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Item 6 of the Draft Provisional Agenda

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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

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PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF FARM ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

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PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF FARM ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The significant contribution that animal genetic resources make to food and agriculture worldwide led the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to initiate development of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources (Global Strategy), in 1993. The Global Strategy was established as a technical programme, and evolved as governments accepted it as a framework for global efforts to achieve the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture. Although the Global Strategy was never formally adopted by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), it has guided its work on animal genetic resources on a *de facto* basis, and FAO has regularly reported on its development and implementation.
2. The Commission, at its Tenth Regular Session in 2004, recommended that FAO continue to develop the Global Strategy, in collaboration with all relevant international organizations, and requested the Working Group to review progress and report to the Commission.¹ The Global Strategy now dates back more than ten years and there are several issues, which need to be taken into account in reviewing progress in its implementation.
3. Over the last years, the primary focus of activity within the Global Strategy has been on the preparation of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*. This first-ever country-driven global assessment on the status and trends of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture is foreseen to be presented at the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Conference), in Interlaken, Switzerland, in September 2007. The findings of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* will inform future programming of international cooperation in the field of animal genetic resources, including decision-making related to the Global Strategy.
4. It is foreseen that the finalization of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* at the Conference will be accompanied by the adoption of the *Strategic Priorities for Action*, an internationally agreed global plan of action for the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture. Its expected adoption may require transformation or streamlining of the Global Strategy to address the implementation of the *Strategic Priorities for Action*. In addition, the Conference provides a unique opportunity for FAO to strengthen mutual cooperation with other international organizations and forums to address priorities and emerging issues in the field of animal genetic resources and to raise awareness of the various roles and values of these essential resources.
5. The finalization of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* and the adoption of the *Strategic Priorities for Action* at the Conference therefore provide a unique opportunity to reflect on past achievements of the Global Strategy, to obtain a clear vision for planning future work and cooperation in the medium and long term, and to ensure efficiency and flexibility in the work on animal genetic resources of the Commission. A stocktaking of past achievements and future challenges for the Commissions' work on animal genetic resources may also be timely given the ongoing preparation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW), which aims to streamline the Commission's work programme and prioritize activities.
6. This document summarizes the history and achievements of the Global Strategy and reviews progress in its implementation. It identifies current and emerging issues to be considered in future work of the Commission in the area of animal genetic resources, and in the way forward

¹ CGRFA-10/04/REP para 51.

for the Global Strategy. It introduces decisions taken by the Commission during its Tenth Regular Session regarding the planning of its future work, and lists a number of issues and international processes that the Working Group may take into account in providing inputs to the preparation of the draft MYPoW. It seeks the advice of the Working Group on how to take these issues into consideration in the Commission's further work on animal genetic resources. Guidance from the Working Group is sought in the last section of the document.

II. ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY (1993 – 2006)

7. FAO has, since the early 1960's, provided assistance to countries to identify their animal genetic resources and develop conservation strategies. In 1990, the FAO Council recommended the preparation of a comprehensive programme for the sustainable management of animal genetic resources at the global level. Consequently, in 1993, the Global Strategy was formulated containing four constituent elements: (a) inter-governmental mechanism, (b) country-based planning and implementation infrastructure, (c) technical programme of work, and (d) reporting and evaluation.

8. In 1995, FAO's Committee on Agriculture reviewed the progress made and the FAO Council supported the process, stressing the need to involve a broad spectrum of stakeholders and for additional funds to ensure its successful further development. In the same year, the FAO Conference broadened the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to include other genetic resources for food and agriculture, beginning with animal genetic resources. The Commission became known as the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in Decision III/11 (1996), appreciated the Global Strategy and strongly supported its further development²

9. In 1997, the Commission initiated its oversight of the development and implementation of the Global Strategy. It established a subsidiary Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to provide advice on the further development and implementation of the Global Strategy. FAO has since reported biennially to the Working Group on the implementation of the Global Strategy, according to its four constituent elements.

10. The Working Group met for the first time in 1998, and recommended that FAO coordinate the development of a country-driven *State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*. The Commission, noting that increasing erosion of animal genetic resources is a threat to global food security and the livelihoods of rural communities, requested FAO to coordinate the development of the first report on *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, including a report on *Strategic Priorities for Action*, stressing the need for this to be a country-driven process. The preparation of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* has been a major activity of FAO since this time.

11. *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* will be presented, and the *Strategic Priorities for Action* are intended to be adopted at the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources, in Interlaken, Switzerland, in September 2007. This will be a major achievement of the Global Strategy and milestone for the work of the Commission in the area of animal genetic resources.

12. Important achievements in the implementation of the Global Strategy have been:

- Country-driven preparation of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*;
- Development of the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) as the major global information system on animal diversity;
- Establishment of National and Regional Focal Points, and networking;

² <http://www.biodiv.org/decisions/default.aspx?dec=III/11>

- Strengthened technical and targeted cooperation and partnerships between FAO, CGIAR, in particular ILRI, scientific organizations, in line with priorities set by the Commission;
- A number of technical tools were developed, including a series of Primary and Secondary Guidelines for Development of National Farm Animal Genetic Resources Management Plans.³
- Establishment of the Working Group.

13. In taking stock of progress made in the implementation of the Global Strategy, a number of challenges for the future can also be highlighted:

- The Global Strategy was first developed ten years ago, as a technical programme when there was a lesser understanding of animal genetic resources. *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* has greatly enhanced the understanding of animal genetic resources and the requirements and challenges for their management. It has provided valuable information on status and trends of animal genetic resources and the capacity to manage these at local, national and international levels, as well as on country and regional priorities to be addressed through national interventions and international co-operation. This makes it possible to consider appropriate options to ensure a co-ordinated international response to the sector's requirements, and should be taken into account in programming the Commission's future sectorial and cross-sectorial work.
- The initial structure of the Global Strategy was complex, and during its implementation some of its components have not been well integrated. The current draft of the *Strategic Priorities for Action* builds on the achievements of the Global Strategy to provide a clearer framework for international action.
- The *Strategic Priorities for Action*, upon their adoption, will require modalities for monitoring and reporting. The Commission may wish to consider a follow-up mechanism to oversee and guide the implementation of the *Strategic Priorities for Action* and to assist in the mobilization of the required resources.
- Governments are now giving more emphasis to the agro-ecosystem approach for the integrated management of animal genetic resources.
- Governments are increasingly dealing with policy issues regarding biological diversity for food and agriculture in an integrated manner. There is a need to firmly root the policy framework of animal genetic resources in this context. Many of the emerging issues for animal genetic resources relate to cross-sectorial policies.

14. The document, *Progress in the implementation and the further development of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources - Report on activities*,⁴ provides a detailed account of the progress made in the implementation the Global Strategy since the Tenth Session of the Commission (November 2004).

³ Available at the DAD-IS library: <http://www.fao.org/dad-is/>

⁴ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-4/06/7 Add. 1.

III ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COMMISSION'S MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (MYPow)

15. The Commission is the intergovernmental forum for decision-making in the field of animal genetic resources.⁵

16. FAO has established a multi-year planning framework, through its rolling Medium-Term Plan, into which the guidance of the Commission is fed. The Commission already plans a number of elements of its work on plant and animal genetic resources on a multi-year basis, and it regularly reviews FAO's policies and programmes on biodiversity for food and agriculture in general. Developments in relevant international forums — in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which has its own multi-year programme of work — will require coordination of activities over a longer-term period.

17. At its Tenth Session, the Commission therefore agreed to consider a draft Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPow), to be submitted to the Commission at its Eleventh Session. It took a number of decisions regarding the process for preparing the draft MYPow.⁶ It invited inputs from its subsidiary Working Groups, in their fields of expertise, including this Working Group at this meeting.

18. The Commission identified a number of important considerations to be taken into account in the preparation of the draft MYPow:

- the immediate priority should be to continue work on plant and animal genetic resources, with appropriate emphasis to work on animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, including strengthening national and regional levels (para. 85);
- within its mandate, the Commission should strengthen mutual cooperation with the CBD, and other relevant organizations (para. 88);
- in the medium and longer term, the Commission should implement its full mandate, to cover all components of biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture, and the agro-ecosystem approach to genetic resources (para. 89); and
- the future work of the Commission should contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially Millennium Development Goal no. 1, *Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger*, and Millennium Development Goal no. 7, *Ensure Environmental Sustainability* (para. 90).

19. In developing its future programme, the Commission may wish to address three dimensions of its work on animal genetic resources: its own sectorial programme on animal genetic resources; its cross-sectorial activities (such as biotechnology, agro-ecosystem approaches, and international policy on biodiversity for food and agriculture) within the framework of the MYPow; and strengthening mutual cooperation with other international organizations working in related fields.

20. At its Tenth Session, the Commission underscored the need for a coherent international approach to the many issues relevant to genetic resources for food and agriculture, and the need to avoid duplication.⁷ It emphasized that FAO should continue collaboration with relevant organizations and stakeholders such as the CBD, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Future Harvest Centres of the CGIAR and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). Many of these organizations consider issues and develop policy and regulatory

⁵ By its Statutes, the Commission has a coordinating role, and develops, reviews and advises FAO on its sectorial, cross-sectorial and inter-sectorial policy, programmes and activities related to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources of relevance to food and agriculture, and the equitable sharing of benefits derived from their utilisation. It is also a forum for the negotiation of international agreements, undertakings, codes of conduct or other policy instruments relating to genetic resources of relevance to food and agriculture, and for monitoring their operation. The Commission also facilitates and oversees effective cooperation between FAO and other relevant international organizations.

⁶ See paragraphs 83-91 of document CGRFA-10/04/REP, *Report of the Tenth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, in Appendix I of this document.

⁷ See CGRFA-10/04/REP, para. 74.

measures that have direct or indirect relevance for the management of animal genetic resources. The document *Policy issues and options for the management of animal genetic resources*⁸ presents a number of these issues, for information.

21. There are also a number of emerging issues that the Commission may wish to take into account in developing its MYPoW. Some relate directly to ongoing international processes, such as the invitations of the CBD Conference of the Parties to the FAO to lead international activities in the area of agricultural biodiversity. The Commission, at its Tenth Session, considered on going cooperation with the CBD,⁹ and:

- Recommended that FAO play a leading role in the in-depth review of the Convention's Programme of Work on Agricultural Biological Diversity. The findings of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* should be used in such review. Future work in this area should take into account the outcomes of the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources, to build synergies and avoid duplication.
- Supported FAO continuing to lead the development of agricultural biodiversity indicators, including indicators on genetic resources for food and agriculture (*inter alia* of domestic animals, fisheries and plants), to assist in determining progress toward the 2010 target of significantly reducing the current rate of biodiversity loss. Future activity of the Commission in this area still needs to be programmed.
- Supported FAO's contribution to the establishment of the cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and agriculture, withing the CBD's existing Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity. *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* contributes some of the evidence base for the initiative, but further work is still required.

22. In addition, the Commission recommended that FAO and its Commission contribute to further work on access and benefit-sharing, in order to ensure that it move in a direction supportive of the special needs of the agricultural sector, in regard to all components of biological diversity of interest to food and agriculture.

23. Any inputs that the Working Group may wish to make will be taken into account in preparing the draft Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work.

IV CONCLUSIONS

24. The Global Strategy is now ten years old and has driven a process culminating in the finalization of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*. There are several new issues which need to be taken into account in the light of the findings of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, the pending adoption of the *Strategic Priorities for Action*, the request of the Commission to develop a Multi-Year Programme of Work in relation to animal genetic resources, and strengthening on-going cooperation with the CBD, in particular through the agricultural biodiversity review.

25. It is therefore suggested that the current Global Strategy be adjusted to reflect these new and emerging issues; the suggested adjustment should take the requirements for implementation and monitoring of the *Strategic Priorities for Action* into account. Additionally, it should recognize the need for efficiency, flexibility and for periodic review, to be able to adapt to the changing policy environment and to new scientific and technical challenges and opportunities. It should facilitate that the Commission be able to respond to emerging issues that require its attention, including the development of policies and regulatory instruments for the management of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, under the MYPoW.

⁸ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-4/06/Inf. 7.

⁹ See CGRFA-10/04/REP, paras. 75 – 77.

V GUIDANCE REQUESTED FROM THE WORKING GROUP

26. The Intergovernmental Technical Working Group may wish to provide inputs for the preparation of the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work. In particular it may wish to identify emerging issues and priorities to be taken into account in preparation of the MYPoW.

27. The Working Group may wish to note the progress in the implementation of the Global Strategy in the last biennium (2004-2006), as reported in the document, *Progress in the implementation and the further development of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources - Report on activities*,¹⁰ and provide advice on any outstanding activities.

28. The Working Group may wish to recommend to the Commission:

- i. to adjust the Global Strategy in light of the outcomes of the *State of the World* process, in order to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the *Strategic Priorities for Action*;
- ii. to consolidate the Commission's work on animal genetic resources and its timeline at its Twelve Regular Session, in order to incorporate the outcomes of the International Technical Conference Animal Genetic Resources.

¹⁰ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-4/06/7 Add. 1.

Appendix 1**FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMISSION, EXTRACTED FROM THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION'S TENTH REGULAR SESSION¹¹**

83. The Commission agreed that the Secretariat, in cooperation with the relevant services and PAIAs in FAO, should submit a Multi-Year Programme of Work to its Eleventh session, for consideration. The Secretariat should consult with the Regional Groups about their ideas, in the preparation of the first draft of the Multi-Year Programme of Work, which should take into account inputs from the Inter-Governmental Technical Working Groups on Plants and Animals, in their fields of expertise. A second draft should then be prepared by the Secretariat, for consideration by Regional Groups. In the light of comments from the Regional Groups, a final draft will be prepared for submission to the Eleventh Session of the Commission.

84. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a succinct analysis of the human and financial resources available within the FAO, to support work on the various sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and identify gaps. This should be provided to members well in advance of the Eleventh Session of the Commission.

85. The immediate priority should be to continue work on plant and animal genetic resources, giving appropriate emphasis to work on animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, including strengthening national and regional levels.

86. There was a need to mobilize the Regular Programme of Work and Budget and human resources of FAO, in support of the programme of work of the Commission. The Commission recognized the need to match priorities to available financial and human resources. If required, FAO was invited to mobilize extra-budgetary resources for this purpose.

87. The Commission should support the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

88. Within its mandate, the Commission should strengthen mutual cooperation with the CBD, and other relevant organizations.

89. In the medium and longer term, the Commission should implement its full mandate (Conference Resolution 3/95). The Secretariat was requested to prepare a document on the status and needs of sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture, other than plants and animals, including the various areas of biodiversity for food and agriculture, and the agro-ecosystem approach to genetic resource conservation and cross-sectorial matters, identifying the responsibilities of relevant FAO Services and PAIAs in these fields, and submit this to the Eleventh Session of the Commission. The Eleventh Session of the Commission would then decide on the Commission's Programme of Work.

90. Within its Mandate, the future work of the Commission should contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially Millennium Development Goal no. 1, *Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger*, and Millennium Development Goal no. 7, *Ensure Environmental Sustainability*.

91. The Secretariat and the Bureau should consider and report to the Commission on ways to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Commission's operations.

¹¹ CGRFA-10/04/REP, para. 83-91.