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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 4.2 of the Provisional Agenda

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

Eighth Session

Rome, 26-28 November 2014

REVIEW AND POSSIBLE UPDATE OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

Table of Contents

	Paragraphs
I. Introduction.....	1-2
II. Proposed review process for the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources.....	3-9
III. Guidance sought	10

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission), at its Fourteenth Regular Session, requested FAO to prepare *The Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* (Second Report), for presentation to the Commission, at its Fifteenth, rather than, as originally foreseen, Sixteenth Regular Session. The Commission also aligned its Multi-Year Programme of Work with this request and moved the consideration of the possible update of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (Global Plan of Action) from the Commission's Seventeenth to its Sixteenth Regular Session.¹ The Commission therefore requested FAO to present a draft version of the Second Report to the Eighth Session of the Working Group, for its consideration and to facilitate its deliberations on the potential need to update the Global Plan of Action.²

2. This document proposes a process that allows the Working Group and the Commission to review the Global Plan of Action in the light of various inputs and recent publications, including the Second Report, and to recommend, as appropriate, specific amendments to the Global Plan of Action or any other policy action.

II. PROPOSED REVIEW PROCESS FOR THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

3. The Global Plan of Action, adopted in 2007, is intended as a rolling plan, with an initial time horizon of ten years.³ It was developed on the basis of strategic priorities for action identified in the course of the preparation of the first report on *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. As a strategic framework, the Global Plan of Action needs to be periodically reviewed, and updated as necessary, to ensure that it continues to serve country needs effectively. The review process is an opportunity to emphasize the need for renewed commitment to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action at national, regional and international levels, in order to contribute to food security, sustainable agricultural development and sustainable livelihoods.

4. The Working Group may wish to consider recommending to the Commission that the review and possible update of the Global Plan of Action be undertaken in two steps.

- As a first step, Commission Members and stakeholders would review the Second Report and other relevant information with a view to identifying strategic priorities or specific actions under the Global Plan of Action that require improvement or additional strategic priorities or actions that need to be inserted.
- As a second step, the Working Group would consider the recommendations, as consolidated by the Secretariat, as well as options for their implementation.

5. Following the publication of the Second Report, Commission Members and stakeholders may wish to review the Global Plan of Action with a view to assessing the need to update it. In doing so, they may wish to use various sources of information, including the material presented in the country reports on progress made in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, as reflected in the *Synthesis progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources – 2014*⁴ and the Second Report.⁵

6. The review process could include various elements, such as, for example, subject to the availability of the necessary financial resources, regional and subregional consultations, involving Commission Members and relevant stakeholders, to review the status of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture at national, regional or global levels, as relevant, and identify areas of the Global Plan of Action that require updating, as well as any possible gaps in the Global Plan of Action. Written consultations, involving the collection of comments and suggestions, could also be organized.

¹ CGRFA-14/13/Report, *Appendix I*, Table 1.

² CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 72.

³ Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, Part 1, paragraph 14.

⁴ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-8/14/Inf.5.

⁵ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-8/14/Inf.2.

7. As part of the reporting process for the Second Report, countries were invited to list any aspects of animal genetic resources management that are not addressed in the current Global Plan of Action but, in their opinion, may need be addressed in an updated Global Plan of Action (Question 77⁶ of the *Questionnaire for collecting national data to support the preparation of The Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*).⁷ In reviewing the Global Plan of Action, the Commission and the Working Group may wish to take these responses into account. Some countries proposed, in relation to the taxonomic scope of the Global Plan of Action, the inclusion of hunted animals, fish, farmed wildlife, and insects and other invertebrates. Other proposals included the development of a draft material transfer agreement for access and benefit-sharing for animal genetic material stored in *ex situ* gene banks, the preparation of an inter-African action plan to manage transboundary breeds and the development of a more elaborate classification system for locally adapted and exotic breeds, which would include “indigenous”, “locally developed”, “locally adapted exotic” and “recently introduced” categories.

8. As a further step, FAO could prepare, in the light of recommendations provided, an options paper, on the basis of which the Working Group, at its next session, could review the Global Plan of Action and agree on changes, if deemed necessary. However, changing the Global Plan of Action may not be the only option the Working Group may wish to consider, as any change of the Global Plan of Action will have implications for the monitoring of its implementation, including the indicators adopted by the Commission. Therefore, the options paper could also consider alternatives to an amendment of the Global Plan of Action, such as the adoption of a self-standing declaration.

9. The Commission, at its Sixteenth Regular Session, could review and finalize the updated Global Plan of Action or any other document that may be the output of the review process, and submit it, as appropriate, to the FAO Conference for endorsement or adoption.

III. Guidance sought

10. The Working Group may wish to recommend that the Commission:

- Encourage countries to continue to implement the Global Plan of Action;
- Invite donors to provide the financial resources needed to support the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources;
- Agree to the two-step approach to the review of the Global Plan of Action and request FAO to facilitate the process, as described above; and
- Request the Working Group to review, at its Ninth Session, the options paper prepared by FAO and submit the updated Global Plan of Action, or any other document that may be the output of the review process, to the FAO Conference for endorsement or adoption.

⁶ Question 77 reads: “In view of the possibility that at some point countries may wish to update the Global Plan of Action, please list any aspects of animal genetic resources management that are not addressed in the current Global Plan of Action but will be important to address in the future (approximately the next ten years). Please also describe why these issues are important and indicate what needs to be done to address them.”

⁷ CGRFA-14/13/Inf.19.