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Item 4.3 of the Draft Provisional Agenda

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Tenth Regular Session

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**BUDGETARY AND OTHER ASPECTS OF A POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL
TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES**

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document provides additional information to that provided to the Commission in the document, *Progress in the preparation of the first Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources and the Report on Strategic Priorities for Action*¹, regarding the possible international technical conference on animal genetic resources.
2. The Commission's Inter-governmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources has recommended that the *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* be adopted during an international technical conference in 2007. In order to facilitate a decision by the Commission in this regard, an indicative draft budget has been prepared for the information of and guidance by the Commission, indicating the various cost elements, and various suggestions are made as to how these resources could be mobilized.
3. The request for guidance of the Commission regarding all aspects of the international technical conference is in para. 31(iii) of the document *Progress in the preparation of the first Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources and the Report on Strategic Priorities for Action*.

II. COST ELEMENTS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

4. For the purpose of the indicative budget, it is assumed that the Conference will be of four days duration, and consist of 7 plenary sessions. In the light of the very considerable number of countries that have taken part in the preparatory process and prepared country reports, it is assumed for the budget that about 120 national delegations will attend. International Non-governmental Organizations have also shown a great interest in the process and have supported the holding of the conference: it is likely that a number of them would wish to attend². The total number of participants is therefore likely to be in the range of 250 persons, which will need to be taken into account when planning the conference, and, in particular, when reviewing possible facilities.
5. The attached table contains indicative extra-budgetary needs for the major cost elements of mounting such an international technical conference:
 - The major costs for technical work in preparing documentation, *etc.*, have already been covered in work to date, or are intended to be covered in the general process of finalizing the *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*. Therefore, no additional funds for this purpose need be allocated in the context of the Conference;
 - Interpretation in the official languages of the Organization, is a major and necessary cost element;
 - A further major cost element will be support for the participation of developing countries (travel costs and living expenses). This is a factor that will vary greatly according to the

¹ CGRFA-10/04/9.

² The Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, convened by FAO in 1996, and hosted by the Government of Germany, was attended by 150 countries, and more than 50 international non-governmental organizations participated.

place of the meeting, and whether board and lodging is provided, or a living expense paid;

- As the first international forum to address all aspects of animal genetic resources, a sizeable public awareness and communications provision has been included;
- No provision has been made for the hire of facilities, as it is assumed that the host country will provide these free of charge;
- Extra-budgetary resources for FAO's direct costs in running the meeting are provided for.

Table 1: Indicative extra-budgetary needs for a possible international technical conference on animal genetic resources

Cost element	Cost US\$
FAO direct costs in running the meeting	65,000
Interpretation, etc.	70,000
Participation of developing countries	300,000
Communication & public awareness	40,000
Grand Total	475,000

III. POSSIBLE WAYS OF ASSEMBLING RESOURCES

6. It should be born in mind that not all the resources listed need be provided to an FAO Trust Fund. In particular, support for the participation of developing countries may be covered directly by donors, but would need some form of coordination, to ensure a good coverage. Moreover, if the host country were able to provide board and lodging, this would also reduce the total.

7. In this regard, if a developing country were to offer to host the conference, donor countries might wish to provide financial and in-kind support directly to the hosting country, to allow it to provide adequate facilities. Such cooperation would be a further sign of the importance that both developed and developing countries give to animal genetic resources.

8. Cost elements that would need to be provided to FAO include interpretation, the public awareness and communications budget, and FAO's direct costs in running the meeting.