



Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda

**COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

Fourth Extraordinary Session

Rome, 1-5 December 1997

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable for the Session

In order to facilitate the negotiations under agenda item 2, the Commission may decide, as on past occasions, to establish *Ad Hoc* Working Groups, as well as to convene a limited number of parallel meetings of these Working Groups, bureau meetings and night sessions. The secretariat has accordingly made arrangement for interpretation that provide the Commission with considerable flexibility.

2. Continuation of negotiations for the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources

Conference Resolution 7/93 requested the Director-General to provide for negotiations among governments, in the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture,¹ for the adaptation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity.² The Resolution “urges that the process be carried out through the regular and extraordinary sessions of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources”.

These negotiations, which began in 1994, most recently took place during the Commission’s Seventh Session (15-23 May 1997). On that occasion, the Commission “recognized the significant progress, and the constructive interactions among the regions that had taken place during the session, which had created good conditions to move forward, having in mind the major importance of the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization, in assuring global food security. The Regions considered that the negotiations during this Session had provided a much better understanding of

¹ Then the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.

² While the Convention on Biological Diversity covers all kinds of biological diversity, the scope of the Undertaking is limited to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

each other's positions. The need for high-level political involvement in the negotiating process was highlighted".

In agreement with the Chairman, the following documents have been prepared for use in the negotiations. Document CGRFA/IUND/4 Rev.1 contains the Fourth Negotiating Text of the International Undertaking for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Document CGRFA/IUND/4 Rev. 1 Add. 1 contains the negotiated text and consolidated text of Articles 3 (Scope), 11 (Access) and 12 (Farmers' Rights), resulting from the negotiations during the Seventh Regular Session. For ease of reference, the regional positions presented during the Seventh Session have been assembled in document CGRFA-Ex4/Inf. 1.

In addition, a number of documents dealing with technical, economic, legal and institutional matters of relevance in the revision of the International Undertaking, which have already been presented to the Commission, but not yet fully discussed, will also be available for information.³

3. Date and place of the next session

4. Adoption of the Report

³ *Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. Issues for consideration in Stage II: access to plant genetic resources, and Farmers' Rights* (CPGR-6/95/8); the document provides information on areas where countries have already reached consensus regarding the issues of access and the realization of Farmers' Rights, and identifies areas where consensus is still needed.

Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. Analysis of some technical, economic and legal aspects for consideration in Stage II (CPGR-6/95/8 Supp). The document covers some key aspects of issues in discussion.

Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. Stage III - Legal and institutional matters (CPGR-6/95/9).

Access to plant genetic resources and the equitable sharing of benefits: a contribution to the debate on systems for the exchange of germplasm; the document, prepared by IPGRI at the request of the Sixth Regular Session, was made available to the Second Extraordinary Session.

CGRFA-EX3/96/Lim. 2: *Options for access to plant genetic resources and the optional sharing of benefits arising from their use*. This document prepared by IPGRI, was made available to the Third Extraordinary Session.

Document CPGR-EX1/94/3 provides information on the *Mandate, context, background and proposed process*.

Background Study Paper No. 1: *The appropriation of the benefits of plant genetic resources for agriculture: an economic analysis of the alternative mechanisms for biodiversity conservation* (only in English).

Background Study Paper No. 2: *Sovereign and property rights over plant genetic resources* (only in English).

Background Study Paper No. 3: *Providing Farmers' Rights through in situ conservation of crop genetic resources* (only in English).

Background Study Paper No. 4: *Identifying genetic resources and their origin: The capabilities and limitations of modern biochemical and legal systems* (only in English).

Background Study Paper No. 5: *Información sobre las colecciones ex situ conservadas en jardines botánicos* (only in Spanish)

Background Study Paper No. 6 : *Mejora genética para mantener la diversidad en los cultivos* (Spanish only)

Background Study Paper No. 7: *Contribución a la estimación de la interdependencia de los países en materia de recursos fitogenéticos* (Spanish only)