

168th Session of the Council

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

The 18th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) was held from 27 September to 1 October 2021 in a virtual manner.

Dr QU Dongyu, Director-General of FAO, inaugurated the meeting and delivered a statement. Another opening statement was delivered by Ms Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The Commission reviewed at this session the implementation of its Global Plans of Action on animal, forest and plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the status of preparation of new global assessment reports on plant and forest genetic resources. It also considered various cross-sectoral matters, including the role of biodiversity for food and agriculture for food security, nutrition and human health; access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture; “Digital sequence information”, developments in other fora, and cooperation.

The Commission welcomed the work of its subsidiary bodies. It approved a draft Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in response to The State of the World’s Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2019) and endorsed a draft Resolution on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, for adoption by the Council (*Appendices D & F*). The Commission also endorsed, in response to the Report on the State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (2019), a Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture.

Mr William Wigmore, Chairperson of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)