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REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK AND

DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (2018–2027)

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Since 2007, the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) has guided the work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission). At its Twelfth Regular Session in 2009, the Commission adopted the *Strategic Plan 2010–2017 for the implementation of the MYPOW*.¹ At its Thirteenth Regular Session in 2011, the Commission reviewed progress made in the implementation of the MYPOW and adopted a revised version². At its Fourteenth Regular Session in 2013, the Commission updated again the MYPOW and replaced its previous strategic plan by a new *Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2014–2023*.³ The latter became the planning and implementation framework aiming to assist Members of the Commission, the Bureau and the Secretariat of the Commission, FAO and other organizations to contribute to the implementation of the MYPOW. At its last session, the Commission took note of a detailed *Implementation Plan for the Commission's MYPOW 2014–2023* prepared by the Secretariat to enable the Commission to implement the *Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2014–2023*.⁴

2. At its Eleventh Regular Session, the Commission agreed to review progress made in the implementation of its MYPOW in subsequent sessions. The MYPOW⁵ foresees for the Commission's forthcoming Sixteenth Regular Session, as a major output, a "*Progress Report/ Periodic assessment/ Review of the Multi-year Programme of Work*."

3. This document reviews the implementation of the MYPOW since its adoption in 2007. In the light of progress made over the last decade, it proposes a *Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2018–2027)*, for consideration by the Working Group.

II. REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MYPOW: 2007–2016

4. Over the last decade the Commission continued to implement its broadened mandate covering all aspects of genetic resources of relevance to food and agriculture through a step-by-step approach, as mandated by the FAO Conference in 1995.⁶ In implementing its broadened mandate, the Commission and its Members delivered on all pillars of the Commission's mandate and work cycle: country reporting, global assessments; policy instruments; implementation; and monitoring and reporting.

Country reporting

5. FAO's global assessments of the state of the world's genetic resources for food and agriculture are based predominately on country reports. During the last decade, country reports continued to be an important, though not the only source of information for the global assessments. Their preparation by countries through inclusive and participative processes continued to raise awareness at country level, and often initiated or contributed to the development or strengthening of national strategies and policies supporting the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture. 114 countries reported for the second global assessment of the state of the world's plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. 86 countries reported on the status of their forest genetic resources to FAO, covering 85 percent of the global forest area. 169 countries reported for the first and 129 countries for the second global assessment of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture. In addition, countries reported through the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) and the World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS) on the status of animal and plant genetic resources and on related national implementation measures. A reporting

¹ CGRFA-12/09/Report, paragraph 75.

² CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraph 107.

³ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 113.

⁴ CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 70.

⁵ CGRFA-14/13/Report, *Appendix I*.

⁶ C 1995/REP, paragraph 69 (Resolution 3/95).

mechanism for forest genetic resources is under preparation. Countries also provided information on use and exchange practices relevant to access and benefit-sharing for different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Global assessments

6. During the last decade, FAO launched several global assessments⁷ prepared under the guidance of the Commission.

- In 2007, the Conference welcomed *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* as “the first comprehensive worldwide assessment of the state of animal genetic resources”.⁸
- In 2009, FAO presented to the Commission *The Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* which provides a comprehensive overview of trends in plant genetic resources conservation and use around the world.
- In 2013, the draft report on *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* was presented to the Commission. The final first-ever global assessment of the state of the world's forest genetic resources was launched in June 2014.
- *The Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* was presented to the Commission and published in 2015. It presents an analysis of the state of livestock diversity, the influence of livestock-sector trends on the management of animal genetic resources, the state of capacity to manage animal genetic resources, including legal and policy frameworks, and the state of the art in tools and methods for characterization, valuation, use, development and conservation.
- FAO will present two additional global assessments as drafts to the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session: *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*.

Policy instruments

7. The Commission also prepared and negotiated numerous policy instruments, including technical guidelines and guidance documents providing advice as to the implementation of policy instruments developed by the Commission. The key instruments⁹ include:

- The *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* and the *Interlaken Declaration* adopted by the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which was subsequently endorsed by the FAO Conference as a major contribution to the overall international framework on agricultural biodiversity.¹⁰ The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) welcomed the Global Plan of Action and invited its Contracting Parties, other governments, indigenous and local communities, farmers, pastoralists, animal breeders, relevant organizations and other stakeholders to ensure its effective implementation¹¹.
- *The Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* adopted by the FAO Council, on behalf of the Conference, in November 2011¹² which reaffirms the commitment of governments to the promotion of plant genetic resources as an essential component of food security through sustainable agriculture in the face of climate change. Updating the rolling Global Plan of Action also strengthens its role as a supporting component of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

⁷ Available at <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/cgrfa-global/cgrfa-globass/en/>

⁸ C 2007/REP, paragraph 147 (Resolution 12/2007).

⁹ Available at <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/cgrfa-global/cgrfa-globplan/en/>

¹⁰ C 2007/REP, paragraph 147 (Resolution 12/2007).

¹¹ CBD COB IX Decision IX/1.

¹² CL 143/REP, paragraph 43.

that was adopted by the FAO Conference in 2001, following seven years of Commission negotiations.

- The *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* agreed upon by the Commission at its Fourteenth Regular Session and adopted by the FAO Conference in 2013¹³, focuses on: improving the availability of, and access to, information on forest genetic resources; *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of forest genetic resources; sustainable use, development and management of forest genetic resources; and policies, institutions and capacity building.

8. In addition to these key instruments, the Commission prepared with the assistance of its subsidiary bodies other instruments¹⁴ supporting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity or food and agriculture. These instruments address various topics, such as the preparation of national strategies¹⁵, *in vivo* and *ex situ* conservation methods and standards¹⁶, the characterization of genetic resources¹⁷, breeding strategies and related topics¹⁸, institutional aspects and policy formulation.¹⁹ The Commission also prepared instruments on cross-sectoral matters relevant to all subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture, including on access and benefit-sharing²⁰, climate change²¹ and nutrition²².

Implementation

9. The Commission endorsed during the last decade a Funding Strategy promoting the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources.²³ For forest genetic resources, the Commission adopted an implementation strategy to support the conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources.²⁴ For a number of the above activities, especially the global assessments, extra-budgetary resources are required in addition to regular programme resources. Cross-sectoral programmes and projects funded by the governments of the Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Spain and Sweden were instrumental in advancing the MYPOW. FAO provided support to a considerable number of countries in activities contributing to the implementation of the Commission's policy instruments. However, their implementation remains a key challenge for FAO and its Commission. While the Commission has taken a number of initiatives to support the conservation, sustainable use and development of genetic resources at national level, the

¹³ C 2013/REP, paragraph 77.

¹⁴ Available at <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/cgrfa-global/cgrfa-codes/en/>. The working group on forest genetic resources has initiated the development of guidelines for preparing a national strategy for forest genetic resources.

¹⁵ Preparation of national strategies and action plans for animal genetic resources; Developing the institutional framework for the management of animal genetic resources; Guidelines for developing a National Strategy for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Translating the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture into National Action.

¹⁶ Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; Cryoconservation of animal genetic resources; *In vivo* conservation of animal genetic resources.

¹⁷ Surveying and monitoring of animal genetic resources; Molecular genetic characterization of animal genetic resources; Phenotypic characterization of animal genetic resources.

¹⁸ Breeding strategies for sustainable management of animal genetic resources; Guidelines for development of integrated multipurpose animal recording systems.

¹⁹ Voluntary guide for national seed policy formulation; Developing the institutional framework for the management of animal genetic resources.

²⁰ Elements to facilitate domestic implementation of access and benefit-sharing for different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

²¹ Voluntary guidelines to support the integration of genetic diversity into national climate change adaptation planning.

²² Voluntary Guidelines for Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Policies, Programmes and National and Regional Plans of Action on Nutrition.

²³ Available at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i1674e/i1674e00.pdf>.

²⁴ CGRFA-15/15/Report, *Appendix E*.

impact of the Commission's policy instruments could be further improved through better support, capacity-building, technology transfer and provision of financial resources.

Monitoring and reporting

10. The Commission monitors the implementation of its Global Plans of Action for animal and plant genetic resources through targets and indicators, and dedicated web-based information systems for country data (DAD-IS; WIEWS). Countries report data as a basis for indicators reviewed by the Commission's working groups and approved by the Commission. For plant genetic resources, the Commission adopted at its last session indicators to monitor progress in the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and higher-order composite indices which provide a simplified and concise assessment, at country, regional and global levels, of the progress made towards three agreed targets. For animal genetic resources, the Commission endorsed indicators to assess the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, and indicators to assess the state of the resources. For forest genetic resources, targets and indicators are under development²⁵. Sectoral indicators developed by the Commission for plant and animal genetic resources are aligned with Aichi Biodiversity Target 13 and were used for the preparation of the Global Biodiversity Outlook 4. The centralized information systems for genetic resources and the alignment of the Commission's targets and indicators thus facilitate reporting for countries.

Arrangements supporting the implementation of the MYPOW

11. A number of new arrangements established during the last decade helped the Commission to deliver on all phases of its work cycle:

Establishment of new subsidiary bodies

The Commission established in 2009 the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources to oversee the preparation of The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources and the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for forest genetic resources. In 2011, the Commission established its Ad Hoc Technical Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which was replaced in 2013 by the Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing. In 2015, at its last session, the Commission established the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and mandated it to guide the preparation and review of *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

Focal points

In its work on the different subsector of genetic resources and for biodiversity for food and agriculture, the Commission is supported by a large number of National Focal Points and, in the case of animal genetic resources, National Coordinators.²⁶ At its last session, the Commission acknowledged the key role of sectoral focal points/ coordinators for the Commission and invited Members to nominate, in addition to the sectoral focal points/ coordinators, National Focal Points to the Commission.²⁷ Within less than 9 months, 72 countries nominated National Focal Points for the Commission. Also the numbers of other focal points keep increasing.

Special information seminars

The Commission continued to devote special information seminars, preceding its regular sessions, to specific topics relevant either to the session or to topics of particular interest to FAO and the Commission. Topics covered by special information seminars included: the MYPOW (2007);

²⁵ CGRFA/WG-FGR-4/16/3.

²⁶ Contact details are available at <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/cgrfa-about/national-contact/en/>.

²⁷ CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 76.

access and benefit-sharing (2009); climate change (2011); biodiversity for food and agriculture (2013) and food security (2015).²⁸

Partnerships

The Commission continued to collaborate with partners and gained new partners, including among international, regional and national organizations, instruments and networks. The Commission formalized its collaboration with the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture²⁹, the Secretariat of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research,³⁰ CIRAD³¹ and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity³².

Conclusion

12. While until 2001, the Commission focused most of its work on plant genetic resources and on negotiating the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, in the last decade the Commission has made significant progress in the step-wise implementation of its broadened mandate. It addressed a considerable number of new sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture and prepared multiple sectoral and cross-sectoral instruments. The MYPOW allowed the Commission to fully align its work with FAO's reviewed Strategic Framework,³³ address new trends and developments, such as the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, and react to new and emerging issues and policy processes, e.g. in the area of climate change. The MYPOW also provided guidance to FAO's technical departments allowing them to plan their contributions.

13. The Commission's strengthened role in the global policy landscape of biodiversity and genetic resources is reflected in the evaluation of FAO's work in genetic resources which concludes that *"FAO is a respected authority on genetic resources for food and agriculture, and FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture provides the only global forum for governments to discuss and negotiate matters specifically relevant to biological diversity and genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Commission is well respected, and the various State-of-the World reports, Global Plans of Action and other normative instruments have informed governments and the public on the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture. These normative products are especially useful for informing lower and middle-income countries on the current genetic resources for food and agriculture situation, as well as developments governing the exchange of information and the transfer of genetic resources for food and agriculture. FAO's genetic resources for food and agriculture information systems are crucial resources enabling stakeholders to access and share information."*³⁴

III. PROPOSAL FOR A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (2018–2027)

14. The purpose of the proposed *Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2018–2027)* (Strategic Plan), as given in Appendix I to this document, is to support through a strategic approach the Commission in its efforts to halt the loss of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and to ensure world food security and sustainable development by promoting the conservation and sustainable use of these vital resources, including access to them and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use.

²⁸ <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/events/en>.

²⁹ CGRFA-12/09/Report, *Appendix H*.

³⁰ CGRFA-15/15/Inf. 34.

³¹ CGRFA-15/15/Inf. 33.

³² CGRFA-12/09/Inf. 8, CGRFA-13/11/Inf.11.

³³ CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 71.

³⁴ PC 119/5, Conclusion 1. Evaluation of FAO's work in genetic resources available at <http://www.fao.org/evaluation/oed-documents-and-reports/en/>

15. In the past, the Commission treated the MYPOW and the (strategic) plans for the implementation of the MYPOW as two separate documents which were updated at different, though usually immediately successive, sessions and were therefore, at times, not fully synchronized with each other. In addition, the strategic goals and objectives contained in the Strategic Plan 2014–2023 were of operative, rather than strategic nature. The proposed Strategic Plan, as contained in *Appendix I* to this document, aims to: (i) combine the previous MYPOW table and the planning of Commission sessions into one and the same planning tool; (ii) align the Commission’s work, including its strategic goals and objectives and the monitoring of the status of genetic resources, with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and (iii) update the major outputs and milestones foreseen for the next five regular sessions of the Commission, taking into account new and emerging issues the Commission may wish to address.

16. The proposed Strategic Plan would continue to contain the Commission’s ‘Mission’ and ‘Vision’. The section ‘Strategic Goals’ would contain four goals:

- (1) **Sustainable use:** Ensure the sustainable use and development of genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture for world food security and sustainable development;
- (2) **Conservation:** Halt the loss of genetic resources for food and agriculture;
- (3) **Access and benefit-sharing:** Facilitate appropriate access to genetic resources for food and agriculture and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization; and
- (4) **Participation:** Farmers, pastoralists, fisher folks and forest dwellers participate in decision-making.

The former section on ‘Strategic Goals and Objectives’ would be revised and become ‘Operative Principles’.

Strategic orientation: Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

17. The SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – with closely interwoven targets. The SDGs call to make our agriculture and food systems more efficient and sustainable, and to shift to more sustainable consumption and production approaches. Sustainable food and agriculture underpins the other development challenges addressed in the 2030 agenda. The 17 SDGs with 169 targets are expected to stimulate and guide actions of governments, international agencies, civil society and other institutions over the period of 2016 to 2030. Countries and stakeholders might align existing plans and strategies with the SDGs, or even develop SDG-based development strategies.³⁵ Countries will report annually on progress on SDG indicators. The Commission’s work contributes to several targets, particularly under Goals 2³⁶ and 15³⁷.

³⁵ UNSDSN, 2015. Getting Started with the Sustainable Development Goals - A Guide for Stakeholders.

Available at <http://unsdsn.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/151211-getting-started-guide-FINAL-PDF-.pdf>.

³⁶ Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; Target 2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality, and 2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.

³⁷ Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss; Target 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements; 15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally, 15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened

18. With the adoption of the SDG indicators by the UN Statistical Commission at its Forty-seventh Session in March 2016, it is important to align the outputs and milestones of the Commission's Strategic Plan with SDG outcomes and indicators, in order to determine the changes that occurred as a result of the Commission's work. Besides better outcome reporting, it would allow to align the national implementation of the Global Plans of Action to that of other processes and facilitate reporting for countries.

19. The proposed Strategic Goals reflect the goals and targets the Commission has already adopted for the different sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and would guide the development of new sectoral targets. The Commission's proposed goals and targets will be composites covering the sectors, and time bound as per alignment with the SDGs, and will thus require an adjustment of some of the already agreed sectoral targets.

New or modified major outputs and milestones

20. The Commission agreed already at its Fourteenth Regular Session on major outputs and milestones for its Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Nineteenth Regular Sessions. The proposed Strategic Plan adds in its *Annex 1* major outputs and milestones for the Commission's Twentieth and Twenty-first Regular Sessions, taking into account new and emerging issues and trends and the Commission's work cycle, consisting of: country reporting, global assessments; policy instruments; implementation; and monitoring and reporting.

21. The Commission adopted a Programme of Work on Climate Change and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at its Fourteenth Regular Session.³⁸ A review of the Programme of Work will be conducted at the Sixteenth Regular Session. To address the continuous challenges posed by climate change in a coordinated and coherent manner, it is suggested to integrate the Commission's work on climate change and genetic resources into the proposed Strategic Plan, rather than continuing it as separate work programme.

22. The MYPOW foresees the review of work on biodiversity and nutrition as a major output and milestone for the Seventeenth Regular Session, for which the Commission also requested FAO to report on the implementation of the *Voluntary Guidelines for Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Policies, Programmes and National and Regional Plans of Action on Nutrition*. FAO continues to maintain and update the FAO/INFOODS Food Composition Database for Biodiversity, promoting healthy diets, including through appropriate information and public awareness activities, recognition of traditional, national and local food cultures, and the use of social and economic incentives throughout the supply chain.

Emerging issues

23. As new biotechnologies, such as whole genome sequencing and gene editing are fast evolving and may have a whole range of implications, including for breeding and selection, access and benefit sharing issues and capacity development, the Commission may wish to add to its outputs and milestones:

- A review of technical and policy dimensions of new biotechnologies for the sustainable use, development and conservation of genetic resources for food and agriculture (under Biotechnology at CGRFA-17).
- Access to genomic information and the sharing of benefits derived from it (under Access and benefit-sharing at CGRFA-18)

species, and 15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.

³⁸ Available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-b1009e.pdf>.

24. The Commission considered at its last two sessions targets and indicators as a cross-sectoral matter. However, most of the actual work on targets and indicators is related to specific subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture. As the methodological and common issues with regard to targets and indicators have been mostly solved, it is proposed to consider in the future the reporting on sectoral indicators as part of the sectoral sections of the Strategic Plan.

25. The Commission will continue to report on developments of targets and indicators and reports on its goals and targets, as contributions to the SDGs, as appropriate. Therefore, the Commission may wish to address this matter in the sectoral context as well as in the review of its Strategic Plan. The Commission may wish to add to its outputs and milestones:

- A review of targets and indicators for the Commission's strategic cross-sectoral goals (under Management at CGRFA-17).

The review of implementation of the Commission's strategic cross-sectoral goals will be addressed under the periodic report / assessment/ review of the Strategic Plan.

Biodiversity for food and agriculture and human health

26. Besides the direct effects on nutrition, there are many interactions between agricultural production, biodiversity for food and agriculture and human health. The integrated "One Health" approach to the management of ecosystems aims at minimizing unnecessary disturbance to natural systems and so avoid or mitigate the potential emergence of new pathogens in order to reduce the risk and incidence of infectious diseases, including zoonotic and vector-borne diseases. Biodiverse agricultural ecosystems contribute to sustainable production increases and to the reduced use of pesticides and other chemical inputs, possibly reduced antimicrobial resistance, all contributing to benefits for human health and the environment. Ecosystem-based adaptation is being used for disaster risk reduction and mitigation, and for climate change adaptation, with measures contributing to human health and to the conservation of biodiversity and of vulnerable ecosystems. The Commission may wish to add to its outputs and milestones:

- A concept note on biodiversity for food and agriculture and human health (at CGRFA-17); and
- Biodiversity for food and agriculture and human health linkages: setting priorities (at CGRFA-19).

Management of the Strategic Plan

27. The proposed Strategic Plan foresees a 'Progress Report/ Periodic assessment/ Review of the Strategic Plan' for each of the forthcoming session. It seems useful to consider at each session on the Commission the status of implementation of its Strategic Plan. In addition, given the rolling nature of the Strategic Plan, there is a need for the Strategic Plan and the session-specific planning to be updated on a regular basis.

IV. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

28. The Working Group is invited to review the progress made by the Commission over the last decade, and to review and revise, as appropriate, the draft Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2018–2027), as given in *Appendix I* to this document.

*APPENDIX I***DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR
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Annex 1. Major Outputs and Milestones (2018–2027)

Annex 2. Session Planning for CGRFA-17 and CGRFA-18

Vision

Conserving biodiversity for food and agriculture and promoting its use in support of global food security and sustainable development, for present and future generations.

Mission

Cognizant that genetic resources for food and agriculture are a common concern of all countries, in that all countries depend on genetic resources for food and agriculture that originated elsewhere, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) strives to halt the loss of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and to ensure world food security and sustainable development by promoting their conservation, sustainable use, including exchange, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use.

Strategic Goals

The Commission's Strategic Goals are cross-sectoral and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

In line with its mission, the Commission's strategic goals and targets are:

Goal 1: Sustainable use

Ensure the sustainable use and development of genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture for world food security and sustainable development.

Target: By 2030, ensure sustainable food and agriculture production systems through the continued sustainable use and development of genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture, supporting the implementation of resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

Indicator: [Indicator (to be developed) should address the genetic resources level, and the production system and landscape level.]

Goal 2: Conservation

Halt the loss of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Target: By 2020, conserve in either medium or long term conservation programmes or facilities the genetic diversity of at-risk cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their wild relatives, and forest trees.

Indicator: [Indicators for this target have already been developed and endorsed by the Commission for plant and animal genetic resources; for forest genetic resources indicators are under development.]

Goal 3: Access and benefit-sharing

Facilitate appropriate access to genetic resources for food and agriculture and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.

Target: By 2030, biodiversity for food and agriculture is conserved and sustainably used through fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture and associated traditional knowledge, including by promoting appropriate access to genetic resources for food and agriculture, technology transfer and funding.

Indicator: [Indicator (to be developed) should address the linkage between exchanges under Standard Material Transfer Agreements/ permits or their equivalents granted and the status of sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture.]

Goal 4: Participation

Farmers, pastoralists, fisher folks and forest dwellers participate in decision-making

Target: By 2030, farmers, pastoralists, fisher folks and forest dwellers participate in making decisions, at the national level, on all matters relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Indicator: [Indicator (to be developed) should focus on participation of farmers, pastoralists, fisher folks and forest dwellers in legislative, administrative and policy measures relevant to the conservation and sustainable use genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture.]

Operative Principles

Principle 1: The Commission has a coordinating role and deals with policy, sectorial and cross-sectorial matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources of relevance to food and agriculture.

- The Commission guides and monitors FAO's policies, programmes and activities related to genetic resources for food and agriculture within the framework of FAO's strategic objectives.
- The Commission keeps under continuous review relevant matters in other forums, including policy developments, relating to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture, access to these resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use.

Principle 2: The Commission monitors the state of the world's genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture.

- The Commission oversees the periodic preparation of global assessments on genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture, and, as appropriate, the development of a comprehensive global information system or systems for relevant genetic resources in support of this role.

Principle 3: The Commission strives to reach international consensus on policies and action programmes to ensure the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture, as well the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use.

- The Commission provides an intergovernmental forum for negotiation of international policies on genetic resources for food and agriculture.
- The Commission oversees the implementation of, and updates, global action plans and other instruments addressing the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture, as well as access to these resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use.
- The Commission responds to developments in other forums, where appropriate.

Principle 4: The Commission contributes to the strengthening of national and regional policies on biodiversity for food and agriculture and promotes cooperation in capacity-building.

- The Commission supports the development or strengthening of national and regional policies and programmes on genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture, in particular by facilitating the implementation of Global Plans of Actions for genetic resources, and establishes coordination mechanisms to promote national and regional cooperation across relevant sectors and among actors.

- The Commission identifies and facilitates the availability of financial, human, scientific, technical and technological resources to enable Commission Members to contribute actively to the achievement of the outputs and milestones of the Commission's Strategic Plan and to implement policies and recommendations developed by the Commission.
- The Commission supports its Members in the development and implementation of strategies and activities that raise public awareness and facilitate education that creates a better understanding of the relevance of biodiversity for food and agriculture and thereby promotes broader participation of stakeholders in the conservation and use of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Principle 5: The Commission continues and strengthens cooperation and partnerships on biodiversity for food and agriculture.

- The Commission facilitates and oversees cooperation between FAO and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies.
- In addition to its activities on plant, animal, forest, aquatic genetic resources, microorganisms and invertebrates, the Commission brings together international partners addressing biodiversity for food and agriculture, to facilitate exchange of experiences and to create new partnerships.
- The Commission's cooperation with other relevant international bodies strives to ensure that negotiations in other forums take into account the special needs of the agricultural sector with regard to all components of biological diversity relevant for food and agriculture.
- The Commission will actively increase the involvement of all stakeholders, such as civil society and producer organizations, including organizations representing women and small-scale producers, breeding institutions and industries, and public- and private-sector organizations involved with genetic resources for food and agriculture.

I. RATIONALE FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN (2018-2027)

1. Biodiversity for food and agriculture is among the earth's most important resources. Crops, livestock, aquatic organisms, forest trees, micro-organisms and invertebrates – thousands of species and their genetic variability – make up the web of biodiversity upon which the world's food production depends. Biodiversity for food and agriculture contributes to food security and nutrition and sustainable livelihoods, and, through the provision of regulating and supporting ecosystem services, underpins the natural potential for adaptation to ever-changing socio-economic and environmental dynamics, such as population growth, dietary preferences, nutritional needs and climate change.
2. Aware of the importance of each component of biodiversity for food and agriculture to global food security and nutrition, the Commission aims to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture, access to these resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use, for present and future generations.
3. Since 2007, the Commission has been operating under a Multi-Year Programme of Work.³⁹ The Commission adopted a strategic plan for its implementation in 2009 and revised both, the Multi-Year Programme of Work and the strategic plan in the following years. In 2013, the Commission adopted the *Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2014–2023*, which embraces the Multi-Year Programme of Work and contains in addition the Commission's vision and mission statements, its strategic goals and objectives as well as explanatory notes to the rationale and the implementation of the strategic plan. The strategic plan was complemented in 2015 by an implementation plan for the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work.⁴⁰
4. This Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Strategic Plan) supersedes and replaces all previous versions of the Multi-Year Programme of Work and of strategic plans. It includes in *Annex 1* major outputs and milestone for the forthcoming five regular sessions of the Commission and in *Annex 2* more detailed plans for the next two sessions of the Commission. The Strategic Plan, including its Annexes, will be reviewed and updated, as appropriate, at each session of the Commission.

II. IMPLEMENTING, MONITORING AND REVIEWING

5. This Strategic Plan guides the Commission in the implementation of its mandate. The Strategic Plan is a rolling, and therefore flexible, set of outputs and milestones, which the Commission keeps under review. Reviewing this Strategic Plan will enable the Commission to assess the progress of its work towards its ambitious goals, to address and include new and emerging issues in the field of genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture, and to take into account new developments and processes in other relevant forums.
6. For the implementation of this Strategic Plan, the Commission continues to rely on technical support from its subsidiary bodies, including the intergovernmental technical working groups. The intergovernmental technical working groups advise the Commission on issues related to biodiversity in the areas under their respective competences. They provide advice and make recommendations to the Commission on these matters and consider the progress made in implementing this Strategic Plan.
7. Through this Strategic Plan, the Commission foresees the continued preparation and presentation of its global assessments of the state of the world's biodiversity for food and agriculture, including animal, plant, aquatic and forest genetic resources.

³⁹ CGRFA-11/07/Report, *Appendix E*.

⁴⁰ CGRFA-15/15/Inf. 29.

8. The success of the implementation of the this Strategic Plan will depend on the support provided through FAO's Programme of Work and Budget, and on the mobilization of extra-budgetary resources, as well as on partnerships with, and the contributions of, other international organizations.

III. PARTNERSHIPS

9. To achieve its strategic goals and targets and support the implementation of this Strategic Plan, the Commission will continue to seek synergies and strengthen partnerships with the relevant specialized agencies and conventions of the United Nations as well as other intergovernmental organizations. Cooperation will also be enhanced with international agricultural research centres, national and regional scientific organizations, international and regional non-governmental organizations, civil society, producer organizations, relevant funding agencies and the private sector.

10. To facilitate the implementation of this Strategic Plan and strengthen cooperation in the field of biodiversity for food and agriculture, the Commission has established a focused consultation process, by which international organizations are invited to provide information on their policies, programmes and activities relevant to the prioritized themes of each of the Commission's regular sessions.

Annex 1. Major Outputs and Milestones (2018–2027)

	17th Session 2019	18th Session 2021	19th Session 2023	20th Session 2025	21st Session 2027
Sectoral matters					
Animal genetic resources		Review of implementation of the <i>Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources</i>		Presentation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	<i>Review of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources</i>
Aquatic genetic resources	Presentation of <i>The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	Development of elements related to the <i>Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries</i> and associated tools		Review of implementation of relevant elements of the <i>Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries</i>	
Forest genetic resources	Review of implementation of the <i>Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources</i>		Presentation of the <i>Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources</i>	Review of the <i>Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources</i>	
Micro-organisms and invertebrates		Review of work on micro-organisms and invertebrates		Review of work on micro-organisms and invertebrates	
Plant genetic resources	Review of status and trends of seed policies		Presentation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	Review of the <i>Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	
Cross-sectoral matters					
<i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>	Follow up to <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>		Follow up to <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>		Presentation of <i>The Second Report on the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>
Access and benefit-sharing	Review of existing access and benefit-sharing instruments and their impact on genetic resources for food and agriculture	Access to genetic resources information and the sharing of benefits derived of it	Review of existing access and benefit-sharing instruments and their impact on genetic resources for food and agriculture Review of the use of the ABS elements		Review of existing access and benefit-sharing instruments and their impact on genetic resources for food and agriculture
Biotechnologies	Review of technical and policy dimensions of new biotechnologies	Review of the work of the Commission's Working Groups on the application and integration of biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture		Review of the work of the Commission's Working Groups on the application and integration of biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture	
Climate change		Review of work on climate change and genetic resources		Review of work on climate change and genetic resources	
Health	Concept note on biodiversity for food and agriculture and human health		Biodiversity for food and agriculture and human health linkages: setting priorities		
Nutrition	Review of work on biodiversity and nutrition		Review of work on biodiversity and nutrition		
Management	Progress Report/ Periodic assessment/ Review of the Strategic Plan Review of targets and indicators for the Commission's strategic cross-sectoral goals	Progress Report/ Periodic assessment/ Review of the Strategic Plan	Progress Report/ Periodic assessment/ Review of the Strategic Plan	Progress Report/ Periodic assessment/ Review of the Strategic Plan	Progress Report/ Periodic assessment/ Review of the Strategic Plan

Annex 2. Session Planning CGRFA-17 and CGRFA-18

ACTIVITIES IN PREPARATION OF CGRFA-17 (2018/2019)

Sectoral matters	
Animal genetic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare progress report on the implementation of the (Second) Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources • Prepare brief report on the status and trends of animal genetic resources
Aquatic genetic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare draft of <i>The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>
Forest genetic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare draft outline, timeline and budget, and develop process for collecting national data for the preparation of <i>The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources</i> • Prepare FAO progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources • Prepare First Implementation Report of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources
Plant genetic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare progress report on the implementation of The Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources • Progress report on the preparation of <i>The Third Report on State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i> (including collection of national data)
Cross-sectoral matters	
<i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare implementation strategy for follow up to <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i> • Prepare synthetic account of <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>
Access and benefit-sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare review of existing access and benefit-sharing instruments and their impact on genetic resources for food and agriculture and define future work
Biotechnologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of technical and policy dimensions of genomics
Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up on previous recommendations by the Commission on this matter
Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare study to assess the impact of mainstreaming biodiversity into policies, programmes and national and regional plans of action on nutrition on the conservation and use of genetic resources for food and agriculture
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare study and concept note on biodiversity for food and agriculture and human health
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of impact of the Strategic Plan, the Global Plans of Action and other policy documents • Review of targets and indicators for the Commission's strategic cross-sectoral goals
Other matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite international instruments and organizations (including the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the CGIAR) to report on their work in supporting the activities of the Commission and collate their inputs

ACTIVITIES IN PREPARATION OF CGRFA-18 (2020/2021)

Sectoral matters	
Animal genetic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare draft outline, timeline and budget and develop process for collecting national data to support the preparation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i> • Prepare synthesis progress report to provide a global overview of progress made to implement the (Second) Global Plan of Action • Prepare FAO progress report on the implementation of the (Second) Global Plan of Action and of its Funding Strategy • Prepare international organizations progress report • Prepare brief report on the status and trends of animal genetic resources
Aquatic genetic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop elements related to <i>The Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries</i> and associated tools for assessing their implementation, aimed to maintain a broad genetic basis and to ensure sustainable use and conservation of aquatic genetic resources • Prepare 'in brief' version of <i>The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>
Forest genetic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare FAO progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Forest Genetic Resources • Prepare an update on the preparation of Second Implementation Report and <i>The Second Report on State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources</i> (including collection of national data)
Micro-organisms and invertebrates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of work on micro-organisms and invertebrates
Plant genetic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare report on status and trends of seed policies • Prepare FAO progress report on the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture • Prepare report on feasibility of composite indices for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
Cross-sectoral matters	
<i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare progress report on the implementation of the follow-up to <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>
Access and benefit-sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up on previous recommendations by the Commission on this matter • Prepare study on access to genetic resources information and the sharing of benefits derived of it.
Biotechnologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the work of the Commission's Working Groups on the application and integration of biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture
Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up on previous recommendations by the Commission on this matter • Review of implementation of the work on climate change and genetic resources
Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up on previous recommendations by the Commission on this matter
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare progress report/ periodic assessment/ review of the Strategic Plan • Prepare report on the status and needs of human and financial resources to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan • Follow-up on previous recommendations by the Commission on targets and indicators
Other matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite international instruments and organizations (including the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the CGIAR) to report on their work in supporting the activities of the Commission and collate their inputs