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Food and
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para la
Alimentación y la
Agricultura

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda

INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Sixth Session

Rome, 14 - 16 November 2012

DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE 2014-2021

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At its Thirteenth Regular Session, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission) adopted the *Multi-Year Programme of Work: Major Outputs and Milestones (2013-2021)*.¹ It requested its Secretary to prepare a revised *Strategic Plan 2014-2021 for the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work* for its consideration at its Fourteenth Regular Session.² This document contains the *Draft Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2014-2021* (Draft Strategic Plan).

The Draft Strategic Plan is based on the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW), as adopted by the Commission at its last session. In reviewing the Draft Strategic Plan, the Commission may wish to address certain imbalances of the MYPOW, such as the presentation of three State of the World reports currently scheduled for the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session. For example, the Commission could establish a cycle for the launch of State of the World reports, which would allow the Commission to deal with no more than one report at each regular session. However, the current document does not reflect such considerations as they go beyond the sector of plant genetic resources.

¹ CGRFA-13/11/Report, Appendix F.

² CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraph 109.

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 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 AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 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. In that context, the Commission takes into consideration the Impact Focus Areas and Organizational Results of the Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan of FAO.

- 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 and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use.

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

- The Commission supervises the periodic preparation of global assessments on genetic resources for food and agriculture leading to *The State of World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, and, as appropriate, the development of a comprehensive global information system or systems on relevant genetic resources in support of this role.

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

- The Commission provides an intergovernmental forum for negotiations 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 for food and agriculture, as well the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use.

- The Commission responds to developments in other forums, where appropriate.

Goal 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 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 Commission Members to be able to actively contribute to the achievement of the outputs and milestones of the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work and to implement policies and recommendations developed by the Commission in response.

- The Commission supports its Members in the development and implementation of strategies and activities to raise public awareness and facilitate education for a better understanding of the relevance of biodiversity for food and agriculture to promote a broader participation of stakeholders in the conservation and use of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Goal 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, including the Governing Body of the

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Conference of Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, and the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

- In addition to its activities in plant and animal genetic resources, the Commission brings together international partners addressing biodiversity for food and agriculture, to facilitate exchange of experiences and to create new partnerships, including in particular forest, aquatic, micro-organism and invertebrate biodiversity, and their interrelations.

- 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 2014-2021

1. Biodiversity for food and agriculture are among the earth's most important resources. Crops, farm animals, aquatic organisms, forest trees, micro-organisms and invertebrates – thousands of species and their genetic variability make up the web of biodiversity in ecosystems that the world's food supply depends on. Biodiversity for food and agriculture contributes to food and nutrition security and sustainable livelihoods, and underpins the natural potential for adaptation to the ever changing socio-economic and environmental conditions, such as population growth, nutritional needs and climate change.
2. Aware of the importance of each component of biodiversity for food and agriculture for global food security, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission), aims to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use, for present and future generations.
3. The Commission operates under a Multi-Year Programme of Work or MYPOW, which it adopted in 2007 and revised in 2011 (see *Table 1*). The MYPOW guides the Commission in the implementation of its mandate. It suggests a structure for subsequent sessions of the Commission and consists of a clear implementation schedule of the key milestones and outputs the Commission agreed to address.
4. The Commission also developed a Strategic Plan³ identifying the processes that would be needed and the organizations with which to cooperate to achieve the outputs and milestones laid out in the MYPOW. The Commission adopted this plan in 2009 and revised it in 2013. The Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2014-2021, contains three main sections, including:
 - The Commission's vision and mission statements, its strategic goals and objectives, and chapters on the rationale and the implementation of the Strategic Plan;
 - The Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work (2013-2021); and
 - The Implementation Plan for the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work, provided in the Annex.
5. In 2010, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,⁴ an overarching framework on biodiversity for the United Nations system to enhance broad-based action in support of biodiversity over the next decade by all countries and stakeholders. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity includes five strategic goals and 20 targets, also known as the Aichi Targets. Through the implementation of its MYPOW the Commission particularly contributes to achieving Aichi targets 13, 16 and 7.

³ The Strategic Plan 2010-2017 for the Implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (CGRFA-12/09/Report-Appendix G)

⁴ For the full text of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 see CBD Decision X/2.

II. IMPLEMENTING, MONITORING AND REVIEWING

6. The Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work is a rolling, and therefore flexible set of outputs and milestones, which the Commission keeps under review. Reviewing the MYPOW enables the Commission to assess progress of its work, to address and include new and emerging issues in the field of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and to take into account new developments and processes in other relevant forums. The Commission agreed to review the MYPOW at its Fifteenth and Seventeenth Regular Sessions.

7. The Implementation Plan for the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work, provided in the Annex, is the main tool to organize the Commission's work and to ensure the timely achievement of the MYPOW's major milestones and outputs. For each sectorial and cross-sectorial matter the plan provides an indicative timetable, including relevant activities that should be undertaken. Whenever the MYPOW is reviewed the Implementation Plan of the Multi-Year Programme of Work will be updated and adjusted accordingly.

III. PARTNERSHIPS

8. To achieve its strategic goals and objectives and support the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work, 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 Inter-Governmental 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.

9. To facilitate the implementation of the Commission's MYPOW 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 programmes, activities and policies relevant to the prioritized themes of each of the Commission's regular sessions.

The Joint Statement of Intent for cooperation with the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources and the Joint Work Plan with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity also contribute to the effective implementation of the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work by enhancing synergies between the programmes of work of the different bodies.

**TABLE 1: THE COMMISSION'S MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK
MAJOR OUTPUTS AND MILESTONES (2013-2021)**

| | 4 th Session 2013 | 15 th Session 2015 | 16 th Session 2017 | 17 th Session 2019 | 18 th Session 2021 |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i> | Key issues and preparation of <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i> | Consideration of the internalization of the ecosystem approach to biodiversity management in agriculture, forestry and fisheries | Presentation of <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> | |
| Plant Genetic Resources (PGRFA) | | Review of implementation of the updated <i>Global Plan of Action</i> | | Presentation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i> | Consideration of the updated <i>Global Plan of Action</i> for adoption |
| Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) | Review of implementation of Interlaken Outcomes | | Presentation of <i>The Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i> | Consideration of the updated <i>Global Plan of Action</i> for adoption | |
| Aquatic Genetic Resources (AqGR) | Review scoping policy analysis to identify gaps and opportunities related to aquatic genetic resources | | Presentation of <i>The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources</i> | Development of elements related to the <i>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 | Review of implementation of relevant elements of the <i>Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries</i> |
| Forest Genetic Resources (FoGR) | Presentation of <i>The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources</i> | Follow-up to <i>The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources</i> | | Review of progress in follow-up to <i>The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources</i> | |
| Micro-organisms and invertebrates | Review of key issues on micro-organisms and invertebrates | Review of work on micro-organisms and invertebrates | | | |
| Cross-sectorial matters | Consideration of the need for and modalities of access and benefit-sharing arrangements for genetic resources for food and agriculture | | | Review of existing access and benefit-sharing instruments and their impact on genetic resources for food and agriculture | |
| | Consideration of finalized roadmap or work programme on climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture | | Review implementation of the roadmap or work programme on climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture | | |
| | Review of all relevant international targets and indicators for biodiversity for food and agriculture | | Review and analyze lessons learnt from the implementation of targets and indicators | | |
| | | 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 | |
| | Review of key issues on biodiversity and nutrition | Review of contribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals | | | |
| | Progress Report/ Periodic assessment/ Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work | | | Progress Report/ Periodic assessment/ Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work | |

ANNEX**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION'S MULTI-YEAR
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Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture

Aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture

Forest genetic resources

Micro-organisms and invertebrates

IV. CROSS-SECTORAL MATTERS

The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture

Access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture

Climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture

*The application and integration of biotechnologies in the conservation and sustainable
utilization of genetic resources*

International targets and indicators for biodiversity for food and agriculture

Nutrition and biodiversity for food and agriculture

Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work and its Implementation Plan

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Implementation Plan for the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work is the main tool to organize the Commission's work and to ensure the timely achievement of the MYPOW's major milestones and outputs.
2. Similar to the MYPOW, the Implementation Plan is thematically structured, so that the user can easily identify the agenda proposed to achieve and follow-up to a particular milestone or output. For each sector, and for each cross-sectorial matter, the Implementation Plan provides an indicative timetable including the major outputs and milestones to be achieved (reflected in bold letters) and their related activities and processes (displayed in normal font).
3. For the implementation of the MYPOW, the Commission receives technical support from its subsidiary bodies, including the Intergovernmental Technical Working Groups on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Forest Genetic Resources, respectively, and the Ad hoc Technical Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The working groups review the situation and 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 the Commission's MYPOW.
4. Through its MYPOW, the Commission foresees the preparation and presentation of State of the World Reports on animal, plan, aquatic and forest genetic resources, as well as on biodiversity for food and agriculture. The Implementation Plan for the MYPOW includes a process by which each of the above mentioned sectors will produce a State of the World Report every 10 years and the Commission will be presented with no more than one Report at each regular session. Every two to four years, intermediate reports will be presented to the Commission to report on the status and trends of each of the sectors. The preparation of State of the World Reports being largely country-driven, this process will reduce the reporting burden on countries. It will also facilitate the Commission's strategic planning process, including the timely mobilization of financial and human resources.
5. The success of the Implementation Plan will greatly depend on the support provided by FAO's Programme of Work and Budget, and on the mobilization by FAO of extra-budgetary resources, as well as on partnerships with contributions of other international organizations.

II. THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

| Time Frame | Agenda |
|-----------------|--|
| 2014 | |
| 2015 / CGRFA-15 | Consideration of the internalization of the ecosystem approach to biodiversity management in agriculture, forestry and fisheries Review of progress in preparing The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture |
| 2016 | |
| 2017 / CGRFA-16 | Presentation of The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture |
| 2018 | Plan and process to follow up to The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture identified |
| 2019 / CGRFA-17 | Follow up to The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture |
| 2020 | |
| 2021 / CGRFA-18 | |

III. SECTORIAL MATTERS

Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

| Time Frame | Agenda |
|-----------------|---|
| 2014 | |
| 2015 / CGRFA-15 | Review of implementation of the updated Global Plan of Action |
| 2016 | |
| 2017 / CGRFA-16 | Review of progress in preparing The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture |
| 2018 | |
| 2019 / CGRFA-17 | Presentation of The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture |
| 2020 | Plan and process to update The Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture identified |
| 2021 / CGRFA-18 | Consideration of the updated Global Plan of Action for adoption |

Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture

| Time Frame | Agenda |
|-----------------|--|
| 2014 | |
| 2015 / CGRFA-15 | Review of progress in the preparation of The Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture |
| 2016 | |
| 2017 / CGRFA-16 | Presentation of The Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture |
| 2018 | |
| 2019 / CGRFA-17 | Consideration of the updated Global Plan of Action for adoption |
| 2020 | |
| 2021 / CGRFA-18 | |

Aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture

| Time Frame | Agenda |
|-----------------|--|
| 2014 | |
| 2015 / CGRFA-15 | Review of progress in the preparation of The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources and discuss way forward |
| 2016 | |
| 2017 / CGRFA-16 | Presentation of The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources |
| 2018 | |
| 2019 / CGRFA-17 | Development of elements related to the Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries 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 |
| 2020 | |
| 2021 / CGRFA-18 | Review of implementation of relevant elements of the Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries |

Forest genetic resources

| Time Frame | Agenda |
|-----------------|--|
| 2014 | |
| 2015 / CGRFA-15 | Follow-up to the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources |
| 2016 | |
| 2017 / CGRFA-16 | |
| 2018 | |
| 2019 / CGRFA-17 | Review of progress in follow-up to the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources |
| 2020 | |
| 2021 / CGRFA-18 | |

Micro-organisms and invertebrates

| Time Frame | Agenda |
|-----------------|---|
| 2014 | |
| 2015 / CGRFA-15 | Review of work on micro-organisms and invertebrates |
| 2016 | |
| 2017 / CGRFA-16 | |
| 2018 | |
| 2019 / CGRFA-17 | |
| 2020 | |
| 2021 / CGRFA-18 | |

IV. CROSS-SECTORIAL MATTERS**Access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture**

| Time Frame | Agenda |
|-----------------|--|
| 2014 | |
| 2015 / CGRFA-15 | |
| 2016 | |
| 2017 / CGRFA-16 | |
| 2018 | |
| 2019 / CGRFA-17 | Review of existing access and benefit-sharing instruments and their impact on genetic resources for food and agriculture |
| 2020 | |
| 2021 / CGRFA-18 | |

Climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture

| Time Frame | Agenda |
|-----------------|---|
| 2014 | |
| 2015 / CGRFA-15 | |
| 2016 | |
| 2017 / CGRFA-16 | Review implementation of the roadmap or work programme on climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture |
| 2018 | |
| 2019 / CGRFA-17 | |
| 2020 | |
| 2021 / CGRFA-18 | |

The application and integration of biotechnologies in the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources

| Time Frame | Agenda |
|-----------------|--|
| 2014 | |
| 2015 / CGRFA-15 | 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 |
| 2016 | |
| 2017 / CGRFA-16 | |
| 2018 | |
| 2019 / CGRFA-17 | 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 |
| 2020 | |
| 2021 / CGRFA-18 | |

International targets and indicators for biodiversity for food and agriculture

| Time Frame | Agenda |
|-----------------|---|
| 2014 | |
| 2015 / CGRFA-15 | |
| 2016 | |
| 2017 / CGRFA-16 | Review and analyze lessons learnt from the implementation of targets and indicators |
| 2018 | |
| 2019 / CGRFA-17 | |
| 2020 | |
| 2021 / CGRFA-18 | |

Nutrition and biodiversity for food and agriculture

| Time Frame | Agenda |
|-----------------|--|
| 2014 | |
| 2015 / CGRFA-15 | Review of contribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals |
| 2016 | |
| 2017 / CGRFA-16 | |
| 2018 | |
| 2019 / CGRFA-17 | |
| 2020 | |
| 2021 / CGRFA-18 | |

Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work and its Implementation Plan

| Time Frame | Agenda |
|-----------------|--|
| 2014 | |
| 2015 / CGRFA-15 | Progress Report/Periodic assessment/Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work and its Implementation Plan |
| 2016 | |
| 2017 / CGRFA-16 | |
| 2018 | |
| 2019 / CGRFA-17 | Progress Report/Periodic assessment/Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work and its Implementation Plan |
| 2020 | |
| 2021 / CGRFA-18 | |

