



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



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

## RESOLUTION 6/2023

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

#### THE GOVERNING BODY,

*Acknowledging* the paramount importance of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) and the vital role of their conservation and sustainable use in addressing global challenges, including food insecurity, biodiversity loss, climate change adaptation, and poverty alleviation;

*Taking note* that the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty will contribute to the goals and relevant targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and vice versa;

*Recalling* its previous Resolutions on Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA, in particular, Resolutions 7/2011, 7/2013, 4/2015, 6/2017, 5/2019 and 6/2022;

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Committee), and *thanks* the Committee for its work, including defining future strategies to support countries in the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty through the possible development or establishment of:
  - voluntary guidelines on the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;
  - an inclusive process to develop voluntary guidelines during the next biennium, possibly including a global symposium and expert input or small groups to address each type of bottleneck;
  - a mechanism to identify the levels and forms of implementation and providing assistance to countries in need of support in implementing Articles 5 and 6, according to specific contexts and local needs.
2. *Decides* to reconvene the Committee with the Terms of Reference contained in the Annex to this Resolution, subject to the availability of financial resources;
3. *Takes note of* the revised Concept Note of the Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Joint Programme), and *thanks* the Committee, experts and initial partners for their work;
4. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary to implement the new prototype of the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA (Toolbox) as a useful online database of valuable information for the conservation, management and sustainable use of PGRFA;
5. *Requests* the Secretary to continue to promote, disseminate, regularly update and monitor the Toolbox, and invites Contracting Parties and stakeholders to continue to share information resources and to enhance its utility;
6. *Requests* the Secretary to continue to analyse and monitor the identified gaps and needs highlighted in the Background study on the bottlenecks and challenges to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty, and *calls upon* Contracting Parties to share information on the difficulties and

challenges encountered in the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty, as well as possible new initiatives, activities, and approaches that could be undertaken to address them;

7. **Requests** the Secretary, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, and subject to the availability of financial resources, to:
  - organize regional consultations on the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty, with a particular focus on identified bottlenecks and possible approaches to address them, and to update Contracting Parties and stakeholders on progress and relevant developments;
  - facilitate and assemble information about the activities carried out by Contracting Parties, stakeholders, and international organizations in support of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;
  - continue to facilitate training and capacity building activities and initiatives aimed at advancing the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, including sustainable biodiverse production systems, participatory approaches, as well as the assessment of needs of local farmers and other relevant local stakeholders and the identification of possible means to address those needs;
  - support national programmes and processes in policy development for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, and in building partnerships and mobilizing resources.
8. **Calls upon** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue to collaborate and cooperate with relevant units within FAO, the CBD, the CGIAR Centers, other entities and institutions, such as the national and International Agricultural Research Centres, as well as the public and private sector and civil society, in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and in strengthening the interaction between different stakeholders of genetic resources, community and farmer-led activities, and protected area systems, while avoiding duplication of work;
9. **Calls upon** Contracting Parties to support the activities outlined in this Resolution, including through the provision of financial resources in line with the provisions of Articles 7 and 8 of the International Treaty;
10. **Thanks** the Government of Italy for the generous financial and in-kind support it has continued to provide towards the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty and the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA; 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, in line with the provisions of its Articles 7 and 8.

## **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 continue to advise the Secretariat on the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty, in particular by:
  - i. Developing a mechanism to identify the status of implementation of Articles 5 and 6 and support Contracting Parties that need assistance with regard to their specific contexts and local needs;
  - ii. Providing inputs and to begin to draft the voluntary guidelines on possible approaches to address the bottlenecks identified in *Background Study on Bottlenecks and Challenges to the Implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty* (IT/GB-9/22/12/Inf.2), in consultation with Contracting Parties, and taking into account relevant work conducted by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
  - iii. Providing recommendations on the current work and future strategies to support countries in the implementation of Articles 5 and 6, based on areas of action of the proposed Joint Programme;
  - iv. Providing guidance on scope, format, timing, priority crops, and other issues related to global crop conservation strategies; and
  - v. Offering advice on how to promote cooperation, mainstreaming and partnership to enhance the implementation of Articles 5 and 6.
2. The Committee will comprise up to five members each from Africa Region, Asia Region, Europe Region, Latin America and the Caribbean Region; three from the Near East Region; and two each from the North America Region and the South West Pacific Region; as well as technical experts designated by the Bureau, comprising of seven experts, based on proposals by the FAO Regions, and up to three representatives from 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 two Co-Chairpersons shall be in addition to the members of the Committee nominated by the Regions. The Governing Body delegates the authority to designate the Co-Chairpersons to the Bureau of the Eleventh Session.
3. The Committee may hold up to two meetings in the next biennium, one of which is a physical meeting subject to the availability of financial resources. The Secretary will facilitate the process and assist the Committee in its work.
4. The Committee will report to the Governing Body on its work for further consideration at the Eleventh Session.