



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



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

**INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**TENTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON
CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC
RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

Doha, Qatar, 8 – 11 September 2025

**Outcomes of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the
Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Digital Sequence Information /
Genetic Sequence Data**

Executive Summary

This document provides the the Ad hoc Technical Committee on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources (ACSU with information on relevant elements of the decision regarding digital sequence information, taken at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Tenth Session, the Governing Body requested the Secretary to continue monitoring developments in all relevant international fora with regard to digital sequence information/genetic sequence data (DSI/GSD) and to support the subsidiary bodies, in particular those relating to the enhancement of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, Farmers' Rights, and Sustainable Use, in taking into account related developments when addressing the issue of DSI/GSD, and to report to the Governing Body at its Eleventh Session.¹
2. This information document for the ACSU responds to the above request. It contains updates on relevant elements of the decision on DSI taken at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 16).
3. For the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body, the Secretary will provide a report on DSI/GSD covering developments in all relevant international fora and potential implications of the use of DSI/GSD on PGRFA for the objectives of the International Treaty.²

II. ELEMENTS OF DECISION 16/2 of COP 16

4. Goal C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF or GBF) refers to monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and DSI on genetic resources. Target 13 of the GBF requires effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and from DSI on genetic resources, and facilitating appropriate access to genetic resources as well as, by 2030, a significant increase of the benefits shared, in accordance with applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments.
5. In recognition of the importance of the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of DSI on genetic resources to achieving Goal C and Target 13, COP 16 adopted Decision 16/2 on DSI on genetic resources.³
6. The decision operationalized a multilateral mechanism for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of DSI on genetic resources, centered on voluntary financial contributions by DSI users into a global fund, namely the Cali Fund. The Cali Fund will operate under the oversight of a multi-stakeholder steering committee, composed of representatives from governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society, and the private sector.
7. According to the decision, all DSI users under the multilateral mechanism should share benefits arising from the use of DSI in a fair and equitable manner. Users in sectors that directly or indirectly benefit from DSI in their commercial activities should contribute a proportion of their profits or revenue to the global fund, according to their size.
8. This approach to benefit-sharing is without prejudice to national access and benefit-sharing measures and does not affect the rights and obligations of any Party deriving from any existing international agreement. Furthermore, the decision foresees that the multilateral mechanism will be implemented in a way that is mutually supportive of and adaptive to other international access and benefit-sharing instruments on DSI on genetic resources, to avoid the stacking of obligations and, where appropriate, to streamline processes.
9. In the following paragraphs, the Secretariat presents the elements of the decision referring to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources.

Recognition

10. In Decision 16/2, CBD Parties recognize the vital role that indigenous peoples and local communities play in the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources.

¹ [Resolution 16/2023](#), paragraph 5.

² [Resolution 15/2023](#).

³ [Decision 16/2](#).

Relevant modalities for operationalizing the multilateral mechanism

11. According to Decision 16/2, funding from the Cali Fund should, inter alia: support the realization of the objectives of the Convention in developing country Parties, especially the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including through the delivery of activities described in national biodiversity strategies and action plans; and contribute to scientific research on biodiversity.
12. Funding will be allocated taking into account the overall level of funding available in the Cali Fund and an indicative list of criteria that is set out in the decision.
13. The indicative list of criteria for allocating funding is the following:
 - (a) Biodiversity richness and other biodiversity-related criteria for which data are readily available at the national level;
 - (b) The geographical origin of the genetic resources from which DSI in the database was derived (noting that such data on geographical origin are currently often incomplete or unrepresentative);
 - (c) Capacity needs for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, taking into account the circumstances of developing country Parties.
14. Funding to Parties will be disbursed through direct allocations to countries. Each recipient Party is invited to designate or establish, as appropriate, a national entity, such as a national biodiversity fund, to receive funds and distribute them in a transparent manner. Such entities may allocate resources, in a transparent manner, on the basis of projects developed through a country-driven or community-driven process and should be accountable for ensuring that the funds are used for the self-identified purposes for which they are distributed. Recipient Parties, at their own discretion, may alternatively designate an international, regional or subregional entity to fulfil those functions.
15. Where appropriate, and subject to national circumstances and national legislation, at least half of the funding of the Cali Fund should support the self-identified needs of indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth within those communities, through government authorities or by direct payments through institutions identified by indigenous peoples and local communities.