



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The Process for the Development of the Vision Paper on the Global Information System

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*Tailoring the Documentation of Plant Genetic Resources
in Europe to the Needs of the User*

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www.planttreaty.org

Global Information System (Article 17)

Contracting Parties shall cooperate to develop and strengthen a global information system to facilitate the exchange of information, based on existing information systems, on scientific, technical and environmental matters related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

[...]

Current Process

- In 2009, the Treaty Governing Body requested the Secretary to initiate, in collaboration, work on the development of the Global Information System on PGRFA
- In 2013, the Governing Body has established a ‘Global Consultation on the Development of Article 17’
- In 2014-2015 a broadbased consultation will be undertaken on Article 17
- In 2015 the Secretary will Report to the next Governing Body Session and will present a vision paper- October

Governing Body Documentation

- **Fourth Session of the Governing Body (March 2011):**
 - ✓ **IT/GB-4/11/19**, working document on the vision paper on the development of the global information system in the context of Article 17 of the Treaty
<http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/gb4w19e.pdf>
- **Fifth Session of the Governing Body (Sept 2013):**
 - ✓ **IT/GB-5/13/17**, Working document on the Vision Paper on the Further Development of Article 17, Global Information System
http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/gb5w17e_Article17_GIS_corr1_clean.pdf
 - ✓ **Resolution 10/2013** - Development of the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources in the Context of the Article 17 of the International Treaty
http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/RES10_2013_en.pdf

The Global Consultation (COGIS)

Tasks and terms of reference:

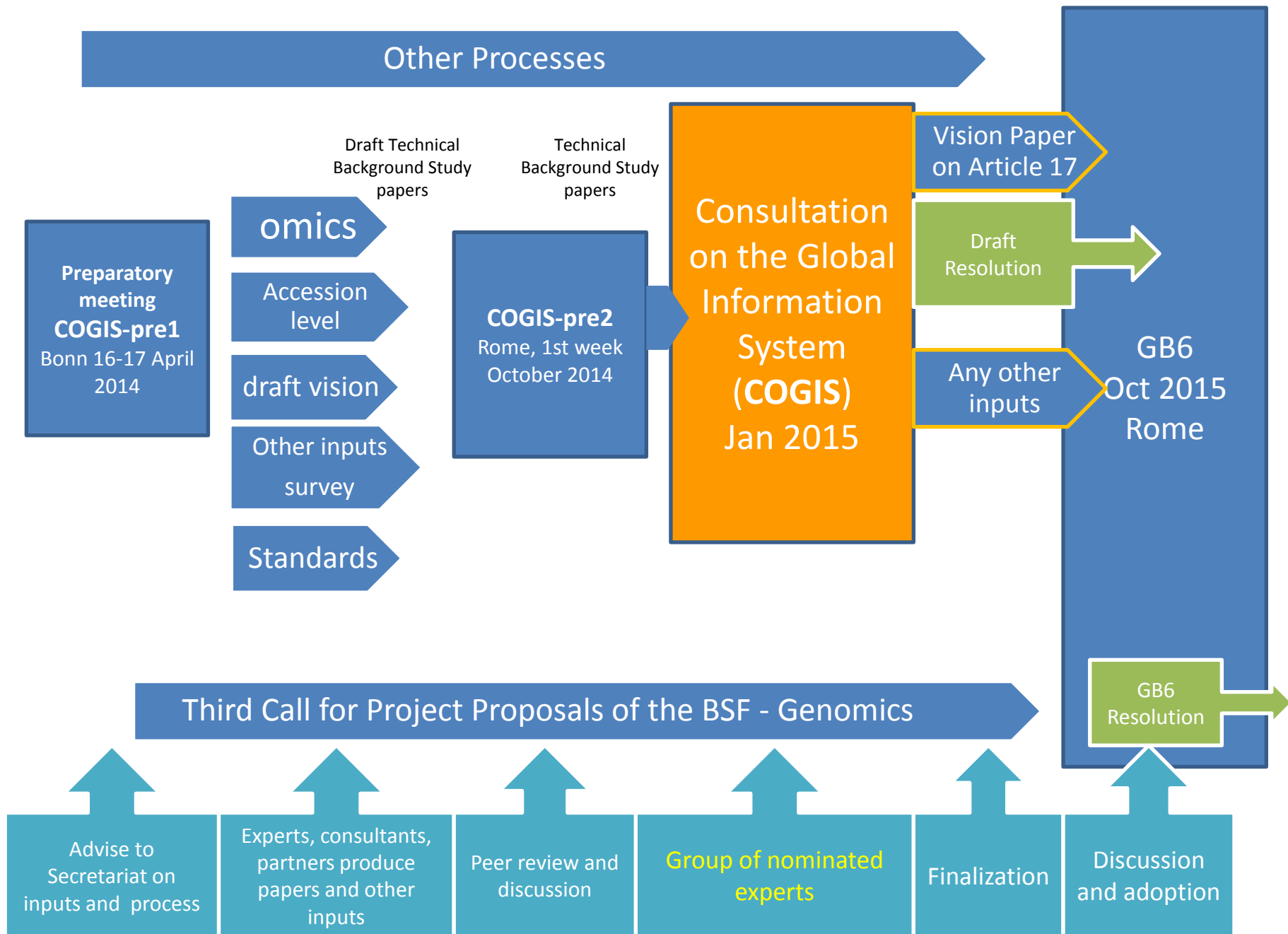
1. Facilitate the assessment of needs;
2. Conduct a review of major ongoing initiatives, projects and programmes
3. Identify information gaps;
4. Identify best practices and appropriate methodologies;
5. Conduct and publish the necessary background study papers;
6. Advise the Secretariat in the drafting of the vision paper;

Experts from the European Region

- Two experts per region (up to 14) and 11 additional technical experts
- Notification by the Secretariat in December 2013
- Europe: 2 experts
- Nominations by the Bureau Member:
 - Frank Begemann
 - Roland Cottin
 - Theo J L van Hintum (Alternate)

Funding of Inter-sessional Work

- The Government of Germany is funding most of the activities in the inter-sessional period with expected contributions of the Governments of Spain and Italy.



Preparing for the Consultation

- Small meetings to discuss the role of the Treaty and the potential partners in helping to drive forward initiatives on integration of different information domains within a global information system
- Get technical expertise and advise for the Secretariat in the preparation of the background study papers, the main elements of the vision paper and other relevant documentation for the Consultation

Key General Questions

- What are the main problems to be addressed?
(Background, understanding the context, gap analysis & major possible topics)
- What are the ongoing initiatives, who should be involved and how?
- What are the elements of the draft vision? What are the main domain/areas to be covered and addressed in the coming years?
- What technical inputs in the form of background study papers that should be prepared?

Ongoing Work

- Development of the outline of the vision paper
- Synergies found with DivSeek and partnership established with the GCDT
- Two surveys to be undertaken in June

Element of the Vision on Article 17

The Vision for the Article 17 should be an **inspiring statement to clearly and concisely convey the direction for the future work.** It should:

- be aligned with the spirit of the Article 17 and reflect the values of the whole Treaty and further develop its **primary objectives** with regard to information systems;
- help to **motivate** partners organizations and donors;
- outline a **process** to define the key measures for the success of the Treaty;
- Contribute to the understanding of the **challenges** by users and partners;
- Be useful to define **general goals** and address **common problems**;

The Draft Vision

The Global Information System will provide a platform of interoperable data and information services on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The System will be open, innovative, dynamic, decentralized, collaborative, user-centric, and quality-focused.

Possible Areas of Work

- *Global Data Discovery Platform (Index of databases and datasets: collections, accessions, genomics, crop portals)*
- *Interoperability and connectivity:*
 - *Promotion and development of standards that facilitate the exchange and use of PGRFA data - Open data, APIs, and DOI*
 - *Documentation of methodologies and practices*
 - *Tools*
- *Provide basic data analysis and web services*
- *Strengthening capacity building efforts*
- *Communication strategy*
- *Strengthening existing networks, initiative and partnerships (Metanetwork)*

Possible Areas of Work

Advocacy

Capacity
Building

Tools&APIs

Standards

You can provide inputs

- Notification published in March asking for inputs
- 2 short surveys upcoming
- Participation in technical meetings
- Face-to-face interviews
- Analysis of literature

Reporting on SMTAs

- It is an obligation
- 2 years time to report
- Easy-SMTA is a voluntary reporting tool
- www.planttreaty.org
- Aggregated reporting is also possible
- Connection to the Data Store is also an option
- Germany, Spain, France, Czech Republic

Homepage



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Homepage

Welcome to the homepage of the Information Technology System developed in support of the users of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture ([ITPGRFA](#)).

The Standard Material Transfer Agreement ([SMTA](#)) is a private contract with standard terms and conditions that ensures that the relevant provisions of the International Treaty are followed by individual providers and recipients of plant genetic material. This System has been developed by the Secretariat of the International Treaty to assist users with:

1. compiling and generating SMTAs in the six official languages of the International Treaty;
2. reporting on SMTAs concluded in accordance with the instructions made by the Governing Body of the International Treaty.

You need to [log in](#) to be able to use the system. Please [register](#) to create a new account if you do not have one

New SMTA



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As Recipient

- SMTAs ready for acceptance

Generate new SMTA

Fields with * are required.

Begin by clicking here to identify the Recipient

Type

Language

In listing the Material, the SMTA requires any associated public-domain information to be provided. This can be done as follows:

1) against each Sample, using the field available in the corresponding form

2) by entering a single URL in this field.

URL of website where information associated to the Material transferred with this SMTA can be obtained.
See the page help on how to upload a document.

3) by pasting the text in this field.

Information associated to the Material transferred with this SMTA

Save and Continue

Recent Reporting in Europe

IPK - Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research, Genebank Department	DEU
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Crop Research Institute	CZE
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INRA	FRA
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Centro Nacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos - INIA	ESP
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National Botanic Garden of Belgium	
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Thank you

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