



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

RESOLUTION 5/2019

IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLES 5 AND 6, CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling Resolutions 7/2013, 4/2015, 5/2015 and 6/2017, and **taking note** of the Report of the First Electronic Consultation of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;

Reaffirming the key role of the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) and the link between Farmers' Rights under Article 9 and the provisions on conservation and sustainable use of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;

Taking note that the work on Farmers' Rights under Article 9 is now the subject of a distinct Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) under the Governing Body;

Taking into account that the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture advised the Secretary to structure and update the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2020–2023, and to create synergies within the Programme of Work, and between the Programme of Work and other areas of work of the International Treaty;

Recognizing that sustainable use is closely linked to conservation of PGRFA;

1. **Decides** to convene the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, with the Terms of Reference contained in the Annex to this Resolution;
2. **Requests** Contracting Parties and stakeholders to continue reporting on their implementation of conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and **invites** the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to provide the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty with the reports received from its members on the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
3. **Requests** the Secretary to compile and summarize these reports and submit the compilation and the summary to the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for further review, and to support the Committee in its work;
4. **Requests** the Secretary to continue updating the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA on the International Treaty's website, disseminate information about it and provide information about its use for consideration by the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, according to its Terms of Reference;

5. **Requests** the Secretary, in collaboration with other stakeholders, and subject to the availability of financial resources, to:

- continue cooperating with relevant units within FAO, other entities and institutions, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and national and international agricultural research centres, as well as the public and private sector and civil society, for the effective implementation of activities in support of implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;
- cooperate with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in organizing the International Symposium on “on-farm management and *in situ* conservation” that will take place in the next biennium;
- facilitate and monitor the activities carried out by Contracting Parties, stakeholders and international organizations in support of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;
- facilitate training and capacity building to support the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;
- support national programmes in policy development for sustainable use of PGRFA, and in building partnerships and mobilizing resources;
- continue collaborating with other relevant initiatives, in particular, of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on the interaction between genetic resources, community- and farmer-led system activities and protected area systems;
- further develop collaboration with CGIAR Centres and other relevant organizations, on training and capacity building for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, including through efforts for joint resource mobilization.

6. **Thanks** the Government of Italy for the generous financial and in-kind support it has provided to the implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2016–2019, and **calls on** Contracting Parties and other donors to provide additional financial resources for the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty.

Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture will:

- i) Review the compilation and summaries provided by the Secretary on the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;
- ii) Based on this review, identify examples and opportunities to support and assist Contracting Parties and stakeholders in promoting, enhancing and further developing the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA as set out in Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;
- iii) Review the information provided by the Secretary on the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA;
- iv) Based on this review, assess the relevance and effectiveness of the Toolbox and prepare concrete recommendations on how it can be monitored, evaluated and improved in order to better guide Contracting Parties and stakeholders for the sustainable use of PGRFA;
- v) Provide advice about the possibility of a future Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA based on the documentation prepared by the Secretariat;
- vi) Based on the above, recommend further steps on how the Governing Body can assist Contracting Parties in advancing the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty for consideration of the Governing Body at its Ninth Session.

2. The Committee will comprise up to three members from each FAO Region, and seven technical experts designated by the Bureau, upon proposal by the FAO Regions and relevant stakeholders, in particular farmers' organizations, taking into account the required range of technical expertise, and regional and gender balance. Two Co-Chairpersons from Contracting Parties to the International Treaty will form part of the Committee – one from a developing country and one from a developed country. The Co-Chairpersons will be elected by members of the Committee designated by the FAO Regions.

3. The Secretary will continue maintaining and updating the list of experts for further reference. This will be made available to Contracting Parties with a possible view to expanding the pool of experts on conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

4. The Committee may hold up to two meetings in the biennium 2020–2021, subject to the availability of financial resources.

5. The Secretary will facilitate the process and assist the Committee in its work.

6. The Committee will prepare a report at the end of its meetings and report to the Governing Body on its work, for further consideration at the Ninth Session.