

# **Inputs to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2024**

## **Inputs from functional commissions of ECOSOC, other intergovernmental bodies and forums to the 2024 HLPF**

### **1. Entity/ Intergovernmental body or forum**

Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

### **2. Contact person**

Mr. Alwin Kopše, Chairperson of the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body

Mr. Kent Nnadozie, Secretary of the Governing Body

### **3. Contact details**

Mr. Alwin Kopše, Head of International Affairs and Food Systems at the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research, Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG), Switzerland

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### **4. Impacts of multiple crises on the implementation of SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17 from the vantage point of your intergovernmental body.**

The objectives of the ITPGRFA are to facilitate and advance the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, to contribute to sustainable and inclusive food systems including sustainable agriculture, food security and better nutrition in response to various challenges arising from a changing environment.

In this regard, multiple crises, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, desertification and soil degradation as well as armed conflicts have had impacts on the implementation of SDGs 2, 13, 17, in relation to the implementation of ITPGRFA. These include, among other things, the relocation of an important seed collection of Ukraine that was under imminent danger of loss from the ongoing military conflict to a secure location. Some parts of the collection concerned are not available at any other seed bank in the world. The unique Ukrainian collection is of global value for the future of food security and sustainable agriculture, and if lost then it is lost forever. This operation was conducted through a joint effort by ITPGRFA Secretariat, FAO Country Office, the European Union, the Global Crop Diversity Trust, together with the relevant Ukrainian partners.

The Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) of the ITPGRFA supports projects in developing countries for small-scale farmers to improve livelihoods, food security and adaptation to climate change. Through BSF,

collaboration between various stakeholders following a participatory approach is always encouraged. Recent examples include indigenous farmers collaborating with researchers in Argentina to conserve local crop varieties through a participatory research project. It increased the availability of locally adapted seeds for farmers. Another example was a collaboration between two universities from Ghana and the United States of America to analyze cowpea genotypes to detect useful traits. Seven new varieties were identified as resistant to striga, rust, viruses, root rot and drought and officially approved and released as certified quality seeds by Ghana's Ministry of Agriculture.

**5. Three key areas where sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions for achieving the SDGs are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2024, bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.**

The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (Multilateral System) of ITPGRFA is an innovative system to facilitate effective management and sharing of plant genetic resources. This mechanism requires cooperation from the research and breeding community, including the private sector, to provide sustainable funding and further encourage and incentivize farmers to continue conserving and using crop diversity for sustainable agriculture and global food security.

The key areas where progress has been made through the implementation of ITPGRFA are food security, better nutrition, sustainable and resilient agricultural production in the context of climate change and biodiversity loss. In this regard, Goals 2, 13 and 17 are addressed through cooperation among and co-creation by various stakeholders to realize more effective management and improvement of crop diversity, also addressing biodiversity loss. These stakeholders include farmers, in particular smallholders in developing countries, researchers and scientists, government officials, and private sector actors. They together discussed policies, shared best practices, and transferred knowledge and technology to achieve better conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. For many actions, financial support was provided by donors to support participation of developing countries in relevant policy and inter-governmental processes.

**6. Three examples of specific actions, policies and measures that are most urgently needed to effectively deliver sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions to eradicate poverty and reinforce the 2030 Agenda, building on interlinkages and transformative pathways for achieving the SDGs.**

- **Finalization of the policy process to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System at the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body in 2025.** The new package of measures to be considered for adoption at the Eleventh Session for the enhanced Multilateral System implementation is expected to ensure a larger and more attractive system for sharing PGRFA as well as more and sustainable financing through the benefit-sharing mechanism to support farmers in their effort to conserve and sustainably use plant genetic resources. The new package of measures would bring more and sustainable funds to the BSF, which supports local communities in developing countries to conserve crop diversity that is critical to increase and safeguard food security. In this way, BSF also supports livelihoods of those communities with improved income from new varieties and climate-resilient crops. BSF also facilitates collaboration among various partners for knowledge, practice and technology sharing for innovative and better management of plant genetic resources. Farmers and researchers

collaborate across country borders to develop new and improved varieties for resilient agriculture, in particular against climate change

- **Promoting the contribution of the food processing industry to the Multilateral System.**

Through engaging with the food processing industry, partnerships can be formed that enable voluntary contributions to be mobilized for the implementation of the objectives and provisions of the ITPGRFA in a long-term, coordinated, synergistic and effective manner. This further enables the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, contributing to increasing and safeguarding food and nutrition security, improving rural livelihoods and economies, supporting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, meeting the challenges of adapting to climate change and achieving the relevant SDGs.

### **7. Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit.**

At its Tenth Session held in November 2023, the Governing Body of ITPGRFA considered the linkages between the ITPGRFA and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and emphasized that implementation of the ITPGRFA would make a significant contribution to the achievement of the GBF's Vision, Goals and Targets, particularly in relation to sustainable food systems;

Mainstreaming the implementation of the ITPGRFA within National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other relevant policies, plans and programmes will support paragraph 38 (m) of the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit. By integrating the objectives of the ITPGRFA into the broader biodiversity agenda, conservation of crop diversity can be enhanced and sustainable development promoted, leading to a more food-secure and resilient future for both humanity and our planet. Full and effective implementation of ITPGRFA would also support implementation of paragraph 38 (b) of the Political Declaration, to contribute to food security, sustainable and resilient agri-food systems, and nutritious and healthy diets.

### **8. Recommendations and key messages for inclusion into the Ministerial Declaration of the 2024 HLPF.**

Fully and effectively implement the ITPGRFA, and finalize the enhancement process of the Multilateral System, to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, in particular Goals 2, 13 and 15, through effective management of PGRFA. It will contribute to global food security and sustainable and resilient agri-food systems for present and future generations.