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منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
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# COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## Item 13 of the Provisional Agenda

### Seventeenth Regular Session

Rome, 18–22 February 2019

## PROGRESS REPORT AND REVIEW OF THE DRAFT REVISED STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (2018–2027), INCLUDING THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK

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CGRFA 17

## 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).<sup>1</sup> In 2013, the Commission adopted the *Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2014–2023*, which contains the MYPOW and the Commission’s vision and mission, goals and objectives as well as explanatory notes to the rationale and the implementation of the Strategic Plan.<sup>2</sup>
2. At its last session, the Commission recapitulated its achievements<sup>3</sup> and expressed its appreciation for the substantive progress made, in collaboration with its partners, in the implementation of the MYPOW over the last decade. It reviewed and updated the major outputs and milestones of the MYPOW,<sup>4</sup> requested the Secretary to invite Members and observers to comment during the intersessional period on a draft Strategic Plan and to revise the draft Strategic Plan in the light of comments received, relevant international developments and FAO’s Strategic Framework.<sup>5</sup>
3. The MYPOW (2018–2027) foresees for this Session of the Commission a “Progress report/review of the Strategic Plan.”<sup>6</sup>
4. This document contains a progress report on the implementation of the MYPOW, including on the human and financial resources available within the Organization. The document briefly considers possible adjustments the Commission may wish to consider with regard to the organization of its future work. The document further contains the *Draft revised Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2018–2027)*, as revised by the Commission’s Working Groups, for review and adoption by the Commission.

## II. PROGRESS REPORT

5. FAO reported to the last session of the Commission on the implementation of the MYPOW from 2007 to 2016. It concluded that the Commission and its Members had delivered on all pillars of the Commission’s mandate and work cycle: country reporting; global assessments; policy instruments; implementation; and monitoring and reporting.<sup>7</sup>
6. Since the Commission’s last session, the FAO Conference adopted two resolutions, both prepared by the Commission on *The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its Contribution to the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals*<sup>8</sup> and on *Reaffirming the World’s commitment to the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*.<sup>9</sup> The FAO Conference also welcomed the Commission’s proposal to convene an international workshop on access and benefit-sharing in collaboration with the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty).<sup>10</sup>
7. All major outputs and milestones scheduled for this Session could be achieved and are reflected in the pre-session documentation of this session.
8. A recent evaluation of FAO’s contribution to integrated natural resource management for sustainable agriculture (SO 2), lists the Commission as an exemplary provider of global and strategic knowledge products and embraces the conclusion of the 2016 Evaluation of FAO’s work in Genetic

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<sup>1</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, *Appendix E*.

<sup>2</sup> CGRFA-14/13/Report, *Appendix I*.

<sup>3</sup> See CGRFA-16/17/22.

<sup>4</sup> CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, *Appendix C*.

<sup>5</sup> CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 82.

<sup>6</sup> CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, *Appendix C*.

<sup>7</sup> For a more detailed report/review, see CGRFA-16/17/22, paragraphs 4–13.

<sup>8</sup> Resolution 4/2017 (C 2017/REP, *Appendix E*).

<sup>9</sup> Resolution 3/2017 (C 2017/REP, *Appendix D*).

<sup>10</sup> C 2017/REP, paragraph 54d

Resources<sup>11</sup>, according to which “FAO’s work on genetic resources is very relevant and FAO is a respected authority on GRFA.”<sup>12</sup>

9. FAO Conference Resolution 4/2017 requested FAO to mainstream biodiversity across its programmes and projects, and to encourage synergies between stakeholders whose work contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture and biodiversity. The Commission Secretary led the preparation of the Multistakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors, jointly organized with the CBD in Rome, in May 2018.<sup>13</sup>

10. FAO’s and, more specifically, the Commission’s work on biodiversity for food and agriculture is increasingly acknowledged by other instruments, such as the CBD. The 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD expressed its appreciation for the effective cooperation with FAO and welcomed, in particular, the forthcoming publication of *The State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* and the initiative of the Commission to develop a work plan on micro-organism and invertebrates.<sup>14</sup> For the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the COP encouraged Contracting Parties to the CBD to promote the active engagement of the FAO focal points, among others, and referred to the State of the World reports and other assessment reports prepared by FAO, as key sources of information that will be used in developing documentation related to the post-2020 process and in informing the activities carried out.

11. Since the last Session, the Commission and the Treaty Secretariats strengthened their collaboration, including by convening jointly the international workshop on access and benefit-sharing. The Governing Body of the Treaty, at its 7<sup>th</sup> session, echoed the Commission’s request to strengthen collaboration on a whole range of issues, such as the preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* and monitoring and implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.<sup>15</sup>

12. The Commission, at its last Session, noted with concern that while its mandate and activities under the MYPOW had broadened, funding had not increased proportionally.<sup>16</sup> The 124<sup>th</sup> Programme Committee reviewed the *Follow-up report to the Evaluation of FAO’s contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture*<sup>17</sup> and made a range of recommendations to the Council,<sup>18</sup> stressing, *inter alia*, the need for additional resources for the Organization’s work in the area of genetic resources.

13. The Commissions Strategic Plan 2014–2023 and the MYPOW adopted at its Sixteenth Regular Session<sup>19</sup> continue to be aligned with FAO’s Reviewed Strategic Framework, Medium-Term Plan 2018–2021 and Programme of Work and Budget 2018–2019.<sup>20</sup> FAO supports the implementation of the Commission’s MYPOW by providing human and financial resources for the Commission’s Secretariat and through the Strategic Objective work plans. FAO’s activities and results pertaining to biodiversity in food and agriculture are embedded in the work plans of all Strategic Objectives, with most of the activities being covered by Strategic Objective 2 (Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable) and Core Function 1 (Facilitate and support countries in the development and implementation of normative and standard setting instruments, such as international agreements, codes of conduct, technical standards and others). The Strategic Objective Coordinators have the overall conceptual leadership and are accountable for the delivery of the outputs and achievement of the outcomes defined in the Strategic Objectives work plans, in collaboration with

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<sup>11</sup> FAO. 2016. [Evaluation of FAO’s work in Genetic Resources](#).

<sup>12</sup> PC 125/3.

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/multi-stakeholder-dialogue-on-biodiversity/en/>

<sup>14</sup> CBD/COP/DEC/14/30.

<sup>15</sup> IT/GB-7/1/17/Report, Appendix A.11 (Resolution 11/2017).

<sup>16</sup> CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 84.

<sup>17</sup> PC 124/5; PC 119/5.

<sup>18</sup> CL 159/3.

<sup>19</sup> CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, Appendix C.

<sup>20</sup> C 2017/3.

technical departments and regional offices, including the genetic resources related staff, ensuring that activities contribute to the overall results framework of the Organization. The use of these resources and the achievement of the results are monitored in the context of the Organization's results framework and reported to the Governing Bodies in the Programme Implementation Report 2016–17.<sup>21</sup>

14. Following a request by the Commission,<sup>22</sup> FAO established in 2017 a cross-sectoral multi-donor trust fund for the implementation of the MYPOW covering all outputs and milestones while continuing bilateral projects for specific activities. The project GCP/GLO/841/MUL has so far received contributions from Norway and Switzerland.

### III. DRAFT REVISED STRATEGIC PLAN (2018–2027)

15. On 22 May 2017, FAO invited, through Circular State Letter C/CBD-7, Members and observers to comment on the draft Strategic Plan as presented to the Commission's last session. A revised version of the draft Strategic Plan, taking into account comments received from Members and observers, was presented to the Bureau of the Commission, for its consideration. The draft revised Strategic Plan, as revised by the Bureau, was reviewed and revised by the intergovernmental technical working groups (Working Groups) on animal, aquatic, forest and plant genetic resources.<sup>23</sup> The draft revised Strategic Plan is contained in *Appendix I* to this document, for consideration by the Commission. The revisions suggested by the Working Groups to the MYPOW 2018–2027 and session planning for the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Sessions are contained in Annexes 1 and 2, for consideration by the Commission.

### IV. FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF WORK

16. With the completion of the report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (Report), the Commission has successfully concluded the stepwise implementation of its broadened mandate. In the past, the Commission established, for each new sector of GRFA that it had decided to address, a sectoral intergovernmental technical working group to advise it on the situation and issues related to the sector. Following this logic, the Commission could establish a working group on micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources and possibly another working group on biodiversity for food and agriculture.

17. However, while the report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (Report) stresses the importance of associated biodiversity, in particular micro-organisms and invertebrates, it also points out a challenge all sectoral working groups of the Commission are facing: the need to conserve biodiversity for food and agriculture, including species and ecosystems, by managing them in an integrated way in the context of production systems and their surroundings. The establishment of one or two new working groups dealing with biodiversity for food and agriculture and micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources would perpetuate the "sectorization" of GRFA, rather than respond to the need for integration and mainstreaming of biodiversity for food and agriculture across all sectors of GRFA.

18. The governance challenge the Commission faces is how it may facilitate cross-sectoral work on and integration of biodiversity for food and agriculture, on the one hand, and strengthen its current work and the work of its subsidiary bodies, including on micro-organisms and invertebrates, on the other. Another challenge is to ensure dialogue and exchange between the Commission's sectoral working groups with the aim to not only consult each of them on topics of cross-sectoral relevance, but to facilitate their cooperation and enable them to coordinate their advice to the Commission on integrated management approaches for sustainably using and conserving GRFA and biodiversity and the ecosystem services they provide, in the context of production systems and their surroundings.

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<sup>21</sup> C 2019/8.

<sup>22</sup> CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 85.

<sup>23</sup> CGRFA-17/19/8.1; CGRFA-17/19/9.1; CGRFA-17/19/10.1; CGRFA-17/19/11.1.

19. Various options could be considered to respond to the challenges at hand: (i) the Commission could decide to consider micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources as well as biodiversity for food and agriculture as a standing item in each Working Group and the Commission sessions; (ii) following previous practice, the Commission could also establish one or two new subsidiary bodies to deal with these topics; (iii) management approaches conserving GRFA and biodiversity in the context of production systems and their surroundings could become a focus of future state of the world reports; and (iv) logistics permitting, the Working Groups could also meet in parallel and a subsidiary body consisting of all members of the Working Groups could hold its session back-to-back with the sessions of the Working Groups to consider cross-sectoral matters, including integrated approaches to the conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture in production systems and their surroundings. The Commission may wish to consider advantages and disadvantages, as well as the financial implications of the different options, before a decision on this matter is taken.

## V. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

20. The Commission is invited to:

- i. review and revise, as appropriate, the draft revised Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2018–2027), as given in *Appendix I* to this document;
- ii. request the Secretary to prepare an options paper setting out different options (and their financial implications) for the future organization of the Commission's intersessional work to: (a) address in a coherent, integrated and consistent way biodiversity for food and agriculture, including micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources; and (b) consider, at the level of the Commission's Working Groups the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture, including species and ecosystems, by following an integrated management approach in the context of production systems and their surroundings, for consideration by the Working Groups and the Commission at their next sessions;
- iii. thank the donors that provided support to the MYPOW multi-donor trust fund and encourage other donors to follow their example;
- iv. request its Secretary to transmit the Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2018-2027) to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as an early contribution to the process developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

*APPENDIX I***DRAFT REVISED STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC  
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## VISION

Valuing and 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 and sustainable use, including exchange, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use.

## GOALS

In line with its mission, the Commission's Goals are cross-sectoral and in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The cross-sector goals build on the global assessments prepared under its guidance, the strategic priority areas, long-term goals and targets of the Commission's global action plans on plant, animal and forest genetic resources for food and agriculture and other Commission activities taken in response to the global assessments.

**Goal 1: Sustainable use:** Promote the sustainable use and development of genetic resources for food and agriculture and, more generally, all biodiversity relevant to food and agriculture, for world food security and sustainable development.<sup>24</sup>

**Goal 2: Conservation:** Maintain the diversity of genetic resources for food and agriculture.<sup>25</sup>

**Goal 3: Access and benefit-sharing:** Promote appropriate access to genetic resources for food and agriculture and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.<sup>26</sup>

**Goal 4: Participation:** Facilitate the participation of relevant stakeholders in decision-making.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Goal 1 supports SGD 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; SDG Target 14.4: By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics; and SDG Target 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.

<sup>25</sup> Goal 2 supports SDG 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.

<sup>26</sup> Goal 3 supports SDG 2.5 and SDG 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.

<sup>27</sup> Goal 4 supports SDG 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

## OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

***Principle 1: The Commission has a coordinating role and deals with policy, sectoral and cross-sectoral 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 biodiversity, including genetic resources, 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 biodiversity, including genetic resources, for food and agriculture, as well as 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 biodiversity, including genetic resources, 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 strengthen 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 (MYPOW).<sup>28</sup> The *Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2014–2023* embraces the MYPOW and contains the Commission's vision, mission and goals. The Commission's goals of the *Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2018–2027* build on the "State of the World" global assessment reports, and the strategic priority areas, long-term goals and targets of the global action plans and other policy responses to these assessments, as well as the established indicators and monitoring procedures for assessing the global action plans' and the implementation of other instruments agreed.
4. This Strategic Plan supersedes and replaces all previous versions of the Multi-Year Programme of Work and of strategic plans. It includes in *Annex 1* the MYPOW's 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.

## II. IMPLEMENTING, MONITORING AND REVIEWING

5. The 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 at each second Session will enable the Commission to assess the progress of its work towards its goals, to address and include new and emerging issues in the field of biodiversity, including genetic resources, for food and agriculture, and to take into account new developments and processes in other relevant forums. The MYPOW with major outputs and milestones and the Session Planning are reviewed at each Session.
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 that advise the Commission on issues 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.
8. The success of the implementation of this Strategic Plan and its MYPOW 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.

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<sup>28</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, *Appendix E*.

### **III. PARTNERSHIPS**

9. To achieve its 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. Information exchange and capacity development will be facilitated through regional networks and South–South and triangular cooperation.

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 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: MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK: MAJOR OUTPUTS AND MILESTONES  
(2018-2027)<sup>29</sup>**

|   | 17 <sup>th</sup> Session<br>2019  | 18 <sup>th</sup> Session<br>2021  | 19 <sup>th</sup> Session<br>2023   | 20 <sup>th</sup> Session<br>2025  | 21 <sup>st</sup> Session<br>2027   |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Sectoral matters</b>   |   |   |  |   |  |
| <b>Animal genetic resources</b>                                       |   | Review of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources  |  | Presentation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>           | Review of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources   |
| <b>Aquatic genetic resources</b>                                      | Presentation of the finalized <i>State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>                                | Consideration of draft <i>Global Plan of Action for Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>                      |  | Review of implementation of the <i>Global Plan of Action for Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>             |  |
| <b>Forest genetic resources</b>                                       | Review of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources     |   | Presentation of <i>The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources</i>  | Review of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources           |  |
| <b>Micro-organisms and invertebrates</b>                              |   | Review of work on micro-organisms and invertebrates   |  | Review of work on micro-organisms and invertebrates   |  |
| <b>Plant genetic resources</b>  | Review of status and trends of seed policies  | Thorough review and evaluation of the current GPA-2 reporting system  | Presentation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i><br>Review of GPA-2 and GPA-2 reporting system |   | Review of implementation of the (Second) Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  |
| <b>Cross-sectoral matters</b>   |   |   |  |   |  |
| <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>   |   | Follow-up to <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i><br>Presentation of <i>The Second Report on the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i> |
| <b>Access and benefit-sharing (ABS)</b>                               | Develop explanatory notes for subsectors of GRFA to complement the ABS Elements   | Review of work on ABS   |  | Review of work on ABS   |  |
| <b>Biotechnologies</b>  |   | Review of the development of biotechnologies and their potential impact on the conservation and sustainable utilization of GRFA |  | Review of the development of biotechnologies and their potential impact on the conservation and sustainable utilization of GRFA |  |
| <b>"Digital sequence information on GRFA"</b>                         | Consider the use of "digital sequence information on GRFA" and the potential implications for conservation, sustainable use and ABS of GRFA |   | Consider the use of "digital sequence information on GRFA" and the potential implications for conservation, sustainable use and ABS of GRFA                        |   | Consider the use of "digital sequence information on GRFA" and the potential implications for conservation, sustainable use and ABS of GRFA  |
| <b>Climate change</b>   |   | Review of work on climate change and GRFA   | Review of a country-driven global assessment of climate change effects and genetic resource adaptation and mitigation measures                                     | Review of work on climate change and GRFA   |  |
| <b>Nutrition and Health</b>   | Review of work on GRFA and nutrition  | Concept note on biodiversity for food and agriculture and human health  | Review of work on GRFA and nutrition and health  |   | Review of work on GRFA and nutrition and health  |
| <b>Management</b>   | Progress report/review of the Strategic Plan Reporting on SDGs  |   | Progress report/ review of the Strategic Plan Reporting on SDGs  |   | Progress report/ review of the Strategic Plan Reporting on SDGs  |

<sup>29</sup> As reviewed by the Commission at its Seventeenth Session in the light of comments received from its Intergovernmental Technical Working Groups.

\*The term is taken from decision CBD COP XIII/16 and is subject to further discussion. There is a recognition that there are a multiplicity of terms that have been used in this area (including, *inter alia*, "genetic sequence data", "genetic sequence information", "genetic information", "dematerialized genetic resources", "*in silico* utilization", etc.) and that further consideration is needed regarding the appropriate term or terms to be used.

## ANNEX 2: SESSION PLANNING FOR CGRFA-18 AND CGRFA-19

### Activities in preparation of CGRFA-18 (2020/2021)

| <b>Sectoral matters</b>   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Animal genetic resources</b>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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></li> <li>• Prepare synthesis progress report to provide a global overview of progress made to implement the Global Plan of Action</li> <li>• Prepare FAO progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and the Funding Strategy</li> <li>• Prepare international organizations' progress report</li> <li>• Prepare brief report on the status and trends of animal genetic resources</li> </ul> |
| <b>Aquatic genetic resources</b>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider draft <i>Global Plan of Action for Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Forest genetic resources</b>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare FAO progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Forest Genetic Resources</li> <li>• Prepare an update on the preparation of Second Implementation Report and <i>The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources</i> (including collection of national data)</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Micro-organisms and invertebrates</b>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of work on micro-organisms and invertebrates</li> <li>• Follow-up on previous recommendations by the Commission on this matter</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Plant genetic resources</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare FAO progress report on the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</li> <li>• Prepare update on the preparation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Cross-sectoral matters</b>   |   |
| <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare progress report on the implementation of the follow-up to <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Access and benefit-sharing</b>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare review of existing access and benefit-sharing instruments and their impact on genetic resources for food and agriculture and define future work</li> <li>• Follow-up on previous recommendations by the Commission on this matter</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Biotechnologies</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the development of biotechnologies and their potential impact or implications on the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture</li> </ul>   |
| <b>'Digital sequence information on GRFA'</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow-up on previous recommendations by the Commission on this matter</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Climate change</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status of preparation of the global assessment of the role of genetic resources for food and agriculture for climate change adaptation and mitigation</li> <li>• Follow-up on previous recommendations by the Commission on this matter</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Nutrition and health</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow-up on previous recommendations by the Commission on this matter</li> <li>• Concept note on biodiversity for food and agriculture and human health</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Management</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare progress report / review of the Strategic Plan, MYPOW</li> <li>• SDG reporting</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Other matters</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite international instruments and organizations to report on their work in supporting the activities of the Commission and collate their inputs</li> </ul>  |

### Activities in preparation of CGRFA-19 (2022/2023)

| <b>Sectoral matters</b>   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Animal genetic resources</b>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advance preparation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i> and report on progress made</li> <li>• Prepare document on the implementation and possible updating of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources</li> <li>• Prepare FAO progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources</li> <li>• Prepare brief report on the status and trends of animal genetic resources</li> </ul> |
| <b>Aquatic genetic resources</b>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop follow-up to the <i>Global Plan of Action for Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Forest genetic resources</b>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare FAO progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Forest Genetic Resources</li> <li>• Present the Second Implementation Report and <i>The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources</i></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Micro-organisms and invertebrates</b>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of work on micro-organisms and invertebrates</li> <li>• Follow-up on previous recommendations by the Commission on this matter</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Plant genetic resources</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i></li> <li>• Progress report on the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources</li> <li>• Prepare draft Third Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources, if relevant</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Cross-sectoral matters</b>   |  |
| <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare progress report on the implementation of the follow-up to <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Access and benefit-sharing</b>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow-up on previous recommendations by the Commission on this matter</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Biotechnologies</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow-up on previous recommendations by the Commission on this matter</li> </ul>   |
| <b>'Digital sequence information on GRFA'</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the use of "digital sequence information on GRFA" and the potential implications for conservation, sustainable use and ABS of GRFA</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Climate change</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of a country-driven global assessment of climate change effects and genetic resource adaptation and mitigation measures</li> <li>• Prepare follow-up to the assessment</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Nutrition and health</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of work on GRFA and nutrition and health</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Management</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare progress report / review of the Strategic Plan, MYPOW</li> <li>• Follow-up on previous recommendations by the Commission on targets and indicators, SDG reporting</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Other matters</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite international instruments and organizations to report on their work in supporting the activities of the Commission and collate their inputs</li> </ul>   |