



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



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

Item 13 of the Provisional Agenda

ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Lima, Peru, 24–29 November 2025

Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body

Note by the Secretary

At its Tenth Session in 2023, through Resolution 7/2023, the Governing Body decided to reconvene the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (AHTEG-FR or Expert Group) to:

- i) review and agree to the outline for the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, as contained in Annex 1 to this Resolution, considering the compilation of the submissions;*
- ii) review the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, and provide conclusions for the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body; and*
- iii) provide advice to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body on how the use of Options, as contained in the Annex to Resolution 7/2022 for the implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, can be promoted.*

This document contains the Report of the AHTEG to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body, summarising its work during the biennium, pursuant to its Terms of Reference.

The Report on the Implementation of Farmers' Rights is provided in the document, IT/GB-11/25/13, which also contains draft elements for a Resolution on Farmers' Rights, for the consideration of the Governing Body.

The document, IT/GB-11/13.3, contains the Draft Assessment of the State of Implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty.

The document, IT/GB-11/25/13.4, contains the Draft Strategy on How the Use of the Options for Encouraging, Guiding and Promoting the Realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty can be promoted.

Guidance Sought

The Governing Body is invited to consider the Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights, and to provide further guidance for the implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, taking into account the recommendations of the Expert Group and the draft elements for a Resolution contained in the document, IT/GB-11/25/13.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Tenth Session in 2023, the Governing Body decided to reconvene the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (AHTEG-FR or Expert Group) to:
 - iv) Review and agree to the outline for the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, as contained in Annex 1 to this Resolution, considering the compilation of the submissions;
 - v) Review the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, and provide conclusions for the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body; and
 - vi) Provide advice to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body on how the use of Options, as contained in the Annex to Resolution 7/2022 for the implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, can be promoted.
2. In reconvening the Expert Group, the Governing Body decided that, subject to the availability of financial resources, the Expert Group may hold up to two meetings in the biennium 2024-2025.
3. Pursuant to Resolution 7/2023, the Bureau of the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body appointed Ms Kim Van Seeters of the Netherlands and Ms Modester Kachapila-Millinyu of Malawi as the Co-Chairs of the AHTEG-FR. The Bureau further designated five representatives of farmers' organizations, particularly smallholder farmers from the centers of origin and crop diversity, and three representatives of relevant stakeholder groups, considering the gender and regional balance.
4. The Expert Group held its fifth meeting from 24 to 26 June 2024, and its sixth meeting from 23 to 26 June 2025, both at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy.
5. This report describes the work undertaken by the Expert Group during the biennium pursuant to its Terms of Reference.

II. ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 9 OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

6. At its Tenth Session, through Resolution 7/2023, the Governing Body took note of the annotated outline for the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, and of the request that the assessment also set out the measures limiting the realisation of Farmers' Rights.¹
7. Following a request by the Governing Body at its Tenth Session, the Secretary issued an invitation to Contracting Parties and other interested stakeholders, especially farmers' organizations, to submit inputs and comments on the annotated outline contained in Resolution 7/2023, including suggestions on how measures limiting the realization of Farmers' Rights could be included. To facilitate the process of submission and analysis of inputs and comments, the Notification contained a short template.²
8. Prior to the fifth meeting of the Expert Group, an informal on-line briefing of the Expert Group had been organized in consultation with the Co-Chairs.
9. The Secretary prepared an updated version of the outline of the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty for the fifth meeting of the Expert Group, incorporating the inputs and suggestions provided by Contracting Parties and stakeholders through their submissions.³
10. At its fifth meeting, the Expert Group agreed on the outline of the assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, as given in Appendix 2 of the Report.⁴

¹ [Resolution 7/2023](#)

² [Notification NCP GB11-002](#)

³ [IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/3.1](#), *Updated Outline for the Assessment of the State of Implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty*

⁴ [IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/Report](#)

11. Based on the outline endorsed by the Expert Group, the Secretary prepared the draft Assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, for the review and possible advice of the Expert Group at its sixth meeting.
12. The Secretariat prepared the document, IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-6/25/3, *Approach, methodology and main results of the Assessment of the State of Implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty*. The document first outlined the approach and methodology employed in undertaking the Assessment, including the data sources, the data analysis, and the limitations and challenges encountered in the preparation of the Assessment. It also contained the Executive Summary of the draft Assessment, highlighting key findings from the Assessment, structured by region, cognisant that some level of variation exists in countries within each region. The complete analysis was provided in the document, IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-6/25/3.1, *Draft Assessment of the State of Implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty*.
13. The Expert Group thanked the Secretariat for the comprehensive documents prepared within a such limited time. The Assessment was conducted in the most inclusive and participatory way, following the Outline endorsed by the Expert Group at its fifth meeting, held in June 2024.
14. The Expert Group noted, with appreciation, the multiple sources of data and information used to elaborate the Assessment and, after reviewing it, provided comments and advice for its finalization.
15. The updated draft Assessment, taking into account the comments and advice, will be presented to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body, for its consideration.

III. DRAFT STRATEGY ON HOW THE USE OF THE “OPTIONS FOR ENCOURAGING, GUIDING AND PROMOTING THE REALIZATION OF FARMERS’ RIGHTS AS SET OUT IN ARTICLE 9 OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY” CAN BE PROMOTED

16. The mandate of the Expert Group included the task to “provide advice to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body on how the use of *Options*, as contained in the Annex to Resolution 7/2022 for the implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, can be promoted.”⁵
17. Based on an indicative list of activities prepared by the Secretary,⁶ the Expert Group, at its fifth meeting, developed a draft list of possible activities to promote the Options, as contained in Appendix 3 of the Report.⁷ It requested the Secretariat to organize the suggestions presented at the fifth meeting in the form of a simple draft strategy, to be further developed by the Expert Group at its sixth meeting.
18. At its sixth meeting, the Expert Group reviewed all elements of the document, IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-6/25/4, *Draft Strategy on how the use of the “Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty” can be promoted*.⁸
19. “The Expert Group discussed the draft Strategy, provided inputs and comments, and proposed a dedicated Action Plan (2026 – 2029) to be presented in a table form”.
20. The updated draft Strategy, incorporating the inputs and comments, will be presented to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body, for its consideration.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS AND POSSIBLE FUTURE WORK

21. The Expert Group discussed the relevance of new technologies, including Digital Sequence Information /Genetic Sequence Data, in the context of Farmers’ Rights and how they could impact the implementation of Farmers’ Rights. It agreed that this cross-cutting area could become part of future discussions by the Governing Body.

⁵ Resolution 7/2023, Annex 2

⁶ [IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/4](#), *Elements of advice to the Governing Body on how the use of the “Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty” can be promoted*

⁷ [IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-5/24/Report](#)

⁸ [IT/GB-11/AHTEG-FR-6/25/4](#), *Draft Strategy on how the use of the “Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty” can be promoted*

22. It also recommended that the Governing Body may wish to consider the use of the terminology “Indigenous Peoples and local communities”, in relevant documents and decisions under the International Treaty, to bring it in line with the current usage in other United Nations’ and International bodies and processes.
23. The Expert Group recommended to inform the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization to link the upcoming call for proposals on the benefit sharing fund of the International Treaty to implement the Strategy *on how the use of the “Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty” can be promoted.*”
24. The Expert Group discussed the possible future of the AHTEG. There was also a proposal from some experts that, should the Governing Body consider continuing the work of the AHTEG-FR, it be reconvened as Standing Committee on Farmers’ Rights.
25. The Expert Group recommended that the Governing Body consider the proposal to explore the possibility for the establishment of an International Day of Observance for Farmers’ Rights related to crop genetic resources, and to encourage any interested Contracting Parties to take the lead in realizing this objective. As part of future activities on capacity building, it was suggested to work on a model provision on how to mainstream the implementation of Article 9 in the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).
26. There was also a suggestion that it could be worthwhile to engage with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food in future activities on Farmers’ Rights.
27. The Expert Group considered the elements for a draft Resolution prepared by the Secretary and provided inputs and suggestions for its finalization. The draft Resolution will be presented by the Secretariat as part of the Report on the Implementation of Farmers’ Rights for the consideration of the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body.
28. The Expert Group expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Italy and Norway for the financial support they provided, which enabled the participation of experts and the provision of translation and interpretation services. It also invited other Contracting Parties and donors, in a position to do so, to provide support for the continuation of the work on Farmers’ Rights.