

**27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Agriculture – written correspondence procedure**

**Item 4.6: Proposal for an International Year of Date Palm**

**Secretariat response to written questions from the Council**

1. The Secretariat appreciates the support of the European Union and its 27 Member States, Peru and Thailand to the proposal for an International Year of Date Palm (IYDP) and the agreement to the submission of the related draft Conference Resolution to the FAO Council for further consideration.
2. The Secretariat acknowledges and noted the comment of the European Union and its 27 Member States with regard to the adjustment of the texts for future proposals on the proclamation of International Years with the UN ECOSOC.
3. The Secretariat acknowledges the national initiatives of Peru for promotion of the date palm to the fragile regions of the country considering the challenges and opportunities for sustainable production and the strengthening of the relevant legal framework.
4. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) supports the proposal by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to establish observance of the International Year of Date Palm (IYDP) and strongly advocates of the crucial role of dates in global food and nutrition security, proven socio-economic importance, contribution to poverty eradication and human health. Therefore, the Secretariat welcomes the strong support of the European Union and its 27 Member States, Peru and Thailand for the observance of the IYDP and implementing actions among all relevant stakeholders that contributes to the sustainable intensification of production, the enhanced investment in research and development, the improvement of quality, marketing and trade of dates nationally, regionally and globally.