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Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
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Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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

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PREPARATION OF THE SECOND STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), at its Eleventh Regular Session, requested its Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) to review and guide the finalization of the draft of the second *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (second *Report*), and recommended that FAO make available the draft second *Report* at the Twelfth Regular Session of the Commission in 2009, to consider its finalization.¹ The second *Report* would provide a basis for updating the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (*Global Plan of Action*).

2. The first *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* was presented to the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources held in Leipzig, Germany, in 1996. The Conference welcomed the report as the first comprehensive worldwide assessment of the state of plant genetic resource conservation and use. The outcome of the International Technical Conference was welcomed by the FAO Council² and Conference³ and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.⁴ The full version of *The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* was published by FAO in 1998.

3. This document gives information on the preparation of the draft second *Report*. It provides information on background and context of this process and outlines the different steps taken in the preparation of the *Report*. The draft second *Report* is presented to the Working Group in the document, *Draft second State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.⁵

II. BACKGROUND

4. The Commission, at its Eighth Session, reaffirmed that FAO should periodically assess the state of the world's plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to facilitate the analysis of changing needs and gaps and contribute to the adjustment of the rolling *Global Plan of Action*. It was agreed that the preparation of a second *Report* and the updating of the *Global Plan of Action* would be considered by the Commission after the completion of the negotiations for the revision of the International Undertaking⁶. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty) was adopted by the FAO Conference in 2001. Article 17.3 of the International Treaty calls upon the Contracting Parties to cooperate with the Commission in its periodic reassessment of the state of the world's plant genetic resources in order to facilitate the updating of the rolling *Global Plan of Action*.

5. At its Ninth Session, the Commission agreed to progress on the preparation of the second *Report* on the basis of the proposals⁷ and stressed that the preparatory process should be fully integrated with the process for monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*. In emphasising the need for a country-driven preparatory process, it requested that countries have an opportunity to review the guidelines for country reporting, prior to their finalization. It also agreed

¹ CGRFA-11/07/Report Paragraph. 41

² CL 111/REP, Resolution 1/111

³ C 1997/REP Resolution 1/97

⁴ UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/V/5

⁵ CGRFA/WG-PGR-4/09/Inf.1

⁶ CGRFA-8/99/Rep paragraph 19

⁷ CGRFA-9/02/08

that priority be given to updating the report, focusing, as far as possible, on the changes that had occurred. The proposed thematic background studies should be carried out, as far as resources allowed⁸.

6. At its Tenth Session, the Commission considered the progress made in the preparation of the second *Report*⁹ and encouraged Members and relevant organizations, such as IPGRI (now Bioversity International), to participate in the preparatory process. It adopted the steps for preparing the second *Report* and requested FAO to revise the timeline, on the basis that the second *Report* would be completed in 2008. It also called upon donor countries and international organizations to assist, by providing the financial resources required for the full participation of all countries in the preparation of the second *Report* including monitoring of the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*.¹⁰ The Guidelines for Country Reports¹¹ prepared by FAO were considered by the Commission during that Session.

7. The Commission, at its Eleventh Session, reviewed progress on the preparation of the second *Report*¹² and noted that the second *Report* should be a high quality document, with regional and global analysis, to identify the most significant gaps and needs, in order to provide a sound basis for updating the rolling *Global Plan of Action*. The successful updating of the *Global Plan of Action* would contribute to the implementation of the International Treaty. It also agreed that the second *Report* needed to be updated with the best data and information available, including country reports, information gathering processes and thematic background studies, with the largest possible participation of countries, and should focus on changes that have occurred since 1996. The Commission stressed the importance for FAO to receive data and information from developed and developing countries in a timely manner, for the preparation of the second *Report*. The Commission stressed that mobilization of financial resources was paramount, to enable full participation of developing countries and to strengthen their capacity. It recognized that FAO had contributed, through its Regular Programme to the preparation, and that additional extra-budgetary resources were urgently needed¹³.

8. The Commission has requested repeatedly its Members to make available extra-budgetary resources in a timely manner for the full participation of all countries in the preparation of the second *Report*. Due to funding constraints which delayed the preparation of many Country Reports, regional analyses and background studies, the second *Report* was spread over a longer period of time (2004-2009) than originally planned. However, the preparatory process for the second *Report* benefited from its integration with the new monitoring approach for the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*. Between 2004 and 2008, the Governments of Canada, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway and Spain provided resources for the application of the new monitoring approach through capacity building and the establishment of NISMs in developing countries in the regions of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. 61 Country Reports benefited from the application of the new monitoring approach. Extra-budgetary resources received for the plant breeding surveys carried out between 2006 and 2008 also contributed to the preparation of the draft second *Report*. In addition, FAO, through its Regular Programme, contributed to the preparation of Country Reports and the draft second *Report*.

⁸ CGRFA-9/02/Rep paragraph.20

⁹ CGRFA-10/04/5 Add.1.

¹⁰ CGRFA-10/04 paragraph.22-23

¹¹ CGRFA-10/04/Inf.8

¹² CGRFA-11/07/12

¹³ CGRFA-11/07/Rep paragraph.39-40

III. PREPARATORY PROCESS OF THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

9. The Country Reports were the main source of information on the status and trends of plant genetic resource conservation and use at the national level. Additional sources of information were scientific literature, thematic background studies and other relevant technical publications. Throughout the preparation, FAO strived to ensure high quality of the data and that the process was country-driven, participatory, and involved relevant international organizations.

Preparation of Country Reports

10. The Guidelines for the preparation of the Country Reports presented to the Commission in 2004 have been further refined and made available in 2005¹⁴. The Guidelines have been designed to serve three important interrelated functions. They are intended to:

- Assist countries to undertake a strategic assessment of their plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to provide a basis for national planning and management;
- Ensure integration of the preparation of the second *Report* with the new approach for monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*;
- Provide a common framework for countries to report globally on the state of their plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and on management activities, needs and priorities.

Table 1: Regional distribution of the Country Reports received by FAO for the preparation of the second *Report*

Region ¹⁵	Country reports
Africa ¹⁶	22
Americas ¹⁷	22
Asia and Pacific ¹⁸	18
Europe ¹⁹	27
Near East ²⁰	17
Total	106

11. In 2006, in order to streamline the processes of the preparation of the second *Report* with the new approach for monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* FAO invited countries to undertake these activities and nominate or confirm a National Focal Point. Follow-up

¹⁴ CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.5

¹⁵ The regional distribution of countries in the first Report has been retained in the second Report for consistency and for comparative purposes

¹⁶ Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Rep. of, Democratic Rep. of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

¹⁷ Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

¹⁸ Bangladesh, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

¹⁹ Albania, Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

²⁰ Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

communications were sent to request countries to submit their Country Reports to facilitate the timely preparation of the second *Report*. A number of technical workshops were also organized and relevant information was disseminated to stakeholders.²¹

12. FAO received the first Country Reports in 2006. The majority of Country Reports were received in 2008. At the time of the preparation of this document, over 106 Country Reports had been received by the Secretariat. Most Country Reports have been provided in their final version while a few were made available as final drafts. A small number of Country Reports that were submitted in 2006 were updated in 2008 with additional, new information. Table 1 shows the geographical distribution of Country Reports received by FAO for the preparation of the second *Report*.

National Information Sharing Mechanisms (NISM) and the World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (WIEWS)

13. The application of the new monitoring approach led to the establishment of the National Information Sharing Mechanisms (NISM), which provide comprehensive information on all of the 20 priority activity areas of the *Global Plan of Action*. In all countries which have established NISMs, the mechanism contributed important information to and facilitated the preparation of the Country Report. Data provided by NISMs have also been used for the analysis of regional and global trends, for quality assurance and for the identification of priorities and needs in the sector of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

14. FAO, in cooperation with Bioversity International, provided technical assistance in the establishment of NISMs as well as in the preparation of Country Reports.

15. A global survey for updating WIEWS in countries where NISMs had not been established was carried out in 2008. Survey results were used to complement information from Country Reports and NISMs. The survey results have been particularly useful as they allowed to expand the scope of the overall analysis by including information from countries which did not submit a Country Report.

Information gathering from CGIAR Centres

16. In order to ensure that the role and contributions of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) genebanks and other regional and international genebanks were reflected in the second *Report*, a short information-gathering questionnaire was circulated to these institutions in 2008.

Thematic Background Studies

17. The Commission, at its Tenth Regular Session, approved a list of thematic background studies to address specific topics as contribution to the second *Report* to be developed as far as resources allowed.²² FAO, in collaboration with several partners, including the CGIAR centres, prepared a number of thematic studies, as approved by the Commission. The studies have been used as a valuable source of information in the preparation of the second *Report*. They are currently being finalised and will be made available subject to final review and clearance.

Regional Meetings

18. The Commission, at its Eleventh Regular Session, noted that the second *Report* should be a high-quality document, with regional and global analysis. In 2008, FAO secured sufficient funding to hold two regional meetings on the status and trends of plant genetic resource

²¹ CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Rep Appendix D

²² CGRFA-10/04/REP, para. 23.

conservation and use. The reports of the two regional meetings are given in the document, *Summary report of the regional consultations on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture*.²³

IV. PREPARATION OF THE CHAPTERS

19. As approved by the Commission, the draft second *Report* comprises eight chapters.²⁴ A two-step process was followed in the preparation of these chapters:

- Compilation and preparation of the draft chapters, based on Country Reports and additional information gathering;
- Organization of a technical expert meeting to ensure consistency, quality and accuracy of data. The report of the technical expert meeting is given in the document, available to the Working Group in the document, *Technical expert meeting on the draft second State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*²⁵.

20. During the preparatory process, FAO received inputs from a range of partners, including Bioversity International, the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the Secretariat of the International Treaty. Chapters of the report were also circulated to other relevant international organizations as well as civil society and the private sector, for comments.

V. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

21. The Working Group may wish to:

- Note and review the progress made with regard to the draft second *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*;
- Stress the importance of consolidating the draft second *Report*, on the basis of comments received, including from the Working Group, for presentation to the Twelfth Regular Session of the Commission;
- Recommend that the Commission review the consolidated draft second *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, at its forthcoming Twelfth Regular Session and that the Commission recommend that FAO make available the finalized report as soon as possible, to ensure that the updating of the *Global Plan of Action* may be considered on the basis of the second *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.
- Recommend that the Commission request FAO to publish the finalized report in all languages of the Organization and invite Governments and donors to make available the financial resources necessary to translate the report.

²³ CGRFA/WG-PGR-4/09/Inf.3

²⁴ Chapter 1: The State of Diversity; Chapter 2: The State of In situ Management; Chapter 3: The State of Ex situ Management; Chapter 4: The State of Use; Chapter 5: The State of National Programmes, Training and Legislation; Chapter 6: The State of Regional and International Collaboration; Chapter 7: Access to Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Sharing of Benefits Arising out of their Use, and Farmers' Rights; Chapter 8: The Contribution of PGRFA Management to Food Security and Sustainable Development

²⁵ CGRFA/WG-PGR-4/09/Inf.2