

44th Session of the Conference

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - English version

Item 14 – Report of the 20th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Rome, 24-28 March 2025)

Member Name	Comments
Switzerland (Friday, 13 June 2025 – 8.41)	<p>Switzerland welcomes the report of the 20th Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and supports its adoption by the Conference.</p> <p>Switzerland congratulates the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Commission on the significant progress made, particularly the launch of the new reports on the State of the World’s Plant Genetic Resources and Forest Genetic Resources.</p> <p>Switzerland highlights the crucial normative role of FAO in the field of genetic resources for food and agriculture, notably through the work of the Commission. Despite the Commission’s extensive work and the growing scope of its mandate, its budget has remained unchanged for nearly two decades. Therefore, Switzerland stresses the importance of allocating sufficient budgetary resources for the implementation of its Programme of Work.</p> <p>In particular, key initiatives were agreed upon at its 20th Regular Session, including the implementation of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, the preparation of the Second Report on the State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, and support for national plans for the conservation and sustainable use of crop wild relatives.</p> <p>These activities must receive adequate resourcing, particularly in light of the announced reductions in posts in the divisions supporting the Commission’s work.</p>
Chile (Friday, 13 June 2025 – 16.41)	<p>We acknowledge and commend the work and progress achieved by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and take this opportunity to extend our best wishes for success to the new Secretary, Ms Manoela Pessoa de Miranda. We also reiterate our commitment to supporting and advancing the work of the Commission.</p> <p>We wish to highlight the importance of genetic resources in the transformation towards sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems, and the urgent need to continue efforts for their recovery and protection to prevent their loss. Recognizing the distinctive characteristics of genetic resources for food and agriculture, the work of this Commission must support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.</p> <p>We call for continued efforts to simplify reporting mechanisms, avoid duplication with other existing agreements and advance the identification of complementarities and synergies.</p> <p>The recent release of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World’s Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i> and <i>The Second Report on the State of the World’s Forest Genetic Resources</i>, which identify gaps and challenges for the protection, conservation and sustainable use of these resources, should encourage us to continue working within a multilateral framework.</p>

	<p>The scope of the Commission’s work continues to expand, with an increasing number of themes being addressed, while in our countries, human, infrastructure and financial resources remain limited.</p> <p>We call on the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and donors to continue providing technical and financial support, in particular to developing countries, for the preparation of national reports and the implementation of the global action plans we have agreed upon.</p>
<p>Canada (Friday, 13 June 2025 – 17.28)</p>	<p>Canada was honoured to chair (Dr Benoit Girard, DG Coastal Region, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada) the 20th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, under the theme of Promoting Diversity for World Food Security and Nutrition.</p> <p>Canada is working to implement the items agreed upon at the 20th Regular Session.</p> <p>Canada welcomes the publication of The Second Report on the State of the World’s Forest Genetic Resources and The Third Report on the State of the World’s Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.</p> <p>Canada supports the adoption of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources.</p> <p>Canada recognizes the instrumental role that staff within the Commission Secretariat play, and urges the FAO to ensure the necessary level of staffing (particularly as it relates to both plant and aquatic genetic resources) and budget to successfully implement the activities recommended by the Commission and deliver results through its Multi-Year Programme of Work.</p>
<p>European Union (Friday, 27 June 2025 – 19.04)</p>	<p>I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, San Marino, Serbia, Turkiye and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.</p> <p>The EU and its Member States welcome the outcomes of the 20th Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and commends the significant progress made in advancing the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture.</p> <p>We strongly welcome the publication of the <i>Third Report on the State of the World’s Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i> and the <i>Second Report on the State of the World’s Forest Genetic Resources</i> as robust, science-based assessments that must guide future policy and investment.</p> <p>The EU and its Member States reaffirm their support for the implementation of the Global Plans of Action and the Framework for Action on Biodiversity, and we encourage FAO to maintain and further integrate this work across its strategic objectives.</p> <p>We support the establishment of a <i>Global Pollinator Platform</i> and underline the importance of linking FAO’s work to the broader goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>The EU and its Member States stress that adequate and predictable funding from FAO’s regular programme budget is essential to ensure continuity, delivery, and accountability in the Commission’s work. We also encourage further mobilisation of extra-budgetary resources to support countries’ efforts, capacity building and global reporting mechanisms.</p> <p>We remain committed to working with all members and stakeholders to ensure that biodiversity for food and agriculture is effectively safeguarded for current and future generations.</p>

	With these remarks, we endorse the Report of the 20th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
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