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y la
Alimentación

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Item 6 of the Draft Provisional Agenda

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Tenth Regular Session

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**REPORTS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON THEIR POLICIES,
PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES ON AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**PART I: UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTER-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS**

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture regularly receives reports from relevant international organizations, including FAO, on their policies, programmes and activities for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Commission considers such reports to be of value, as they contribute to facilitate cooperation in this area between FAO and other international organizations, and to develop appropriate mechanisms for cooperation and coordination.
2. FAO's own activities are reported in documents CGRFA-10/04/10.1, CGRFA-10/04/10.2 and CGRFA-10/04/10.3. Reports from United Nations and other Inter-governmental Organizations are contained in document CGRFA-10/04/11.1, and the reports from International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) are contained in document CGRFA-10/04/10.3 and reports from International Non-governmental Organizations are contained in document CGRFA-10/04/11.3.
3. This document presents reports on the activities undertaken by United Nations and other Inter-governmental Organizations in relation to genetic resources for food and agriculture. FAO has limited itself to compiling the reports as submitted. Each report is fully the responsibility of the organization submitting it.

II. THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTRE (CATIE)

4. CATIE is a regional Latin American Centre dedicated to research and graduate education in agriculture as well as the management, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. In 1976, CATIE founded a Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) Unit, with technical and financial support from GTZ (Germany), for the conservation, development and use of the collections that were initiated in the 1950's, principally with perennial crops. CATIE's collections of coffee (*Coffea* spp.), cacao (*Theobroma cacao*), peach palm (*Bactris gasipaes*), fruit trees (Sapotaceae family), sweet pepper (*Capsicum* spp.), and squash (*Cucurbita* spp.) form part of the registry of base collections that were established by IBPGR in the seventies.
5. On 13th May 2004, CATIE placed its field and orthodox seed collections under the auspices of FAO. The field collections include a total of 4430 accessions composed of the following collections of major importance: coffee (*Coffea* spp.; 1848 accessions); cacao (*Theobroma* & *Herrania* spp.; 765 accessions); peach palm (*Bactris gasipaes*; 618 accessions); fruit trees of the Sapotaceae family (*Pouteria* spp. - 110 accessions; *Manilkara zapota* - 72 accessions), and annatto (*Bixa orellana*; 103 accessions), among others. The orthodox seed collections comprise a total of 5712 accessions, out of which only 1802 were initially designated to the international network of ex situ collections. The significant lower figure of designated accessions is due to low germination rates and/or small seed quantities available per accession. Once these accessions have been regenerated, they will also be designated to FAO. Among the orthodox seed collections, the squash (*Cucurbita* spp.; 2001 accessions), sweet pepper (*Capsicum* spp.; 1103 accessions), and tomato (*Lycopersicon* spp.; 472 accessions) collections are of regional and worldwide importance.
6. Through the newly formed (2003) Theme Group 'Management and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources', CATIE is promoting the enhancement and exchange of germplasm held in trust for the benefit of the farmers in its mandate region and beyond. This includes support to small-scale farmers and indigenous groups who value diversified production systems and are interested in on-farm management and conservation of plant genetic resources, which complements CATIE's ex situ conservation efforts.

7. Monilia- and Phytophthora-resistant high-yielding cacao genotypes, generated by CATIE in a comprehensive breeding programme, are being tested in field trials in Central and South America. 19 coffee hybrids with high cup quality, disease resistance and competitive yield, developed in a collaborative breeding programme involving CATIE, CIRAD and PROMECAFE, were mass-propagated in CATIE's biotechnology laboratory for on-farm evaluation in Costa Rica. IICA, OIRSA and CATIE have prepared framework documents to standardize policies on agricultural biotechnology and biosafety in its member countries. CATIE is also taking a proactive role with IPGRI and IICA in the reactivation of the regional PGR network REMERFI (Red Mesoamericana de Recursos Fitogenéticos) as Pro Tempore Secretariat of this network.

8. International support is needed to improve the management of CATIE's germplasm collections, in accordance with internationally accepted Genebank Standards, and to update and upgrade the respective PGR database in order to enhance the exchange and use of germplasm and relevant information at a regional and international level.

III. THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)

9. Since the Ninth Session of the Commission on Genetic Resource for Food and Agriculture, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held its seventh meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 9-20 and 27 February 2004 (COP-7). Thirty-six decisions were adopted during this meeting, all of which are available at the following address: <http://www.biodiv.org/decisions/>. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol (COP/MOP-1) was also held at the same venue from 23-27 February 2004. This report provides a brief overview of decisions of particular relevance to genetic resources to food and agriculture, as well as related activities of the CBD Secretariat.

Cooperation

10. The Conference of the Parties recognized the importance of cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives (Decision VII/26). It called for the examination of options for a flexible framework between all actors, such as a global partnership on biodiversity.

The 2010 Biodiversity target and indicators

11. In the Convention's Strategic Plan, adopted at the sixth meeting, Parties committed themselves "to achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss, at the global regional and national levels as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to benefit all life on Earth", an objective that was endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development. COP-7 developed a flexible framework to facilitate the assessment of progress towards the 2010 target and communication of this assessment (Decision VII/30). The framework includes seven focal areas:

- a) reducing the rate of loss of the components of biodiversity (habitats; species; genetic diversity);
- b) promoting sustainable use of biodiversity;
- c) addressing the major threats to biodiversity;
- d) maintaining ecosystem integrity and the provision of goods and services from biodiversity in ecosystems in support of human well-being;
- e) protecting traditional knowledge, innovations and practices;
- f) ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources; and
- g) mobilizing financial and technical resources.

12. For each of the focal areas, goals and sub-targets are to be established. Of particular relevance to the Commission is Goal 3: Promote the conservation of genetic diversity and Target 3.1: Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, and of harvested species of trees, fish and wildlife and

other valuable species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained. A set of indicators was established and others are to be identified including: Trends in genetic diversity of domesticated animals, cultivated plants, and fish species of major socioeconomic importance; Biodiversity used in food and medicine; and Status of access and benefit sharing.

13. Within this flexible framework, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and Governments to develop national and/or regional goals and targets, and, as appropriate, to incorporate them into relevant plans, programmes and initiatives, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

14. FAO has been invited to participate in the process of developing these indicators and in the integration of goals and sub-targets into the programmes of work of the Convention.

Access and Benefit Sharing

15. Pursuant to paragraph 44(o) of Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, subsequently reaffirmed by United Nations General Assembly resolutions 57/260 of 20 December 2002 and 58/212 of 23 December 2003, the Conference of the Parties decided to mandate the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing to negotiate an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing (Decision VII/19D). It adopted broad terms of reference for the Working Group, thereby maintaining an important level of flexibility regarding the nature, scope and elements of the instrument or instruments to be developed. The decision recognizes the important contribution of the FAO International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which was negotiated in harmony with the CBD. The Conference of the Parties invited FAO, amongst others, to cooperate with the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing in elaborating the international regime. The Working Group will meet twice during the inter-sessional period between the seventh and eighth meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

Cross-cutting Initiative on Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition

16. In its decision on the programme of work of the Convention and the Millennium Development Goals (Decision VII/32), the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to collaborate with the FAO and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute to bring forward options for a cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition within the framework of the CBD programme of work on agricultural biodiversity, with a view to the achievement of Target 2 of Millennium Development Goal 1 (to half the incidence of hunger) and other relevant Millennium Development Goals.

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

17. In its decision on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (decision VII/10), the COP invited the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to consider how the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture contributes to the implementation of the Strategy, in particular target 9 (“70 per cent of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained”).

Agricultural biodiversity, and Genetic Use Restriction Technologies

18. Regarding agricultural biological diversity (decision VII/3), the COP welcomed the initiative of the FAO to dedicate the World Food Day 2004 to “Biodiversity for Food Security” and encouraged Parties other Governments and the Executive Secretary to the Convention to participate in this FAO celebration. The COP also welcomed, within the framework of the International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and as part of the Treaty’s funding strategy, the development of the Global Crop Diversity Trust as this contributes towards the development of an important endowment fund to support ex situ conservation centres worldwide. Finally, the COP took note with appreciation of the report of the FAO and its

Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on agricultural biodiversity and agricultural production systems. In decision VII/16 on Article 8(j) and related provisions, the COP further urged the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention to consider the potential socio-economic impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on indigenous and local communities at its next meeting, using the above-mentioned report as its basis.

Biosafety

19. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted in January 2000 and entered into force in September 2003. It currently has more than 100 Parties. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP/MOP-1) took a number of important decisions, including the adoption of a medium-term programme of work, which includes items of relevance for the Commission. For example, the Protocol establishes a Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH), to serve as an information-sharing platform through which Parties and governments exchange many types of information in accordance with their obligations, such as information on decisions taken regarding the import of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) and information on national regulations relevant to LMOs. The BCH also provides access to information provided by governments and institutions on other matters such as biosafety-related capacity building activities. COP/MOP-1 established modalities of operation for the BCH (Decision BS-1/3). Also of relevance, the Parties to the Protocol will begin to address the important issue of Risk Assessment & Risk Management at their second meeting, tentatively scheduled for June 2005. Under this agenda item, they will consider, *inter alia*, cooperation among Parties in the identification of LMOs or specific traits that may have adverse effects on biological diversity as well as the need to develop guidance and a framework for a common approach in risk assessment and risk management.

IV. THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

20. The IAEA, which operates a joint Programme with FAO in food and agriculture through the Joint FAO/IAEA Division (AGE), assists Member States to integrate mutation techniques and related biotechnological methods in national plant breeding programmes with a view to provide additional opportunities to raise yield potentials, diversify and improve the adaptability of major and under-exploited crops to stress as well as to conserve local germplasm. The strategic importance of conservation and sustainable utilisation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to food security and overall development is recognised through the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Food Summit and FAO's Global Plan of Action. Mutation techniques, which employ gamma rays, X-rays, fast neutrons, or chemicals have proven valuable in developing new varieties with improved yield and tolerance to abiotic and biotic stresses, as well as for genetic modifications of quality in food and industrial crops. They have become important tools for molecular genetics research in plants and for developing the high saturation linkage maps required for marker assisted selection.

21. The Programme currently implements Co-ordinated Research Projects (CRPs) on: the application of mutation techniques and relevant related biotechnologies and for the improvement of tropical and subtropical fruit trees, mutational analysis of root characters in annual food crops related to plant performance, molecular characterization of mutated genes controlling important traits for seed improvement, physical mapping technologies for the identification and characterization of mutated genes contributing to crop quality, pyramiding of mutated genes contributing to crop quality, identification and pyramiding of genes responsible for stress tolerance in crop plants. Future CRPs will focus on the development of crop genotypes tolerant to abiotic stresses such as soil acidity and alkalinity using radiation-induced mutations and molecular biology.

22. In order to facilitate the transfer of well-established methods and protocols for germplasm enhancement and breeding developed under CRPs to developing countries, the Programme provides scientific and technical support to projects funded through the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme. These projects are mainly located in the Africa and Asia and Pacific Regions and provide expert services, equipment and training in germplasm enhancement through mutation techniques to sustain the genetic diversity of local varieties of major and neglected crops.

23. Other services include the maintenance of an FAO/IAEA Mutant Variety Database, which features more than 2,500 officially released varieties of 175 species of crops, ornamentals and decorative plants, and a radiation service for plant material by the Plant Breeding Unit at the request of breeders and plant scientists of Member States. In addition a Mutant Germplasm Repository, including a Database and a cost-free Genotyping Service for Member States, is pilot tested at Seibersdorf and Vienna. This repository eventually is to work as a registry for potentially valuable mutated germplasm from Member States and is bound to facilitate germplasm exchange. The organization and maintenance of mutant genetic resource databases and the mutant repository should enable Member States to gain access to information as well as to the resources.

24. In future, the Programme will further develop and diversify its activities in the area of generation of mutants in major and under-utilized food and industrial crops, thus creating resources for breeding and for genomics and reverse genetics. Secondly, training and services in molecular characterization of mutants at the FAO/IAEA Laboratory (Seibersdorf, Austria) will be strengthened. The Joint FAO/IAEA Division is participating at two Challenge Program pilot proposals and is integrated into a proposal entitled "Comparative Genomics Between Rice and Musa: Physical Mapping as Tool to support breeding programmes", which has been recommended for advance to the full proposal stage.

V. INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR INSECT PHYSIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY (ICIPE)

25. ICIPE is currently developing and disseminating integrated pest and vector management options for major crops as well as human and animal disease vectors to reduce dependence on synthetic chemical pesticides. ICIPE has made significant impact in four main areas: in science, in the field, in capacity building and as a centre for knowledge generation and information for developing countries, especially sub-Saharan Africa.

26. ICIPE conducts research and training activities that deal with inventory, conservation and utilisation of biodiversity. Considerable microbial and other genetic resource collections are being maintained and further developed at the Centre. These collections are currently managed in accordance with ICIPE's Intellectual Property Policy, which seeks to promote maximum access for research and development while also protecting the interests of ICIPE's primary constituency: tropical developing countries.

27. Some of ICIPE's major successes include:

- the development of bio-intensive methods and products for control of a wide range of pests and vectors;
- habitat-management intercropping strategy, involving 'push-pull' tactics for controlling stem borers and striga weed, doubling maize yields and milk production while building soils and increasing soil microbial biodiversity;
- production of natural repellents for mosquitoes, tsetse fly, stem borers and ticks;
- Strategy to prevent or disrupt desert locust gregarisation using the insect's own pheromones, allowing for lower use of chemical- and bio-insecticides;

28. Other research is continuing on a range of activities, from strategic to adaptive research, to generate technologies that will enable farmers to undertake better ecological management of major livestock disease vectors and help in intensifying and diversifying smallholder farming

systems to generate more cash income and enhance food security. Some of the major developments of ICIPE in this respect include:

- Adoption of commercial insects farming in improved apiculture (beekeeping) and domestic and wild silkworm rearing (sericulture), by over 10,000 farmers and extensionists in 24 African countries;
- Introduction of community production and processing facilities for medicinal and insect-repelling plants as alternative income sources in communities adjacent to biodiversity-threatened areas.

29. To compliment the Centre's scientific activities, ICIPE has launched a special project dedicated to legal and policy research – the Southern Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (SEAPRI). SEAPRI provides technical support to developing countries and other public or non-profit institutions and conducts research and analysis complementing the scientific activities of ICIPE, especially in the areas of intellectual property; genetic resource management, biotechnology and biosafety and international forums.

VI. INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

30. Agricultural biological diversity has long been recognized by IFAD as a gateway to empower rural people to overcome their own poverty, since genetic resources, together with the related local knowledge and informal institutions, are among the key assets of the poor that can be leveraged.

31. Development-oriented research programmes financed by the Fund have confirmed the pivotal role diversity of landraces and cultivars plays in small farmers' management of risks and in their livelihood strategies, especially where the land and the climate are variable and marginal. Hence IFAD supports the conservation of agricultural biological diversity, particularly plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), through its enhanced use, taking a production-to-consumption approach and encouraging in-situ conservation. By doing so IFAD also assists countries in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of PGRFA.

32. A number of grant-financed programmes, potentially feeding into loan-financed projects, have contributed to the identification and diversification of market opportunities for those minor crops the poor rely upon, and supported the development of commodity chains likely to enhance the genetic diversity by increasing the demand and use of underutilized species.

33. In targeted farming communities of Central and West Asia, North Africa and Latin America, through an alliance of NARS, private actors, NGOs, and IARCS such as IPGRI, appropriate processing technologies, commercialisation and marketing strategies have been tested to raise the incomes and strengthen the food security of small farmers by exploiting the full potential of the genetic diversity of underutilized species. In Southern Asia and in the Pacific, the focus has been placed on documenting a wide-range of coconut genetic diversity, resistant to drought and diseases, consisting of big-sized, thick-shell, tender nut and soft-endosperm varieties, with high-oil, high-sap, high-husk, high value aromatic content. Village-based industries making use of appropriate income-generating technologies based on these varieties were identified for further development.

34. A strong capacity building dimension has been integrated in all programmes. For instance, IFAD, IPGRI and FAO have joined forces with their partners in the Sahel to support on-farm management of PGRFA through Diversity Field Fora and Diversity Seed Fairs to strengthen scientific/local knowledge cross-fertilisation, intra-village and inter-village exchanges. More recently, this dimension included the enhancement of farmers' political capital by improving the decision-making and negotiating capacity of their organizations in dealing with other relevant actors including formal PGRFA institutions representing national interests in international fora.

VII. INTER AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)

35. The conservation of biodiversity and plant genetic resources, to contribute to the competitiveness of agriculture through the diversification and to food security, is a strategic issue for the Americas.

36. IICA, through the Strategic Area of Technology and Innovation and under the line of work “support to the consolidation of the regional agricultural research system” supported reciprocal cooperation among the countries of five subregions of the Americas collaborating with the operation of the North American Plant Genetic Resources Network NORGEN, under PROCINORTE, REMERFI, in Mesoamerica, REDARFIT, under PROCIANDINO, TROPIGEN in the Amazon Tropics, under PROCITROPICOS, and REGENSUR under PROCISUR in cooperation with IPGRI. In Central America, under PROMECAFE, the countries, IICA and CATIE signed a new agreement for reciprocal cooperation in technological development along the coffee chain. This agreement provides the institutional framework for continuing the cooperation between CIRAD, CATIE and IICA on the production of hybrids and graft rootstock and on molecular characterization, with the direct participation of national institutions from the country members of the cooperative program. IICA also continues its support to the Forum of the Americas on Agricultural Research and Technological Development (FORAGRO), whose Technical Secretariat is exercised by IICA. The theme agricultural biodiversity and genetic resources is one of the eleven lines for priority action for cooperation among subregions. A study on the present state of the art of plant genetic resources from the institutional perspective is being carried out by FORAGRO under the coordination of PROCITROPICOS.

37. Over the last year, the Institute has supported the formulation of Regional Strategies on agrobiotechnology. This is the case of Strategy for the Central American Region and the one for Caribbean Region which also includes the proposal of constitution of the Consultative Group for Agrobiotechnology in the Caribbean Region. These strategies include the support to the characterization and conservation of plant genetic resources. Attention has also been paid to trends in the institutional framework for the management of biosafety, preparing a document on the general outlook in this field in the countries and regulatory frameworks as in the case of Central America attending the demand of the Ministers of Agriculture under the framework of CAC. This aspect is crucial for both the conservation and the safe management of plant genetic resources.

38. An important initiative is the project on Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Native Plant Genetic Resources of the Central American Region to complement the actions being carried out to establish the Mesoamerican Biological corridor. The purpose is to carry out a four-year project under REMERFI and the support of GE/World Bank grant. A similar initiative is being supported by IICA under PROCITROPICOS and the network TROPIGEN aimed to the conservation and sustainable use of the plant genetic resources for agriculture of the Amazon Basin.

VIII. WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)

39. The Animal World Health Organisation (OIE) wants to acknowledge that the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture has recognized the need for a strong global base regarding animal genetic resources. FAO has received the mandate from the Member Countries to coordinate a first Report on the State of the World’s Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) to be completed in 2005 and submitted to the Commission in 2006.

40. The FAO Animal Production and Health Division, with which OIE has had continuous and in-depth interaction, acts worldwide as the Global Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources and has overall responsibility for the preparation of the first Report. The present short report presents the point of view of the OIE regarding the preparation of the first S.o.W. Report in the context of the development of the Global Strategy for the Management of Animal Genetic

Resources, which is the overall umbrella FAO activity in this area. The OIE fully supports this worldwide initiative.

41. There is a number of issues relating to the first Report on the State of the World's animal biodiversity that are of particular importance to the OIE:

- a) Characterization of animal genetic biodiversity (AnGR) in relation to genetic resistance to disease.
- b) Location and present state of conservation of these specific AnGR.
- c) Location and present state of management and utilization of these special AnGR.
- d) Monitoring of crossing, import (movement) of genetic material ("gene flow") etc, that might "dilute" genetic resistance to disease and adaptability to marginal environments and local health conditions.
- e) Eventual mapping of genes for genetic resources for its incorporation into industrial/commercial strains (poultry, swine, etc;)
- f) The exchange of AnGR is mainly limited by sanitary regulations; this is a subject which the veterinary profession cannot ignore.
- g) Health regulations for gene banks (exchange of genetic material, storage, etc.) must be seriously monitored.

IX. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD)

42. From 4-6 February 2004, UNCTAD and the Commonwealth Secretariat convened a Workshop on Elements of National Sui Generis Systems for the Preservation, Protection and Promotion of Traditional Knowledge (TK), Innovations and Practices and Options for an International Framework.

43. Some 80 participants participated in their personal capacities as experts. They appreciated the holistic approach to the issue, as several noted that the objectives of preservation, protection and promotion are inter-linked so that pursuing one objective in isolation could have undesired impacts in another area. At the national level, it was considered advisable to designate within the government a TK focal point or "champion" who could play a coordinating and catalytic role, bringing together the other relevant ministries and stakeholders, including TK-holding communities.

44. A number of actions were identified for the ex situ preservation of TK, notably TK registries and museums, as well as for the in-situ preservation of TK in living diverse communities. National actions aimed at the latter included media transmissions in local languages, including TK in formal education, training youth, preservation of the natural environment, secure land rights, and enhancing livelihoods.

45. Defensive and positive TK protection were discussed. Possible national level actions included disclosure of source of origin of genetic resources and related TK in patent applications, recognition of the ownership of TK-holding communities of their TK, recognition of customary law, and use of conventional IP instruments such as geographical indications. Many felt that the current IPR instruments cannot adequately protect TK and that non-IPR options should also be explored.

46. To promote TK for development, the importance of sharing experiences among communities as well as countries was emphasized. Supporting community-based development requires actions that are similar to supporting any small enterprises, including capacity building in entrepreneurial skills, access to finance and markets, and facilitating partnerships with larger enterprises.

47. At the international level, a main concern was preventing misappropriate or unauthorized use or patenting. The disclosure of origin issue was debated, as were the relative merits of

voluntary guidelines, MOUs and soft law approaches, versus binding international instruments. An international framework for mutual recognition of national sui generis systems received special attention.

48. The report, which reflects the diversity of views and ideas expressed during this meeting, is available in the near future on the UNCTAD Web site www.unctad.org/trade_env/TK2.htm.

49. At a meeting organized in Geneva on 11 September 2002 by UNCTAD, in cooperation with the Quaker United Nations Office and ActionAid, Geneva-based delegates were given a briefing on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which was adopted by FAO Conference in November 2001, and discussed possible implications for their work, particularly in the WTO and WIPO.

50. Participants at the meeting argued that an effective sui generis system for protecting new plant varieties must provide incentives to both the developer of new varieties using modern breeding techniques, but also incentives and rewards to the farmers - the developers and providers of the landraces, which are the raw material for the new varieties. Often up to 100 different landraces from around the world go into the development of a single new plant variety.

51. Many WTO Member developing countries are currently seeking ways to meet their obligations under TRIPS Article 27.3(b) to provide effective protection for new plant varieties while at the same time protecting Farmers' Rights and taking into account the important contribution that farmers have made to the conservation and development of plant genetic resources.

52. Many participants felt that the new – yet to be fully implemented - Indian legislation, which is intended to protect new plant varieties while allowing farmers to replant, exchange, or sell (as non-branded) farm-saved seeds of protected varieties, provided a promising and effective model for other developing countries to consider.

53. The African Model Legislation for the Protection of the Rights of Local Communities, Farmers and Breeders, and for the Regulation of Access to Biological Resources was another interesting example presented.

54. Views expressed during the meeting resonated strongly with the findings of the Commission on Intellectual Property Rights, financed by the U.K. Government, whose Report was launched in Geneva on 16 September 2002. The report states that the review of the relevant provisions in TRIPS should permit countries to develop sui generis regimes for the protection of plant varieties that suit their agricultural systems. Such regimes should permit access to the protected varieties for further research and breeding and provide for the right of farmers to save and plant-back seed, including the possibility of informal sale and exchange. It also points out that the combination of stagnating public sector agricultural research and dynamic private sector research driven by demand from farmers in developed countries poses the danger that research priorities overall will be increasingly less relevant to the needs of poor farmers in developing countries.

X. WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION (WIPO)

The WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore

55. The WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (“the Committee”) was established by the WIPO General Assembly in September 2000. The mandate of the Committee has been to facilitate discussions on three primary themes, namely intellectual property (IP) issues that arise in the context of (i) access

to genetic resources and benefit-sharing; (ii) the protection of TK, whether or not associated with those resources; and (iii) the protection of folklore.

56. The WIPO General Assembly recently extended the mandate for the Committee, requiring the Committee to accelerate its work, and to focus in particular on the international dimension of IP and genetic resources, traditional knowledge (TK) and folklore. The new mandate excludes no outcome for the Committee's work, including the possible development of an international instrument or instruments in this field.

57. At the fourth Session of the Committee, held in December 2002, the Committee expressed support on the following points:

- Traditional Knowledge: regarding elements of a sui generis system for the protection of TK, the Committee requested a composite study to be prepared, incorporating approaches to definition of TK, national experiences in TK protection and analysis of elements of a sui generis system for protection of TK, on the understanding that this would be a more structured, concrete analysis of specific options. It supported further work on the TK documentation toolkit, which was intended as a practical tool and not as a replacement for other discussions on legal protection. With regards to TK registries and databases, the Committee agreed that a questionnaire be prepared and disseminated on the policy objectives, functional requirements and technical specifications of TK-related databases.
- Genetic Resources: the Committee approved the further development of the contracts databases as a permanent, freely available resource for contracts concerning IP, access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing and continued work on the Technical Study on Disclosure Requirements Related to Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge.

58. At the fifth Session of the Committee, held in July 2003, the Committee decided the following under the relevant issues:

- Traditional Knowledge: in relation to the Toolkit on TK documentation, the Committee approved to incorporate the field-testing of the draft toolkit in actual documentation projects, and advised on opportunities to use the toolkit in national and regional consultations and documentation programs. Feedback from field-tests were to be provided to enhance the practical utility of the toolkit.
- Genetic Resources: the Technical Study on Disclosure Requirements Related to Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge was noted and transmitted to the General Assemblies.

59. At the sixth Session of the Committee, held in March 2004, the Committee considered the possibilities for focusing and accelerating its substantive work on the protection of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. It was decided that drafts with an overview of policy objectives and core principles as well as an outline of the policy options and legal elements for protection were to be presented for the seventh session.

60. The seventh Session of the Committee will take place from November 1 to 5, 2004. Based on the decisions of the sixth session, it is expected that the Committee will discuss the drafts for an overview of policy objectives and core principles as well as an outline of the policy options and legal elements for protection of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.

Future Program Activities on Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge

61. Since its first session, the Committee has repeatedly stressed that WIPO should address IP issues related to genetic resources and TK in conjunction with the Secretariats of the FAO and CBD, in order to ensure that WIPO's work continues to be consistent with and complementary to the work being done by the FAO, CBD and UNESCO.

62. At its Ninth Regular Session, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) requested "that WIPO cooperate with FAO in preparing a study on how intellectual property rights may effect the availability and use of material from the International

Network and the International Treaty” (CGRFA 9/02/REP, paragraph 31). In response to this request, WIPO has been discussing with FAO the possibilities of analyzing how IP rights affect the availability and use of genetic resources for food and agriculture. At the request of the FAO (WIPO/GRTKF/IC/6/14, paragraph 133), WIPO aims to provide some provisional information on the requested study for the information of the Commission on a preliminary basis.

XI. WORLD BANK (WB)

63. The World Bank actively supports the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources and biodiversity through its lending program, policy support to countries and also through leadership and support to the CGIAR. Rural development programs in a number of countries have specific components related to genetic resources and management of biodiversity. For example, in Namibia the Bank is financing an integrated community based livelihood support program including a component on biodiversity management. Similarly in Tajikistan and Moldova the Bank finances the development of the agricultural sector. In both countries agro-biodiversity conservation is mainstreamed in all activities, and in Peru the Bank’s agricultural research support program has a strategic component for germplasm conservation. The Bank grants 50 million USD annually to the CGIAR, which is an important contribution to the management and evaluation of the CG-system’s collection of 600 000 accessions both in ex situ and in situ genebanks.

64. One of the key efforts during the past years in the Bank has been to mainstream natural resource management and conservation, including sustainable management of biodiversity, into Bank’s agriculture and environment lending program. This is evident in the recently approved environment (2001) and rural development (2002) strategies of the Bank. Both call for mainstreaming biodiversity as well as for linking biodiversity to the country’s poverty dialogue. Between 1988 and 2003 the World Bank has approved in total US\$4.3 billion (including IBRD/IDA, GEF and co-financing) biodiversity investments in over 380 projects.

65. Through a special program on Indigenous Knowledge for Development, which facilitates a dialogue between local communities, NGOs, governments, donors and the private sector, the Bank has been able to integrate indigenous knowledge aspects in over 30 Bank projects. These include integrating indigenous agricultural practices into outreach and dissemination programs. Under the umbrella of the IK program, the Bank is supporting conservation and sustainable utilization of medicinal plants in Ghana.