

Statutes of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Article 1 - Terms of Reference

The Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Working Group) shall:

review the situation and issues related to agrobiodiversity in the area of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and advise and make recommendations to the Commission on these matters;

consider the progress made in implementing the Commission's programme of work on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture as well as any other matters referred to the Working Group by the Commission;

report to the Commission on its activities.

In order for the Working Group to carry out this mandate, the Commission will assign specific tasks to the Working Group.

Article II - Composition

The Working Group shall be composed of twenty-seven Member Nations from the following regions:

5 from Africa
5 from Europe
5 from Asia
5 from Latin America and the Caribbean
3 from the Near East
2 from North America
2 from Southwest Pacific.

Article III - Election and term of office of Members

The Members of the Working Group shall be elected at each regular session of the Commission and serve until the next regular session of the Commission. They will be eligible for re-election.

Article IV - Officers

1. 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.

2. The Chairperson, or a Vice-Chairperson in the absence of a Chairperson, shall preside over the meetings of the Working Group and exercise such other functions as may be required to facilitate its work.

Article V - Sessions

The Commission shall decide on the timing and duration of the sessions of the Working Group, when required. In any case, the Working Group shall hold no more than one regular session annually.

Article VI - Observers

1. Members of the Commission which are not Members of the Working Group may participate, upon request to the Commission Secretariat, in the work of the Working Group in an observer capacity.
2. The Working Group, or the bureau on behalf of the Working Group, may invite experts, as well as representatives of specialized international organizations, to attend its meetings.