

**Updating of the
Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant
Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Report of the Latin American and the Caribbean consultation**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (*Commission*), at its Twelfth Regular Session, endorsed the *Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Second Report)* and considered updating the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (GPA)*. The *Commission* requested the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to prepare the updated GPA based primarily on the *Second Report*, and in particular, on the identified gaps and needs; taking into account further contributions from Governments, as well as inputs received from regional meetings and consultations. It further decided that the updated GPA would be considered at its Thirteenth Regular Session in 2011.
2. The consultation of the Latin American and the Caribbean region for the updating of the GPA, was held in La Antigua, Guatemala, 9-10 August 2010. The consultation was organized by FAO in collaboration with the Secretariats of the Commission and of the ITPGRFA, with the support of the Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Environment of Spain; the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for the Development (AECID) and the Ministry of Agriculture of Guatemala (MAGA). The agenda is provided in Appendix A and the list of participants in Appendix B. This report presents the results of the discussions on the updating of the GPA held during the regional consultation.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATIONS

3. The consultation started with a welcome and opening remarks by H.E. Mr. Juan Alfonso de León, Ministry of Agriculture of Guatemala, followed by brief addresses made by Mr. Luis Salaices, Manager of the Varietal Registration Office of the Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Environment of Spain; Mr. Iván Angulo, FAO's Guatemalan, *ad interim*, Representative; Ms. Juanita Chaves, International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for food and Agriculture; Ms. Eva Hain, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; and Ms. Maria Luisa Aumesquet, The Spanish International Cooperation for the Development Agency (AECID).
4. Mr. Stefano Diulgheroff, Plant Production and Protection Division Officer, FAO, indicated that the consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean is part of a regional consultative process for the update of the GPA which started in May 2010 and will be completed in November 2010. The objective of the consultation is to receive inputs and recommendations from representatives of the region on both the content and structure of the GPA as inputs for its updating. He then provided an overview of the significant changes since the GPA adoption in 1996, and new challenges in plant genetic resources for food and agriculture conservation and use. He ended pointing out the gaps and needs identified in the SOW-2 that may be considered in updating the GPA.

5. Ms. Marleni Ramírez, Director of the Regional Office for the Americas of Bioversity International, provided a summary of the results of the “Workshop for the identification of regional priorities on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean”, held a year ago in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.
6. Mr. Diulgheroff described the process for undertaking the consultation. The delegates were divided in five working groups; each group had the opportunity to review and make contributions over the GPA introductory parts and the main four thematic groups of the GPA. Working groups were requested to consider changes, gaps and needs identified in the *Second Report*, that *verbatim*, were inserted in the different sections of the GPA working document prepared for this consultation.
7. A *Rapporteur* for each of the five subjects (introductory parts and the main four thematic groups of the GPA) was assigned. *Rapporteurs* recorded the participants’ contributions and presented the results in a plenary session.

III. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

8. The regional consultation highlighted the importance of having an updated GPA. In an objective, concise, pragmatic and clear way, the updated GPA should identify priorities at global level for the conservation and sustainable utilization of PGRFA, as well as facilitate awareness raising among the public and decision makers, about the role of PGRFA in the current and future context of food security and of the challenges that population growth and climate change impose on agriculture. Comments and suggestions proposed during the discussions are summarized for the different sections of the GPA in the following paragraphs.

A. Review of the Leipzig Declaration and Introduction

9. Most delegates recommended moving the Leipzig Declaration to an appendix; although, due to its historical, philosophical and current importance, some suggested it should stay at its current location.
10. The consultation suggested that the GPA should be periodically reviewed (every 5-10 years) and that this aspect should be mentioned in the Introduction. Capacity building and the funding needed to implement it, together with climate change and the complementarity of *in situ ex situ* conservation were, according to the participants, the most important subjects that the updated *Plan* should highlight. Some delegates suggested to add new paragraphs to the introduction to include updated information, explain the updating process of the GPA, and discuss the GPA implementation at country level. With regard to the current text, a specific suggestion was made to add the word “access” to line 6 of the first paragraph.
11. The consultation considered the following suggestions to strengthen and update the rest of the paragraphs of the Introduction section:
 - To mention the relationship among the GPA, the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and the Second Report on the State of the World’s Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (*Second Report*).

- To mention the most relevant events in the past 15 years, including climate change; update the current text with quantitative data from the SOW-2 and other sources, and strengthen the paragraphs related to food security.
- To highlight the role and function of PGRFA in agroecosystems and recognize the role of local communities in PGRFA conservation.

B. Review of the Rationale section of the *Global Plan of Action*

12. The consultation reviewed items 7(a)-7(d) of the rationale section of the GPA. As per its content, almost all agreed to retain (a-g) current items; some suggested merging 7(a) and 7(c); others proposed reviewing the last sentence of 7(d) related to Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), after the Conference of the Parties' meeting of the CBD in Nagoya, Japan, later this year. The results of the ABS negotiations, if relevant, could be included in the Rationale section of the GPA.
13. The consultation agreed to retain the text of the current section, but recommended to strengthen it with updated data. Some participants suggested highlighting the essential role of PGRFAA for agriculture sustainability, food security and for climate change adaptation, and to stress in this sections article 14 of the ITPGRFA.

C. Review of the Aims and Strategies of the *Global Plan of Action*

14. For the **Aims** section several suggestions were made, without reaching consensus. Some participants suggested reducing the section to three more specific, pragmatic and conclusive aims. Suggestions to update paragraph 8 and to move it to the Introduction section, as well as to include the words "To create and strengthen..." in the last bullet in paragraph 9 were also made. Others proposed adding a new aim with the following text "To provide elements to adopt national legislation leading to conservation and utilization of PGRFA".
15. With regard to the **Strategies**, para. 10 (a-f), almost all participants proposed either to reduce the text drastically, making it clearer, or to delete it.

D. Review of the Structure and Organization of the *Global Plan of Action*

16. The consultation agreed on retaining the current GPA thematic groups (*In situ* conservation and development; *Ex situ* conservation; Utilization of plant genetic resources; Institutions and capacity building). Nonetheless it suggested review the content of the Priority Activity Areas (PAA) in order to reduce, summarize and make it more direct and clearer. The consultation also suggested review the Spanish translation of the PAA titles, because in some cases it does not fully reflect the meaning of the English version.
17. Some participants suggested moving the **Assessment** sections of the PAAs to an appendix. The consultation agreed on the need to review and rewrite the objectives of the PAAs in the four main groups by defining them as clear and focused as possible through a concise and direct language. No consensus was reached on either to have only one heading for the objectives or to keep two separate sections, namely "long term objectives" and "intermediate objectives". In the

latter case the term duration and the duration of the GPA should be defined and specified. It was noted that the term of implementation of these objectives is important, because it might influence the eventual GPA funding. Some participants suggested changing these sections to “general goals” and “specific objectives”, avoiding temporal regency and making them result oriented. Participants also suggested to harmonize the modifications of the long and intermediate objectives with the *Policy/strategy* sections of the different PAA.

E. Review of the Priority Activity Areas of the *Global Plan of Action*

18. The participants reviewed the 20 Priority Activity Areas (PAAs) of the GPA, in particular, their titles, objectives and different sections, including the changes, gaps and needs identified in the *Second Report*. The suggestions provided by the consultation for consideration in the GPA updating are described in the following sections.

***In situ* Conservation and Development**

19. Most of the participants agreed to retain the four current PAAs, although some proposed (a) to merge PAA 3 with PAA 2; or (b) to leave two PAAs: one for on-farm management of crop genetic resources (PAA2), and another one for *in situ* conservation of wild plants of interest for food and agriculture (PAA 4). This last option would imply, in addition to what is suggested in (a), also to merge the current content of PAA 1 into both PAA 2 and 4.

PAA 1. Surveying and Inventorying Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

20. The consultation agreed on retaining the current **title**. Most of the participants agreed that when surveying and inventorying a community-based approach which gathers farmer’s and other community member’s traditional knowledge and cultural practices should be applied. In surveying and inventorying, participants highlighted the importance to develop and apply geographic information systems (GIS), as well as to develop genetic erosion indicators for different geographic areas. Others mentioned that the use of molecular biology techniques should not be too emphasized in this PAA.
21. For the *assessment* section, participants suggested including information about the main species and crops inventoried since 1996. They also asked to highlight the important role of seed fairs in surveying and inventorying. As per the **objectives** some pointed out that the aim of this PAA is the conservation of plant genetic resources; others mentioned that the scope of the objectives of this PAA should not be just limited to the plant genetic resources “that are of anticipated use”, but rather extended to all resources of current or potential value for food and agriculture.
22. In the *Capacity* section the need to improve capacity on climate change impact and adaptation assessment, was highlighted. In the Research/Technology section participants suggested including development and use of ecogeographic maps during inventories.

PAA 2. Supporting on-farm management and improvement of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

23. In general terms, the consultation in this PAA suggested to highlight the importance of promoting sustainable systems for conservation; to acknowledge markets' role at community level, and the need to integrate biodiversity conservation and economic development approaches in development programs.
24. The title of this PAA was considered valid; while for the **objectives** section, participants noted that references related to 1989 FAO's resolution on farmer's rights, and on benefit sharing on the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) are obsolete. It was suggested to refer to the ITPGRFA, as per these subjects. The development and implementation of legal frameworks related to these subjects is an urgent matter and therefore should not be included in the long term objectives. Specific changes suggested for this section include the modification of the current long term objective to "enhance and increase the efficiency of on-farm conservation systems" and the need to emphasize complementarity between *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation strategies.
25. In the **Policy/strategy** section, participants suggested including the following subjects: incentives to implement local, high diversity productive systems ("biodiverse chacras"); community banks to provide sowing materials to farmers; agroecotourism for on-farm conservation funding; and strategies to strengthen partnerships between Governments and farmers. In the **Capacity** section, the importance of including farmers and their organizations in breeding programmes, was highlighted. Participants suggested, for the **Research/technology** section, to include social and cultural dimension to the research activities, and to include studies on pollinators. Under **Coordination/administration**, the consultation asked to highlight the fundamental role of Governments to ensure sustainability to on-farm conservation efforts.

PAA 3. Assisting farmers in disaster situations to restore agricultural systems

26. Most of the participants suggested keeping this PAA and its **title**, though some pointed that, regardless of the importance of the subject covered in this PAA, it could be merged with PAA 2, due to its strong linkage to on-farm management. Some participants stressed the need to add aspects related to preparedness, mitigation and restoration. Other relevant subjects mentioned were climate change effects and the need to involve local seed systems to restore agricultural systems in case of disasters. As per constraints related to the fast and secure access to germplasm in case of emergencies, in particular of the vegetatively propagated materials, some participants emphasized the need to develop a fast germplasm transfer system, which under the terms of the Treaty's Multilateral System, when applicable, includes the harmonization of quarantine protocols and other phytosanitary aspects. Others suggested the possibility of widening this PAA to cover genetic erosion and all other possible disaster situations, including those generated by economic crisis. Should that be the case, it was suggested to include in the **objectives** section, the development and establishment of early warning systems, and other mechanisms to secure duplication of *ex situ* collections and improve preparedness in case of disaster.
27. In the **Policy/strategy** section it was proposed to consider the establishment of policies and plans for farming systems rehabilitation after disasters that included PGRFA; to promote local

community banks in partnership with local networks in different geographic areas to sustain the assistance in case of disasters. For the *Coordination/administration* section suggestions included recognition of Governments' function in coordinating assistance to farmers after disaster situations.

PAA 4. Promoting *in situ* conservation of wild crop relatives and wild plants for food production

28. The consultation agreed on recognizing this PAA as very relevant and suggested to keep it without significant changes. Most of the participants recommended deleting the word "promoting" from the **title**. Others proposed to change the title to "*In situ* management of important wild plants for food and agriculture"¹, and to widen this PAA by covering also the use of these species. Others observed the importance of considering, as part of the on-farm conservation subjects, the case of the weedy wild crop relatives.
29. In the *Policy/strategy* section, the consultation considered a priority to establish programs for the conservation of wild crop relatives. In the *Research/technology* section participants asked to highlight the importance of studying the reproductive biology of the wild species and to conduct ethno-botanic studies for these species. In the *Coordination/administration* section the indigenous community rights on PGRFAA in protected and non protected areas, should be considered.

***Ex Situ* Conservation**

30. The consultation considered the four PAAs under this group and suggested the following options for their current **structure**: (a) to keep the four PAAs, but reordering them as follows: start with PAA 7, then 5, 6 and 8 respectively; or (b) merging PAA 5 and PAA 8.

PAA 5. Sustaining existing *ex situ* collections

31. Most of the participants agreed on maintaining the current **title**, though others suggested to merge PAA 5 with PAA 8 and modify the title to: "Sustaining and increasing the activities for *ex situ* conservation of germplasm". If both PAAs were merged, participants highlighted the need for a special review of the last long term **objective**² as well as of the intermediate objectives.
32. In the *Assessment* section, participants indicated that in the text extracted from the *Second Report*, besides climate change, other conditions that directly or indirectly might affect PGRFAA conservation, such as land use change, infrastructure work (roads, docks), etc. should be considered. Participants stressed that even when an enlargement on the number of seed accessions in banks is mentioned, their current status was not specified (level of

¹ "Manejo *in situ* de las plantas silvestres de interés para la alimentación y la agricultura", in the Spanish version

² In particular the content related to sovereignty "recognizing that states have sovereign rights over their own plant genetic resources for food and agriculture", and because the "sovereign rights" are also mentioned in the last intermediate objective.

characterization, regeneration, representativeness of the stored diversity, part of a core collection, etc.).

33. The **capacity** section is very important for the Region, as well as its funding. The need to promote capacity building among young students in basic areas related to *ex situ* conservation, and not just in molecular markers or new technology, was highlighted. The need to strengthen at country level the current genebanks' installed capacity and to create new capacity for laboratories, green houses and installations for *ex situ* conservation was also stressed.

PAA 6. Regenerating threatened *ex situ* accessions

34. Among the general observations, some participants asked to highlight that the regeneration of the collections should take place close to the areas of origin; especially with local materials containing high genetic diversity, to avoid losing their characteristics. Regarding the **title**, some suggested modifying it to: "Regenerating and multiplying *ex situ* collections", by deleting the word "threatened" and in order to stress the importance of ensuring availability of material and meeting access needs. In the **objectives** section some suggested improve the current long term objective, and also to replace the word "infrastructure" by "regeneration capacity". Others mentioned that the long term objective should "Guarantee that relevant collections are not threatened". Some participants also suggested moving intermediate objective 3 under the Institutions and Capacity Building group.
35. Participants suggesting a change in the PAA title, asked to review, modify and add words related to "multiplication" in the **Assessment** section. For the **Policy/strategy** section some suggested highlighting that the national conservation strategies should set the basis for conservation; stressing the importance of safety duplications of the stored germplasm.

PAA 7. Supporting planned and targeted collecting of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

36. Three proposals were made to modify the **title** in the Spanish version: (a with more consensus) change the word "selective" to "targeted"³; (b) delete the word "selective" from the title; (c) delete from the title the words "planned and selective". The consultation recommended reviewing the text under the **objectives** section; some participants remarked that the current long term objective should be an intermediate objective.
37. Under the **Assessment** section, participants mentioned that some of the paragraphs reported from the *Second Report* are not pertinent and should go under the Institutions and Capacity Building group. Some suggested considering new subjects in the **Capacity** section, specifically developing and promoting the use of tools that enhance collecting, such as modeling programs, ecogeographic maps, GIS, and computer programs that link data from *inter alia* morphological and molecular characterizations. It was noted that the text in the **Policy/strategy** section relates

³ This option confirms the present English title.

to what is established in the CBD, but it should relate to what is presently under the ITPGRFA. Other participants suggested a specific text.⁴

PAA 8. Expanding *ex situ* conservation activities

38. In general terms some participants suggested to focus this PAA on tubers and/or vegetative propagation materials, and on the development of protocols for their conservation. With regard to the **title**, most participants proposed maintaining it as it is. Participants that suggested merging PAA 5 and 8, mentioned the need for a new title; the same would apply to the long term and intermediate **objectives**. Some participants mentioned that the current long term objective is not compatible with the PAA title, and others mentioned that it does not focus on the subject addressed by this PAA, since it does not reflect the difficulties related to the conservation of recalcitrant seeded plants and vegetatively propagated species. All suggested an editorial review of the intermediate objectives. Under the *Assessment* section, should PAAs 5 and 8 be merged, it was suggested to include paragraphs related to the conservation in botanical and ethnobotanical gardens.

Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources

39. Participants suggested harmonize this group **title** with Article 6 of the ITPGRFA (“Sustainable use of plant genetic resources”). As for the *structure* of this group, the consultation suggested merging PAA 12 with PAA 14; conveying in the text the important subjects related to them: markets, crops commercialization, local varieties, underutilized species and diversity rich products. In case these PAAs were merged, a new title was suggested: “Promoting development and commercialization of underutilized crops and species, local varieties and diversity rich products”. Other suggestions were: (a) to merge PAA 12 and 14 into PAA 11 (“Promoting sustainable agriculture...”) and leaving in this group four PAAs only (current PAAs 9, 10, 11 and 13). (b) To incorporate PAA 11 to PAA 2, due to its relevance and relation to on-farm management and improvement.

PAA 9. Expanding the characterization, evaluation and number of core collections to facilitate use

40. Some participants suggested changing the **title** into “Expanding characterization and evaluation of the collections, by promoting the integration of core collections”. As for the long term **objectives**, it was suggested reformulating the whole section. The following text was proposed to replace para. 148: “To promote plant breeding that results in higher levels of genetic diversity in crops and agricultural systems. To identify germplasm of potential value for direct use by farmers and for its introduction in pre-breeding and breeding programs”. As per paragraph 149, it was suggested to add: “..., forming relevant, core collections for climate change mitigation...”. In the third paragraph of the intermediate objectives it was proposed deleting the word “international”.

⁴ “Collecting practices should be developed with regard to the objectives and obligations set forth in the Convention on Biological Diversity, subject to their national legislation, to respect the knowledge of indigenous communities regarding the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity”.

41. The consultation considered that all gaps and needs reported from the *Second Report*, related to the **Policy/strategy** section are relevant; and that participatory approach and research should also be highlighted. In the **Capacity** section, suggestions to move and incorporate paragraph 159 to the section of Implementation and Financing of the GPA were made. The need to promote capacity for young students in basic topics such as breeding and characterization was also highlighted. Participants suggested that in the **Research/technology** section not just core collections should be emphasized. In the **Coordination/administration** section, participants noted that periodic assessments on the use of core collections at global level are difficult to implement. It was suggested to change the focus to regional level.

PAA 10. Increasing genetic enhancement and base-broadening efforts

42. Most participants suggested to include in a prominent way the concept of breeding in the **title**. Participants suggested reformulating the long term **objective**, deleting the first two sentences and moving the fourth at the beginning of the paragraph. As per the intermediate objective, it was suggested to add at the end of the paragraph the following phrase "... and the use of last generation technologies". In the **Policy/strategy** review, participants assessed that the paragraphs reported from the *Second Report* were relevant and that the need to promote new tools like biotechnology should be emphasized. In the **Capacity** section the need for developing Molecular Assisted Selection (MAS) for selection and breeding in marginal lands, was mentioned.

PAA 11. Promoting sustainable agriculture through diversification of crop production and diversity in crops

43. Participants suggested incorporate under this PAA considerations concerning the following subjects: nutritional characteristics, ethno-botany, studies on germplasm and its association with related microorganisms (i.e. symbiotic nitrogen fixation). A modification to the **title** was suggested by several participants: "Promoting diversification of crop production and broadening crop diversity for sustainable agriculture". Replace the second intermediate objective by "Developing models for diversified production and genetic variability use".
44. Some participants suggested including in the **Policy/strategy** section, policies to support diversification programmes and incentives to include new species in the production systems. In the **Capacity** section some highlighted the relevance of paragraphs (d) and (e), and in the **Research/technology** proposed including the promotion of basic research on wild species domestication for the development of high nutritional adapted cultivars.

PAA 12. Promoting development and commercialization of under-utilized crops and species

45. The consultation agreed on merging PAA 12 with PAA 14. In the light of this proposal, general comments mentioned to highlight the following activities: (a) to promote the development of actions to add value to under-utilized and wild species; (b) to promote species diversification in the markets, through new alternatives and incentives; (c) to promote domestication and

improvement of under-utilized species; and (d) to gather ethno-botanic information of these species. Participants suggested harmonization of long term and intermediate objectives accordingly.

PAA 13. Supporting seed production and distribution

46. Participants agreed that this PAA is still valid and should not be merged with others. Reference to traditional/non-formal seed systems should be included under the long term **objective**; and the first long term objective should be moved to the end of the second one. As per the first intermediate objective it was suggested to delete the word “parastatal” and to change the text to “Organizing and enhancing viable seed production and distribution mechanisms; including community banks for local varieties of crops important to small farmers”. Under the *Policy/strategy* section, participants suggested including the need to develop mechanisms to provide for propagation materials for subsistence farming.

PAA 14. Developing new markets for local varieties and “diversity-rich” products

47. In general terms, suggestions for this PAA included the integration of the following activities and subjects: (a) To promote mechanisms and incentives for developing new niche markets; (b) to promote new policies for the creation and development of new markets for local varieties and “diversity-rich” products; (c) to promote initiatives to encourage new markets for local varieties and “diversity-rich” products, such as appellation of origin, seal of quality, added value, etc.; (d) to promote the creation of records to work with native varieties; and (e) to promote access to markets for these species and define standards for new products.

Institutions and Capacity Building

48. The consultation agreed on modifying the **title** in this group and to highlight, as a priority, the strengthening of institutions and capacity building. In relation to its **structure**, some participants considered merging PAA 15, 17 and 18, since the last two are considered as integral elements of a solid and consistent national program. Others suggested merging PAA 17 and 18, only, under a new title. Others proposed merging of PAA 15 and 16, and of PAA 19 and 20.

PAA 15. Building strong national programmes

49. Most of the participants agreed on maintaining the current **title**, but others suggested modifying it to reflect, not just building, but also establishing and strengthening or consolidating the national programs. The consultation agreed on improving the current long term **objectives**. Particularly changing the first objective to: “strengthening the national programmes”, or “building and strengthening national programmes for conservation and use”. In paragraph 223, of the Spanish version, all participants asked to replace the word “garantizar” (to ensure) by “desarrollar” (to develop). Others suggested merging both objectives, making them clear and focused on the expected final product (to have strong national programmes) and highlighting the unambiguous and logic need to support the national programme on the long run.

50. The consultation suggested a new organization for the intermediate objectives with a clearer, direct text, addressing the elements and needs reflected in the long term objectives. Some participants suggested to include a new objective to focus on the need for periodical reviews and constant improvement also by adding key stakeholders and ensuring sustainability on the long run.

PAA 16. Promoting networks for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

51. Some participants suggested modifications to the **title**: (a) start the title with “Promoting and consolidating...”; (b) replace the word “promoting” by “strengthening” and to avoid the PGRFA reference.
52. Different opinions emerged for the long term **objectives**: some proposed maintaining paragraphs 224-226, others considered that the current objectives are very specific and suggested changing them to: “Promoting efficient, consolidated networks to cover the majority of regions”. Most of the participants suggested taking advantage of the current text of the intermediate objectives to edit the long term objective. The new text should be more complete, direct and stronger. The use of words like “promoting”, “strengthening”, “consolidation” was suggested, as well as to highlight the need for funding.
53. The consultation agreed on modifying all the intermediate **objectives**. The new text could use some paragraphs from the current long term objectives and some sentences and phrases from the existing intermediate objectives. It should be short and concrete. Consensus was reached to delete from paragraph 248 numeric targets. Some suggested deleting paragraph 247, since its main aim is also stated in paragraph 243.

PAA 17. Constructing comprehensive information systems for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

54. Some participants considered maintaining the current **title**; others suggested deleting the word “*amplios*”⁵ in the Spanish version and replace it by a better translation of the corresponding English word “comprehensive”. Others proposed the following title: “Strengthen national, regional and international information systems for PGRFA”.
55. Under long term **objectives** some participants suggested modifying the beginning of paragraph 260 into “facilitating and exchanging”, as well as either delete 261 and 262 or move them to the intermediate objectives. Others suggested modifying all the paragraphs (260-262), since the current ones only mention exchange while it should focus on enhancing capacities on PGRFA information management at national/regional levels. They also suggested merging the long term objective in paragraph 261 with the intermediate objective in paragraph 265.
56. Most of the participants agreed on reviewing all the intermediate objectives, because they are either vague or long. It was suggested to use more explicit and direct words/verbs and eliminate

⁵ “wide” in English

redundancies. It was recommended to modify paragraph 264 as follows: “Establish a regional mechanism...”.

PAA 18. Developing monitoring and early warning systems for loss of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

57. The consultation noted a discrepancy in the **title** between the English and Spanish versions and recommended to improve the Spanish translation. Most of the participants suggested to reformulate the long term objective, since long term and intermediate aspects are confounded in it. The following text was suggested: “Establishing and managing effective warning systems”. For the first intermediate objective, the following changes to the current text were suggested: “Monitoring genetic erosion using key indicators” and delete the rest.

PAA 19. Expanding and improving education and training

58. It was suggested to modify the **title** into “Establishing expanding and improving education and training programmes”. Contrasting views were expressed with regard to the long term objective: some proposed to confirm it, while others suggested to modify it by including a wider scope of population groups. In this regard, the phrase “education and capacity at all levels” was suggested as more appropriate. In general terms the intermediate **objectives** are considered to be too short, general and fail to mention target populations; most of the participants mentioned that target groups such as scientists, producers, communities, decision makers, etc. should be specifically mentioned. Some participants suggested modifying paragraph 296 into “To implement education and training programs for advanced training...”. In paragraph 297, it was suggested to include a reference to the national level as well. Others suggested merging objectives in paragraph 297 to 299 into one intermediate objective.

PAA 20. Promoting public awareness of the value of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture conservation and use.

59. Participants suggested reviewing the Spanish translation of the **title**. Most of the participants asked to change the long term **objective** in paragraph 314, in order to mention all population levels. As per the intermediate **objective**, most of the participants suggested modifying it into: “Developing public awareness in national programmes”, taking advantage of the country’s public media capacity. Participants suggested considering, in this objective, or in an additional one to “develop progressively awareness activities at all levels for all population groups”.

Implementation and Financing of the Global Plan of Action

61. The consultation reviewed the section on implementation and financing in pages 61-63 of the GPA. According to the participants the next review of the GPA should occur before 15 years from its adoption and a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the updated GPA should be established. It was proposed to explore new funding mechanisms, and to strengthen or widen existing ones, as well as to highlight the responsibility of developed countries to provide

funding for the GPA implementation in developing and in transition countries. The consultation suggested to include a funding title for each PAA in this section.

62. Participants suggested to adjust paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 in the light of the new developments occurred at international level since 1996 in particular the entry into force of the ITPGRFA. Paragraph 3 should be reformulated, in a more active way, including concrete, specific recommendations. In paragraph 8 participants recommended highlighting the recognition of national governments' contribution, as well as their responsibility to support these activities.
63. Some participants suggested including in each PAA a funding section, identifying the main potential financial sources. This new section should make reference to the financial strategy of the ITPGRFA (Art. 18), to provide for the actions and financial mechanisms of each priority activity.
64. In the Region capacity development for the four GPA thematic groups is a high priority. The need for funding it's a cross-cutting element which is even more evident particularly relevant to accomplish PAAs under the Institutions and Capacity Building grouping. The consultation solicited to give priority to this subject, since without funding, institutionalization and capacity building cannot be reached.

APPENDIX A

REGIONAL MEETING ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE: APPLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY AND UPDATING OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

Organized by

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
The Secretariat of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

In collaboration with

The Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Environment of Spain
The Spanish International Cooperation for the Development Agency (AECID) and the Guatemalan Ministry of Agriculture (MAGA)

La Antigua (Guatemala), August 9-12 de agosto, 2010

AGENDA

Monday 9, 2010		
08:30-09:00	Registration	
09:00-09:20	Welcome ceremony	<p>Juan Alfonso de León Ministry of Agriculture, Guatemala</p> <p>Luis Salaices Manager of the Varietal Registration Office of the Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Environment of Spain</p> <p>Iván Angulo The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO, Guatemala</p> <p>Juanita Chaves International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO</p> <p>Eva Hain Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO</p> <p>María Luisa Aumesquet The Spanish International Cooperation for the Development Agency, AECID.</p>
09:20-09:35	Introduction of Participants	
09:35-09:45	Objectives and expected results from the consultation	<p>Stefano Diulgheroff, FAO</p> <p>Mario Marino, FAO</p>
09:45-09:55	GPA updating process	S. Diulgheroff , FAO
09:55-10:10	Coffee break/Group Picture	
10:10-10:30	Changes in PGRFA conservation and use: Challenges for the new GPA	S. Diulgheroff , FAO
10:30-10:50	Regional Summary	Marleni Ramírez , Bioversity International
10:50-11:00	Dynamics of working groups Working group, session 1	S. Diulgheroff , FAO
11:00-12:40	Working group, session 1	

12:40-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:40	Working group, session 2	
15:40-16:00	Coffee break	
16:00-17:40	Working group, session 3	

Tuesday 10, 2010		
08:30-10:10	Working group, session 4	
10:10-10:30	Coffee break	
10:30-12:10	Working group, session 5	
12:10-14:20	Lunch	
14:20-15:00	Wrap up Section I (GPA introductory parts)	David Williams , Bioversity International
15:00-15:40	Wrap up Section II (<i>In situ</i> and on-farm conservation)	Juan Fajardo , España
15:40-16:20	Wrap up Section III (<i>Ex situ</i> conservation)	Silvana Maselli , Guatemala
16:20-16:40	Coffee break	
16:40-17:20	Wrap up Section IV (Use of PGRFA)	M. Ramírez , Bioversity International
17:20-18:00	Wrap up Section V (Institutions and capacity building)	Zoila Fundora , Cuba

Wednesday 11, 2010		
09:00-09:20	Third Session of the Governing Body Progress and new challenges for the Parties.	Modesto Fernández , Cuba
09:20-09:40	The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing Challenges and progress in the application of the Multilateral System, Secretariat of the International Treaty	Juanita Chaves , FAO
09:40-10:00	CGIAR experiences on the application of the Multilateral System	Elcio Guimaraes , CIAT
10:00-10:40	National experiences on the application of the Multilateral System	Leontino Tavares , Brasil
10:40-11:00	Coffee break	
11:00-11:20	How the Material Transfer Agreement (MTA), works	Mario Marino , FAO
11:20-12:30	Working groups session on progress and needs for the application of the Multilateral System	
12:30-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:30	Working groups session	
15:30-15:45	Coffee break	
15:45-17:30	Plenary discussion and conclusions	

Thursday 12, 2010		
09:00-09:20	Challenges and progress on the application of the Treaty's Funding Strategy	J. Chaves, FAO
09:20-09:40	Second call for proposals under the Benefit-sharing Fund	J. Chaves, FAO
09:40-10:00	Questions and comments	
10:00-10:15	Coffee Break	
10:15-10:55	Projects approved on the first call of Proposals under the Benefit-sharing Fund	Z. Fundora, Cuba Federico Condón, Uruguay
10:55-11:15	Questions and comments	
11:15-12:30	Other projects and programs for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA in the Region	Allan Hruska, FAO Charlotte Lusty, GCDT M. Ramírez, Bioersity International Nick Remple, UNDP
12:30-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:00	Working groups session on national progress and needs related to the Funding Strategy	
15:00-15:20	Coffee Break	
15:20-16:30	Working groups session	
16:30-17:15	Plenary discussion and conclusions	
17:15-17:30	Closure	

APENDIX B.

List of participants

COUNTRY	NAME	POSITION/ INSTITUTION	E: MAIL
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