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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda

INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

Third Session

Rome, 7 – 9 July 2014

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

1. Election of the Chair, the Vice-Chair(s) and the Rapporteur

In accordance with its Statutes, “the Working Group shall elect its Chairperson and one or more Vice-Chairpersons from among the representatives of Members of the Working Group at the beginning of each session. These officers shall remain in office until the next session of the Working Group and shall be eligible for re-election”.¹ The Working Group may also wish to appoint a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and timetable

Provisional agenda and timetable are available in document **CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/1** for the consideration of the Working Group.

3. Follow-up to the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission), at its Eleventh Regular Session, emphasized the importance of forest genetic resources for food security, poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability, and underscored the comparative advantages and importance of FAO's work in this area. The Commission stressed the urgency for addressing the conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources through sustainable forest management, especially those resources that are under threat at the global level. It recognized that the lack of information is limiting the capacity of decision-makers in determining the action needed on forest genetic resources at the international, regional and local levels. The Commission requested FAO to

¹ CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/1/Inf.1.

prepare a report on *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (SOW-FGR) for consideration at its Fourteenth Regular Session. It established an Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (Working Group) to advise and make recommendations in this process.²

The Commission, at its Fourteenth Regular Session, acknowledged the progress made in preparing *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (SOW FGR) and requested FAO to finalize the report during 2013, it reviewed and revised the draft strategic priorities for action for forest genetic resources and agreed on them as the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* (GPA FGR)³ which was adopted by the FAO Conference, at its 38th Session in June 2013.⁴ The Commission further requested FAO to develop an implementation strategy for the Global Plan of Action and encouraged the mobilization of adequate financial resources, preferably from voluntary contributions, particularly to support developing countries, to support its implementation.

Document **CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/2** *Follow-up to the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* presents briefly the main activities implemented by FAO for the finalization of the SOW FGR and as a follow up to the adoption of the GPA FGR. The document summarizes the main processes and fora where these key publications have been presented and discussed also in view of increasing the awareness on the importance of FGR and to promoting their understanding, conservation and sustainable use.

The Working Group may wish to take note of the activities and to provide guidance to the Commission on future work in this area.

3.1. Strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources

The Commission, at its last session, requested FAO to develop an “implementation strategy” for the GPA FGR.⁵ Furthermore, the Commission encouraged the mobilization of adequate financial resources, preferably from voluntary contributions, particularly to support developing countries in the implementation of the GPA FGR.⁶ It invited its Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources to review the implementation strategy.⁷

Document **CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/3** *Strategy for the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* presents briefly possible elements of a strategy for the implementation of the GPA FGR and proposes a draft implementation strategy which the Working Group may wish to review and revise, as necessary, with a view to recommend its approval by the Commission.

3.2. Targets and indicators for forest genetic resources

The Commission, at its Fourteenth Regular Session, requested FAO to develop indicators to monitor the implementation of the GPA FGR. It invited its Working Group to review these indicators.⁸ Document **CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/4** *Targets and indicators for forest genetic resources* presents a preliminary set of proposed indicators that could be used to monitor the implementation of the GPA FGR. The Working Group may wish to review the preliminary set of proposed indicators and provide guidance to the Commission on possible processes and mechanisms for their finalization.

² CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraphs 54 - 56.

³ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraphs 50 - 52.

⁴ C 2013/REP, paragraph 77.

⁵ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 53.

⁶ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 54.

⁷ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 123.

⁸ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 33.

4. Genetic diversity and climate change

The Commission, at its last session, reaffirmed the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture for coping with climate change and the need for raising awareness of their potential roles. At the same session, the Commission adopted its Programme of Work on Climate Change and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.⁹

As part of the Programme of Work, for 2014, the Commission agreed that its Working Groups would develop guidelines for the integration of genetic diversity considerations into climate change adaptation planning. A national adaptation plan (NAP) process was established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Working Group may wish to consider document **CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/5 Rev.1** *Genetic diversity and climate change* and review the *Draft guidelines to support the integration of genetic diversity into national climate change adaptation planning* contained in the document **CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/Inf.4**, and recommend them for endorsement by the Commission.

5. Biodiversity and nutrition

The Commission, at its last session, highlighted the importance of biodiversity for food and nutrition and noted that its potential role in nutrition is underexplored and undervalued. It welcomed the progress FAO had made in awareness raising and requested FAO to continue its leading role in the Cross-Cutting Initiative on Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition. The Commission requested FAO to further develop its work on biodiversity and nutrition, recognizing the importance of linking food biodiversity and the environment sector to human nutrition and the health and agriculture sectors. The Commission also requested FAO to develop *Draft Guidelines for Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Policies, Programmes and National and Regional Plans of Action on Nutrition*. The Draft Guidelines are included in the document, *Biodiversity and Nutrition (CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/6)*. It requested its intergovernmental technical working groups to review the Draft Guidelines and to provide recommendations for the Commission's consideration at its Fifteenth Regular Session.

6. Application and integration of biotechnologies

The Commission, at its Thirteenth Regular Session, decided to review the work of its Working Groups on the application and integration of biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture, at its forthcoming Fifteenth Regular Session. The document, *Application and Integration of Biotechnologies for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/7)*, summarizes FAO's technical activities specifically related to biotechnology and reviews relevant work of FAO and the Commission's Working Groups on the application and integration of biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Working Group is invited to take note of the review of its work and to guide the Commission on future work in this area.

7. Access and benefit-sharing for forest genetic resources

At its last Session, the Commission considered the need for and modalities of access and benefit-sharing (ABS) arrangements for genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA). The Commission put in place a process the final output of which it requested to be *Draft Elements to Facilitate Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-Sharing for Different Subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Draft Elements), taking into account relevant international instruments on access and benefit-sharing. As part of this process, the Commission requested its

⁹ CGRFA-14/13/Report, Appendix D.

intergovernmental technical working groups on animal, forest and plant genetic resources to explore ABS issues for their respective subsectors.

The Commission established a Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing (TTLE ABS) and mandated it to, *inter alia*, participate in designated portions of the intergovernmental technical working group meetings dedicated to addressing ABS issues, to help inform and shape the intergovernmental technical working group discussions and output.

The document, *Access and benefit-sharing and forest genetic resources (CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/8-Rev.1)* briefly summarizes the Commission's work on ABS related to forest genetic resources (FGR) and gives an overview of the topic. As requested by the Commission, *Explanatory notes to the distinctive features of genetic resources for food and agriculture*, are provided in the document **CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/Inf.7. Government submissions on conditions under which specific genetic resources for food and agriculture are exchanged and utilized** are contained in document **CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/Inf.5. Submissions of stakeholders on voluntary codes of conduct, guidelines and best practices, and/or standards in relation to access and benefit-sharing for all subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture** are contained in document **CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/Inf.6.**

The Working Group is invited to consider the issue of access and benefit-sharing for forest genetic resources and to provide guidance with regard to future work of the Commission on this issue, including as part of the *Draft Elements to Facilitate Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-Sharing for Different Subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

8. Other business

9. Adoption of the Report

PROVISIONAL TIME-TABLE

Time	Agenda Item	Title	Working Documents
Monday, 7 July 2014 morning			
10:00 – 13:00	1	Election of the Chair, the Vice-Chair(s) and the <i>Rapporteur</i>	
	2	Adoption of the agenda and timetable	CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/1 CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/1 Add. 1
	3	Follow-up to the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources	CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/2
		3.1 Strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources	CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/3
Monday, 7 July 2014 afternoon			
		3.2 Targets and indicators for forest genetic resources	CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/4
Tuesday, 8 July 2014 morning			
10:00 – 13:00	4	Genetic diversity and climate change	CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/5-Rev. 1 CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/Inf.4
	5	Biodiversity and nutrition	CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/6
	6	Application and integration of biotechnologies	CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/7
	8	Other business	
Tuesday, 8 July 2014 afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00	7	Access and benefit-sharing for forest genetic resources	CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/8-Rev.1 CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/Inf.5 CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/Inf.6 CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/Inf.7
Wednesday, 9 July 2014 afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00	9	Adoption of the Report	