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Item 4.1 of the Provisional Agenda

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Twelfth Regular Session

Rome, 19-23 October 2009

PREPARATION OF THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Paras.</i>
I. Introduction	1 - 6
II. Preparatory process for the <i>Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	7 - 18
III. Review of the <i>Draft Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i> by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	19 - 22
IV. Guidance Sought	23

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The first *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* was presented to the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources held in Leipzig, Germany, in 1996. The Conference welcomed the report as the first comprehensive worldwide assessment of the state of plant genetic resource conservation and use. The outcome of the International Technical Conference was welcomed by the FAO Council¹ and Conference² and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.³ The full version of *The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* was published by FAO in 1998.
2. The Commission, at its Eighth Regular Session, reaffirmed that FAO should periodically assess the state of the world's plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to facilitate the analysis of changing needs and gaps and contribute to the adjustment of the rolling *Global Plan of Action*. It was agreed that the preparation of the *Second report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Second Report)* and the updating of the *Global Plan of Action* would be considered by the Commission after the completion of the negotiations for the revision of the International Undertaking.⁴ The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty) was adopted by the FAO Conference in 2001. Article 17.3 of the International Treaty calls upon the Contracting Parties to cooperate with the Commission in its periodic reassessment of the state of the world's plant genetic resources in order to facilitate the updating of the rolling *Global Plan of Action*.
3. At its Ninth Regular Session, the Commission agreed to progress on the preparation of the *Second Report*⁵ and stressed that the preparatory process should be fully integrated with the process for monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*. It also agreed that priority be given to updating the report, focusing, as far as possible, on the changes that had occurred and that thematic studies proposed would be carried out, as far as resources allowed.⁶
4. At its Tenth Regular Session, the Commission considered the progress made in the preparation of the *Second Report*⁷ and encouraged Members and relevant organizations, such as Bioversity International to participate in the preparatory process. It also called upon donor countries and international organizations to assist, by providing the financial resources required for the full participation of all countries in the preparation of the *Second Report* including monitoring of the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*.⁸
5. The Commission, at its Eleventh Regular Session, reviewed progress on the preparation of the *Second Report*⁹ and noted that it should be a high quality document to identify the most significant gaps and needs, in order to provide a sound basis for updating the rolling *Global Plan of Action*. It agreed that the *Second Report* needed to be updated with the best data and information available, including country reports, information gathering processes and thematic studies, with the largest possible participation of countries, and should focus on changes that have occurred since 1996. It requested its Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) to review and guide the finalization of the draft of the *Second Report*, and recommended that FAO make available the

¹ CL 111/REP, Resolution 1/111.

² C 1997/REP, Resolution 1/97.

³ UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/V/5.

⁴ CGRFA-8/99/REP, paragraph 19.

⁵ CGRFA-9/02/08

⁶ CGRFA-9/02/REP, paragraph 20.

⁷ CGRFA-10/04/5 Add.1.

⁸ CGRFA-10/04/REP, paragraphs 22-23.

⁹ CGRFA-11/07/12.

draft *Second Report* at the Twelfth Regular Session of the Commission in 2009, to consider its finalization.¹⁰

6. This document provides information on the preparation of the draft *Second Report*, including information on background and context of this process and outlines the different steps taken in the preparation of the *Second Report*. It also briefly summarizes suggestions and comments provided by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture which reviewed the draft *Second Report* at its Fourth Session in July 2009. In the light of the comments and suggestions received from the Working Group and its Members, FAO reviewed and revised the draft *Second Report*. The revised *Second Report* is given in the document, *Draft Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – Final version*.¹¹

II. PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

7. Largely due to funding constraints, the preparation of the draft *Second Report* was spread over a longer period of time (2004-2009) than originally planned. However, the preparatory process for the draft *Second Report* benefited from its integration with the new monitoring approach for the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*. Between 2004 and 2008, the Governments of Canada, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway and Spain provided resources for the application of the new monitoring approach in developing countries in the regions of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. Extra-budgetary resources received for the plant breeding surveys carried out between 2006 and 2008 also contributed to the preparation of the draft *Second Report*. In addition, FAO, through its Regular Programme, contributed to the preparation of Country Reports and the draft *Second Report*.

Preparation of Country Reports

8. The Country Reports were the main source of information on the status and trends of plant genetic resource conservation and use at the national level. As additional sources of information, FAO used the scientific literature, thematic background studies and other relevant technical publications. Throughout the preparation, FAO strived to ensure high quality of the data and made considerable efforts to ensure that the process was country-driven, participatory, and involved relevant international organizations. This section provides a brief description of the main tasks undertaken during the preparatory process.

9. The Country Reports were prepared based on the Guidelines for the preparation of the Country Reports agreed by the Commission and made available in 2005¹². The Guidelines served three important interrelated functions. They were intended to:

- Assist countries to undertake a strategic assessment of their plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to provide a basis for national planning and management;
- Ensure integration of the preparation of the draft *Second Report* with the new approach for monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*;
- Provide a common framework for countries to report globally on the state of their plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and on management activities, needs and priorities.

¹⁰ CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraph 41.

¹¹ CGRFA-12/09/Inf.7.

¹² CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.5

10. In 2006, in order to streamline the process for the preparation of the *Second Report* with the new approach for monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, FAO invited countries to undertake these activities and nominate or confirm a National Focal Point. Follow-up communications were sent to request countries to submit their Country Reports to facilitate the timely preparation of the *Second Report*. A number of technical workshops were also organized and relevant information was disseminated to stakeholders.¹³

11. FAO received the first Country Reports in 2006. The majority of Country Reports were received in 2008. At the time of the finalisation of this document (1 August 2009), 109 Country Reports had been received by the Secretariat. Three of these Country Reports arrived too late for being considered for the first Draft *Second Report* presented to the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group in July 2009. Most of the Country Reports have been provided in their final version and are available online;¹⁴ others have been made available as final drafts. A small number of Country Reports that were submitted in 2006 were updated in 2008 with additional, new information. *Table 1* shows the geographical distribution of Country Reports received by FAO for the preparation of the *Second Report*.

Table 1: Regional distribution of the Country Reports received by FAO for the preparation of the <i>Second Report</i>	
Region¹⁵	Country reports
Africa ¹⁶	22
Americas ¹⁷	22
Asia and Pacific ¹⁸	19
Europe ¹⁹	29
Near East ²⁰	17
Total	109

National Information Sharing Mechanisms (NISM) and the World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (WIEWS)

12. The application of the new monitoring approach led to the establishment of the National Information Sharing Mechanisms (NISM), which provide comprehensive information on all of the 20 priority activity areas of the *Global Plan of Action*. Some 61 Country Reports benefited from the application of the new monitoring approach. Data provided by NISMs have also been

¹³ CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Rep Appendix D

¹⁴ See <http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/seeds-pgr/sow/en/>

¹⁵ The regional distribution of countries in the first Report has been retained in the second Report for consistency and for comparative purposes

¹⁶ Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Rep. of, Democratic Rep. of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

¹⁷ Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

¹⁸ Bangladesh, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Rep. of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic., Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and VietNam.

¹⁹ Albania, Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine.

²⁰ Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

used for the analysis of regional and global trends, for quality assurance and for the identification of priorities and needs in the sector of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

13. FAO, in cooperation with Bioversity International, provided technical assistance in the establishment of NISMs as well as in the preparation of Country Reports.

14. A global survey for updating WIEWS in countries where NISMs had not been established, was carried out in 2008. Survey results were used to complement information from Country Reports and NISMs. The survey results have been particularly useful as they allowed to expand the scope of the overall analysis by including information from countries which did not submit a Country Report.

Information gathering from CGIAR centres and other organisations

15. In order to ensure that the role and contributions of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) genebanks and other regional and international genebanks were reflected in the draft *Second Report*, a short information-gathering questionnaire was circulated to these institutions in 2008. FAO also received inputs from a range of partners, including Bioversity International, the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as well as other relevant international organizations.

Thematic Background Studies

16. The Commission, at its Tenth Regular Session, approved a list of thematic background studies to address specific topics as contribution to the draft *Second Report*.²¹ FAO, in collaboration with several partners, including the CGIAR centres, prepared the thematic studies, and used them as a source of information in the preparation of the draft *Second Report*. They are currently being finalised and will be made available as soon as possible.

Regional Meetings

17. The Commission, at its Eleventh Regular Session, noted that the draft *Second Report* should be a high-quality document, with regional and global analysis. In 2008, FAO secured sufficient funding to hold two regional meetings on the status and trends of plant genetic resource conservation and use. These meetings provided valuable inputs to strengthen the regional dimensions of the various issues dealt with in the various chapters of the draft *Second Report*.²²

Pre-review of the Draft Second Report

18. For the finalisation of the draft *Second Report*, FAO convened a technical expert meeting with the aim to ensure consistency, quality and accuracy of data contained in the draft *Second Report* prior to the review of the draft *Second Report* by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.²³

III. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT SECOND REPORT BY THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

19. The Working Group, at its Fourth Session, in considering the document, *Draft Second Report of the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*²⁴, expressed

²¹ CGRFA-10/04/REP, para. 23.

²² CGRFA/WG-PGR-4/09/Inf.3

²³ CGRFA/WG-PGR-4/09/Inf.2

²⁴ CGRFA/WG-PGR-4/09/Inf.1.

the view that it was a high quality document that comprehensively described the main developments that have taken place since the publication of the first *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.²⁵ It noted with appreciation the effective participatory process that had been followed in preparing the draft *Second Report*. The Working Group also noted with appreciation the financial support provided by the Governments of Canada, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway and Spain, and FAO during the preparatory process.

20. The Working Group undertook a comprehensive review of the draft *second Report*, providing detailed comments and suggestions on how to improve the document. It requested FAO to take into account their detailed comments so that the draft *second Report* would be finalised at the next session of the Commission, and to consider preparing a synthetic account within the *draft Second Report*, that contains the main overall findings and conclusions of the report, and highlights the gaps and needs for the future. It further requested that FAO consider additional submissions on the draft *Second Report* from members of the Working Group until 14 August 2009, and consider them in revising the *draft Second Report*.

21. The Working Group recommended that the Commission, at its Twelfth Regular Session, endorse the *Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* as the authoritative survey of this sector; and that it use this *Second Report* as a basis for updating the rolling *Global Plan of Action*. It further recommended that the Commission request FAO to widely make available the *Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* in all the official languages.

22. The draft *Second Report*, revised by FAO in the light of comments and suggestions received, is given in the document, *Draft Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – Final version*.²⁶

IV. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

23. The Commission may wish to:

- i) Endorse the *Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* as the authoritative assessment of this sector;
- ii) Request FAO to publish the *Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*; and
- iii) Call upon Governments and donors to make available the financial resources necessary to translate and publish the report.

²⁵ CGRFA-12/09/7, paragraph 12.

²⁶ CGRFA-12/09/Inf.7.