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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda

INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

Fifth Session

Rome, 8 - 10 May 2018

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

1. Election of the Chair, the Vice-Chair(s) and the *Rapporteur*

In accordance with its Statutes, “the Working Group shall elect its Chairperson and one or more Vice-Chairpersons from among the representatives of Members of the Working Group at the beginning of each session. These officers shall remain in office until the next session of the Working Group and shall be eligible for re-election”¹. The Working Group may also wish to appoint a *Rapporteur*.

2. Adoption of the agenda and timetable

The provisional agenda is contained in the document **CGRFA/WG-FGR-5/18/1**. The present document contains the *Provisional annotated agenda and time-table (CGRFA/WG-FGR-5/18/1 Add.1)* for consideration by the Working Group.

3. Status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources

The *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* (Global Plan of Action)² was adopted by the FAO Conference at its Thirty-eighth Session

¹ CGRFA/WG-FGR-4/16/Inf.1, Article 4.1.

² <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3849e.pdf>

in June 2013³. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission), at its Fifteenth Regular Session in January 2015, adopted the *Strategy for the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* (the Strategy)⁴. At its Sixteenth Regular Session in February 2017, the Commission called upon countries to continue implementing the Global Plan of Action to contribute to sustainable forest management, the 2030 Agenda and other relevant international commitments on forests, including the Cancun Declaration⁵. The Commission requested FAO to continue coordinating and supporting the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, in collaboration with regional networks on forest genetic resources and relevant international organizations, bodies and processes⁶.

The document *Status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (CGRFA/WG-FRG-5/18/2)* presents a summary of FAO's activities and contributions carried out in the follow-up to the Global Plan of Action and the Strategy. The Working Group may wish to take note of the activities reported and provide guidance to the Commission on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and the Strategy.

3.1 Preliminary First Report on the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources

At its Sixteenth Regular Session, the Commission adopted targets, indicators and verifiers for forest genetic resources to be used as assessment tools to monitor the implementation of the Global Plan of Action⁷. It also adopted a schedule for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action⁸. The Commission encouraged countries to prepare themselves for the collection of information and data, as appropriate, to facilitate timely submission of the first country progress reports⁹. It also requested FAO to invite regional networks on forest genetic resources and relevant international organizations to report on their contributions to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action¹⁰.

The document *Preliminary First Report on the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (CGRFA/WG-FGR-5/18/Inf.3)* presents a summary of progress made in implementing the Global Plan of Action based on the first country progress reports submitted to FAO. The document also provides information on contributions from the regional networks on forest genetic resources and relevant international organizations. The Working Group may wish to take note of the progress made and provide guidance to the Commission on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

3.2 Draft voluntary guidelines for preparing a national strategy for forest genetic resources

At its Sixteenth Regular Session, the Commission requested FAO to prepare draft voluntary guidelines for preparing a national strategy for forest genetic resources in line with the proposed outline¹¹ and taking into account existing guidelines for the

³ C 2013/REP, paragraph 77.

⁴ CGRFA-15/15/Report, *Appendix E*.

⁵ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 72.

⁶ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 73.

⁷ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 74.

⁸ CGRFA-16/17/20, *Appendix C*.

⁹ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 75.

¹⁰ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 76.

¹¹ CGRFA-16/17/19, *Appendix A*.

preparation of national forest programmes and for the formulation of forest policy to avoid duplication of work¹².

The document Draft voluntary guidelines for preparing a national strategy for forest genetic resources (**CGRFA/WG-FGR-5/18/Inf.4**) presents a first draft of the guidelines. The Working Group may wish to comment the draft guidelines and provide recommendations to the Commission for their finalization.

3.3 Draft funding strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources

At its Sixteenth Regular Session, the Commission requested FAO to continue pursuing extra-budgetary funds, developing the funding strategy to assist countries in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and encouraging donors to provide support¹³.

The document *Draft funding strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* (**CGRFA/WG-FGR-5/18/Inf.5**) provides information on the recent developments in the global framework on forests, including forest-related financing, and proposes a draft funding strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. The Working Group may wish to comment the draft funding strategy and provide recommendations to the Commission with regard to its further development.

4. Preparation of *The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*

According to the schedule adopted by the Commission at its previous session for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action¹⁴, the Second Report on the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action (Second Implementation Report) will be prepared in parallel with the preparation of *The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (Second Report). Both reports will be presented to the Commission at its Nineteenth Regular Session, scheduled for 2023¹⁵. Countries will be invited to prepare only one report, to be submitted to FAO by June 2020.

The document Preparation of *The Second Report of the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (**CGRFA/WG-FGR-5/18/3**) presents a proposed outline and timeline for the Second Report, as well as a tentative budget for its preparation. The document *Draft guidelines for the preparation of country reports for The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (**CGRFA/WG-FGR-5/18/Inf.6**) presents the data and information countries are expected to provide for the preparation of the Second Report. The Working Group may wish to comment on the draft guidelines for the preparation of country reports for the Second Report and provide recommendations to the Commission regarding its preparation.

5. Access and benefit-sharing for forest genetic resources

In 2015, the Commission welcomed the *Elements to Facilitate Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-sharing for Different Subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (ABS

¹² CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 73.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ CGRFA-16/17/20, Appendix C.

¹⁵ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, Appendix C.

Elements)¹⁶. The FAO Conference, at its Thirty-ninth Session in June 2015, welcomed the ABS Elements and invited Members to consider and, as appropriate, make use of them¹⁷.

The ABS Elements aim to assist governments considering developing, adapting or implementing access and benefit-sharing (ABS) measures to take into account the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA), their special role for food security and the distinctive features of the different subsectors of GRFA, while complying, as applicable, with international ABS instruments, such as the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty) and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (Nagoya Protocol) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

At its last session, the Commission “agreed to produce non-prescriptive explanatory notes describing, within the context of the ABS Elements, the distinctive features and specific practices of different subsectors of GRFA, to complement the ABS Elements¹⁸.” The Commission invited Members, observers and other stakeholders to provide relevant inputs for such explanatory notes, including on their practical experiences in implementing national ABS measures related to GRFA. It also requested the Secretariat to convene, in collaboration with the Secretariats of the Treaty and the CBD, an international workshop on ABS for GRFA to provide outputs for elaboration into the explanatory notes.

The document *Draft explanatory notes describing, within the context of the ABS Elements, the distinctive features of forest genetic resources (CGRFA/WG-FGR-5/4)* briefly introduces the ABS Elements, elaborates the *Outputs of the International Workshop on Access and Benefit-sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-FGR-5/18/Inf.8)* into non-prescriptive explanatory notes describing, within the context of the ABS Elements, the distinctive features of forest genetic resources and identifies areas where explanatory notes could help governments to take into account, in the development, adaptation or implementation of ABS measures, the importance of forest genetic resources, their special role for food security and their distinctive features.

Inputs by Members and observers to the explanatory notes are contained in the document *Inputs by Members and observers on Access and Benefit-Sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-FGR-5/18/Inf.7)*. A preliminary version of the proceedings of the International Workshop has been made available to the Working Group (*CGRFA/WG-FGR-5/18/Inf.9*).

Preliminary findings of a survey on access and benefit-sharing for GRFA among the Commission’s National Focal Points is contained in the document *National Focal Point Survey on access and benefit-sharing for forest genetic resources (CGRFA/WG-FGR-5/18/Inf.10)*.

6. Digital sequence information

The Commission, at its last session, established a new work stream on “digital sequence information.” It requested the Secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of the necessary resources, an exploratory fact-finding scoping study on “digital sequence information” on GRFA to provide information on, inter alia, terminology used in this area, actors involved with “digital sequence information” on GRFA, the types and extent of uses of “digital sequence information” on GRFA, such as:

- characterization,
- breeding and genetic improvement,
- conservation, and

¹⁶ CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 22(ii).

¹⁷ C 2015/REP, paragraph 52.

¹⁸ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 25 (iii).

- identification of GRFA,

as well as on relevance of “digital sequence information” on GRFA for food security and nutrition, in order to facilitate consideration by the Commission, at its next session, of the implications of the use of “digital sequence information” on GRFA for the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA, including exchange, access and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use¹⁹.

In response to the Commission’s request, the document *Review of the draft exploratory fact-finding scoping study on “digital sequence information” on genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-FGR-5/18/5)* invites the Working Group to review and provide inputs to the *Draft exploratory fact-finding scoping study on “digital sequence information” on genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-FGR-5/18/Inf.11)*.

7. Draft work plan for the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, requested FAO to prepare a draft work plan for future work on the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organisms and invertebrates, taking into account the views of Members and observers, the findings of the report on *The State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* and any other relevant information, for review by the Working Groups and the Commission at their next sessions²⁰.

The document *Draft work plan for the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-FGR-5/18/6)* recapitulates the Commission’s activities in the area of micro-organisms and invertebrates over the last 10 years and presents a draft work plan for the Commission’s future work in this area, for review by the Working Group.

8. Draft Revised Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2018-2027)

The Commission, at its last session, updated the major outputs and milestones (2018–2027) of the MYPOW²¹ and agreed that the Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture²² adopted at the Commission’s Fourteenth Regular Session would remain valid for the time being. However, it requested the Secretary to invite Members and observers to comment during the intersessional period on the draft Strategic Plan and to revise the document, taking into account comments received, relevant international developments and FAO’s Strategic Framework.

A revised version of the draft Strategic Plan, as reviewed by the Bureau of the Commission, is contained in Appendix I to the document *Draft Revised Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2018–2027) (CGRFA/WG-FGR-5/18/7)*, for review by the Working Group.

9. Any other matters

10. Adoption of the Report

¹⁹ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 86.

²⁰ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 78.

²¹ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, Appendix C.

²² CGRFA-14/13/Report, Appendix I.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Agenda Item	Title	
Tuesday, 8 May 2018 morning		
10:00 – 13:00	1	Election of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson(s) and the Rapporteur
	2	Adoption of the agenda and timetable
	3	Status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources
		3.1 Preliminary First Report on the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources
Tuesday, 8 May 2018 afternoon		
15:00 – 18:00		3.2 Draft voluntary guidelines for preparing a national strategy for forest genetic resources
		3.3 Draft funding strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources
	4	Preparation of <i>The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources</i>
Wednesday, 9 May 2018 morning		
10:00 – 13:00	5	Access and benefit-sharing for forest genetic resources
	6	Digital sequence information
Wednesday, 9 May 2018 afternoon		
15:00 – 18:00	7	Draft work plan for the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organisms and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture
	8	Draft Revised Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2018-2027)
	9	Any other matters
Thursday, 10 May 2018 afternoon		
15:00 – 18:00	10	Adoption of the Report