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Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

### Item 3.1 of the Provisional Agenda

## COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

#### Fifth Session

Rome, 28-30 January 2009

## REPORT ON FAO ACTIVITIES IN THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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## REPORT ON FAO ACTIVITIES IN THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

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### I. INTRODUCTION

1. In September 2007, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), held in Interlaken, Switzerland, the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Technical Conference). The International Technical Conference, hosted by the Government of Switzerland, welcomed *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (State of the World)* and adopted *The Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (Global Plan of Action)* and the *Interlaken Declaration on Animal Genetic Resources (Interlaken Declaration)*. Subsequently, the FAO Conference, at its Thirty-fourth Session, welcomed the *State of the World* and endorsed the *Global Plan of Action*.<sup>1</sup>
2. The *Global Plan of Action* contains four Strategic Priority Areas: 1) Characterization, inventory and monitoring of trends and associated risks; 2) Sustainable use and development; 3) Conservation; and 4) Policies, institutions and capacity building. The *Interlaken Declaration* commits countries and organizations to implement the *Global Plan of Action*.
3. The *Global Plan of Action* calls for the provision of technical assistance, especially to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to help them implement the provisions of the *Global Plan of Action*. The *Interlaken Declaration* recognizes that national governments have the main responsibility for implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* and acknowledges the essential role of FAO in supporting country-driven efforts.
4. The document provides an overview of FAO's activities since the Eleventh Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission) and the International Technical Conference. More detailed information is given in the document *Detailed report on FAO activities in the follow-up to the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.<sup>2</sup>

### II. REPORTING ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

#### Conferences and Meetings

5. Following the recommendation of the International Technical Conference,<sup>3</sup> representatives of the Government of Switzerland and FAO reported on the outcomes of the International Technical Conference at several intergovernmental conferences and meetings and other events.
6. The *Global Plan of Action* was endorsed by the One Hundred and Thirty-third Session of the FAO Council<sup>4</sup> and the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference<sup>5</sup>, through Resolution

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<sup>1</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-5/09/Inf. 9

<sup>2</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-5/09/Inf. 2.

<sup>3</sup> ITC-AnGR/07/REP paragraph 26.

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.fao.org/ag/AGAinfo/programmes/en/genetics/documents/Interlaken/Final\\_Report\\_en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/ag/AGAinfo/programmes/en/genetics/documents/Interlaken/Final_Report_en.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> CL 133/INF/8, <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/012/k1014e.pdf>, CL 133/INF/9,

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/012/k1073e.pdf>, CL 133/REP,

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/012/k0667e.pdf>, paragraphs 54-58.

<sup>5</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-5/09/Inf. 9

12/2007. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its Thirteenth session,<sup>6</sup> and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its Ninth, meeting welcomed the *Global Plan of Action* as the internationally agreed framework that contains the strategic priorities for the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, and provisions for implementation and financing.<sup>7</sup>

7. The *Global Plan of Action* was also welcomed by the Second Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture<sup>8</sup> and the Seventh Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.<sup>9</sup> The Government of Switzerland and FAO presented reports on the outcomes of the International Technical Conference to the Sixteenth Session of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development,<sup>10</sup> and to the 2008 meeting of the Alpine Convention.<sup>11</sup>

8. The *Global Plan of Action* has been supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The *Global Plan of Action* was also presented at several scientific and technical conferences and bodies, as noted in the document *Detailed report on FAO activities in the follow-up to the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.<sup>12</sup>

### Publications

9. FAO produced for the International Technical Conference the full *State of the World* report as well as an “*in brief*” version and flyers in six languages. The International Technical Conference requested FAO to widely distribute the full *State of the World* report and the “*in brief*” version using electronic and print media formats.<sup>13</sup> It highlighted the importance of translation of the *State of the World* into all official FAO languages, and urged donors to make resources available for this.

10. The Government of China undertook translation of the *State of the World* into Chinese. A French version of the *State of the World* has been prepared with funding provided from the United States of America, Norway and FAO.<sup>14</sup> An Arabic version of the *State of the World* is being prepared by FAO and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). Funding has yet to be secured for the preparation of Spanish and Russian versions.

11. *The Global Plan of Action* and the *Interlaken Declaration* have been published in hard copy and made available electronically in the FAO document repository<sup>15</sup> in the six official FAO languages.

12. National Coordinators for Animal Genetic Resources have undertaken preparation of national language versions of the *State of the World* “in brief”, the *Global Plan of Action* and the *Interlaken Declaration*, as well as of other information products under local language agreements with FAO. By November 2008, several products from the International Technical Conference had

<sup>6</sup> UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/2, <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-09/official/cop-09-03-en.doc>

<sup>7</sup> UNEP/CBD/COP9/L.34, <http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop9/?m=COP-09&id=11644&lg=0>

<sup>8</sup> IT/GB-2/07/Report, <ftp://ftp.fao.org/ag/agnp/planttreaty/gb2/gb2repe.pdf>, paragraph 16-18.

<sup>9</sup> Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Report on the Seventh Session, (21 April-2 May 2008), Economic and Social Council, paragraph 85,

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/338/82/PDF/N0833882.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd16/statements/swiss\\_6may\\_agriculture.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd16/statements/swiss_6may_agriculture.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.alpenkonvention.org/page7\\_fr](http://www.alpenkonvention.org/page7_fr)

<sup>12</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-5/09/Inf. 2

<sup>13</sup> ITC-AnGR/07/REP paragraph 21.

[http://www.fao.org/ag/AGInfo/programmes/en/genetics/documents/Interlaken/Final\\_Report\\_en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/ag/AGInfo/programmes/en/genetics/documents/Interlaken/Final_Report_en.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.fao.org/docrep/011/a1250f/a1250f00.htm>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a1404e/a1404e00.htm>

also been published in German, Japanese and Polish; Danish and Norwegian information products are in preparation.<sup>16, 17</sup>

13. FAO has prepared and widely distributed a number of communication products to raise awareness of animal genetic resources issues and the outcomes of the International Technical Conference. These products have been made available to a number of international conferences and meetings. In addition, National Coordinators for Animal Genetic Resources from various countries as well as subregional organizations have requested materials for national workshops and seminars. More detailed information is provided in the document *Detailed report on FAO activities in the follow-up to the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.<sup>18</sup>

### **III. FAO SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION**

14. The *Global Plan of Action* notes the essential role of FAO in supporting country-driven efforts to implement the *Global Plan of Action*, in particular, in continuing to facilitate global and regional collaboration and networks, supporting the convening of intergovernmental meetings, maintaining and further developing the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS), developing communications products, providing technical guidelines and assistance, coordinating training programmes, promoting the transfer of technologies relating to sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources and in coordinating future preparation of global status and trends reports on animal genetic resources.<sup>19</sup>

15. A summary of FAO's activities and partnerships and projects directed at supporting implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* is presented below. More detailed information is given in the document *Detailed report on FAO activities in the follow-up to the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources*.

#### **Strategic Priority Area 1: Characterization, inventory and monitoring of trends and associated risks**

16. FAO, with support from the Government of Germany, conducted a project to promote the prevention and control of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Cambodia, Egypt and Uganda. In the project's poultry diversity component, production systems are described and local poultry populations are being characterized phenotypically and genetically.

17. The FAO/International Atomic Energy Agency Joint Division for Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture (AGE), with the participation of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), continues to support a coordinated research project entitled, "*Gene-based Technologies in Livestock Breeding: Characterization of Small Ruminant Genetic Resources in Asia*." The project started in 2004 and involves phenotypic and genetic characterization of nearly 100 sheep and goat breeds in eight Asian and Near East countries. The AGE is also supporting National Technical Cooperation projects involving characterization of animal genetic resources in five countries.

18. To further facilitate global analysis of breed diversity through molecular genetic characterization, FAO continued to promote the international use of standard microsatellite marker sets for different animal species. This is done in partnership with the International Society of Animal Genetics (ISAG), FAO's Advisory Group on Animal Genetic Diversity and with

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<sup>16</sup> <http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a1260e/a1260e00.htm>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a1250e/a1250e00.htm>

<sup>18</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-5/09/Inf. 2.

<sup>19</sup> *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*, paragraphs 22-23, Strategic Priority 14, paragraphs 58-61. <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/a1404e/a1404e00.pdf>

support from the project “A Global View of Livestock Biodiversity and Conservation (GLOBALDIV)” funded by the European Commission.

19. During 2007 and 2008, the AGE developed a Web-accessible database for genetic characterization of small ruminants.<sup>20</sup> The database provides information about quantitative trait loci of sheep and goats and on molecular genetic characterization studies that have used the ISAG/FAO microsatellite panel. The ISAG/FAO Advisory Group recommended the establishment of a bank of DNA from each major livestock species for standardization of characterization studies. The suggested approach is to have a central organization distribute the DNA and create and operate a database to keep an inventory of the laboratories accessing the DNA. The Laboratory Unit of the AGE has tentatively agreed to host the DNA bank and database.

20. The technical guidelines developed for molecular characterization are being revised in collaboration with the ISAG/FAO Advisory Group, which will include new technologies for genotyping. To complement the guidelines developed for molecular characterization, FAO has initiated the preparation of guidelines for phenotypic characterization. A preliminary draft, in Spanish, has been developed with support from the Government of Spain.

21. The *Global Plan of Action* contains a recommendation that the Commission regularly receive from countries status and trends reports on national animal genetic resources and factors influencing change.<sup>21</sup> In line with the recommendation of the International Technical Conference that FAO continue global updating of the status and trends of animal genetic resources, and support developing countries in this process,<sup>22</sup> FAO continued maintaining and further developing DAD-IS with extra-budgetary funding from the Governments of Norway, Sweden, Spain and Japan. DAD-IS serves as a framework for countries to monitor and report on the status and trends of national animal genetic resources. The Eleventh Regular Session of the Commission had requested FAO to provide permanent support to maintain and further develop DAD-IS<sup>23</sup>, and a project post was established with support from the Government of Sweden.

22. FAO prepared the document Format and content of future status and trends reports on animal genetic resources<sup>24</sup> for consideration by the Working Group. Also available to the Working Group is the document Status and trends report on animal genetic resources – 2008.<sup>25</sup>

23. The *Global Plan of Action* calls for the establishment or strengthening of early-warning systems. In response, FAO has prepared the document, *Development of country-based early warning and response systems for animal genetic resources*.<sup>26</sup> Guidelines to assist with national breed inventorying and monitoring are currently being prepared.

24. FAO continued to provide training in the use of DAD-IS involving National Coordinators, with regional training workshops being undertaken in Chile, Ethiopia, Lithuania and Brazil.

25. FAO is a partner in the Farm Animal Biodiversity Information System Network (FABIS-net) which is being funded by the European Commission and which supports the establishment of national information systems. At present, 13 countries have established national information systems within FABIS-net. FAO is responsible for a work package that aims at basing FABIS-net on georeferences and implementing a module that allows detailed description of the production environments of each breed of livestock. An expert meeting was held in May 2008 to further develop and specify a system to describe production environments.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> [www.sheepgenome.com](http://www.sheepgenome.com)

<sup>21</sup> *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*, paragraph 53.

<sup>22</sup> ITC-AnGR/07/REP, paragraph 20.

<sup>23</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraph 24.

<sup>24</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-5/09/3.2.

<sup>25</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-5/09/Inf. 7.

<sup>26</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-5/09/4.

<sup>27</sup> Report of the FAO/WAAP Workshop on Production Environment Descriptors for Animal Genetic Resources, <http://dad.fao.org/cgi-bin/getblob.cgi?sid=-1.593>

26. FAO is contributing to the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership Project, a cross-sectoral project that includes a component on animal genetic resources. The project will contribute to the development of guidelines for surveying and monitoring and tools and methodology for developing and testing the headline indicator “trends in genetic diversity of domesticated animals, cultivated plants, and fish species of major socioeconomic importance.” Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have requested the project to provide input on animal genetic resources for the next issue of their publication *Global Biodiversity Outlook*.<sup>28</sup>

### **Strategic Priority Area 2: Sustainable use and development**

27. In response to the demand for technical assistance to ensure the better use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources, FAO further invested in providing technical assistance to countries, directly and through cooperation with other organizations. Technical Cooperation Projects (TCP) in Mongolia, Myanmar and Nepal were aimed at genetic improvement of dairy cattle through the establishment of pedigree and performance recording schemes, rehabilitation, support to the artificial insemination service, and improved animal feeding.

28. FAO was involved with an initiative over two years (2005–2007) to develop local goat production in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, and also assisted the country to incorporate changes into environmental impact assessment regulations to address agricultural biodiversity. Support for these initiatives was provided through the FAO/Netherlands Partnership Programme.

29. The AGE supported Regional Technical Cooperation projects on cattle breeding in Asia and Africa. Participants from 22 African and 13 Asian countries received technical support for the management of animal genetic resources, with an emphasis on sustainable utilization of local breeds. In addition, the AGE is supporting National Technical Cooperation projects involving sustainable use of animal genetic resources in 12 countries.

30. FAO, with funding from the Government of Norway, continued the development of decision-support guidelines for establishing livestock breeding strategies in low- and medium-input production systems. Six expert workshops held in France, India, Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Peru and Italy reviewed and evaluated the draft guidelines. The guidelines, revised in the basis of these reviews and evaluations, are contained in document *Draft guidelines for establishing animal breeding strategies in low- and medium-input production systems*.<sup>29</sup>

31. FAO, through board membership in the International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR), is responsible for the establishment of the ICAR Task Force for Animal Identification and Performance Recording in Developing Countries. A background paper is under preparation which will be used for updating the guidelines for implementing animal identification and recording in developing countries.

32. FAO participated in various courses addressed at researchers from developing countries. The courses were organized by partner organizations, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), the European Master in Animal Breeding and Genetics (EM-ABG), the GLOBALDIV project and training courses on Capacity Building for Sustainable Use of Animal Genetic Resources in Developing Countries organized by ILRI and the Swedish Agricultural University held in Ethiopia. The AGE held two training courses related to sustainable use of animal genetic resources in Africa with participants from 19 countries.

33. FAO widely distributed two publications prepared by two Interdepartmental Working Groups. The Biotechnology Working Group published a book entitled *Marker-assisted selection -*

<sup>28</sup> COP9 decision IX/10, <http://www.cbd.int/decisions/?m=COP-09&id=11653&lg=0>

<sup>29</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-5/09/Inf. 5.

*current status and future perspectives in crops, livestock, forestry and fish.*<sup>30</sup> The Working Group on Biological Diversity for Food and Agriculture produced a publication on *People and animals – traditional livestock keepers: guardians of domestic animal diversity.*<sup>31</sup> A technical document on the management of reproduction in female African cattle was published by the AGE.<sup>32</sup>

### **Strategic Priority Area 3: Conservation**

34. FAO is providing technical advice to a conservation project entitled “*In-situ* conservation of endemic ruminant livestock in West Africa”, which is jointly financed by the Global Environment Facility and the African Development Bank in four West African countries.

35. FAO has initiated the development of a new set of guidelines on the conservation of animal genetic resources. DAD-Net was used to survey potential users to determine their technical support needs for cryoconservation and to best determine the overall content of the new guidelines. A workshop to review cryoconservation methods and to further develop the guidelines is planned for 2009.

36. As an activity of the GLOBALDIV project, FAO has supervised the preparation of a review article on the state of the art in methods to prioritize breeds for conservation programmes. FAO delivered a conference paper and contributed to a *GLOBALDIV Newsletter* editorial on the conservation of poultry genetic resources.

### **Strategic Priority Area 4: Policies, institutions and capacity-building**

37. FAO continued to maintain the Domestic Animal Diversity Network (DAD-Net) as an informal forum to facilitate exchanges on animal genetic resources issues at the national, regional and international levels. DAD-Net has proven to be an effective means of sharing experiences, enabling participants to request information and facilitating informal discussions among individuals involved in various aspects of the management of animal genetic resources. A user survey was conducted in July 2008, to assess the performance of DAD-Net and to ensure the system continues to meet user needs.<sup>33</sup> Improvements are being made based on the feedback received.

38. FAO collaborated with the Farm Animal Breeding Technology Platform of the European Commission (FABRE-TP) with regard to priorities for supporting research in the management of animal genetic resources in Europe. The feedback on research priorities will be used by the European Commission to assist in reviewing research proposals.

39. FAO prepared guidelines to assist country preparation of national strategies and action plans for animal genetic resources, to take into account the provisions of the *Global Plan of Action*. The draft guidelines are given in the document *Draft guidelines to assist the preparation of national strategies and action plans for animal genetic resources for food and agriculture.*<sup>34</sup> FAO supported animal genetic resources policy and strategy development in a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) in Albania, and TCP-Facilities in Armenia and Burundi.

40. FAO held regional workshops in Chile and Brazil involving National Coordinators from Latin America and the Caribbean to discuss the establishment of a Regional Focal Point. Brazil (EMBRAPA) has been chosen to provide the Regional Focal Point for Latin America and the Caribbean. FAO also contributed to annual meetings and training workshops convened by the European Regional Focal Point, and organized regional workshops in Africa and Asia.

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a1120e/a1120e00.htm>

<sup>31</sup> <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/a1057e/a1057e.pdf>

<sup>32</sup> <http://www-naweb.iaea.org/nafa/aph/public/aph-tecdoc-1571.pdf>

<sup>33</sup> <http://dad.fao.org/cgi-bin/getblob.cgi?sid=-1,525>

<sup>34</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-4/09/Inf. 6.

41. Representatives of FAO attended as speakers at a number of scientific conferences and meetings addressing animal genetic resources and raising awareness of the importance of their proper management.

42. In response to a request of the FAO Conference, FAO prepared the document *Recognition of the roles of small-scale livestock keepers as custodians of animal genetic resources*,<sup>35</sup> and the document *Contributions of smallholder farmers and pastoralists to the development, use and conservation of animal genetic resources*.<sup>36</sup>

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

43. The *Global Plan of Action* describes the essential role of the FAO in supporting country-driven efforts to implement the *Global Plan of Action*, in particular to facilitate global and regional collaboration and networks and mobilize donor resources for animal genetic resources<sup>37</sup>. The *Global Plan of Action* recommends that FAO ensure adequate regular programme support for the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*<sup>38</sup> and should pursue within relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies, means by which they might contribute to the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*.<sup>39</sup>

44. The International Technical Conference requested the Commission to oversee the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* within the context of the Commission's Multi-year Programme of Work.<sup>40</sup> The Commission, at its next Regular Session, will consider the modalities for the presentation of the progress reports, as well as the criteria and parameters for the evaluation of the progress in the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*.<sup>41</sup> FAO prepared the document *Evaluating progress in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*<sup>42</sup>, for consideration by the Working Group.

45. FAO continued to provide information on funding sources and grants through the DAD-Net list server. Linkages between DAD-IS, as the information portal on animal genetic resources, and the Facilitating Mechanism for the Implementation of the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (FM-PGRFA)<sup>43</sup> are currently being established in order to make the updated donor database of the FM-PGRFA directly accessible to National Coordinators for Animal Genetic Resources.

46. FAO, in 2008, established a Programme Entity 2BA03 "Support to the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources" entirely devoted to the *Global Plan of Action*. The biennial programme and budget planning cycle of the Plan of work and Budget (PWB) and the Commission's 10-year planning within the Multi-year Programme of Work provide a flexible and predictable framework to facilitate the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*.

47. The *Global Plan of Action* further recommends the establishment of an FAO Trust Account.<sup>44</sup> Some donors now provide programme funds to strengthen the synergies that exist between normative and operational activities and between global and country-level programmes to better assist Members in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. Such programme funds are fully integrated with the major programmes as defined in FAO's PWB for the 2008-09

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<sup>35</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-5/09/5.

<sup>36</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-5/09/Inf. 4.

<sup>37</sup> *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*, paragraphs 58-61.

<sup>38</sup> *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*, paragraph 65.

<sup>39</sup> *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*, paragraph 66.

<sup>40</sup> ITC-AnGR/07/REP paragraph 25.

<sup>41</sup> *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*, paragraph 52.

<sup>42</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-5/09/3.1.

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.globalplanofaction.org/>

<sup>44</sup> *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*, paragraph 68.

biennium and approved by the Thirty-fourth session of the FAO Conference, with particular emphasis on multidisciplinary initiatives.

48. Trust funds for genetic resources have been established under the Strategic Partnership for Rural Development between Sweden and FAO, and under the FAO-Norway Partnership Cooperation Agreement. The funds under these programme cooperation agreements have helped FAO to provide catalytic funds for special activities at all levels. FAO is also associated with several European Commission-funded projects that provide stipends for developing-country participants and support the generation and dissemination of knowledge. FAO has been involved in the development of national Technical Cooperation Projects and Technical Cooperation Projects-Facilities that may lead to larger investment projects.

49. FAO is currently preparing a multi-donor trust fund programme to facilitate implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*. FAO developed and widely disseminated questionnaires to determine country needs, and donor priorities and programmes, which are presented in detail in the document *Results of questionnaires on country needs and donor priorities to implement the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*.<sup>45</sup>

50. Consultations within FAO units and with other international organizations have been undertaken to explore funding strategies and funding mechanisms to assist in preparing a funding strategy for the *Global Plan of Action*. Information on existing mechanisms is provided in the document *Towards a funding strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*.<sup>46</sup>

## V. GUIDANCE REQUESTED FROM THE WORKING GROUP

51. The Working Group may wish to recommend to the Commission that it:

- (i) welcome the *Draft guidelines to assist the preparation of national strategies and action plans for animal genetic resources for food and agriculture* and the *Draft guidelines for establishing animal breeding strategies in low- and medium-input production systems*, and request FAO to finalize and publish these guidelines, and strongly encourage countries to make full use of them;
- (ii) request FAO to continue updating and further developing technical guidelines on the management of animal genetic resources, including guidelines addressing phenotypic and molecular genetic characterization and sampling methods, conservation, national breed inventory and monitoring, animal identification and performance recording in medium and low-input systems, to keep up-to-date the DAD-IS user manual, and to prepare a paper on the roles and responsibilities of National and Regional Focal Points for Animal Genetic Resources based upon experience gained from current focal points;
- (iii) request FAO to continue providing regular programme funds and technical advice to support country implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*;
- (iv) request FAO to continue to pursue partnerships and alliance with other international mechanisms and organizations to enhance mobilization of financial resources for implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*; and
- (v) invite donors to enhance financial support for implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*.

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<sup>45</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-5/09/Inf. 3.

<sup>46</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-5/09/6.