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## REPORT

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Rome, 20-24 November 2023)  
*- Declaration of Competence and Voting Rights and final statements*

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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) (ANNEX II) for the Tenth Session of the Governing Body (GB10) of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Rome, 20-24 November 2023).

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 8-9 November 2023. All statements were agreed by the Working Party at its meeting of 8-9 November 2023<sup>1</sup>, and then further discussed at ERG coordination with a view to reaching a common ERG position.

All positions were agreed by the ERG during coordination meetings on 19 November 2023 and in the margins of GB10.

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<sup>1</sup> EU contributions on items 16.3, 18 and 19 were finalised at EU coordination meetings in the margins of GB10.

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

20 -24 November 2023, Rome, Italy

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

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**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 the 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*

7. From Seeds to Innovative Solutions, Safeguarding our Future: Contributing to the Implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework for Sustainable Food Systems

*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

*Shared Competence - MS Vote*

9.2 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/Genetic Sequence Data" on Genetic Resources for the Objectives of the International Treaty

*Shared Competence - MS Vote*

18. Adoption of the Work Programme and Budget

*Shared Competence - MS Vote*

## V. ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER MATTERS

19. Proposal for the renewal and term of office of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

*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 Eleventh Session

*MS Competence - MS Vote*

22. Adoption of the Report

*Shared Competence - MS Vote*

**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 20-24 November 2023)**

**Opening statement on behalf of the European Regional Group**

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group. It is with great honor and a profound sense of responsibility that we gather here today as the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. In this dedicated space, the FAO Headquarter in Rome, we recognize the critical role that plant genetic resources play in sustaining life on our planet, providing food security, and fostering biodiversity.
2. Firstly, we would like to thank the Secretariat for the all work that they put in organizing this event, on working documents and the related information prepared for this session.
3. We would like to convey our greetings to you, Madam Chair, and to the other members of the Bureau. We look forward to a productive session under your guidance.
4. We find ourselves at a pivotal moment in history. The challenges facing our global community—climate change, population growth, continuing loss of biodiversity and shifting agricultural landscapes—underscore the urgency of our mission.
5. Our shared commitment to the objectives of the Treaty must guide us as we navigate the intricate web of interests and responsibilities inherent in the management of these resources.
6. Together, we must shape a future where plant genetic resources are safeguarded, shared, and sustainably utilized for the benefit of present and future generations.
7. We hope to have very interesting and fruitful discussions over the next week, Madam Chair, and are looking forward to hearing views of our colleagues from other regions on the many important agenda items.

Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 20-24 November 2023)  
Position paper of the European Regional Group  
20 November 2023**

**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. Madam Chair, first of all we would like to congratulate you for re-election on this important position.
3. We would like to thank you for the determined and efficient work, in which you have led the implementation of the International Treaty towards this session.
4. We look forward to benefiting from your insights and experience. We are confident that your guidance will greatly contribute to the success of our Session.
5. We would like to underline once again our readiness to work closely with you, the Secretariat and other regional groups, and to wish you a lot of success in chairing this week's meetings.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 20-24 November 2023)  
Position paper of the European Regional Group  
19 November 2023**

**Agenda item 6: Report of the Secretary**

**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 firstly thank the Secretary for presenting the Report summarizing the intersessional period since the last Governing Body. We would also like to thank the entire team of the Secretariat for their dedication, work and organisation of all activities that are mentioned in the Report.
2. The number of Contracting Parties will soon reach 152 and in this regard we would like to congratulate the Federal Republic of Nigeria in becoming the newest member of the International Treaty, and look forward to welcoming the Federal Republic of Somalia as a Contracting Party on 2 December.
3. We would also like to highlight that the funding of 28 new projects was approved under the 5<sup>th</sup> project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund. In doing so, we thank all donors for their financial contributions that will make the implementation of these new projects possible and we appreciate the efforts of all actors involved in implementing these relevant projects.
4. Finally, we would like to thank the Secretariat for its support to the critical enhancement process of the MLS during this intersessional period, laying an important foundation for upcoming discussions.
5. Madam Chair, we would like to express again our sincere appreciation to the Secretary and his entire team for the preparation of the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Governing Body.

Thank you, Madam Chair.



**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 20-24 November 2023)  
Position paper of the European Regional Group  
19 November 2023**

**Agenda item 6.1: Draft Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty 2023–2030**

**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 provided.
2. We would like to thank the Secretariat and the Bureau for discussing this agenda item while preparing for the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Governing Body. Strengthening and coordinating capacity development activities is a crucial measure that supports better communication and cooperation among Contracting Parties and could lead to enhanced conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA as well as access and benefit sharing.
3. We are aware of the short intersessional period between GB9 and GB10, which did not allow the Contracting Parties, the Bureau and the Secretariat to properly carry out the tasks contained in Resolution 10/2022 on the Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty 2023–2030.
4. We are also aware of the need to coordinate capacity development for the implementation of the Treaty along with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and its Long-Term Strategic Framework for Capacity Building and Development.
5. Therefore, we agree to postpone the final consideration of the Strategy and Action Plan until the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the GB and, use the extended time for consultation with stakeholders, Contracting Parties as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity, as needed.
6. We suggest one amendment to the draft Resolution in paragraph 2, which I will now read out for clarity.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 20-24 November 2023)  
Position paper of the European Regional Group  
19 November 2023**

**Agenda item 7: The Role of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture within the  
Global Biodiversity Framework**

**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 Secretariat for preparing the document on this agenda item and the organisation of the Special Event on this topic.
3. We celebrate the theme chosen for this Governing Body, which we consider relevant not only for many agenda items of this session, but also to highlight that the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework constitutes a milestone also for the PGRFA community.
4. The effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the achievement of its goals and targets will strengthen the connection between biodiversity management and agricultural and food production, including the bridging of understanding between sectors. Indeed, the Treaty will be key to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and vice versa.
5. As is well reflected in the draft resolution, it is more necessary than ever to continue strengthening cooperation and fostering close collaboration between relevant actors at the international, regional, national and local levels including within National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other relevant policies, plans and programmes. Assuring that there is enough capacity, especially at national and local levels, and that spaces are created to share knowledge and best practices will be key too.
6. We support the adoption of the draft resolution with some minor amendments and three additions, which I will now read out.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 20-24 November 2023)  
Position paper of the European Regional Group  
19 November 2023**

**Agenda item 8: Proposal by the Government of Switzerland for an Amendment 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. 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 the food systems and to improve food security, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
3. Facilitated 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, support the proposal made by Switzerland in this regard.
4. Therefore, the European Regional Group would agree to consider this agenda item in the context of general discussions on the enhancement of the MLS that might take place under agenda item 9.2.

Thank you, Madam Chair

**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 20-24 November 2023)  
Position paper of the European Regional Group  
19 November 2023**

**Agenda item 9.1: Implementation and Operations of the Multilateral System**

**Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group**

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We wish to thank the Secretariat for preparing the documentation on the implementation of the MLS, and the CGIAR for the third report on the Status of Implementation of the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets.
3. We underline the importance of updating the report on global availability of material and transfer of germplasm in the Multilateral System according to resolution 2/2022 for in depth consideration at the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body. In accordance with point 4 of that resolution, the report is expected to include a systematic analysis of reasons why Contracting Parties have not placed any material in the Multilateral System, information on the status of collections of vegetatively propagated material available, information on the use of SMTA for both foreign and domestic transfers of material, and the identification of difficulties and capacity development needs related to national implementation. We suggest to make reference to resolution 2/2022 in paragraph 1 of the resolution. [*read amendment*]
4. We welcome the support and capacity building activities carried out by the Secretariat on the implementation of the MLS and recommend that these activities continue.
5. We note the stable trend in the use of SMTA and in transfers of PGRFA, including that nearly 90% of the materials are distributed by Article 15 collections and 81% of transferred material belong to 5 major crops.

6. Document IT/GB-10/23/9.1.2 informs on the preparation of a briefing note as a supporting tool for natural and legal persons interested in including their material in the Multilateral System, and we would welcome an update on this matter by the Secretariat. We recommend that all National Focal points are made aware of this briefing note, so that they can use it as a basis to encourage and support natural and legal persons in their respective countries to make material available in the Multilateral System. We suggest including accordingly a sentence to the resolution as paragraph 2 bis. [*read amendment*]
7. We appreciate the activities of the Secretariat in support of the gene banks of Ukraine, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe, as described in Document 10/23/9.1.3.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 17-24 November 2023)  
Position paper of the European Regional Group  
19 November 2023**

**Agenda item 9.2: Checkpoint Report of the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System**

**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 Co-Chairs of the re-established Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System for their committed support of the process and for their well-elaborated Checkpoint Report.
3. In our view, a fully functional, user-friendly and simple Multilateral System is essential for the functioning of the International Treaty and provides critical support in addressing the growing challenges to agricultural and food security posed by global changes.
4. We agree with the identified three hotspots within the draft package of measures to be addressed first, which are the extension of annex I, DSI and the structure and rates of payments.
5. We support to use the June 2019 version of the draft package of measures as the starting point for addressing these three hotspots and the other issues in the package of measures.
6. We welcome the willingness and openness expressed by all parties to engage in the negotiation process, while recognizing the differences in position that will need to be bridged. We are committed to engage in the intensive work required in the next two years to reach consensus on a package of measures to enhance the MLS at GB-11, over which all Contracting Parties feel ownership and can implement.

7. Regarding the process, we consider the inclusion of a high-level segment at GB 11 premature at this stage. It remains an option that should continue to be discussed by the working group and later in the process with the future host country of GB 11.
8. We agree with the Co-Chairs that inclusive participation by all Regions and stakeholders needs to be ensured, and accordingly suggest an addition to the draft resolution as follows: “2 bis **Stresses the importance of an open and inclusive process and request the Co-Chairs to organise consultations with regions and stakeholders on a regular basis**” and in paragraph 3, which relates to the informal groups, we suggest adding “**in a transparent and representative manner**”.
9. We stand ready to support and actively and constructively engage in the development and negotiation process, in order to jointly work on further developing and finalizing an updated draft package of measures for the enhancement of the multilateral system.

Thank you, Madam Chair

**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 20-24 November 2023)  
Position paper of the European Regional Group  
19 November 2023**

**Agenda item 10: The Funding Strategy 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 Standing Committee for its work since the last Governing Body.
3. We would also like to thank the different countries and institutions, most of which are European, for their financial support to the Fund for Agreed Purposes, and other funds under the direct control of the Governing Body, as well as to the Benefit-sharing Fund.
4. We acknowledge the relevance to enable the Treaty to build upon the opportunities and momentum arising from the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and to enable the Funding Committee to support the finalisation of the process for the enhancement of the Multilateral System in the next biennium. Therefore, we agree with the revision of the timeline of the Funding Strategy.
5. We welcome the launch the Fifth Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund and the finalisation of the project selection. We thank all donors for their financial contributions in support of this fifth cycle.
6. We welcome the further user-based payments to the Benefit-sharing Fund, and encourage Contracting Parties and donors to also make contributions to the Fund and thus make the launch of the sixth project cycle possible. For clarity, we request the language in paragraph 14 of the draft resolution to be aligned accordingly.



7. We would like to thank the Secretariat for the support provided to Contracting Parties by delivering a Help-desk service at each call for proposals to support applicants to the BSF with technical information and guidance for project development and submission. We encourage Contracting Parties to take advantage of it while developing their project proposals in the future. In addition, we would also like to emphasise the importance that information about future funding opportunities within the BSF reach a wide range of organizations working on Treaty implementation, especially at the local and national level.
8. We look forward to hearing about further developments on the implementation of the Funding Strategy, including with regard to the work being conducted for the development of strategic tools to leverage new financial resources for funding PGRFA related activities at the national level, the development of the Treaty's Value Proposition for engaging with the Food Processing Industry, and the development of a draft methodology for measuring non-monetary benefit-sharing at the next Governing Body session.
9. We agree with the draft resolution with one amendment to paragraph 14.

Thank you, Madam Chair

**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 17-24 November 2023)  
Position paper of the European Regional Group  
20 November 2023**

**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.
2. We thank the Secretariat for preparing the report on the implementation of the Global Information System (GLIS) and appreciate the inclusion of Section III, highlights from the Scientific Advisory Committee.
3. We welcome the progress made towards the implementation of the Programme of Work on the Global Information System, including the promotion, and, on a voluntary basis, the registration and use of Digital Object Identifiers (DOI), as well as the maintenance and updating of the GLIS Portal.
4. We welcome the development of modules and tools to support the documentation of crop wild relatives and recommend that the Secretariat support contracting parties in their efforts to develop national inventories of crop wild relatives.
5. 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.

6. Madam Chair, we support the draft resolution, with three suggestions for change. We suggest splitting point 1 into two points and to add '**requests the Secretary to raise awareness of the toolkit and its integration into GLIS**' to give more attention to the integration of the toolbox into GLIS. In paragraph 4, we suggest adding DivSeek to the list of collaborating entities and systems and change the words 'ex-situ' to '**PGRFA**' as documentation does not regard exclusively ex-situ. In paragraph 8, we suggest the addition of '**related to the conservation and use of PGRFA with**' after 'scientific and technical issues' and of '**of the CBD**' after 'COP-15'.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 20-24 November 2023)  
Position paper of the European Regional Group  
21 November 2023**

**Agenda item 12: Report on the Implementation of Conservation and Sustainable Use of 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.
2. We thank the Secretariat for the working documents and the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use for the work on the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 over the last months.
3. We reiterate our recognition of the importance of the Treaty's Articles 5 and 6. Similar to what has been mentioned in other agenda items, we believe that the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework will contribute to the enhancement of the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, while the implementation of articles 5 and 6 will, in turn, contribute to the achievement of some of the Framework's goals and targets.
4. We thank the Secretariat and the Ad Hoc Technical Committee for their work carried out to review the concept note of the proposed Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA. It is very much improved compared to the version proposed to the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the Governing Body.

5. We support the Treaty Secretariat taking a leading role in strengthening synergies and partnerships with relevant agencies working on the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA. **Cooperation** between and among relevant international organizations, governments and all interested stakeholders, with a general **mainstreaming** objective and using a **partnership** approach, is needed. However, we question whether the suggested set-up and governance model of the proposed Joint Programme is most suitable to fulfil its intention while avoiding duplication of work, in particular with the Global Plan of Action. We do not believe that implementing the proposed Joint Programme at this point is appropriate.
6. We believe that the activities designed for the proposed Joint Programme, together with the difficulties and challenges identified in the ‘Bottleneck study’ presented at the last session of the Governing Body, are a very good basis for discussing possible next steps, and for identifying priorities to be addressed by the ACSU.
7. We, therefore, agree to reconvene the ACSU, subject to the availability of financial resources. However, its terms of references should be amended based on the recommendations made by this session of the Governing Body under this agenda item. In this regard, our region would suggest the following terms of reference [*read out from ToR*].
8. We would like to stress that reconvening the ACSU will require strong commitment by all regions to actively engage in the work of the committee.
9. Finally, we would like to thank once again the Government of Italy for the 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.
10. We have a few amendments to the draft resolution, which, for clarity, I will read now.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 20-24 November 2023)  
Position paper of the European Regional Group  
21 November 2023**

**Agenda item 13: Report on the Implementation of Farmers' Rights**

**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 Secretariat for the working document and for the activities undertaken or facilitated since the last Governing Body related to the implementation of Article 9.
3. We welcome the publication of the Options. They are a valuable tool to guide and promote the realization of Farmers' Rights. We request the Secretariat to increase awareness of the Options, and we encourage Contracting Parties and other stakeholders to consider using them.
4. We would also like to thank the enormous generosity of the government of India for hosting the Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights last September, in New Delhi. We are pleased that it was attended by such a large number of participants that represented a wide range of stakeholders.
5. We take note of the proposed draft annotated outline of the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty. In line with Resolution 7/2022, we request the Secretariat to carry out the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty once that the draft outline is finalised.
6. We agree with the establishment of an Expert Group, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue to move forward the activities related to this important agenda item.

7. We would like the Expert Group to review the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty prepared by the Secretariat, including its outline and the methodology proposed. We believe that the desk assessment of compliance reports and other written resources should be complemented by practical case studies from all regions. In our view, the assessment will help shape strategic thinking and future key work areas. The Terms of Reference should be established by the Governing Body. This should be reflected in the draft resolution.
8. We recognise that the Secretariat did not have the time to update the Educational Module on Farmers' Rights, as requested by the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, thus we suggest including a reference to that decision in the draft Resolution.
9. Finally, we thank the Governments of Italy and Norway for their generous financial support to the implementation of Farmers' Rights.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 20-24 November 2023)  
Position paper of the European Regional Group  
21 November 2023**

**Agenda 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 91 Contracting Parties that have submitted their reports in due time to allow their consideration by the Committee. However, as we have mentioned at earlier Governing Body sessions, 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. The synthesis and analysis of the 91 reports, which equals approximately 60% of the Contracting Parties is still very useful for monitoring the implementation of the Treaty. It also provides transparency through its publication in the online Reporting System.
4. In our region, we have encouraged Contracting Parties with pending reports to submit them by October 2023. There are however several countries in our region that have faced difficulties in submitting a Compliance Report in the 2nd phase. We therefore welcome an extension of the reporting deadline for the second reporting cycle to 1. October 2024, as proposed in the Draft Resolution.
5. We will continue to reach out to countries in our region that have not yet reported and encourage them to submit their report by the new deadline. We will also encourage countries to update their reports on compliance regularly, regardless of the deadline of the reporting cycles.



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. In doing so, we ask the Committee to continue taking into account other reporting obligations and commitments of Contracting Parties under other international instruments, such as the GPA, the SDG's and the Global Biodiversity Framework, to make optimal use of capacity, and decrease administrative burden.
7. In addition, we request the Committee, while revising 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.
8. 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.
9. We congratulate the Secretariat for its 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 it to continue doing so during the next biennium.
10. 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.
11. We welcome and support the proposed Resolution on Compliance, as contained in Appendix 3. As regards Compliance Committee elections, for the European Region our current members will serve for the 2023-2025 term.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 20-24 November 2023)**

**Position paper of the European Regional Group  
21 November 2023**

**Agenda item 15: Report from FAO on its Contribution 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. We take note of, and thank the FAO for, 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 and the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
3. We welcome the financial and administrative support that FAO provides to the Secretariat of the International Treaty and to the implementation of the International Treaty. Its annual financial contributions to the Core Administrative Budget of the Treaty have safeguarded the fulfilment of the Treaty's mandate.
4. In line with the guidance provided by Members during the FAO's 43<sup>rd</sup> Conference highlighting the importance of its normative work, conventions and treaties, we encourage FAO to reflect the crucial importance of the Treaty in future budgetary allocation decisions.
5. We note with appreciation FAO's actions under the 2021–23 Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors related to benefit-sharing, sustainable use of biodiversity, legal and policy support to FAO Member Countries and to the involvement of the Treaty in UN partnerships. We support the plans for updating it.

6. We welcome the publication of the issue paper “Gene Editing and Agrifood Systems”. In particular, we appreciate the science- and evidence-based approach and that the paper has a broad-ranging overview on gene editing related questions in the Agrifood systems.
7. We welcome the dialogue of FAO and civil society organizations to enhance the understanding of Farmers’ Rights and the interface with human rights.
8. We agree with the draft resolution with one amendment.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 20-24 November 2023)**

**Position paper of the European Regional Group  
22 November 2023**

**Agenda 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 on this agenda item.
2. We take note of the positive developments and coordinated efforts since the previous session of the Governing Body. In particular, we wish to express our appreciation to the secretariat for arranging the webinar on the role of conservation and sustainable use of crop wild relatives and wild food plants, and for co-organizing the *Global Workshop on Digital Sequence Information and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.
3. We welcome the fact that the secretariats of both the Commission of Genetic Resources and the Treaty actively coordinated their efforts to promote the consideration of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the goals and targets of the KM Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as in other decisions taken by the CBD COP 15.
4. We wish to emphasize the importance of avoiding duplication of work between the Commission and the Treaty as well as ensuring synergies and close cooperation.
5. We take the opportunity of encouraging Parties to the Treaty, that have not yet done so, to provide inputs to the preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. We regret, however, that the planned thematic report on, and analysis of, germplasm exchange is not yet available.
6. Finally, Madam Chair, we have no changes to suggest regarding the Draft Resolution.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 20-24 November 2023)  
Position paper of the European Regional Group  
22 November 2023**

**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 the working documents related to this agenda item.
3. We welcome the support to the rejuvenation of the Article 15 coffee collection maintained by CATIE in Costa Rica and the establishment of the Funding Facility to provide short-term support to certain International Collections, until the Crop Trust's endowment fund reaches adequate levels to fund them.
4. We highly appreciate the support provided by the Treaty Secretariat, Crop Trust, FAO NordGen, the Novo Nordisk Foundation and EU for the relocation of Ukraine's national seed collection. It is important to transfer a collection stored in the National Gene Bank of Plants of Ukraine in Kharkiv, an active war zone, to a safer location in the West of Ukraine.
5. We acknowledge three new requests for support from the Emergency Reserve for Germplasm Collections at Risk received from Myanmar, Lao PDR, and Sudan.
6. 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. We encourage donors to give priority to support implementation of joint initiatives between the Crop Trust and the International Treaty. We welcome the BOLD-project and the development of the global crop conservation strategies as good examples for this.

7. We congratulate the Crop Trust and the Treaty Secretariat on the successful organisation of the Global Crop Diversity Summit that took place in Berlin last week (on 14 November 2023). We take note with appreciation of the communiqué of the Summit highlighting the role of gene banks and crop diversity in making food systems more sustainable..
8. We would also like to thank the Crop Trust for its participation in the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Treaty's Global Information System and for its active support for the implementation of Genesys.
9. We welcome the development of the global crop conservation strategies as unique sources of information and means for informed priority setting and decision making at national and global level, and encourage the Crop Trust and the Treaty Secretariat to continue their efforts in mainstreaming the strategies into the processes of the Treaty, and considering involving the ACSU as appropriate.
10. We appreciate the cooperation of the Crop Trust with the International Treaty in developing outreach and communication products such as the Joint submission – feedback on the draft reporting framework of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures.
11. We support the adoption of the draft resolution with two amendments, which I will now read out.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 20-24 November 2023)  
Position paper of the European Regional Group  
21 November 2023**

**Agenda 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 preparing the working document and thank the CBD Secretariat for its report.
2. Through Resolution 13/2022, the Governing Body provided its inputs in relation to the finalization of the Global Biodiversity Framework at the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the CBD, including the ambitious targets for 2030.
3. We note that most targets are also important to the implementation of the International Treaty. We are very glad that the two Secretariats are closely collaborating on many issues and encourage them to continue to do so.
4. Similarly, we encourage Contracting Parties to cooperate and coordinate for an effective and efficient implementation of the GBF, and in this regard we welcome the Bern Process. We suggest reflecting this in the draft Resolution using the same language as proposed under item 7.
5. We would like to highlight two important issues from the draft resolution. Firstly, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is working on its second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and we would like to have plant genetic resources for food and agriculture also included in this assessment.

6. Secondly, considering the adopted CBD COP decision XV/7 on resource mobilization that includes the Strategy for resource mobilization for the Global Biodiversity Framework, we want to highlight the close interlinkages between this strategy and the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty for the period 2020 to 2025. Therefore, we agree to request the Secretary to keep the Funding Committee of the International Treaty regularly informed about relevant developments related to resource mobilization for the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework established under the CBD.
7. We also appreciate the close cooperation between the two Secretariats within other areas of work, e.g. capacity building and development and technical and scientific cooperation, information systems and knowledge management, or assessing the progress on indicators on benefit-sharing, and we wish for this cooperation to continue.

Thank you, Madam Chair.



**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 20-24 November 2023)  
Position paper of the European Regional Group  
22 November 2023**

**Agenda item 16.4.: Cooperation with other International Bodies and Organizations**

**Agenda item 16.4.2: Reports from Institutions that have concluded Agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty**

**Agenda item 16.4.3: Report of Norway on the Management and Operations of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault**

**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 Secretariat for preparing the documents and would also like to thank all international bodies, organisations and other relevant stakeholder groups that have provided support during this very short intersessional period for the implementation of the International Treaty and the achievement of its objectives.
3. Regarding paragraph 2 of the draft Resolution, we suggest adding “**as appropriate**” after “mutually supportive manner”, in order to reflect that Contracting Parties are members of different international organisations.
4. Regarding the cooperation with the Secretariat of the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources, we welcome the initiated consultations for renewal of the memorandum of understanding.
5. We welcome the conversation between the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the International Organisation of Wine and Vine (OIV) and we support the establishment of an effective cooperation between the two institutions.

6. We welcome the ongoing interactions of the Secretary and the Bureau with the Secretariat of UPOV. Regarding paragraphs 8 and 9 of the draft Resolution, we suggest the following reworded text: [*read out*]
7. For reasons of consistency in drafting, we suggest deleting the following text in paragraph 10 of the draft Resolution: [*read out*]
8. We commend the active involvement of farmers, civil society organisations in various events and initiatives, including the Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights and the process for the enhancement of the Multilateral System.
9. 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. However, we regret that some of them have not submitted any report yet. We urge them to do so at the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body.
10. We note with concern the fact that no information on signed SMTAs has, so far, been made available to the Governing Body regarding cacao and coconut genetic resources. We agree with the proposal that the Secretary will follow up with the relevant officials and request them to provide information about the outcome of these discussions to the Governing Body at its next session.
11. 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.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 20-24 November 2023)  
Position paper of the European Regional Group  
21 November 2023**

**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. 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 with one small edit in Annex 1 regarding the MLS at GB-11. The Secretariat should present the updated report on global availability of material in the MLS and transfer of germplasm, according to Resolution 2/2022.
4. Finally, we would like to note that the MYPOW needs to be revised in line with the outcome of the discussions on the different agenda items.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 17-24 November 2023)**

**Position paper of the European Regional Group  
22 November 2023**

**Agenda item 17.2: Consideration of “Digital Sequence Information / Genetic Sequence Data”  
on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 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. We would like to thank the Secretariat for providing the comprehensive overview of the recent developments on DSI/GSD in other fora and request the Secretary to continue this work in the coming intersessional period, also in preparation of the envisaged meetings of the Working Group on the Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System of the Treaty.
3. We welcome Decision 15/9 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to establish, as part of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of DSI on genetic resources, including a global fund. We highlight that Decision 15/9 also recognises that tracking and tracing of all DSI/GSD on genetic resources is not practical. We re-emphasize the need to ensure consistency and mutual supportiveness between ABS instruments in different fora. We therefore encourage Parties to the CBD, in further developing a solution for the sharing of benefits from the use of DSI on genetic resources, to take this into account.
4. On this basis, we acknowledge the outcome of the first CBD Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, which took place last week in Geneva. We would like to stress the importance of involvement of the Secretariat of the ITPGRFA in the intersessional process of the CBD, for instance by representation of the Secretariat in the informal advisory group.

5. Since DSI/GSD is among the matters under consideration by the Working Group on the Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing, we are not going into detail on the question how to address the issue within the MLS.
6. Regarding the capacity building needs for accessing and using DSI/GSD, we take note of the compilation of submissions made by a wide range of Contracting Parties and other stakeholders in document 17.2/Inf.1. The document shows a great demand for capacity building, which has been specified by some Parties in more detail. We reiterate the importance of addressing those needs.
7. We welcome and appreciate the capacity building activities undertaken so far by the CGIAR centers and would like to underline that this work should be continued and strengthened. We therefore want to add in the draft resolution a paragraph **7bis** which would read: “**Welcomes and acknowledges the technical assistance and actions undertaken by the CGIAR Centres in order to reduce the existing gap on capacity regarding generation, access to and use of DSI/GSD and recommends that this work be continued and strengthened.**”

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 20-24 November 2023)  
Position paper of the European Regional Group**

**Agenda item 18: Draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2024–2025 Biennium**

**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 Secretariat for providing the working documents to this agenda item. Regarding the Financial Report for the Biennium 2022-2023, we note with regret that only 57% of the Contracting Parties have contributed into the Core Administrative Budget. Therefore, we would like to encourage all Contracting Parties that have not contributed to do so, in order to create conditions for enhanced implementation of the International Treaty.
3. We also thank the Secretariat for its continued efforts in providing information on the International Treaty and maintaining contact with those government authorities that want to become a Contracting Party.
4. We thank the FAO for its continued support to the implementation of the International Treaty and we appreciate the generous contributions of the Governments of Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland and the Global Crop Diversity Trust to the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes. In addition, we would like to thank the Governments of Germany, Italy and Switzerland for providing funding to support the participation of developing countries at the Ninth and Tenth Sessions of the Governing Body. This extra funding enables taking effective decisions by all Contracting Parties in order to advance the implementation of the International Treaty.
5. We also acknowledge the ongoing communication activities including regular updating of the website in six languages of the United Nations and also increased visibility of the Benefit-sharing Fund and supported projects.

6. We welcome the draft budget presented by the Secretariat. We look forward to getting more in depth information from the Secretariat in the Budget Committee. For example, considering the adjustment of the core administrative budget by 5.6%, we are aware of the decision of the FAO Conference, but would like to have more detailed explanations on this issue. We also believe that FAO's financial contribution to the core administrative budget should increase accordingly. While also understanding the need for an increase in funding of Human resources, we request additional information on the figure of 1.45%.
7. We agree that the savings from the last biennium of USD 581,869 are carried forward to fund the work of the Ad-hoc Working Group on the Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System.
8. Madam Chair, we are ready to engage in the discussion on the Work Programme and Budget for the biennium 2024 – 2025.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 20-24 November 2023)**

**Position paper of the European Regional Group  
22 November 2023**

**Agenda item 19.1: Appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Body**

**Agenda item 19.2: Term of office of the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – proposed amendment to the Rules of Procedure**

**Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group**

Madam Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We congratulate Mr Kent Nnadozie on the extension of his appointment as Secretary of the Governing Body, and thank him for his dedication to the Treaty and all of his hard work.
3. We thank the Bureau for its work during the last few years to reach an agreement with FAO Management and the Legal Counsel on the term of office of the Secretary.
4. We agree with the proposed amendment to Rule III, to introduce a term of office of the Secretary, which grants predictability in the appointment of the Secretary.
5. We request that the Bureau of the Treaty will be actively involved in the performance assessment procedure and look forward to fruitful collaboration with the FAO management on this matter. This should be reflected in the meeting report of the Tenth Session of the Governing Body.
6. We request FAO to ensure timely preparations for future recruitment procedures.
7. Once again, we would like to express 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 its Secretary.

Thank you, Madam Chair.



**Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
(Rome, 20-24 November 2023)**

**Closing statement on behalf of the European Regional Group**

Madam Chair,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the European Region, let me express my gratitude to all participants of the 10th Session of the Governing Body for their involvement, dedication and spirit of compromise during this week, thanks to which we achieved good progress in all agenda items.

We would like to thank the Secretary and the whole Secretariat, including those working behind the scenes, the Bureau, and especially you, Madam Chair, for the work conducted during the last year to prepare this Governing Body session. It has been really an unusual period of time with three consecutive sessions of the Governing Body in a short time period, and we acknowledge and commend all this work.

We stand ready to continue working hard during the next intersessional period to move forward in the negotiations for the enhancement of the MLS and to make progress through the different committees and groups of experts on other components of the Treaty. We would like to thank all observers who have attended this session, for their interest and very valuable inputs. They are and will continue to be important partners in implementing the Treaty, and at our future sessions we look forward to having youth representatives present.

We would like to thank the interpreters for their very hard work and for 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 Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations for hosting the 10th Session of the Governing Body.

We are all looking forward to meeting you all at the 11th Session of the Governing Body.

Thank you, Madam Chair.