

CGRFA-Ex2/96/REP

**REPORT OF THE  
COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**Second Extraordinary Session  
Rome, 22-27 April 1996**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
Rome, 1996**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE FOR THE SESSION**

1. The Second Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture<sup>1</sup> met in Rome from 22 to 27 April, 1996. A list of delegates and observers is attached as *Appendix H*.
2. The Chair, Mr. José Bolívar (Spain), opened the Session and welcomed delegates and observers. Mr. H. Hjort, Deputy Director-General, delivered an opening statement, on behalf of the Director-General, which is attached as *Appendix C*. Following this, Mr. Bolívar made a statement, which is attached as *Appendix D*.
3. The meeting discussed the proposed Agenda and Timetable. The Agenda, as adopted, is given in *Appendix A*.

## **II. PREPARATION FOR THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES**

### **(i) Introduction**

4. The Director, Plant Production and Protection Division, introduced the item. He emphasized that the country-driven preparatory process had helped raise an awareness of the importance of plant genetic resources among policy-makers in many countries. He noted that drafts of two major elements of the FAO Global System for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (*Appendix A*) had been prepared in this way: the first Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources (document CGRFA-Ex2/96/2) and the Global Plan of Action (document CGRFA-Ex2/96/3).
5. He suggested that the Commission focus on two essential tasks: recommendations to the Fourth International Technical Conference on its scope and purpose, and on the results that were expected of it; and advancing, as far as possible, consensus on the final documents. The Director suggested that the Commission recommend ways by which the Secretariat's cost-estimates in the Global Plan of Action could be reviewed and the Plan translated into more precise and concrete specific actions.
6. He thanked all who had contributed to the preparatory process: countries, institutions, non-governmental organizations and individuals; as well as donor governments, host countries of sub-regional meetings, the Consultative Group Centres and, in particular, the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute.

### **(ii) The first Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources**

7. The draft of the first Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources was introduced by the Project Manager of the preparatory process for the Fourth International Technical Conference. He noted that the Report had been based on the wealth of information that had been provided through the country-driven preparatory process, which had included over 150 Country Reports, and the results of eleven regional and sub-regional meetings. More than 5,000 pages of information had been analyzed by the Secretariat in preparing the Report. Extensive use had been made of data from the FAO World

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<sup>1</sup> By Resolution 3/95 of the Twenty-Eighth Session of the FAO Conference, the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources became the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The First Extraordinary Session was held under the Commission's previous name.

Information and Early Warning System. Additional inputs had been provided by a number of international institutes, non-governmental organizations, and representatives of the private sector, including through the electronic mail conferences organized by FAO. The Report was intended to be a synthesis of all this information, and could therefore only cover a fraction of the information available. More detailed information was provided in the complementary background document available to the Meeting. The Project Manager also noted that, despite the large amount of information that had become available, there were still notable gaps.

8. The Commission welcomed the Report, as a useful synthesis of information that had become available through the preparatory process, and commended the Secretariat on its preparation. This preparatory process had helped initiate, or consolidate, many activities and programmes at national and regional levels. The Commission agreed that the Report, which represented the first world-wide assessment of the state of plant genetic resources conservation and utilization, should be noted as a useful basis for the Global Plan of Action.

9. Several delegations questioned the basis for inclusion of some of the material in the Report, in particular with respect to Chapters 8 and 9. In connection with this point, the countries noted their disappointment in the short period of time they had had to examine the draft Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources, and their interest in having the supporting documentation on which the Report was based.

10. A number of delegations identified topics on which further information and analysis were needed. These included:

- benefits derived from the use of plant genetic resources, and mechanisms for benefit-sharing, including for the realization of Farmers' Rights;
- technology transfer;
- biotechnologies, and associated benefits and risks;
- national, regional and global agricultural policies;
- the state of diversity in the major centres of diversity;
- research for on-farm plant genetic resources management, including definitions of appropriate methodologies;
- studies on new approaches to plant breeding;
- local and under-utilized crops;
- international crop-related networks;
- current expenditures on plant genetic resource conservation and utilization activities; and
- a glossary of terms.

It was suggested that these issues be addressed in future Reports on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources. A number of delegations also asked that information on current expenditures on PGRFA conservation and sustainable utilization activities should be provided by the Secretariat, to inform the Leipzig Conference.

11. It was also suggested that, in the current report, further information be provided on information gaps and needs, as well as on the strengths and weaknesses of current activities for the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in order to allow clearer cross-reference to the related proposals in the Global Plan of Action. A number of delegations proposed technical improvements to the draft Report, particularly in relation to information concerning their countries.

12. The Commission reaffirmed that the Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources should be periodically updated, and that mechanisms to achieve this should be put in place. The Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources (including the complementary background document) and the Country Reports and Sub-Regional Reports, were recognized as a comprehensive source of information, which should be made widely available, and analyzed in further depth, in order to facilitate the monitoring role of the Commission.

13. The Commission *agreed* that the first draft Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources should be forwarded to the Fourth International Technical Conference, after revision by the Secretariat, on the basis of comments and corrections made during the Session, including the complementary background document. It *was agreed* that the Conference would not formally endorse the Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources, given the very limited exchange of views that time allowed to take place on this document.

**(iii) The Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Utilization of  
Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

14. In considering the draft of the first Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources, the Commission noted that the draft had been elaborated at its request, and under its guidance, through a country-driven process. The draft aimed to reflect the needs that countries had identified in their Reports, and the recommendations agreed at the eleven sub-regional preparatory meetings.

15. The Colombian delegation informed the meeting about the Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean, held as approved by the Commission at its previous Session. The meeting had been financed and organized by the Colombian government, and the report of the meeting had been put at the disposal of the Commission. The 'Bogota Declaration' is in *Appendix F*.

16. In partially reviewing the draft Global Plan of Action, the Commission requested written comments from delegations, and established an open-ended drafting committee to prepare a consolidated text for Leipzig. The Commission *agreed* that the part of the text completed by the Drafting Committee during the session should be integrated by the Secretariat with the remainder of the text, which would present (in brackets) the written suggestions made during the session, and distinguish them from the text presented to the Commission by the Secretariat.

17. The Commission *reaffirmed* that the Global Plan of Action - a rolling plan that would be periodically updated - was an important element of the Global System, and would also aim at facilitating the implementation of Agenda 21 and of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

18. The Commission *agreed* that it would oversee, monitor and set priorities for the follow-up of the Global Plan of Action. It was suggested that countries should report appropriately at fixed intervals, and that there should be appropriate collaboration, and mutual exchange of reports, with other international organizations.

19. The Commission reiterated the need for a comprehensive compilation and analysis of existing national, bilateral and multilateral expenditures for the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and requested that countries provide available information to the Secretariat. It also requested that the Secretariat make available to the Leipzig Conference information which it has on this subject.

20. The Commission recognized the need for financial resources for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. Its members committed themselves to discuss this matter during the Leipzig Conference.

21. The Group of 77 made the following statement:

"The G77 Members deeply regretted that the proposals for the examination of financial matters in this session, made in the spirit of constructive engagement to the goals of the Global Plan of Action, were not accepted by the developed countries.

"The G77 Members recalled that the Global Plan of Action should be complementary and consistent with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and with the outcomes of the Conferences of the Parties, and reaffirmed its commitments to the provisions of the said Convention, in particular Article 20 regarding financial mechanisms.

"The G77 Members considered moreover that the negotiations of the financial mechanisms for the full implementation of the Global Plan of Action should not prejudice the negotiation process for the revision of the International Undertaking and therefore should be kept separated."

22. Australia, Canada, the Czech Republic, the European Community and its Member States, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America made the following statement:

"We came to this extraordinary session prepared to discuss the Global Plan of Action and the preparation for the Leipzig Conference in a constructive spirit.

"We recognize the importance of establishing a sound process for considering the financial implications of the Global Plan of Action. While we consider the Draft GPA to be an excellent basis for constituting a framework document, we do not yet have all relevant information for an in-depth discussion on implementation. Thus, we propose that a process for discussing the implementation and financing of the GPA be agreed to during the Leipzig Conference.

"We regret that so much discussion was devoted to how the questions of financing related to the GPA should be addressed at Leipzig. This is particularly so since these issues already had been settled during the sixth meeting of the Commission, as reflected in the report of the meeting. We expect that discussions of financing at Leipzig will follow the arrangements agreed last year, as reflected in *Appendix F* of the report (of the Sixth Session of the Commission).

"The FAO Global system on PGR underpins global food security, and has a number of important elements, among which are the International Undertaking and GPA. Together, these elements seek to provide for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources, and for the sharing of benefits arising from the use of such resources. They are interlinked, and their financing should be discussed accordingly. Multiple sources of finance already exist in both developing and developed countries for supporting the present national and international efforts on conserving PGRFA. These sources of available funding must be examined to better identify and understand their role, present or potential, to ensure that there is transparency and efficiency in implementing the International Undertaking for PGRFA and the Global Plan of Action."

23. Many countries stressed the links between the Global Plan of Action and the International Undertaking, and others considered that negotiations of financial mechanisms for the full

implementation of the Global Plan of Action should not prejudice the negotiation process for the revision of the International Undertaking.

24. The Commission *agreed* that forestry would not be included in the Global Plan of Action to be discussed for adoption at the Leipzig Conference, on the understanding that this matter could be considered in future, in the light of the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forestry established by the Commission on Sustainable Development on this issue.

25. The Commission also prepared a revised negotiating draft of the Leipzig Declaration, incorporating written suggestions made during the session. It *decided* that this would be a document separate from the Global Plan of Action. It *was agreed* that the Leipzig Declaration, as adopted at the Fourth International Technical Conference, should be communicated to the World Food Summit being held in November 1996, in order to underscore the importance of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, for global food security. The Commission welcomed the request of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, that the Global Plan of Action and the report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources be made available to its third meeting.

26. The Commission also requested that the Committee on World Food Security be informed of the outcome of the Leipzig Conference, in the context of the preparation of the World Food Summit.

#### **(iv) Draft Provisional Agenda of the Fourth International Technical Conference**

27. The Provisional Agenda for the Fourth International Technical Conference *was agreed* (*Appendix G*).

#### **(v) Other matters related to the preparation and organization of the Fourth International Technical Conference**

28. The Commission *expressed its desire* that the host country, Germany, accept the chair of the Conference, and *decided* that nominations for other members of the Bureau would be agreed by the regional groups, according to FAO practice.

29. The Commission *agreed* that a committee composed of two representatives from each region (to be indicated by the FAO Regional Groups in Rome) should convene in Leipzig two to three days before the Fourth International Technical Conference. Its purpose would be to facilitate the work of the Conference, by identifying outstanding issues requiring the urgent attention of the Conference, and by endeavouring to find language which might help speed the Conference's consideration of the technical sections of the Global Plan of Action. It was understood that this body would not have negotiating authority. It was also understood that financing for participants from developing countries would be found.

30. The Commission *agreed* that a number of distinguished scientists be honoured at the Fourth International Technical Conference, and suggested that recognition be extended also to local and indigenous communities.

31. The Commission noted with appreciation that the President of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity would present a statement, on behalf of the Conference of the Parties to the Fourth International Technical Conference in Leipzig. It *requested* that the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the Executive Head of the Global Environmental Facility and representatives from other international organizations, also be invited to the Conference, and to report on related activities of their organizations.

### **III. Preparation for further negotiations for the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources**

32. The Commission considered the process for the further negotiation of the International Undertaking, on the basis of document CGRFA-Ex2/96/6.
33. The Commission noted the priority that had been placed upon the progress of negotiations on the Undertaking, as well as on the preparations for the Fourth International Technical Conference, by the Twenty-eighth Session of the FAO Conference in October 1995. The Conference had regarded both as pressing priority actions of the Commission.
34. It also noted that the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Jakarta in November 1995, had declared its express support for the process engaged in by the Commission, including the implementation of FAO Conference Resolution 7/93, for the adaptation of the International Undertaking in harmony with the Convention. The Conference of Parties had called for a report on progress to be made to its next meeting, in November 1996.
35. The Commission recognized that a great deal had been achieved in the preparation of the Third Negotiating Draft for the Revision of the International Undertaking, which reflected the views and proposals of all Members of the Commission. It recognized, however, that there might be value in working on a simplified draft text, concentrating on articles 3 (Scope), 11 (Availability of Plant Genetic Resources), and 12 (Farmers' Rights), which could, without in any way replacing the Third Negotiating Draft, provide more focus for the future negotiations, should the Commission so decide. The Working Group should take account of the technical information in agreements from Leipzig in addressing the policy issues. It should also comment on the structure of the negotiating draft.
36. The Commission recognized the importance of the negotiations on the Undertaking and therefore called for a further meeting of its Working Group, to be held immediately prior to the next session of the Commission, in early December 1996. The Working Group would have the task of preparing such a draft text, drawing on the existing views and proposals of Governments, as set out in the Third Negotiating Draft; such further comments and proposals as may be made by governments after the Fourth International Technical Conference; the results of that Conference; and other relevant documents and proposals. Members of the Commission that are not Members of the Working Group could attend as Observers, and they should be allowed to participate fully in its discussions. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity should also be invited to attend as an observer, at both the session of the Working Group and that of the Commission itself. Every effort should be made to facilitate financially the participation of developing countries requesting such help.
37. In order to help the Working Group in its task, the Commission encouraged Members of the Commission wishing to make further comments, and drafting proposals, to submit them to the Secretariat after the Fourth International Technical Conference.
38. The Commission stressed that any simplified text resulting from the deliberations of its Working Group should be in addition to, and not in substitution for, the proposals already contained in the Third Negotiating Draft. It would be for the Commission itself to evaluate the usefulness of any such text, as a potential focus for future negotiations.
39. It was agreed that the document prepared by IPGRI, on "Access to Plant Genetic Resources, and the Sharing of Benefits", should be first presented to the Working Group, before review at the next Extraordinary Session of the Commission.



#### **IV. Other Business**

40. The Commission warmly welcomed the two new members that had joined during the Session, Eritrea and Côte d'Ivoire, raising the Commission's membership from 141 to 143 (*Appendix E*).

41. The Commission warmly thanked Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, the Nordic countries, and Switzerland for the financial contribution they had made towards ensuring the participation of developing countries in both the negotiation of the International Undertaking and the Leipzig Conference. It also expressed its hope that more extra-budgetary funds would be made available in order to allow the continuing participation of developing countries in these processes.

42. The Commission also noted the wish that the Secretariat make extra effort to ensure that countries receive working documents sufficiently early.

APPENDIX A

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**COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**  
**Second Extraordinary Session**  
**Rome, 22 - 27 April, 1996**

1. Adoption of the Agenda and timetable for the Session
2. Preparation for the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources (Leipzig, Germany, 17-23 June 1996).
  - 2.1 The first Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources
  - 2.2 The Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources
  - 2.3 Draft Provisional Agenda of the Fourth International Technical Conference
  - 2.4 Other matters related to the preparation and organization of the Fourth  
International Technical Conference
3. Preparation for further negotiations for the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources
4. Other business

APPENDIX B

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LIST OF DOCUMENTS

***Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda and timetable for the Session***

CGRFA-Ex2/96/1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
CGRFA-Ex2/96/1 Add.1	Agenda and Time-table

***Item 2: Preparation for the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources***

CGRFA-Ex2/96/2 and CGRFA-Ex2/96/2 CORR. 1	Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources <i>(The full background documentation to the Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources was also available, in English only)</i>
CGRFA-Ex2/96/3	Draft Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
	3.1 Explanatory Note to the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
	3.2 Draft Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
	3.3 Financing of and follow-up to the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
CGRFA-Ex2/96/4	Draft of the "Leipzig Declaration" <i>(This document was incorporated in document CGRFA/Ex2/96/3)</i>
CGRFA-Ex2/96/5	Draft Provisional Agenda of the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources

***Item 3: Preparation of negotiations for the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources***

CGRFA-Ex2/96/6	Progress Report on the Revision of the International Undertaking: developments since the Sixth Session of the Commission
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*Other documents to facilitate the negotiations, at the disposal of the Commission*

**Negotiating document**

Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources: Third Negotiating Draft

**New documents and documents from other sessions that have not yet been discussed by the Commission, due to lack of time**

Access to Plant Genetic Resources and the equitable sharing of benefits: a contribution to the debate on Systems for the Exchange of Germplasm (prepared by IPGRI)

CPGR-6/95/8  
(CPGR-Ex1/94/5)

Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. Issues for consideration in Stage II: access to plant genetic resources, and Farmers' Rights.

CPGR-6/95/8 Supp.  
(CPGR-EX1/94/5  
Supp.)

Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. Analysis of some technical, economic and legal aspects for consideration in Stage II:

Access to Plant Genetic Resources and Farmers' Rights

CPGR-6/95/9

Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. Stage III - legal and institutional matters

**INFORMATION DOCUMENTS**

CGRFA-Ex2/96/Inf. 1 Statement of competence and voting rights submitted by the European Community (EC) and its Member States

CGRFA-Ex2/96/Inf. 2  
Rev.1

Provisional List of Delegates and Observers

CPGR-EX1/94/3

Revision of the International Undertaking. Mandate, context, background and proposed process

C 95/Inf/19

Progress Report on the Global System for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (presented to the last FAO Conference)

Countries' Participation in the Development of the Global System for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

APPENDIX C

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**OPENING STATEMENT BY MR. HOWARD W. HJORT, DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

Mr. Chairman, Vice-Chairmen;  
Distinguished Delegates;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;

On behalf of the Director General, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Second Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. This indeed is an extraordinary session - the first meeting to be held since it was decided that the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources would take on a larger mandate and a new name. The expanded scope of the Commission - one which will encompass domesticated animals and marine and aquatic resources - will encourage a more holistic analysis of problems and opportunities facing the full range of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

However, the business before you today concerns plant genetic resources. Your agenda includes work on items dealing with two complementary processes: preparation for the International Technical Conference and the negotiations for the revision of the International Undertaking. Both can be seen as a follow-up to the request of UNCED's Agenda 21 to strengthen and adjust the FAO Global System for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources. But their roots go even deeper.

The subject of plant genetic resources has a long history at FAO - the Organization has been involved in work in this area for over forty years. Some of the first meetings of scientists and governments calling attention to the problem of genetic erosion were held in this building. (A few of you may recall that the last technical conference was convened in 1981 - just across the hallway in the Green Room.) Some of the early collecting missions, which constituted the foundation for today's *ex situ* collections, were organized, financed and staffed by FAO. Our photo library gives testament to the often courageous work of these rather colourful and dedicated plant collectors.

Although we are not here to celebrate history it is important to recall that much of the early work was done in great haste. In the face of massive threats to crop genetic diversity, emergency action had to be initiated. There was little time, unfortunately, to engage in long-term planning and capacity building. A great deal was accomplished, for which we should all be deeply grateful - but gaps and inefficiencies have persisted. Priorities have often been unclear.

With today's meeting we turn the page on history. For the first time, you will take stock of our plant genetic resources, assess our abilities to safeguard and develop them effectively and equitably, and seek to negotiate a concrete Plan of Action to ensure their conservation and sustainable utilization. The Global Plan of Action provides the opportunity to make history consciously and in concert with one another.

Plant genetic resources are among the most fundamental and valuable resources on earth - one of the prerequisites for sustainable and ecological agriculture - and a key element of world food security. The Director General recognizes, as surely we all must, that the results of your work here and in Leipzig will provide an important input to the World Food Summit and the initiatives that will be considered here in November.

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Recognizing the importance of this subject, allow me to wish you success in your deliberations. You shall have to confront some difficult issues, but I am confident that you will be able to negotiate a solution to them. It is essential that you succeed in accomplishing the tasks before you. You can be assured that FAO will do its utmost to facilitate your work.

Again, on behalf of the Director General, I welcome you to this extraordinary, Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

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## APPENDIX D

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### **OPENING ADDRESS BY MR. JOSÉ M. BOLÍVAR, CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION**

I wish to thank the Deputy Director-General for his statement. I found his review of the history of plant genetic resources in FAO particularly appropriate, and I should also like, myself, to touch on the history of this Commission. Established in 1983, it met for the first time in 1985, and has worked unceasingly ever since to establish, develop and put into operation the Global System on the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

A knowledge of history is important because it allows us to identify situations and how they arose, and helps us to place new events in their proper context.

We find ourselves at a critical time in history with respect to plant genetic resources. We stand on the threshold of the definitive consolidation of the Global System and its effective implementation, or, perhaps, of the failure to achieve this.

The Second Extraordinary Session of the Commission is to take up three basic components of the Global System: the State of Plant Genetic Resources in the World, the Global Plan of Action and the revision of the International Undertaking.

At its third session, the Commission agreed that the Global System required periodic reports on the state of plant genetic resources in the world in order to facilitate both the exercise of the Commission's supervisory function and international debate.

At its fourth session in 1991, the Commission also indicated the need for a rolling Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, based on the Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources. The Plan would be periodically revised by the Commission, thus facilitating its role as coordinator.

In order to have both instruments available for the first time, the Commission recommended convening the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and this recommendation was endorsed by the Conference of FAO, also in 1991. Preparations for the ITC were to be country-driven under the guidance of the Commission. Two documents would be produced for review and adoption by the International Technical Conference: the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources and the Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Both would become basic instruments of the Global System.

In 1993, the Conference of FAO unanimously approved Resolution 7/93. This Resolution, noting that Chapter 14 of UNCED's Agenda 21 recommended that the Global System be strengthened, and noting further that the Final Act of the Nairobi Conference urged that ways and means be explored to develop complementarity and cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global System, *requested* the Director-General to provide a forum for negotiations among governments for the adaptation of the International Undertaking in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity. This forum would consider the issue of access on mutually agreed terms to plant genetic resources, including *ex situ* collections not addressed by the Convention, as well as the realization of Farmers' Rights.

The Conference urged that this process be carried out through regular and extraordinary sessions of this Commission in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

What we have before us, then, in the two items covered by our programme this week, the International Technical Conference and the revision of the International Undertaking, are two complementary processes. Clearly, the ITC is not meant to replace the Revision of the International Undertaking.

This session of the Commission has before it two draft documents, prepared by the Secretariat of the preparatory process for the ITC, reporting on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources and the Global Plan of Action. The Commission's task is to review them and indicate appropriate guidelines and amendments for presentation to the Leipzig Conference.

At this juncture I should like to make a comment, if I may: the Commission does not have unlimited time in which to alter the documents before you, nor will there be much time available in Leipzig, just one week in both cases, which is a very short time indeed. I therefore suggest that the Commission may wish to examine two major aspects which in my view can bring things forward:

- What should be the special focus of the Leipzig Conference, and what should be the scope (or perhaps the limitations) of this Conference?
- And, secondly, what procedures might help this session to establish the special focus, scope and limitations of the International Technical Conference?

For my part, I am wholly open to any suggestions you may wish to make.

Concerning the Revision of the International Undertaking, this meeting is not so much concerned with continuing the negotiations as with preparations for further negotiations in the second half of 1996. The Commission also has the task of finding ways and means of advancing negotiations and procedures to facilitate this, as well as procedures that should be followed at this session to achieve these objectives.

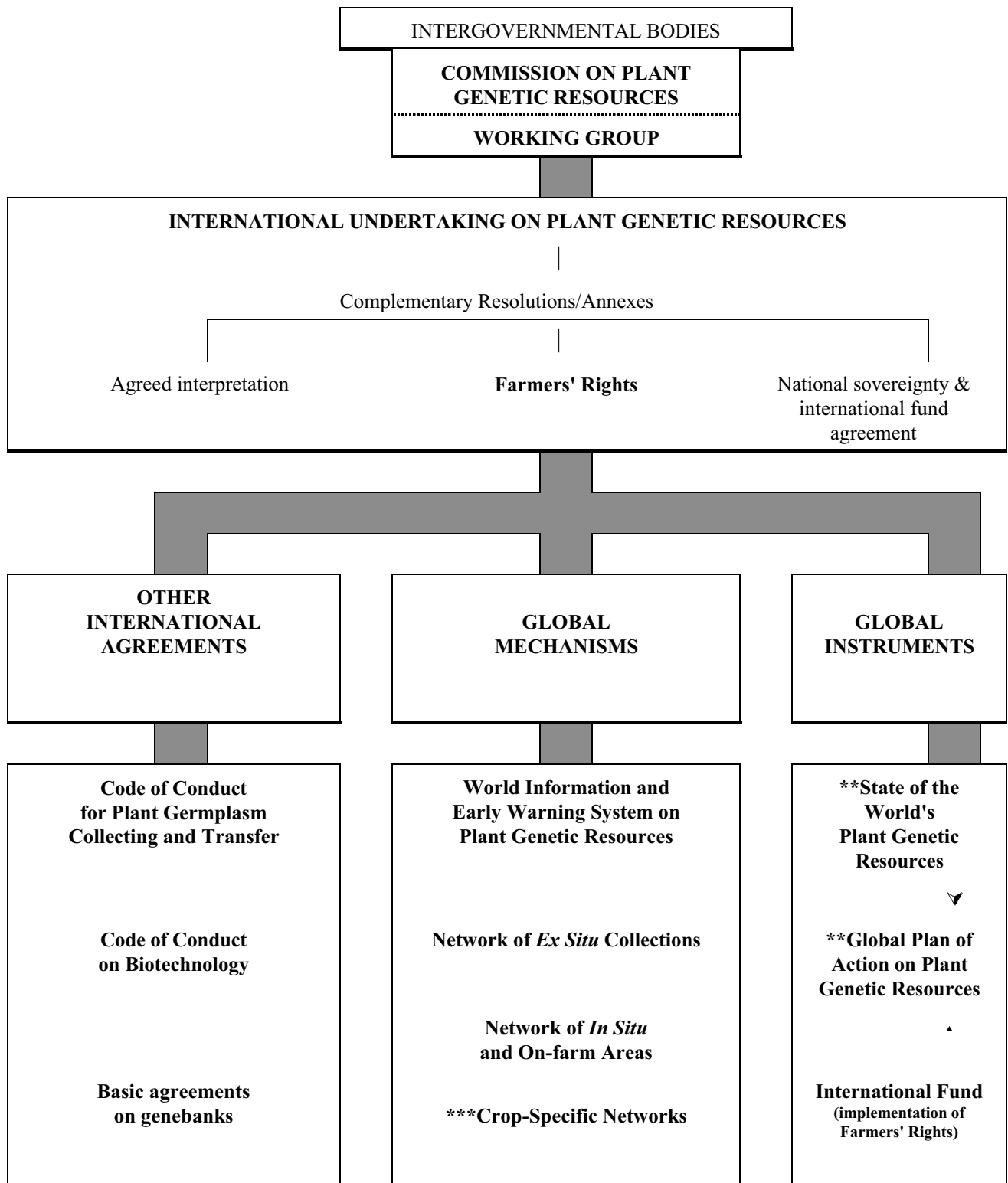
I do not wish to take up any more of your time.

I thank you very much for your attention, and let us, without further ado, move onto the first item of the Provisional Annotated Agenda.



APPENDIX E

THE GLOBAL SYSTEM FOR THE CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION  
OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE\*



\* For illustrative purposes only.

\*\* The first State of the World and Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources are being produced during the preparatory process for the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources.

\*\*\* This element has been added since June 1996 following the request of the Sixth Session of the

APPENDIX F

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**THE BOGOTA DECLARATION**  
**Approved by the Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean**  
**Bogota, 18-22 March, 1996**

We the representatives of the countries attending the Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Meeting on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, held under the auspices of FAO in Santa Fé, Bogota from 18 to 22 March 1996, mindful of the conclusions of the Sub-regional Meeting for Central America and the Caribbean held in San José, Costa Rica, and of the Sub-regional Meeting for South America held in Brasilia, and acting in agreement with the precepts of the Convention on Biological Diversity, make the following declaration to the international community:

1. States' sovereign rights over their Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, acknowledged in various international instruments, must be exercised in such a way as to contribute to the economic, social and cultural development of the people of the region and of the entire world.
2. The scope of the Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture available to the countries of the region constitutes great potential and a major opportunity to serve the needs of development. Seizing this opportunity demands the establishment, strengthening, development and integration of a series of policy, juridical, scientific, technological and organizational instruments related to the conservation and sustainable utilization of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, so as to ensure that this opportunity is transformed in an increasingly appropriate way for development in our region and in the world.
3. We are aware of States' responsibilities to share their Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as a basis for the development and well-being of everyone, everywhere, and as a guarantee for the continuity of life processes in the world. Nonetheless, the conservation and sustainable utilization of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture demands enormous efforts of a different type, and it is essential that these be shared equitably by the international community as a whole.
4. The trend toward globalization of the international economy and the inherent growing interdependency find clear expression in the issue of sharing of and access to the world's Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. To cope with the implicit challenges of this, and to achieve fair and equitable sharing in the benefits arising out of the use of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, it is imperative that our countries join hands in terms of regional alliances and mechanisms so as to advance successfully in the ongoing international negotiations on this issue.
5. With respect to the juridical and policy instruments, we believe it is imperative to establish and implement, in the shortest possible time, Systems of Access to Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the Rights of Farmers and Local Communities, so as to ensure that our countries and communities share fairly and equitably in the benefits arising out of their use. The adoption of these systems necessitates their appropriate harmonization with the other related juridical instruments in force, including intellectual property rights at the national, regional and international levels, so as not to frustrate the rights safeguarded by these new systems.
6. The inestimable contribution of the farmers and indigenous populations of the region in improving and conserving Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture makes it essential that they share

in the benefits arising out of access to these resources, thus rewarding their efforts and ensuring their continuity.

7. It is essential to strengthen national capacities so as to develop traditional knowledge, science, technology, and the innovative capacity of the productive sector within the countries of the region, thus increasing the potential for effective utilization of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Of vital importance for this purpose are access to and mastery of the necessary generic technologies, technology transfer under preferential terms; and strengthened strategic research and information systems. In this context, the training of human resources specialized in the implementation of these activities is a top priority.

8. The National Systems must be the basis of the Regional and International Systems for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. It is particularly important to strengthen the National Institutions devoted to the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, to promote on-farm conservation systems by farmers and local communities, to strengthen plant breeding and to develop instruments, including market instruments, that will allow all these mechanisms to be coordinated within one system.

9. New and additional financial resources are urgently needed to guarantee the implementation of the activities included under the Global Plan of Action and other ongoing international initiatives. The necessary commitments must be secured to ensure that these activities have effective financing and implementation.

10. We reiterate our will to continue working together through the mechanisms deemed suitable in order to facilitate the achievement of these proposals.

11. Lastly, we hope to see these principles reflected in the various documents submitted for the consideration and approval of the upcoming Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources to be held in June 1996 in Leipzig, Germany.

APPENDIX G

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**DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL  
CONFERENCE ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES**

Leipzig, Germany

17-23 June 1996

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the Officers.
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work.
4. The Fourth International Technical Conference in the context of the FAO Global System for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources, and the preparatory process.
5. Progress report on the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.
6. Review of the *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources*.
7. Review of the *Global Plan of Action*.
8. Adoption of the *Global Plan of Action* and recommendations for its implementation.
9. Review of possibilities for the implementation and financing of the *Global Plan of Action*.
10. Adoption of the *Leipzig Declaration*.
11. Adoption of the Report of the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources.
12. Closing of the Conference.

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