

April 1995



COMMISSION ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

Sixth Session

Rome, 19 - 30 June 1995

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. **Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons**
2. **Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable for the Session**

In considering the Provisional Agenda for this session, the First Extraordinary session of the Commission stated that "high priority should be given to items 7 and 8" and stressed the need "to compress other items of the Agenda as much as possible, in order to allow concentration on these important items".

3. **Reports of the Working Group**

The reports of the Ninth Session of the Working Group (11-12 May 1994) and its First Extraordinary Session (3-4 November 1994) were discussed by the Extraordinary Session of the Commission (7-11 November 1994) and are included as annexes in its report.

The Commission will discuss the Chair's report of the Tenth Session of the Working Group (3-5 May 1995). The First Extraordinary session of the Commission agreed that this session of the Working Group should "prepare the Commission's work for the future negotiations" on the revision of the International Undertaking and "discuss, *inter alia*, Articles 3, Scope; 11, Access; and 12, Farmers' Rights", as well as "further review the progress made and provide guidance for the further development of the International Conference and Programme for Plant Genetic Resources". The report of the Chairman of the Working Group is contained in document CPGR-6/95/2.

4. **Revision of the Terms of Reference and Procedures of the Working Group, and election of its officers**

The Fifth Session of the Commission *requested* the Secretariat to prepare, for its next session, draft statutes for the Working Group, which would include the mandate, the composition of the Group and the frequency of meetings. The Ninth Session of the Working Group considered a paper on this subject and recommended that the subject, with the Groups's comments, be discussed by the Commission. The updated document is CPGR-6/95/3.

5. **Progress Report on the Global System for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

The development of the Global System is coordinated, overseen and monitored by the Commission. Apart from the Commission and the Undertaking, the Global System includes international agreements on genebanks, codes of conduct for plant germplasm collecting and transfer and for plant biotechnologies; a world information and early warning system; an international network of *ex situ* collections under the auspices of FAO and a network of *in situ* conservation areas; as well as periodical reports on the state of the world's plant genetic resources and a rolling global plan of action. Some of these elements are still under development. The Global System involves the work of a number of FAO units, especially AGP, FOR and LEG.

Document CPGR-6/95/4 gives an overview of the Global System and describes progress made since the last regular session of the Commission in the development and implementation of its components, referring, where appropriate, to other documents before the Commission which contain more detailed information on specific components. It thereby provides the general context for the discussions of the Sixth Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and illustrates the relationship between the different issues on the agenda.

6. **Reports, Programmes and Activities on Plant Genetic Resources**

The Commission receives reports on the programmes and activities on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture from relevant international organizations, such as the FAO Secretariat, UNEP, UNESCO, UNIDO, the Commonwealth Secretariat, IUCN, WWF, RAFI and GRAIN as well as from IBPGR (now the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute - IPGRI) and another ten International Agricultural Research Centres of the CGIAR, which reported to the last regular session. The Commission encouraged these organizations to continue to submit reports to the future sessions of the Commission and requested the Secretariat to invite other international organizations to do so. The reports that were received in time for printing are contained in document CPGR-6/95/5; other reports may be made verbally during the session.

7. **Progress Report on the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources**

Document CPGR-6/95/6 provides an update on the state of the preparations for the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources. A draft provisional agenda for the Technical Conference will also be submitted for the consideration of the Commission. As requested by the first Extraordinary Session of the Commission, two other documents will be available as detailed below.

7.1 **Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources**

The Commission will have the opportunity to review an outline of the Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources. The document CPGR-6/95/10 proposes a structure for the report and provides an indicative list of its contents.

7.2 **The Global Plan of Action**

The Commission will also have available an outline of the Global Plan of Action. The document CPGR-6/95/11 proposes a structure for the Global Plan of Action, indicates the type of activities which might be included in the Plan and discusses issues related to the implementation of the Plan.

8. **Continuation of Negotiations for the Revision of the International Undertaking**

The Commission, at its First Extraordinary Session, began **Stage I** of the revision of the International Undertaking - that is, the integration of the annexes into the main text of the

Undertaking and adjusting the Undertaking in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity. As the basis of its work, it decided to use the text in the new format given in document CPGR-Ex1/94/4 Alt. The Commission commented on the structure of the documents and made proposals for modifications of the text, including alternative and new wording; it also identified subjects requiring further negotiation. The Commission agreed that a new negotiating draft of the International Undertaking should be prepared by the Secretariat, incorporating all the suggestions made by members of the Commission. The Commission also requested that the new draft set out, in parallel columns, the text of the Undertaking and the relevant provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to aid the work of the Sixth Session of the Commission. This has been done and the new draft is available as document CPGR-6/95/7. For conciseness, the Secretariat has not included in document CPGR-6/95/7 all useful information in document CPGR-Ex1/94/4 Alt. (such as the comments and proposals of the Ninth Session of the Working Group and clarifications and notes by the Secretariat). For this reason, document CPGR-Ex1/94/4 Alt. is also available to the Sixth Session of the Commission, as information document CPGR-6/95/Inf. 2.

The First Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources did not have time to discuss **Stage II** of the revision of the International Undertaking: conditions of access to genetic resources and the realization of Farmers' Rights. The documents, which were prepared by the Secretariat to facilitate the discussion by the Commission of these issues will, therefore, again be available for the discussions of the Sixth Session of the Commission: these are CPGR-6/95/8 (previously CPGR-Ex1/94/5), CPGR-6/95/8 Supp. (previously CPGR-Ex1/94/5 Supp.) and CPGR-6/95/8 Annex (previously CPGR-Ex1/94/5 Annex). Document CPGR-Ex1/94/3, which provides the general context, background and proposed process for the revision of the International Undertaking, will also be available, as document CPGR-6/95/Inf. 1.

The Commission may also consider document CPGR/95/8, which deals with various legal and institutional matters in relation to **Stage III**.

9. **Progress Reports on the Development of other International Agreements:**

9.1 **Codes of Conduct**

The Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer was adopted by the 1993 Conference. In accordance with the Code's provisions, the Commission and appropriate national authorities should periodically review its implementation.

The Fifth Session of the Commission considered a preliminary draft Code of Conduct on Plant Biotechnologies, as they affect the conservation and use of Plant Genetic Resources. It recommended that the biosafety component of the draft Code should constitute an input to the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is considering the option of developing a Biosafety protocol to the Convention and suggested that FAO further develop the other components of the Code, in the light of the guidance it provided.

Progress reports on both Codes are provided in document CPGR-6/95/4.

9.2 **The International Network of *Ex Situ* Collections under the Auspices and/or Jurisdiction of FAO**

This network is being developed as part of the Global System on Plant Genetic Resources, in line with Article 7.1 of the International Undertaking. More than 30 countries and 13 institutions have offered to put their collections in the network. In 1994, FAO and 12 IARCs of the CGIAR signed agreements, through which they put their collections under the auspices of FAO. Document CPGR-6/95/12 reports on the progress made in the development of the network.

10. The future work of the Commission

In developing the provisional agenda for its next session, the Commission may, in particular, wish to

- (i) take stock of progress in the process of the revision of the International Undertaking and discuss the priorities and organization of work for the completion of this task; and
- (ii) consider action to be undertaken for the revision of the draft report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources and Global Plan of Action that will be submitted to the Fourth International Technical Conference.

11. Other business

12. Date and place of the next session