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Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

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### Item 15 of the Draft Provisional Agenda

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

### FIRST SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Madrid, Spain, 12-16 June 2006

## REPORT ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

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*Appendix I:* Cost estimates for extra-budgetary resources required in support of the preparatory process for the second *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, including the roll-out of the new monitoring approach for monitoring implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*

*Appendix II:* Draft operational plan for the Facilitating Mechanism for the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission), acting as the Interim Committee for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, (International Treaty) requested the Secretariat at its second meeting in November 2004, to prepare an analysis of FAO's overall work on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the work of other relevant institutions, including on the implementation of the International Treaty, the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the *Global Plan of Action*), the Facilitating Mechanism for the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) System, and on the Global Crop Diversity Trust, in order to identify the financial and human resources involved, so as to enable the Governing Body to take decisions on human and financial needs.<sup>1</sup>

2. Following the above-mentioned request, the document provides information on the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, its monitoring, and the Facilitating Mechanism and the financial resources allocated by FAO Regular Programme of Work and Budget, including staff salaries, as well as extrabudgetary financial resources that may be required, and the contribution of the Facilitating Mechanism to the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty.

## II. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE *GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION*

3. At its Tenth Regular Session in November 2004, the Commission considered the document, Country Progress Report on the State of Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture<sup>2</sup>. The Country Progress Report showed that there was general progress concerning *in situ* conservation activities, with special emphasis on surveying and inventorying plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, funded almost solely by national budgets, and on activities which addressed on-farm management and improvement, with strong international support. The Report also stated that special attention is required concerning the low level of activity reported to assist farmers in disaster situations to restore agricultural systems in disaster-prone areas such as in Africa. It also highlighted that additional consideration should be given to the slow progress in establishing information systems in these countries, including documenting local germplasm so that it can be restored after disasters. It was noted from the Country Progress Report that crop wild relatives are receiving stronger attention in the European, African and Asia and the Pacific regions, with increasing support from donors.

4. The Country Progress Report also stated that the positive trend observed in *ex situ* conservation activities in previous monitoring exercises has been maintained, and even strengthened in some areas. However, the Report stressed that countries, with the exception of those in the European and Asia and Pacific regions, were concerned about their ability to regenerate their collections, an activity that currently receives almost no external support. The level of characterization of *ex situ* collections was also still rather low overall, though the region of Asia and the Pacific, as well as the European region had undertaken significant efforts. The potential role of networks to assist countries in activities that cannot be fully supported at the national level, particularly on capacity building, should be strongly considered.

5. The Report concluded that long-term funding of *ex situ* conservation was at risk, with countries reporting budget cuts and staff reductions.

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<sup>1</sup> CGRFA/MIC-2/04/REP para 25.

<sup>2</sup> CGRFA-10/04/Inf.6

6. Finally, the Report observed that the level of *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation activities was not being matched by a commensurate strengthening of national capacities related to the utilization of PGRFA.

7. The Commission expressed appreciation for the Report's overview, noting that assistance in capacity-building remained a vital issue, and requested relevant institutions to respond favourably to requests for such assistance. It also noted the increasing regional differences in the degree of implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, and considered that initiatives to share tasks at the regional and international levels should be promoted.<sup>3</sup>

8. The next progress report on the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* should be considered by the Commission at its next Regular Session in 2007.

9. Since the adoption of the *Global Plan of Action*, FAO has devoted substantial amounts of its Regular Budget to promoting, facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the Plan, including providing support to the Commission and its Inter-governmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group on PGRFA). A total regular budget of US\$2,621,000 was allocated to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA activities during the 2006-2007 biennium, including for staff salaries. US\$2,875,000 were also allocated in support of the International Treaty, including the *Global Plan of Action* and other supporting components, and an additional budget of US\$1,124,000 was allocated for its Secretariat<sup>4</sup>. FAO reports relevant activities to each session of the Commission, including support of direct implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*.

### III. MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE *GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION*

10. The Commission, at its Tenth Regular Session in 2004, recognized the importance of an efficient system for monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, in terms of planning, priority-setting and achieving the mobilization of financial resources to support national plant genetic resource programmes<sup>5</sup>. At that session, it reviewed progress in developing its new approach for monitoring implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, which promotes a country-driven, participatory capacity-building process, culminating in the establishment of national information-sharing mechanisms.

11. The Commission acknowledged the successful pilot phase of the new approach and its evaluation. It adopted the revised indicators and reporting format for monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* that were presented in the document, *Indicators and Reporting Format for Monitoring the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.<sup>6</sup> It supported the application of the new monitoring approach to all countries, in view of the integration of these monitoring activities with the preparation of the second *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. The Commission invited the Future Harvest Centres to collaborate with FAO in both processes.

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<sup>3</sup> CGRFA-10/04-REP para 25.

<sup>4</sup> PC 95/3, *Revised Programme of Work and Budget 2006-07*

<sup>5</sup> CGRFA-10/04/REP, para 26.

<sup>6</sup> CGRFA-10/04/Inf.5.

12. In 2005-2006, FAO in collaboration with the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) provided technical assistance to 28 countries<sup>7</sup> in conducting an institutional capacity building process with the involvement in each country of a wide range of stakeholders dealing with conservation of plant genetic resources (*ex situ* and *in situ*) and their utilization. As a result of these processes, national mechanisms for information-sharing and planning of resources in plant genetic resources have been established in sixteen countries, including the development of strategic assessments on the state of PGRFA at the country level. These participatory mechanisms either have become part of, and strengthened existing policy advisory or decision-making bodies, such as National Genetic Resources Committees, or have raised awareness for their establishment.

13. The financial resources required in the application of the new monitoring approach and the preparation of country reports to all countries are, as reported earlier<sup>8</sup>, estimated at US\$ 25,000 per country for 80-120 countries, that is, between US\$ 2,000,000 and US\$ 3,000,000 from now until 2007. Activities and costs to roll-out the new monitoring approach have been integrated with the costs associated with preparation of the second Report of the State of the World's PGRFA, and are reproduced in Appendix I for information. Extra-budgetary contributions for a total of US \$ 597,000 have been received from several sources, including from the Government of Canada, Italy, Japan, Norway, and the Netherlands.

#### **Promoting sustainable use of PGRFA**

14. Promoting sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources through application of plant breeding techniques, including associated biotechnologies and participatory approaches, is a key objective of the Global Plan of Action and one of the major trusts of the International Treaty on PGRFA. At its Tenth Regular Session, the Commission recognized the need to strengthen plant breeding capacity in developing countries<sup>9</sup>. FAO, in collaboration with the CGIAR centres and other stakeholders, and using regular and extra-budgetary funds has been assessing national plant breeding capacity to identify gaps and opportunities for investment and to develop strategies to strengthen such capacity. The assessment has already been carried out in more than 40 countries. Two major needs identified by the FAO surveys are lack of adequate numbers of breeders trained in applied plant breeding and lack of long term funding of plant breeding programmes. In response, FAO and partners are launching the Global Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building (GIPB), which is proposed as a public and private sector partnership, working through a "lightweight coordination mechanism" to enhance the capacity of developing countries to improve their agricultural productivity through sustainable use of PGRFA.

#### **IV. FACILITATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION**

15. During its Tenth Regular Session, the Commission discussed the establishment within FAO of the Facilitating Mechanism for Implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, noting the great need to build countries' capacities to implement the *Plan*.<sup>10</sup>

16. The Commission supported the objective, operational principles, activities, and operational structure of the Facilitating Mechanism<sup>11</sup>. It agreed that the Facilitating Mechanism should provide

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<sup>7</sup> Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

<sup>8</sup> Annex I of document CGRFA-10/04/5.2.

<sup>9</sup> CGRFA-10/04/REP, para. 33.

<sup>10</sup> CGRFA-10/04/REP, para 27.

information on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, facilitate and catalyze new partnerships, facilitate awareness at all levels of the roles and values of plant genetic resources and assist stakeholders in the development and packaging of project proposals. The partners of the Facilitating Mechanism must avoid potential conflict of interest in developing and packaging such project proposals.

17. The Commission agreed that the objective of the Facilitating Mechanism should be to facilitate the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, and to encourage the mobilization of technical and financial resources to do so. The Facilitating Mechanism should, *inter alia*, utilize the results of monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* to assist in identifying gaps and priorities in its implementation.

18. A draft operational plan was proposed for the Facilitating Mechanism, which identified regular budget allocations and extra-budgetary resources needed to carry out proposed activities. This plan, prepared jointly by FAO and IPGRI, is provided in Appendix II to this document. FAO and IPGRI have made provision in the medium term, for up to US\$ 800,000 to support these activities.

19. It has not yet proven possible for FAO to raise all the extra-budgetary resources required, but with the limited resources available, FAO has started, in collaboration with its partners, the implementation of selected activities. A meeting of the partners of the Facilitating Mechanism took place in June 2005 to identify concrete activities to be carried out, supported by their regular budget funding. Extra-budgetary resources received from Germany have allowed work to start on the development of an information portal on PGRFA, including the development of a database on funding sources, as agreed by the Commission. Additional extra-budgetary resources are required to begin implementation of the other activities endorsed by the Commission.

#### **V. POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE FACILITATING MECHANISM TO THE FUNDING STRATEGY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY**

20. At its Ninth Regular Session, the Commission considered that renewed efforts to promote implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, through the development of the Facilitating Mechanism, should build upon the momentum created by the adoption of the Treaty. The Facilitating Mechanism should give high priority to assisting in the development of the funding strategy to be adopted by the Governing Body of the International Treaty. The experience gained would facilitate implementation of the Treaty on its entry into force and, as appropriate, could contribute to the development of its funding strategy. However, the Commission noted that there should be no ambiguity in the roles of the Commission and the Governing Body of the International Treaty, or duplication of activities under the Facilitating Mechanism and the funding strategy of the International Treaty.<sup>12</sup>

21. During its Tenth Regular Session, the Commission requested the Working Group on PGRFA to “identify and advise on activities undertaken by FAO, including through its Commission, to support the work of the Governing Body of the International Treaty, in relation to the Supporting Components of the Treaty, in order to move the process forward in a cost effective and rational manner.” The Working Group on PGRFA, which met 26 to 28 October 2005, noted that the success of the Facilitating Mechanism for the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* will depend on its capacity to carry out its activities in a way that complements and does not overlap with the implementation of the International Treaty. The Working Group recommended that:

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<sup>11</sup> CGRFA-10/04/REP, Appendix F.

<sup>12</sup> CGRFA-9/02/REP, para.29.

- a) The Facilitating Mechanism should report periodically on its activities to the Commission and its Working Group on PGRFA. The reports should include information about priorities for action that have been identified by stakeholders, utilizing *inter alia* the results of monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, as well as project proposals developed with the assistance and coordination of the Facilitating Mechanism upon request from stakeholders;
- b) On this basis, the Commission could propose priorities to the Governing Body of the International Treaty for consideration as appropriate under the Treaty's Funding Strategy; and
- c) The Facilitating Mechanism should take into account priorities established and activities carried out by the Governing Body under the Funding Strategy.<sup>13</sup>

22. The operational principles of the Facilitating Mechanism state that overall guidance of the Facilitating Mechanism will be provided by the Commission. Although membership of the Commission and the Treaty differ, recommendations made by the Commission on the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, in particular in relation to gaps, constraints and identification of common priorities, may be of great relevance for the decision-making process in the implementation of the Treaty's Funding Strategy and the establishment of targets for funding.

23. Once fully operative, specific activities carried out by the Facilitating Mechanism under this general operative framework may be of value to the Governing Body in the future development of policy and criteria for priority activities, plans and programmes under the Funding Strategy, in the light of, in particular, the *Global Plan of Action*. They may also assist in the development of a coherent framework for capacity-building, technology transfer and exchange of information.

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<sup>13</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/REPORT, para. 13.



*Appendix I*

**COST ESTIMATES FOR EXTRA-BUDGETARY RESOURCES REQUIRED IN  
SUPPORT OF THE PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR THE SECOND  
REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT GENETIC  
RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, INCLUDING THE  
ROLL-OUT OF THE NEW MONITORING APPROACH FOR  
MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION<sup>14</sup>**

Item	Cost (US\$)	Calculation	Estimated resources provided (US\$)	Purpose and notes
Staff costs	135 000	16 months General Service plus 6 months P2/P3 level officer	0	To assist secretariat in the coordination of the process
Establishment of National Information Sharing Mechanisms to monitor GPA Implementation	2 500 000	c. 100 countries @ 25 000/country	960 000	Support for three stakeholders workshops per country, and for building in-country capacity to apply the new monitoring approach to all developing countries
Regional meetings	320 000	One meeting for each of 4 regions (Africa, CWANA, AP, LAC) @ 80 000 / region / meeting.	80 000	To review draft Guidelines for Country Reports. Two regional meetings were held, and the Guidelines are now finalized. Further allocation of funds to this activity is no longer relevant
Development of national plant breeding strategies	200 000	c. 50 countries @ 4 000/country	54 000	To support consultations with individual countries to assess national capacities and needs, and help develop national plant breeding strategies and programmes
	40 000	Four workshops @ 10 000 each	25 000	To refine methodologies and share results among several countries
Development of Country Reports	250 000	c. 50 countries @ 5 000/country	100 000	To provide partial support to convene national workshops or consultations with stakeholders.

<sup>14</sup> Adapted from document CGRFA-10/04/5 Add.1, *Appendix I*.

Item	Cost (US\$)	Calculation	Estimated resources provided (US\$)	Purpose and notes
Technical consultancies	270 000	9 subregions @ 30 000/subregion; each 2 – 3 months honorarium, plus travel	66 000	To provide advice and assistance to countries on the preparation of Country Reports using the adopted guidelines, including identification and involvement of stakeholders, and to assist in the organization and follow up of regional meetings.
Regional meetings	320 000	One meeting for each of 4 regions (Africa, CWANA, AP, LAC) @ 80 000/region / meeting. For participation of developing countries and organizing expenses	0	To discuss regional issues arising from Country Reports, related to the State of the World's PGRFA; and to identify common needs for implementation and/or refinement of the Global Plan of Action.
Development of thematic background studies	400 000	Ten thematic studies @ 40 000/study	0	To support the development of thematic studies and other necessary background material and expert meetings for the Report. To be developed according to the priorities identified by the Commission
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 435 000</b>		<b>1 285 000</b>	

*Appendix II*<sup>15</sup>**DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR THE FACILITATING MECHANISM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION**

FAO and IPGRI have made provision in the medium term, to be able to support these activities, up to US\$ 800,000. This is in addition to the extrabudgetary needs indicated in the table below.

<b>OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES</b> (as agreed by the Commission)	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>TIMING</b> (all activities to start once agreed by the CGRFA)	<b>FACILITATORS</b> (at present the Facilitating Mechanism partners are FAO, IPGRI and GFAR)	<b>INDICATIVE EXTRA-BUDGETARY NEEDS</b> (US\$ '000) 2005-2006
1. Provide information on: i) sources and availability of financial, technical, material and information resources ii) linkages among stakeholders iii) donor and recipient priorities, roles and conditions iv) best practices and standards and procedures v) success stories vi) networking vii) plans, commitments, targets and indicators viii) other information about resources to implement the Plan (Activity A)	Develop a portal as an access point for such information. Provide information by other means when it cannot be obtained from the portal.	2006	FM partners	200
2. Facilitate and catalyze new partnerships to implement the Global Plan of Action (Activity B)	Promote meetings and dialogue to create opportunities among a wide range of interests involving donors and recipients; international organizations; civil society organizations including farmers' organizations and foundations; plant breeders and the seed sector; and other private sector interests.	One meeting per year	FM partners	100

<sup>15</sup> Adapted from CGRFA-10/04/5, *Appendix I*, according to the decisions of the Commission shown in CGRFA-10/4/REP, *Appendix F*.

<b>OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES</b> (as agreed by the Commission)	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>TIMING</b> (all activities to start once agreed by the CGRFA)	<b>FACILITATORS</b> (at present the Facilitating Mechanism partners are FAO, IPGRI and GFAR)	<b>INDICATIVE EXTRA-BUDGETARY NEEDS</b> (US\$ '000) 2005-2006
3. Facilitate awareness at all levels, of the roles and values of PGR in order to mainstream PGR. (Activity C)	Develop a strategy to enhance awareness of PGR, including identification of target audiences, opportunities and activities.	2006	FM partners	175
4. Assist stakeholders, upon request, to develop, in a manner that avoids conflict of interest, project proposals and package proposals to enhance their quality, including to facilitate action planning at the wider level (by crops, thematic areas, and/or regions). (Activity D)	Develop and package project proposals to: i) assess the status and implementation of the Global Plan of Action ii) identify needs and gaps iii) assist in setting milestones and targets iv) engage a wide range of stakeholders	In response to requests from countries and stakeholders.	FM partners	200
Total, operational activities A-D				675