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para la
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y la
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Item 5 of the Draft Provisional Agenda

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL GENETIC
RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

Fourth Session

Rome, 13-15 December 2006

**REMAINING FINANCIAL NEEDS FOR THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL
CONFERENCE ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES**

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REMAINING FINANCIAL NEEDS FOR THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), in its Tenth Regular Session in 2004, decided that *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* should be finalized at the First International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources (the Conference) in 2007. The Commission acknowledged that there would be substantial costs involved in the convening of the Conference, and appealed to donors to support it. It stressed the need for funding to be provided by FAO from its Regular Programme, as well as for extra-budgetary funds.¹
2. The document reports on activities undertaken by FAO to mobilize donor funding, and highlights the unmet financial needs to convene the Conference.

II. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

3. After the Tenth Session of the Commission, FAO held informal meetings and communicated with several potential host countries. Concept notes for funding of the Conference were distributed to potential donors during COAG 2005. In October 2005, the Director-General of FAO received the offer of the Government of Switzerland to host the International Conference on Animal Genetic Resources. After the acceptance of the offer, FAO convened a donor meeting during the FAO Conference, in November 2005.
4. FAO and the Government of Switzerland continued to contact donors, raise awareness and mobilise interest for the Conference through contributions to conferences and special events.
 - The Government of Switzerland and FAO held a side-event to announce the Conference at the Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Curitiba, Brazil, in March 2006. The Government of Switzerland reported on the side-event to the Conference of the Parties. This was welcomed by a substantial number of countries.
 - FAO and Switzerland held a side-event at the First Meeting of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources in Madrid in June 2006, to announce the Conference.
 - The Conference was also announced by FAO to donors and international organisations at the Seventh Inter-Agency meeting on Livestock Research for Development, held in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, from 15-19 May 2006.
5. A number of governments have so far made contributions – in cash or in kind - to the preparation of the Conference, for an approximate amount of US\$ 1,000,000, as follows:
 - The United Kingdom supported the study, *Exchange, use and conservation of animal genetic resources: identification of policy and regulatory options*, and Germany (through GTZ) supported the study *Gene flow in animal genetic resources. A study on status, impact and trends*.

¹ CGRFA-10/04/REP, para 59

- Spain and Japan provided Associate Professional Officers, to assist in the finalization of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* and Conference preparation.
 - Germany (including through GTZ), Finland, Australia and China have supported meetings in the regional consultation process.
 - Under Programme Cooperation Agreements with FAO, Norway supported the finalization of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, and assisted the participation of developing countries in preparatory activities. It continues to support the preparation of the Conference, together with the Government of Germany.
6. FAO is also providing significant financial and staff resources for the finalization of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* and Conference preparation, including for technical work in preparing documents, under the FAO Regular Programme. The overall budget for the 2006-07 biennium of Programme Entity, "Management of Animal Genetic Resources", including for regional and sub-regional offices, is US\$ 2,300,000.
7. Switzerland is generously contributing financial resources to the provision of the Conference facilities and local organization, interpretation costs, and support for the participation of delegates from developing countries.
8. Switzerland has established a Conference Bureau in the Federal Office for Agriculture, under the Federal Department of Economic Affairs. In April 2006, a first stakeholder meeting was organized to mobilise support for the Conference and to engage relevant professional, technical and research institutions, related NGOs and agricultural media across Switzerland in its organisation.
9. Several donors supported a workshop organized by NGOs in Germany (October 2006) to prepare for the Conference. A network of Civil Society Organizations, the International NGO/CSO Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), has offered to help FAO with preparations for the Conference.

III. REMAINING FINANCIAL NEEDS

10. Despite the clear and wide-spread support for the Conference, FAO has not yet secured all of the necessary financial resources required to prepare and convene the Conference. The document, *Budgetary and other aspects of a possible International Technical Conference on animal genetic resources*,² provided to the Tenth Session of the Commission, had introduced a first preliminary budget for the Conference, which has been further refined, based on current planning, as detailed in the document, *Status of the preparation of the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources*.³ The duration of the Conference, including the Regional Group meetings and the Scientific Forum, is now seven days, with 12 sessions requiring interpretation. The number of participants expected has increased to 500, and 150 delegates from developing countries are expected to need support for their travel.
11. The remaining Conference costs and current unmet financial needs fall into three categories.
12. **Preparatory activities:** Conference preparation team at FAO, consultants and travel for the preparation of the Conference; translation of the executive summary and annexes of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*; layout, printing and distribution of *The State of the*

² CGRFA-10/04/9 Add. 3

³ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-4/06/5

World's Animal Genetic Resources; development and printing of communication products:
US\$ 593,000

13. **The Conference itself:** interpretation and in-session document translation; FAO staff, consultants, and attendance of technical experts: **US\$ 150,000**

14. **Support for the participation of developing countries:** 150 delegates from developing countries and countries with economies in transition (travel costs, terminals and living allowance): **US\$ 500,000**

15. Discussions are underway with a range of donors, for possible support, in cash or in kind. The sums under discussion are currently about US\$ 300,000, but no decisions have been taken. It is also understood that some donors are considering providing support to certain developing countries directly. However, until finally agreed, such resources cannot be counted upon, and the time remaining before the Conference is now very short.

IV. GUIDANCE REQUESTED FROM THE WORKING GROUP

16. Given the short period that remains until the Conference, the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources may wish to:

- urge donors to make available the necessary extra-budgetary financial resources, and in-kind assistance, in the very near future as to ensure the convening of the First International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources in 2007;
- urge donors to support the participation of developing countries, either by providing extra-budgetary funds to FAO, or by direct support to such participation;
- request FAO to again approach donors;
- request the Secretariat to prepare a full report, for the Eleventh Session of the Commission, on the funding situation, implications for the Conference, and options.