

March 2007



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l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

Item 3.1 (b) of the Draft Provisional Agenda

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Eleventh Regular Session

Rome, 11-15 June 2007

**STATUS OF THE PREPARATION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE
ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES**

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Appendix 1: Draft Provisional Conference Agenda

STATUS OF THE PREPARATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, at its Tenth Regular Session in 2004, decided that *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* should be finalized at the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources in 2007. It agreed that a committee be set up, to plan for the Conference and to develop an agenda, in consultation with the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.¹ The FAO Council, at its Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session in 2004, welcomed the convening of the Conference in 2007.² In October 2005, the Director-General of FAO received and accepted the offer of the Government of Switzerland to host the International Conference on Animal Genetic Resources.

2. The Working Group, at its fourth session, stressed that the Conference presents an excellent opportunity to increase awareness of the roles and values of animal genetic resources, and that the participation of a wide range of stakeholders should be encouraged. It considered and made recommendations on the proposed outcomes and draft programme, as well as on the mobilization of the necessary resources to prepare and hold the Conference, in particular for the participation of delegates of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. It recommended that FAO prepare a report on the funding situation and implications to the Conference of unmet financial needs, for consideration by the Commission.³

3. This document reviews progress in the preparation of the Conference, which will be convened in September 2007, in Interlaken, Switzerland. It identifies possible outcomes of the Conference and provides a draft provisional agenda.⁴ The document also identifies the implications to the Conference of unmet financial needs, which need to be covered by extra-budgetary funding in order to ensure the smooth preparation and running of the Conference and, in particular, the participation of delegates of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Conference.

II. CONFERENCE DATE AND VENUE

4. The Conference will take place in Interlaken, Switzerland, from 3 to 7 September 2007. The Conference will be preceded by one day of regional consultations, on 1 September 2007. On 2 September 2007, the Government of Switzerland will be organizing a field trip to demonstrate some of Switzerland's experiences with the management of animal genetic resources. Details of the field trip will be made available on the Conference web-site.⁵

III. CONFERENCE GOAL AND OUTCOME

5. The main goals of the Conference are to achieve consensus on how to best address priorities for the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources, and to raise awareness and appreciation of the various roles and values of these essential resources.

¹ CGRFA-10/04/REP, paragraph 56.

² FAO-CL127/REP, paragraph 42.

³ CGRFA-11/07/3.

⁴ see *Appendix 1*.

⁵ <http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/genetics/angrvent2007.html>

6. The Working Group, at its fourth session, made a series of recommendations on the proposed outcomes of the Conference:

Outcome 1: Presentation of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

Outcome 2: Adoption of a *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*. The Working Group recommended to the Commission that the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* contain the *Strategic Priorities for Action for the Sustainable Use, Development and Conservation of Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*⁶ as agenda for action. It also recommended that the Commission consider whether the *Global Plan of Action* should include a section on implementation and financing.⁷

Outcome 3: Adoption of the *Interlaken Declaration on Animal Genetic Resources*. The Working Group recommended that the *Global Plan of Action* be adopted through an *Interlaken Declaration on Animal Genetic Resources* and welcomed the offer of the Government of Switzerland to prepare a draft declaration, in collaboration with FAO, for consideration by the Commission.⁸

7. With such outcomes the Conference will:

- Assist the global community to raise awareness and appreciation of the various roles, functions and values of animal genetic resources;
- Enhance efforts to achieve food security and rural development, and contribute to the objectives of several existing international agreements, including the World Food Summit Plan of Action, the Millennium Development Goals, the Convention on Biological Diversity and Agenda 21;
- Provide the Commission with an adopted framework for implementing activities and the development of policy and regulatory measures, as necessary, for the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources, as a major input to the preparation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Commission;
- Establish an agreed platform for donors and recipient countries to develop activities that support the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*; and
- Assist the Commission in periodically assessing the status of and trends in animal genetic resources and agricultural biodiversity, and in reporting, in an organized and focussed manner, on action undertaken to achieve the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources. As the Commission decides, this information could be contributed for use in other international forums, including the Convention on Biological Diversity.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

8. Official invitations to governments and observers to attend the Conference will be issued in the beginning of June 2007. The Conference will be conducted in the official languages of FAO. The draft provisional Conference agenda is provided in *Appendix I* to this document. Side events and exhibitions are being planned and will take place throughout the Conference. A number of international organizations and civil society organizations have expressed interest in the Conference. Opportunities for special events, including round tables for civil society and government representatives, will be provided.

⁶ CGRFA-11/07/3, Addendum D.

⁷ CGRFA-11/07/3, paragraphs 26 and 27.

⁸ See document, *Draft Interlaken Declaration on Animal Genetic Resources*, CGRFA-11/07/8.

9. The three major building blocks of the Conference are its Scientific Forum on Animal Genetic Resources, the presentation of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, and the adoption of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* through the *Interlaken Declaration on Animal Genetic Resources*.

Scientific Forum on Animal Genetic Resources

10. The draft provisional agenda foresees that the Conference start with a Scientific Forum on Animal Genetic Resources on key challenges in the management of animal genetic resources. The Forum will draw attention to ongoing changes in animal production systems affecting the status and roles of animal genetic resources, and will examine options and opportunities for their use, development and conservation, with a view to enhance their contribution to food security and sustainable development. The Forum will address the following main themes, corresponding to main challenges addressed in the *Strategic Priorities for Action*:

- Dynamics of animal production systems and animal genetic resources: drivers of change and prospects for animal genetic resources;
- Characterization, inventory and monitoring;
- Breeding and sustainable use of animal genetic resources; and
- Conservation of animal genetic resources: approaches and technologies for *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation.

Presentation of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

11. The Global Focal Point will present *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* to the Conference, highlighting its main findings.

Adoption of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* through the *Interlaken Declaration on Animal Genetic Resources*

12. Building on the findings of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, the Conference will aim at reaching consensus on the components of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*. The *Global Plan of Action* may include:

- The *Strategic Priorities for Action for the Sustainable Use, Development and Conservation of Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*; and
- A section on implementation and financing.

13. A final plenary session is planned to adopt the *Global Plan of Action* through the *Interlaken Declaration on Animal Genetic Resources* and the final report of the Conference.

V. COMMUNICATION

14. A Conference web-site has been developed to provide information for participants on logistical matters and local arrangements. The official documents of the Conference will be made available on the website.⁹

15. An announcement of the Conference has been distributed through DAD-Net. FAO will continue to provide regular updates through DAD-Net, *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources' Communications*, and other regular and special communications to governments and other stakeholders.

⁹ <http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/genetics/angrvent2007.html>.

16. In collaboration with the Government of Switzerland, FAO will organise press conferences and facilitate the involvement of the media in the Conference, to raise public awareness of the importance of animal genetic resource for food and agriculture.

17. The Government of Switzerland will organize a public exhibition *Biodiversity, Food and Culture - Discover Farm Animal Diversity*, in the centre of Interlaken.¹⁰

VI. REMAINING FINANCIAL NEEDS

18. The Commission, at its Tenth Regular Session, acknowledged that there would be substantial costs involved in the convening of the Conference, and appealed to donors to support it. It stressed the need for funding to be provided by FAO from its Regular Programme, as well as for extra-budgetary funds.¹¹ The Working Group, at its fourth session, recommended that the Commission appeal to donors to ensure that adequate financial resources are available to assist the participation of representatives of developing countries in the Conference, as required, and to ensure the convening of the Scientific Forum on Animal Genetic Resources as a valuable contribution to the Conference.¹²

19. Since the Director-General of FAO accepted the offer of the Government of Switzerland to host the Conference, FAO convened side meetings with donors during the FAO Conference, in November 2005, and during the FAO Council Session, in November 2006. FAO and the Government of Switzerland continued to contact donors, raise awareness and mobilise interest for the Conference through contributions to conferences and special events.

20. A number of governments have so far made contributions – in-cash or in-kind – to the preparation of the Conference, for an approximate amount of US\$ 1,085,000 as follows:

- The United Kingdom supported the study, *Exchange, use and conservation of animal genetic resources: identification of policy and regulatory options*, and Germany (through GTZ) supported the study *Gene flow in animal genetic resources. A study on status, impact and trends*.
- Germany (including through GTZ), Finland, Australia and China have supported meetings in the regional consultation process.
- Under Programme Cooperation Agreements with FAO, Norway supported the finalization of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, and supported the participation of developing countries in preparatory activities, including at the fourth session of the Working Group.
- Spain and Japan provided Associate Professional Officers, to assist in the finalization of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, regional networking and Conference preparation.
- Germany and Norway provided support for the Conference preparation and the participation of delegations from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

21. Switzerland is generously contributing financial resources to preparatory activities, the provision of the Conference facilities and local organization, interpretation and in-session translation costs, as well as to the participation of delegates from developing countries in the

¹⁰ <http://www.angr-expo.ch>.

¹¹ CGRFA-10/04/REP, paragraph 59.

¹² CGRFA-11/07/3, paragraph 23.

Conference. It has also mobilised support for the Conference and engaged relevant professional, technical and research institutions, relevant non-governmental organizations and media across Switzerland in its organisation.

22. FAO provides significant financial and staff resources for the finalization of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* and for the preparation of the Conference, including for technical work in preparing documents, under the FAO Regular Programme. The overall budget for the 2006-07 biennium of Programme Entity, "Management of Animal Genetic Resources", including for regional and sub-regional offices, is US\$ 2,156,000.

23. In preparation for the International Technical Conference, non-governmental organizations have organized three workshops in Germany, India and Ethiopia. A network of Civil Society Organizations, the International NGO/CSO Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), has offered to help FAO with preparations for the Conference.

24. Despite the clear and wide-spread support for the Conference, FAO has not yet secured all the necessary financial resources required to convene the Conference. The remaining Conference costs and current unmet financial needs are:

- **Preparation and running of the Conference:** Conference preparation team at FAO; layout, printing and distribution of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*; translation of the executive summary of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*; development and printing of communication products; translation of Conference documents; attendance of the Conference secretariat and speakers of the Scientific Forum: **US\$ 546,000**
- **Support for the participation of developing countries:** 112 delegates from developing countries and countries with economies in transition (travel costs, terminals and living allowance): **US\$ 487,000**

25. Discussions are underway with a range of donors, for possible support, financial or in-kind. The amounts under discussion are currently approximately US\$ 370,000. Some donors (e.g. Australia, Switzerland) are considering providing support to certain developing countries directly. However, until finally agreed, such resources cannot be counted upon, and the time remaining before the Conference is now very short. The primary implication of unmet financial needs is the inadequate support to enable the full and effective participation of delegations from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Conference.

VII. GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE COMMISSION

26. The Commission may wish to :

- i) Endorse the proposed goals, outcomes and the draft provisional agenda of the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources;
- ii) Agree to review and consolidate its Multi-Year Programme of Work with regard to animal genetic resources at its Twelfth Regular Session on the basis of the outcomes of the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources, in particular, the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*;
- iii) Urge donors to make available the necessary extra-budgetary financial resources, and in-kind assistance, in the very near future, in particular to support the participation of participation of developing countries, either by providing extra-budgetary funds to FAO, or by direct support to such participation.

*Appendix I***DRAFT PROVISIONAL CONFERENCE AGENDA**

<p>Regional Consultations</p> <p>1 September 2007</p>
<p>Field Trip</p> <p>2 September 2007</p>
<p>International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources</p> <p>3-7 September 2007</p>
<p>Monday 3 September</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Election of the Chair, Vice-Chair(s) and Rapporteur 2. Adoption of the agenda and timetable 3. Scientific Forum on Animal Genetic Resources
<p>Tuesday 4 – Thursday 6 September</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Opening ceremony 5. Presentation of the <i>State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i> 6. The <i>Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources</i>
<p>Friday 7 September</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Adoption of the <i>Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources</i> through the <i>Interlaken Declaration</i> 8. Adoption of the final report