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منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda

AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Second Session

Rome, 23–25 April 2018

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

1. Opening

The Second Session of the Ad hoc Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) will be opened at 10:00 hours on 23 April 2018.

2. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair(s) and Rapporteur

In accordance with its Statutes, “the Working Group shall elect its Chairperson and one or more Vice Chairpersons from among the representatives of Members of the Working Group at the beginning of each session. These officers shall remain in office until the next session of the Working Group and shall be eligible for re-election”. The Working Group may also wish to appoint a Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the agenda and timetable

The provisional agenda is contained in document CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/1. A provisional timetable is provided in Annex 1 to the present document which provides annotations to the provisional agenda.

4. Presentation of the Revised Draft Report on *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

The Commission, at its Sixteenth Regular Session, welcomed the draft report on *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. It invited countries that had not yet done so to nominate National Focal Points (NFPs) and to submit Country Reports by 30 June 2017, and encouraged countries that had already submitted a country report to submit a revised version.¹

The Commission requested FAO to prepare a revised draft Report on *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (revised draft Report). It also requested that a second meeting of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) be convened to review the revised draft Report.

¹ CGRFA-16/17/Report, paragraph 39.

The document *Preparation of the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* **CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/2** provides an update on the status of preparation of the Report, for review by the Working Group. The revised draft Report is contained in the document *Revised draft report on The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.²

5. Options for follow-up to *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

FAO, through the work of the Commission, its Working Group, the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), its Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (COFI:AQ) and its Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies (AWG), plays an important role in the promotion of the responsible use, management, development and conservation of aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture (AqGR).

The Commission oversees and guides the preparation of global assessments of genetic resources for food and agriculture. To date, two global assessments have been prepared for (crop) plant (1997; 2009), two for (livestock) animal (2007; 2015) and one for forest genetic resources (2013). 2018 will see the finalization and launch of two additional global assessments, *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* and *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. All the assessments have in common that they have been prepared through participatory, country-driven processes. In all cases, these processes have facilitated the work of the Commission to translate identified gaps and challenges into national, regional and international strategic priorities.

The Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) foresees, as a major output/milestone for its Eighteenth Regular Session, the "Follow-up to *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*". The Commission may therefore wish to consider, at its forthcoming Seventeenth Regular Session, the type of follow-up it envisages for its Eighteenth Regular Session, as well as possible intersessional activities that should be undertaken.

The identification of "key messages" formed an essential part of the preparation of the revised draft Report. It is now essential to seize the opportunity of the publication of the Report to consider the need for action to respond to these key messages and to agree on strategic priorities for the sustainable use, development and conservation of AqGR. The Working Group may also wish to consider mechanisms that will allow the Commission to monitor the status and trends of farmed aquatic genetic resources and their wild relatives within national jurisdiction in the future and to oversee, through the Members of the Commission and the Working Group, the implementation of agreed strategic priority actions.

The document *Options for follow-up to The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/3)* recapitulates briefly the history of the preparation and the purpose of the Report. It identifies, based on the revised draft Report, specific areas in which further action by the Commission could enhance and strengthen the sustainable use and conservation of AqGR. The document finally proposes options to develop a strategic response to the Report.

6. Report of the Second Session of the Committee on Fisheries Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies

The Commission, at its Fifteenth Regular Session, requested its Secretary to ensure complementarity between the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the Commission, especially with regard to aquatic genetic resources.³ It also reiterated the importance of inviting the COFI AWG, when convened, to contribute to the preparation of *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and requested to be informed, through its Bureau, about the contributions of the COFI AWG.

The COFI AWG held its second meeting on 19 to 20 October 2017. Its meeting report is summarized in the document *Summary of the Report of the Second Session of the Committee on Fisheries Advisory*

² CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/Inf.2.

³ CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 64.

Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/4). The full meeting report is contained in document **CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/Inf.3**.

7. Access and benefit-sharing for aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture

In 2015, the Commission welcomed the *Elements to Facilitate Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-sharing for Different Subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ABS Elements)*.⁴ The FAO Conference, at its Thirty-Ninth Session in June 2015, welcomed the ABS Elements and invited Members to consider and, as appropriate, make use of them.

The ABS Elements aim to assist governments considering developing, adapting or implementing access and benefit-sharing (ABS) measures to take into account the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA), their special role for food security and the distinctive features of the different subsectors of GRFA, while complying, as applicable, with international ABS instruments, such as the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty) and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (Nagoya Protocol) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

At its last session, the Commission “agreed to produce non-prescriptive explanatory notes describing, within the context of the ABS Elements, the distinctive features and specific practices of different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA), to complement the ABS Elements.”⁵ The Commission invited Members, observers and other stakeholders to provide relevant inputs for such explanatory notes, including on their practical experiences in implementing national ABS measures related to GRFA. It also requested the Secretariat to convene, in collaboration with the Secretariats of the Treaty and the CBD, an international workshop on ABS for GRFA to provide outputs for elaboration into the explanatory notes.

The document *Draft explanatory notes, describing within the context of the ABS Elements, the distinctive features of aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/5)* briefly introduces the ABS Elements, elaborates on the relevance of distinctive features of GRFA to AqGR and identifies areas where explanatory notes could help governments in taking into account, in the development, adaptation or implementation of ABS measures, the importance of AqGR, their special role for food security and their distinctive features.

Inputs to the explanatory notes are contained the document *Inputs by Members and Observers on Access and Benefit-Sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/Inf.6)*. *Outputs of the International Workshop on Access and Benefit-sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* are presented in the document **CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/Inf.7**. In addition, a preliminary version of the proceedings of the International Workshop has been made available to the Working Group (**CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/Inf.8**).

8. “Digital sequence information” on aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, established a new work stream on “digital sequence information.” It requested the Secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of the necessary resources, an exploratory fact-finding scoping study on “digital sequence information” on genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA) to provide information on, *inter alia*, terminology used in this area, actors involved with “digital sequence information” on GRFA, the types and extent of uses of “digital sequence information” on GRFA, such as:

- characterization,
- breeding and genetic improvement,
- conservation, and
- identification of GRFA.

⁴ CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 22(ii).

⁵ CGRFA-16/17/Report, paragraph 25 (iii).

as well as on relevance of “digital sequence information” on GRFA for food security and nutrition, in order to facilitate consideration by the Commission, at its next session, of the implications of the use of “digital sequence information” on GRFA for the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA, including exchange, access and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use.⁶

In response to the Commission’s request, the document *Review of the draft exploratory fact-finding scoping study on "digital sequence information" on genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/6)* invites the Working Group to review and provide inputs to the *Draft exploratory fact-finding scoping study on “digital sequence information” on genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/Inf.8)*.

9. Draft work plan for future work on sustainable use and conservation of micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, requested FAO to prepare a draft work plan for future work on the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organisms and invertebrates, taking into account the views of Members and observers, the findings of the report on *The State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* and any other relevant information, for review by the Working Groups and the Commission at their next sessions.⁷

The document *Draft work plan for the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/7/Rev.1)* recapitulates the Commission’s activities in the area of micro-organisms and invertebrates over the last 10 years and presents a draft work plan for the Commission’s future work in this area, for review by the Working Group.

10. Draft Revised Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2018–2027)

The Commission, at its last session, updated the major outputs and milestones (2018–2027) of the MYPOW⁸ and agreed that the Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture⁹ adopted at the Commission’s Fourteenth Regular Session would remain valid for the time being. However, it requested the Secretary to invite Members and observers to comment during the intersessional period on the draft Strategic Plan and to revise the document, taking into account comments received, relevant international developments and FAO’s Strategic Framework.

A revised version of the draft Strategic Plan, as reviewed by the Bureau of the Commission, is contained in Appendix I to the document *Draft Revised Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2018–2027) (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/8/Rev.1)*, for review by the Working Group.

11. Any other business

12. Adoption of the Report

⁶ CGRFA-16/17/Report, paragraph 86.

⁷ CGRFA-16/17/Report, paragraph 78.

⁸ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, *Appendix C*.

⁹ CGRFA-14/13/Report, *Appendix I*.

Annex 1. Provisional timetable.

Date and time	Agenda item	Title	Working document
Monday, 23 April 2018 morning			
10.00 – 13.00	1	Opening	
	2	Election of Chair, Vice-Chair(s) and Rapporteur	
	3	Adoption of the agenda and timetable	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/1 CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/1 Add.1/Rev.1
	4	Presentation of the Revised Draft Report on <i>The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/2
Monday, 23 April 2018 afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00	5	Options for follow-up to <i>The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/3
Tuesday, 24 April 2018 morning			
10.00 – 13.00	6	Report of the Second Session of the Committee on Fisheries Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/4
	7	Access and benefit-sharing for aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/5
	8	“Digital sequence information” on aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/6
Tuesday, 24 April 2018 afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00	9	Draft work plan for future work on sustainable use and conservation of micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/7/Rev.1
	10	Draft Revised Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2018–2027)	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/8/Rev.1
	11	Any other business	
Wednesday, 25 April 2018 afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00	12	Adoption of the Report	