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منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Fifth Extraordinary Session

Rome, 8 - 12 June 1998

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable for the Session

In order to facilitate the negotiations under agenda item 2, the Commission may decide, as on past occasions, to establish *Ad Hoc* Working Groups, as well as to convene a limited number of parallel meetings of these Working Groups, bureau meetings and night sessions. The secretariat has accordingly made arrangements for interpretation that provide the Commission with considerable flexibility.

2. Continuation of negotiations for the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources

Conference Resolution 7/93 requested the Director-General to provide for negotiations among governments, in the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture,¹ for the adaptation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity.² The Resolution “urges that the process be carried out through the regular and extraordinary sessions of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources”.

These negotiations, which began in November 1994, most recently took place during the Commission's Fourth Extraordinary Session (1-5 December 1997). On that occasion, the Commission “considered that considerable progress had been made during the Session, which had been characterized by a very positive spirit on the part of all delegations and all regions. It stressed the need of building upon this spirit, maintaining momentum, and moving ahead in a structured and productive manner”.

¹ Then the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.

² While the Convention on Biological Diversity covers all kinds of biological diversity, the scope of the Undertaking is limited to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

At the request of the Chairman of the Commission, the Consolidated Negotiating Text resulting from the Commission's Fourth Extraordinary Session will form the basis of the negotiations under this item.

The Fourth Extraordinary Session of the Commission requested the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), in consultation with the Commission's Secretariat, to prepare a study of the technical aspects to be considered in reviewing and further developing the *Tentative list of crops* annexed to Art. 11 of the Consolidated Negotiating Text, which is available as Document CGRFA-Ex5/98/Inf.1. In order to facilitate the work of the Commission, some illustrative additional information on the crops in the *Tentative list* is available as Document CGRFA-Ex5/98/Inf.1/Annex. The Fourth Extraordinary Session also requested the FAO Legal Office to assemble an anthology of definitions used in relevant international agreements that might be pertinent to the revision of the Undertaking, available as Document CGRFA-Ex5/98/Inf.2.

In addition, a number of documents dealing with technical, economic, legal and institutional matters of relevance in the revision of the International Undertaking, as well as the Fourth Negotiating Draft of the International Undertaking, which have already been presented to the Commission, but not yet fully discussed, will also be available for information³. The Reports of the Seventh Regular and Fourth Extraordinary Sessions of the Commission are also available.

3. **Date and place of the next session**

4. **Adoption of the Report**

³ *Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. Issues for consideration in Stage II: access to plant genetic resources, and Farmers' Rights* (CPGR-6/95/8); the document provides information on areas where countries have already reached consensus regarding the issues of access and the realization of Farmers' Rights, and identifies areas where consensus is still needed.

Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. Analysis of some technical, economic and legal aspects for consideration in Stage II (CPGR-6/95/8 Supp). The document covers some key aspects of issues in discussion.

Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. Stage III - Legal and institutional matters (CPGR-6/95/9).

Access to plant genetic resources and the equitable sharing of benefits: a contribution to the debate on systems for the exchange of germplasm; the document, prepared by IPGRI at the request of the Sixth Regular Session, was made available to the Second Extraordinary Session.

CGRFA-EX3/96/Lim. 2: *Options for access to plant genetic resources and the optional sharing of benefits arising from their use*. This document prepared by IPGRI, was made available to the Third Extraordinary Session.

Document CPGR-EX1/94/3 provides information on the Mandate, context, background and proposed process.

Background Study Paper No. 1: *The appropriation of the benefits of plant genetic resources for agriculture: an economic analysis of the alternative mechanisms for biodiversity conservation* (only in English).

Background Study Paper No. 2: *Sovereign and property rights over plant genetic resources*.

Background Study Paper No. 3: *Providing Farmers' Rights through in situ conservation of crop genetic resources* (only in English).

Background Study Paper No. 4: *Identifying genetic resources and their origin: The capabilities and limitations of modern biochemical and legal systems* (only in English).

Background Study Paper No. 5: *Información sobre las colecciones ex situ conservadas en jardines botánicos*.

Background Study Paper No. 6 : *Mejora genética para mantener la diversidad en los cultivos agrícolas* (Spanish only)

Background Study Paper No. 7: *Contribución a la estimación de la interdependencia de los países en materia de recursos fitogenéticos*.