of the European Regional Group
20 September 2022**

Agenda item 17.3: Review of Subsidiary Bodies and Intersessional Processes

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group. We thank the Secretariat for preparing the working document on the Review of Subsidiary Bodies and Intersessional Processes and we appreciate the detailed review of their operations for the biennium 2020-2021. We note that three bodies have been set up as ad hoc groups to address specific, time-limited tasks, while three others are established as permanent bodies.
2. We also note that the review of subsidiary bodies should be oriented towards promoting coordination and non-duplication of their functions, through more systematic collaboration and regular interaction.
3. Considering the operation of subsidiary bodies in the next biennium and based on our positive experience, we support the organization of meetings in virtual modality, where this is appropriate or necessary. However, we also consider it necessary to further test and evaluate working in virtual modality and the impact this has on the efficiency, transparency and effectiveness of the work. Equality during online meetings for all Contracting Parties is a prerequisite.
4. We also support, within the next biennium, the practice of conducting consultations in writing with subsidiary bodies and simplification of the meeting documentation where possible.
5. Considering the implementation of a range of practical and relatively basic measures, as contained in paragraph 16 of the working document, we support all except for the fourth bullet point, which reads "*the commissioning of studies and background papers to enhance the scientific integrity of the work of subsidiary bodies, with the possible peer review of the studies and background papers to be kept distinct from the deliberations of the experts in the subsidiary bodies*". We believe that this measure is currently not necessary and should not be applied in general terms, but only in limited and specific cases.

6. Regarding potential additional measures as described in paragraph 17, we support requiring the nomination of alternates, in case of the absence or the inability of any member to attend meetings, to ensure inclusive representation and reduce the risk of not reaching quorum. However, we do not currently see the need to determine a set range of possible categories of subsidiary bodies with related membership and appointment criteria. The number of subsidiary bodies is not large, and we do not believe there is a need to modify the current flexibility in identifying the type and criteria, based on the issue that a subsidiary body is being called to address.
7. In closing our statement, we would like to summarize that the revision of subsidiary bodies and intersessional processes should aim to keep the necessary flexibility, non-duplication of efforts and close coordination among the bodies on interrelated agendas.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)**

**Position paper of the European Regional Group
20 September 2022**

Agenda item 19.2: Procedures for the Appointment and Renewal of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We fully accept and believe that the Secretary plays a crucial role within all activities of the Treaty as well as resolutions that the Governing Body takes.
3. We very much welcome the fact that the procedure for the selection and appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies was finalized and endorsed by the FAO Council at its 168th session. The FAO Council also recommended to consider extending this procedure to all Article XIV Bodies in a manner consistent with the Basic Texts and the Treaties concerned.
4. Therefore, we support the Annex of the working document for this agenda item. Nevertheless, we note with concern that the procedure lack information about the term of appointment as well as procedure for reappointment. There is need for continuity and predictability in the appointment of the Secretary, and we consider that e.g. one term should be 4-5 years, with the possibility of one renewal. Thus, we request the Bureau of the 10th session of the Governing Body to liaise with the FAO Council/ICC to establish such procedures.
5. In closing our statement, we would like to also show our appreciation of the long-term contribution that FAO provides by hosting the Secretariat of the International Treaty and providing human resources management support in the recruitment processes of the Secretary of the Governing Body.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(New Delhi, 19-24 September 2022)
Closing Statement of the European Regional Group
24 September 2022**

Madam Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the European Region, let me express my gratitude to all participants of the 9th Governing Body for their attendance either in-person or online.

We are very glad to see the outcomes achieved in all agenda items. It was achieved thanks to the hard work, patience and spirit of compromise that all delegations have shown over this week.

We would like to thank the Secretariat, the Bureau, Dr Kent Nnadozie and his team and especially you, Madam Chair, for the enormous work that has been made here and in the last three years to prepare this Governing Body session. Without that, it would have been impossible to achieve such progress.

We would like to thank all observers who have attended, showing so much interest in our work. They are important partners in implementing the Treaty.

We would also like to thank the interpreters for their amazing work in helping us to understand each other. Proper understanding is the basic precondition for a good spirit in the room and cooperation among all of us.

Madam Chair, we would like to express our great appreciation to the Government of India for hosting the 9th Session of the Governing Body and for the exceptional hospitality that we have been enjoying over the whole week. All facilities were excellently prepared for us to work smoothly. We saw the diversity of crops displayed, we tasted different foods and enjoyed various colorful cultural performances.

We are grateful to have experienced a small part of the enormous diversity that India entails. We were all impressed and deeply touched to have been able to work together in one of the main centres of global agrobiodiversity.

Madam Chair, please accept our warm congratulations on your election as Chair of GB-10 of ITPGRFA and best wishes for your success.

We are looking forward to meeting you all at the 10th Session of the Governing Body.

Thank you, Madam Chair.
