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Food and Agriculture  
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Продовольственная и  
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Organización de las  
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Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

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# CONFERENCE

## Fortieth Session

Rome, 3-8 July 2017

### Observance of World Pulses Day (Draft Resolution)

#### Executive Summary

The Government of Burkina Faso has proposed to declare the annual observance of World Pulses Day on 10 February. The main objective of this initiative is to raise awareness of the contribution of pulses to food security, nutrition and climate change adaptation and mitigation, while preserving and building upon the success of the UN declared 2016 International Year of Pulses. Pulses are important food crops and offer significant nutritional and health advantages due to their high protein and essential amino acid content, being at the same time a source of complex carbohydrates and several vitamins and minerals. They also have nitrogen-fixing properties that help improve soil fertility, as well as low carbon and water footprints, contributing to positive environmental impacts.

*Extract from CL 156/REP:*

28. The Council examined the proposal to declare the annual observance of World Pulses Day on 10 February and endorsed the draft resolution “World Pulses Day” [...] to be submitted to the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference for adoption.

#### Suggested action by the Conference

The Conference may wish to approve the draft resolution in Annex and to request the Director-General to transmit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider, at its next session, declaring 10 February as World Pulses Day.

*Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:*

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**Resolution .. /2017**  
**Observance of World Pulses Day**

**The Conference,**

**Noting** that pulse crops such as lentils, beans, peas and chickpeas are a critical source of plant-based proteins and amino acids for people around the globe, as well as a source of plant-based protein for animals,

**Recalling** that the World Food Programme and other food aid initiatives use pulses as a critical part of the general food basket;

**Desiring** to focus attention on the role that pulses play as part of sustainable food production aimed towards food security and nutrition;

**Recognizing** that pulses are leguminous plants that have nitrogen-fixing properties which can contribute to increasing soil fertility and have a positive impact on the environment;

**Recognizing** that health organizations around the world recommend eating pulses as part of a healthy diet to address obesity, as well as preventing and managing chronic diseases such as diabetes, coronary conditions and cancer;

**Recognizing** the potential of pulses to further the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and their particular relevance to Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 12, 13 and 15;

**Believing** that such a celebration would create an annual opportunity to encourage pulse research, further global production of pulses and beneficial consumption of pulse-based proteins, better utilize crop rotations, and address the challenges of trade in pulses;

**Affirming** the need to heighten public awareness of the nutritional benefits of pulses, and further sustainable agriculture;

**Requests** the Director-General to transmit this Resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider, at its next session, declaring 10 February as World Pulses Day.

(Adopted on ... 2017)