



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 8 of the Provisional Agenda

COMMISSION ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

Sixth Session

Rome, 19 - 30 June 1995

**UPDATING OF THE PROJECT DOCUMENT FOR SUPPORT TO
DEVELOPING COUNTRY PARTICIPATION IN THE NEGOTIATION OF
THE REVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING ON
PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES**

UPDATING OF THE PROJECT DOCUMENT FOR SUPPORT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRY PARTICIPATION IN THE NEGOTIATION OF THE REVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

1. Resolution 7/93, which urged that the process of revising the International Undertaking be carried out through regular and extraordinary sessions of the Commission and its Working Group, "convened, if necessary, with extrabudgetary financing", emphasized the need to secure "the full participation of developing countries", and "requested the Director-General to seek resources from the regular budget to expedite the process and to enable full participation of developing countries". FAO made available the sums necessary to allow the preparation and holding of the planned regular and extraordinary sessions of the Commission and Working Group by reallocation within the regular budget, and approached potential donors to seek support for developing country participants in the negotiating sessions.
2. FAO then convened a donor meeting, in October 1994, following which Canada made available a sum of about US\$ 25,000, which made it possible to support the participation of delegates from a number of developing countries to the Commission's First Extraordinary Session (7-11 November 1994).
3. The Government of Italy subsequently made available the sum of US\$ 20,000 for the same purpose, which is being employed to support developing country participation in the Commission's Sixth Regular Session.
4. At the Commission's First Extraordinary Session, great appreciation was expressed for Canada's assistance, and "the importance of ensuring the presence of representatives from developing countries (particularly scientists and policy-makers), in the process of negotiating the International Undertaking ... was again stressed. For this purpose, the Commission *supported* an arrangement whereby donor countries are invited to make it possible that developing country delegations can have their travel expenses provided, and would be provided with an adequate lump sum to cover living expenses in Rome". The 107th Session of the Council (15-24 November 1994) further "*requested* the Director-General to seek extra-budgetary funds to ensure the participation of developing countries in the Commission, and *invited* potential donors to contribute generously to a multilateral trust fund that had been opened for that purpose".
5. FAO accordingly prepared and circulated to donors the document that is contained in *Appendix 1*, and convoked a further donor meeting on 20 March 1995: during this meeting, the donors welcomed the agreement of the Commission to provide a lump sum in lieu of a *per diem*. However, some felt that the lump sum proposed was excessive, and they therefore suggested revising the budget.
6. The minimum official level of payment for living expenses in Rome is the FAO rate for study tours in Rome, currently US\$ 100 per day. A revised budget (*Appendix 2*) was accordingly prepared on this basis, and circulated, as a minimum alternative, to potential donors by a letter of 10 May 1995.
7. At the time of preparing the current document (12 June 1995), no new commitments had been made, though there have been strong expressions of interest from one country.

APPENDIX 1

PROJECT GCP/INT/610/MUL: SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRY PARTICIPATION
IN THE NEGOTIATION OF THE REVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

(Document prepared for the donor meeting of 20 March 1995)

The International Undertaking

1. The International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources was adopted by the FAO Conference Resolution 8/83. It was the first comprehensive international agreement concerning the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources. The Undertaking seeks to "ensure that plant genetic resources of economic and/or social interest, particularly for agriculture, will be explored, preserved, evaluated and made available for plant breeding and scientific purposes". The Undertaking was qualified by three complementary resolutions, negotiated by countries through the Commission and unanimously adopted by the FAO Conference. These are now annexes to the Undertaking.

2. In 1983, following Conference Resolution 9/83, the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources was also established, as a permanent inter-governmental body, through which countries, *inter alia*, monitor the implementation of the International Undertaking, and advise FAO on its activities and programmes in the field of plant genetic resources. Since 1983, the Commission has monitored the development and implementation of the FAO Global System for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources, within the context of the International Undertaking. One hundred and forty-two countries actively participate in this Global System; 126 are members of the Commission, and 110 have adhered to the Undertaking.

Agenda 21, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and revision of the International Undertaking

3. In 1992, UNCED's Agenda 21 recommended the strengthening of the FAO Global System on Plant Genetic Resources and its adjustment in line with the outcome of negotiations on the Convention on Biological Diversity. In the same year, Resolution 3 of the Nairobi Conference for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity identified access to existing *ex situ* collections and Farmers' Rights as outstanding issues to which solutions should be sought within the Global System on Plant Genetic Resources. In 1993, the Fifth Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources welcomed the content of that resolution and negotiated a follow-up resolution, which was unanimously adopted by the FAO Conference in November 1993, as Resolution 7/93, "Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources", which requested the Director-General to provide a forum for negotiations among governments for:

- the adaptation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- consideration of the issue of access on mutually agreed terms to plant genetic resources, including *ex situ* collections not addressed by the Convention; and
- the issue of the realization of Farmers' Rights.

The process of negotiating the revision of the International Undertaking, and the participation of developing countries.

4. By Resolution 7/93, the FAO Conference urged that the process of revising the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, in harmony with the Convention on Biological diversity, "be carried out through regular and extraordinary sessions of the Commission of Plant Genetic Resources convened, if necessary, with extrabudgetary financing and with the help of its subsidiary body." The Conference emphasized the need to secure "the full participation of developing countries." The Conference "requested the Director-General to take all necessary action to raise extrabudgetary funds and to seek resources from the regular budget to expedite the process and to enable full participation of developing countries."

5. In accordance with this request, the Director-General agreed to make the necessary reallocations within the approved Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95 to allow the preparation and holding of normal and extraordinary negotiating sessions of the Commission and its Working Group, at a total cost of US\$ 1 076 000¹, and contacted potential donors, to request support to cover the travel expenses and the *per diem* of delegates from less developed countries in the negotiating process. A donor meeting was convened in FAO in 1994, at which a number of countries expressed willingness in principle to contribute. Canada subsequently made a contribution of \$CAN 35 000, which supported the attendance of a number of participants from developing countries in the First Extraordinary Session of the Commission (7-11 November 1994).

6. In the First Extraordinary Session of the Commission, "a number of countries expressed great appreciation for the support Canada had given to the participation of delegations from developing countries in [that] session of the Commission. The importance of ensuring the presence of representatives from developing countries (particularly scientists and policy makers), in the process of negotiating the International Undertaking, in line with Conference Resolution 79/3, was again stressed. For this purpose, the Commission *supported* an arrangement whereby donor countries are invited to make it possible that developing country delegates can have their travel expenses provided, and would be provided with an adequate lump sum to cover living expenses in Rome". The Commission also decided that its Sixth Regular Session should have a duration of two weeks, to facilitate progress in the negotiations.

7. The 107th Session of the Council, in considering the Report of the Commission, "expressed concern regarding the financing of the regular and extraordinary sessions of the Commission and its Working Group that would be needed for the negotiating process, and the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources *requested* FAO to make the necessary adjustments in the regular budget to finance these meetings, and to strengthen the Secretariat of the Commission during this process. The Council also *requested* the Director-General to seek extra-budgetary funds to ensure the participation of developing countries in the meetings of the Commission, and *invited* potential donors to contribute generously to a multi-donor trust fund that had been opened for that purpose."

Current extra-budgetary needs in 1995

8. In line with the recommendations of the First Extraordinary negotiating session of the Commission, the following schedule of meetings has been planned for 1995:

- Tenth Regular Session of the Working Group, 3-5 May
- Sixth Regular Session of the Commission, 19-30 June

¹ Out of US\$ 1 076 000, US\$ 643 000 was provided for in the Programme of Work and Budget approved by the FAO Conference in November 1993. The remaining sum of US\$ 433 000 has been made available within the Regular Programme by the reallocation of resources.

- Second Extraordinary Session of the Working Group, at a date still to be decided in late 1995.

9. The budget given below represents the extrabudgetary resources that are being sought from donors to facilitate the participation of developing countries in these meetings. It is similar to the budgets already communicated to potential donors, with the following changes which reflect the wish of the First Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources:

- i. instead of a *per diem*, a lump-sum living allowance has been allocated to cover living expenses in Rome during sessions of the Commission;
- ii. provision is made for a two-week (instead of one-week) session of Commission; and for three-day (instead of two-day) sessions of the Working Group;
- iii. FAO has exceptionally waived any project servicing charge on these contributions.

COST ESTIMATES OF THE PARTICIPATION OF 14 DELEGATES FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN EACH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP AND 65 DELEGATES FROM LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES IN 1995

I. <u>TENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP (3-5 MAY 1995)</u>	
(14 delegates)	
- Travel Costs (average of US\$ 2 000/participant)	US\$ 28 000
- Living allowance (lump-sum)	US\$ 11 200
Total	US\$ 39 200
II. <u>SIXTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE COMMISSION (19-30 JUNE 1995)</u>	
(65 Delegates)	
- Travel costs (average of US\$ 2 000/participant)	US\$ 130 000
- Living allowance (lump-sum)	US\$ 162 500
Total	US\$ 292 500
III. <u>SECOND EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP (3 DAYS IN LATE 1995)</u>	
(14 delegates)	
- Travel Costs (average of US\$ 2 000/participant)	US\$ 28 000
- Living allowance (lump-sum)	US\$ 11 200
Total	US\$ 39 200
IV. <u>ESTIMATED COSTS IN 1995</u>	
Two sessions of the Working Group (2 x 39 200)	US\$ 78 400
One session of the Commission	US\$ 292 500
GRAND TOTAL	<u>US\$ 370 900</u>

 APPENDIX 2

COST ESTIMATES OF THE PARTICIPATION OF 14 DELEGATES FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN EACH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP AND 65 DELEGATES FROM LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES IN 1995

Revised budget distributed following the donor meeting of 20 March 1995 requesting a minimum cost alternative

**I. TENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP
(3-5 May 1995) 14 delegates**

- Travel Costs (average of US\$ 2 000/participant)	US\$ 28 000
- Living allowance (lump-sum)	US\$ 5 600
Total	US\$ 33 600

**II. SIXTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE COMMISSION
(19-30 June 1995) 65 delegates**

- Travel Costs (average of US\$ 2 000/participant)	US\$ 130 000
- Living allowance (lump-sum)	US\$ 84 500
Total	US\$ 214 500

**III. SECOND EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP
(3 DAYS IN LATE 1995) 14 delegates
(14 delegates)**

- Travel Costs (average of US\$ 2 000/participant)	US\$ 28 000
- Living allowance (lump-sum)	US\$ 5 600
Total	US\$ 33 600

IV. ESTIMATED COSTS IN 1995

Two sessions of the Working Group (2 x 33 600)	US\$ 67 200
One session of the Commission	US\$ 214 500
GRAND TOTAL	<u>US\$ 281 700</u>

