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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda

Fifteenth Regular Session

Rome, 19 – 23 January 2015

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIME-TABLE

1. Adoption of the agenda and time-table

The present document contains the *Provisional annotated agenda and time-table*, for the consideration of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission). In view of the heavy agenda, provision has been made for two additional sessions that could be held in the evening hours.

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK

The structure of this section of the provisional agenda follows the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW), as revised through the Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2014-2023, adopted by the Commission at its last session.¹ In working through agenda items 2 to 8, the Commission may wish to take into consideration recommendations by its intergovernmental technical working groups (Working Groups)² as well as *Submissions by international instruments and organizations on the prioritized themes of the session (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.8)*.

2. Cross-sectorial matters

2.1 *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*

The Commission, in adopting its Multi-Year Programme of Work in 2007, agreed on the preparation of a report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. At its last session, the Commission requested FAO to prepare the report for consideration by the Commission at its Sixteenth Regular Session.³ The Commission also endorsed the proposed structure and content of the report.⁴

¹ CGRFA-14/13/Report, *Appendix I*.

² CGRFA-15/15/12; CGRFA-15/15/14; CGRFA-15/15/9.

³ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 14.

⁴ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 16.

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;
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Other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org*



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The document *Status of preparation of The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-15/15/3)* provides information on progress made in the preparation of the report since the last Session of the Commission, describes the next steps to be taken and the human and financial resources required to finalize the report for consideration by the Commission at its Sixteenth Regular Session.

The Commission may wish to take note of the information provided and make recommendations regarding the finalization of *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*.

2.2 Targets and indicators for biodiversity for food and agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, welcomed progress made in the development and use of international targets and indicators for biodiversity for food and agriculture. It requested FAO to continue developing, testing and applying indicators for biodiversity for food and agriculture at the genetic level, and, whenever relevant, at species and ecosystem levels, giving due attention to headline and higher-order indicators. The Commission further requested FAO to strengthen work on targets and indicators in relation to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the monitoring of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.⁵

More specifically, the Commission:

- Requested FAO to elaborate higher-order composite indices (HCIs) for each of the three targets adopted for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture⁶, finalize the Reporting Format for monitoring the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture⁷ and upgrade the existing computer application for monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA in order to enable the use of the indicators;⁸
- Agreed to the use of specific process and resources indicators and related targets to monitor the implementation and impact of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and requested FAO to include a set of resource indicators in future reports in the status and trends of animal genetic resources;⁹ and
- Requested FAO to continue working on the list of indicators to monitor the state of the world's forest genetic resources and the status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources.¹⁰

Relevant developments in other fora and FAO's continued efforts to further advance work on indicators, including headline indicators, are briefly summarized in the document *Targets and indicators for biodiversity for food and agriculture (CGRFA-15/15/4)*.

- The document *Targets and indicators for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA-15/15/4.1)* proposes possible HCIs for each of the three targets adopted for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and reports on the finalization of the *Reporting Format for Monitoring the Implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.9)*.¹¹ In response to a request by the Commission's Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources (WG PGR) for Food and Agriculture, more detailed information on the calculation methodology for the proposed HCIs is provided in the document *Higher-order composite*

⁵ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 20.

⁶ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 27.

⁷ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 24.

⁸ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 26.

⁹ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 28.

¹⁰ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 33.

¹¹ For information on the upgrading of the computer application for monitoring the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, see document *Preparation of The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-15/15/16)*, paragraphs 9-11.

indices for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture targets (Background Study Paper No. 67).

- Countries, regions and international organizations based their reports on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources on agreed process and resource indicators.¹² The process indicators are set out in detail in the document *Synthesis progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources – 2014 (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.19)*. In addition, countries reported on the status of their national breed populations via the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS).¹³ The resource indicators are presented in the document, *Status and trends of animal genetic resources - 2014 (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.18)*.
- The document *Target and indicators for forest genetic resources (CGRFA-15/15/4.2)* provides a revised draft list of indicators designed to specifically monitor the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources. In addition, the document identifies a process to further improve and validate the indicators.

The Commission may wish to review, as appropriate, proposed new targets and indicators and recommend the application of existing targets and indicators, taking into account the recommendations of its Working Groups.¹⁴

2.3 Access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, considered the need for and modalities of access and benefit-sharing arrangements for genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Commission put in place a process the final output of which it requested to be *Draft Elements to Facilitate Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-Sharing for Different Subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Draft Elements)*, taking into account relevant international instruments on access and benefit-sharing.¹⁵

The Commission established a Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS Expert Team) consisting of up to two representatives from each of the seven FAO regions. The ABS Expert Team was mandated to:

- Coordinate, with the assistance of the Secretariat, by electronic means as appropriate, to help prepare the meetings of the Commission's Working Groups, and based on input from their regions to prepare written materials and propose guidance for the Working Groups;¹⁶
- Participate in designated portions of the Working Group meetings dedicated to addressing ABS issues, to help inform and shape the Working Group discussions and output;¹⁷ and
- Work after each Working Group meeting with the Secretariat to compile the Working Group outputs into the *Draft Elements*, and communicate the *Draft Elements* to their regions for information.¹⁸

The ABS Expert Team held two sessions and participated in designated portions of the meetings of the Working Groups.¹⁹ The reports of the meetings of the ABS Expert team are contained in documents **CGRFA-15/15/Inf.11** and **CGRFA-15/15/Inf.12**. After each Working Group meeting the ABS

¹² See document, *Implementation and updating of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, (CGRFA-15/15/11)*.

¹³ <http://dad.fao.org/>.

¹⁴ **CGRFA-15/15/12**, paragraphs 30-36; **CGRFA-15/15/14**, paragraphs 40-45.

¹⁵ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 40 (xv).

¹⁶ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 40 (xiii).

¹⁷ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 40 (xiii).

¹⁸ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 40 (xv).

¹⁹ **CGRFA-15/15/12**, paragraphs 16-19; **CGRFA-15/15/14**, paragraphs 20-23; **CGRFA-15/15/9**, paragraphs 19-25.

Expert Team compiled the outputs of these meetings into *Draft Elements*. The *Draft Elements*, as reviewed by the ABS Expert Team, are contained in the document *Draft Elements to Facilitate Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-Sharing for Different Subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-15/15/5)*, for consideration by the Commission.

As requested by the Commission, the ABS Expert Team took into consideration inputs compiled at the Commission's request²⁰, namely:

- *Explanatory notes to the distinctive features of genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.10)*;
- *Submissions of stakeholders on voluntary codes of conduct, guidelines and best practices, and/or standards in relation to access and benefit-sharing for all subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.13)*;
- *Submission by the European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources (ERFP) on voluntary codes of conduct, guidelines and best practices and/or standards in relation to access and benefit-sharing for Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.13 Add.1)*; and
- *Government submissions on conditions under which specific genetic resources for food and agriculture are exchanged and utilized (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.14)*.²¹

The Commission is invited to review and agree on the Draft Elements and to agree on a draft resolution, for adoption by the FAO Conference.

2.4 Biodiversity and nutrition

The Commission, at its last session, highlighted the importance of biodiversity for food and nutrition and noted that its potential role for nutrition is underexplored and undervalued. It requested FAO to further develop its work on biodiversity and nutrition²² and, upon availability of funds, to develop draft guidelines for mainstreaming biodiversity into policies, programmes and national and regional plans of action on nutrition.²³

The document *Biodiversity and nutrition (CGRFA-15/15/6)* presents *Draft Guidelines for Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Policies, Programmes and National and Regional Plans of Action on Nutrition*. The Commission may wish to review the Draft Guidelines with a view to endorsing them, taking into account the inputs provided by the Working Groups.²⁴

2.5 Application and integration of biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Commission, at its Thirteenth Regular Session in 2011, decided to review the work of its Working Groups on the application and integration of biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture, at this session.²⁵ The document *Application and integration of biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA-15/15/7)* summarizes FAO's technical activities specifically related to biotechnology and reviews relevant work of FAO and the Commission's Working Groups. The Commission is invited to consider the application and integration of

²⁰ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraphs 40 (viii); (ix); (x).

²¹ See also submissions of governments on Article 19 and 20 of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity: UNEP/CBD/ICNP/3/10; UNEP/CBD/ICNP/3/INF/2; and: www.cbd.int/icnp3/submissions.

²² CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 43.

²³ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 46.

²⁴ **CGRFA-15/15/12**, paragraphs 24-26; **CGRFA-15/15/14**, paragraphs 32-37; **CGRFA-15/15/9**, paragraphs 29-33.

²⁵ CGRFA-13/11/Report, *Appendix F*.

biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture, taking into account inputs received from its Working Groups.²⁶

2.6 Climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, reaffirmed the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture for coping with climate change and the need for raising awareness of their potential roles. The Commission adopted the Programme of Work on Climate Change and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture²⁷ and requested its Secretary, subject to the availability of funding, to initiate the implementation.²⁸ The Programme of Work foresees the development of guidelines for the integration of genetic diversity considerations into climate change adaptation planning.

The document *Genetic resources for food and agriculture and climate change (CGRFA-15/15/8)* provides information on the implementation of the Programme of Work, with a focus on the guidelines foreseen in the Programme of Work. The *Draft guidelines to support the integration of genetic diversity into national climate change adaptation planning*, as revised in the light of comments received from the Commission's Working Groups,²⁹ are contained in document **CGRFA-15/15/Inf.15**.

As part of its Programme of Work the Commission also proposed that a survey be undertaken on *Lessons learned about ways and means to conserve and use genetic diversity to build resilience to climate change in food and agriculture systems*. The results of the survey conducted in August/September 2013 are contained in document **CGRFA-15/15/Inf.16**.

Information on hotspots of biodiversity for food and agriculture is contained in the forthcoming **Background Study Paper No. 68** on *Hotspots of biodiversity for food and agriculture threatened by climate change*.

3. Animal genetic resources

3.1 Report of the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, requested its Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (WG AnGR) to meet prior to its next regular session.³⁰ The Eighth Session of the Working Group was held from 26 to 28 November 2014 and its report (**CGRFA-15/15/9**) is before the Commission, for its consideration.

3.2 The Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Between 2001 and 2006, FAO prepared, under the guidance of the Commission, *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* which was launched in 2007. The FAO Conference, in November 2007, welcomed the report as the first comprehensive worldwide assessment of the state of animal genetic resources.³¹

The Commission, at its last session, requested FAO to present *The Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Second Report) to this session of the Commission, for its consideration.³²

²⁶ **CGRFA-15/15/12**, paragraphs 27-29; **CGRFA-15/15/14**, paragraphs 38-39; **CGRFA-15/15/9**, paragraphs 34-36.

²⁷ CGRFA-14/13/Report *Appendix D*.

²⁸ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 36.

²⁹ **CGRFA-15/15/9**, paragraphs 26-28, **CGRFA-15/15/12**, paragraphs 20-23; **CGRFA-15/15/14**, paragraphs 27-31.

³⁰ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 123.

³¹ C 2007/REP, paragraph 147.

³² CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 72.

The document *Preparation of The Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-15/15/10)* provides information on progress made in the preparation of the draft Second Report and presents preliminary findings. The draft Second Report is contained in the three-part document *Draft Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.17.1; CGRFA-15/15/Inf.17.2; CGRFA-15/15/Inf.17.3)*.

3.3 Implementation and updating of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources

In 2007, the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture adopted the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources which was later also endorsed by the FAO Conference. The Global Plan of Action provides a framework for action in four different priority areas: characterization and monitoring; sustainable use and development; conservation; and policies, institutions and capacity-building.

The document *Implementation and updating of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (CGRFA-15/15/11)* reports on FAO's activities since the Fourteenth Regular Session of the Commission to implement the Global Plan of Action. It provides information on the financing of, and the process for reviewing and possibly updating, the Global Plan of Action, as reviewed by the WG AnGR at its Eighth Session in November 2014.

The document *Synthesis progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources – 2014 (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.19)* presents a detailed analysis of progress made in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. Additional information, based on national breed data provided via DAD-IS, is contained in the document *Status and trends of animal genetic resources – 2014 (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.18)*.

At its Fourteenth Regular Session, the Commission requested FAO to continue developing the technical guidelines on animal identification, traceability and health and performance recording.³³ The guidelines are available to the Commission in the information document *Draft guidelines for the development of integrated multipurpose animal recording systems (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.20)*.

In response to the Commission's request,³⁴ FAO also prepared the document *Ecosystem services provided by livestock species and breeds, with special consideration to the contributions of small-scale livestock keepers and pastoralists (Background Study Paper No. 66)*.

The Commission is invited to consider the status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action. The Commission may also wish to agree on a process for the review and possible updating of the Global Plan of Action in the light of the findings of *The Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

4. Forest genetic resources

4.1 Report of the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources

The Commission requested its Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (WG FGR) to meet prior to the Commission's Fourteenth Regular Session.³⁵ The third session of the WG FGR was held from 7 to 9 July 2014 and its report (**CGRFA-15/15/12**) is before the Commission, for its consideration.

4.2 Follow-up to the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources

The Commission, at its last session, agreed on the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources which was adopted by the FAO

³³ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 60.

³⁴ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 61.

³⁵ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 123.

Conference at its 38th Session in June 2013.³⁶ The Commission requested FAO to develop an “implementation strategy” for the Global Plan of Action.³⁷

The document *Draft Strategy for the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (CGRFA-15/15/13)* presents the rationale as well as an overview of the key elements of the Draft Strategy. The Commission may wish to review the Draft Strategy, as revised in the light of comments received from the WG FGR, with a view to finalize and adopt it.

5. Plant genetic resources

5.1 Report of the Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, requested its WG PGR to meet prior to this session of the Commission.³⁸ The Seventh Session of the WG PGR was held from 9 to 11 July 2014 and its report (CGRFA-15/15/14) is before the Commission, for its consideration.

5.2 Review of the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

At its last session, the Commission welcomed the progress made in implementing the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. It requested FAO to continue supporting countries in strengthening their capacities for the implementation of the Second GPA and encouraged follow-up activities relating to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The document *Implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-15/15/15)* provides information on follow-up action taken by FAO in response to the Commission’s requests. It provides a summary of the work initiated or completed since the last session of the Commission and requests the Commission’s guidance on further work in support of the implementation of the Second GPA, taking into account relevant recommendations of the WG PGR.

The Commission, at its last session, requested FAO to prepare draft guidelines for national plant genetic resources strategies.³⁹ In response to this request, FAO held a series of expert and stakeholder consultations and prepared, on the basis of the outcome of these consultations *Draft guidelines for developing a national strategy for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture: translating the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture into national action (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.21)*.

The Commission, at its last session, requested FAO to prepare a concept note detailing the governance, structure, functions and financial implications of the establishment of either a global network for *in situ* conservation and on-farm management, or two networks separately addressing these areas.⁴⁰ The concept note developed upon consultation of experts, relevant stakeholders and the WG PGR, is contained in the document *Global networking on in situ conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.22)*.

The Commission also stressed the importance of establishing genetic reserves for *in situ* conservation of priority crop wild relatives and requested FAO to consider providing technical support. FAO recently prepared two draft technical guidelines which are made available at this session, for consideration by the Commission, in the documents *National level conservation and use of landraces*

³⁶ C 2013/REP, paragraph 77.

³⁷ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 53.

³⁸ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 123.

³⁹ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 99.

⁴⁰ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 96.

(CGRFA-15/15/Inf.23) and *National level conservation of crop wild relatives* (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.24).

The Commission, at its last Session, also requested its WG PGR to review a *Draft Guide for National Seed Policy Formulation*, for consideration by the Commission at its Fifteenth Regular Session. The Working Group, at its Seventh Session, reviewed the Draft Guide and agreed that Commission members and observers could further submit written comments to the Secretariat and recommended that the Secretariat would introduce the comments to the extent possible or propose them for discussion, and compile them in an annex to the Draft Guide for its finalization and endorsement by the Commission at its Fifteenth Regular Session.⁴¹ The *Revised Draft Guide for National Seed Policy Formulation* is contained in document, **CGRFA-15/15/Inf.25**.

5.3 Preparation of The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, endorsed the proposed timeline for the preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and requested FAO to provide a detailed outline of the Third Report, including suggested chapters and thematic areas, as well as a revised estimated budget indicating Regular Programme contributions.⁴²

The document *Preparation of The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (CGRFA-15/15/16) provides a timeline for the preparation of the report, presents a detailed outline, including suggested chapters and thematic areas, as well as an estimated budget integrating the monitoring of the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action and the preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

6. Aquatic genetic resources

In adopting its Multi-Year Programme of Work in 2007, the Commission decided that a report on *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* should be prepared.

At its last session, the Commission decided that the scope of the report would be farmed aquatic species and their wild relatives and also invited countries to provide a species list of nationally important aquatic genetic resources of capture fisheries within national jurisdiction.⁴³ The Commission requested FAO to adjust the draft Guidelines for the Preparation of Country Reports for the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and to reduce the number of thematic studies by prioritizing them in line with the agreed scope and focusing on the core issue of genetic diversity.⁴⁴

The document *Status of preparation of The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (CGRFA-15/15/17) provides an update on the status of preparation of the report. The adjusted questionnaire for the preparation of country reports for *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* is given in document, **CGRFA-15/15/Inf.27**.

The Commission, at its last session, also considered the possibility of establishing an Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources to guide and support the preparation of the Report. However, it did not reach consensus on the establishment of a working group during its last session and invited COFI, should it establish an Advisory Working Group on Genetic Resources and Technologies, to consider inviting the Advisory Working Group to contribute to the preparation of *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. The Commission requested to be informed about the contributions of the Advisory Working Group to the preparation of the report.

⁴¹ CGRFA-15/15/14, paragraph 13.

⁴² CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 101.

⁴³ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 76.

⁴⁴ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 79.

The document *Establishment of an Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-15/15/18)* provides information on the mandate of the Advisory Group as approved by FAO's Committee on Fisheries. Given the nature and status of the Advisory Group and the need to guide and support the preparation and review of *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, the Commission may wish to consider the establishment of an Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

7. Micro-organisms and invertebrates

The Commission, at its last session, stressed the importance of microbial and invertebrate diversity for sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition, particularly in the light of global environmental and health challenges.⁴⁵ It requested FAO to address, where relevant, the role of micro-organisms and invertebrates in, *inter alia*, the delivery of ecosystem services, human nutrition and health, sustainable agriculture, pollination and soil biodiversity in *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. It also requested FAO to address the status of, and trends in, the characterization, conservation and use of soil micro-organisms, biological control agents and plant pathogens in major food crops.⁴⁶

The document *Review of work on micro-organisms and invertebrates (CGRFA-15/15/19)* reports on how microbial and invertebrate diversity is being considered in the preparation of *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. Progress in the implementation of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators is reported in the document *Progress on the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollination (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.28)*.

8. Implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work

The document *Implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (CGRFA-15/15/20.1)* provides information on human and financial resources available for the Commission's MYPOW and provides the context of the Commission's and FAO's work on genetic resources for food and agriculture within FAO's Programme of Work and Budget.

The Commission, at its last session, adopted the Strategic Plan 2014-2023 for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as the strategic framework for its work. It requested that an updated draft annex be presented to its Bureau for its consideration. The Bureau, at its meeting in September 2013, welcomed the updated annex which is contained in the document *Implementation plan of the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work (2014 – 2023), Annex to the Strategic Plan 2014-2023 (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.29)*, for information.

The Commission may wish to consider the establishment of National Focal Points to the Commission to facilitate its future work. Possible tasks of the National Focal Points are identified in the document *National Focal Points for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-15/15/20.2)*.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

9. Cooperation with international instruments and organizations

Strengthening cooperation and partnerships on biodiversity for food and agriculture is a strategic goal of the Commission. The document *Cooperation with international instruments and organizations (CGRFA-15/15/21)* summarizes the Commission's cooperation and inputs received from international instruments and organizations with regard to the implementation of the MYPOW.

⁴⁵ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 89.

⁴⁶ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 90.

Additional relevant information is provided in the documents: *Submissions by international organizations on the prioritised themes of the session* (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.8); *Report from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity* (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.30); *Report from the Global Crop Diversity Trust* (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.31); *Report from the CGIAR Consortium of the International Agricultural Research Centers* (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.32) and *Report from the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (CGRFA-15/15/Inf.26).

The Commission Secretariat concluded in 2013 cooperation agreements with the Centre de Coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement, Cirad, and the Global Forum on Agricultural Research, GFAR, which are contained in the documents CGRFA-15/15/Inf.33 and CGRFA-15/15/Inf.34.

THE COMMISSION'S MODE OF OPERATION

10. Status of the Commission

The Commission, at its last session, requested the Secretariat to report at this session on new developments in FAO with regard to the status of observers. The document *Recent developments with regard to observers attending meetings of FAO* (CGRFA-15/15/22) provides an overview of the ongoing review process of the legal framework governing the participation of civil society and private sector representatives in FAO meetings.

11. Composition of Intergovernmental Technical Working Groups

The Commission, at its last session, considered the composition of its Working Groups, including their legal basis, the composition of subsidiary bodies of other Statutory Bodies of FAO with geographically balanced membership, and options to modify the composition of the Commission's Sectoral Working Groups. The Commission decided to maintain the composition of its Sectoral Working Groups, to discuss the matter further at this session, and requested the Secretary to provide information on possible criteria for the composition of the Sectoral Working Groups. The Commission also agreed to consider the issue of the attendance of observers and alternates at the sessions of the Sectoral Working Groups.⁴⁷

In response to the Commission's request, the document, *The composition of the Commission's intergovernmental technical sectoral working groups and the participation of observers/alternates* (CGRFA-15/15/23), considers the composition of the Commission's Working Groups and the procedure to change the composition. The document also analyses the legal framework governing the Working Groups and discusses possible criteria for the composition of the Working Groups in the light of criteria applied by other bodies of FAO, including the Conference, Council, FAO's Technical Committees, and the Committees of the Council, with a particular focus on those bodies the composition of which is based on the principle of balanced geographical representation. In addition, the document provides information on the rules currently applying to the attendance of alternates and observers to the sessions of the Working Groups, and discusses different options to address the replacement of Members of the Working Groups.

OTHER MATTERS

12. Other business

13. Date and place of the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session

14. Election of Chair and Vice-Chairs

15. Adoption of the Report

⁴⁷ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 122.

PROVISIONAL TIME-TABLE

Time	Agenda Item	Title	Working Documents
Monday, 19 January 2015 morning			
10:00 – 13:00		Opening of the Session	
	1	Adoption of the agenda and time-table	CGRFA-15/15/1 CGRFA-15/15/2
MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK			
	2	Cross-sectorial matters	
		2.1 <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA-15/15/3
		2.2 Targets and indicators for biodiversity for food and agriculture	CGRFA-15/15/4 CGRFA-15/15/4.1 CGRFA-15/15/4.2
Monday, 19 January 2015 afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00		2.3 Access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA-15/15/5
		2.4 Biodiversity and nutrition	CGRFA-15/15/6
		2.5 Application and integration of biotechnologies for conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA-15/15/7
		2.6 Climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA-15/15/8
Tuesday, 20 January 2015 morning			
10:00 – 13:00	3	Animal genetic resources	
		3.1 Report of the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA-15/15/9
		3.2 <i>The Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA-15/15/10
	3.3 Implementation and updating of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources	CGRFA-15/15/11	
Tuesday, 20 January 2015 afternoon			

Time	Agenda Item	Title	Working Documents
15:00 – 18:00	4	Forest genetic resources	
		4.1 Report of the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources	CGRFA-15/15/12
		4.2 Follow-up to the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources	CGRFA-15/15/13
Wednesday, 21 January 2015 morning			
10:00 – 13:00	5	Plant genetic resources	
		5.1 Report of the Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA-15/15/14
		5.2 Review of implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA-15/15/15
		5.3 Preparation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA-15/15/16
Wednesday, 21 January 2015 afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00	6	Aquatic genetic resources	CGRFA-15/15/17 CGRFA-15/15/18
	7	Micro-organisms and invertebrates	CGRFA-15/15/19
Thursday, 22 January 2015 morning			
10:00 – 13:00	8	Implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work	CGRFA-15/15/20.1 CGRFA-15/15/20.2
COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS			
	9	Cooperation with international instruments and organizations	CGRFA-15/15/21

Time	Agenda Item	Title	Working Documents
Thursday, 22 January 2015 afternoon			
THE COMMISSION'S MODE OF OPERATION			
15:00 – 18:00	10	Status of the Commission	CGRFA-15/15/22
	11	Composition of Intergovernmental Technical Working Groups	CGRFA-15/15/23
OTHER MATTERS			
	12	Other business	
	13	Date and place of the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session	
	14	Election of Chair and Vice-Chairs	
Friday, 23 January 2015 afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00	15	Adoption of the Report	