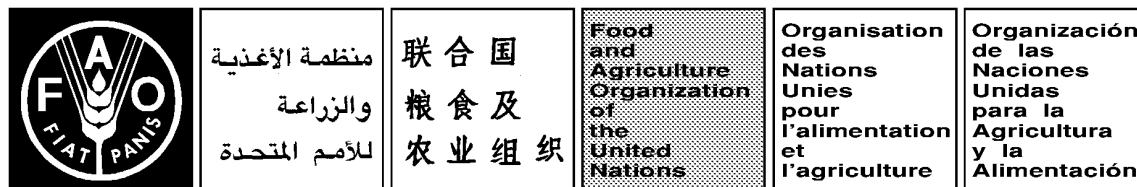


November 2005



Item 5 of the Draft Provisional Agenda

**COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ACTING AS  
INTERIM COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY  
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**Open-Ended Working Group on the Rules of Procedure and the Financial Rules of the  
Governing Body, Compliance, and the Funding Strategy**

Rome, 14 – 17 December 2005

**COMPILATION AND ANALYSIS OF GOVERNMENTS' VIEWS ON THE FUNDING  
STRATEGY OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON  
PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

In accordance with the request of the Interim Committee, the Secretariat, through FAO Circular State Letter of 21<sup>st</sup> February 2005, prepared and sent out a questionnaire to countries inviting them to submit views on all issues related to the Funding Strategy of the Governing Body of the Treaty. Views received by October 2005 are compiled and analysed in document CGRFA/IC/OWG-1/05/6. Views were received from Australia after that document was finalized. They are accordingly provided only in the language in which they were received, English. The questionnaire and replies by countries have been posted on the Commission's website at <http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/fs.htm>.

The documents for this meeting are available on Internet at <http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/ico1.htm>.

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**GOVERNMENTS' VIEWS ON THE FUNDING STRATEGY OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

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**AUSTRALIA****MOBILIZATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES****FINANCIAL RESOURCES UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF THE GOVERNING BODY****1 What actions, if any, should the secretariat undertake, prior to the first session of the Governing Body, to seek to mobilize voluntary contributions?**

a. The secretariat should prepare a paper on the extent of funding required, the priorities for the distribution of funds, the long term strategy for maintaining funding flows, the anticipated administrative costs and the strategies to minimise them, the proposed oversight mechanisms for the receipt and distribution of funds and other governance mechanisms, the evaluation procedures, and the annual reporting procedures.

b. The secretariat should prepare a paper outlining the various objectives and/or programs that are proposed to be funded, and the optimal level of funding sought.

c. These papers should form attachments to a form letter circulated by the Director-General to governments, companies, foundations, NGOs and other potential contributors, seeking their assistance by making voluntary contributions.

**2 In particular, should any of the possible contributors mentioned in the Treaty (“Contracting Parties, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other sources”, and “Food Processing Industries that benefit from plant genetic resources for food and agriculture” ) be contacted and informed of the relevant provisions of the Treaty? If so, which and how?**

See Q1 above.

**3 Is any action required to assist the Governing Body to consider the modalities of a strategy to promote voluntary contributions?**

The secretariat should prepare a paper for consideration by the Governing Body that sets out options for a strategy to promote voluntary contributions, drawing on the experience of member Governments, FAO and other organisations in similar exercises. One option may be for the Governing Body to appoint a standing committee of experts to promote voluntary contributions on its behalf.

**4 If you are a contracting party, do you intend to “take the necessary and appropriate measures within the governing bodies of relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies to ensure due priority and attention to the effective allocation of predictable and agreed resources for the implementation of plans and programmes under this treaty”? Do you intend to inform the Governing Body of these actions at its first meeting?**

Australia intends to be a contracting party by the time of the Governing Body’s first meeting. We will inform the Governing Body in broad terms at its first meeting of actions that have already been taken and are proposed in this regard. Our contribution will be guided by advice from the secretariat on the plans and programs that are proposed to be implemented under this Treaty.

**5 If you are not a contracting party, what actions, if any, do you intend to take “within the governing bodies of relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies to ensure due priority and attention to the effective allocation of predictable and agreed resources for the implementation of plans and programmes under this treaty”? Do you intend to inform the Governing Body of these actions at its first meeting?**

See Q4 above.

**6 Should the secretariat take any action in this regard, before the first meeting of the governing body, and, if so, what?**

The secretariat should prepare a paper which sets out the relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies, their objectives, how these objectives relate to those of the Treaty, the level of funding as well as current and proposed programs under those mechanisms that may meet the objectives of the Treaty, the current and proposed arrangements for collaboration with those mechanisms, and the plans and programs that are proposed to be implemented under this Treaty. Gaps and overlaps should be clearly identified.

**7 What information, if any, should the Global Crop Diversity Trust be requested to make available to the Governing Body at its first meeting?**

See Q6 above.

#### **PERIODIC ESTABLISHMENT BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF A TARGET FOR FUNDING**

**8 Is any immediate action necessary to assist the Governing Body to establish a target for funding? If so, what action is required?**

The secretariat should prepare a paper for the Governing Body to consider that sets out options for funding targets, focussing on the near term, and the priorities that would be attached to each option in terms of the extent of program delivery.

#### **DEVELOPMENT OF THE FUNDING STRATEGY**

##### ***Documentation for the first session of the governing body***

**9 Should the secretariat develop a draft funding strategy for the consideration of the Governing Body at its first meeting, and, if so, what form should this take and what should it cover?**

The papers suggested in answer to questions 1, 3, 6 and 8 above will provide elements of a draft funding strategy. As a result, the secretariat should be able to develop a draft funding strategy for consideration by the Governing Body.

**10 Should the secretariat prepare any background studies or assemble any information for the consideration of the governing body, and if so, what?**

See above.

**11 Should any other bodies or persons be requested to provide information or documentation in this context, and if so, who and what?**

Yes. Information from relevant bodies and persons should be sought. As noted in the response to Q3 above, the Secretariat should draw on the experience of member Governments, FAO and other organisations involved in similar exercises, such as the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

**12 Do you intend to provide to the Governing Body, at its first session, information on any “financial resources for the implementation of this treaty [provided] through bilateral and regional and multilateral channels”, in particular on technical assistance of relevance to the implementation of the Treaty?**

Australia intends to provide this information.

*Policy, priorities and criteria for the overall funding strategy*

**13 Prior to the first session of the Governing Body, what action, if any, should the secretariat take to assist the Governing Body to consider the policy, and criteria for priority activities, plans and programmes under the funding strategy, in the light, in particular, of the Global Plan of Action, and in order to provide a coherent framework for capacity-building, technology transfer and the exchange of information?**

The secretariat should prepare a paper which sets out the objectives of the Global Plan of Action (GPA), how these objectives relate to those of the Treaty, the level of funding under the GPA that may meet the objectives of the Treaty, the current and proposed arrangements for collaboration with the GPA, and the plans and programmes that are proposed to be implemented under this Treaty. Similar assessments of the funding available to specific parties to the Treaty for capacity building, technology transfer and the exchange of information should also be prepared. Gaps and overlaps should be clearly identified.

**14 If a background paper is recommended, what should it address?**

See Q13 above.

*Criteria for specific assistance in accordance with article 13.4*

**15 Should the secretariat prepare a document considering possible elements of a “relevant policy and criteria for specific assistance [...] for the conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in developing countries, and countries with economies in transition whose contribution to the diversity of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the multilateral system is significant and/or which have special needs”, for the consideration of the governing body? If so, on what basis?**

Yes. This should be a subsidiary document to the more general strategy paper setting out the priorities, programs and actions proposed. It should be developed following the Governing Body’s consideration of the strategy paper.

### *Monitoring and reporting*

**16** Prior to the first session of the Governing Body, what action, if any, should be undertaken by the secretariat to assist the governing body to consider monitoring and reporting on implementation of the funding strategy and to enable the periodic adoption of a target for funding?

The secretariat should provide the Governing Body with options to address monitoring and reporting on the funding strategy and on how best to set targets (see the answer to Q8) and the mechanisms to allow them to be revised.

### *The role of the Global Plan of Action*

**17** Should the secretariat provide information to the first session of the Governing Body on the status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and on the schedule for the updating of the report on the state of the world's plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and its implications for the rolling global plan of action?

Yes.

**18** Should the Governing Body of the Treaty establish a framework for cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, in order to develop the Global Plan of Action and other relevant components of the FAO global system, so that these may fulfil the role foreseen for them in the Treaty?

Yes.

**19** What role can the facilitating mechanism for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action play in the development and implementation of the funding strategy?

Effective collaboration will need to be established to ensure that unnecessary duplication is avoided, gaps are addressed and synergies can be maximised. The GPA can provide an important guide to priorities and timing of funding under the treaty.

### *Operational procedures for the use of financial resources under the direct control of the governing body*

**20** Should the secretariat prepare a document on possible operational procedures on how to use financial resources under the direct control of the Governing Body in the funding strategy, for the consideration of the Governing Body at its first session?

Yes.

**21** If so, what should be addressed, and how?

A paper should be prepared by the secretariat detailing funding allocation decision processes, the basis for allocations, the appointment and identification by specific criteria of responsible officers, the officer's delegations, the reporting requirements of the officers, audit procedures of the allocation process and financial records.

**OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO THE FUNDING STRATEGY**

The interim committee invited members to submit their views on all issues related to the funding strategy. Any further remarks may therefore be recorded below.

**22** nil

*End of questionnaire.*

Canberra, November 2005.