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# COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## GROUP OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS FOR BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

### Second Meeting

2 – 4 March 2021<sup>1</sup>

### REVIEW OF THE DRAFT 2021–23 ACTION PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FAO STRATEGY ON MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY ACROSS AGRICULTURAL SECTORS

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<sup>1</sup> Rescheduled from 21–23 April 2020.

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. As mandated by the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the FAO Conference (June 2019),<sup>2</sup> the FAO Council, at its 163<sup>rd</sup> Session in December 2019, adopted the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors (Strategy).<sup>3</sup> The Strategy requires FAO to “develop an action plan, including a timetable, to operationalize the Strategy, for consideration by the FAO Technical Committees and approval by the Council.”<sup>4</sup>
2. The Programme Committee, at its 128th Session in June 2020, reviewed a first draft of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors (Action Plan)<sup>5</sup> and provided detailed comments.<sup>6</sup> The Council, at its 164th Session in July 2020, appreciated the progress made in the implementation of the Strategy, highlighted the need for the draft Action Plan to be reviewed by the relevant Technical Committees and recommended that the implementation period of the Action Plan be extended to three years.<sup>7</sup>
3. The Committee on Agriculture, at its 27th Session (September – October <sup>8</sup>2020), and the Committee on Forestry, at its 25th Session (October 2020), recommended that an open, transparent and Member-led consultation process be convened to finalize the draft Action Plan and that comments and inputs from all Technical Committees, as well as the group of National Focal Points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), be considered in the process.<sup>9</sup>
4. This document briefly introduces the Strategy and the draft Action Plan and seeks comments on and inputs to the draft Action Plan. The draft Action Plan is contained in the document *Draft Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors*.<sup>10</sup>

## II. FAO STRATEGY ON MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY ACROSS AGRICULTURAL SECTORS

5. The aim of the Strategy is “to mainstream biodiversity across agricultural sectors at national, regional and international levels in a structured and coherent manner, taking into account national priorities, needs, regulations and policies and country programming frameworks.”<sup>11</sup> It “applies to FAO’s relevant work on crop and livestock production, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture (“agricultural sectors”) that are sustained by, or may have impact on, biodiversity, ecosystem and other services biodiversity provides.”<sup>12</sup>
6. The Strategy notes that FAO already provides a global framework for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture, including genetic resources, through established instruments and bodies, including the Commission and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.<sup>13</sup>
7. According to the Strategy, the Action Plan will address “mainstreaming biodiversity both between and within the agricultural sectors in a coherent and coordinated manner”. The Strategy commits FAO to engaging all relevant units in the development and implementation the Action Plan and continuing to strengthen dialogue and collaboration with relevant sectors, including the environment, health, economic, education and finance sectors.

<sup>2</sup> [C 2019/REP, paragraph 48 b\).](#)

<sup>3</sup> [CL 163/REP, paragraph 10 g\).](#)

<sup>4</sup> [CL 163/11 Rev.1, section IV.](#)

<sup>5</sup> [PC 128/9.](#)

<sup>6</sup> [CL 164/6 Rev.1, paragraph 14.](#)

<sup>7</sup> [CL 164/REP, paragraph 18 l\).](#)

<sup>8</sup> [C 2019/REP, paragraph 48 b\).](#)

<sup>9</sup> [C 2021/21, paragraph 70: COFO/2020/REP, paragraph 15b.](#)

<sup>10</sup> [CGRFA/NFP-BFA-2/21/Inf.5.](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Strategy, paragraph 9.](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Strategy, paragraph 8.](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Strategy, paragraph 5.](#)

8. The draft Action Plan specifies actions to be taken to implement the activities foreseen in the Strategy. It takes into account ongoing work by FAO and its partners with a view to increasing synergies and avoiding duplication of work. The draft Action Plan complements and is fully in line with other strategies and policies, including the FAO Strategy on Climate Change, the Strategy and Vision for FAO's Work in Nutrition, the FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and the FAO Policy on Gender Equality.

9. The Committee on Agriculture, at its 27<sup>th</sup> Session, highlighted that the Action Plan should aim at integrating biodiversity across agricultural sectors as a strategy to achieve sustainable food systems and nutrition, and in that sense, requested that key actions and deliverables outlined a clear relation to food and agriculture. It acknowledged the importance of promoting sustainable agriculture practices that have an effective and proven positive impact on biodiversity.<sup>14</sup>

10. The Strategy and its Action Plan will play an important role in guiding and facilitating FAO's support to countries in the implementation of outcomes of biodiversity-related intergovernmental processes, including the global plans of action of the Commission, and of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

### **III. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STRATEGY AND THE GLOBAL POLICY RESPONSE TO THE REPORT ON *THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE***

11. The global policy response to the report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* is being developed as a normative instrument negotiated by countries to provide a framework for action predominantly by countries themselves. As indicated above, the Strategy applies to FAO's biodiversity-related work, including its efforts to support countries in implementing the outcomes of biodiversity-related intergovernmental processes. The policy response to the report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* and the Strategy will thus be complementary and non-duplicative.

### **IV. GUIDANCE SOUGHT**

12. The Group of National Focal Points may wish to:

- (a) Take note of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and welcome progress made in the development of the Action Plan for its implementation;
- (b) Note the important role of the Strategy and its Action Plan in guiding and facilitating FAO's support to countries in mainstreaming biodiversity across their agricultural sectors and achieving sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture;
- (c) Note the importance of ensuring the harmony, complementarity and mutual supportiveness of the Action Plan and other relevant instruments and activities; and
- (d) Note the importance, in the finalization of the Action Plan, of ensuring that it creates an enabling framework for action to promote the implementation of policy instruments developed under the auspices of the Commission, including the global policy response to the report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*.

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<sup>14</sup> [C 2021/21, paragraph 71.](#)