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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda

INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Seventh Session

Rome, 9 – 11 July 2014

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

1. Election of the Chair, the Vice-Chair(s) and the *Rapporteur*

In accordance with its Statutes, “the Working Group shall elect its Chairperson and one or more Vice-Chairpersons from among the representatives of Members of the Working Group at the beginning of each session. These officers shall remain in office until the next session of the Working Group and shall be eligible for re-election”.¹ The Working Group may also wish to appoint a *Rapporteur*.

2. Adoption of the annotated agenda and timetable

A provisional timetable is given in the Appendix to the present document, for consideration by the Working Group.

3. Implementation and monitoring of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Implementation

At its Fourteenth Regular Session, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission) welcomed the progress made in implementing the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Second GPA). It requested FAO to continue supporting countries in strengthening their capacities for the implementation of the Second GPA, in close collaboration with the International Treaty and other partners. The document, *FAO Activities in*

¹ CGRFA/WG-PGR/7/14/1/Inf.12.

Support of the Implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-7/14/2), provides information on the follow-up action taken by FAO in response to the Commission's requests. It provides a summary of the work initiated or completed since the last session of the Commission in support of the implementation of the Second GPA. The Working Group may wish to take note of: the *Draft Guidelines for Developing a National Strategy for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Translating the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture into National Action* (CGRFA/WG-PGR-7/14/Inf.1); the *Draft Guide for National Seed Policy Formulation* (CGRFA/WG-PGR-7/14/Inf.2); and the *Concept Note on Global Networking of In Situ Conservation and On-Farm Management of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (CGRFA/WG-PGR-7/14/Inf.3). The Working Group is requested to provide guidance on further work in support of the implementation of the Second GPA.

Monitoring PGRFA and the implementation of the Second GPA

The Commission, at its last session agreed on indicators as well as on three targets for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA). It requested FAO to:

- elaborate higher-order composite indices (HCIs) for each of the PGRFA targets;
- finalize the reporting format for monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA (Reporting Format); and
- upgrade the existing computer application for monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA in order to enable the use of the indicators.²

The document *Monitoring the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-7/14/3)* proposes HCIs for the three PGRFA targets; it reports on the finalization of the Reporting Format, and on the status of upgrading the computer application for monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA. The document also recapitulates the process for reporting on the implementation of the Second GPA which is integrated with the preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. The finalized Reporting Format is given in document CGRFA/WG-PGR/7/14/Inf.4, for information of the Working Group.

The Working Group is invited to review and revise, as necessary, the proposed HCIs and to recommend their endorsement by the Commission. It may also wish to recommend that the Commission calls for extra-budgetary funds to support countries in monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA through NISMs and to make the upgraded computer application widely available. The Working Group may also wish to recommend that the Commission invite all countries that have not yet done so to nominate a National Focal Point for reporting on the implementation of the Second GPA and contributing to the preparation of the Third Report.

4. Preparation of The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Commission, at its last Session, endorsed the proposed timeline for the preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Third Report) and requested FAO to provide a detailed outline of the Third Report, including suggested chapters and thematic areas, as well as a revised estimated budget indicating Regular Programme contributions. The Commission stressed that the monitoring of the Second GPA and the preparation of the Third Report should be fully integrated. The document, *Preparation of the Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR/7/14/4)*, briefly recapitulates the process and timeline for the preparation of the Third Report, including the synchronization of this process with the monitoring of the Second GPA, and presents a detailed outline for the Third Report, including suggested chapters and thematic areas, as well as an estimated budget integrating the monitoring of the implementation of the Second GPA and the preparation of the Third Report. The

² CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraphs 23-27.

Working Group Review is invited to provide suggestions to the proposed outline of the Third Report as given in Appendix I; and to recommend the Commission to call donors to provide the necessary extra-budgetary resources to allow for the full participation of developing countries in the monitoring of the implementation of the Second GPA and the preparation of the Third Report.

5. Genetic diversity and climate change

The Commission, at its last session, reaffirmed the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture for coping with climate change and the need for raising awareness of their potential roles. At the same session, the Commission adopted its Programme of Work on Climate Change and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.³

As part of the Programme of Work, for 2014, the Commission agreed that its Working Groups would develop guidelines for the integration of genetic diversity considerations into climate change adaptation planning. A national adaptation plan (NAP) process was established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Working Group may wish to consider document **CGRFA/WG-PGR-7/14/5** *Genetic diversity and climate change* and review the Draft guidelines to support the integration of genetic diversity into national climate change adaptation planning, contained in document CGRFA/WG-PGR-7/14/Inf.5, and recommend them for endorsement by the Commission.

6. Biodiversity and nutrition

The Commission, at its last session, highlighted the importance of biodiversity for food and nutrition and noted that its potential role in nutrition is underexplored and undervalued. It welcomed the progress FAO had made in awareness raising and requested FAO to continue its leading role in the Cross Cutting Initiative on Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition. The Commission requested FAO to further develop its work on biodiversity and nutrition, recognizing the importance of linking food biodiversity and the environment sector to human nutrition and the health and agriculture sectors. The Commission also requested FAO to develop *Draft Guidelines for Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Policies, Programmes and National and Regional Plans of Action on Nutrition*. The Draft Guidelines are included in the document, *Biodiversity and nutrition* (**CGRFA/WG-PGR-7/14/6**). It requested its intergovernmental technical working groups to review the Draft Guidelines and to provide recommendations for the Commission's consideration at its Fifteenth Regular Session.

7. Application and integration of biotechnologies

The Commission, at its Thirteenth Regular Session, decided to review the work of its Working Groups on the application and integration of biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture, at its forthcoming Fifteenth Regular Session. The document, *Application and Integration of Biotechnologies for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (**CGRFA/WG-PGR-7/14/7**), summarizes FAO's technical activities specifically related to biotechnology and reviews relevant work of FAO and the Commission's Working Groups on the application and integration of biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Working Group is invited to take note of the review of its work and to guide the Commission on future work in this area.

8. Access and benefit-sharing for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

At its last Session, the Commission considered the need for and modalities of access and benefit-sharing (ABS) arrangements for genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA). The Commission

³ CGRFA-14/13/Report, Appendix D.

put in place a process the final output of which it requested to be *Draft Elements to Facilitate Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-Sharing for Different Subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Draft Elements), taking into account relevant international instruments on access and benefit-sharing. As part of this process, the Commission requested its intergovernmental technical working groups on animal, forest and plant genetic resources to explore ABS issues for their respective subsectors.

The Commission established a Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing (TTLE ABS) and mandated it to, *inter alia*, participate in designated portions of the intergovernmental technical working group meetings dedicated to addressing ABS issues, to help inform and shape the intergovernmental technical working group discussions and output.

The document, *Plant Genetic Resources and Access and Benefit-Sharing* (CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/14/8) briefly summarizes the Commission's work on ABS related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) and gives an overview of the topic. As requested by the Commission, *Explanatory notes to the distinctive features of genetic resources for food and agriculture*, are provided in the document CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/14/Inf.8. *Government submissions on conditions under which specific genetic resources for food and agriculture are exchanged and utilized*, are contained in document, CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/14/Inf.6. *Submissions of stakeholders on voluntary codes of conduct, guidelines and best practices, and/or standards in relation to access and benefit-sharing for all subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture*, are contained in document, CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/14/Inf.7.

The Working Group is invited to consider the issue of access and benefit-sharing for plant genetic resources and to provide guidance with regard to future work of the Commission on this issue, including as part of the *Draft Elements to Facilitate Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-Sharing for Different Subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

9. Reports from international organizations and instruments

Given the importance of the activities reported and the relevance of these activities to the work of the Working Group and the Commission, the Working Group may wish to recommend that the Commission and the Working Group continue to receive reports from relevant instruments and organizations (CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/14/9). Reports have been received from the Global Crop Diversity Trust (CGRFA/WG-PGR-6/12/Inf.9), the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (CGRFA/WG-PGR-6/12/Inf.10), and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-6/12/Inf.11).

APPENDIX

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Date and Time	Agenda Item	Title	Working Documents
Wednesday, 9 July 2014 morning			
10:30 – 11:30	1	Election of the Chair, the Vice-Chair(s) and the <i>Rapporteur</i>	
	2	Adoption of the agenda and timetable	CGRFA/WG-PGR-7/14/1 CGRFA/WG-PGR-7/14/1/Add.1
11:30 – 13:00	3	Implementation and monitoring of the <i>Second Global Plan of Action of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA/WG-PGR-7/14/2 CGRFA/WG-PGR-7/14/3
Wednesday, 9 July 2014 afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00	8	Plant Genetic Resources and Access and Benefit-Sharing	CGRFA/WG-PGR-7/14/8
Thursday, 10 July 2014 morning			
10:00 – 13:00	3 (<i>cont.d</i>)	Implementation and monitoring of the <i>Second Global Plan of Action of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA/WG-PGR-7/14/2 CGRFA/WG-PGR-7/14/3
	4	<i>Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA/WG-PGR-7/14/4
Thursday, 10 July 2014 afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00	5	Genetic diversity and climate change	CGRFA/WG-PGR-7/14/5
	6	Biodiversity and nutrition	CGRFA/WG-PGR-7/14/6
	7	Application and integration of biotechnologies	CGRFA/WG-PGR-7/14/7
	9	Reports from international organizations and instruments	CGRFA/WG-PGR-7/14/9
	10	Other Business	
Friday, 11 July 2014 afternoon			
14:30 – 17:30	11	Adoption of the Report of the Working Group	