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Sixteenth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Rome, 30 January – 3 February 2017



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**REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

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The documents of the Sixteenth Regular Session of the
Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
are to be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/cgrfa-meetings/cgrfa-comm/sixteenth-reg/>

They may also be obtained from:

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I. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Sixteenth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) met in Rome, Italy, from 30 January to 3 February 2017. The list of delegates and observers is available on the Commission's Web site.
2. In accordance with its Rules of Procedure, the Commission had elected its Chair, Vice-Chairs and *Rapporteur* for the Sixteenth Regular Session at its Fifteenth Regular Session in 2015. The Chair of the Sixteenth Regular Session was Mr Chang-Yeon Cho (Republic of Korea). Ms Clarissa della Nina (Brazil), Mr Charles Nying (Cameroon), Mr William Wigmore (Cook Islands), Mr Javad Mozafari Hashjin (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr François Pythoud (Switzerland) and Ms Christine Dawson (United States of America) were elected as Vice-Chairs. Ms Clarissa della Nina was elected as *Rapporteur*. Ms Clarissa della Nina was replaced by Ms Larissa Maria Lima Costa (Brazil) and Mr Charles Nying was replaced by Mr MOUNGUI MEDI (Cameroon).
3. Mr Chang-Yeon Cho opened the session and welcomed delegates and observers.
4. Mr Daniel Gustafson, Deputy Director-General Programmes, welcomed delegates and observers. He noted the establishment of the new FAO Department on Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water, which will bring together work related to the three Rio Conventions – the Climate Change Framework Convention (UNFCCC), the Desertification Convention (UNCCD) and the Biodiversity Convention (CBD) – and will be the new home of the Commission and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty). Referring to the outcomes of the Thirteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD, Mr Gustafson emphasized the need for collaboration on biodiversity mainstreaming across all sectors, as this is essential for achieving food security and halting the loss of biodiversity. He stressed the alignment of FAO's work programme with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and FAO's commitment to building bridges between sectors, forming synergies, aligning goals and developing integrated cross-sectoral approaches to mainstreaming biodiversity in the agriculture, forest and fisheries sectors. He thanked the Executive Secretary of the CBD, Mr Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, for his many years of excellent and inspiring collaboration with FAO and wished him all the best in his future endeavours.
5. Mr René Castro-Salazar, Assistant Director-General, Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department, reiterated the cross-sectoral nature of the Commission, and noted that within the new department the Commission may inspire the further development of linkages with other aspects of natural resources management while maintaining collaboration with other technical departments. He stressed that although agriculture is often perceived as the culprit of climate change there is a need to consider that it can be part of the solution. He stressed that the new department will offer new ways of collaboration between the Commission and the Treaty Secretariats and with the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) Programme, which will help to facilitate and support the mainstreaming of biodiversity, climate, land and water issues into the technical work of the Organization, and thereby support the achievement of the SDGs.
6. Mr Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the CBD, reported the results of the recent Thirteenth Session of the COP to the CBD and stressed that the High-level Segment and the Thirteenth Session had benefited from the preparatory work and support of FAO. He noted that the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Wellbeing and the decision of the COP on mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity within and across sectors referred to the Commission's Global Plans of Action on Plant, Animal and Forest Genetic Resources. He also referred to the COP's decisions relating to digital sequence information on genetic resources and to the implications of the assessment on pollinators, pollination and food production, prepared by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). He thanked the Commission for its work over the last five years and expressed his confidence that the strong spirit of cooperation that has been built will continue as his successor, Ms Cristiana Paşca Palmer, takes up her duties.
7. Ms Irene Hoffmann, Secretary of the Commission, noted that many events, including the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, and the outcome of the

Thirteenth Session of the COP to the CBD, indicated that biodiversity for food and agriculture is high on the global agenda. She stressed the need for continued collaboration, as this is essential to progress in awareness raising on the important roles of associated biodiversity and ecosystem services in the functioning of agricultural production systems.

8. The Chair reported on the intersessional activities of the Bureau and provided a summary of the outcomes of the Special Event on the Contribution of Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture to Resilience, held on 28 January 2017.¹ Participants of the special event had recognized that there is a need to learn from, rather than to imitate, nature to build resilient production systems. The event had highlighted the importance of retaining and documenting traditional knowledge, using innovative techniques and technologies, including information technologies, new business models, marketing and the promotion of social entrepreneurship. It was also recognized that the development of resilience strategies requires a holistic approach, as well as cross-sectoral collaboration at both international and national levels. The Commission was considered to be an important facilitator in strengthening and better coordinating such collaboration at the international level.

9. The Commission adopted the Agenda as given in *Appendix A*.

II. THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Status of preparation

10. The Commission considered the document *Preparation of The State of The World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*.² The Commission welcomed the draft report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*.³ Commission Members provided comments on the draft report and requested that they be reflected in the Revised Draft Report.

11. The Commission stressed the importance of ensuring that as many country reports as possible are submitted. It invited countries that have not yet done so to submit their reports by the agreed date of 30 June 2017. While recognizing that countries have the option of reporting using the simplified guidelines prepared by the Secretariat, the Commission noted that the use of the full guidelines is the preferred option. It agreed that countries that have already submitted a country report can submit a revised version by 30 June 2017, and requested countries choosing to do so to clearly communicate to the Secretariat any amendments made.

12. The Commission requested the Secretariat to make the Revised Draft Report and a draft in-brief version available by 1 March 2018 and to invite Members and observers to provide comments on them by 16 June 2018.

13. It further requested that the thematic studies and regional synthesis reports be made available as supporting documentation at the same time as the Revised Draft Report. It requested the Secretariat to finalize the Report in the second half of 2018, taking into account comments received from Members and observers, and prepare and publish an in-brief version of the Report in all UN languages.

14. The Commission called upon governments and donors to make available the financial resources necessary to finalize, translate and publish the final Report in all UN languages. It requested the Secretariat to present the final Report at relevant international meetings to inform and contribute to the global biodiversity agenda, in particular the implementation of relevant SDGs.

15. It invited countries to consider the findings of their country reports when adopting relevant programmes, policies and activities, at national and regional levels, as appropriate.

¹ <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/events/en/>

² CGRFA-16/17/3.

³ CGRFA-16/17/Inf.10.

Needs and possible actions

16. The Commission considered the document *Biodiversity for food and agriculture – needs and possible actions*⁴ and took note of other relevant documents.⁵ It requested the Secretary to invite Members and observers to submit, by 15 April 2018, comments on the needs and possible actions contained in *Appendix I* of the document and proposals for additional needs or possible actions for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture, taking into account the findings of the Revised Draft Report. It requested the Secretariat to review and revise, as appropriate, the draft needs and possible actions for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture in the light of comments and suggestions received, taking into account the findings of the Revised Draft Report.

17. The Commission invited the regions each to identify up to three national focal points (NFPs) designated for the preparation of country reports contributing to *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* to participate in the further review and revision, as appropriate, of the draft needs and possible actions, and communicate the nominations to the Secretary through their Bureau Members by 1 September 2017. It further invited Bureau Members to support the nominees by facilitating the collection of views from other NFPs in the region on the needs and possible actions.

18. The Commission requested the Secretary to convene the NFPs nominated by the regions for a three-day meeting in June 2018, subject to the availability of funds, to review and revise, as appropriate, draft needs and possible actions, and to submit these for consideration by the Commission at its Seventeenth Regular Session to support discussion on actions that can help secure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture.

III. THE ROLE OF GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE FOR FOOD SECURITY

19. The Commission considered the document *Options to raise awareness of the role genetic resources for food security and nutrition*.⁶ It stressed the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA) to food production, and to all four dimensions of food security.

20. The Commission invited countries to raise awareness of the important roles of the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA and of access and benefit-sharing (ABS) for GRFA for food security and nutrition. It also invited countries to integrate GRFA into their food security and nutrition policies, including public research and extension programmes, public procurement and education policies, and market and value chain development, with the aim of arriving at policies that support food security, adequate nutrition, and the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA. It requested FAO to assist countries in this regard and called upon donors and relevant international organizations to make financial resources available.

21. The Commission requested FAO to prepare a study addressing the contribution of GRFA to the four pillars of food security and to the achievement of relevant SDGs, and to reflect the outcomes of the study in the revised report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. The Commission requested FAO to invite Members and observers to provide inputs to the Secretariat by 31 March 2017.

22. The Commission requested FAO to report, on a regular basis, on its awareness-raising activities with respect to the contributions of GRFA to food security.

23. The Commission stressed the importance of its collaboration with FAO's Technical Committees and the Committee on World Food Security. It also requested FAO to further integrate work on GRFA into its Programme of Work and Budget.

⁴ CGRFA-16/17/4.

⁵ CGRFA-16/17/Inf.11.1 to CGRFA-16/17/Inf.11.6.

⁶ CGRFA-16/17/5.

IV. ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING FOR GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

24. The Commission considered the *Report of the Third Session of the Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-Sharing*.⁷ Mr Javad Mozafari Hashjin (Islamic Republic of Iran), Chair of the Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS Expert Team), introduced the report. The Commission thanked the members of the ABS Expert Team for their excellent work. The Commission considered the document *Elaboration of subsector-specific elements to facilitate domestic implementation of access and benefit-sharing for different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture*⁸ and took note of other relevant information.⁹

25. The Commission:

- (i) Requested the Secretariat to continue working on ABS for GRFA, with the aim of raising the awareness of Members, their diverse authorities involved in ABS and other stakeholders, to assist Members in reflecting in their ABS measures the importance of GRFA, their special role for food security and the distinctive features of the different subsectors, with a view to contributing to the achievement of SDG Targets 2.5 and 15.6, and to enable the subsectors to engage in a meaningful way and promote communication in relevant processes at local, national, regional, and international levels;
- (ii) Requested FAO to continue assisting countries, at their request, in developing legislative, administrative and/or policy measures for ABS for GRFA, considering the importance of GRFA and their special role for food security;
- (iii) Agreed to produce non-prescriptive explanatory notes describing, within the context of the *Elements to facilitate domestic implementation of access and benefit-sharing for different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture*¹⁰ (ABS Elements), the distinctive features and specific practices of different subsectors of GRFA, to complement the ABS Elements;
- (iv) Invited Members, observers and other stakeholders to provide relevant inputs for such explanatory notes by electronic means, including on:
 - their practical experiences in implementing national ABS measures related to GRFA; and
 - the distinctive features and the specific practices of different subsectors of GRFA.
- (v) Requested the Secretariat to convene, as soon as practicable after the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Commission, and in collaboration with the Secretariats of the Treaty and the CBD, an international workshop to assist countries to identify and raise awareness of distinctive features and specific practices of subsectors of GRFA in the context of the ABS Elements. The workshop should:
 - (a) be open to all Members of the Commission, observers and relevant stakeholders;
 - (b) be attended by at least one representative per region of each of the Commission's intergovernmental technical working groups (Working Groups), designated by the Secretary in consultation with the Bureau;
 - (c) also be attended by seven regionally representative experts from the subsectors of micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture, to be designated by the Secretary in consultation with the Bureau;
 - (d) also be attended by the ABS Expert Team;

⁷ CGRFA-16/17/6.

⁸ CGRFA-16/17/7.

⁹ CGRFA-16/17/Inf.12.

¹⁰ CGRFA-15/15/Report, *Appendix B*.

- (e) consider the inputs received in response to the invitation in paragraph (iv) above, as well as other inputs from participants;
- (f) provide a forum for participants to exchange information, experiences and views; and
- (g) provide outputs for subsequent elaboration into non-prescriptive explanatory notes describing, within the context of the ABS Elements, the distinctive features and specific practices of different subsectors of GRFA.
- (vi) Requested the Secretariat to make the proceedings and outcomes of the international workshop available to the Commission, the Working Groups, the seven experts nominated for micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources, and the ABS Expert Team, for their information and consideration;
- (vii) Requested the ABS Expert Team to provide feedback on the outputs of the workshop for the Secretariat to prepare draft explanatory notes for further consideration and elaboration by the Working Groups and the seven experts nominated for micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources;
- (viii) Requested the Working Groups to review, during their forthcoming regular sessions, the draft explanatory notes as described in paragraph (vii) above for their subsector;
- (ix) Requested the Secretariat to convene a meeting of the seven experts nominated for micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources to review the draft explanatory notes as described in paragraph (vii) above for their subsector;
- (x) Encouraged the ABS Expert Team, the Working Groups and the seven experts nominated for micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources to work electronically throughout the process;
- (xi) Requested the ABS Expert Team to reconvene to consolidate the draft explanatory notes for the different subsectors, as reviewed by the Working Groups and the seven experts nominated for micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources, for consideration by the Commission at its Seventeenth Regular Session;
- (xii) Requested the Secretariat to gather, through the use of questionnaires, information from:
- countries, indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders on use and exchange practices, relevant voluntary codes of conduct, guidelines and best practices, and/or standards and community protocols as well as model contractual clauses on ABS specifically addressing GRFA;
 - countries on how prior informed consent (PIC) or approval and involvement of indigenous and local communities is obtained under their jurisdictions and on experiences with the implementation of any relevant ABS measures in the case of GRFA;
 - relevant indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders on their experiences as well as views regarding how countries can consider approaching PIC or approval and involvement of indigenous and local communities in the case of GRFA and associated traditional knowledge;
 - countries on their experiences with the use of the ABS Elements; and
 - relevant stakeholders on existing practices in the different subsectors with regard to different uses of GRFA to which ABS measures apply.
- (xiii) Requested the Secretariat to compile the above-described information and make it available as an input for developing the explanatory notes, and for the Commission to use, as appropriate, in its future work on ABS;

(xiv) Requested the Secretary to continue strengthening collaboration with the Secretary of the Treaty to promote coherence in the development and implementation of the respective programmes of work of the two bodies with regard to ABS;

(xv) Invited the Governing Body of the Treaty, in its continued governance of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) according to Article 3 of the Treaty, to continue to closely coordinate with the Commission, in order to address in a complementary way the distinctive features and specific uses of PGRFA, bearing in mind the ongoing activities and processes under the Treaty, including the current process of enhancing the functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (MLS) and the ongoing cooperation supporting the harmonious implementation of the Treaty, the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol; and

(xvi) Invited the Governing Body to exchange information with the Commission at regular intervals on the process of enhancing the MLS with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts.

V. REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

26. The Commission considered the document *Review of the Programme of Work on Climate Change and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.¹¹

27. The Commission welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Work on Climate Change and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and agreed to integrate the Commission's work on climate change into its Multi-Year Programme of Work. It requested FAO to ensure that the Commission's work on GRFA and climate change be fully integrated into the Organization's Strategic Framework and its Climate Change Strategy.

28. The Commission invited the Secretariat to continue raising awareness on the importance and potential role of GRFA in the context of climate change and promote the mainstreaming of these resources into climate change-related programmes and policies, including at national and regional levels.

29. The Commission invited countries to implement the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning¹² and provide feedback in this regard to the Secretary. It also requested FAO to assist countries in the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines.

30. The Commission invited countries to integrate diversity of GRFA into national climate change planning, addressing their potential for adaptation to climate change and for climate change mitigation, including in line with their respective nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans.

31. The Commission requested the Secretariat to prepare a proposal for the preparation of a country-driven global assessment of the role of GRFA in adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, for consideration by the Commission at its next session. It stressed that any reporting process should be voluntary in nature, undertaken in collaboration with relevant international entities and, as appropriate, national governments, and preferably based on a simple questionnaire that is usable at national level.

¹¹ CGRFA-16/17/8.

¹² <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/290cd085-98f3-43df-99a9-250cec270867/>

VI. REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF TARGETS AND INDICATORS FOR GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

32. The Commission considered the document *Targets and indicators for genetic resources for food and agriculture: developments and challenges*.¹³
33. The Commission acknowledged the key role biodiversity for food and agriculture plays for achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and stressed the need to adequately reflect this role in national development strategies.
34. The Commission requested FAO to continue contributing to the development and use of international targets and indicators related to GRFA, including to the work of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, with a view to ensuring consistency and coherence among relevant fora and processes and avoiding duplication of reporting.
35. The Commission invited countries to actively engage in the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, including through the preparation of voluntary national reviews of biodiversity for food and agriculture.
36. The Commission welcomed FAO's support to countries in the implementation of the Commission's Global Plans of Action and the important contribution of data gathered by FAO under the guidance of the Commission through the existing reporting systems to the monitoring of SDG Target 2.5.

VII. AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES

Report of the First Session of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

37. The Commission considered the *Report of the First Session of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.¹⁴ Mr Mohd Fariduddin Othman (Malaysia), Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group, introduced the report. The Commission thanked the members of the Ad Hoc Working Group for their excellent work and endorsed the report.

The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

38. The Commission considered the document *Preparation of The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*¹⁵ and took note of relevant information documents¹⁶ and thematic background studies.¹⁷
39. The Commission welcomed the draft report on *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. It invited countries that have not yet done so to nominate NFPs and to submit country reports by 30 June 2017, and encouraged countries that have already submitted a country report to submit a revised version, as appropriate, by the same deadline.
40. The Commission requested FAO to prepare a Revised Draft Report, taking into account the information contained in the country reports received by 30 June 2017, the thematic background studies, information provided by international organizations, and the comments and recommendations provided by the Commission and its Ad Hoc Working Group. It invited countries to comment on the Revised Draft Report, when it becomes available, and further requested the Committee on Fisheries and its subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, to review the Revised Draft Report and provide inputs.

¹³ CGRFA-16/17/9.

¹⁴ CGRFA-16/17/10.

¹⁵ CGRFA-16/17/11.

¹⁶ CGRFA-16/17/Inf.13; CGRFA-16/17/Inf.14.

¹⁷ <http://www.fao.org/fishery/AquaticGeneticResources/en>

41. The Commission requested that a second meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group be convened and requested it to review the Revised Draft Report in light of all comments and inputs received.
42. The Commission called upon governments and donors to make available the financial resources necessary for the finalization of the Report and to translate, publish, print and distribute it.¹⁸

VIII. ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

Report of the Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

43. The Commission considered the *Report of the Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.¹⁹ Ms Deidre Januarie (Namibia), Chair of the Working Group, introduced the report. The Commission thanked the members of the Working Group for their excellent work and endorsed the report.

Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources

44. The Commission considered the document *Status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*²⁰ and took note of other relevant documents.²¹
45. The Commission called upon countries to continue to implement the Global Plan of Action, in order to contribute to global food security and sustainable rural development and requested FAO to continue to support countries in these efforts. It requested FAO to continue to pursue partnerships and alliances in order to enhance the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. The Commission encouraged FAO and countries to foster collaboration with other stakeholders to improve the management of animal genetic resources.
46. The Commission stressed the importance of the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System DAD-IS as the international clearing-house mechanism for animal genetic resources and welcomed the development of its updated version. It requested FAO to develop options for improving the linkages between DAD-IS and other databases, and to include in future versions of DAD-IS data from genebank databases. The Commission stressed the need for countries to regularly update their national data in DAD-IS or FABIS-net, including information on animal genetic resources both *in situ* and *ex situ*, and to provide information on breed classifications. The Commission requested FAO to identify possible reasons for the continuing high proportion of breeds with unknown risk status in DAD-IS and potential means of addressing this issue, for consideration by the Working Group. The Commission also requested FAO to consider including domesticated honeybees, and potentially other pollinators, in DAD-IS.
47. The Commission requested FAO and invited countries to continue raising awareness of the important roles of livestock producers and of livestock species and breeds in the provision of ecosystem services. It requested FAO and countries to improve the mapping of species and breed distributions, where possible, and the description of phenotypic measures and biological functions, particularly in grassland-based production systems, in order to better target interventions for livestock producers. It requested FAO to review methods for identification and valuation of the ecosystem services provided by livestock breeds for consideration by the Working Group at its next session. The Commission invited FAO to reflect the role of livestock species and breeds in the supply of ecosystem services in *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*.
48. The Commission invited countries to strengthen the link between breed conservation, sustainable agricultural production and nature conservation, and the collaboration of the agriculture/livestock sector with the environment/wildlife/forest sector, ensuring full participation of

¹⁸ CGRFA-16/17/11, *Appendix III*.

¹⁹ CGRFA-16/17/12.

²⁰ CGRFA-16/17/13.

²¹ CGRFA-16/17/Inf.15; CGRFA-16/17/Inf.16.

all livestock producers, with special consideration to small-scale livestock keepers and pastoralists. It encouraged countries to investigate the feasibility of results-based incentive systems supporting the continued provision of ecosystem services, with special consideration to locally adapted breeds, in compliance with international trade regulations, and called on FAO to develop guidelines in this regard.

49. The Commission requested FAO to compile reports and achievements of projects under the Funding Strategy for the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and publicize these on the Web site of FAO. It agreed, with regard to future calls for proposals under the Funding Strategy and projects to be funded, to the amended modalities contained in paragraph 49 xvi, xviii–xxi of document CGRFA-16/17/13. The Commission invited donors to contribute to the Funding Strategy and to allocate sufficient funding for monitoring, backstopping and technical assistance of projects.

Review of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources

50. The Commission considered the document *Review of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*.²² It agreed on the draft resolution *Reaffirming the World's Commitment to the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*, as provided in *Appendix B*, and invited the Director-General to bring it to the attention of the Conference for approval at its forthcoming session.

IX. PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

Report of the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

51. The Commission considered the *Report of the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.²³ Mr William Wigmore (Cook Islands), Vice-Chair of the Working Group, introduced the report. The Commission thanked the members of the Working Group for their excellent work and endorsed the report.

Implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

52. The Commission considered the document *Status of implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*²⁴ and took note of relevant information documents.²⁵ It welcomed the overall progress made in the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action.

Country implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

53. The Commission welcomed the *Assessment of the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2012-2014*²⁶ and stressed the need for a greater number of country reports.

54. It expressed concern regarding the high number of genebank accessions due for regeneration for which no resources for this purpose are currently available. It requested governments and relevant international organizations to provide the necessary resources for the regeneration of accessions and invited FAO to continue monitoring this issue.

²² CGRFA-16/17/14.

²³ CGRFA-16/17/15.

²⁴ CGRFA-16/17/16.

²⁵ CGRFA-16/17/Inf.17.1; CGRFA-16/17/Inf.17.2; CGRFA-16/17/Inf.18; CGRFA-16/17/Inf.19; CGRFA-16/17/Inf.20; CGRFA-16/17/Inf.21.

²⁶ CGRFA-16/17/Inf.17.1; CGRFA-16/17/Inf.17.2.

55. The Commission requested FAO to continue supporting NFPs in their reporting on the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action. It invited all countries that have not yet done so to provide information on their implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action between January 2012 and June 2014 as soon as possible, and in no case later than 31 December 2017, through the Reporting System of the World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS).²⁷

56. The Commission requested FAO to consult Commission Members and observers on options for further simplifying the reporting format and to prepare a proposal for review by the Working Group. It noted, nonetheless, that the WIEWS Reporting System already provides the options of only rating the indicators and providing an explanation for the rating or reporting on a subset of indicators. It welcomed the fact that NFPs have these options for the current monitoring round.

57. The Commission noted the need to continue collaboration and coordination with the Treaty and its Global Information System and stressed the role of WIEWS as a key PGRFA information system with respect to the implementation of Article 17 of the Treaty. The Commission requested FAO to complete the restructuring of WIEWS, and publish, through WIEWS, information on the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action and SDG Target 2.5. It welcomed the coordination with the Genesys database hosted by the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

FAO activities supporting the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

58. The Commission requested FAO and donors to continue supporting countries in their efforts to conserve PGRFA *in situ* and on farm, to maintain genebanks for the continued collection, conservation, characterization, evaluation, use and provision of crop germplasm, and to strengthen the links and complementarity between *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation.

59. The Commission requested FAO to continue supporting countries in strengthening their crop improvement and plant breeding capacities, including through multistakeholder platforms, such as the Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building (GIPB), and the Joint Programme of FAO and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and to report on the impact of these activities to the Working Group at its next session.

60. The Commission further requested FAO to support countries in the development or revision of their national seed policy and legislation, taking into account the Commission's *Voluntary guide for national seed policy formulation*.²⁸

61. The Commission called for extra-budgetary funds to support countries in the implementation and monitoring of the Second Global Plan of Action, including through the development and implementation of national strategies for PGRFA, taking into account the Commission's *Guidelines for developing a national strategy for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture*,²⁹ as appropriate.

National level conservation and use of farmers' varieties/landraces and conservation of crop wild relatives and wild food plants

62. The Commission reviewed and endorsed the *Voluntary guidelines for national level conservation of crop wild relatives and wild food plants*³⁰ and requested FAO to publish them.

63. The Commission referred the revised draft *Voluntary guidelines on national level conservation and use of farmers' varieties/landraces*³¹ to the Working Group for further review and invited Members, observers and NFPs to provide comments on this document before 1 June 2017. It

²⁷ <http://www.fao.org/wiews/en/>

²⁸ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4916e.pdf>

²⁹ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4917e.pdf>

³⁰ CGRFA-16/17/Inf.19.

³¹ CGRFA-16/17/Inf.18.

requested FAO to revise the draft voluntary guidelines in the light of comments received, for review by the Working Group.

Global networking on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources

64. The Commission took note of the informal multistakeholder dialogue held from 6 to 7 June 2016.³² It reviewed the concept note on *Global networking on in situ conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture*³³ and referred it to its Working Group for further consultations.

65. The Commission requested FAO to continue strengthening national and regional PGRFA conservation networks, including through capacity-building activities and facilitating partnerships.

Preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

66. The Commission considered the document *Status of preparation of The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.³⁴ It endorsed the revised timeline for the preparation of the Third Report and the monitoring of the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action,³⁵ and the simplification of the reporting system. It took note of the revised provisional budget.³⁶

67. The Commission requested FAO to adjust the list of thematic studies,³⁷ as necessary and appropriate, and to consult the Working Group and the Commission on the thematic studies before work commences.

68. The Commission invited donors to provide extra-budgetary resources to support the preparation of the Third Report, ensure the participation of developing countries, in particular least-developed countries, in the preparation of implementation assessments and country reports, and to facilitate the preparation of thematic studies and the publication of the Third Report.

69. The Commission recommended that FAO invite countries to report annually on the SDG indicator 2.5.1, starting in February 2017. It recommended that the new WIEWS platform highlight the indicators of the Second Global Plan of Action relevant to SDG indicator 2.5.1 and enable NFPs to report annually on this indicator.

70. The Commission further requested FAO to assist countries in assessing their national reporting obligations and improving data and capacity to report on SDG indicator 2.5.1. It requested the Secretariat to continue collaborating with the Statistical Division of FAO and to inform the Commission of any relevant developments, including the final decisions taken by the UN Statistical Commission on the global reporting mechanism for the SDGs.

X. FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

Report of the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources

71. The Commission considered the *Report of the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources*.³⁸ Mr Sibidou Sina (Burkina Faso), Chair of the Working Group, introduced the report. The Commission thanked the members of the Working Group for their excellent work and endorsed the report.

³² CGRFA-16/17/Inf.21.

³³ CGRFA-16/17/Inf.20.

³⁴ CGRFA-16/17/17.

³⁵ CGRFA-16/17/17, *Appendix I*.

³⁶ CGRFA-16/17/17, *Appendix II*.

³⁷ CGRFA-16/17/17, *Appendix III*.

³⁸ CGRFA-16/17/18.

Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources

72. The Commission considered the documents *Status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources*³⁹ and *Monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources*.⁴⁰ It called upon countries to continue implementing the Global Plan of Action to contribute to sustainable forest management, the 2030 Agenda and other relevant international commitments on forests, including the Cancun Declaration. The Commission encouraged countries to support, as appropriate, the regional networks on forest genetic resources and contribute to the activities of these networks, to strengthen regional collaboration on forest genetic resources. It also recommended that countries pay attention to the regional networks on forest invasive species and encouraged the various networks to exchange information relevant to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

73. The Commission requested FAO to continue coordinating and supporting the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, in collaboration with the regional networks on forest genetic resources and relevant international organizations, bodies and processes. It further requested FAO to prepare draft voluntary guidelines for preparing a national strategy for forest genetic resources in line with the proposed outline⁴¹ and taking into account existing guidelines for the preparation of national forest programmes and for the formulation of forest policy to avoid duplication of work. Moreover, the Commission requested FAO to continue pursuing extra-budgetary funds, developing the funding strategy to assist countries in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and encouraging donors to provide support.

74. The Commission adopted the proposed targets, indicators and verifiers for forest genetic resources to be used as assessment tools to monitor the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.⁴² It also adopted the proposed schedule for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.⁴³

75. The Commission requested FAO to prepare draft guidelines for the preparation of country progress reports and reporting guidelines for regional networks and international organizations. It also requested FAO to consult the Working Group and the NFPs nominated for the preparation of country reports for *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*, by electronic means, on the draft guidelines for the preparation of country progress reports prior to their finalization by 31 March 2017, taking into account the need to clarify in detail the reporting requirements and to include a glossary of technical terms. The Commission encouraged countries to prepare themselves for the collection of information and data, as appropriate, to facilitate timely submission of the first country progress reports. The Commission requested FAO to consider the interface between the reporting systems for plant and forest genetic resources to avoid any duplication of efforts.

76. The Commission requested FAO to pursue extra-budgetary funds to support developing countries, in particular least-developed countries, in the preparation of country progress reports. It also requested FAO to invite regional networks on forest genetic resources and relevant international organizations to report on their contributions to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. Furthermore, the Commission requested FAO to collaborate with other relevant assessments and data providers in monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

³⁹ CGRFA-16/17/19.

⁴⁰ CGRFA-16/17/20.

⁴¹ CGRFA-16/17/19, *Appendix A*.

⁴² CGRFA-16/17/20, *Appendices A & B*.

⁴³ CGRFA-16/17/20, *Appendix C*.

XI. MICRO-ORGANISMS AND INVERTEBRATES

77. The Commission considered the document *Status of the Commission's work on the conservation and sustainable use of micro-organisms and invertebrates*⁴⁴ and took note of relevant information documents.⁴⁵ The Commission welcomed FAO's work on the conservation and sustainable use of micro-organisms and invertebrates and expressed particular appreciation for the inclusion of micro-organisms used in food processing and agro-industrial processes in the draft report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*.

78. The Commission requested the Secretary to invite countries to provide their views on the development of a draft work plan for future work on the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organisms and invertebrates. It requested FAO to prepare the draft work plan, taking into account these views, the findings of *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* and any other relevant information, for review by the Working Groups and the Commission at their next sessions.

79. The Commission reiterated the importance of pollinators, in particular honey bees, of micro-organisms of relevance to ruminant digestion, food processing and agro-industrial processes, of biological control agents and of soil organisms, and requested that these key groups be reflected in the draft work plan.

80. The Commission stressed the need for FAO to continue building partnerships with other international organizations and initiatives to mobilize expertise on micro-organisms and invertebrates and requested FAO to reflect this in the draft work plan.

XII. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK

81. The Commission considered the documents *Review of implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work and draft Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2018–2027)*⁴⁶ and *Measuring progress against the targets of the Strategic Plan*.⁴⁷ The Commission expressed its appreciation for the substantive progress made in the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) over the last decade, in collaboration with partners.

82. It agreed that the Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture⁴⁸ adopted at the Commission's Fourteenth Regular Session remains valid, with the updated major outputs and milestones (2018–2027) of the MYPOW, as provided in *Appendix C*. The Commission requested the Secretary to invite Members and observers to comment during the intersessional period on the draft Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture presented to the Commission at this session, and to revise the document taking into account comments received, relevant international developments and FAO's Strategic Framework.

83. The Commission agreed on the draft resolution *The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals*, as provided in *Appendix D*, and invited the Director-General to bring it to the attention of the Conference for approval at its forthcoming session.

84. The Commission considered the document *Raising funds for, and increasing efficiency of, work on genetic resources for food and agriculture*.⁴⁹ It noted with concern that while its mandate and activities under the MYPOW have broadened, funding has not increased proportionately. It welcomed therefore the proposed measures for increasing operational efficiency.

⁴⁴ CGRFA-16/17/21.

⁴⁵ CGRFA-16/17/Inf.22; CGRFA-16/17/Inf.23/

⁴⁶ CGRFA-16/17/22.

⁴⁷ CGRFA-16/17/Inf.24.

⁴⁸ CGRFA-14/13/Report, *Appendix I*.

⁴⁹ CGRFA-16/17/23.

85. It invited donors and other stakeholders, including the private sector, to contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the MYPOW. It requested FAO to establish a cross-sectoral multidonor trust fund for the implementation of the MYPOW covering all outputs and milestones while continuing bilateral projects for specific activities.

86. The Commission established a new work stream on “digital sequence information on GRFA”⁵⁰ and requested the Secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of the necessary resources, an exploratory fact-finding scoping study on “digital sequence information on GRFA” to provide information on, *inter alia*, terminology used in this area, actors involved with “digital sequence information on GRFA”, the types and extent of uses of “digital sequence information on GRFA”, such as:

- characterization,
- breeding and genetic improvement,
- conservation, and
- identification of GRFA

as well as on relevance of “digital sequence information on GRFA” for food security and nutrition, in order to facilitate consideration by the Commission, at its next session, of the implications of the use of “digital sequence information on GRFA” for the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA, including exchange, access and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use.

87. The Commission requested the Secretary to submit, after review by the Bureau, a preliminary draft of the exploratory fact-finding scoping study to the Executive Secretary of the CBD, as a timely contribution to the process set by decision CBD COP XIII/16.

88. The Commission requested the Secretary to invite Members to submit information on the use of “digital sequence information on GRFA” and potential implications for the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA, including exchange, access and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use, and to compile and submit this information to the Executive Secretary of the CBD, as a timely contribution to the process set by decision CBD COP XIII/16.

89. It invited countries to consider GRFA in their national submissions to the CBD under the process set by decision CBD COP XIII/16.

90. The Commission requested the Working Groups and the seven experts nominated for micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources⁵¹ to review and provide inputs to the draft exploratory fact-finding scoping study on “digital sequence information on GRFA”⁵² prior to its submission to the Commission for consideration at its next session.

91. The Commission requested the ABS Expert Team to provide comments on the exploratory fact-finding scoping study for consideration by the Commission at its Seventeenth Regular Session.

XIII. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

92. The Commission considered the documents *Cooperation with international instruments and organizations*⁵³ and *Collaboration with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*⁵⁴ and took note of relevant information documents.⁵⁵ It thanked the international

⁵⁰ The term is taken from decision CBD COP XIII/16 and is subject to further discussion. There is a recognition that there are a multiplicity of terms that have been used in this area (including, *inter alia*, “genetic sequence data”, “genetic sequence information”, “genetic information”, “dematerialized genetic resources”, “*in silico* utilization”, etc.) and that further consideration is needed regarding the appropriate term or terms to be used.

⁵¹ See above paragraph 25 (v) (c).

⁵² See above paragraph 86.

⁵³ CGRFA-16/17/24 Rev.1.

⁵⁴ CGRFA-16/17/25.

⁵⁵ CGRFA-16/17/Inf.25; CGRFA-16/17/Inf.26; CGRFA-16/17/Inf.27.

instruments and organizations for reporting on their activities and welcomed their inputs to the report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. It requested the Secretary to continue seeking inputs on prioritized themes of the regular sessions from international instruments and organizations and other relevant stakeholders and to make them available to the Commission for its information. The Commission stressed the importance of cooperating with other instruments and organizations, in particular with those at country level.

93. The Commission decided to keep the transfer of activities to the Treaty under review. It requested the Secretary to continue strengthening collaboration with the Secretary of the Treaty to promote coherence in the development and implementation of the respective programmes of work of the two bodies, and in particular with regard to: (a) the preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and the consideration of the Third Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; (b) the monitoring and implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, including further work on draft technical guidelines on farmers' varieties/landraces and crop wild relatives and global networking on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA; (c) ABS; (d) the Global Information System of the Treaty and the WIEWS; and (e) global targets and indicators.

94. The Commission welcomed the joint preparation by the Secretariats of the Commission and the Treaty of an analysis of the relevance of the Treaty's information systems to efforts to support the monitoring of the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action and the preparation of the Third Report, and the relevance of WIEWS and Genesys to efforts to support the Parties of the Treaty in reporting on the implementation of the Treaty. It also welcomed the international workshop on ABS for GRFA to be held during the current, or at the beginning of the next, biennium subject to the availability of the necessary extra-budgetary funds.

95. The Commission welcomed the establishment of the new FAO Department on Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water and noted that this will strengthen collaboration, and allow for greater integration and coherence, between the Treaty and the Commission. It requested the Secretary to continue strengthening such collaboration to promote coherence in the development and implementation of the respective programmes of work of the two bodies.

XIV. DATE AND PLACE OF THE COMMISSION'S SEVENTEENTH REGULAR SESSION

96. The Commission agreed that its Seventeenth Regular Session would be convened in Rome, Italy, in 2019, at a suitable date before the Forty-first Session of the FAO Conference. Taking this into account, the Secretary indicated 18 to 22 February 2019 as a tentative date for the Commission's Seventeenth Regular Session.

XV. ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIRS AND *RAPPORTEUR* AND MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

97. The Commission elected its Chair and Vice-Chairs for its Seventeenth Regular Session. Mr William Wigmore (Cook Islands) was elected Chair. Ms Tamara Villanueva (Chile), Mr Yusrat Tahir (Indonesia), Ms Deidre Januarie (Namibia), Mr François Pythoud (Switzerland), Ms Christine Dawson (United States of America) and Mr Maeen Ali Ahmed Al-Jarmouzi (Yemen) were elected Vice-Chairs. Ms Christine Dawson (United States of America) was elected *Rapporteur*.

98. The Commission elected the Members of its Working Groups, as given in *Appendix E*, and requested the Working Groups to meet before the next regular session of the Commission.

XVI. CLOSING STATEMENTS

99. Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General Climate and Natural Resources, congratulated the Chair, Vice-Chairs and delegates on having made the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Commission a fruitful meeting. She thanked delegates for their high level of engagement and for the confidence they had shown in FAO and the Commission. In closing, she referred to the recent statement by the Director-General of FAO stressing that the Organization is ready to give new focus to biodiversity. She invited the Commission to contribute to this process and invited donors to make available the funds needed to implement the activities agreed upon by the Commission at this session.

100. Regional representatives took the floor to thank the Chair, the Bureau, delegates, the Secretariat and the support staff and to express their satisfaction with the outcomes of the meeting. Thanks were also expressed to governments that had provided financial assistance to support the attendance of delegates from developing countries.

101. The Chair thanked FAO's technical departments, the Commission's Secretariat, along with the interpreters, translators and other support staff. He thanked the Vice-Chairs and the *Rapporteur* and extended best wishes to the incoming Chair and Bureau. Finally, he thanked delegates for their hard work, good spirit, clarity and willingness to compromise.

APPENDIX A**AGENDA OF THE SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON
GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

1. Adoption of the agenda and time-table

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK

2. Cross-sectoral matters
 - 2.1 *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*
 - 2.2 The role of genetic resources for food security
 - 2.3 Access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture
 - 2.4 Review of the Programme of Work on Climate Change and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
 - 2.5 Review of implementation of targets and indicators for genetic resources for food and agriculture
3. Aquatic genetic resources
 - 3.1 Report of the First Session of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
 - 3.2 *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*
4. Animal genetic resources
 - 4.1 Report of the Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
 - 4.2 Review of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources
5. Plant genetic resources
 - 5.1 Report of the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
 - 5.2 Implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
 - 5.3 Preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*
6. Forest genetic resources
 - 6.1 Report of the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources
 - 6.2 Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources
7. Micro-organisms and invertebrates

8. Implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work

**COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS
AND ORGANIZATIONS**

9. Cooperation with international instruments and organizations

OTHER MATTERS

10. Other business
11. Date and place of the Commission's Seventeenth Regular Session
12. Election of Chair, Vice-Chairs and *Rapporteur*
13. Adoption of the Report

APPENDIX B**REAFFIRMING THE WORLD'S COMMITMENT TO THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES***Draft Resolution*

THE CONFERENCE,

Recalling the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (Global Plan of Action) and the Interlaken Declaration as key milestones in international efforts to manage and conserve animal genetic resources for food and agriculture and ensure their fair and wise use in order to achieve global food security and sustainable development;

Welcoming *The Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and highlighting its importance in identifying and addressing new and emerging issues and trends in the management of animal genetic resources;

Affirming that the Global Plan of Action is a robust instrument that continues to be the key framework for addressing these new and emerging issues and trends at national, regional and international levels;

Recognizing the important linkages between biodiversity for food and agriculture and relevant global instruments and frameworks, especially the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related instruments and frameworks;

Invites Members to:

- **develop** or **strengthen** national policies, strategies and action plans for the management of animal genetic resources furthering the implementation of the Global Plan of Action;
- **continue** or **strengthen** characterization, surveying and monitoring of animal genetic resources;
- **integrate** animal genetic diversity into national climate change adaptation planning, or other efforts to address climate change, considering both their potential for adaptation to and for mitigation of the effects of climate change;
- **address** the challenge of a shrinking natural resource base available for animal production by undertaking a range of measures, including, as appropriate: improving land-use planning and reducing habitat loss for livestock production and the breeds utilizing such areas, especially locally adapted breeds; strengthening the rights of indigenous peoples and pastoralist livestock-keeping communities over territories, lands and natural resources; strengthening the roles of locally adapted breeds in sustainable land management; and promoting collaboration among stakeholders involved in the management of animal genetic resources and nature conservation organizations;
- **protect** the animal genetic resource base by promoting appropriate breeding and husbandry practices to control factors that contribute to the erosion of animal genetic resources diversity, and by making efforts to improve animal health, with emphasis on reducing mortality of animals;
- **support** the continued provision of ecosystem services by livestock systems, giving special consideration to locally adapted breeds kept by livestock keepers, in particular small-scale livestock keepers and pastoralists, through better articulating and enhancing the economic value of these ecosystem services, and developing results-based incentive systems; and

- **consider** the distinctive features of the subsector of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture in domestic access and benefit-sharing legislation, where appropriate, taking into account international developments in access and benefit-sharing.

Requests the Organization to:

- **continue** monitoring current, as well as new and emerging challenges in the management of animal genetic resources, and to facilitate the reporting process on such issues under the Global Plan of Action, *inter alia*, by further strengthening and developing DAD-IS as the global communication tool and clearing house mechanism for animal genetic resources;
- **review** progress in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and its relevance and orientation in light of new and emerging challenges and opportunities in the management of animal genetic resources;
- **continue** the development of technical guidelines and tools to support the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including on emerging issues;
- **ensure** that all relevant parts of the Organization, at headquarters, regional and country levels, are actively engaged and coordinated in promoting work on animal genetic resources, within the parameters of the FAO Strategic Objectives;
- **further support** the development and implementation of measures and tools to promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the livestock sector, with a view to supporting countries in the transition to sustainable food and agricultural systems;
- **support** capacity development, specifically for developing countries, and collaboration in all areas required for the integrated implementation of the Global Plan of Action, particularly in new technologies; and
- **continue** to pursue extra-budgetary funds to support the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, and to **encourage** donors to provide support to its implementation.

Calls on all partners and stakeholders, including donors, academic and research institutions, indigenous peoples, pastoralists and other livestock-keeping communities, non-governmental and civil society organizations, animal breeders, private-sector entities and other relevant stakeholders, to collaborate in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

APPENDIX C

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK: MAJOR OUTPUTS AND MILESTONES
(2018–2027)

	17 th Session 2019	18 th Session 2021	19 th Session 2023	20 th Session 2025	21 st Session 2027
Sectoral matters					
Animal genetic resources		Review of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources		Presentation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	Review of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources
Aquatic genetic resources	Presentation of the finalized <i>State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	Follow-up to <i>The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>		Follow-up to <i>The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	
Forest genetic resources	Review of implementation of the <i>Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources</i>		Presentation of <i>The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources</i>	Review of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources	
Micro-organisms and invertebrates		Review of work on micro-organisms and invertebrates		Review of work on micro-organisms and invertebrates	
Plant genetic resources	Review of status and trends of seed policies		Presentation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	Review of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	Review of implementation of the (Second) Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Cross-sectoral matters					
<i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>	Follow-up to <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>		Follow-up to <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>		Presentation of <i>The Second Report on the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>
Access and benefit-sharing (ABS)	Develop explanatory notes for subsectors of GRFA to complement the ABS Elements	Review of work on ABS		Review of work on ABS	
Biotechnologies		Review of the work on biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable utilization of GRFA		Review of the work on biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable utilization of GRFA	
"Digital sequence information on GRFA"	Consider the use of "digital sequence information on GRFA" and the potential implications for conservation, sustainable use and ABS of GRFA		Consider the use of "digital sequence information on GRFA" and the potential implications for conservation, sustainable use and ABS of GRFA		
Climate change		Review of work on climate change and GRFA	Review of a country-driven global assessment of climate change effects and genetic resource adaptation and mitigation measures	Review of work on climate change and GRFA	
Nutrition and Health	Review of work on GRFA and nutrition	Concept note on biodiversity for food and agriculture and human health	Review of work on GRFA and nutrition and health		Review of work on GRFA and nutrition and health
Management	Progress report/review of the Strategic Plan		Progress report/review of the Strategic Plan		Progress report/review of the Strategic Plan

* The term is taken from decision CBD COP XIII/16 and is subject to further discussion. There is a recognition that there are a multiplicity of terms that have been used in this area (including, *inter alia*, "genetic sequence data", "genetic sequence information", "genetic information", "dematerialized genetic resources", "*in silico* utilization", etc.) and that further consideration is needed regarding the appropriate term or terms to be used.

APPENDIX D**THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS***Draft Resolution*

THE CONFERENCE,

Having considered the report of the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission);

Stressing the important linkages between biodiversity for food and agriculture and relevant global instruments and frameworks, especially the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;

Recognizing the important work of the Commission in the preparation of reports on the state of the world's plant, animal, forest and aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture and their respective follow-up processes;

Further recognizing the importance of the Commission's Global Plans of Action as frameworks for national action to enhance the management of plant, animal, and forest genetic resources for food and agriculture at national, regional and global levels;

Welcoming the preparation of the report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* and its follow-up;

Acknowledging the important work of the Commission in the development of targets and indicators on genetic resources for food and agriculture in the context of the implementation of the Commission's Global Plans of Action;

Further acknowledging the competence of the Commission and FAO technical capacity in the field of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and therefore **recognizing** the Commission as an important partner in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Target 2.5, related to genetic diversity;

Finally recalling the role genetic resources for food and agriculture can play for climate change adaptation and mitigation;

Invites Members to:

- **Include** the implementation of the Commission's Global Plans of Action, as appropriate, among their priorities in their national efforts to achieve SDG 2, particularly Target 2.5, as well as other relevant SDGs;
- **Consider** developing funding proposals on genetic resources for food and agriculture, consistent with their national priorities, as appropriate, when seeking funding from various sources, including the Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility (GEF), Horizon 2020 and other funding mechanisms and modalities; and
- **Mainstream** biodiversity for food and agriculture into policies, programmes and national and regional plans of action on agriculture, climate change, food security and nutrition and other relevant sectors.

Requests the Organization to:

- **Continue** to pursue extra-budgetary funds, including from the private sector, as appropriate, to support the implementation of the Commission's Global Plans of Action, and to **encourage** donors to provide support to their implementation as part of the global effort to achieve the SDGs, particularly Target 2.5 on genetic diversity;
- **Further integrate** genetic resources for food and agriculture and biodiversity for food and agriculture into its Strategic Framework in order to reflect their contributions to ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture;
- **Support** capacity-development efforts with regard to the conservation and the sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture in developing countries, including through South-South and triangular cooperation;
- **Support** its Members in the development and implementation of country-led, regional or international projects on genetic resources for food and agriculture, including with resources from the Green Climate Fund, GEF and other sources and funding mechanisms, including from the private sector, as appropriate;
- **Mainstream** biodiversity through the promotion of ecosystem services provided by agriculture, agro-ecological practices and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture in its programmes and projects; and
- **Encourage** synergies between relevant stakeholders whose work contributes to achieving the SDGs related to food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture and biodiversity.

APPENDIX E
**MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUPS, ELECTED AT THE SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION OF
THE COMMISSION**

**MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE**

<i>Composition (no. of countries per region)</i>	<i>Country</i>
Africa (5)	Burkina Faso Cameroon Kenya Namibia Tunisia <i>First Alternate: Zimbabwe</i> <i>Second Alternate: Senegal</i>
Asia (5)	China India Philippines Republic of Korea Thailand <i>First Alternate: Lao People's Democratic Republic</i> <i>Second Alternate: Indonesia</i>
Europe (5)	Netherlands Norway Poland Slovenia Switzerland <i>First Alternate: France</i> <i>Second Alternate: Sweden</i>
Latin America and the Caribbean (5)	Argentina Costa Rica Cuba Guatemala Panama <i>First Alternate: Brazil</i> <i>Second Alternate: Jamaica</i>
Near East (4)	Jordan Sudan Syrian Arab Republic Yemen <i>First Alternate: Iran (Islamic Republic of)</i> <i>Second Alternate: Iraq</i>
North America (2)	Canada United States of America
Southwest Pacific (2)	Fiji Tonga <i>First Alternate: Vanuatu</i> <i>Second Alternate: Samoa</i>

**MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES OF THE AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL
TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE**

<i>Composition (no. of countries per region)</i>	<i>Country</i>
Africa (5)	Algeria Cameroon Comoros South Africa Togo <i>First Alternate:</i> Malawi <i>Second Alternate:</i> Morocco
Asia (5)	India Indonesia Japan Malaysia Sri Lanka <i>First Alternate:</i> Lao People's Democratic Republic <i>Second Alternate:</i> Philippines
Europe (5)	Czechia Germany Hungary Poland Norway
Latin America and the Caribbean (5)	Argentina Brazil Ecuador Panama Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) <i>First Alternate:</i> Saint Lucia <i>Second Alternate:</i> Paraguay
Near East (4)	Egypt Iran (Islamic Republic of) Iraq Kuwait <i>First Alternate:</i> Yemen <i>Second Alternate:</i> Qatar
North America (2)	Canada United States of America
Southwest Pacific (2)	Palau Tonga <i>First Alternate:</i> Solomon Islands <i>Second Alternate:</i> Marshall Islands

**MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP ON FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES**

<i>Composition (no. of countries per region)</i>	<i>Country</i>
Africa (5)	Congo Eritrea Morocco Niger Zambia <i>First Alternate:</i> Togo <i>Second Alternate:</i> Swaziland
Asia (5)	China Lao People's Democratic Republic Republic of Korea Sri Lanka Viet Nam <i>First Alternate:</i> Thailand <i>Second Alternate:</i> Indonesia
Europe (5)	France Italy Poland Russian Federation Sweden <i>First Alternate:</i> Finland <i>Second Alternate:</i> United Kingdom
Latin America and the Caribbean (5)	Argentina Brazil Cuba Ecuador Peru <i>First Alternate:</i> Costa Rica <i>Second Alternate:</i> Panama
Near East (4)	Iran (Islamic Republic of) Sudan Syrian Arab Republic Yemen <i>First Alternate:</i> Jordan <i>Second Alternate:</i> Lebanon
North America (2)	Canada United States of America
Southwest Pacific (2)	Papua New Guinea Vanuatu <i>First Alternate:</i> Fiji <i>Second Alternate:</i> Solomon Islands

**MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE**

<i>Composition (no. of countries per region)</i>	<i>Country</i>
Africa (5)	Algeria Angola Central African Republic Ghana Uganda <i>First Alternate:</i> Madagascar <i>Second Alternate:</i> Niger
Asia (5)	Afghanistan Bhutan Japan Malaysia Nepal <i>First Alternate:</i> India <i>Second Alternate:</i> Lao People's Democratic Republic
Europe (5)	Czechia Finland Italy Netherlands Norway <i>First Alternate:</i> Sweden <i>Second Alternate:</i> France
Latin America and the Caribbean (5)	Brazil Chile Costa Rica Ecuador Jamaica <i>First Alternate:</i> Mexico <i>Second Alternate:</i> Argentina
Near East (4)	Egypt Iran (Islamic Republic of) Lebanon Saudi Arabia <i>First Alternate:</i> Jordan <i>Second Alternate:</i> Sudan
North America (2)	Canada United States of America
Southwest Pacific (2)	Cook Islands Samoa <i>First Alternate:</i> Papua New Guinea <i>Second Alternate:</i> Fiji

APPENDIX F
LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working Documents

CGRFA-16/17/1	Provisional agenda
CGRFA-16/17/2 Rev.1	Provisional annotated agenda and time-table
CGRFA-16/17/3	Preparation of <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>
CGRFA-16/17/4	Biodiversity for food and agriculture - needs and possible actions
CGRFA-16/17/5	Options to raise awareness of the role of genetic resources for food security and nutrition
CGRFA-16/17/6	Report of the Third Session of the Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-Sharing
CGRFA-16/17/7	Elaboration of subsector-specific elements to facilitate domestic implementation of access and benefit-sharing for different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture
CGRFA-16/17/8	Review of the Programme of Work on Climate Change and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
CGRFA-16/17/9	Targets and indicators for genetic resources for food and agriculture: developments and challenges
CGRFA-16/17/10	Report of the First Session of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
CGRFA-16/17/11	<i>Preparation of The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>
CGRFA-16/17/12	Report of the Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
CGRFA-16/17/13	Status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources
CGRFA-16/17/14	Review of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources
CGRFA-16/17/15	Report of the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
CGRFA-16/17/16	Status of implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
CGRFA-16/17/17	Status of Preparation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>
CGRFA-16/17/18	Report of the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources
CGRFA-16/17/19	Status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources

CGRFA-16/17/20	Monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources
CGRFA-16/17/21	Status of the Commission's work on the conservation and sustainable use of micro-organisms and invertebrates
CGRFA-16/17/22	Review of implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work and Draft Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2018-2027)
CGRFA-16/17/23	Raising funds for, and increasing efficiency of work on, genetic resources for food and agriculture
CGRFA-16/17/24 Rev.1	Cooperation with international instruments and organizations
CGRFA-16/17/25	Collaboration with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Information Documents

CGRFA-16/17/Inf.1	Information note for participants
CGRFA-16/17/Inf.2	Statutes of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
CGRFA-16/17/Inf.3	Rules of Procedure of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
CGRFA-16/17/Inf.4	Statutes of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and Members elected by the Fifteenth Regular Session of the Commission
CGRFA-16/17/Inf.5	Statutes of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and Members elected by the Fifteenth Regular Session of the Commission
CGRFA-16/17/Inf.6	Statutes of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources, and Members elected by the Fifteenth Regular Session of the Commission
CGRFA-16/17/Inf. 7	Statutes of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources, and Members and Alternates elected by the Commission at its Fifteenth Regular Session
CGRFA-16/17/Inf.8	Statement of competence and voting rights submitted by the European Union (EU) and its Member States (MS)
CGRFA-16/17/Inf.9	Submissions by international organizations on biodiversity for food and agriculture
CGRFA-16/17/Inf.10	<i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (Draft)</i>
CGRFA-16/17/Inf.11.1	Report of the informal regional consultation on the state of Africa's biodiversity for food and agriculture
CGRFA-16/17/Inf.11.2	Report of the informal regional consultation on the state of Asia's biodiversity for food and agriculture

- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.11.3 Report of the informal regional consultation on the state of Europe's and Central Asia's biodiversity for food and agriculture
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.11.4 Report of the informal regional consultation on the state of biodiversity for food and agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.11.5 Report of the informal regional consultation on the state of the Near East's and North Africa's biodiversity for food and agriculture
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.11.6 Report of the informal regional consultation on the state of the Pacific Region's biodiversity for food and agriculture
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.12 Use and exchange practices, relevant voluntary codes of conduct, guidelines and best practices, and/or standards and community protocols on access and benefit-sharing specifically addressing genetic resources for food and agriculture
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.13 *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture - Draft Report*
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.14 Report of the First Session of the Committee on Fisheries Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.15 Status of Animal Genetic Resources - 2016
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.16 Contributions of livestock species and breeds to the provision of ecosystem services
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.17.1 Summary assessment of the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2012–2014
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.17.2 Assessment of the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2012–2014
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.18 National level conservation and use of farmers' varieties/landraces: Revised draft voluntary guidelines
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.19 National level conservation of crop wild relatives and wild food plants: Revised draft voluntary guidelines
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.20 Global networking on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.21 Report of the informal multistakeholder dialogue on global networking on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.22 Progress of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable use of Pollinators
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.23 Progress of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable use of Soil Biodiversity
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.24 Measuring progress against the targets of the Strategic Plan
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.25 Report from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.26 Report from the Global Crop Diversity Trust
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.27 Report from the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.28 List of documents
- CGRFA-16/17/Inf.29 List of delegates and observers

Other Documents

African Union Practical Guidelines for the Coordinated Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Africa

African Union Strategic Guidelines for the Coordinated Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation

The Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources

The Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources - in brief

Guidelines: Development of integrated multipurpose animal recording systems

Voluntary guidelines to support the integration of genetic diversity into national climate change adaptation planning

Elements to facilitate domestic implementation of access and benefit-sharing for different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture

Voluntary guidelines for mainstreaming biodiversity into policies, programmes and national and regional plans of action on nutrition

Voluntary guide for national seed policy formulation

Individual chapters and their executive summaries of the thematic assessment on pollinators, pollination and food production (deliverable 3(a))

Summary for policy-makers of the thematic assessment of Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production

Evaluation of FAO's Contribution to the Conservation and Sustainable use of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

APPENDIX G
MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

AFRICA	ASIA	EUROPE	LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Algeria	Bangladesh	Albania	Antigua and Barbuda
Angola	Bhutan	Armenia	Argentina
Benin	Cambodia	Austria	Bahamas
Botswana	China	Azerbaijan	Barbados
Burkina Faso	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Belarus	Belize
Burundi	India	Belgium	Bolivia, (Plurinational State of)
Cameroon	Indonesia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Brazil
Cabo Verde	Japan	Bulgaria	Chile
Central African Republic	Kazakhstan	Croatia	Colombia
Chad	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Cyprus	Costa Rica
Comoros	Malaysia	Czechia	Cuba
Congo	Maldives	Denmark	Dominica
Côte d'Ivoire	Mongolia	Estonia	Dominican Republic
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Myanmar	European Union	Ecuador
Equatorial Guinea	Nepal	Finland	El Salvador
Eritrea	Pakistan	France	Grenada
Ethiopia	Philippines	Georgia	Guatemala
Gabon	Republic of Korea	Germany	Guyana
Gambia	Sri Lanka	Greece	Haiti
Ghana	Thailand	Hungary	Honduras
Guinea	Viet Nam	Iceland	Jamaica
Guinea-Bissau		Ireland	Mexico
Kenya	NEAR EAST	Israel	Nicaragua
Lesotho	Afghanistan	Italy	Panama
Liberia	Egypt	Latvia	Paraguay
Madagascar	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Lithuania	Peru
Malawi	Iraq	Luxembourg	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Mali	Jordan	Malta	Saint Lucia
Mauritania	Kuwait	Montenegro	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Mauritius	Kyrgyzstan	Netherlands	Suriname
Morocco	Lebanon	Norway	Trinidad and Tobago
Mozambique	Libya	Poland	Uruguay
Namibia	Oman	Portugal	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Niger	Qatar	Republic of Moldova	
Nigeria	Saudi Arabia	Romania	
Rwanda	Sudan	Russian Federation	
Sao Tome and Principe	Syrian Arab Republic	San Marino	
Senegal	Tajikistan	Serbia	NORTH AMERICA
Seychelles	United Arab Emirates	Slovakia	Canada
Sierra Leone	Yemen	Slovenia	United States of America
South Africa		Spain	
Swaziland		Sweden	
Togo		Switzerland	
Tunisia		The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	SOUTH WEST PACIFIC
Uganda		Turkey	Australia
United Republic of Tanzania		Ukraine	Cook Islands
Zambia		United Kingdom	Fiji
Zimbabwe			Marshall Islands
			New Zealand
			Palau
			Papua New Guinea
			Samoa
			Solomon Islands
			Tonga
			Vanuatu

As of 1 January 2017, a total of 178 countries and the European Union are Members of the Commission.