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منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

**Item 2 of the Draft Provisional Agenda**

**COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**Third Inter-sessional Meeting of the Contact Group**

**Teheran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 26-31 August 2000**

**PROPOSAL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**SUPPORTING COMPONENTS OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM**



## PROPOSAL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

### SUPPORTING COMPONENTS OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM

1. The Parties agree that information systems, networks of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and partnerships in research and technology are supporting components of the Multilateral System.

#### 2. The International Network of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

2.1 The International Network of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (IN/PGRFA) consisting of crop-specific and thematic networks will be encouraged, developed and strengthened. It will include plant genetic resources for food and agriculture held at national, regional and international level, and aim to improve the conservation, the exchange and utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture for the benefit of sustainable agricultural development and of global food security, and contributing to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

2.2 Parties will designate plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including material held under *in situ* and *ex situ* conditions, in order to define their contribution to the IN/PGRFA. They will encourage all institutions, including private, non-governmental, research, breeding and other institutions, to participate in the IN/PGRFA.

2.3 International Agricultural Research Centres of the CGIAR will be encouraged to become part of the International Network of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

2.4 Modalities of functioning of the Network should be as simple and cost-effective as possible.

#### 3. The World Information Network on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

3.1 The Parties shall cooperate to develop and strengthen a World Information Network on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (WIN/PGRFA) to improve the knowledge and the understanding of the importance of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, facilitate the use of collections and strengthen regional and international cooperation. Modalities of the functioning of the Network should be as simple and cost-effective as possible, building, *inter alia*, on relevant existing arrangements.

3.2 Based on notification by parties, early warning should be provided about hazards that threaten the efficient maintenance of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, with a view to safeguarding the material.

#### 4. Partnership in Research and Technology Development

4.1 The Parties shall promote partnership in research and technology development in the field of conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA including through appropriate international and national institutions.

4.2 The Parties agree that the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research play an important role to support activities within the multilateral system, providing benefits *inter alia* through improved breeding material, capacity building, training, technology transfer and providing information on PGRFA.