

September 2009



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda

### COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

#### Twelfth Regular Session

Rome, 19 -23 October 2009

### PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

#### 1. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs

The outgoing Chair will open the meeting and call for the election of the new Chair and Vice-Chairs. Since its Seventh Regular Session, the Commission elects a Bureau of seven Members, including the chair, one from each of the regions. A *Rapporteur* is then elected.

#### 2. Adoption of the agenda and time-table

The present document contains the *Provisional annotated agenda (CGRFA-12/09/2.1)*, for the consideration of the Commission. The time-table proposed for this session is given in the document, *Provisional timetable (CGRFA-12/09/2.2)*.

### MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK

The structure of this section of the provisional agenda, on the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW), is intended to facilitate the consideration and adoption of the *Draft Strategic Plan 2010-2017 for the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (CGRFA-12/09/4)*.

At its Eleventh Regular Session, the Commission recognised the need to implement its full mandate through a planned and staged approach, and identified and adopted the major outputs and milestones to be addressed in its MYPOW, over its next five sessions.<sup>1</sup> The Commission stressed the need to develop a detailed plan to achieve the agreed outputs and milestones, identifying the processes that would be needed. This should, as the Commission noted, include the identification of the relevant international organizations with which to cooperate. The *Draft Strategic Plan 2010-2017 for the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work* was developed, in line with the Commission's request, by its Secretariat and its Chair, in consultation with the Bureau

<sup>1</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraph 90.

and the FAO Regional Groups, and taking into account inputs from the Commission's Intergovernmental Technical Working Groups and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

This section of the agenda, *Multi-Year Programme of Work*, therefore first addresses all cross-sectoral and sectoral matters with outputs and milestones foreseen for this session (agenda items 3-7) and then considers preparation of work for other sectors and cross-sectoral matters (agenda items 8 and 9). This will allow the Commission to consolidate the different chapters of *Annex I* of the *Draft Strategic Plan*, while working through agenda items 3-9, with a view to adopt the *Strategic Plan* under agenda item 9.

### **3. Cross-sectoral matter: Access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture**

#### **3.1 Consideration of policies and arrangements for access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture**

The Commission, at its Tenth Regular Session, recommended that FAO and the Commission contribute to further work on access and benefit-sharing in order to ensure that it move in a direction supportive of the special needs of the agricultural sector in regard to all components of biological diversity of interest to food and agriculture.<sup>2</sup> At its Eleventh Regular Session, the Commission agreed on the importance of considering access and benefit-sharing in relation to all components of biodiversity for food and agriculture, and decided that work in this field should be an early task within its MYPOW. Accordingly, the Commission decided to consider arrangements and policies for access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture at this session.<sup>3</sup>

The document, *Policies and arrangements for access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA-12/09/3.1)*, considers current use and exchange patterns common for genetic resources for food and agriculture, and reviews the role genetic resources for food and agriculture play in existing policies and arrangements on access and benefit-sharing. The document, *Status of the negotiations of the International Regime on Access and Benefits-Sharing (CGRFA-12/09/3.2 Rev.1)*, provides a brief introduction to the on-going negotiations of the International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The document contains the negotiating text that resulted from the seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, which the Commission may wish to take into account when considering this topic.

Additional relevant information is contained in the *Framework study on food security and access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture (Background Study Paper No. 42)*, in background study papers on the use and exchange of different genetic resources for food and agriculture (**Background Study Papers No. 43-47**), and in **Background Study Paper No. 48**, *The impact of climate change on countries' interdependence on genetic resources for food and agriculture*. As intellectual property rights often play an important role in debates on the use and exchange of genetic resources and on access to them and the sharing of benefits, **Background Study Paper No. 49** gives a brief overview of *Trends in intellectual property rights relating to genetic resources*.

In considering policies and arrangements for access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture, the Commission may wish to make recommendations regarding the special features of genetic resources for food and agriculture, how these may be properly reflected in

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<sup>2</sup> CGRFA-10/04/REP, paragraph 76.

<sup>3</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraph 71.

policies and arrangements for access and benefit-sharing, and regarding its own role in the development of such policies and arrangements.

### **3.2 Future work**

The Commission may wish to consider future work on access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture and to consolidate chapter VI.1 of *Annex I* of the *Draft Strategic Plan (CGRFA-12/09/4)* accordingly.

## **4. Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

### **4.1 The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

The Commission, at its Eleventh Regular Session, reviewed progress in the preparation of the *Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Second Report)*, and noted that it should be a high quality document to identify the most significant gaps and needs, in order to provide a sound basis for updating the rolling *Global Plan of Action*. It agreed that the *Second Report* needed to be updated with the best data and information available, including country reports, information gathering processes and thematic studies, with the largest possible participation of countries, and should focus on changes that have occurred since 1996. It requested its Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources to review and guide the finalization of the draft of the *Second Report*, and recommended that FAO make available the draft *Second Report* at the Twelfth Regular Session of the Commission, to consider its finalization.<sup>4</sup>

The document, *Preparation of the Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-12/09/5)* provides information on the preparation of the draft *Second Report*, including information on background and context of the process of its developments. It also briefly summarizes suggestions and comments provided by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group, which reviewed the draft *Second Report*<sup>5</sup> at its Fourth Session in July 2009. In the light of the comments and suggestions received from the Working Group and its Members, FAO revised the draft *Second Report*.

The *Draft Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – Final version* is given in document, **CGRFA-12/09/Inf.7**. The Commission may wish to endorse the *Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* as the authoritative assessment of this sector, and call upon governments and donors to make available the financial resources necessary to translate and publish the report.

### **4.2 Progress since the Eleventh Regular Session of the Commission, including Report of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

The Commission, at its Eleventh Regular Session, requested follow-up on a number of issues regarding plant genetic resources. The document, *Follow-up to recommendations of the Commission regarding plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA-12/09/6)*, provides a summary of on-going work along with recommendations resulting from the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group and relevant decisions and requests of the Governing Body of the International Treaty. The Commission may wish to give guidance regarding the follow-up activities presented.

In response to the Commission's request that FAO prepare an options paper to strengthen plant breeding in developing countries, identifying new opportunities for effective partnerships between

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<sup>4</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraphs 39-40.

<sup>5</sup> CGRFA-12/09/7, paragraphs 10-15.

the public and the private sector, with the involvement of the CGIAR Future Harvest Centres,<sup>6</sup> information is provided in the document, *Identifying new opportunities and partnerships for plant breeding: Options and challenges* (CGRFA-12/09/Inf.19).

With regard to the strengthening of seed systems which the Commission, at its last session, encouraged FAO to continue, information is provided in the document, *Strengthening Seed Systems: a contribution to the preparation of the second State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (CGRFA-12/09/Inf.20).

The Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group was convened from 15 to 17 July 2009, and its report is before the Commission for consideration (CGRFA-12/09/7).

#### **4.3 Future work on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including policies and arrangements for enhancing utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and on underutilized crops and wild relatives**

The Commission, at its Eleventh Regular Session, requested FAO to submit to this session a proposed plan for the process of updating the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, and agreed that the updated rolling *Global Plan of Action* would be considered at its Thirteenth Regular Session on the basis of the updated *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources*.<sup>7</sup>

A brief overview of the rolling *Global Plan of Action* as adopted by the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources (1996) and a proposed plan for the updating of the *Global Plan of Action*, reviewed by the Secretariat in the light of comments and suggestions received from the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group, are contained in the document, *Updating the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (CGRFA-12/09/8).

The Commission may wish to review the proposed plan for the updating of the *Global Plan of Action*, request FAO to implement the plan as adopted, consider other future work on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including on policies and arrangements for enhancing utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and on underutilized crops and wild relatives,<sup>8</sup> and consolidate chapter I of *Annex I* of the *Draft Strategic Plan* (CGRFA-12/09/4) accordingly.

The Commission is also invited to assign specific tasks to its Intergovernmental Technical Working Group and to elect the new Members of the Working Group. The Working Group is composed of twenty-seven Members from the various regions, elected at each regular session of the Commission and serving until the next regular session. Members are eligible for re-election. An information document contains the Statutes of the Working Group and the list of Members, elected at the Eleventh Regular Session (CGRFA-12/09/Inf.3).

## **5. Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

### **5.1 Follow-up to the Interlaken Conference, including implementation and financing of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*, and report of the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

In September 2007, three months after the last session of the Commission, FAO held the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Technical Conference) in Interlaken, Switzerland. The International Technical

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<sup>6</sup> CGRFA/11/07/Report, paragraph 33.

<sup>7</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report paragraph 41.

<sup>8</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraph 28.

Conference welcomed *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and adopted the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* through the *Interlaken Declaration on Animal Genetic Resources*. The FAO Conference, at its Thirty-fourth Session, endorsed the outcomes of the Interlaken Conference, and requested the Commission to oversee and assess the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* and to report back to the 2009 Conference on progress made.

The Commission, at its Eleventh Regular Session, agreed that follow-up to the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Technical Conference) should be placed within the Commission's MYPOW at its Twelfth Regular Session.<sup>9</sup>

The document, *Follow-up to the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-12/09/9)*, provides an overview of the activities, partnerships and projects undertaken by FAO in support of the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, since the Eleventh Regular Session.

The FAO Conference, at its Thirty-fourth Session, recognized the important role of small-scale livestock keepers, particularly in developing countries, as custodians of most of the world's animal genetic resources for food and agriculture in the use, development and conservation of livestock resources. The Conference requested the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture "to address this issue in its report to the 2009 Session of the FAO Conference." In response to this request, FAO prepared the document, *The role of small-scale livestock keepers in the development, use and conservation of livestock resources (CGRFA-12/09/Inf.12)*, for the information of the Commission.

The Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group was convened from 28 to 30 January 2009, and its report is before the Commission for consideration (**CGRFA-12/09/10**).

In response to requests by the Commission, FAO prepared several technical documents relevant to the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, for review by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group. The Commission may wish to endorse these documents, as revised by FAO in the light of comments received from Members of the Commission:

- *Questionnaire to support the Preparation of Country Progress Reports on the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (CGRFA-12/09/Inf.9)*;
- *Preparation of National Strategies and Action Plans for Animal Genetic Resources - Guidelines (Edited Version) (CGRFA-12/09/Inf.10)*; and
- *Breeding Strategies for Sustainable Management of Animal Genetic Resources - Draft Guidelines (CGRFA-12/09/Inf.11)*.

Information on threats to animal genetic resources is made available in the document, *Threats to animal genetic resources – their relevance, importance and opportunities to decrease their impact (Background Study Paper No. 50)*.

The *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* requests the Commission to develop a **Funding Strategy** for its implementation.<sup>10</sup> A draft Funding Strategy and a brief introduction to its development are contained in the document, *Funding Strategy for the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (CGRFA-12/09/11)*. The Commission may wish to review the draft Funding Strategy with a view to its adoption.

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<sup>9</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraph 17.

<sup>10</sup> Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, paragraph 54.

## 5.2 Future work and election of the Members Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources

The Commission may wish to consider its future work on animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, in particular the schedule for the preparation of *Status and Trends Reports* and *Synthesis Progress Reports*, and consolidate chapter II of *Annex I* of the *Draft Strategic Plan (CGRFA-12/09/4)* accordingly.

The Commission is also invited to assign specific tasks to its Intergovernmental Technical Working Group and to elect the new Members of the Working Group. The Working Group is composed of twenty-seven Members from the various regions, elected at each regular session of the Commission and serving until the next regular session. Members are eligible for re-election. An information document contains the Statutes of the Working Group and the list of Members, elected at the Eleventh Regular Session (**CGRFA-12/09/Inf.4**).

## 6. Forest Genetic Resources

### 6.1 Analysis of key issues in forest genetic resources, for *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*

At its Eleventh Regular Session, the Commission emphasized the importance of forest genetic resources for food security, poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability, and underscored the comparative advantage of FAO and the importance of its work. The Commission approved the inclusion in its MYPOW of preparation of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*, and requested the Secretariat to prepare a scoping paper on forest genetic resources, for review at its Twelfth Regular Session.<sup>11</sup>

The document, *Preparation of the first report on The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources: Key Issues (CGRFA-12/09/12)*, contains: a proposal for the process for preparing *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*; an indicative outline for the report; a proposal for its inputs, such as country reports and thematic studies; an indicative timetable for its preparation; and an estimate of extra-budgetary resource requirements. The Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources, with inputs from regional consultations, contributed to the preparation of the indicative outline. The Report of the Fifteenth Session of the FAO Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources is given in document, **CGRFA-12/09/Inf.13**. Draft guidelines for the preparation of country reports are provided in the document, *Preparation of The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources: Draft guidelines for country reports (CGRFA-12/09/Inf.14)*.

### 6.2 Progress since the Eleventh Regular Session and future work

The document, *Follow-up to recommendations regarding forest genetic resources*, presents the follow-up activities undertaken by FAO to prepare the scoping paper that was requested by the Commission, and to strengthen international cooperation in the preparation of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources (CGRFA-12/09/13)*. The Commission may wish to take note of the progress made and endorse the involvement of the Committee on Forestry, of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant institutions in the preparation of the report.

The Commission, at its Eleventh Regular Session also noted the possibility of establishing an *ad hoc* intergovernmental technical working group on forest genetic resources. The document, *Establishment of an Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (CGRFA-12/09/14 Rev.1)*, briefly introduces the statutory role, functions and *modus operandi* of Intergovernmental Technical Working Groups of the Commission, and explains the procedure through which a new working group may be established. The document also describes the role and mandate of the Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources, provides the report by the Director-General on the programme, financial and administrative implications of establishing an

<sup>11</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraphs 54-56.

Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources and contains Draft Statutes for such a Working Group. The Commission may wish to decide whether or not to establish an Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources. If the working group is established, the Commission may wish to review and adopt the draft Statutes, decide on the first session of the working group and call for adequate financial resources to be made available for the session.

The Commission may wish to consider its future work on forest genetic resources for food and agriculture, in particular the schedule for the preparation of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*, and consolidate chapter IV of *Annex I* of the *Draft Strategic Plan (CGRFA-12/09/4)* accordingly.

## **7. Biodiversity of micro-organisms and invertebrates for food and agriculture**

### **7.1 Review of the scoping study on micro-organisms and invertebrates**

At its Eleventh Regular Session, the Commission requested the Secretariat of the Commission, in cooperation with relevant organizations, to provide to its Twelfth Regular Session, a brief scoping study on the functions and services provided by micro-organisms and invertebrates, describing current policies and programmes of relevant international organizations, including the status of international collections of micro-organisms, and identify policy gaps and options for strengthening international cooperation. The Commission agreed that on the basis of the scoping study, it would consider further analysis and background studies in preparation for its Thirteenth Regular Session. It recognized that invertebrates and micro-organisms have different characteristics, and decided to consider them separately in its Multi-Year Programme of Work.<sup>12</sup>

The document, *Scoping study on micro-organisms relevant to food and agriculture (CGRFA-12/09-15.1)*, considers the importance of micro-organisms in food and agriculture and options for strengthening international cooperation in this field. The documents, *Main functions and services provided by micro-organisms relevant to food and agriculture (CGRFA-12/09/Inf.17)* and *Policies and programmes of relevant international organizations working in the field of micro-organisms for food and agriculture (CGRFA-12/09/Inf.18)*, supplements the information provided in this document.

The document, *Scoping Study on Invertebrates Relevant to Food and Agriculture, (CGRFA-12/09/15.2)* considers the importance of invertebrates given the functions and services which they provide in food and agriculture, and options for strengthening international cooperation in this field. The documents, *Main functions and services provided by invertebrates relevant to food and agriculture (CGRFA-12/09/Inf.15)* and *Policies and programmes of relevant international organizations working in the field of invertebrates for food and agriculture (CGRFA-12/09/Inf.16)*, supplements the information provided in this document. The document, *Use and exchange of biological control agents relevant to food and agriculture, (Background Study Paper No. 47)* provides additional information on the use and exchange flows of invertebrate biological control agents used for controlling invertebrates and weed pests.

### **7.2 Progress since the Eleventh Regular Session and future work**

The Commission may wish to consider its future work on microbial and invertebrate genetic resources and consolidate chapter V of *Annex I* of the *Draft Strategic Plan (CGRFA-12/09/4)* accordingly.

In particular, the Commission may wish to request FAO and invite relevant international organizations to strengthen technical support in relation to the conservation and sustainable use of microbial genetic resources for food and agriculture, and to start preparing targeted assessments on the status and trends in the conservation and use of invertebrates and microbial genetic

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<sup>12</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraphs 65-68.

resources, in particular those of interest to agricultural soil functioning and biological control, for presentation to the Commission at its Fourteenth Regular Session. It may also wish to consider the need for further analysis and background studies on micro-organisms and invertebrates relevant to food and agriculture, in preparation for its Thirteenth Regular Session.

## **8. Further preparations for future sessions**

### **8.1 Aquatic genetic resources**

At its Eleventh Regular Session, the Commission recognized the importance and vulnerability of aquatic genetic resources, their roles in an ecosystem approach for food and agriculture, and their contributions to meeting the challenges presented by climate change. It agreed that the MYPOW should include coverage of aquatic genetic resources for the development of sustainable and responsible fisheries and aquaculture. At its Thirteenth Regular Session, the Commission is scheduled to achieve its first major milestones in regard to aquatic genetic resources: a review of the information base for aquatic genetic resources as well as key issues for *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources*. The Commission agreed that improving the collection and sharing of information on aquatic genetic resources was of high priority.<sup>13</sup>

The document, *Follow-up to recommendations regarding aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA-12/09/16)* provides a first review of progress made since the Eleventh Regular Session of the Commission in the area of aquatic genetic resources, including on the development of technical guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of aquatic genetic resources in relation to the *FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*, as requested by the Commission. It also describes the on-going collaboration with other international organizations in the field of aquatic genetic resources and informs the Commission of selected relevant FAO technical projects on aquatic genetic resources.

The Commission may wish to consider future work on aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture, in particular in preparation for its next regular session, and consolidate chapter III of *Annex I* of the *Draft Strategic Plan (CGRFA-12/09/4)*.

### **8.2 Application and integration of biotechnologies in the conservation and utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture**

The Commission, at its Eleventh Regular Session, acknowledged the potential of modern biotechnologies for agricultural improvement, in particular the opportunities for improving the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture.<sup>14</sup> The Commission decided to include biotechnologies, as cross-sectoral matter, in its MYPOW and to review, at its Thirteenth Regular Session,

“ways and means [of promoting] [considering] [for] the application and integration of biotechnologies in the conservation and utilization of genetic resources [as a basis for future work such as, the development of guidelines, consideration of Codes of Conduct or other work]”.<sup>15</sup>

The Commission also requested a report on FAO's policy and technical assistance on biotechnology for food and agriculture, and matters relevant to codes of conduct, guidelines, or other approaches, at its Twelfth Regular Session.<sup>16</sup> This report is given in the document, **CGRFA-12/09/17**.

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<sup>13</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraphs 57-64.

<sup>14</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraphs 45-49.

<sup>15</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, *Appendix E*.

<sup>16</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraphs 45-49.



The Commission may wish to recommend that FAO continue its work supporting possible contributions of biotechnologies to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Commission may wish to request a report on the outcome of, and follow-up activities to the international technical conference on *Agricultural biotechnologies in developing countries: Options and opportunities in crops, forestry, livestock, fisheries and agro-industry to face the challenges of food insecurity and climate change*.

The Commission may also wish to consolidate chapter VI.2 of *Annex I* of the Draft Strategic Plan (CGRFA-12/09/4) and provide suggestions and comments regarding further work on biotechnologies, in particular in preparation for its next regular session.

## **9. Adoption of the Strategic Plan 2010-2017 for the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work**

In adopting its MYPOW, the Commission stressed the need to develop a detailed plan to achieve the agreed outputs and milestones, identifying the processes that would be needed and the organizations with which to cooperate.<sup>17</sup> The detailed plan is given in the document, *Draft Strategic Plan 2010-2017 for the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (CGRFA-12/09/4)*. As requested by the Commission the document was developed by the Commission's Secretariat and its Chair, in consultation with the FAO Regional Groups and takes into account inputs received from the Intergovernmental Technical Working Groups, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. An overview of organizations which contributed to this process is given in the document, *Submissions by International Organizations (CGRFA-12/09/Inf.6)*.

The Commission may now wish to finalize the *Strategic Plan*, including by consolidating the remaining chapters on cross-sectoral matters (chapters VI.3 to VI.7 of *Annex I* of the Draft Strategic Plan), with a view to adopt it.

## **COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

### **10. Cooperation with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

The Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Commission have repeatedly emphasized the necessity for close cooperation and coordination. At its Eleventh Regular Session, the Commission recommended that in order to avoid duplication of efforts, and subject to the decisions of the Governing Body, a cooperation mechanism between the Commission and the Governing Body be established, including in relation to work on the supporting components of the International Treaty.<sup>18</sup> The Commission supported the development of a joint statement of intention regarding long-term cooperation between the two secretariats and included a review of the Commission's cooperation with the International Treaty into its MYPOW. The Commission also recommended that its Secretariat prepare an analysis of possible areas of collaboration among the International Treaty, the Global Crop Diversity Trust, the CGIAR and the Commission, to be presented to this session.<sup>19</sup>

In response to the Commission's request, the secretariats of the Governing Body and of the Commission jointly prepared a *Draft Joint Statement of Intent for Cooperation between the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-12/09/18)*. The

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<sup>17</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraph 91.

<sup>18</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraph 27.

<sup>19</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraphs 74-78 and *Appendix E*.

Governing Body, at its Second Session, reviewed and adopted the *Draft Joint Statement*, as presented to the Commission.<sup>20</sup> The Commission is invited to review and adopt the *Draft Joint Statement*, which addresses areas and modalities of cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body, and lists fields in which the secretariats of the two bodies shall cooperate.

In response to the Commission's request for an analysis of possible areas of collaboration, the document, *Cooperation with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGRFA-1209/19)*, has been prepared. The Commission may wish to request its Secretariat to prepare a vision paper with the aim of facilitating policy coherence and complementarity of the work of the Commission and of the Governing Body, for consideration by the Commission at its Thirteenth Regular Session.

## **11. Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity**

Since 1993, cooperation between FAO and the CBD has been strong and effective, with FAO being a key partner and contributor to the implementation of the Convention. A number of measures have facilitated cooperation, including the establishment of a Memorandum of Cooperation in 1997, which was revised in 2005. The revised Memorandum recognizes the Commission as the international forum where governments specifically address all components of biological diversity of relevance to food and agriculture, and the Commission continues to have a lead role in the cooperation between FAO and the Conference of the Parties of the CBD.

The document, *Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CGRFA-12/09/20)*, recalls recent requests for strengthened cooperation between the CBD and FAO and its Commission, including in particular through the preparation of a joint work plan between their secretariats. The document also summarizes the development of the joint work plan and presents its main elements as well as key areas in which the Commission may wish to consider strengthening cooperation with the CBD. The joint work plan is presented in the document, *Joint work plan of the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-12/09/Inf.8)*, for information of the Commission.

The Commission may wish to welcome the joint work plan and request its Secretariat to explore with the Executive Secretary of the CBD, the possibility of holding a joint meeting of the Bureau of the Commission and the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, to discuss future cooperation, and to consider the further elaboration of the joint work plan.

## **THE COMMISSION'S MODE OF OPERATION**

### **12. Draft Rules of Procedure and the status of the Commission**

The Commission, at its Eleventh Regular Session, requested its Secretariat, in collaboration with the Bureau, to prepare draft Rules of Procedure for its consideration at the Twelfth Regular Session.<sup>21</sup>

The document, *Draft Rules of Procedure (CGRFA-12/09/21)*, briefly reviews the Commission's current procedural rules and summarises the Commission's recommendations to improve its effectiveness and efficiency. It also presents draft rules of procedure as prepared by the Secretariat in collaboration with the Bureau of the Eleventh Regular Session of the Commission, for consideration by the Commission.

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<sup>20</sup> IT/GB-2/07/Report, Appendix E.

<sup>21</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraph 101.

The Commission is invited to review the draft Rules of Procedure, with a view to adopt them at this session. If the Commission adopts the Rules of Procedure as proposed, it will have to elect a new Bureau at this session. The term of office of the new Bureau will commence with immediate effect upon closure of this session.

In considering its mode of operation, the Commission, at its last session, also requested the Director-General “to initiate preliminary consideration of ways in which the status of the Commission might be raised, within the constitutional framework of FAO, in order to reflect the Commission’s role as the only intergovernmental body responsible specifically for biodiversity for food and agriculture.”<sup>22</sup>

The document, *The Status of the Commission (CGRFA-12/09/22)*, describes the Commission’s current status within the constitutional framework of FAO, considers options to raise or change the status of the Commission and recapitulates the provisions which apply and their implications.

The Commission may wish to consider the advantages and disadvantages of a change of its status within the constitutional framework of FAO at its next regular session. In doing so, the Commission may wish to request the Secretariat to identify potential constraints related to the Commission’s current status as an Article VI body, taking into account the on-going review of statutory bodies and reform of FAO; and to analyse the implications of re-establishing the Commission as an Article XIV or an Article V body.

**13. Other business**

**14. Date and place of the next regular session**

**15. Adoption of the Report**

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<sup>22</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraph 102.