

April 1995



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 5 of the Provisional Agenda

COMMISSION ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

Sixth Session

Rome, 19 - 30 June 1995

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE GLOBAL SYSTEM FOR THE CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

CONTENTS

	<i>Para.</i>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 4
Illustrative Chart of the Global System	
II. THE GLOBAL SYSTEM	5 - 8
III. STATE OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE ELEMENTS OF THE GLOBAL SYSTEM	9
Commission on Plant Genetic Resources: The intergovernmental forum	10 - 17
International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources: The framework agreement	18 - 21
International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer	22 - 25
Draft Code of Conduct on Biotechnology	26 - 31
Network of <i>Ex Situ</i> Collections: International agreements on genebanks	32 - 37
Network of <i>In Situ</i> Conservation Areas	38 - 44
World Information and Early Warning System: Facilitating exchange of information and technology	45 - 48
Periodical Report on the State of the World: Facilitating the Commission's monitoring function	49 - 54
Global Plan of Action: Facilitating the Commission's coordinating function	55 - 60
International Fund for Plant Genetic Resources: Ensuring funding	61 - 63
IV. CONCLUSIONS	
Guidance requested from the Commission	64 - 65
<i>Page</i>	
Appendix Members of FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and/or	13
Countries which have Adhered to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources	

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE GLOBAL SYSTEM FOR THE CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

I. INTRODUCTION

System for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, within the framework of the Undertaking. (The diagram below shows the components of the Global System, and the relationship between them.)

2. The main institutional components of the Global System are the Commission and the Undertaking. The Global System also includes other international agreements, technical mechanisms and global instruments. These are at different stages of development. The agreements include the code of conduct for plant germplasm collecting and transfer; a draft code for plant biotechnologies, and international agreements on genebanks. To promote the conservation and exchange of germplasm, there is an international network of *ex situ* base collections under the auspices of FAO and a network of *in situ* conservation areas. The exchange of information and technology is facilitated through the world information and early warning system. Other essential components of the System are: a Report periodically updated on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources, to assist the Commission in carrying out its monitoring role; a rolling Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources to facilitate its coordinating role, and an International Fund on Plant Genetic Resources. The realization of Farmers' Rights, a concept which was negotiated within the Commission and unanimously adopted by the FAO Conference, in order to recognize the rights of germplasm donors, should provide for equity within the System. The Global System draws upon the varied resources of the FAO Technical Departments, particularly the Agriculture Department, the Forestry Department and the Legal Office.

3.

In 1992, Agenda 21 of UNCED recommended strengthening and adjusting the Global System and further developing many of its components, in particular: accelerating the development of the World Information and Early Warning System; taking steps to realize Farmers' Rights; developing networks for the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of plant genetic resources; and preparing periodic reports on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources and a rolling Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources. Resolution 3 of the Nairobi Final Act of the Convention on Biological Diversity (which was negotiated and approved along with the Convention) recognized the Global System as the appropriate framework within which to address matters outstanding regarding plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including the issues of access to the relevant plant genetic resources and the realization of Farmers' Rights.

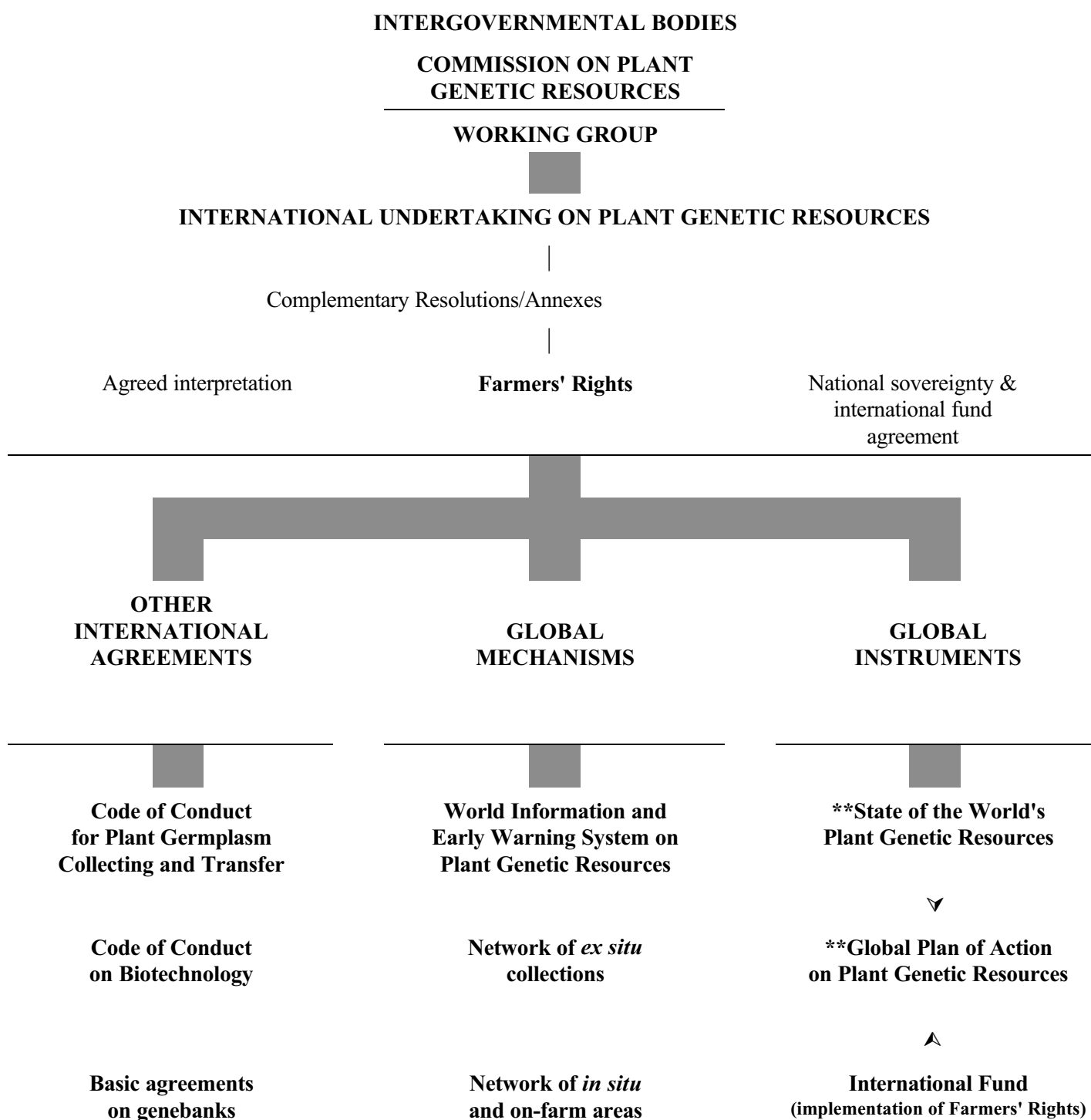
4.

This document gives an overview of the Global System and describes progress in the development and implementation of its components since the Commission's last regular session. Where appropriate, reference is made to other documents before the Commission, which provide more detailed information on specific components of the Global System. This document provides the general context for the discussions of the Sixth Session of

the Commission and describes the relationship among the issues on the agenda. The Commission is invited to review progress in the development of the Global System and to provide, as appropriate, its guidance and recommendations.

Illustrative Chart of the Global System

THE GLOBAL SYSTEM FOR THE CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE*



* For illustrative purposes only

** The first State of the World and Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources is being produced during the preparatory process for the **Fourth International Technical Conference**

II. THE GLOBAL SYSTEM

5.

The objectives of the Global System are to ensure the safe conservation and promote the availability and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources, for present and future generations, by providing a flexible framework for sharing the benefits and burdens.

6.

The System covers the conservation (*ex situ* and *in situ*, including on-farm) and utilization of plant genetic resources (genes, genotypes and gene pools) at molecular, population, species and agro-ecosystem level.

7.

The Global System is based on the principles that:

- nations have sovereign rights over the plant genetic resources in their territories;
- plant genetic resources should be available for the benefit of all humanity, on mutually agreed terms, for plant breeding and scientific purposes;
- plant genetic resources, and the information, technologies and funds necessary to conserve and utilize them, are complementary;
- all nations are potential donors and users of plant genetic resources, information, technology and funds;
- the best way to guarantee the maintenance of plant genetic resources is to ensure their effective, sustainable and beneficial utilization, in all countries;
- the farmers of the world have, over the millennia, domesticated, conserved, developed, improved and made available plant genetic resources and continue to do so today;
- advanced technologies and local rural technologies are both important and complementary, for the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources;
- *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation are complementary strategies for maintaining genetic diversity.

h (see Appendix).

III. STATE OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE ELEMENTS OF THE GLOBAL SYSTEM

state of development and on progress made since the last session of the Commission.

Commission on Plant Genetic Resources: The intergovernmental forum

ermplasm, funds and technology, can discuss, on an equal footing, matters related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and monitor the implementation of the principles contained in the Undertaking. Through its debates, the Commission aims to reach international consensus in areas of global interest. Relevant technical assistance agencies, intergovernmental organizations, development banks, non-governmental organizations and private foundations, also attend the sessions of the Commission and report to it on their programmes and activities on plant genetic resources.

mission established a subsidiary Intergovernmental Working Group, with balanced regional representation, that meets between sessions of the Commission and provides guidance to the Secretariat on the implementation of the Commission's recommendations.

Progress since the Fifth Session

12. Between April 1993 and March 1995, ten further countries¹ joined the Commission, bringing its membership to 129.

13. The report of the Fifth Session of the Commission, including the Resolution for the revision of the Undertaking, was discussed and endorsed by the Twenty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference, in November 1993. An Extraordinary Session of the Commission was held from 7 to 11 November 1994; its Working Group held its Ninth Session from 10 to 11 May 1994 and an Extraordinary Session from 3-4 November 1994. The report of the Commission's First Extraordinary Session (which includes, as annexes, the reports of the two sessions of the Working Group) was discussed by the 107th Session of the Council in November 1994. These reports are available to the Sixth Session of the Commission.

14. Following a recommendation of the last regular Session of the Commission, the terms of reference and procedures of the Working Group were discussed by the Working Group, at its Ninth Session. They are contained in document CPGR-6/95/3, "Revision of the Terms of Reference and Procedures of Working Group". The Commission is expected to finalize and adopt the new terms of reference and procedures.

15. In addition to the preparation of this document, from the FAO Secretariat, the Asian Development Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat, UNCTAD, UNEP, UNIDO, the World Bank, WTO, CIAT, CIFOR, CIMMYT, CIP, ICARDA, ICRAF, ICRISAT, IITA, ILRI, IPGRI, IRRI, WARDA, GRAIN and IUCN. They are submitted to the Commission in document CPGR-6/95/5.1 and CPGR-6/95/5.2.

16. The 107th Session of the Council, in November 1994, discussed the possible broadening of the scope of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources to cover other sectors of biodiversity for food and agriculture, especially farm animals, forestry and fisheries. The Council requested comments from the Committees on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (COAG, COFO and COFI), as the basis for discussion in the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee, the Commission itself and the Hundred-and-Eighth Council, which could then make recommendations to the Conference, at its 1995 Session, as the Governing Body empowered to take this decision. COAG, COFO and COFI have recommended to the Council that the Commission's scope be broadened, in a step-by-step manner, starting with farm animal genetic resources. The Council meets in June 1995, before the meeting of the Commission. The comments and recommendations of the Council Committees and the 108th Session of the Council are presented in information document CPGR-6/95/Inf. 4.

17. In cooperation with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and with its Interim Secretariat. Document CPGR-6/95/4 Annex 1 outlines this cooperation in detail.

International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources: The framework agreement

18. The International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources is a non-legally binding agreement, adopted by Resolution 8/83 of the FAO Conference, with reservations by eight countries². To overcome these reservations, the Commission negotiated three complementary resolutions, which interpret and complement the text of the Undertaking and which were unanimously adopted by Conference Resolutions 4/89, 5/89 and 3/91. These resolutions, which are now annexes to the Undertaking, introduce the concepts of Farmers' Rights, national sovereignty over plant genetic resources and an international fund for the implementation of Farmers' Rights. The Fifth Session of the Commission negotiated and agreed a new resolution, for the consideration of the Conference, which provided for the revision of the Undertaking, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Progress since the Fifth Session

19.

20. In November 1993, the Twenty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference unanimously adopted, as Resolution 7/93, the text that had been negotiated by the Fifth Session of the Commission, for the revision of the Undertaking, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity. In accordance with the resolution, this revision should include the incorporation of the annexes into the main body of the Undertaking and negotiating solutions to outstanding matters, such as access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the realization of Farmers' Rights. The Resolution requests that the revision of the Undertaking be negotiated by countries, through regular and extraordinary sessions of the Commission and its Working Group.

21.

The Ninth Session of the Working Group (in May 1994) and the First Extraordinary Session of the Working Group (in November 1994) discussed the follow-up to Resolution 7/93 and paved the way for the first negotiating session of the Commission, which took place in November 1994. Negotiations will continue in the current session of the Commission. A number of documents prepared by the Secretariat to facilitate the negotiations are available for discussion during this session of the Commission. One document gives detailed information on the mandate, context, background and the three stages proposed for the revision of the Undertaking.⁴ For the negotiations in Stage I, the new consolidated draft of the Undertaking as developed at the Commission's First Extraordinary Session, is available.¹ A number of documents discuss technical, economic and legal issues of importance in relation to Stage II² (access to plant germplasm and realization of Farmers' Rights). Finally, one document deals with legal and constitutional matters that need to be considered in Stage III.³

International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer

22. The Undertaking. It provides guidelines for the requesting of permits by collectors and for their issuance by state authorities. It sets out the minimum responsibilities of collectors, sponsors, curators and users of collected germplasm, covering both the collecting and transfer of germplasm. The Code was adopted as a voluntary agreement, which could be acceptable to every country, in order to fill existing gaps, especially pending the revision of the Undertaking. It was agreed that the Code should be adapted to changing needs and circumstances and updated, amended or modified, when appropriate, through the Commission.

23.

Progress since the Fifth Session

24.

¹ Document CPGR-6/95/7, *Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. Stage I: New consolidated text of the International Undertaking*, provides the new consolidated text. It is complemented by CPGR-6/95/Inf.2 (CPGR-EX1-94/Alt. 4), *Revision of the International Undertaking. Stage I: Integration of the annexes and harmonization with the Convention on Biological Diversity (First draft, in a possible new structure)*.

² Documents CPGR-6/95/8 Supp. (CPGR-Ex1/94/5 Supp.), *Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. Analysis of some technical, economic and legal aspects for consideration in Stage II*, and CPGR-6/95/8 Annex (CPGR-Ex1/94/5 Annex), *Survey of existing data on ex situ collections of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture*, are aimed at facilitating negotiations in Stage II (access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and the realization of Farmers' Rights). In addition, four academic background study papers, on technical, economic and legal aspects of the revision of the International Undertaking, of particular interest in Stage II, are also available at the Session. They were commissioned by the Secretariat, and written by internationally reputed experts (Paper No. 1: *The appropriation of the benefits of plant genetic resources for agriculture: an economic analysis of the alternative mechanisms for biodiversity conservation*; Paper No. 2: *Sovereign and property rights over plant genetic resources*; Paper No. 3: *Providing Farmers' Rights through in situ conservation of crop genetic resources*; Paper No. 4: *Identifying genetic resources and their origin: the capabilities and limitations of modern biochemical and legal systems*).

³ Document CPGR-6/95/9, *Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. Stage III: Legal and institutional matters*.

25. wish to ask the Secretariat to prepare periodic questionnaires to facilitate such reporting by countries, which would facilitate the work of the Commission in monitoring the implementation of the Code and allow the Commission to identify weaknesses and gaps in the Code and, if necessary, recommend its updating, amendment or modification.

Draft Code of Conduct on Biotechnology

26. of a Code of Conduct for Biotechnology as it affects the conservation and use of plant genetic resources. A first draft was presented to the Fifth Session of the Commission in 1993.

The draft Code comprised a preamble and four chapters, including one on *Promoting biotechnology for the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources*, which includes provisions to maximize the positive effects of biotechnology and minimize its potentially negative effects, as well as to promote access to relevant biotechnologies and to the plant genetic resources to which they are applied. Another chapter on *Biosafety and other environmental concerns* includes provisions for risk assessment and management, particularly with regard to genetically modified organisms related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

28.

The Commission recommended that the biosafety component of the preliminary draft Code be considered an input to the work of the governing body of the Convention on Biological Diversity on this subject and "that FAO participate in this work, in order to ensure that the aspects of biosafety in relation to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are appropriately covered". It also suggested "that FAO further develop the remaining components of the draft Code" and agreed that the Working Group "should advise the Secretariat on whether the revised draft Code should be prepared for presentation to the 1995 Session of the Commission."⁵ The Commission recommended that the implications of biotechnological developments for the availability of and access to plant genetic resources, genetic erosion, technology transfer, and positive or negative socio-economic development, should be reviewed and analysed. It also requested that it be kept informed of progress made in the development and implementation of FAO's biotechnology programme.

Progress since the Fifth Session

29. The Commission of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was informed of these recommendations and FAO transmitted the biosafety component of the draft Code to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity as an input to its discussions on a possible biosafety protocol to the Convention. In its turn, the first Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention requested its Secretariat to invite FAO to assist in the establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental group of experts, that would meet in Spain in 1995 to discuss this possible protocol.

, should be presented to the Sixth Session of the Commission.

30. In addition, the Commission of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, UPOV (the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) and the adoption of TRIPS (the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) within the framework of the Uruguay Round of GATT. Information requested by the Commission on the development of FAO's biotechnology programme is also provided.

Network of *Ex Situ* Collections: International agreements on genebanks

31. Under the Auspices and/or Jurisdiction of FAO is being developed, in implementation of Article 7 of the Undertaking, with the technical assistance of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI). As the instrument for joining the Network, model agreements were negotiated in the Second and Third Sessions of the Commission, and agreed by the Fourth Session. Since then, over thirty countries and thirteen

institutions have expressed their willingness to put their base collections under the auspices of FAO and others have offered space in their genebanks to store international collections.

33.

The Fifth Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources considered a draft agreement presented by IPGRI on behalf of the International Agricultural Research Centres to put their collections under the auspices of FAO. The Commission recommended that the agreement be finalized on the basis of its comments. It also requested FAO to continue the negotiations underway to secure funding for the operation of an international seedbank that Norway had offered to establish in the permafrost conditions at Svalbard. The Commission also agreed a draft set of standards for genebanks.

Progress since the Fifth Session

with countries 34 and with other institutions that have agreed to put their collections under the network. The Secretariat has revised the model agreements, to bring them into line with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

35.

Discussions have continued regarding the establishment of the Svalbard International Seedbank, but no positive replies have yet been received to requests for donor support for long-term recurrent costs.

36.

In 1994, FAO and IPGRI jointly published and gave wide distribution to the *Genebank Standards* agreed by the Commission in 1993.

37.

A detailed report on the current state of implementation of the Network is contained in document CPGR-6/95/12. It includes revised model agreements and requests the advice of the Commission on further steps to be taken.

Network of *In Situ* Conservation

ive management 38 of intra-specific diversity, both through on-farm management of landraces and the management of wild or semi-domesticated populations of actual or potential economic value, as a complement to protected area management.

networks should 39 be based on the efforts of national institutions, local-communities and non-governmental organisations, working together in an international framework. It requested FAO to assist governments to build up local institutions, infrastructure and expertise in this regard. The Commission also requested that due attention be given to *in situ* conservation of plant genetic resources in the development of the Global Plan of Action.

Progress since the Fifth Session

tions of the 40 Commission. The following paragraphs provide examples focused on wild relatives of cultivated plants, on-farm conservation of crops and forestry species. Other examples are provided in document CPGR-6/95/5.1.

41.

Wild relatives of cultivated plants: with technical assistance from FAO, a cooperative project, entitled "Preservation of wild species of *Arachis* in South America" was successfully completed by EMBRAPA/CENARGEN (Brazil), CIAT and ICRISAT, with financial support from UNCTAD's Common Fund for Commodities and the World Bank. This project covered Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay and Uruguay. It included production of maps of

distribution and genetic diversity of wild *Arachis* species, site studies on population dynamics, development of technical and legal strategies for *in situ* conservation, establishment of conservation sites and the strengthening of regional and national capacity to sustain the project after completion through training, information dissemination and networking.

42. On-farm conservation of crops: in December 1993, FAO organized a South East Asian Workshop on On-Farm Conservation. The countries agreed to set up a regional cooperation programme on on-farm conservation and, as a first step, countries will examine closely the existing traditional farming systems and gather information on social, cultural, economic and scientific aspects. The information gathered in each country will provide a sound basis for the assessment of on-farm conservation across a range of agro-ecosystems and agricultural practices in the region. The Indonesian National Committee on Genetic Resources in March 1994 organized a training workshop involving local NGO's and Farmer's organizations to initiate gathering of information.

43. Forestry species: a Regional Workshop on *In situ* Conservation of Genetic Resources of Woody Species in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas was organized in Burkina Faso with the technical collaboration and support of FAO, the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, the European Union, the Inter-Governmental Committee Against Drought in the Sahel (CILSS) and IPGRI. The workshop, which was the first of its kind, was attended by participants from 10 countries. Target species were identified and draft plans of action were proposed by the workshop participants for further elaboration and implementation through regional networks.

44.

**World Information and Early Warning System:
Facilitating exchange of information and technology**

7.1 (e) and (f) of the Undertaking. The WIEWS collects, disseminates and facilitates the exchange of data and information on plant genetic resources and related technologies. It is also intended to alert rapidly the international community to hazards threatening the loss of *ex situ* and *in situ* plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, so as to make action against these threats possible.

Progress since the Fifth Session

46.

In line with the recommendations of UNCED's Agenda 21, FAO has accelerated the development of the WIEWS during the last biennium. It has also verified and updated, through appropriate questionnaires, a substantial part of the information maintained in the WIEWS databases. Currently, the *ex situ* database contains data on over 4.5 million plant genetic accessions, held in some 1,220 *ex situ* collections around the world. The countries profile database contains information on the structure and national plant genetic resource programmes and activities in over 190 countries. The seed sources database contains the addresses of about 8000 seed-supplying institutions around the world, as well as data on the activities and crop coverage. The crop variety database contains information on commercial crop varieties. The database of databases of national and international systems has been developed this biennium following the recommendations of the Fifth Session of the Commission; it provides information on individual databases and a guide of how to obtain information from them.

47.

The data maintained in the WIEWS provides a major input to the preparation of the periodical report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources. It is also expected to be of much assistance, through its specific focus on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, to the clearing-house mechanism which is being established for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

48.

Detailed information on the development and contents of the individual databases, a report of the survey undertaken in the last biennium and a report on the state of development of the Early Warning mechanisms and related strategies are given in document CPGR-6/95/13. Document CPGR-6/95/8 Annex summarizes and analyses information on *ex situ* collections on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture at the world level.

**Periodical Report on the State of the World:
Facilitating the Commission's monitoring function**

49.

The Third Session of the Commission "*recommended* that the Secretariat should periodically prepare a report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources, with the cooperation of other bodies concerned. The report should analyse the current plant genetic resources situation, and describe activities and programmes being carried out by regional, international and non-governmental organizations, with the aim of identifying gaps, constraints and emergency situations; this would allow the Commission to recommend priorities and ways of harmonizing the overall effort."

l research and development institutions, as well as donors, whether multilateral, bilateral or non-governmental. It would be of great value in directing the available financial resources towards the priorities for action."

51.

The Commission agreed that the periodically updated Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources should utilize data periodically updated and stored in the WIEWS as a major source of information, and that *vice versa*, the information generated during the production of these Reports should be stored in the WIEWS. The Commission also agreed that the needs, emergencies and priorities identified in the Report on the State of the World's plant genetic resources would provide the basis for the operation and periodic updating of the Global Plan of Action.

Progress since the Fifth Session

52.

The first Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources is currently being prepared through a country-driven process leading to the Fourth International Technical Conference.

53.

In 1994, guidelines for the preparation of country reports were sent to countries with a Circular State Letter. At the time of preparing this document (15 April 1995), 27 country reports (either draft or final) had been received. A series of regional and sub-regional meetings between July and November 1995 are also planned to complete this information and to ensure that the process is driven by countries.

ition of the report.

**Global Plan of Action:
Facilitating the Commission's coordinating function**

55.

The Commission requested the development of a rolling Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources for food and agriculture, with programmes and activities aimed at filling in gaps, overcoming constraints and facing emergency situations identified in the Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources. The periodically updated Plan will permit the Commission to recommend priorities and to promote the rationalization and coordination of efforts.

56.

At its Fourth Session, the Commission agreed that the Global Plan of Action should include "a general budget, as well as priority programmes and projects, to be financed, on a step-by-step basis through the International Fund for Plant Genetic Resources, and to be implemented by appropriate agencies and organizations, under the supervision of the Commission." The Commission also "suggested that the major parties involved in the implementation of the Plan should be involved in its preparation, so as to ensure effective coordination, and to avoid the danger of duplication of activities and waste of resources."

57.

The Commission further "considered that the Global Plan of Action would be a global framework for local, national and regional activities, to be implemented by national institutions, supported, when appropriate, by FAO and other intergovernmental, as well as non-governmental institutions."

followed by a meeting to define the financial commitments needed for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, and the terms and conditions of financing."

59.

In 1993 the Fifth Session of the Commission "agreed that the Global Plan of Action would identify the activities, projects and programmes needed to overcome present constraints, in line with the relevant parts of Agenda 21. By financing the Global Plan of Action, through the International Fund and other funding mechanisms, as foreseen in Resolution 3/91, the international community would contribute to the practical realization of Farmers' Rights."

Progress since the Fifth Session

60.

The first Plan of Action is being developed in the context of the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources on the basis of the first State of the World Report, through a country-driven process, including regional and sub-regional meetings, under the guidance of the Commission. Document CPGR-6/95/11 provides an outline of the first Global Plan of Action. Document CPGR-6/95/6 reports on the progress in its development and requests the guidance and comments of the Commission as appropriate.

International Fund for Plant Genetic Resources: Ensuring Funding

61.

Following negotiations carried out through the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, FAO Members, in 1991, unanimously adopted Conference Resolution 3/91⁶ which agreed "that Farmers' Rights will be implemented through an international fund on plant genetic resources, which will support plant genetic conservation and utilization progress". The Resolution also agreed that the International Fund "should be substantial, sustainable and based on the principles of equity and transparency" and "that through the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, the donors of genetic resources, funds and technology will determine and oversee the policies, programmes and priorities of the fund and other funding mechanisms, with the advice of the appropriate bodies".

62.

The International Fund is expected to become a key mechanism for sharing benefits and a critical element in ensuring the equitability of the Global System. The Fund will provide a channel for countries, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, private industry and individuals to support conservation and promote the use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture on a sustainable basis, at all levels. The Fund has not yet been established and matters related to the legal status, policies and priorities and parties are still under discussion, as part of the current negotiations for the revision of the International Undertaking.

Progress since the Fifth Session

63.

Further progress in the establishment and operation of the International Fund is dependent on the success of the negotiations among countries on the revision of the International Undertaking, which includes the realization of Farmers' Rights. In this context, a number of documents prepared by the Secretariat to facilitate these negotiations are especially relevant to the Fund. Document CPGR-6/95/8 (especially para. 14 and 24-55) provides details on the current status of negotiations related to the establishment of the Fund and identifies questions to be resolved. These include the nature of the funding (voluntary or mandatory); the question of linkage between the financial responsibilities and the benefits derived from the use of PGR and the question of who should bear financial responsibilities (countries, users or consumers). They also include how the relative needs and entitlements of beneficiaries, especially developing countries, are to be estimated and how farmers and local communities may benefit from the funding. Document CPGR-6/95/8 Supp. (especially para. 7-18 and 24-32, as well as Appendices I and III) and a number of Background Study papers listed in footnote 6 of this report, provide the Commission with technical information on and analysis of the economic and legal aspects, including possible options, as the basis for negotiations towards resolution of the pending issues related to the establishment and operation of the Fund. The development of the Global Plan of Action will contribute to determining the actual magnitude of the financial needs. The institutional aspects of the Fund are discussed in document CPGR-6/95/9 (especially in para. 23-25).

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Guidance requested from the Commission

64. Since the last session of the CPGR, the FAO Secretariat has redoubled its efforts to strengthen and adjust the FAO Global System on Plant Genetic Resources for food and agriculture, following the recommendations of UNCED's Agenda 21 and the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Much of the effort has concentrated on the negotiations for the revision of the International Undertaking, including the realization of Farmers' Rights; and on the preparation of the first report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources and the first Global Plan of Action through a country-driven process leading to the Fourth International Technical Conference. The Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer has also been adopted by the FAO Conference during this period. Progress made in the development of the International Network of *ex situ* collections includes the signing of agreements between FAO and twelve International Agricultural Research Centres through which the centres have placed the collections maintained in their genebanks under the auspices of FAO. Significant progress has also been made in the development of the WIEWS.

65. In accordance with its terms of reference, the Commission should "recommend measures that are necessary or desirable in order to ensure the comprehensiveness of the Global System and the efficiency of its operation". By doing this the Commission exercises its coordinating and monitoring role on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Commission's guidance is particularly invited on the components of the Global System covered in section III of this document which are not dealt with in other documents, such as the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources (para. 10-17), the International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer (para. 22-25) and the Network of *In situ* Conservation Areas (para. 38-44).

APPENDIX

**MEMBERS OF FAO COMMISSION ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
AND/OR COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE ADHERED TO THE
INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES**

AFRICA	ASIA AND THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC	EUROPE	LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Algeria 1/2	Australia 1/2	Albania 1/	Antigua & Barbuda 2/
Angola 1/2	Bangladesh 1/2	Austria 1/2	Argentina 1/2
Benin 1/2	China, People's Republic of 1/	Belgium 1/2	Bahamas 1/2
Botswana 1/	Democrat. People's Rep. of Korea 1/2	Bulgaria 1/2	Barbados 1/2
Burkina Faso 1/2	Fiji 2/	Croatia, Rep. of 1/	Belize 1/2
Cameroon 1/2	India 1/2	Cyprus 1/2	Bolivia 1/2
Cape Verde 1/2	Indonesia 1/	Czech Republic 1/2	Brazil 1/
Central African Rep. 1/2	Japan 1/	Denmark 1/2	Chile 1/2
Chad 1/2	Korea, Rep. of 1/2	Estonia 1/	Colombia 1/2
Congo 1/2	Malaysia 1/	European Community 1/	Costa Rica 1/2
Côte d'Ivoire 2/	Maldives, Rep of 1/	Finland 1/2	Cuba 1/2
Equatorial Guinea 1/2	Myanmar 1/	France 1/2	Dominica 1/2
Ethiopia 1/2	Nepal 1/2	Germany 1/2	Dominican Rep. 1/2
Gabon 1/2	New Zealand 1/2	Greece 1/2	Ecuador 1/2
Gambia 1/	Pakistan 1/	Hungary 1/2	El Salvador 1/2
Ghana 1/2	Philippines 1/2	Iceland 1/2	Grenada 1/2
Guinea 1/2	Samoa 1/2	Ireland 1/2	Guatemala 1/
Guinea-Bissau 1/	Solomon Islands 2/	Israel 1/2	Guyana 1/
Kenya 1/2	Sri Lanka 1/2	Italy 1/2	Haiti 1/2
Liberia 1/2	Thailand 1/	Liechtenstein 2/	Honduras 1/2
Madagascar 1/2	Tonga 2/	Lithuania 1/	Jamaica 2/
Malawi 2/	Vanuatu 1/	Malta 1/	Mexico 1/2
Mali 1/2	NEAR EAST	Netherlands 1/2	Nicaragua 1/2
Mauritania 1/2	Afghanistan 1/	Norway 1/2	Panama 1/2
Mauritius 1/2	Bahrain 2/	Poland 1/2	Paraguay 2/
Morocco 1/2	Egypt 1/2	Portugal 1/2	Peru 1/2
Mozambique 2/	Iran, Islamic Rep. of 1/2	Romania 1/2	Saint Christopher and Nevis 1/
Niger 1/2	Iraq 1/2	Russia 2/	Saint Lucia 1/
Rwanda 1/2	Jordan 1/	Spain 1/2	Saint Vincent and The Grenadines 1/
Senegal 1/2	Kuwait 2/	Slovak Republic 1/	Suriname 1/
Sierra Leone 1/2	Lebanon 1/2	Sweden 1/2	Trinidad & Tobago 1/2
South Africa 2/	Libya 1/2	Switzerland 1/2	Uruguay 1/
Sudan 1/2	Oman 2/	Turkey 1/2	Venezuela 1/
Tanzania 1/2	Syria 1/2	United Kingdom 1/2	
Togo 1/2	Tunisia 1/2	Yugoslavia 1/2	NORTH AMERICA
Uganda 1/	Yemen 1/2		Canada 1/
Zaire 1/			United States of America 1/
Zambia 1/2			
Zimbabwe 1/2			

1/ Members of the Commission.

2/ Countries which have adhered to the International Undertaking.

The above totals 144 countries and Regional Economic Integration Organizations which have become members of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources (129) or which have adhered to the International Undertaking (110).

Albania, Algeria, China, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Gabon, Maldives, Malta, Nepal and Slovakia.

Canada, France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Angola, Algeria and the Bahamas.

CPGR-6/95/Inf.1 (CPGR-Ex1/94/3), *Revision of the International Undertaking. Mandate, context, background and proposed process.*

Para. 67 and 68 of the report of the Fifth Session of the Commission.

It should be noted that the international fund referred to in Resolution 3/91 is not the "international fund for plant genetic resources" established by 1988, on an interim basis.