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PREPARING *THE THIRD REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE*

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CGRFA 17

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) foresees the presentation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Third Report) at the Commission's Nineteenth Regular Session. A review of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Second GPA) is foreseen for the subsequent session.¹
2. The Commission, at its last session, endorsed the revised timeline for the preparation of the Third Report and the monitoring of the implementation of the Second GPA and took note of the revised provisional budget.² According to the revised timeline, the Commission should review the guidelines for the preparation of country reports for the Third Report at this Session. The Commission, at its last session, also requested FAO to adjust the list of thematic studies, as necessary and appropriate, and to consult the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) and the Commission on the thematic studies before work commences.³
3. This document provides background information on the preparation of the Third Report and proposes modalities for country reporting for the Third Report.

II. BACKGROUND

4. FAO launched the first report on *The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (First Report) in 1996 during the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources.⁴ *The Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Second Report) was endorsed by the Commission at its Twelfth Regular Session in 2009.⁵ The Second Report presented the changes and developments that had occurred in the field of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) since 1996. It provided an assessment of the status and trends of PGRFA and identified the most significant gaps and needs.
5. Both reports attracted significant attention and generated global policy responses. In response to the findings of the First Report, the rolling Global Plan of Action on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (GPA) and the Leipzig Declaration on Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Leipzig Declaration)⁶ were adopted by 150 countries at the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources in 1996. The Leipzig Declaration provided further impetus for the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.⁷ This revision resulted in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty). In response to the Second Report, the Commission revised the GPA and the FAO Council, on behalf of the FAO Conference, adopted the Second GPA, in 2011.⁸
6. It is envisaged that the Working Group, at its Eleventh Session in 2022, and the Commission, at its Nineteenth Session in 2023, will review the draft Third Report. As per the agreed timeline, the Third Report will be based on two cycles of country reports on the implementation of the Second GPA (January 2012 – June 2014 and July 2014 – December 2019).

III. COUNTRY REPORTING

7. Countries' periodic monitoring data on the implementation of the Second GPA form an essential source of information for the preparation of the Third Report. The outline of the Third Report

¹ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, *Appendix C*.

² CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 66. For the revised time-line, see CGRFA-16/17/17 *Appendix I*; for the revised provisional budget, see CGRFA-16/17/17 *Appendix II*.

³ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 67.

⁴ ITCR/96/REP, paragraphs 13–14.

⁵ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1500e/i1500e00.htm>

⁶ <http://www.fao.org/FOCUS/E/96/06/more/declar-e.htm>

⁷ http://www.fao.org/wiews-archive/docs/Resolution_8_83.pdf

⁸ CL 143/REP, paragraph 43.

mirrors the structure of the Second GPA which facilitates the use of the monitoring reports for the Third Report.

8. Countries had agreed to report by the end of 2017 on their implementation of the Second GPA between January 2012 and June 2014. As agreed by the Commission, a second monitoring report covering the period of July 2014 to December 2019, is due by the end of 2020. It is proposed that, for the preparation of the Third Report, countries complement the data generated through monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA⁹ with a summative narrative providing an analysis of the progress made during the full reporting period. This narrative should aim to identify the remaining gaps and constraints in the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA. Both, the monitoring data and the complementary narrative will be provided through the Reporting Tool of the World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (WIEWS). There would, thus, no longer be the need for a standalone country report.

9. Thus, the Third Report will be based on:

- (i) data provided by countries on the implementation of the Second GPA for the period January 2012 to June 2014;
- (ii) data to be provided by countries, in line with the agreed monitoring framework,¹⁰ for the period of July 2014 to December 2019;
- (iii) a summative narrative of the progress made in the implementation of the Second GPA between January 2012 and December 2019 and the remaining gaps and constraints; and
- (iv) possibly thematic background studies to complement the information gathered on specific topics.

10. The approach proposed for the preparation of the summative narrative is outlined in the document *Preparation of country reports for The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.¹¹

IV. THEMATIC STUDIES

11. Studies on themes that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA could provide context and background to the Third Report. A tentative list of thematic background studies was presented to the last session of the Commission.¹² The Working Group, at its last session, reviewed and revised a revised list of thematic background studies¹³ and requested FAO to clarify the contribution of the studies to the Third Report, their purpose, content and aim.¹⁴

12. Upon further reflection on the thematic studies, the Secretariat suggests to consider the preparation of thematic studies on specified themes at the Working Group's and the Commission's next sessions in the light of monitoring data and summative narratives received from countries. This will allow the Secretariat to propose the preparation of studies addressing specific information gaps identified or new and emerging issues that have been brought by countries to the attention of FAO.

V. BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS

13. As outlined in the revised budget presented to the Commission at its last session¹⁵, overall budgetary requirements for the preparation of the Third Report total USD 907 000 of regular programme budget resources and USD 1 702 000 of extra budgetary resources.

⁹ See *Draft Revised Reporting Format for monitoring the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (CGRFA-17/19/9.2/Inf.6).

¹⁰ CGRFA-16/17/17, *Appendix I*.

¹¹ CGRFA-17/19/9.4/Inf.1.

¹² CGRFA-16/17/17, *Appendix III*.

¹³ CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/4, *Appendix I*.

¹⁴ CGRFA-17/19/9.1, paragraph 33.

¹⁵ CGRFA-16/17/17, *Appendix II*.

14. Financial support will be required to enable developing countries to prepare their country reports. Support will be required especially for organizing national stakeholder consultations, assessing the implementation of the Second GPA and conducting the analysis. To date, no extra-budgetary resources have been mobilized for this purpose.

VI. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

15. The Commission may wish to

- (i) Request FAO to invite countries to report through WIEWS starting in January 2020 and not later than 31 December 2020 on the implementation of the Second GPA for the period of July 2014 to December 2019, and provide a summative narrative of the progress made in the implementation of the Second GPA between January 2012 and December 2019 and the remaining gaps and constraints.
- (ii) Review and revise, as appropriate, the approach proposed for the preparation of summative narratives, as set out in the document *Preparation of Country Reports for The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.
- (iii) Request FAO to propose thematic background studies to complement the information used for the preparation of the Third Report, for consideration of the Working Group and the Commission at their next sessions.
- (iv) Recommend that the Commission invite donors to provide the necessary extra-budgetary resources to support the preparation of the Third Report.