

168th Session of the Council

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - English version

Item 16 - Report of the 18th Session of the Commission for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) (27 September – 1 October 2021)

Member Name	Comments
Australia (Wed 17/11/2021 7:03)	As a participating Member of the 18th Session of the CGRFA, Australia notes with appreciation the report. We take the opportunity to congratulate the outgoing Chairperson, Mr François Pythoud (Switzerland), on a well conducted meeting despite the challenges of the virtual modality, including the impact on attendance due to time zone issues. Australia welcomes the election of Ms Deidré A. Januarie (Namibia) as the Chairperson for the coming biennium.
Argentina (Wed 17/11/2021 16:21)	Argentina endorses the report of the 18th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We particularly welcome the fact that the Commission has adopted a Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture as a result of intersessional consultations on needs and possible actions arising from the report on The State of the World’s Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We stress the value of the Framework in the context of the Commission’s mandate and work, as well as its voluntary nature, and look forward to actively participating in any review or updating process after the adoption of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Argentina also wishes to highlight the work of the Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-Sharing and that of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Groups and encourages the further development and implementation of the sectoral Global Plans of Action. Lastly, Argentina supports the adoption of the draft resolution entitled “The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework” and stresses the importance of the Commission’s contributions to the development and implementation of the Global Framework, within its specific mandate
Switzerland (Fri 19/11/2021 16:14) (corrigendum Wed 24/11/2021 12:08)	Switzerland fully supports the endorsement of the Report of the 18 th Session of the Commission for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) and in particular the following two suggested actions by the Council: Suggested action b) adoption of the Resolution on The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and the post-2020 global Biodiversity framework; and Suggested action c) on the endorsement of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and further work of the CGRFA in relation to the use of this tool to support the implementation of the framework at the national level (par. 53 & 54). Lastly, Switzerland would like to express its deep concern with regard to the fact that the FAO Secretariat interfered without due cause in the preparation of the final report of the Session.
Spain	We would like to emphasize the following regarding the Commission on Genetic Resources:

<p>(Fri 19/11/2021 19:05)</p>	<p>Spain fully supports the statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. We welcome the adoption of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We also support the Resolution on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Spain therefore endorses the Report of the 18th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, including the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture.</p>
<p>France (Fri 19/11/2021 20:56)</p>	<p>France aligns itself with the statement by the European Union and its 27 Member States. France welcomes the election of Mrs. Deidré JANUARIE (Namibia), the first female Chair in the history of the CGRFA. France was extremely surprised by the oral proposal on the last day of the Commission by the FAO Secretariat to systematically change the word "request" to "recommendation" in the final report. This late and unsolicited proposal from the Secretariat cannot be deemed worthy of consideration. On balance, France therefore welcomes the decision taken by the Commission, as expressed by its Chair, to maintain the use of the term "request" where it is deemed appropriate, in accordance with the established practice of the CGRFA. France requests that the FAO Secretariat not interfere in matters outside its competence by trying to modify conclusions agreed on by Commission Members. France will endeavour to ensure that the competences of Commission Members are respected so that this situation does not occur in other FAO bodies.</p>
<p>European Union (Mon 22/11/2021 20:42)</p>	<p>I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States regarding item 16 on the agenda of the 168th Session of the FAO Council. The Candidate Countries Montenegro and the Republic of North Macedonia¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of San Marino, align themselves with this written statement. We appreciate the important role of FAO, the Commission, its Working Group, the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), its Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (COFI:AQ) and the COFI Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies in the process of preparing the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We very much welcome the adoption of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We welcome the Resolution on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This Resolution will strengthen the position of the Commission and – more importantly – will enable the Commission to contribute to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its implementation in our domain.</p>

¹ The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

	<p>We regret that the proposal on needs and possible actions that was finalised through informal consultation of the national focal points could not be adopted as the Global Plan of Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (GPA for BFA) at this session. We are looking forward to the further work on this Global Plan of Action and its adoption as a voluntary, non-binding instrument at the next session of the Commission.</p> <p>Lastly, we wish to express our deep concern with regard to the fact that the FAO Secretariat interfered without due cause in the preparation of the final report of the session.</p> <p>With these comments, we endorse the Report of the 18th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, including the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture.</p>
--	--