

Statutes of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Article I – Terms of Reference

The Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Working Group) shall:

- a) review the situation and issues related to agrobiodiversity in the area of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and advise and make recommendations to the Commission on these matters;
- b) consider the progress made in implementing the Commission's programme of work on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture as well as any other matters referred to the Working Group by the Commission;
- c) report to the Commission on its activities.

In order for the Working Group to carry out this mandate, the Commission will assign specific tasks to the Working Group.

Article II – Composition

The Working Group shall be composed of twenty-eight Member Nations from the following regions:

- 5 from Africa
- 5 from Europe
- 5 from Asia
- 5 from Latin America and the Caribbean
- 4 from the Near East
- 2 from North America
- 2 from Southwest Pacific.

Article III – Election and term of office of Members and Alternate Members

The Members of the Working Group shall be elected at each regular session of the Commission and serve until the next regular session of the Commission. In addition, the Commission shall elect at each regular session a list of up to two Alternate Members for each region. Alternate Members will replace, in the order in which they appear on the list, any Member who has resigned and informed the Secretariat accordingly.

The elected Members and Alternate Members will be eligible for re-election.

Members are requested to confirm their participation to the Working Group meeting. If a Member of the Working Group is not able to attend the meeting, and informs the Secretariat accordingly, the Member shall be replaced in a timely manner by one of the elected Alternates from the same region.

In case a Member of the Working Group does not attend the meeting, the Working Group, in consultation with the region, may replace this Member, on an ad hoc basis, by a Member of the Commission from the same region that is present at the meeting.

Article IV – Officers

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 Chairperson, or a Vice-Chairperson in the absence of a Chairperson, shall preside over the meetings of the Working Group and exercise such other functions as may be required to facilitate its work.

Article V – Sessions

The Commission shall decide on the timing and duration of the sessions of the Working Group, when required. In any case, the Working Group shall hold no more than one regular session annually.

Article VI – Observers

Members of the Commission which are not Members of the Working Group may participate, upon request to the Commission Secretariat, in the work of the Working Group in an observer capacity.

The Working Group, or the bureau on behalf of the Working Group, may invite experts, as well as representatives of specialized international organizations, to attend its meetings.