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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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REPORT ON THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS FOR THE DRAFT WORK PLAN FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE AND CONSERVATION OF MICRO-ORGANISM AND INVERTEBRATE GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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CGRFA 17

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In 2007, at its Eleventh Regular Session, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) formally recognized the important contribution of micro-organisms and invertebrates to the provision of ecosystem services, sustainable agriculture and food security, and included micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources as a work stream into its Multi-Year Programme of Work.¹ Ten years later, at its last session, the Commission requested FAO to prepare a draft work plan for future work on the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture (the draft work plan).²

2. This document briefly describes the consultative approach that was taken to develop the draft work plan.³

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS THAT HAS LED TO THE DRAFT WORK PLAN FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE AND CONSERVATION OF MICRO-ORGANISM AND INVERTEBRATE GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

3. At its Sixteenth Regular Session, the Commission requested FAO to prepare a draft work plan for its future work on the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources. It also asked FAO to follow a specific consultative approach for the preparation of the draft work plan and particularly requested:

- i. its Secretary to invite countries to provide their views on the development of a draft work plan for future work on the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organisms and invertebrates;
- ii. FAO to prepare the draft work plan, taking into account the findings of *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* and any other relevant information, including inputs provided by Members and observers, for review by the Working Groups and the Commission at their next sessions;⁴
- iii. that the following key micro-organism and invertebrate functional groups be reflected in the draft work plan: pollinators, in particular honey bees; micro-organisms of relevance to ruminant digestion, food processing and agro-industrial processes; biological control agents; and soil micro-organisms and invertebrates;⁵
- iv. FAO to reflect the importance of building partnerships with other international organizations and initiatives to mobilize expertise on micro-organisms and invertebrates.⁶

4. By Circular State Letter C/CBD-7 of 22 May 2017, FAO invited Members and observers to provide their views in writing by 30 September 2017. These views are reflected in the document *Submissions by Members and observers on the draft work plan for future work on sustainable use and conservation of micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources*.⁷

5. The draft work plan was reviewed by the Intergovernmental Working Groups on animal, aquatic, forest and plant genetic resources (Working Groups).⁸ Furthermore, the Secretary consulted the Commission's Expert Group on Micro-organism and Invertebrate Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Expert Group) on the draft work plan. This Expert Group, composed of seven regionally representative experts designated by the Secretary in consultation with the Bureau,⁹ was established to

¹ CGRFA-11/07/Report, *Appendix E*.

² CGRFA-16/17/Report, paragraph 78.

³ CGRFA-17/19/12.2, *Appendix I*.

⁴ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 78.

⁵ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 79.

⁶ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 80.

⁷ CGRFA-17/19/12.2/Inf 1.

⁸ CGRFA-17/19/11.1, paragraphs 21–23; CGRFA-17/19/8.1, paragraphs 42–44; CGRFA-17/19/10.1, paragraphs 30–31; and CGRFA-17/19/9.1, paragraphs 45–49.

⁹ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 25 (v) c; (ix).

review, within the context of the *Elements to facilitate domestic implementation of access and benefit-sharing for different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture*¹⁰ (ABS Elements), the distinctive features and specific practices of their subsector of genetic resources for food and agriculture. It is in this context that the Expert Group held its first meeting in Rome from 3 to 5 October 2018. During this meeting, the Expert Group reviewed the draft work plan, as well as the relevant recommendations that were put forward by the Commission's Working Groups for consideration by the Commission at its Seventeenth Regular Session.¹¹

6. The draft work plan, including the consolidated views of Members and observers, the findings of *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* and the recommendations by the Commission's Working Groups and its Expert Group, is provided in *Appendix I* of the document *Future work on sustainable use and conservation of micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture*.¹²

III. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

7. The Commission is invited to take note of the consultative process that has led to the development of the draft work plan for the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organisms and invertebrates.

¹⁰ CGRFA-15/15/Report, *Appendix B*.

¹¹ CGRFA-17/19/3.2/Inf.1 and CGRFA17/19/3.2/Inf.3, paragraphs 14-18.

¹² CGRFA-17/19/12.2.