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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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IMPLEMENTATION AND UPDATING OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present document reports on activities undertaken by FAO since the Fourteenth Regular Session of the Commission to support the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (Global Plan of Action)¹. It provides information on the financing of, and the process for reviewing and possibly updating, the Global Plan of Action, as reviewed by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) at its Eighth Session in November 2014.

II. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

2. The Commission, at its Fourteenth Regular Session, 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.² Countries, regions and international organizations reported on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action as part of the reporting process for *The Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Second Report).³ 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*.⁴ In addition, countries reported on the status of their national breed populations via the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS).

3. This section provides a brief summary of the information on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action provided in the country reports and in the reports from regions and international organizations, as well as information on the status of breed populations as recorded in DAD-IS. It also provides some evidence of the policy impact of the Global Plan of Action at country and regional levels.

A. Reports from countries, regions and international organizations on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action

4. In response to FAO's invitation, 129 country reports, 4 regional progress reports and 15 reports from international organizations were received,⁵ reflecting a high level of interest in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

5. The analysis of the impact of the Global Plan of Action at country level reveals significant improvements since 2007.⁶ As national strategies and action plans for animal genetic resources become more commonplace, national management activities have been strengthened.⁷ The degree of implementation of the Global Plan of Action is generally at a high level in Europe and the Caucasus and North America, at a medium level in Asia and at a low level in other regions. For the world as a whole, conservation (Strategic Priority Area 3) has a lower indicator score than the other three strategic priority areas. In all regions, the indicators for the state of collaboration and for the state of funding show a lower level of implementation than those for the strategic priority areas themselves. Financial constraints are also the most frequently reported obstacles to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

6. Several regions of the world do not yet have a regional focal point or regional network for animal genetic resources. Regional-level activities are most advanced in Europe, the region with the longest-established regional focal point, where a range of actions are reported across all the strategic priority areas of the Global Plan of Action. A more limited range of activities is reported by the Regional Focal Point for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Animal Genetic Resources Network – Southwest Pacific. The Asian Animal Genetic Resources Network, launched only in 2013,

¹ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a1404e/a1404e00.htm>.

² CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 28.

³ CGRFA-15/15/Inf.17.

⁴ CGRFA-15/15/Inf.19.

⁵ CGRFA-15/15/10.

⁶ CGRFA-15/15/Inf.17.

⁷ <http://www.fao.org/Ag/AGInfo/programmes/images/AnGR/indicators2014.pdf>.

has established regional priorities for action. Five subregional focal points were established in Africa in 2014.

7. A small number of international organizations continue to make important contributions to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, often via innovative, efficient and participatory programmes and projects. The activities of these organizations span the four strategic priority areas of the Global Plan of Action.

8. Overall, despite the significant and ongoing impact of the Global Plan of Action, the task of improving the management of the world's animal genetic resources remains far from complete. Insufficient financial resources, low levels of collaboration among countries, inadequate policies and legal frameworks, and weak institutional and human capacity for planning in the livestock sector all constrain progress. Decision-makers are encouraged to use the country-level indicators⁸ as a means of identifying strategic priorities that particularly require action.

B. Reporting on breed populations

9. FAO prepared and published the document *Status and trends of animal genetic resources – 2014*.⁹ This report, like previous reports in the series, is based on national breed data provided via DAD-IS by National Coordinators for the Management of Animal Genetic Resources (National Coordinators).

10. Twenty-seven countries updated their national data in 2013 and 53 in 2014. In addition, 17 countries have set up national nodes as partners in the EFABIS network and can update their data via these nodes. As of August 2014, 96 (out of 173) National Coordinators have updated national data since DAD-IS:3 was launched in 2007.

11. In line with the Commission's request at its Fourteenth Session,¹⁰ a cut-off point of ten years has been introduced into the calculation of trends in risk status and diversity: any breed for which no population data have been reported for ten years is now considered to be of unknown risk status.

12. Data quality in DAD-IS has improved. Since 2012, the percentage of avian national breed populations for which any population data are available (including those for which no updates have been provided during the last ten years) has increased from 48 percent to 56 percent, while in the case of mammals there has been an increase from 57 percent to 60 percent.

13. A total of 1 458 breeds (17 percent) are currently classified as being at risk; 18 percent are classified as not at risk; 58 percent have unknown risk status; and 7 percent are reported to be extinct.¹¹

14. The Commission invited countries to provide information on how their breeds recorded in DAD-IS should be assigned to adaptedness categories (“exotic” and “locally adapted”) for the purpose of calculating the resource indicators.¹² To date, National Coordinators have made this information available for 2 356 out of 14 869 national breed populations.

15. The current state of data availability and updating means that it is not possible to draw reliable conclusions regarding global trends in diversity as represented by the proportion of the total population accounted for by locally adapted breeds (Indicator 2¹³). Therefore, National Coordinators are strongly encouraged to (i) provide data on the sizes of their national breed populations on a regular and more frequent basis, including any available historical population data, and (ii) classify all their national breed populations into adaptedness categories.

16. DAD-IS is crucial to the monitoring of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. It also serves as a clearing-house mechanism for animal genetic resources and is recognized by the

⁸ <http://www.fao.org/Ag/AGInfo/programmes/images/AnGR/indicators2014.pdf>.

⁹ CGRFA-15/15/Inf.18.

¹⁰ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 29.

¹¹ CGRFA-15/15/Inf.18.

¹² CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 32.

¹³ CGRFA-14/13/4.2, paragraph 20.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Further information is provided in the document *Maintenance and development of the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System DAD-IS*.¹⁴

C. Policy impact

17. Since its adoption in 2007, the Global Plan of Action has become a key instrument in the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources at global, regional and national levels. In Africa, the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)¹⁵ and the Economic Community of West African States have developed strategies and programmes on evaluation and harmonization of the management of genetic resources, facilitation of the development of regional centres of excellence, genetic value addition to local breeds and capacity-building.

18. The country reports prepared for the Second Report¹⁶ indicate that over 60 percent of reporting countries have established a national advisory committee for animal genetic resources. Over 40 percent of reporting countries indicate that strong coordination exists between their National Focal Points for Animal Genetic Resources and other stakeholders in the sector.

19. Approximately 25 percent of reporting countries indicate that they have completed the preparation of a national strategy and action plan for animal genetic resources. Some of these strategies and action plans have been endorsed by the respective governments; others have been agreed by stakeholders, but not endorsed by the government. Some countries have already updated or are in the process of updating previously developed strategies and action plans. Another 25 percent of countries are in the process of preparing their strategies and action plans. Only about 10 percent of all reporting countries indicate that they have no plans to develop a national strategy and action plan, although about 30 percent have not yet identified the necessary funding. Over 20 percent of reporting countries indicate that their national policies and legal frameworks for animal genetic resources are comprehensive and up to date.

20. The mainstreaming of animal genetic resources management into other broader policy frameworks has also improved. In over 60 percent of reporting countries, animal genetic resources are addressed in the national livestock-sector strategy, plan or policy. An analysis of the 174 National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans available on the CBD web site in April 2014 revealed widespread coverage of animal genetic resources issues.

III. FAO SUPPORT TO THE STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

21. FAO concentrates its support to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on areas of strategic importance. This section provides some examples of FAO's activities in the four strategic priority areas of the Global Plan of Action and some cross-cutting areas. More detailed information is provided in the document *Detailed FAO progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*.¹⁷

A. Strategic Priority Area 1: Characterization, inventory and monitoring of trends and associated risks

22. FAO, in collaboration with partners, continued to build capacity and pursue the standardization of methods for inventory, monitoring and characterization of animal genetic resources. The genetic and phenotypic characterization of livestock breeds received support through various projects. In response to ongoing demand, FAO continues to distribute technical guidelines.

23. The Commission, at its Fourteenth Regular Session, urged countries to collect and insert data into the production environment descriptor module of DAD-IS or EFABIS-net.¹⁸ With the support of

¹⁴ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-8/14/Inf.7.

¹⁵ <http://www.au-ibar.org/component/jdownloads/finish/77/1931>.

¹⁶ CGRFA-15/15/Inf.17.

¹⁷ CGRFA/WG-AnGR/8/14/Inf.3.

¹⁸ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 59.

Sweden, Brazil and Kenya have collected data on the production environments of breeds belonging to various species and Egypt, Madagascar, Mali and United Republic of Tanzania have collected data for goat breeds.

24. In response to requests by the Commission,¹⁹ DAD-IS has been maintained and further developed with co-funding from the Governments of Sweden and Switzerland. FAO incorporated the new breed classification system into DAD-IS, as requested by the Commission at its Fourteenth Regular Session,²⁰ allowing the entry of data related to the classification of breeds according to whether they are locally adapted or exotic.

25. In collaboration with FAO's Chief Statistician, options for restructuring DAD-IS using the FENIX²¹ platform as underlying software infrastructure are being explored. The proposed approach would be to rebuild DAD-IS using the open-source and state-of-the-art technologies offered by the FENIX platform. The advantages of using FENIX are: increased sustainability, increased flexibility and improved data accessibility and exchange. Restructuring DAD-IS would allow the presentation of standard reports requested by the Commission not only from global perspectives, but also from regional or even country perspectives. The use of FENIX would be likely to improve data entry by countries and would increase efficiency in information management through the use of a series of database tools for handling, validating and publishing data. Compatibility with other FENIX-based systems managed by the FAO Statistics Division (e.g. FAOSTAT and CountrySTAT) would enable data analysis across systems. This would likely strengthen links between national institutions and international/regional organizations.

26. The transformation of DAD-IS into a system that enables long-term maintenance and development is being proposed in a three-phase approach which would allow flexible refinement and reorientation as new requirements (e.g. requests of the Commission) or technologies emerge. Costs for each phase are currently estimated at approximately USD 400 000. Each phase would be accompanied by a needs assessment involving regional and sub-regional focal points and networks for the management of animal genetic resources and their relevant working groups. This needs assessment would be undertaken in order to identify national and regional requirements in terms of functionalities and data: for example, the entry of data on species not yet covered in DAD-IS but covered in existing national nodes in Europe (e.g. bees) or the development of data-entry tools supporting national languages. The proposed DAD-IS development work would aim to improve existing structures and enable the global information system to better meet national and regional requirements. Responsibility for maintenance and development of DAD-IS would stay with the Global Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources.

B. Strategic Priority Area 2: Sustainable use and development

27. The Commission requested FAO to continue its activities and to maintain and strengthen its work in providing technical assistance to countries and regions.²² FAO and partners have supported various research and development projects and capacity-building activities related to the sustainable use and development of animal genetic resources, focusing on a range of issues, including livestock development, animal identification and traceability, breed improvement and reproductive technologies.

28. Two topics particularly targeted by FAO's capacity-building and technical assistance work are animal identification and traceability and the interaction between animal genetic resources and climate change. Support related to these topics has included training workshops, expert meetings, projects and research.

29. At its Fourteenth Regular Session, the Commission requested FAO to continue developing the technical guidelines on animal identification, traceability and health and performance recording.²³ The

¹⁹ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 31.

²⁰ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 31.

²¹ <http://fenixapps.fao.org/repository/fenix>

²² CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 58.

²³ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 60.

guidelines are available to the Commission in the information document *Draft guidelines for the development of integrated multipurpose animal recording system*²⁴. The Working Group, at its Eighth Session, welcomed the preparation of the guidelines and recommended that the Commission endorse them.

30. In response to a request from the Commission,²⁵ FAO prepared the document *Ecosystem services provided by livestock species and breeds, with special consideration to the contributions of small-scale livestock keepers and pastoralists*.²⁶ The Working Group welcomed and provided comments on these documents.²⁷

C. Strategic Priority Area 3: Conservation

31. At its Fourteenth Regular Session, the Commission endorsed the guidelines *In vivo conservation of animal genetic resources*.²⁸ With the financial support of Germany, these guidelines have been published and widely distributed,²⁹ in response to substantial demand.

32. FAO has provided countries with technical support on the conservation of animal genetic resources through a number of technical cooperation projects.

D. Strategic Priority Area 4: Policies, institutions and capacity-building

33. FAO and its partners have contributed to the development and/or implementation of nine global projects and 27 regional or national projects involving more than 40 countries. Over the past two years, FAO organized, with partners, 25 capacity-building activities, with an average of ten countries participating.

34. FAO has provided support to various countries in the development of policy related to the management of animal genetic resources, including national strategies and action plans and national legislation.

35. FAO has collaborated with National Coordinators and other regional stakeholders to establish regional and subregional focal points or networks in Asia, the Central Asia subregion, the Near East and Africa. FAO has continued to collaborate with the Regional Focal Points for Europe and for Latin America and the Caribbean. In Africa, FAO collaborated with AU-IBAR in the establishment of subregional focal points in North, East and Southern Africa and the partitioning of the Sub-Regional Focal Point for West and Central Africa into two independent entities. These new African focal points are hosted by regional economic communities or their associated agricultural research bodies.

36. FAO has contributed to a range of cross-cutting initiatives related to biodiversity, biotechnology and nutrition, the interactions between animal genetic resources and climate change and other environmental issues, sustainable diets and voluntary standards in the livestock sector. The volume 54 of the journal *Animal Genetic Resources* was published in 2014.

37. FAO collaborated with the World Intellectual Property Organization in the preparation of a patent landscape report on animal genetic resources.³⁰

38. FAO continues to maintain DAD-Net and its regional subgroups as an informal forum for the discussion of issues relevant to the management of animal genetic resources. As of August 2014, 2 500 persons, from more than 185 countries, were subscribed to the network. Over the last two years, more than 1 800 messages have been exchanged. The transfer of regional African DAD-Net subgroups to AU-IBAR is being initiated.

²⁴ CGRFA-15/15/Inf.20.

²⁵ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 61.

²⁶ Background Study Paper No. 66.

²⁷ CGRFA-15/15/9, paragraphs 17-18.

²⁸ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 60.

²⁹ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3327e.pdf>.

³⁰ WIPO 2014. Patent Landscape Report on Animal Genetic Resources. WIPO Publication No. 947/3E, http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/programs/patent_landscapes/reports/animal_genetic_resources.html.

IV. COLLABORATION

39. The FAO Conference, at its Thirty-seventh Session, requested FAO to continue partnerships with other organizations in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.³¹ FAO has continued its interaction with regional bodies and regional economic communities, scientific organizations, non-governmental organizations and the breeding industry. FAO's scientific contributions, including the organization of joint sessions at scientific conferences, have further increased awareness of the Global Plan of Action in the scientific community and beyond.

40. FAO has collaborated with a wide range of partners on cross-cutting issues such as climate change, value addition and identifying co-benefits of better animal genetic resources management. For example, animal identification, performance recording and traceability link animal breeding to the health sector, while improved grazing management links sustainable use and conservation of animal genetic resources to natural resources management and carbon sequestration.

V. FINANCING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

41. The Commission, at its Twelfth Regular Session, adopted the Funding Strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (Funding Strategy) and requested FAO to implement it.

42. The Funding Strategy covers all known and potential sources of financial resources that support the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. This section provides information on resources under the FAO Trust Account, and gives a brief account of FAO's Regular Programme and extra-budgetary financial resources dedicated to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. It reports on the status of implementation of the first project cycle under the FAO Trust Account.³²

A. Funding Strategy for the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources

43. No additional funds have been received since the Government of Switzerland, in December 2012, made USD106 000 available for a possible second call for proposals.

44. Under the first call for proposals under the Funding Strategy, 13 project proposals, involving 30 countries, were approved for funding by the Commission at its Fourteenth Regular Session. Subsequently, 19 Letters of Agreement (LoA) were signed for the implementation of the 13 projects. The number of LoAs prepared exceeds the number of projects because, for budgetary and operational reasons, some multi-country projects have required the development of one LoA per country.

45. All projects are currently being implemented, but the status of the projects varies. By the end of 2014, six projects are scheduled to provide their first (six-month) reports, one project its second report and five projects their third reports. The completion and final reporting for three projects are expected by the beginning of 2015.

46. The administration and monitoring of each project under the Funding Strategy is complex and time consuming. For example, the development of the LoAs required two to eighteen months of negotiation, depending on the project. This delayed the implementation of several projects. Revision of workplans was necessary and implementation and reporting have been slightly deferred.

47. In 2013-14, the overall administrative and technical management costs for the implementation of the Funding Strategy amounted to USD 420 000, about half of which was provided by FAO's Regular Programme budget. For future calls for proposal under the Funding Strategy the Commission may wish to consider increasing the maximum amount of funds per project to reduce administrative costs per project.

³¹ C 2011/REP, paragraph 70.

³² More detailed information is provided in the document *Detailed FAO progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*, CGRFA/WG-AnGR-8/14/Inf.3.

48. In the PWB 2012–2013,³³ work on animal genetic resources contributed to three Organizational Outputs.³⁴ In the PWB 2014–2015³⁵ under FAO’s new Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan, work on animal genetic resources, including implementation of the Global Plan of Action, contributes to one Outcome of Strategic Objective (SO) 1 – *Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition*, four Outcomes of SO 2 – *Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner*, and in particular the major area of work on ecosystem services and biodiversity; one Outcome of SO 3 – *Reduce rural poverty*; and one Outcome of SO 4 – *Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels*. TCP funds were made available by FAO and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

49. FAO received funds to support the implementation of the Global Plan of Action at global level from France, Germany, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland (total of approximately USD 1.9 million) and for regional and country projects from India, Mauritania, Mongolia, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the World Bank, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the African Development Bank and IAEA through the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture (total of approximately USD 15.3 million). The funds under these programme cooperation agreements helped FAO 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 also prepared a multi-donor trust fund programme to facilitate the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, which has not received any contributions so far.

50. The Funding Strategy lists four different types of relevant resources, including resources that are not under FAO control. FAO has a facilitating role in enhancing countries’ access to information on funding, in that it continues to provide information on funding sources and grants via the DAD-Net discussion network and via the Funding Strategy web site.³⁶

51. The Commission invited countries and international organizations to report to FAO on financial resources used for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.³⁷ The document *Synthesis progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources – 2014*,³⁸ the country reports and the international organization progress reports provide insight into various policies, programmes and activities undertaken at various levels to promote the wise management of animal genetic resources as a means of improving food security and sustainable development. All reports will be made available on the “Implementation of the Global Plan of Action” web site.³⁹ While 30 percent of countries reported an increase in national funding since the adoption of the Global Plan of Action, only 12 countries reported that they have provided funding to other countries, and 25 countries that they have received external funding for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. Information provided by countries indicates that they have made strategic use of national, bilateral and multilateral resources to advance the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. The reports from AU-IBAR and Heifer International indicate that they have provided funding to countries for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. Many other organizations reported that they have supported a wide range of capacity-development activities. Four international organizations (AU-IBAR, IAEA, International Livestock Research Institute, SAVE Foundation) reported that their own budgets for activities supporting animal genetic resources programmes have increased since the adoption of the Global Plan of Action.

³³ C 2011/3.

³⁴ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-7/12/4 and CGRFA/WG-AnGR-7/12/Inf.2 Annex 5.

³⁵ C 2013/3 Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15; CL 148/3 Adjustments to the PWB 2014-15, Annex 5 Rev.1 updated May 2014 in PC 115/2 Annex 1: Results Framework – MTP 2014/17 / PWB 2014-15.

³⁶ http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/genetics/Funding_strategy.html.

³⁷ CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraph 88.

³⁸ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-8/14/Inf.5.

³⁹ http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/genetics/Reporting_system.html.

VI. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE UPDATE OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

52. The Commission, at its Fourteenth Regular Session, requested FAO to prepare the Second Report, for presentation to the Commission, at its Fifteenth rather than, as originally foreseen, Sixteenth Regular Session. The Commission also aligned its Multi-Year Programme of Work with this request and moved the consideration of the possible update of the Global Plan of Action from the Commission's Seventeenth to its Sixteenth Regular Session.⁴⁰

53. The Global Plan of Action, adopted in 2007, is intended as a rolling plan, with an initial time horizon of ten years.⁴¹ It was developed on the basis of strategic priorities for action identified in the course of the preparation of the first report on *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. As a strategic framework, the Global Plan of Action needs to be periodically reviewed, and updated as necessary, to ensure that it continues to serve country needs effectively. The review process is an opportunity to emphasize the need for renewed commitment to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action at national, regional and international levels, in order to contribute to food security, sustainable agricultural development and sustainable livelihoods.

54. Following the publication of the Second Report, Commission Members and stakeholders may wish to review the Global Plan of Action with a view to assessing the need to update it. In doing so, they may wish to use various sources of information, including the material presented in the country reports on progress made in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, as reflected in the *Synthesis progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources – 2014*⁴² and the Second Report.⁴³

55. The Working Group has recommended to the Commission that the review and possible update of the Global Plan of Action be undertaken in two steps.

- As a first step, Commission Members and stakeholders would review the Second Report and other relevant information with a view to identifying strategic priorities or specific actions under the Global Plan of Action that require improvement or additional strategic priorities or actions that need to be inserted.
- As a second step, the Working Group would consider the recommendations, as consolidated by the Secretariat, as well as options for their implementation.

56. The review process could include various elements, such as, for example, subject to the availability of the necessary financial resources, regional and subregional consultations, involving Commission Members and relevant stakeholders, to review the status of animal genetic resources at national, regional or global levels, as relevant, and identify areas of the Global Plan of Action that require updating, as well as any possible gaps in the Global Plan of Action. Written consultations, involving the collection of comments and suggestions, could also be organized.

57. As part of the reporting process for the Second Report, countries were invited to list any aspects of animal genetic resources management that are not addressed in the current Global Plan of Action, but, in their opinion, may need to be addressed in an updated Global Plan of Action (Question 77⁴⁴ of the *Questionnaire for collecting national data to support the preparation of The Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*).⁴⁵ In reviewing the Global Plan of Action, the Commission and the Working Group may wish to take these responses into account.

⁴⁰ CGRFA-14/13/Report, *Appendix I*, Table 1.

⁴¹ Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, Part 1, paragraph 14.

⁴² CGRFA-15/15/Inf.19.

⁴³ CGRFA-15/15/Inf.17.

⁴⁴ Question 77 reads: "In view of the possibility that at some point countries may wish to update the Global Plan of Action, please list any aspects of animal genetic resources management that are not addressed in the current Global Plan of Action but will be important to address in the future (approximately the next ten years). Please also describe why these issues are important and indicate what needs to be done to address them."

⁴⁵ CGRFA-14/13/Inf.19.

58. As a further step, FAO could prepare, in the light of recommendations provided, an options paper, on the basis of which the Working Group, at its next session, could review the Global Plan of Action and recommend changes, if deemed necessary. However, changing the Global Plan of Action may not be the only option the Commission may wish to consider, as any change to the Global Plan of Action will have implications for the monitoring of its implementation, including the indicators adopted by the Commission. Therefore, the options paper could also consider alternatives to amending the Global Plan of Action, such as the adoption of a self-standing declaration.

59. The Commission, at its Sixteenth Regular Session, could review and finalize the updated Global Plan of Action or any other document that might be the outcome of the review process, and submit it, as appropriate, to the FAO Conference for endorsement or adoption.

VII. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

60. The Commission may wish to:

- i. endorse the *Draft guidelines for the development of integrated multipurpose animal recording systems* and request FAO to publish them and distribute them widely;
- ii. call upon countries to continue to implement the Global Plan of Action, in order to contribute to global food security and sustainable rural development, and in particular to help achieve Goals 2 and 15 of the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda;
- iii. request FAO to continue to support country implementation of the Global Plan of Action;
- iv. request FAO to investigate options for obtaining data on the size of unspecified populations, in order to facilitate the calculation of Indicator 2 on the proportion of the total population accounted for by locally adapted and exotic breeds;
- v. stress the need for countries to regularly update their official national breed data in DAD-IS, or any other information system that ensures that such data are automatically shared with DAD-IS, and to provide information on breed classifications, in order to ensure that decisions on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action are informed by the most up-to-date data and information available;
- vi. stress the importance of DAD-IS as the international clearing house mechanism for animal genetic resources, request FAO to ensure long-term support for DAD-IS maintenance and development from regular FAO budget, and invite donors to contribute ad hoc additional support to enable the maintenance and development of DAD-IS, if necessary;
- vii. review the administrative costs of the Funding Strategy for the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and consider, for any future call for proposals under the Funding Strategy, increasing the maximum budget per national project to USD 300 000;
- viii. invite donors to contribute to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including through contributions to the Multidonor Trust Fund Programme;
- ix. agree to the proposed two-step approach to the review of the Global Plan of Action and request FAO to facilitate the process;
- x. request the Working Group to review, at its Ninth Session, an options paper, prepared by FAO, on the updating of the Global Plan of Action, and advise the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session accordingly; and
- xi. review, at its Sixteenth Session, the updated Global Plan of Action, or any other document that may be the output of the review process, and recommend it to the FAO Conference for endorsement or adoption.