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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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PREPARATION OF *THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE*

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), at its Nineteenth Regular Session, adopted its *Multi-Year Programme of Work: Major Outputs and Milestones 2023–2031* (MYPOW).¹ The MYPOW foresees the presentation of *The Second Report on the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (Second Report) at the Commission's Twenty-second Regular Session.

2. This document proposes the scope, process and timeline for the preparation of the Second Report, for consideration by the Commission.

II. THE FIRST REPORT ON *THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE*

3. The report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*² (First Report) was launched by FAO in 2019. It was welcomed as an important milestone for the Commission and the UN Decade on Biodiversity and as a valuable contribution to the discussion on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.³

4. The First Report considered biodiversity in all sectors of food and agriculture (crop and livestock production, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture). It addressed not only the domesticated crops and livestock raised by farmers and livestock keepers, the trees planted and harvested by forest dwellers and the aquatic species harvested or raised by fishers and aquaculture practitioners, but also the myriad of other species of plants, animals and microorganisms that underpin production of food and non-food products, including by creating and maintaining healthy soils, pollinating plants, purifying water, providing protection against extreme weather events, enabling ruminant animals to digest fibrous plant materials and delivering any of a range of other vital ecosystem functions and services. It also included wild species (beyond the already-noted harvested aquatic species and forest trees) that are harvested for food and for other purposes. Finally, it included microorganisms used in food processing and in various agro-industrial processes. The main emphasis of the First Report was, however, on interactions between the sectors and on components of biodiversity not covered in the Commission's sectoral global assessments.⁴

5. The First Report was based primarily on 91 country reports,⁵ and drew on thematic studies, reports from international organizations, inputs from other relevant stakeholders and an extensive literature review. The Commission, at its Seventeenth Regular Session, noted that the country reporting process for the First Report had been a good opportunity for countries to, *inter alia*, assess gaps and needs with respect to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture (BFA). The First Report attracted widespread media attention, with over 530 articles in major news outlets in the UN official languages in the week following its launch.

6. In response to the need for a timely and cross-sectoral response to the findings of the First Report, the *Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*⁶ (FA BFA) was endorsed by the Commission, at its Eighteenth Regular Session,⁷ and, subsequently, by the Council, at its 168th Session.⁸ The FA BFA aims to provide a framework for the management of BFA as a whole and to promote coordinated action across all the sectors of food and agriculture and – more widely – to improve the sustainable use and conservation of BFA at genetic, species and ecosystem levels. The

¹ CGRFA-19/23/Report, *Appendix E*, Annex 1.

² FAO. 2019. *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. J. Bélanger & D. Pilling, eds. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Assessments. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/CA3129EN>

³ CGRFA-17/19/Report, paragraph 39.

⁴ <https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/assessment/en>

⁵ <https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/topics/biodiversity/SOWBFA/country-reports/en>

⁶ FAO. 2022. *Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb8338en>

⁷ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 51.

⁸ CL 168/REP, paragraph 38.

Commission, at its Nineteenth Regular Session, noted with satisfaction the high degree of mutual supportiveness of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF) and the Commission's FA BFA and Global Plans of Action (GPAs).⁹

III. ALIGNING THE PREPARATION OF THE SECOND REPORT WITH MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

7. Preparing the Second Report and monitoring the implementation of the FA BFA are complementary processes that need to be carried out in unison. It is proposed that the preparatory process for the Second Report is integrated with monitoring of the implementation of the FA BFA and makes use of existing monitoring and reporting mechanisms under the KM GBF and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Scope and outline

8. The Second Report may address the interlinkages between the sectoral work streams of the Commission in a non-duplicative manner. It may focus on institutional and management approaches that support the coherent implementation of various frameworks, including the FA BFA, the GPAs, the KM GBF and the SDGs.

9. The Second Report may also describe the contributions made by BFA to sustainable development, including contributions to food security, nutrition, livelihoods and poverty alleviation, traditional knowledge systems, ecosystem functions and services, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and ecosystem restoration.

10. The Commission may wish to request the Ad Hoc Expert Team on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (Expert Team) to prepare an annotated outline of the Second Report, for consideration by the Commission at its Twenty-first Regular Session.

Sources of information

11. As with the First Report, the Second Report may be based on information provided by countries and draw on thematic studies, reports from international organizations, inputs from relevant stakeholders and an extensive literature review. The information collection process for the Second Report could be designed to maximize efficiency and minimize the additional reporting burden on countries.

12. Information pertaining to monitoring progress in the implementation of the FA BFA is provided in the document *Implementation of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*,¹⁰ which includes a draft questionnaire on the implementation of the FA BFA,¹¹ based on a limited set of process indicators. Furthermore, the Second Report may make use of data and information from other relevant processes, including relevant indicators used to monitor the implementation of the KM GBF and the SDGs. Many of those indicators are based on country-reported data and have been developed under the aegis of the Commission and/or are under the responsibility of FAO. Existing indicators and databases that could be considered for the preparation of the Second Report are listed in *Annex IV* to the *Draft Voluntary Guidelines for the Implementation of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*.¹²

13. The Commission may wish to request the Expert Team to identify existing indicators and processes that may inform the preparation of the Second Report.

14. To fill gaps in available data and information, the Second Report would also make use of a dedicated Country Reporting Questionnaire. Consistent with lessons learned from the previous

⁹ <https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/policies/global-instruments/global-plans-of-action/en>

¹⁰ CGRFA-20/25/5.2, paragraphs 19–22.

¹¹ CGRFA/20/25/5.2, Annex I.

¹² CGRFA-20/25/5.2/Inf.1.

reporting process, a simplified draft Country Reporting Questionnaire may be prepared for review by the Expert Team and be tested to ensure its soundness and user-friendliness and, subsequently, submitted to the Commission for its consideration at its Twenty-first Regular Session.

Process and timeline

15. Taking into account experience gained during the preparation of the First Report, a chart outlining the possible steps and schedule for preparing the Second Report is provided in the *Annex*.

16. Considering the time that would be required for the preparation of the Second Report, the Commission may wish to proceed with the development of the Second Report and consider postponing the launch of the Second Report until its Twenty-third Regular Session. If so agreed, the Commission, at its Twenty-first Regular Session, may wish to adapt the MYPOW accordingly.

IV. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

17. The Commission may wish to:

- (i) recommend that the Second Report focuses on approaches that support the coherent implementation of various frameworks, including the FA BFA, the GPAs, the KM GBF and the SDGs;
- (ii) recommend that the Second Report addresses the interlinkages between the sectoral work streams of the Commission in a non-duplicative manner, to describe the contributions made by BFA to sustainable development;
- (iii) recommend that the preparation of the Second Report make use of information from the monitoring of the FA BFA and GPAs, as well as from other existing monitoring and reporting processes, including those under the KM GBF and the SDGs;
- (iv) request the Secretariat to prepare a simplified draft Country Reporting Questionnaire for review by the Expert Team, test the questionnaire to ensure its soundness and user-friendliness and submit it to the Commission, for its consideration at its Twenty-first Regular Session;
- (v) request the Expert Team, at its Second Session, to undertake the following, for consideration by the Commission at its Twenty-first Regular Session:
 - identify existing indicators and processes that may inform the preparation of the Second Report, including relevant indicators used to monitor progress towards the goals and targets of the KM GBF and the SDGs;
 - prepare an annotated outline of the Second Report;
 - review the draft Country Reporting Questionnaire for the Second Report; and
 - review and, as appropriate, revise the process and timeline for preparing the Second Report.
- (vi) request the Secretariat to estimate the resource requirements for the preparation of the Second Report, based on the outcomes of the Second Session of the Expert Team, for consideration by the Commission at its Twenty-first Regular Session;
- (vii) invite donors to provide extra-budgetary resources to support the preparation of the Second Report and countries in the completion of the Country Reporting Questionnaires; and
- (viii) agree to consider a draft of the Second Report at its Twenty-third Regular Session in 2031.

ANNEX

DRAFT TIMELINE FOR PREPARING *THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE*

Activities	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Coordination							
Mobilization of extra-budgetary resources for the preparation of the Second Report							
Draft Country Reporting Questionnaire circulated for written comments and inputs							
Countries complete the questionnaire on the implementation of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (FA BFA) ¹³							
The Second Session of the Ad Hoc Expert Team on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (ET-BFA-2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> considers the results of the questionnaire on the implementation of the FA BFA; reviews and, as appropriate, revises the draft Country Reporting Questionnaire; identifies existing indicators that may be used in the preparation of the Second Report; prepares a draft annotated outline for the Second Report; and reviews and, as appropriate, revises the process and timeline for preparing the Second Report. 							
The Twenty-first Regular Session of the Commission (CGRFA-21) considers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the selection of existing indicators that may be used in the preparation of the Second Report; the Country Reporting Questionnaire; the annotated outline for the Second Report; and the process, timeline and estimated resource requirements for preparing the Second Report. 							
Countries, with the support of FAO, complete the Country Reporting Questionnaire							
Second Report drafted based on responses to the Country Reporting Questionnaire, existing indicators and other sources							
ET-BFA-3 considers progress towards the preparation of the Second Report							
CGRFA-22 considers progress towards the preparation of the Second Report							
ET-BFA-4 reviews the draft Second Report							
CGRFA-23 considers the draft Second Report							
Editing and graphic design							
Second Report published							

¹³ A draft questionnaire on the implementation of the FA BFA is provided in CGRFA-20/25/5.2, Annex.