CGRFA-11/07/Report

Eleventh Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Rome, Italy, 11 – 15 June 2007

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
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The documents of the Eleventh Regular Session of the
Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
are to be found on the internet at: http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/cgrfa11.htm.
They may also be obtained from:
The Secretary
FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Natural Resources Management and Environment Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
00100 Rome, Italy
E-mail: cgrfa@fao.org

CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Eleventh Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture met in Rome, Italy, from 11-15 June 2007. The list of delegates and observers is attached as *Appendix I*.

II. OPENING OF THE SESSION AND ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRS

2. The outgoing Chair of the Commission, Mr Eng Siang Lim (Malaysia), welcomed delegates and observers. He noted that the meeting was taking place at an especially important time, when international policies for the management of biodiversity for food and agriculture needed to take into account many factors, including economic growth, human population dynamics, changing consumer patterns, rapid market development, climate change, and priority objectives of achieving food security and reducing poverty. He stressed that biodiversity loss exacerbated poverty, and that poverty is in itself a major threat to biodiversity.

3. Mr. Lim noted that the Commission needed to chart a path forward for its work, to strengthen policies and programmes for all sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture to meet growing demands for essential goods and services. He reviewed the many factors that were affecting the conservation and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture. He emphasized that the Multi-year Programme of Work under consideration would be extremely important in this regard. Mr. Lim thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve as Chair.[1]

4. Mr. Alexander Müller, Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department, welcomed delegates and observers. He noted that this Session of the Commission was meeting at a time of crisis, when the erosion of genetic resources for food and agriculture, the resources most needed to achieve food security and reduce poverty, are rapidly being eroded. Mr. Müller stressed that extreme poverty remains the daily reality of over a billion people; that over 850 million people are hungry and malnourished; and those engaged in food and agriculture production in all sectors must have diverse genetic materials, to improve production, and enable adaptation to changing environmental conditions, including climate change.

5. Mr. Müller stressed the importance of the Commission's consideration of a Multi-year Programme of Work, which would provide a long-term strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of all the main components of biodiversity for food and agriculture, including forest and aquatic genetic resources. The adoption of the Multi-year Programme of Work would facilitate true cross-sectorial approaches and effective policy cooperation with international partners.

6. Mr. Müller noted that the Commission would be building on well-established programmes on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. He emphasized the need to put the finishing touches to preparations for the Interlaken International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources, whichwould be hosted by the Government of Switzerland. Mr. Müller emphasized the fact that the establishment of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* would greatly assist the international community to enhance the use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources.[2]

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[1] CGRFA-11/07/Circ.4, available at: ftp://ftp.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/cgrfa11/r11c4e.pdf.

[2] CGRFA-11/07/Circ.4, available at: ftp://ftp.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/cgrfa11/r11c4e.pdf.

7. Mr. Clive Stannard, Officer-in-Charge of the Commission Secretariat, informed the meeting that Bhutan, The Russian Federation, Slovenia, Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates had joined the Commission, since its last Session. He noted that the Governments of Germany and Norway had generously contributed funds to enable the participation of representatives of developing countries to the current Session.

8. The Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Commission for the Eleventh Regular Session were then elected: Mr. Bert Visser (the Netherlands) as Chair and, as Vice-Chairs, Mr. Paul Trushell (Australia), Mr. César Tapia Bastidas (Ecuador), Mr. Asmerom Kidane (Eritrea), Mr. Javad Mozafari Hashtjin (Islamic Republic of Iran), Ms. Vanida Khumnirdpetch (Thailand), and Mr. David Hegwood (United States of America). Mr. Kassahun Embayne (Ethiopia) was elected *Rapporteur*.

9. In nominating Mr. Visser for the Chair of the Commission, the European Regional Group noted that a representative of the Near East had not been elected to the Chair of the Commission for many years, and suggested that the Commission might wish to take this into consideration in electing the Chair at the next Session.

10. In taking the Chair, Mr. Visser thanked Mr. Lim for his strong guidance and leadership.

11. The Commission adopted the Agenda, as given in *Appendix A*.

III. PROGRAMME OF WORK ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Progress since the Tenth Regular Session of the Commission in the preparation of the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources, including The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Report of the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

12. The Commission considered the *Report of the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources (13-15 December 2006)*.[3] Mr. Harvey D. Blackburn (United States of America), Chair of the Working Group, introduced its report, drawing attention to its recommendations. The Commission thanked Mr. Blackburn and the Members of the Working Group for their excellent work.

13. The Commission also considered the document, *Draft Strategic Priorities for Action – Chair's Text*,[4] which contained the results of the meeting of *Friends of the Chair*, held in Fribourg, Switzerland, from 26-28 March 2007, at the recommendation of the Working Group, and with the support of the Government of Switzerland.

14. The Commission endorsed the Report of the Working Group recognizing, that significant progress had been made in finalizing *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, and in advancing the preparation for the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources. It noted that the *Friends of the Chair,* following the suggestions made by the Working Group, had further developed the text of the *Strategic Priorities for Action*, as a part of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*.

[3] CGRFA-11/07/3.

[4] CGRFA-11/07/Inf.8.

Status of preparations of the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources

15. The Commission considered the document, *Status of the preparation of the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources,*[5] and heard an overview of the preparations for the Conference from Mr. François Pythoud, on behalf of the Government of Switzerland.

16. The Commission endorsed the proposed goals, outcomes and the draft provisional agenda of the Conference, as contained in the above document. It thanked the Government of Switzerland for hosting the Conference, and other donors and FAO, for their contribution to the Conference. The Commission emphasized the importance of ensuring the participation of two delegates from each developing country in the Conference, and urged donors to make available the necessary funding.

17. The Commission agreed that follow-up to the International Technical Conference should be placed within the Commission's Multi-year Programme of Work at its Twelfth Regular Session, with the Commission overseeing implementation of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*.

The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

18. The Commission considered the document, *Progress in the preparation of* The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture,[6] and the information document, The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – *Final Version*.[7] It thanked FAO for coordinating preparation of this important authoritative survey of the sector, and acknowledged with gratitude the support of many individuals and organizations who had contributed to the preparatory process. The Commission highlighted the importance of addressing the issues identified in the *State of the World*, in particular, the need for enhanced sustainable utilization of animal genetic resources, in light of the current and future challenges, including climate change, food insecurity, and the loss of livelihoods and biodiversity. It noted the gaps in information on breed identification, diversity and status, particularly in developing countries, and the special need to strengthen the capacity of developing countries for characterization, inventory and monitoring of breeds.

19. The Commission requested FAO to print *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* for presentation to the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources, and recommended to the International Technical Conference that it welcome the report as an authoritative survey of the sector, upon which future actions for the sustainable management of animal genetic resources can be based. The Commission recommended that FAO make the report widely available, including through the electronic media, in order to increase awareness of the status and trends and important roles and values of animal genetic resources. It noted the importance of translating the report in all official FAO languages, and urged donors to make available the resources necessary for this. The Commission welcomed the offer of the Government of China to translate the report into Chinese. It welcomed the preparation by FAO of a short summary version of the report in all FAO languages, for presentation to the International Technical Conference.

[5] CGRFA-11/07/4.

[6] CGRFA-11/07/5.

[7] CGRFA-11/07/Inf.6.

The Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and the Interlaken Declaration on Animal Genetic Resources

20. The Commission reviewed the document, *Draft Strategic Priorities for Action – Chair's Text*,[8] and decided to forward it, as in *Appendix D, Annex 1*, to the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources, for consideration as part of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*.

21. The Commission reviewed the document, *Implementation and financing of the* Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources,[9] and decided to forward the text in *Appendix D, Annex 2,* to the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources.

22. The Commission reviewed the document, *Draft Interlaken Declaration on Animal Genetic Resources*.[10] It warmly thanked the Government of Switzerland for having prepared the draft declaration. The Commission decided to forward the text in *Appendix D, Annex 3* to the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources, as a draft for consideration.

Future work of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources and election of its Members

23. The Commission agreed that the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources should meet prior to the next Regular Session of the Commission. It requested that the Working Group advise the Commission on options for evaluating progress in the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*, including suggesting potential criteria and indicators to assess implementation progress. The Commission also requested that the Working Group recommend the form and content of future status and trends reports on animal genetic resources, and options for responding to the identification of breeds at risk.

24. The Commission requested FAO to continue to develop technical guidelines in relation to the sustainable use and development of animal genetic resources in low and medium input production systems, to further develop methods for improving inventory and characterization of animal genetic resources, to provide permanent support, to maintain and further develop the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS), and to report on progress at the next Session of the Working Group.

25. The Commission elected the Members of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as given in *Appendix C*.

[8] CGRFA-11/07/Inf.8.

[9] CGRFA-11/07/7.

[10] CGRFA-11/07/8.

IV. PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Progress since the Tenth Regular Session of the Commission

Report of the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

26. The Commission considered the *Report of the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources (26-28 October 2005)*.[11] The Commission thanked its Chair, Ms. Zofia Bulinska-Radomska (Poland), and the Members of the Working Group, for their excellent work.

27. The Commission, in adopting the report, recommended that, in order to avoid duplication of efforts, and subject to the decisions of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, a cooperation mechanism between the Commission and the Governing Body of the International Treaty be established, including in relation to work on the supporting components of the International Treaty, in particular the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, the Facilitating Mechanism, and the further implementation of the new monitoring approach.

28. The Commission requested that attention be given to work on crops essential for food security, including underutilized crops, and that this be considered in the context of its Multi-year Programme of Work.

Follow up to recommendations of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture regarding plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

29. The Commission considered the document, *Follow- up to recommendations of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture regarding plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.*[12] It recommended that FAO review the relevance of the components of the Global System, including in the light of further cooperation with the International Treaty.

30. The Commission welcomed the progress made in the development of the web portal of the Facilitating Mechanism for the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, which provides easily accessible information on available funding sources related to plant genetic resources, and other relevant information for the implementation of the *Plan*. It encouraged countries to provide extra-budgetary resources to carry out the agreed activities, in particular for the further development of the web portal and assistance to stakeholders to develop project proposals. It requested the Secretariat to report on progress with the Facilitating Mechanism[13] at the next Session of the Commission. The activities undertaken should be reported to the Governing Body of the International Treaty, for its consideration in the context of the Funding Strategy.

31. The Commission expressed appreciation for the progress made in applying the new monitoring approach, which is a participatory, country-driven and capacity-building process, based on indicators agreed by the Commission. It recognized its positive role in strengthening partnerships among national stakeholders, raising awareness on the importance of plant genetic resources among

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[11] CGRFA-11/07/10.

[12] CGRFA-11/07/11.

[13] www.globalplanofaction.org.

policy makers, and its value as a tool for identifying gaps and defining priorities for future collaborative action.

32. The Commission acknowledged the financial resources made available to carry out the monitoring in a total of 56 countries. However, it called upon donors to provide additional funding to allow the maximum number of developing countries to participate in this process.

33. The Commission confirmed the importance of strengthening capacity in plant breeding, including through a participatory approach, and strengthening capacities in biotechnologies as well as in seed systems, and initiatives such as the Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity-Building (GIPB). In this context, it stressed the need for a balanced approach between the use of traditional and modern technologies, including biotechnologies for plant breeding. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of its Working Group, to request FAO to prepare an options paper to strengthen plant breeding in developing countries, identifying new opportunities for effective partnerships between the public and the private sector, with the involvement of the CGIAR Future Harvest Centres.

34. The Commission encouraged FAO to continue its work to strengthen seed systems at national, regional, and global levels, and reiterated its recommendation in paragraph 32 of the Report of its Tenth Regular Session, that a gap analysis of the seed sector be prepared. This would be reviewed by the Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources. The analysis should consider in a balanced way both the formal and informal seed sectors, as well as the relationship between breeding and seed systems.

35. The Commission recognized the important contribution of biodiversity to nutrition. It recommended that existing information systems be progressively improved to include crop-specific nutrient composition and consumption data. It decided that dissemination of cultivar-specific nutrient composition data should be pursued in the context of the C*ross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition,* in the Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity. FAO's role in the work should be integrated into the Multi-year Programme of Work, as a cross-cutting issue.

36. The Commission stressed the critical importance of attracting financial resources to support development and implementation of all elements of the *Global Plan of Action.* It noted that the Global Crop Diversity Trust had been successful in mobilizing very considerable resources for activities related to *ex situ* collections. The Commission emphasized the need for other contributions to support *in situ* conservation, on-farm management, and utilization, in particular.

37. The Commission stated that the World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (WIEWS) should be further developed in the context of developing the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in the International Treaty. It expressed its willingness to work with the Governing Body of the International Treaty for this purpose. The Commission further invited the Governing Body to consider utilizing national information sharing mechanisms established through WIEWS, as contributions to the development of its Global Information System.

38. The Commission was informed of recent developments for establishment of a facility for long-term germplasm conservation in Svalbard, Norway. It commended the Government of Norway for this valuable contribution to the long-term conservation of the world's plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Commission welcomed Norway's intention to establish an international advisory committee for the facility.

Progress in the preparation of the second *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

39. The Commission considered the document, *Progress in the preparation of the second* State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*: a basis to update the rolling* Global Plan of Action.[14] It noted that the preparation of a second *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* should provide a concise and succinct assessment of the status and trends of these resources. The Commission noted that the second *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* 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 on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

40. The Commission agreed that *The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources* needed to be updated with the best data and information available, including country reports, information gathering processes and thematic 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 updated *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources.* It stressed that mobilization of financial resources is paramount, to both enable full participation of developing countries and to strengthen their capacity. It recognized that FAO has contributed, through its Regular Programme, to the preparation of the updated *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources,* and that additional extra-budgetary resources are urgently needed.

41. The Commission requested that the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at its fourth meeting in 2009, review and guide the finalization of the draft of the second *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources,* and recommended that FAO make available the draft updated *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources* at the next Regular Session of the Commission in 2009, to consider its finalization. It requested that FAO also submit to the same Session a proposed plan for the process of updating the *Global Plan of Action*. The Commission agreed that the updated rolling *Global Plan of Action* would be considered at the Thirteenth Regular Session of the Commission, on the basis of the updated *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources*.

42. The Commission requested that its process regarding the updating of *The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, and of the *Global Plan of Action*, be provided to the next Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty, so that it might make comments and suggestions.

Future work of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources and election of its Members

43. The Commission agreed that the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources meet prior to its next Regular Session. It requested the Working Group to focus its work on reviewing the first draft of the updated *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture,* and consideration of the elements of a plan for updating the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.*

44. The Commission elected the Members of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as given in *Appendix C*.

[14] CGRFA-11/07/12.

V. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE DRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT ON BIOTECHNOLOGY, AS IT RELATES TO GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Progress on the draft Code of Conduct on Biotechnology, *as it relates to genetic resources for food and agriculture*

45. The Commission considered the document, *Progress on the draft Code of Conduct on Biotechnology, as it relates to genetic resources for food and agriculture: policy issues, gaps and duplications,*[15] referred to it by its previous Session. This reported on a survey to identify what was done in other forums, what remained to be done on the issues raised, and which issues may be relevant to FAO, and in particular, to the Commission, in order to assist the Commission to identify those it wishes to take forward and how.

46. The Commission acknowledged the potential of modern biotechnologies for agricultural improvement, in particular the opportunities for improving the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture. It was stressed that this involved much more than transgenic technologies. In order to minimize risks and maximize benefits of new biotechnologies, there was a need to take new directions, and specifically focus on improving use of appropriate biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable use genetic resources, including through policy development, national capacity building, and support for the development of relevant national and international regulations.

47. The Commission recognised that some of the issues raised were more pertinent to its tasks than others. Within this context, it appreciated the work of FAO and its Priority Area for Interdisciplinary Actions on Biotechnology in Food and Agriculture (PAIA-Biotechnology) in collecting and disseminating biotechnology-related information, and in providing policy development and assistance on request to Members. It encouraged the PAIA-Biotechnology to continue to do so. It requested a report on FAO's policy and technical assistance on biotechnology for food and agriculture, and matters relevant to codes of conduct, guidelines, or other approaches, at its Twelfth Regular Session.

48. The Commission agreed that more time was needed to address the complexity of the issues involved. However, urgent action was needed to build relevant capacities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

49. The Commission requested its Intergovernmental Technical Working Groups, on Animal and on Plant Genetic Resources, to consider those issues that will require further development, and make appropriate recommendations to the Commission. It requested the Secretariat of the Commission to contact regions for their inputs.

Guiding Principles for the development of CGIAR Centres' policies to address the possibility of unintentional presence of transgenes in ex situ *collections*

50. The Commission considered the document, *Guiding Principles for the development of CGIAR Centres' policies to address the possibility of unintentional presence of transgenes in* ex situ *collections,*[16] presented by Bioversity International, on behalf of the CGIAR Centres. The Guiding Principles had been considered by the Intergovernmental Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources at its Third Session, and the Commission recognized that they were an important step towards

[15] CGRFA-11/07/13.

[16] CGRFA-11/07/14 Rev.1.

avoiding the unintentional introgression of transgenes into *ex situ* collections. Crop-specific guidelines for maize, rice and potato are currently being developed by the CGIAR System-wide Genetic Resources Programme-coordinated Global Public Goods 2 project.

51. The Commission reaffirmed the importance of maintaining the integrity of genetic resources and avoiding any introgression of transgenes, or other unwanted genes, into *ex situ* collections. It emphasized the need for developing adequate capacities at the national level towards this objective. The Commission stressed that the integrity of accessions is not only threatened by transgenes and other unwanted genes, but also by unsuitable genebank management practices and genetic erosion.

52. The Commission agreed on the relevance of the Guiding Principles as a basis for crop-specific guidelines. It acknowledged the need to take existing national laws and regulations, as well as international agreements, in particular the Biosafety Protocol, into account in developing guiding principles or guidelines. It noted that each country is responsible for managing its *ex situ* collections.

53. The Commission further agreed that, in order to ensure synergy and complementarity, relevant sections of the Guiding Principles could be considered in due time in the development of codes of conduct, guidelines and other instruments, in the case they are developed.

VI. SECTORIAL AND CROSS-SECTORIAL MATTERS

Forest genetic resources

54. The Commission considered the document, *The world's forest genetic resources: status and needs.*[17] It emphasized the importance of forest genetic resources for food security, poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability. The Commission underscored the comparative advantage of FAO and the importance of its work, and acknowledged the important role played by the Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources[18] in this area.

55. The Commission emphasised the urgency to address the need to conserve and sustainably use forest genetic resources, through sustainable forest management, especially those that are under threat at the global level, but recognised that the lack of information is limiting the capacity of decision-making and action on forest genetic resources at the international, regional and local levels. It recommended that existing information systems, in particular, REFORGEN (the FAO global information system on forest genetic resources), be reviewed and strengthened, where needed. The Commission therefore approved the inclusion in its Multi-year Programme of Work of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* and requested the Secretariat to prepare a scoping paper on forest genetic resources, for review at its Twelth Regular Session. It noted that the preparatory process, including the possibility of establishing an *ad hoc* intergovernmental technical working group, would be presented and discussed at its Twelth Regular Session, with a view to considering *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* at its Fourteenth Regular Session. The Commission agreed that the work carried out by the Convention on Biological Diversity on forest genetic resources in its Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity, as well as the relevant decisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests, should be taken into account in the development of the Multi-year Programme of Work.

56. The Commission recommended that the Committee on Forestry and the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions be fully involved in the preparation of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic*

[17] CGRFA-11/07/15.1.

[18] CGRFA-11/07/Inf.9.

Resources, which should be undertaken in synergy with relevant regional and global programmes and instruments, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Aquatic genetic resources

57. The Commission considered the documents, *The world's aquatic genetic resources: status and needs,*[19] and *Status and trends in aquatic genetic resources: a basis for international policy.*[20] It took note of the analyses and general conclusions presented.

58. The Commission recognized the importance and vulnerability of aquatic genetic resources, their roles in an ecosystem approach for food and agriculture, and for their contributions to meeting the challenges presented by climate change. It agreed that the Multi-year Programme of Work should include coverage of aquatic genetic resources for the development of sustainable and responsible fisheries and aquaculture.

59. The Commission requested that coverage of aquatic genetic resources under the Multi-year Programme of Work should be undertaken in collaboration with, *inter alia;* the FAO Committee on Fisheries, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, regional and international fisheries organizations and networks, and industry. It noted that FAO is well placed to coordinate sustainable use and conservation of aquatic genetic resources.

60. The Commission agreed that improving the collection and sharing of information on aquatic genetic resources was of high priority.

61. The Commission supported for inclusion in the Multi-year Programme of Work a scoping policy analysis, to identify gaps and opportunities related to aquatic genetic resources. It confirmed the need to review and strengthen information systems, and to develop technical guidelines for aquatic genetic resources conservation and sustainable use, in relation to the *FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*.

62. Members of the Commission expressed a variety of views on the development of the elements related to the *Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries* aimed to maintain a broad genetic basis and to ensure sustainable use and conservation of aquatic genetic resources, and the process for a global assessment, in the form of a *State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources*.

63. The Secretariat informed the Commission that the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of FAO currently lacks resources to implement the proposed aquatic genetic resources elements of the Multi-year Programme of Work.

64. Members of the Commission expressed a variety of views on the provision of financial resources for the implementation of the proposed aquatic genetic resources elements of the Multi-year Programme of Work, including funds from the Regular Programme of FAO and from extra-budgetary support.

[19] CGRFA-11/07/15.2.

[20] Background Study Paper No. 37.

Micro-organisms and insects

65. The Commission reviewed the document, *Biodiversity of micro-organisms and insects for food and agriculture: status and needs.*[21] It noted that this component of biodiversity for food and agriculture had not received adequate attention, especially given the many types of micro-organisms and invertebrates that play critical roles in the provision of essential services within the food chain. It further recognized the important role of micro-organisms and invertebrates in relation to food security and sustainable agriculture, and the need to strengthen capacity and knowledge, in order to further understand the many roles and functions of these essential resources, in relation to sustainable agriculture. The Commission welcomed FAO's further coordination and facilitation of two international initiatives that address micro-organisms and invertebrates: the *International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators*,[22] and the *International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity.*

66. The Commission recognized that invertebrates and micro-organisms have different characteristics, and decided to consider them separately in its Multi-year Programme of Work. It agreed to a timeline for organizing future work, which will see issues on micro-organisms and invertebrates being addressed at the Fourteenth Regular Session of the Commission.

67. In order to prepare for detailed discussion on micro-organisms and invertebrates, the Secretariat of the Commission should, in cooperation with relevant organizations, provide to the Commission, at its Twelfth Regular Session, a brief scoping study on the functions and services provided by micro-organisms and invertebrates. The document would describe current policies and programmes of relevant international organizations, including the status of international collections of micro-organisms, and identify policy gaps and options for strengthening international cooperation.

68. The Commission agreed that, on the basis of the scoping study to be provided to the Twelfth Regular Session, it would consider further analysis and background studies, in preparation for its Thirteenth Regular Session. It noted that further information could be gathered on key issues between the Twelfth and Fourteenth Regular Sessions, to enable a detailed review of the overall status of work in this field at its Fifteenth Regular Session.

The ecosystem approach applied to biodiversity for food and agriculture

69. The Commission considered the document, *The ecosystem approach applied to food and agriculture: status and needs.*[23] It acknowledged the ecosystem approach in FAO's programmes and activities, particularly in forestry, fisheries and agriculture. It stressed the importance of the ecosystem approach in assisting the Commission to address biodiversity for food and agriculture, particularly in regard to *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture.*

70. The Commission acknowledged that the ecosystem approach is relevant for integrating cross-cutting issues, such as the impacts of climate change on agricultural biodiversity. It recommended that FAO continue to advance the application of the ecosystem approach across its diverse programmes and activities in relation to biodiversity for food and agriculture. The Commission recommended that FAO continue to provide support to countries, in particular developing countries, to assist them to apply the ecosystem approach. Argentina requested that a statement it had made be appended to the Report (*Appendix F*).

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[21] CGRFA-11/07/15.3.

[22] CGRFA-11/07/Inf.15.

[23] CGRFA-11/07/15.4 Rev.1.

International cross-sectorial policy issues and genetic resources

71. The Commission considered the document, *Cross-sectorial international policy issues and genetic resources: status and needs.*[24] It agreed on the importance of considering access and benefit-sharing, in relation to all components of biodiversity for food and agriculture. It decided that work in this field should be an early task within its Multi-year Programme of Work.

72. The Commission recognised the importance of being able to consider questions regarding the role of intellectual property in relation to genetic resources, and requested that the Secretariat continue to keep under continuous review developments in all relevant forums, and report to the Commission at each of its Regular Sessions.

73. The Commission recognised the importance of developing targets and indicators for biodiversity for food and agriculture, in order to promote policy coherence among international forums in this regard, and to reduce the reporting burden on countries. It requested that FAO continue such work, in cooperation with other relevant organizations.

VII. COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Mechanisms for cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

74. The Commission considered the document, *Mechanisms for cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.*[25]

75. It was informed that the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty, Mr. Shakeel Bhatti, had recently taken up his post. It congratulated him on his election. It thanked the Secretariat of the Commission for having served as Interim Secretariat of the International Treaty. The Commission stressed the importance of supporting the activities of the Governing Body, especially in its early phases of work. It welcomed the excellent cooperation between its Secretariat and the Secretariat of the International Treaty.

76. The Commission supported the development of a joint statement of intention regarding long-term cooperation between the two secretariats. It recommended that its Secretariat prepare an analysis of possible areas of collaboration among the International Treaty, the Global Crop Diversity Trust, the CGIAR and the Commission, to be presented to the Commission's Twelfth Regular Session.

77. In thanking the Commission, Mr. Bhatti informed Members of the fact that Contracting Parties had contributed only some 10 percent of the contributions to the Core Administrative Budget of the International Treaty foreseen for the 2006/07 period. The International Treaty, he said, was in a critical make-or-break period. The Commission appealed to Contracting Parties to make contributions available immediately, in order that implementation might continue in earnest.

78. A far as practicable, the Commission requested its Secretariat to organise sessions of the Commission back-to-back with those of the Governing Body of the International Treaty.

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[24] CGRFA-11/07/15.5.

[25] CGRFA-11/07/16.

Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity

79. The Commission considered the document, *Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity.*[26] It recognized the many ongoing areas of collaboration between FAO and the Convention on Biological Diversity, in the area of biodiversity for food and agriculture, which include *inter alia*, plant, animal, aquatic and forest genetic resources. The Commission recommended further strengthening of cooperation between FAO and its Commission, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, acknowledging the need for complementarity and mutual support. The European Regional Group proposed that work of the Commission on access and benefit-sharing, in particular on material transfer agreements for different sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture, should be integrated into this cooperation, where appropriate. The Commission noted that the resumption of the practice of seconding an FAO officer to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity would enhance such cooperation.

80. The Commission stressed the importance of FAO's continued lead role in the implementation of the Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity. It recommended a joint work plan on biodiversity for food and agriculture between FAO and its Commission and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and requested this decision be forwarded to the Conference of Parties of the Convention. The Multi-year Programme of Work would provide an excellent basis for the joint work plan.

81. The Commission stressed the need for enhanced cooperation among national programmes in agriculture and environment, and requested FAO to support synergies at the national level between these sectors.

Cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization

82. The Commission considered the document, *Cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization.*[27] It welcomed continued collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization, and recognized the need to continue collaboration in areas of mutual interests.

Reports from international organizations on their policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity

83. The Commission considered the document, *Reports from international organizations on their policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity.*[28] It thanked the many international organizations that had submitted reports over the years, which had made a significant contribution to the Commission's work. The Commission welcomed statements by Practical Action, the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, and the World Organization for Animal Health, describing their work of relevance to genetic resources for food and agriculture.

84. The Commission decided that, in the context of the Multi-year Programme of Work, future consultations with such organizations would focus on matters being addressed at each session. It recognized the need to address climate change and agriculture in its future work.

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[26] CGRFA-11/07/17.

[27] CGRFA-11/07/18.

[28] CGRFA-11/07/19.1 United Nations and other Inter-governmental Organizations ; CGRFA-11/07/19.2 International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research; CGRFA-11/07/19.3 International Non-governmental Organizations; CGRFA-11/07/19 Add.1 Reports arrived late for translation.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF FAO'S POLICIES, PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

85. The Commission considered the document, *FAO's policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity.*[29] It recognized the wide and important range of activities being addressed by FAO, and stressed that the Organization should further strengthen its ongoing collaboration with international bodies, in addressing both sectorial and cross-sectorial issues of relevance to biodiversity for food and agriculture.

86. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the important work of FAO's Priority Areas for Interdisciplinary Actions, and requested that FAO carry on promoting interdisciplinary approaches to biological diversity for food and agriculture. It recommended that FAO continue to focus on access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture in an integrated and interdisciplinary manner, and give further attention to the issue of the unintentional presence of transgenes in genetic resources held *ex situ*, *in situ*, and on-farm.

87. The Commission stressed the need for a strategic approach to strengthening coordination within FAO in addressing agricultural biological diversity matters, and for adequate funding to be made available within the Organization's budget.

IX. MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

88. The Commission reviewed the document, *Multi-year Programme of Work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.[30] It recalled that, in 1995, the FAO Conference had broadened the Commission's mandate to cover "all components of biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture",[31] and that it had, in its Tenth Regular Session, requested the development of a draft Multi-year Programme of Work. It thanked its Secretariat for the excellence of the documents that had been prepared to support its consideration of this important and complex topic.

89. The Commission noted that the process of preparation of the draft Multi-year Programme of Work had benefited from considerable inputs from governments, through the Commission's Intergovernmental Technical Working Groups on Plants and Animals, and consultations with FAO Regional Groups. The Commission thanked its Working Groups and the Regions for the support given in preparation of the Multi-year Programme of Work.

90. The Commission recognized the need to implement its full mandate through a planned and staged approach, and identified and adopted the major outputs and milestones to be addressed in its Multi-year Programme of Work, over its next five sessions, as given in *Appendix E*, noting that it would review progress in the implementation of the Multi-year Programme of Work in subsequent sessions.

91. The Commission stressed the need to develop a detailed plan to achieve the agreed outputs and milestones, identifying the processes that would be needed. This should include the identification of the relevant international organizations with which to cooperate. It requested its Secretary and its Chair to develop such a plan, in consultation with the FAO Regional Groups, in the inter-sessional

[29] CGRFA-11/07/20.1 Sectorial Matters; CGRFA-11/07/20.2 Cross-sectorial Matters; CGRFA-11/07/20.3 PAIAs.

[30] CGRFA-11/07/21.

[31] FAO Conference Resolution 3/95.

period, for consideration by the Commission. It requested its Intergovernmental Technical Working Groups, on Plants and on Animals, to provide inputs in their fields of expertise at their next meetings.

92. The Commission underscored the importance of the Multi-year Programme of Work as an excellent vehicle to strengthen cooperation in relation to biodiversity for food and agriculture, both within FAO and between FAO and other relevant international bodies. It further stressed the need to ensure synergy and complementarity, and to avoid duplication. It requested FAO to seek synergies and build partnerships with relevant international organizations, to facilitate the implementation of the Multi-year Programme of Work.

93. Emphasizing the importance of cooperation with the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Commission requested its Secretary to transmit the Multi-year Programme of Work to the Secretary of the Governing Body, and invite him to inform the Governing Body, in order to facilitate the planning of the work of the two bodies.

94. It further requested its Secretary to transmit the Multi-year Programme of Work to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and invite him to inform the Conference of the Parties of this important tool in strengthening cooperation between FAO and the Convention, in the many areas in which they collaborate.

X. HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF FAO FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK

95. The Commission welcomed the systematic information given in the document, *Analysis of the human and financial resources available within the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to support work on the various sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture.*[32] The Commission underlined the need for a transparent approach to the financial and human resources that are required for the implementation of the activities of the Commission's Secretariat and the Organization's technical services that will be involved in implementing the Multi-year Programme of Work.

96. The Commission stressed that genetic resources for food and agriculture should remain a priority area for FAO's work and strongly recommended that this be adequately reflected in the Organization's Programme of Work and Budget and its rolling Medium Term Plan. The Commission recognized the need to match priorities to available financial and human resources, and recommended that core activities of the Commission be supported through the Regular Programme. If required, FAO was invited to mobilize extra-budgetary resources, in particular for the implementation of the Multi-year Programme of Work.

XI. STREAMLINING THE OPERATIONS OF THE COMMISSION

97. The Commission considered the document, *Streamlining the operations of the Commission for the implementation of the Multi-year Programme of Work*.[33] The Commission welcomed the opportunity to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its operations. In this context, it decided to maintain the frequency and duration of its Regular Sessions. It agreed that the type, structure, length and quality of pre-session documents were adequate, but recommended that executive summaries be provided in the case of lengthy documents. It requested that printed documents be available in time for

[32] CGRFA-11/07/22.

[33] CGRFA-11/07/23.

regional consultations preceding the session. It also stressed the importance of receiving pre-session documents in all official languages, and of maintaining the quality of translation.

98. It recommended that sufficient time be allocated to regional consultations preceding sessions, and urged that interpretation be provided to Regions, whenever possible.

99. In the context of its Multi-year Programme of Work, the Commission welcomed the proposal to reduce routine reporting, in favour of focused consultations with relevant institutions and FAO departments on the prioritised themes of the session.

100. The Commission requested its Bureau to play an active role in preparing for the next Session. In the event that a Bureau Member is temporarily unable to participate, it agreed that the country of the Member should nominate an alternate.

101. The Commission requested its Secretariat, in collaboration with its Bureau, to prepare draft Rules of Procedure for its consideration at its next Regular Session, reflecting its discussions. In this context, it recommended that a clear rule be put in place for the accreditation of media representatives, and for the participation of observers in sessions of the Commission.

102. The Commission requested the Director-General to initiate preliminary consideration of ways in which the status of the Commission might be raised, within the constitutional framework of FAO, in order to reflect the Commission's role as the only intergovernmental body responsible specifically for biodiversity for food and agriculture.

103. The Commission agreed to consider at its next Session the establishment of an Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources, to succeed the Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources.

XII. CLOSING STATEMENTS

104. The Commission had been informed of a press release dated 14 June 2007, announcing the presentation to the Commission of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*. Some Members of the Commission expressed concern that inaccurate statements in the press release might have a detrimental impact on sensitive discussions underway regarding preparation for the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources.

105. Spain informed the Commission that it had become the largest donor of extra-budgetary resources to FAO. In this context, it had contributed US$ 450,000 to support the development of the updated *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, to strengthen national plant genetic resources systems, and to support monitoring of the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action.* Canada informed the Commission that it had contributed US$ 280,000 to support the development of the updated *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture,* in several African countries. The Commission thanked Spain and Canada for this generous support.

106. The United Kingdom reported on the initiative – to which it had contributed £ 250,000 – that it had first announced at the Tenth Regular Session of the Commission. It was supported by the Department for Environment, Food, & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew and under the auspices of FAO, and dealt with the identification, handling and storage of "difficult" and recalcitrant seeds. It aims primarily at gene banks, but also hopes to benefit community seed banks, and others aiming to maintain seed quality during storage. The Commission thanked the United Kingdom for this generous support.

107. Switzerland drew attention to the document, *Plant genetic resources of grassland and forage species*,[34] which had also been presented in a side event. Grasslands and forages are crucial for the sustainable production of livestock and the health of ecosystems, and are of particular importance in the context of climate change. Switzerland believed that the Commission needed to address these resources in a systematic manner, and that their importance for world food security pointed to the need to expand the species covered by *Annex 1* of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

108. Togo drew attention to the great efforts that countries in the African Region had made in the preparation of the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources, and asked donors to take into account the enormous needs of the continent, in following up on the Conference.

109. A representative of Civil Society Organizations expressed their gratitude to the Chairman for having permitted them to participate in the debate, when time allowed. He thanked delegates for their openness towards civil society. He appreciated the complex discussions that had led to the adoption of the path-breaking Multi-year Programme of Work, and thanked the Government of Switzerland for having taken into account a number of positions of civil society, in facilitating the preparation of the draft *Interlaken Declaration*. He hoped that the Conference would find solutions to remaining contentious elements of the text.

110. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Chair for his wisdom and guidance, and noted its appreciation to the Vice-chairs and *Rapporteur* for all their dedicated work, which had led to a successful meeting. It thanked the Secretariat and the other staff members of FAO for preparing informative documents, and for their support and helpful presentations and comments during the Session. The Commission expressed its sincere appreciation to Mr. Stannard for his many years of service to the Commission, and commended him for his commitment, guidance and wisdom.

111. Several representatives from developing countries expressed their appreciation for the financial support from a number of donors, which had enabled their participation in the current Session.

112. A representative of the Government of Switzerland warmly welcomed the participation of delegates and observers to the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources, September 1-7, 2007. He stressed that very significant progress had been made during the Commission to prepare for the Conference, and noted his appreciation for the support received from Members of the Commission.

XIII. DATE AND PLACE OF THE COMMISSION'S TWELFTH REGULAR SESSION

113. The Commission agreed to convene its Twelfth Regular Session in Rome, Italy, at a suitable date in the third or fourth quarter of 2009.

[34] Background Study Paper No. 40.

APPENDIX A

AGENDA OF THE ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chairs

2. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

SECTION I: REVIEW OF ON-GOING PROGRAMMES OF THE COMMISSION

3. Programme of Work on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

   3.1 Progress since the Tenth Regular Session of the Commission in the preparation of the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources, including the *State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*

      (a) Report of the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

      (b) Status of preparations of the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources

      (c) *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*

      (d) Draft Elements of a *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources,* including the *Draft Interlaken Declaration*

   3.2 Future work of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources and election of its Members

4. Programme of Work on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

   4.1 Progress since the Tenth Regular Session of the Commission

      (a) Report of the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

      (b) Follow-up to the recommendations of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture regarding plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

      (c) Progress in the preparation of the second *The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

   4.2 Future work of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources and election of its Members

5. Progress report on the draft Code of Conduct on Biotechnology as it relates to genetic resources for food and agriculture

   5.1 Progress in the draft Code of Conduct on Biotechnology as it relates to genetic resources for food and agriculture

   5.2 Guiding Principles for the development of CGIAR Centres' policies to address the possibility of unintentional presence of transgenes in *ex situ* collections

SECTION II: OTHER BIODIVERSITY-RELATED MATTERS UNDER THE MANDATE OF THE COMMISSION: STATUS AND NEEDS

6. Sectorial and cross-sectorial matters
   - 6.1 Forest genetic resources
   - 6.2 Aquatic genetic resources
   - 6.3 Micro-organisms and insects
   - 6.4 The ecosystem approach applied to biodiversity for food and agriculture
   - 6.5 International cross-sectorial policy issues and genetic resources

SECTION III: SYNERGIES AND COOPERATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

7. Cooperation with other international organizations and agreements
   - 7.1 Mechanisms for cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
   - 7.2 Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including review of preliminary findings of the review of the Convention's Programme of Work on Agricultural Biological Diversity
   - 7.3 Cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
   - 7.4 Reports from international organizations on their policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity

8. Consideration of FAO's policies, programmes and activities on biodiversity for food and agriculture

SECTION IV: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK

9. Multi-year Programme of Work of the Commission

SECTION V: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK

10. Human and financial resources of FAO for the implementation of the Multi-year Programme of Work

11. Streamlining the operations of the Commission

SECTION VI: OTHER MATTERS

12. Other business

13. Date and place of the Commission's Twelfth Regular Session

14. Adoption of the Report

APPENDIX B

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

AFRICA

Algeria
Angola
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Congo, Republic of the
Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Niger
Nigeria
Rwanda
Sao Tome and Principe
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Sudan
Swaziland
Togo
Uganda
United Republic ofTanzania
Zambia
Zimbabwe

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Australia
Bangladesh
Bhutan
China
Cambodia
Cook Islands
Democrat. People's Republic of Korea
Fiji
India
Indonesia
Japan
Kazakhstan
Malaysia
Maldives
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nepal
New Zealand
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Samoa
Solomon Islands
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Tonga
Vanuatu
Vietnam

NEAR EAST

Afghanistan
Azerbaijan
Egypt
Iran, Islamic Republic of
Iraq
Jordan
Kuwait
Lebanon
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Oman
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
Syrian Arab Republic
Tunisia
United Arab Emirates
Yemen

EUROPE

Albania
Armenia
Austria
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
European Community
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russian Federation
San Marino
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba
Dominica
Dominican Rep.
Ecuador
El Salvador
Grenada
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Jamaica
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago
Uruguay
Venezuela

NORTH AMERICA

Canada
United States of America

A total of 170 countries and the European Community are members of the Commission.

APPENDIX C

MEMBERS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS, ON ANIMAL AND PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, ELECTED BY THE ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

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

Composition (no. of countries per region)	*Country*
Africa (5)	Algeria
	Central African Republic
	Guinea
	Namibia
	Uganda
Asia (5)	Bhutan
	China
	India
	Indonesia
	Thailand
Europe (5)	Finland
	France
	Germany
	Switzerland
	Turkey
Latin America and the Caribbean (5)	Argentina
	Brazil
	Chile
	Jamaica
	Uruguay
Near East (3)	Jordan
	Sudan
	Syria
North America (2)	Canada
	United States of America
Southwest Pacific (2)	Australia
	Papua New Guinea

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

Composition (no. of countries per region)	*Country*
Africa (5)	Cameroon
	Côte d'Ivoire
	Kenya
	Morocco
	Tanzania
Asia (5)	Japan
	Republic of Korea
	Malaysia
	Pakistan
	Sri Lanka
Europe (5)	Norway
	Poland
	Spain
	Sweden
	Switzerland
Latin America and the Caribbean (5)	Brazil
	Cuba
	Ecuador
	Guatemala
	Uruguay
Near East (3)	Egypt
	Islamic Republic of Iran
	Yemen
North America (2)	Canada
	United States of America
Southwest Pacific (2)	Australia
	Samoa

APPENDIX D

APPENDIX D, ANNEX 1

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GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture[1] are an essential part of the biological basis for world food security, and contribute to the livelihoods of over a thousand million people. A diverse resource base is critical for human survival and well-being, and a contribution to the eradication of hunger: animal genetic resources are crucial in adapting to changing socio-economic and environmental conditions, including climate change. They are the animal breeder's raw material and amongst the farmer's most essential inputs. They are essential for sustainable agricultural production. Properly managed, they need never be depleted, for there is no inherent incompatibility between utilization and conservation. The conservation, sustainable use, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from their use, are an international concern and the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* provides, for the first time, an agreed international framework for the sector. Promoting the broader use of animal biodiversity can contribute to improved human health and nutrition, and expand opportunities for livelihood diversification and income generation.

Development of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*

2. In 1990, the FAO initiated the preparation of a comprehensive programme for the sustainable management of animal genetic resources at the global level. In 1993, FAO launched the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources to guide national, regional and global efforts to strengthen the contribution of domesticated animals and their products to food security and rural development, and to prevent the erosion of animal genetic resources.

3. From 1997, the FAO's inter-governmental Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture has guided a country-driven process for the preparation of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*. In 2001, FAO invited all countries to submit a Country Report on the status and trends of their animal genetic resources; the current and potential contributions of farm animals to food, agriculture and rural development; and the state of national capacity to manage these resources; and provide priority action lists.

4. The Country Reports demonstrate the significant and irreplaceable contribution that the diversity of farm animals makes to the food security and development of nations. They show that the full potential of animal genetic resources is far from being realized and confirm the serious erosion of genetic diversity in both developed and developing countries.

5. This erosion has many causes, including changes in production systems, mechanization, the loss of rangeland grazing resources, natural calamities, disease outbreaks, inappropriate breeding policies and practices, the inappropriate introduction of exotic breeds, loss of animal keepers' security of tenure on land and access to other natural resources, changing cultural practices, the erosion of

[1] Throughout the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* the term *Animal Genetic Resources* refers specifically to animal genetic resources used in or potentially useful for food and agriculture. The term *Livestock* as used in the document encompasses all domesticated animals used for food and agriculture. The term thus includes both avian and mammalian species that contribute to food and agriculture.

customary institutions and social relations, the influence of population growth and urbanization, and the failure to assess the impact of practices in terms of sustainability, and develop adequate policies and economic measures. Erosion of animal genetic resources threatens the ability of farmers and livestock keepers to respond to environmental and socio-economic changes, including changing diets and consumer preferences.

6. The *Strategic Priorities for Action,* contained within this *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources,* propose specific measures to reverse the ongoing trends of erosion and underutilization of animal genetic resources. The implementation of the *Strategic Priorities for Action* will make a significant contribution to international efforts to promote food security and sustainable development, alleviate poverty, in line with the Millennium Development Goals and other international commitments.

The rationale for the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*

7. For the first time ever, *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* provides a comprehensive global assessment of the roles, values and status of animal genetic resources, which highlights the importance of the livestock sector within agriculture. Specific *Strategic Priorities for Action* for the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, contained within this *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources,* are warranted because of their great importance for global food security, and because of the specific features of domestic animal biodiversity as an integral part of agricultural ecosystems.

8. Livestock genetic diversity and options for its utilization are usually discussed in terms of breeds. "Breeds" are rather cultural concepts than physical entities, and the concept differs from country to country. This is a fact that makes characterization at the genetic level very difficult. For sustainable management, diversity needs to be considered and understood at the species level, between breeds, and within breeds themselves.

9. Key features of animal genetic resources include:

- The diversity of animal genetic resources is essential to satisfy basic human needs for food and livelihood security. They contribute to human needs by providing meat, milk and dairy produce, eggs, fibre, clothes, resources for temporary and permanent shelter, manure for fertiliser and fuel, draught power, hunting assistance and marketable assets. Genetic diversity defines not only animal breeds' production and functional traits, but also the ability to adapt to different environments, including food and water availability, climate, pests and diseases. Diverse animal genetic resources – particularly in the developing world – are a key to economic development. Approximately 70 percent of the world's rural poor depend on livestock as an important component of their livelihoods. The diversity of these resources, and the consequent adaptability of species and breeds to extreme conditions of drought, humidity, cold and heat, make possible human livelihoods in some of the most inhospitable areas on Earth, from the Arctic and mountain regions to extreme hot and dry areas, where crop production cannot be exclusively depended upon.
- More than 7,000 domestic animal breed populations have been developed by farmers and pastoralists in diverse environments in the 12,000 years since the first livestock species were domesticated. These breeds now represent unique combinations of genes. Thus all animal genetic resources for food and agriculture are the result of human intervention: they have been consciously selected and improved by pastoralists and farmers since the origins of agriculture, and have co-evolved with economies, cultures, knowledge systems and societies. Unlike most wild biodiversity, domestic animal resources require continuous active human management, sensitive to their unique nature.

- In terms of their enormous potential contribution to reducing hunger and poverty, and to sustainable development, animal genetic resources for food and agriculture are under-conserved and under-utilized.
- Most countries are highly interdependent, with respect to animal genetic resources. Animal genes, genotypes and populations have spread all over the planet since ancient times, through the diffusion of agriculture and the prominent role of livestock in human migrations. Animals were the means of transport and trade in many regions. Animal genetic resources have continued without interruption to be developed and improved by pastoralists and farmers, both inside and outside the historic centres of domestication. Moreover, animal genetic resources have been systematically exchanged inter-continentally and over the oceans for the last 500 years, deepening this interdependence. In global terms, most food and agricultural production systems worldwide depend on livestock originally domesticated elsewhere, and breeds developed in other countries and regions. These unique features of domestic animals need to be taken into account in ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits deriving from them, and in tailoring the development of future policy and regulatory measures.
- Most animal genetic resources are currently maintained *in situ*, by farmers, pastoralist and their communities, as integral components of their agricultural ecosystems, economies and cultures. Domestic animals often play key roles in myths, cultures, religions, traditions and social practices. In addition to the animals themselves, foods of animal origin have strong socio-economic and cultural functions in many societies, in addition to playing important roles in nutrition and diets.
- Livestock resources continue to have this important social, cultural and structural role in indigenous and local communities today: the cultural importance of animals is frequently a key factor in *in situ* conservation. [Livestock keepers have traditional rights to these resources.]
- Domestic animal breeds provide key agro-ecosystem functions, such as nutrient cycling, seed dispersal and habitat maintenance. Animal genetic resources and animal management systems are an integral part of ecosystems and productive landscapes throughout the world. By moving their herd seasonally, pastoralists connect different ecosystems. Land-based production systems that have both plant and animal components need co-management of the various components of biological diversity, including soils, crops, rangelands and pastures, fodder crops and wildlife.
- The extent and rate of animal genetic resource loss is still difficult to estimate, despite the clearer picture of animal genetic resources that has emerged in the country-driven preparation of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*. The lack of information hinders decision-making with regard to what to conserve and develop, and how to best use limited funds available for conservation. The base lines from which to measure change are still unclear, and methodologies for characterization, inventory and monitoring have not been harmonised for establishing guidelines standardized. Nonetheless, there are indications that numerous breeds have become extinct, and many more will be lost if countries do not rapidly implement conservation measures. While some nations recognize the need to conserve their national animal genetic resources, the global response has so far been sporadic and inadequate. In particular, many local breeds, particularly those held by poor farmers in harsh environments in developing countries, have not yet been sufficiently characterized. These animal populations probably contain many valuable adaptive traits, and with their extinction before they are well understood, considerable value may be lost for ever.
- Traditional production systems required multi-purpose animals, which, although less productive than high output breeds, may contain valuable functional traits. Modern agriculture has developed specialized breeds, optimizing specific production traits. Modern animal breeders have achieved striking productivity increases in high-external input production systems. Livestock currently contribute about 30 percent of agricultural gross domestic production in developing countries, with a projected increase to 39 percent in 2030. Only 14

of the more than 30 domesticated mammalian and bird species provide 90 percent of human food supply from animals. The five main livestock species: cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and chickens, provide the majority of food production, and among these, a small number of [international transboundary breeds[2]] account for an ever increasing share of total production. This process leads to a narrowing genetic base, as breeds and indeed species are discarded in response to market forces. In commercial breeds, high selection pressure leads to a narrowing genetic base[, with the potential risk for present and future food security. The policies should include consideration of broad genetic variability within populations and breeds, which is essential for the development of livestock production to meet the future challenges Long-term sustainability of selection programmes requires regular assessment of genetic changes and adjustments in selection goals.]

- Policy-makers in many countries, and internationally, are seldom aware of the diverse and significant contributions of animal genetic resources to food and agriculture [and of traditional rights of livestock keepers]. The sustainable use and conservation of animal genetic resources has been, and generally continues to be, a low priority in developing agricultural, environmental, trade, and human and animal health policies. The effect has been a failure to invest adequately in essential institutional development and capacity-building.
- Managing animal genetic resources is a complex task because it is necessary to deal both with questions specific to the resources (such as selection, or the conservation of breeds) and with cross-sectorial matters affecting animal genetic resources, such as animal health measures, development and trade standards, and environmental management. Moreover, responsibilities are shared across sectors ands institutions, nationally and internationally.

10. Strategic planned conservation, use and development of animal genetic resources is essential, but countries face complex challenges in considering how best to formulate relevant national and international policies. Enhancing capacity at all levels is a key element of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*. The *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* aims to promote a pragmatic, systematic and efficient overall approach, which harmoniously addresses the development of institutions, human resources, cooperative frameworks, and resource mobilization.

11. Activities related to *in situ* conservation, to *ex situ* conservation, and to the utilization of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, have to date been largely pursued without adequate linkages and coordination: the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* aims at improving this situation. A certain loss of local breeds is inevitable, given ongoing changes in livestock production systems in developed and developing countries, and the limited availability of resources for conservation. However, to allow this to be a totally random and unsupervised process means accepting an unevaluated but potentially important risk of the loss of resources of major long-term value. Countries, and the international community, should be conscious of the losses that are likely to happen, and should debate and agree on which losses they are prepared to accept, and what investment is needed to maintain and conserve crucial animal genetic diversity. The international research community should provide scientific guidance for strategic decisions, under conditions of imperfect information.

12. ***[*** The financial and human resource base for this work is insufficient, and there are many gaps and inefficiencies. In addition, the capacities and activities of countries and regions to address animal genetic resources are at very different stages of development. The *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* will provide a an agreed basis by the international community, to support and increase the overall effectiveness of national, regional and global efforts for the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources, and to mobilize resources, including financial resources, sustainably. ***]***

[2] FAO has linked breed populations that may belong to a common genepool and may therefore be considered the same breed. These breeds have been termed “transboundary breeds”. Regional transboundary breeds are reported in several countries of one region, and international transboundary breeds are reported in more than one region.

Aims and strategies of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*

13. The *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* is intended as a rolling plan, with an initial time horizon of ten years, with provisions for the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources, at national, regional and global levels.

14. The main aims of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* are:

- to promote the sustainable use and development of animal genetic resources, for food security, sustainable agriculture, and human well-being in all countries;
- to ensure the conservation of the important animal genetic resource diversity, for present and future generations, and to halt the random loss of these crucial resources;
- to promote a fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, and recognize the role of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant to the conservation of animal genetic resources and their sustainable use, and, where appropriate, put in place effective policies and legislative measures;
- to meet the needs of pastoralists and farmers, individually and collectively, within the framework of national law, to have non-discriminatory access to the genetic material, information, technologies, financial resources, research results, marketing systems, and natural resources, so that they may continue to manage and improve animal genetic resources, and benefit from economic development;
- to promote agro-ecosystems approaches for the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources;
- to assist countries and institutions responsible for the management of animal genetic resources to establish, implement and regularly review national priorities for the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources;
- to strengthen national programmes and enhance institutional capacity – in particular, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition – and develop relevant regional and international programmes; such programmes should include education, research and training to address the characterization, inventory, monitoring, conservation, development and sustainable use of animal genetic resources;
- to promote the activities aiming at raising public awareness and bringing the needs of sustainable use and conservation of animal genetic resources to the attention of concerned governments and international organizations.

15. The *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* is based on the assumption that countries are fundamentally interdependent with respect to animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, and that substantial international cooperation is necessary. In this context, the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* has been developed on the basis of the following parameters and conditions:

- A diversity of animal genetic resources will ensure the ability of the livestock sector to meet changing market demands and environmental circumstances, including climate change and emerging diseases. Farmers and pastoralists require animal breeds that meet local needs and provide employment within rural communities, which are resilient to a variety of biotic and abiotic factors, including extreme climatic conditions, feed availability, parasites and other disease factors. Furthermore, livestock provide a direct food source in times of crop failure.
- Because of interdependence, the conservation of a diverse range of animal genetic resources in countries throughout the world reduces risks on a global basis and strengthens global food security.

- The base-line characterization and inventory of animal genetic resources, and routine monitoring of populations for variability, are fundamental to breed improvement strategies and programmes and for conservation programmes, and for contingency planning to protect valuable resources at risk.
- Animal identification and performance recording are essential for the continued improvement of animal genetic resources. Public and private breeders and breeding organizations, and market demand, play a crucial role in this endeavour. In many countries, very little has yet been done in this regard, except for [certain] [international] [commercial] [transboundary] breeds.
- The conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources requires a mixed approach, and both *in situ* and *ex situ* efforts. There is an increasing recognition that, because of the rapid current erosion of animal genetic resources, efficient and cost-effective *ex situ* conservation strategies need to be put in place in the near future, to complement *in situ* conservation. A holistic planning approach to conservation and utilization strategies must seek strategic priorities at the farm, community, breeding organization, national, regional and international levels, to achieve maximum effect, and be sustainable.
- Pastoralists, farmers and breeders, individually and collectively, and indigenous and local communities, play a crucial role in *in situ* conservation and development of animal genetic resources. It is important to better understand and support their role in a context of rapid economic and social change, so that they can play an effective function in *in situ* management, and share fairly and equitably in the benefits arising from the utilization of these resources. A number of actors and stakeholders can assist livestock keepers and their communities in playing this role: researchers, extension agencies, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and local cooperatives.
- A wide variety of animal breeds supply important ecosystems services in specific landscapes, in particular grazed ecosystems, which is often a strong motivation for their maintenance *in situ*. Such productive links between breeds and landscapes need to be maintained and better managed, through appropriate land use policies and strategies. Wild relatives of domestic animal species, and feral breeds, also require protection.
- The effective management of animal genetic resources, at all levels, depends on the inclusion and willing participation of all relevant stakeholders. Appropriate participatory processes, that ensure that the interests of various stakeholders are respected and balanced, are required.

Structure and organization of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*

16. The *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* [consists of two elements, namely the Strategic Priorities for Action and the Agreement on Implementation and Financing.] The Strategic Priorities for Action contain the following four *Strategic Priority Areas*:

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 1: CHARACTERIZATION, INVENTORY AND MONITORING OF TRENDS AND RISKS.

The actions provide a consistent, efficient and effective approach to the classification of animal genetic resources, and to assess trends in and risks to animal genetic resources.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT.

The actions are to ensure sustainability in animal production systems, with a focus on food security and rural development.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: CONSERVATION.

The actions focus on steps needed to preserve the genetic diversity and integrity, for the benefit of current and future generations.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4: POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS, AND CAPACITY BUILDING.

The actions directly address the key questions of practical implementation, through coherent and synergistic development of the necessary institutions and capacities.

17. The relative priority or importance of each Strategic Priority Area and associated actions may differ significantly for countries and regions. Relative weight will depend on the resources themselves (species and breeds), the production systems and environments involved, current management capacities, and programmes underway for the management of animal genetic resources.

18. There is a uniform presentation in each *Strategic Priority Area*:

- The *Introduction* outlines the needs, on the basis of Country Reports and other information generated in the preparatory process.
- The *Long-term goal* states the final outcome to be reached by implementing the proposed actions. In implementing the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*, measurable and time-bound goals may be developed, to help the international community to judge progress and successes.

19. Each Strategic Priority Area contains a set of Strategic Priorities. For each Strategic Priority:

- The *Rationale* draws upon the findings of the preparatory process, and summarizes the reasons why this is a priority.
- The individual *Actions* propose logical steps to achieve the desired outcomes or improvements in current conditions.

20. Some of the *Actions* will clearly need to involve specific institutions or constituencies. These are not always mentioned by name in the text. The lack of reference to such key partners does not imply their exclusion.

II. THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 1: CHARACTERIZATION, INVENTORY AND MONITORING OF TRENDS AND ASSOCIATED RISKS

Introduction

21. The state of animal genetic resource characterization, inventory and monitoring of trends and associated risks activities varies significantly among countries. Some countries do not have data and information systems for animal genetic resources, and others have systems that require significant improvement. This complicates and hinders global monitoring of the trends and associated risks of the resources.

22. Understanding the diversity, distribution, basic characteristics, comparative performance and the current status of each country's animal genetic resources is essential for their efficient and sustainable use, development and conservation. Complete national inventories, supported by periodic monitoring trends and associated risks are a basic requirement for the effective management of animal genetic resources. Without such information, some breed populations and unique characteristics they contain may decline significantly, or be lost, before their value is recognized and measures taken to conserve them.

23. A good understanding of breed characteristics is necessary to guide decision-making in livestock development and breeding programmes. Information from inventories, monitoring trends and associated risks is necessary for policy makers to determine conservation activities, whereas the results

of characterization enables farmers to determine which breed to use under prevailing production conditions. Comparative analysis of the performance of indigenous and exotic breeds – for both production and functional traits – is needed to inform strategic planning. In the absence of such analysis, local breed development may be ignored in favour of the introduction of exotic germplasm, or indiscriminate cross-breeding that will result in the erosion of local breeds.

24. A major difficulty in completing the world inventory of farm animal breeds results from the fact that most populations do not correspond to the notion of herd book breeds and are not pure breeds with identifiable and stable characteristics, but are the result of multiple crosses of diverse origins. Further research is needed to assess the optimum approaches to dealing with these mixed non-descript populations in inventories.

25. There is a clear need for inter-operative data and information systems, standards and protocols, to facilitate the sharing of data and information on the status of breeds among countries and regions. This is required to globally rationalize the status of breeds, and assist in setting conservation priorities beyond the national level. In many regions, gaps in data and information on the status of breeds, or obstacles to the effective sharing of data and information within and between countries, frustrate joint development of transboundary breeds.

Long term goal

Improved understanding of the status, trends and associated risks, and characteristics of all aspects and components of animal genetic resources, to facilitate and enable decision-making for their sustainable use, development and conservation.

Strategic Priority 1: **Inventory and characterize animal genetic resources, monitor trends and risks associated with them, and establish country-based early-warning and response systems**

Rationale: Genetic erosion is a problem of national and international concern, and a number of animal breeds are at risk of extinction. The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources provides the first global overview of the diversity, status and trends of animal genetic resources, and capacity to manage these resources at national, regional and global levels. National data and information systems for animal genetic resources are often underdeveloped.

Inventory, monitoring of trends and associated risks and characterisation should be strengthened and maintained to assist in determining conservation priorities and strategic breeding programmes. In certain cases — such as in armed conflicts, epidemics, droughts and other environmental emergencies — threats to animal genetic resources may be sudden and require a short response time. Country-based risk monitoring will greatly assist in setting up early warning systems and response mechanisms, at national, regional and global levels.

Action:

1. Conduct or complete inventories on the location, population status, trends and characteristics of animal genetic resources.
2. Expand characterisation and monitoring of trends in and risks to animal genetic resources.
3. Encourage the establishment of institutional responsibilities and infrastructure for monitoring of trends in animal genetic resources (for example population size and genetic diversity), including identification, registration and pedigree systems.

4. Promote participatory approaches to characterization, inventory and monitoring of trends and associated risks that foster collaboration among all stakeholders, including livestock keepers and researchers.
5. Undertake international cooperative monitoring of trends and associated risks, inventory and characterization activities among countries sharing transboundary breeds and similar production systems.
6. Strengthen global and regional information systems and networks for inventory, monitoring and characterisation. *Inter alia*, DAD-IS and the Global Databank for Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture should be strengthened to obtain, evaluate and condense information from the national databases and monitoring systems, and distribute this information, highlighting threats and needs.
7. Establish or strengthen existing breed endangerment early warning and response systems, through the further development of national, regional and global risk monitoring mechanisms, and the inclusion of early warning criteria in existing databases.

Strategic Priority 2 **Develop international technical standards and protocols for characterisation, inventory, and monitoring of trends and associated risks**

Rationale: Cross-national inter-comparability of data is essential to be able to monitor trends in and risks to animal genetic resources at regional and global levels, in particular transboundary populations, and to set and revise conservation priorities, as well as identify key genetic resources for strategic breeding of such populations. This requires the development and use of standardized methods and protocols for characterisation, inventory, and monitoring of trends and associated risks. This will facilitate coordinated national reporting in relevant international forums. There is also a need to collaborate in characterization research, to enhance coordination of existing research, and to improve the distribution of the results of characterization studies. The development of international standards for characterization, inventory and monitoring of animal genetic resources should take into account existing relevant processes.

Action:

1. Develop agreement on a common set of minimum criteria and indicators for animal genetic diversity, including means for assessing endangerment status, and methods to assess environmental, socio-economic and cultural factors related to animal genetic resources management.
2. Develop technical standards and protocols for phenotypic and molecular characterisation, including methods for the assessment of quantitative and qualitative production traits, nutrient utilization, functional traits and economic valuation. This makes possible the assessment of comparative breed performance in different production environments.
3. Develop protocols for participatory monitoring of trends and associated risks, and characterization of local breeds managed by indigenous and local communities and livestock keepers.

4. Strengthen research and development of methods for characterisation, and breed evaluation, valuation and comparison. Develop inter-operability protocols for information systems.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

26. The challenge to achieve food security and sustainable development for all is greater now than it has ever been. More efficient use of available resources, along with appropriate technologies and improved management offer great scope for raising production and improving the producer's income, while avoiding the depletion of natural resources (including genetic resources) and reducing wastes and environmental pollution.

27. In most developed countries, and some developing countries, there has been extremely rapid progress in the development of breeding and production techniques for major food-supplying livestock species and breeds, over the past 50 years. Intense selection, and husbandry improvement, have resulted in increased meat, milk or egg output in production systems where ample quantities of high-quality feeds and other inputs are provided to specialized breeds, and where production stressors (such as unfavourable climate and disease) are mitigated by capital investment. The rapid progress made — with an average of two percent production increase annually — is a strong indicator of the potential of animal genetic resources to further contribute to food security and rural development. However, current development efforts focus primarily on short-term production, without a strategic assessment of the long-term and collateral consequences. The wider environmental impact of intensive production systems, and the within- and between- breed reduction of genetic diversity, are often ignored.

28. In many cases, developing countries, facing highest priority needs to feed their populations, have focused investments and policies on high external input production systems using exotic breeds, rather than on establishing long-term genetic improvement schemes for local breeds. The use of exotic breeds is justified under proper management conditions in high external input production systems, especially near urban areas, where there is growing demand for animal products, and where input supply and services can be sustained. However, in rural contexts, farmers and livestock keepers often face difficulties in securing the additional feed and other inputs that exotic breeds require. Moreover, imported breeds have often not reproduced in or been as adapted to the local environment as local breeds. Increased attention must therefore be given to the sustainable use and development of local breeds in low and medium external input production systems. The option of maintaining or developing production systems in marginal environments, based on multiple-use animal genetic resources, needs to be addressed in depth.

29. Investment in developing local breeds of livestock will benefit small-scale, resource-poor pastoralists and farmers, and will often contribute to the sustainable development of the poorest regions of a country. However, a major obstacle to the further development of indigenous breeds is the lack of national strategies, programmes, and institutional infrastructure, to facilitate genetic and husbandry improvement programmes in low external input systems. Farmers' associations and breed societies do not exist in many developing countries, and pastoralists' and farmers' knowledge of modern breeding methods is often poor. National institutions and research facilities are needed to make animal husbandry and animal health care services, facilities and techniques available to all livestock keepers and also encourage private sector participation.

Long term goal

Enhanced sustainable use and development of animal genetic resources in all relevant production systems, as a key contribution to achieving sustainable development, poverty eradication, and the adaptation to the effects of climate change.

Strategic Priority 3 **Establish and strengthen national sustainable use policies**

Rationale: Most countries lack comprehensive policies to support the maintenance and development of animal genetic resources held within their territories. Sustainable use policies should balance food security goals and economic development with long-term sustainability and adaptation objectives. In addition, environmental and socio-economic changes, including demographic changes, climate change and desertification, require adaptive medium- and long-term policies and strategies for the management of animal genetic resources. These policies should also consider the contributions of livestock keepers, professional breeders and other actors to animal genetic diversity, respect the interests, rights and obligations of stakeholders, and take into account exchange, access, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from animal genetic resources.

Sustainable use policies should also include consideration of broad genetic variability between and within breeds which is essential for the present and future livestock production. One perspective is to maintain a broad diversity of breeds within economic production systems. The sustainable animal production should be responsive to differing domestic and export market demands, as appropriate, while matching genotypes to production systems. Most countries are aiming to satisfy domestic consumption, while others are also seeking to derive export income from animal production. These objectives should be considered when sustainable genetic improvement programmes are developed and evaluated. Flexible breeding strategies, including selection and also crossbreeding, where appropriate, should be utilised to promote the sustainable development and profitability of livestock sectors. The breeding strategies need to be adaptable to respond to production opportunities and technology.

Action:

1. Review existing national policies on sustainable use to assess their impacts on animal genetic resource management.
2. Develop, as necessary, national policies that incorporate the contribution of animal genetic resources to sustainable use, which may include setting strategic objectives for breeding and sustainable use; conducting economic and cultural valuation of animal genetic resources; and developing approaches, including mechanisms, to support wide access to, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of animal genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Strategic Priority 4 **Establish national species and breed development strategies and programmes**

Rationale: The development and implementation of breeding strategies and programmes to meet foreseeable economic needs of the farming and herding communities and markets are required for all species and breeds. Breeding organisations and recording schemes are highly beneficial in achieving breeding objectives and are crucial for breed development strategies, but are often lacking. Breeding goals should be regularly assessed and take into account the impact of selection on genetic diversity.

Action:

1. Develop long-term planning and strategic breeding programmes and consider a number of elements, including: efforts to improve under-utilised breeds, especially within low to medium external input production systems; assessments of the impact of exotic animal breeds and the development of measures for producers to realize positive impacts and prevent negative impacts; training and technical support for the breeding activities of pastoralist and farming communities; and the integration of improved husbandry practices in animal genetic resources development programmes. Whereas plans and programmes developed will be national, [in some cases cooperation with other countries may be required.] / [, others are transboundary in nature.]
2. Assess breed development programmes and revise, as appropriate, with the aim of meeting foreseeable economic and social needs and market demands, bearing in mind scientific and technological parameters. The information about breeds and production systems could be made available to consumers.
3. Establish and develop organisational structures of breeding programmes, especially breeders' organisations and breeding schemes, including recording systems.
4. Incorporate consideration of the impact of selection on genetic diversity into breeding programmes and develop approaches to maintain the desired variability.
5. Establish or strengthen recording schemes to monitor changes in non-production traits (e.g. health, welfare) and adjust breeding goals accordingly.
6. Encourage the development of back-up collections of frozen semen and embryos from current breeding schemes to ensure genetic variability.
7. Provide information to farmers and livestock keepers to assist in facilitating access to animal genetic resources from various sources.

Strategic Priority 5 **Promote agro-ecosystems approaches to the management of animal genetic resources**

Rationale: Agro-ecosystems depend on human management practices, knowledge systems, cultural norms, values and beliefs, as well as social relationships and livelihood strategies. In some production systems the management of animal genetic resources, particularly by indigenous and local communities, takes place in close relationship with the management of crops, pasture, forest and other biological resources, and land and water management in productive landscapes. Rapid intensification of production is driven by a number of factors. Inadequate planning of intensive animal production can lead to negative ecological impacts, such as soil and vegetation degradation, water and marine pollution, and the unsustainable use and conversion of rangelands. Management decisions and policies on the sustainable use of animal genetic resources therefore should be based on an understanding of human environments and livelihoods, and efforts to achieve food security and environmental objectives.

Action:

1. Assess environmental and socio-economic trends that may require a medium and long-term policy revision in animal genetic resources management.
2. Integrate agro-ecosystem approaches in national agricultural and environmental policies and programmes of relevance to animal genetic resources, where appropriate, particularly those directed towards pastoralist and rural small-holder communities, and fragile environments.
3. Establish networks to enhance interaction among the main stakeholders, scientific disciplines and sectors involved.

Strategic Priority 6 **Support indigenous and local production systems and associated knowledge systems, of importance to the maintenance and sustainable use of animal genetic resources**

Rationale: Over millennia, animal species and breeds have been domesticated, developed and maintained for human use. These resources have co-evolved with the social, economic and cultural knowledge and management practices. The historic contribution of indigenous and local communities to animal genetic diversity, and the knowledge systems that manage these resources, need to be recognised, and their continuity supported. Today, the adaptive animal genetic resources management strategies of these communities continue to have economic, social and cultural significance, and to be highly relevant to food security in many rural subsistence societies, particularly, though not exclusively, in drylands and mountainous regions. Measures to support such systems should take their specific ecological and socio-economic and cultural features into consideration.

Action:

1. Assess the value and importance of indigenous and local production systems, and identify trends and drivers of change that may affect the genetic base, and the resilience and sustainability of the production systems.
2. Support indigenous and local livestock systems of importance to animal genetic resources, including through the removal of factors contributing to genetic erosion. Support may include the provision of veterinary and extension services, delivery of micro-credit for women in rural areas, appropriate access to natural resources and to the market, resolving land tenure issues, the recognition of cultural practices and values, and adding value to their specialist products.
3. Promote and enable relevant exchange, interaction and dialogue among indigenous and rural communities and scientists and government officials and other stakeholders, in order to integrate traditional knowledge with scientific approaches.
4. Promote the development of niche markets for products derived from indigenous and local species and breeds, and to strengthen processes to add value to their primary products.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: CONSERVATION

Introduction

30. The erosion of animal genetic resources is a long-term threat to ensuring food security and rural development. According to *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, 20 percent of all reported breeds are at risk of extinction, however, the population status of many breeds is still unknown, and the problem may thus be underestimated. Most developing countries and some developed countries do not currently have animal genetic resources conservation strategies or policies in place. Without strategically planned interventions, using both *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation, erosion will continue and may accelerate.

31. The main underlying factors that result in some cases in the loss of animal genetic resources are:

- The focus on a few high-output breeds;
- The lack of adequate policies, leading to the marginalisation of relevant stakeholders, such as pastoralists, socio-economic changes leading to transformation of production systems and livelihoods, and disasters (natural and man-made); and
- The transformation of traditional systems into external input-oriented systems, often by using exotic animal genetic resources that displace local breeds. The indiscriminate cross-breeding with exotic breeds is also rapidly compromising the genetic integrity of local populations.

32. Loss of local breeds will cause cultural erosion and diminish the ability of communities to maintain their cultures and livelihoods. Structural changes in the livestock sector may result in a situation where the previous keepers of a breed are no longer in a position to maintain it: in such circumstances, other ways need to be identified to preserve the breed, as part of the global heritage of animal genetic resources.

33. Loss of animal genetic resources reduces opportunities to develop rural economies in some countries. It may also have negative social and cultural impacts, given the long history of domestication and the resulting incorporation of domestic animals into community culture. Replacement of indigenous breeds could result in the loss of products and services preferred by local people, and the conservation of local breeds must therefore be considered within the broader context of sustaining rural communities and their existing economic foundations. Moreover, such losses now may limit future development options, based on animal products and services from specific breeds, that otherwise could have added considerable economic value, as consumer demands become more varied.

34. The loss of local breeds may have negative environmental impacts in some production environments, especially in drylands and mountainous areas. Many Country Reports indicated the importance of local breeds in contributing to landscape management, vegetation control, and rangeland ecosystem sustainability, preventing the erosion of associated biodiversity.

35. Many breeds at risk are in developing countries, which have limited capacity and resources for designing and implementing conservation programmes. These breeds often possess unique genetic traits that enable their survival in a diverse range of production environments with intense stresses, such as disease and drought.

36. Appropriate conservation measures should ensure that farmers and researchers have access to a diverse gene pool for further breeding and research. This genetic diversity provides an essential resource to cope with the impacts of climate change, pest and disease outbreaks, and new and growing consumer demands. Strategic and considered investment in the conservation of animal genetic

resources is of critical importance and international collaboration is essential to halt the serious decline of these resources.

37. In most developing countries, *in situ* conservation is the preferred conservation approach. *In situ* conservation has the benefit of allowing continued co-evolution of the genetic resources within the prevailing environment. *Ex situ* conservation measures are complementary to *in situ* approaches and should be linked where appropriate. However, the capacity for *ex situ* conservation varies significantly among countries, but *ex situ* conservation efforts generally for animal genetic resources, lag far behind similar efforts for plant genetic resources. The storage of genetic material for breeding purposes is common for some commercial breeds, but not in all species. However, for local animal breeds , the collection and storage of animal genetic material has not been adequate. In such cases, it is important to support planned and targeted collecting of animal genetic resources, and to expand *ex situ* conservation activities.

38. Emergency situations for farm animals are caused by a variety of factors such as disease, natural disaster, armed conflict and economic crises. There is significant variation in the preparedness of countries to respond to emergency situations. A lack of early warning systems and financial resources are the main constraints to establishing effective and consistent monitoring and emergency response mechanisms, and in assisting farmers and livestock keepers after disaster situations to restore agricultural systems.

Long term goal

Secure the diversity and integrity of the genetic base of animal genetic resources by better implementing and harmonising measures to conserve these resources, both *in situ* and *ex situ*, including in the context of emergencies and disasters.

Strategic Priority 7 **Establish national conservation policies**

Rationale: Countries have a responsibility to conserve their animal genetic resources, however, most countries lack comprehensive policies. Such policies should serve to ensure the maintenance of animal genetic resources with direct values for human use, including production, ecological, social and cultural values, as well as option values for future use and adaptation. Production and functional traits, and national capacity, should be taken into consideration in setting conservation priorities. The erosion of animal genetic resources has complex drivers and cannot be halted by one simple solution. A combination of *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation measures is necessary.

Action:

1. Set and regularly review conservation priorities and goals.
2. Assess factors leading to the erosion of animal genetic resources and formulate appropriate policy responses. Establish or strengthen information systems on animal breeding approaches as well as on different gene banks, as they affect animal genetic diversity, in order to enable breeders and countries to make appropriate choices in their improvement programmes.
3. Establish institutional structures and policies, as appropriate, including specific measures to conserve breeds at risk of extinction, and to prevent breeds from becoming at risk. A combination of *in situ* and *ex situ* measures is necessary.

4. Provide and catalyze [non-trade-distorting] incentives for producers and consumers to support conservation of animal genetic resources [at risk].

Strategic Priority 8 **Establish or strengthen in situ conservation programmes**

Rationale: *In situ* conservation measures allow for the maintenance and adaptive management of animal genetic resources in productive landscapes. *In situ* measures facilitate continued co-evolution in diverse environments, and avoid stagnation of the genetic stock. *In situ* conservation measures are best based on agro-ecosystem approaches and, ideally, should be established through economically profitable and socially beneficial sustainable use. However, in some instances this can only be achieved after initial investments in creating markets and in product development. [In cases where this is not possible, direct support, including non-trade distorting direct payment for the *in situ* conservation of animal genetic resources as well as agro-environmental services may be necessary.]

Action:

1. Set and regularly review *in situ* conservation priorities and goals.
2. Encourage the development and implementation of national and regional *in situ* conservation programmes for breeds and populations that are at risk. This may include [non-trade-distorting] [support, either directly for breeders of threatened breeds, or] measures to support agricultural production systems that manage areas of importance to breeds at risk, the encouragement of breed organizations, community-based conservation organisations, non-governmental organizations and other actors to participate in conservation efforts.
3. Promote policies and means to achieve the sustainable use of a diversity of local breeds, without the need for support from public funds or extra funding, through *in situ* conservation.

Strategic Priority 9 **Establish or strengthen ex situ conservation programmes**

Rationale: *Ex situ* conservation measures provide back-up insurance against losses of animal genetic resources in the field, either through erosion or as a result of emergencies. *Ex situ* measures are complementary to *in situ* measures, and should be linked, where appropriate. *Ex situ* collections can also play an active role in strategic breeding programmes.

Action:

1. Set and regularly review *ex situ* conservation priorities and goals.
2. Establish or strengthen national and regional facilities for *ex situ* conservation, in particular cryogenic storage. Support the efforts of countries within a region that have opted to establish a regional facility.
3. Establish modalities to facilitate use of genetic material stored in *ex situ* gene banks under fair and equitable arrangements for storage, access and use of animal genetic resources.
4. Develop and implement measures to secure *ex situ* collections from loss of genetic diversity resulting from disease outbreaks and other threats, in particular by establishing back-up samples.

5. Identify and fill gaps in *ex situ* collections.
6. Develop procedures for replenishment of genetic material taken from gene banks, by systematically developing links with live populations, or establishing in vivo populations of breeds at risk at off-farm locations, such as zoos and parks.

Strategic Priority 10 **Develop and implement regional and global long term conservation strategies**

Rationale: There are considerable numbers of regional and international transboundary breeds. Collaboration for *in situ* conservation is desirable for regional transboundary breeds and for transhumant livestock populations held by pastoralist communities that cross national boundaries. To ensure the highest efficiency and cost-saving in implementing *ex situ* conservation measures, regional and global strategies and facilities may be preferred over the duplication of national efforts, providing that modalities are developed for sharing facilities among countries and that the conservation policy remain part of national sovereignty[, in accordance with their international trade obligations]. In the medium and long-term, and taking into account likely environmental and socio-economic change, as well as disasters and emergencies, it is likely that international interdependence with regard to animal genetic resources will increase. This provides further cause to the international community to collaborate on conservation measures, for local, regional and international transboundary breeds, under fair and equitable arrangements for storage, access and use of animal genetic resources. Regional and global cooperation should be based on national efforts, but should not replace them.

Action:

1. Assist countries to develop and implement conservation plans for breeds and populations, particularly transboundary breeds and populations, combining *in situ* and *ex situ* measures.
2. Establish integrated support arrangements to protect breeds and populations at risk from emergency or other disaster scenarios, and to enable restocking after emergencies, in line with the national policy.
3. Establish regional and global networks of gene banks for animal genetic resources and harmonize approaches to conservation in gene banks and to facilitating exchange.
4. Facilitate the establishment of core collections of animal genetic diversity, at the appropriate regional or species level.

Strategic Priority 11 **Develop approaches and technical standards for conservation**

Rationale: *In situ* and *ex situ* conservation methods for animal genetic resources are still under development. Particularly in the area of *ex situ* conservation, there is a considerable need for standardised methods and technologies.

Action:

1. Undertake research, including participatory research, to develop *in situ* and *ex situ* methods and technologies, including for conservation breeding. Elaborate standardized methods and guidelines for their use, where necessary.

2. Document and disseminate knowledge, technologies and best practices.
3. Promote the use of appropriate genetic indicators to complement phenotypic characterization as a basis to make decisions on conserving animal genetic resources.
4. Review the impact of zoosanitary standards on the conservation of animal genetic resources and in particular their accessibility.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4: POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Introduction

39. In many cases, national policies and regulatory frameworks for animal genetic resources are still partial and ineffective. Policy and legislative development is required to address the dynamics that are shaping the sector, and deal with increasingly complex emerging issues, such as an increasing focus on consumer affairs, food safety and food standards, response to diseases (animal diseases proper and animal diseases that can pass to humans), the humane treatment of animals, increasingly sophisticated biotechnology, as well as the assessment and mitigation of the environmental impacts of livestock operations. A further area that requires development is the framework for the exchange of animal genetic resources among countries. Policy development should take into account the increasing role of intellectual property rights in the sector, and the need to secure fair and equitable benefit-sharing, the rights of indigenous and local communities, particularly pastoralists, and the role of their knowledge systems.

40. In developing countries an increasing demand for animal production is driving rapid structural change in the livestock sector. Without proper management, including spatial and physical planning aspects as cities expand into previously agricultural lands, there will be major risks for human health and the sustainability of production. Social and economic policies need to aim at ensuring equity for rural populations in the process of change, so that they are enabled to build up, in a sustainable way, their productive capacity to supply goods and services of increasing quantity and quality to expanding national economies, and meet growing consumer demands. In a time of rapid change and growing privatization, national planning will also need to ensure the long-term supply of public goods, such as public health, biodiversity maintenance, and clean air and secure water supplies. There will inevitably be trade-offs between different national policy goals. The management of animal genetic resources will need to be balanced with the other goals, and short- and long-term policies are required for the sector, in the larger cross-sectorial planning framework.

41. In developing countries, in particular a lack of trained personnel – both in terms of numbers and in terms of skills to address animal genetic resources management in a time of rapid social and economic change – is a major impediment to developing and implementing animal genetic resources policies, strategies, programmes and projects. Education and training in order to build sustainable capacity in all priority areas is required.

42. Research at national and international levels in all aspects of animal genetic resources management needs to be strengthened. The role of the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) and their support by the CGIAR system is crucial in this context.

43. Facing these major challenges will require the development of a strong and diverse skills base. In many developing countries, in particular, a lack of human capacity and financial resources is a major obstacle to developing the necessary institutions, and planning and implementing a strategic approach to using, developing and conserving animal genetic resources. For this reason, and in order to achieve sustainable use, development and conservation of their animal genetic resources, many countries will need to devote particular attention to establishing and building up the relevant

institutions, to adopting and implementing appropriate policies and effective regulatory frameworks, and to building the human capacity they need.

44. National Focal Points for animal genetic resources – established in the context of the Global Strategy – are a key institutional element through which to build and maintain networks for the management of animal genetic resources. Most countries have established a National Focal Point for animal genetic resources. Serious human and financial resources constraints have made their establishment difficult, and still threaten their continuity. Cooperation between countries is needed to set up Regional Focal Points and develop regional networks.

45. Networks are important in linking stakeholders, and in supporting institutional development and capacity-building. In some countries, where they are well developed, they draw upon the support of active non-governmental organizations, such as breeders' associations, which design, plan and implement animal genetic resources programmes and action plans.

46. In addition to developing national planning capacity, popular awareness of the importance of animal genetic resources needs to be developed, in order to promote investments in developing national animal genetic resources. In many instances to date, livestock development has focused on the deployment of exotic breeds, rather than the development and conservation of local breeds. Consumers will need to understand and support efforts to conserve and use the local breeds, rather than over-reliance on transboundary breeds. In many developed countries, the share of high-value products, linking back to specific breeds, is contributing to the maintenance of animal diversity. Cultural identity in developing countries, often expressed in food preferences, can be the basis for a growing awareness of the value of diverse breeds, and underwrite long-term economic development, including for small farmers and currently marginal communities.

47. Awareness-building at the international level will also be a key factor in mobilizing popular support and international collaboration for the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*.

Long term goal

Established cross-cutting policies and legal frameworks, and strong institutional and human capacities to achieve the successful medium- and long-term planning for livestock sector development, and the implementation of national programmes for the long-term sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources.

Strategic Priority 12 **Establish or strengthen national institutions, including national focal points, for planning and implementing animal genetic resources measures, for livestock sector development**

Rationale: Increasingly complex issues are emerging within the livestock sector that require balancing of the interests of a variety of stakeholders, and the active promotion of the generation of public goods that may otherwise cease to be produced in a time of rapid and unregulated change. Consumer affairs, human health matters and the management of new biotechnologies, as well as physical and spatial planning of animal production in the context of urban expansion and protected areas, need to be integrated into national planning in a holistic manner.

Action:

1. Analyse national institutional capacity in support of holistic planning of the livestock sector.
2. Establish or strengthen fully functional National Focal Points for animal genetic resources.

3. Develop strong national co-ordination between the national focal point and stakeholders involved in animal genetic resources, such as the breeding industry, government agencies, civil society organisations, and networks and advisory committees.
4. Develop and implement intervention tools, as appropriate, for national planners to shape the future development of the livestock sector in accordance with national priorities, including in relation to the deployment of animal genetic resources, and the effects of animal production systems on the environment.
5. Promote coordination and synergy between the different authorities dealing with various aspects of planning, within and across ministries, as well as with other stakeholders and ensure their participation in the process.

Strategic Priority 13 **Establish or strengthen national educational and research facilities**

Rationale: Research and education needs strengthening in all areas of management of animal genetic resources. Establishing, strengthening and maintaining research and education institutions is key to building national capacities to plan and implement priority activities for the characterization, inventory and monitoring of risks and trends; sustainable use and development; and conservation of animal genetic resources.

Action:

1. Identify the short, medium and long-term needs for research and education, and promote the formation of the relevant cadres of experts, nationally, or through international training.
2. Review national research and education capacities, in relevant fields, and establish targets for training to build the national skill base.
3. Establish or strengthen, in partnership with other countries, as appropriate, relevant research, training and extension institutions, including national and regional agricultural research systems, to support efforts to characterize, inventory and monitor trends and associated risks, sustainably use and develop, and conserve animal genetic resources.
4. Review the national educational needs of livestock keepers, while respecting traditional knowledge and indigenous practices.

Strategic Priority 14 **Strengthen national human capacity for characterization, inventory, and monitoring of trends and associated risks, for sustainable use and development, and for conservation.**

Rationale: Many countries have inadequate human capacity to:

- undertake systematic characterisation, inventory, and monitoring trends and associated risks to underpin policy decisions;
- strategically plan, develop and implement policies and programmes for sustainable use and development; and
- strategically plan, develop and implement policies and programmes for the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of animal genetic resources.

Training, as well as exchange of information and experience within and between countries and regions would be beneficial.

Action:

1. Establish or strengthen training and technology transfer programmes, and information systems for the inventory, characterisation and monitoring of trends and associated risks; sustainable use and development; and conservation, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
2. Establish or strengthen collaborative networks of researchers, breeders and conservation organizations, and other public, civil and private actors, within and between countries, for information and knowledge exchange for sustainable use, breeding and conservation.
3. Establish or strengthen community based organizations, networks and initiatives for sustainable use, breeding and conservation.

Strategic Priority 15 **Establish or strengthen international information sharing, research and education**

Rationale: Established international research and education institutions, including in the CGIAR system, provide major public goods through research and capacity-building, as well as through information systems, of relevance to animal genetic resources. FAO, through its technical programmes, also contributes actively to this work.

Action:

1. Establish or strengthen international research and education, in particular to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to better use and develop animal genetic resources.
2. Continue to develop the FAO Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS), as a global communication tool and clearing-house mechanism for animal genetic resources.
3. Develop means for reporting on the status and trends of national animal genetic resources that may also assist governments in relevant reporting in other international forums, to reduce the overall reporting burden.
4. Establish and strengthen the development of national databases to enable information sharing among countries.

Strategic Priority 16 **Strengthen international cooperation to build capacities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, for:**

- **characterisation, inventory, and monitoring of trends and associated risks;**
- **sustainable use and development; and**
- **conservation of animal genetic resources.**

Rationale: There are significant differences within and between regions in national human, institutional, technological and research capacities for inventory, characterization and monitoring of trends and associated risks; sustainable use and development; and conservation - both *in situ* and *ex situ* - of animal genetic resources. Developing countries and countries with economies in transition will greatly benefit from information exchange and collaboration with countries with comparative advantages in these areas. International action is particularly required for endangered breeds and for transboundary breeds, which may have a narrow genetic base.

Action:

1. Build or strengthen technical cooperation and establish facilities for technology transfer and exchange of experience, and enhance educational and other training opportunities, between countries, considering the particular interest of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
2. Establish or strengthen international collaboration in the characterization, use and development, and conservation of transboundary breeds.

Strategic Priority 17 **Establish Regional Focal Points and strengthen international networks**

Rationale: The management of transboundary breeds and populations, as well as specific regional socio-economic, cultural and environmental characteristics, provide a rationale for co-ordination and collaboration at the regional level. Investment in joint activities (such as gene banking) may often be more efficient and cost-effective than the multiplication of overlapping national activities.

Action:

1. Support the establishment of country-driven Regional Focal Points for animal genetic resources, where appropriate.
2. Establish or strengthen and maintain regional networks, including regional data bases, if required, for the use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources.
3. Link regional activities on animal genetic resources to regional organisations.
4. Maintain and strengthen the Global Focal Point at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to promote international networking and collaboration.

Strategic Priority 18 **Raise national awareness of the roles and values of animal genetic resources**

Rationale: Within the livestock sector and in other sectors impacting on the livestock sector, including environmental and broader agricultural and development policies and practices, there is a considerable need to raise awareness of the important roles and values of animal genetic resources. This includes their specific characteristics, the products and services derived from local breeds and the factors impacting their maintenance and use. Such national awareness building should draw attention to the specific features of the livestock sector, and should seek to mobilize support for public and private initiatives for the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources.

Action:

1. Provide targeted, effective information through media, public events and other means to raise awareness about the important roles and values of animal genetic resources. This should address their specific characteristics and the subsequent special policy needs for their sustainable use, development and conservation, including the contribution [and][,] needs [and rights] of livestock keeping communities.

Target audiences include policy makers, all major stakeholders within the livestock sector and related sectors, and the general public.

Strategic Priority 19 **Raise regional and international awareness of the roles and values of animal genetic resources**

Rationale: There is a need to raise awareness – including within environmental and broader agricultural and development institutions and forums, and among other stakeholders, such as donors and civil society – of the important roles and values of animal genetic resources, their specific characteristics and the consequent needs for sustainable use, development and conservation.

Action:

1. Support regional and international campaigns to raise awareness of the status of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, and seek to develop wide support at government and institutional levels, as well as among the general public.

Strategic Priority 20 **Review and develop national policies and legal frameworks for animal genetic resources**

Rationale: A range of policies and legal instruments have direct or indirect effects on the use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources. These often pursue different objectives, such as economic development, environmental protection, animal health, food safety, consumer protection, intellectual property rights, genetic resource conservation, and access to and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of animal genetic resources. Enhanced coherence between these instruments and policies is needed, without compromising their objectives, or the key objective of food security, and taking into account the distinctive features of animal genetic resources that need distinctive solutions. Means for access and benefit-sharing need to be taken into account.

Action:

1. Periodically review existing national policies and regulatory frameworks, with a view to identifying any possible effects they may have for the use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources, especially with regard to the contribution and needs of local communities keeping livestock.

2. Consider measures to address any effects identified in reviews of policy and legal frameworks. Measures may include policy or legislative changes, or adjustments at the level of implementation, taking into account the need to balance the goals and objectives of the relevant legal instruments and policies, and the interests of different stakeholders.

3. Encourage consistency of national law and policies concerning animal genetic resources with relevant international agreements, as appropriate.

4. Ensure that relevant research results are taken into consideration in the development of national policies and regulations on animal genetic resources.

Strategic Priority 21 **Review and develop international policies and regulatory frameworks relevant to animal genetic resources**

Rationale: International policies and regulatory agreements may directly or indirectly affect the use of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture. The dominant policies and frameworks that affect the development of the animal genetic resources sector are often general, and deal with such matters as economic development, trade standards, environmental protection, food safety, access and benefit-sharing and intellectual property. Sector-specific international agreements include animal health standards and food standards for animal products. It is important to ensure that international instruments to which countries are parties, which impact upon their ability to exchange, use and conserve animal genetic resources, and trade in animal products, are mutually supportive.

Action:

1. Review existing international agreements that impact upon the use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources, with a view to ensuring that the international policies and regulatory frameworks take into account the special importance of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture for food security, the distinctive features of these resources needing distinctive solutions, the importance of science and innovation, and the needs to balance the goals and objectives of the various agreements, as well as the interests of regions, countries and stakeholders, including livestock keepers.
2. Review the implications and impacts of international agreements and developments relevant to access to animal genetic resources and sharing the benefits of their use, upon animal genetic resources stakeholders, especially livestock keepers.

Strategic Priority 22 **Coordinate the Commission's efforts on Animal Genetic Resources Policy with other International Forums**

Rationale: The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is FAO's standing inter-governmental forum where countries discuss policies and sectorial and cross-sectorial matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture. Other international organisations and forums regularly discuss issues and develop policy and regulatory measures that directly or indirectly affect the management of animal genetic resources and the roles and interests of the various stakeholders in the livestock sector. Such forums include the CBD, WIPO, WTO, OIE, and Codex Alimentarius. There is a need to enhance synergy and harmony between such processes.

Action:

1. Develop cooperation with and strengthen the involvement and contributions of international organizations and forums in supporting the work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on animal genetic resources.

***[* Strategic Priority 23** **Strengthen efforts to mobilize resources, [including financing], for the conservation, sustainable use and development of animal genetic resources**

Rationale: Global efforts to mobilize resources for the conservation, sustainable use and development of animal genetic resources, both nationally and internationally, fall far short of the needs [, and of the level of resources devoted to general biodiversity conservation, or to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture]. The success of the [*Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*] will depend on the [increased] mobilization of resources, in line with needs identified [, in balance with other priorities].

Action:

1. Enhance efforts to assist stakeholders [and government] in the design of programmes and policies for the conservation, sustainable use and development of animal genetic resources, [able to secure adequate] [with the aim of securing adequate] funding, particularly for developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
2. [Ensure sustained commitments to the relevant international institutions.]
3. Develop a Follow-up Mechanism or Follow-up Mechanisms for the implementation of the [*Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*] [, within the existing structure provided by the Global Focal Point].
4. [Mobilize resources and obtain financial commitments to support] / [Help put in place to support] *ex situ* backup systems to protect against the risk of emergency or disaster scenarios.
5. Strengthen financial cooperation and establish facilities for technology transfer and exchange of experience, and enhance educational and other training opportunities, between countries.
6. [Ensure coordination at national and regional levels among donors on animal genetic resources.] *]*

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APPENDIX D, ANNEX 2

[No text]

[[AGREEMENT ON] IMPLEMENTATION AND FINANCING OF THE *GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES*

1. *[* The *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* provides an important and effective international framework for advancing efforts to ensure the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, and will contribute to efforts to achieve world food security and to eradicate poverty. *]*

2. *[* Implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* will require substantial, long-term strategic investments [and incentives] for national, regional and international animal genetic resources programmes. The process should encourage and support the participation of farmers, pastoralists and breeders[,governments, regional and international organisations, scientists and researchers]; local and indigenous communities; organizations and institutions; the private sector; and civil society. Regional and international collaboration will be crucial. *]*

3. *[* Overall progress in the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* would be assessed by national governments and Members of FAO, through the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. In order to discharge this function, the Commission would need to address the priority areas of the *Global Plan of Action* [at its meetings] [in an organized and focussed manner, within the context of the Commission's Multi-year Programme of Work] [, without prejudice to national priorities]. *]*

4. *[* The *Global Plan of Action* will assist the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to fulfil its mandate, and that overall progress in its implementation and of related follow-up processes would be monitored and guided by Members of FAO, through the Commission. In order to discharge this function, the Commission will need to develop a phased programme within its Multi-year Programme of Work for reviewing progress in the implementation of the rolling *Global Plan of Action* to facilitate updating. To this end, Members are encouraged to agree, through the Commission, on the format for progress reports from all parties concerned and criteria and indicators to assess implementation progress. *]* ***OR*** *[* In order to facilitate the evaluation referred to in previous paragraphs, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture should agree on the modalities for the presentation of the necessary reports, as well as the criteria and parameters for the evaluation of the process in the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*. *]*

5. *[* It will be necessary to periodically assess the status and trends of animal genetic resources, especially in light of the large number of breeds that are at risk of being lost globally. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture should regularly receive status and trends reports on animal genetic resources and factors influencing change, providing an early warning system for animal genetic resources. *]*

6. *[* In light of the findings of reports on progress in implementation and reports on status and trends, the conclusions of the Commission should be brought to the attention of concerned governments and international institutions to fill gaps, rectify imbalances or lack of coordination, and to consider new initiatives or activities. *]*

7. *[* The main responsibility for implementing the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* rests with national governments. The need for effective National Focal Points for Animal Genetic Resources, and the importance of national networks to mobilize and engage stakeholders in

the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* is recognised. Each country will determine its own priorities in light of those agreed in the *Global Plan of Action* and within the framework of its food [security] and agriculture development needs, and as appropriate, cooperate with other nations and international organizations. *]*

8. *[* The international networks for animal genetic resources should be encouraged and strengthened through implementation of the *Global Plan of Action,* noting the important role of Regional Focal Points and regional networking to build collaborative partnerships, to coordinate regional management efforts in animal genetic resources, to further develop information sharing, and for technical cooperation, training and research. *]*

9. *[* The essential role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in supporting country-driven efforts to implement the *Global Plan of Action*, especially to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition [is recognised]. [Continuing to facilitate global and regional collaboration and networks, supporting the convening of intergovernmental meetings, maintaining and further developing the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System, mobilizing donor resources for animal genetic resources, establishing a portfolio of country and regional projects, developing communications products, and coordinating future preparation of global status and trends reports on animal genetic resources, [are] [were affirmed as] key functions for the Organization.] *]*

10. *[* The importance of developing and transferring technologies related to the inventory, characterization, sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources, and other aspects related to the management of these resources is recognised. The *Strategic Priorities for Action* underline the need for technical development and collaboration. Implementation of the four Priority Areas requires information exchange, collaborative involvement, and coordination among governments, international agencies, non-governmental organizations and others, to organize and conduct training and research initiatives throughout the world. *]*

11. *[* The need to promote the provision of technical assistance, especially to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, either bilaterally or through appropriate national and international organizations, with the objective of facilitating implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* is recognised. Developed countries should undertake to facilitate access to and transfer of appropriate technologies, in order to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement their national programmes for animal genetic resources, while respecting applicable property rights and access laws. *]*

12. *[* The technical guidelines and assistance, and coordinated training programmes prepared by FAO have been instrumental in advancing work on animal genetic resources. This essential role should continue in future to assist all countries to implement the *Global Plan of Action*. *]*

13. *[* Significant, [but indeterminate], funding for animal genetic resources for food and agriculture is currently provided by national governments and other domestic sources of funds, as well as from multilateral and bilateral organizations and regional sources. [Despite the efforts to increase public awareness through national governments, international organisations and agencies, the necessary financial resources for the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* by developing countries and countries with economies in transition are clearly and dramatically insufficient.] [Full implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* requires significant increases in activities and investments, commensurate with the scope of the *Global Plan of Action*.] *]*

14. *[* The non-sustainable flow of financial resources to developing countries and countries with economies in transition causes an intermittent level of activities on the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture. The full implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* would require significant increases in activities and investments, commensurate with the scope of the *Global Plan of Action*. *]*

15. *[* The need for [new and] additional [sources of] funding, to support priority activities, and to overcome gaps in capacity [and technology transfer] is recognised, and implementation will need to be progressive. *[*Each country should make every effort to [comply with] [provide, in accordance with its capacities, financial support and incentives with respect to] national strategic priorities that are intended to achieve the objectives of the *Global Plan of Action*[, in accordance with national plans, policies and programmes].*]]*

16. *[* International cooperation should be [ensured] [strengthened] to facilitate the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, in particular to support and complement the efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. *]*

17. The major multilateral and bilateral funding and development institutions should be invited to examine ways and means of supporting the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*. [Such funding should come from developed countries and/or other sources, and should, where possible, seek to facilitate the leveraging of other funding sources and mechanisms, and assist countries to implement the *Global Plan of Action.*][Every effort should be made to seek new and innovative sources of funding and the leveraging of available financial resources.] Non-governmental organizations and the private sector should be encouraged to participate and support implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*.

18. Countries should promote the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, in particular through national actions. These should be complemented, as appropriate, by international cooperation in order to provide a coherent framework [and financial assistance] for exchange of information [, access to and transfer of technology] and capacity building.

19. *[* To this end, the FAO should ensure adequate regular programme support for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. *]*

20. In addition, FAO should pursue within relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies, means by which they might contribute to the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*. Presentation of the *Global Plan of Action* within these institutions as well as regular mutual reporting on activities within the strategic priorities of the *Global Plan of Action* will be appropriate instruments in this context.

21. *[* Governments should, in support of the above-mentioned activities, take the necessary and appropriate measures within relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies to ensure due priority and attention to the effective allocation of predictable and agreed resources for the implementation of activities within the strategic priority areas of the *Global Plan of Action.]*

22. *[* Furthermore, Governments of developed countries should attach due attention to the implementation of activities within the strategic priority areas of the *Global Plan of Action* through bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation. *]*

23. Voluntary contributions may also be provided, in particular by the private sector and non-governmental organisations into an appropriate mechanism, such as a Trust Account, to be established at the FAO.

24. *[* A suitable format for receiving progress reports as well as adequate criteria and indicators to assess the implementation progress of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* is of major importance. This should not duplicate existing efforts. Therefore, there is a need to continue and improve monitoring of sustainable use of animal genetic resources, based as appropriate on national identification of breeds being at risk, complete national inventories and to seek funding for this process at all levels. Early warning should be dealt with in the context of monitoring. *]]*

APPENDIX D, ANNEX 3

DRAFT
INTERLAKEN DECLARATION ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

1. In recognition of the essential roles and values of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, in particular, their contribution to food security for present and future generations; aware of the threats to food security and to the sustainable livelihoods of rural communities posed by the loss and erosion of these resources; we, the representatives of (*number of States and the number of Organizations*) have gathered together in Interlaken, Switzerland, at the invitation of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and hosted by the Government of Switzerland, at this First International Technical Conference for Animal Genetic Resources, aware of our responsibilities and the many challenges that must be addressed, but convinced and confident that progress can and should be made. [This International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources is a major contribution to establishing an effective international framework for the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, and world food security.]

2. We recognise that states have sovereign rights over their animal genetic resources for food and agriculture.

3. Confirming our common [and individual] [but differentiated] responsibilities in respect of [the sustainable management of] animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, we recognise the interdependence of countries [, regions] and peoples regarding these resources [and the importance of access to them].

4. We commit ourselves to achieving the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture [, and to the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of these resources]. [Access to these resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their sustainable use must continue to be a priority.] Our objective is to enhance world food security, improve human nutritional status, and contribute to rural development.

5. We welcome *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, which was developed in a country-driven process under the guidance of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the FAO. It is the first comprehensive worldwide assessment of the state of animal genetic resources and provides the basis for the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources.*

6. We recognize that existing diversity in animal species is not used to the extent possible for increased food production, improved human nutrition, and to further sustain rural communities, or for more efficient production systems. We note with alarm the significant ongoing loss of livestock breeds. [This] / [The] continuing erosion and loss of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture [will] / [would] compromise efforts to achieve food security, improve human nutritional status and enhance rural development. We acknowledge that efforts to further conserve, develop, improve and sustainably use animal genetic resources should be enhanced.

7. *[* Observing the alarming rate of erosion in animal genetic resources, immediate action should be taken to conserve endangered animal species and breeds in their centres of diversity. *]*

8. We recognize that the genetic resources of animal species most critical to food security, sustainable livelihoods and human well-being are the result of both natural [evolution] [development] and directed selection by small-holders, farmers, pastoralists and breeders, throughout the world, over generations. The result is a wide variety of livestock breeds that provide a diverse stream of benefits to

humanity and the environment. We are conscious that all countries will need to play their part in conserving these resources as a basis for livestock development, food security and the better nutrition of their rural and urban populations, as well as to sustain their rural communities [and cultural heritage].

9. We acknowledge that maintaining the diversity of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture is essential to enable farmers, pastoralists and animal breeders to meet current and future production challenges resulting from changes in the environment, including climate change; to enhance resistance to disease and parasites; and to respond to changes in consumer demand for animal products. We also recognize the intrinsic value of biological diversity and the environmental, social, economic, medicinal, scientific, educational [,] [and] cultural [and] [spiritual] importance of breeds of livestock, and our ethical responsibility to ensure genetic resources are available to future human generations.

10. We are aware that the demand for meat, milk and other animal products is dramatically increasing. The sustainable use, development, and conservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture will make a vital contribution to achieving the goals of the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, the World Food Summit Plan of Action, as well as the *Millennium Development Goals,* in particular Goal 1*: eradication of extreme poverty and hunger*, and Goal 7: *ensure environmental sustainability*. The sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture make an essential contribution to facilitating the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

11. [We recognize the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers, pastoralists and animal breeders of all regions of the world have made, and will continue to make for the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture.] [We recognise the enormous historic and relevant contribution of all persons engaged in animal husbandry, who have moulded animal genetic resources to meet societal needs. It is their ownership and management of animal genetic resources that has enabled them to make important contributions in the past and it is this ownership and management that should be ensured for future societal benefits.] We affirm that they [should] / [shall] participate in the fair and equitable sharing benefits arising from the utilization of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture. We affirm the desirability of [protecting] / [preserving] traditional knowledge relevant to animal breeding and production as a contribution to sustainable livelihoods, and the need for the participation of local and indigenous communities, farmers [,] [and] pastoralists[,] [and] [animal breeders] [and consumers] in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources.

12. We are aware that future demand for animal products must be met within the context of sustainable agriculture and development, and that this will require integrated approaches to economic development and the pursuit of social, cultural and environmental objectives. We understand the need for adopting management approaches that combine the best of traditional and modern knowledge and technologies, and the need to apply the agro-ecosystem approach and integrated natural resource management practices.

13. We acknowledge that major gaps and weaknesses exist in national and international capacities to inventory, monitor, characterize, sustainably use, develop and conserve animal genetic resources. We recognize the need for substantial financial resources, long-term support and [appropriate] [incentives] for national and international animal genetic resources programmes, to increase world food security and contribute to sustainable rural development. We affirm the need to review institutional capacity, management structures, programmes and policies, to identify deficiencies and address them through strengthening national capabilities, particularly in developing countries. We call for enhanced partnerships among governments, scientists, farmers, pastoralists, breeders and consumers, to build upon ongoing efforts to manage animal genetic resources and overcome major gaps and weaknesses.

14. We recognise that access to and the sharing of both genetic resources and related technologies are essential for world food security and the needs of the growing world population, and [must] / [should] be facilitated, consistent with relevant international obligations and relevant national laws. [Such access] / [Access] to and transfer of technology [and, in particular in the case of technologies for use in] [associated with the] conservation [and sustainable use of animal genetic resources] as well as technologies for the benefit of farmers, pastoralists and animal breeders **[**in developing countries, especially in least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, [shall] / [should] be provided and/or facilitated under fair and most favourable terms */*including on concessional and preferential terms, where mutually agreed, *inter alia,***]** through partnerships in research and development.*/* [In the case of technology subject to patents and other intellectual property rights, access and transfer of technology should be provided on terms which recognise and are consistent with the adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights.]

15. We recognise that the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture will require the support and participation of farmers, pastoralists and breeders; local and indigenous communities; organizations and institutions; the private sector; and civil society. We recognize the need to promote technical and financial cooperation at regional and international level among countries, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

16. At this first International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources, we have adopted the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*. We are convinced of the utmost importance of integrating it into national biological diversity and agriculture policies, plans and programmes, and indispensable national, regional and international cooperation. This *Global Plan of Action* provides a comprehensive and coherent framework for enhancing management activities in relation to animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, including through strengthening policies, institutions and building capacity. Implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* will contribute to creating synergies among on-going activities, as well as facilitate the most efficient use of available financial and human resources [and more efforts must be done for maintaining enough financial resources for supporting developing countries].

[14 bis - We acknowledge that the provision of new and additional resources can make a substantial difference in the world's ability to address the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture. We therefore strongly recommend that concrete steps be taken to ensure a significant increase in financial resources to support the implementation of the Global Plan of Action by developing countries and countries with economies in transition]

17. [We recognise that the main responsibility for implementing the *Global Plan of Action* rests with national governments] [, according to their capacity].We undertake to honour our commitments to taking the necessary steps to implement the *Global Plan of Action*, in accordance with our national capacities. We invite all people and their communities and organizations to join us in our common cause.

18. We acknowledge the essential role of the Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in supporting country driven efforts in implementing the *Global Plan of Action.* We invite the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to oversee, assess and report on progress in the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*.

Adopted this 7th day of September, 2007

APPENDIX E

THE COMMISSION'S MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK: MAJOR OUTPUTS AND MILESTONES

	12th Session	13th Session	14th Session	15th Session	16th Session
Plant Genetic Resources (PGRFA)	Presentation of *The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources*	Consideration of the updated *Global Plan of Action* for adoption, and review of cooperation with the International Treaty			Update of *The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources*
Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR)	Follow-up to the Interlaken Conference		Review of implementation of Interlaken outcomes		Update of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*
Aquatic Genetic Resources (AqGR)		Review of information base for aquatic genetic resources, and key issues for *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources*	Presentation of *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources*	Development of elements related to the *Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries* aimed to maintain a broad genetic basis and to ensure sustainable use and conservation of aquatic genetic resources	
Forest Genetic Resources (FoGR)	Analysis of key issues in forest genetic resources, for *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*		Presentation of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*		
Micro-organisms and invertebrates	Review of scoping study on Micro-organisms and invertebrates		Review of key issues on micro-organisms and invertebrates	Review of work on micro-organisms and invertebrates	
Cross-sectorial matters	Consideration of policies and arrangements for access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture	Review ways and means [of promoting][considering] [for] the application and integration of biotechnologies in the conservation and utilization of genetic resources [as a basis for future work such as, the development of guidelines, consideration of Codes of Conduct or other work]	Review of all relevant international targets and indicators for biodiversity for food and food and agriculture	Consideration of the internalization of the ecosystem approach to biodiversity management in agriculture, forestry and fisheries Review of contribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals	Presentation of *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*
Management of the Multi-year Programme of Work		Progress Report/ Periodic assessment/ Review of the Multi-year Programme of Work		Progress Report/ Periodic assessment/ Review of the Multi-year Programme of Work	

APPENDIX F

STATEMENT BY ARGENTINA

Referring to Agenda Item 6.4: ***The ecosystem approach applied to biodiversity for food and agriculture***

Argentina endorses the need to analyse the conceptual aspects of an agro-ecosystem approach, as formulated in FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources and the Commission's Multi-year Programme of Work.

This is because food and agriculture are based on production systems and an agricultural ecosystem that is a special type of ecosystem, in which human intervention through production activity modifies the processes and interactions of a cropping system and which differs in various aspects from a natural ecosystem.

Argentina considers the ecosystem approach for food and agriculture (agro-ecosystems) to be appropriate, as complex systems are involved whose characteristics are determined by their components and the interplay of those components, within a management framework of human socio-cultural impact on decisions and their continuous adjustment.

In addition, cultivated species originate from wild species which, throughout history, humans have bred to hone the traits desired. This process is not finished, but is ongoing and will continue into the future.

Therefore and given that we cannot pre-determine the species of present or future interest for food and agriculture, we need to ensure that there is a close interrelationship, but not overlapping, between the work of different international forums on natural agro-ecosystems.

Argentina sees no duplication of effort and/or overlapping between the ecosystem approach of the CBD and an ecosystem approach for food and agriculture. It considers the two to be interrelated. The scope of FAO’s proposed approach needs to be specified, for which the above general considerations could be taken into account.

APPENDIX G

LIST OF DOCUMENTS[1]

Working Documents

CGRFA-11/07/1	Draft provisional agenda
CGRFA-11/07/2	Draft provisional annotated agenda and time-table
CGRFA-11/07/3	Report of the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources
CGRFA-11/07/4	Status of the preparation of the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources
CGRFA-11/07/5	Progress in the preparation of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*
CGRFA-11/07/6	Draft *Strategic Priorities for Action for the Sustainable Use, Development and Conservation of Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*
CGRFA-11/07/7	Implementation and financing of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*
CGRFA-11/07/8	Draft Interlaken Declaration on Animal Genetic Resources
CGRFA-11/07/9	The Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources
CGRFA-11/07/10	Report of the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources
CGRFA-11/07/11	Follow-up to recommendations of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture regarding plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
CGRFA-11/07/12	Progress in the preparation of the second *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture:* a basis to update the rolling *Global Plan of Action*
CGRFA-11/07/13 (CGRFA-10/04/13)	Progress on the draft Code of Conduct on Biotechnology, as it relates to genetic resources for food and agriculture: policy issues, gaps and duplications
CGRFA-11/07/14 Rev.1	Guiding principles for the development of CGIAR Centres'policies to address the possibility of unintentional presence of transgenes in *ex situ* collections
CGRFA-11/07/15.1	The world's forest genetic resources: status and needs
CGRFA-11/07/15.2	The world's aquatic genetic resources: status and needs
CGRFA-11/07/15.3	Biodiversity of micro-organisms and insects for food and agriculture: status and needs
CGRFA-11/07/15.4 Rev.1	The ecosystem approach applied to food and agriculture: status and needs

[1] All documents are available on the Commission's website, at www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/cgrfa11.htm.

CGRFA-11/07/15.5	Cross-sectorial international policy issues and genetic resources: status and needs
CGRFA-11/07/16	Mechanisms for cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
CGRFA-11/07/17	Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity
CGRFA-11/07/18	Cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization
CGRFA-11/07/19.1	Reports from international organizations on their policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity: (1) United Nations and other Inter-governmental Organizations
CGRFA-11/07/19.2	Reports from international organizations on their policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity: (2) International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)
CGRFA-11/07/19.3	Reports from international organizations on their policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity: (3) International Non-governmental Organizations
CGRFA-11/07/19 Add.1 (English only)	Reports from international organizations on their policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity: Reports arrived late for translation
CGRFA-11/07/20.1	Report from FAO on its policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity: (1) Sectorial matters
CGRFA-11/07/20.2	Report from FAO on its policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity: (2) Cross-sectorial matters
CGRFA-11/07/20.3	Report from FAO on its policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity: (3) Priority Areas for Inter-disciplinary Action (PAIAs)
CGRFA-11/07/21	Multi-year Programme of Work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
CGRFA-11/07/21 Add.1	The Multi-year Programme of Work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture - Compendium of ideas and comments
CGRFA-11/07/22	Analysis of the human and financial resources available within the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to support work on the various sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture
CGRFA-11/07/23	Streamlining the operations of the Commission for the implementation of the Multi-year Programme of Work

Information Documents

CGRFA-11/07/Inf.1	Information note for participants
CGRFA-11/07/Inf.2	Statutes of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
CGRFA-11/07/Inf.3	Statutes of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and Members elected by the Tenth Regular Session of the Commission

CGRFA-11/07/Inf.4	Statutes of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and Members elected by the Tenth Regular Session of the Commission
CGRFA-11/07/Inf.5 (English, French and Spanish only)	Statement of competence and voting rights submitted by the European Community and its Member States
CGRFA-11/07/Inf.6 (English only)	The *State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* - Final Version
CGRFA-11/07/Inf.7 (English only)	Progress in the implementation of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources
CGRFA-11/07/Inf.8	Draft *Strategic Priorities for Action* – Chair's Text
CGRFA-11/07/Inf.9 (English only)	Report of the Fourteenth Session of the FAO Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources
CGRFA-11/07/Inf.10 (English only)	Updated information provided by the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), regarding its request for a re-examination of U.S. patent No. 5,894,079
CGRFA-11/07/Inf.11 (English only)	Memorandum of Cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
CGRFA-11/07/Inf.12 Rev.1	List of documents
CGRFA-11/07/Inf.13	List of delegates and observers
CGRFA-11/07/Inf.14 (English only)	Membership of the Commission
CGRFA-11/07/Inf.15 (English only)	Pollinators: neglected biodiversity of importance to food and agriculture
CGRFA-11/07/Inf.16 (English only)	Progress in the preparation of the in-depth review of the implementation of the Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity
CGRFA-11/07/Inf.17 (COAG/2007/6)	Environment and agriculture

Other documents

CGRFA-11/07/Circ.1 (English only)	Food, entomo-phytopathogenic and soil micro-organisms: Italian input paper
CGRFA-11/07/Circ.2 (Spanish only)	Recursos genéticos microbianos en el Simposio de recursos genéticos para América Latina y el Caribe: contribución de Uruguay
CGRFA-11/07/Circ.3 (English only)	Technical issues relating to agricultural microbial genetic resources (AMIGRs), including their characteristics, utilization, preservation and distribution: A draft information paper prepared for the Genetic Resources Policy Committee (GRPC) of the CGIAR
CGRFA-11/07/Circ.4 (English only)	Opening statements (on the Commission's website only: ftp://ftp.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/cgrfa11/r11c4e.pdf)
Background Study Paper No.34 (English only)	Genomics and genetic resources for food and agriculture
Background Study	A typology of the effects of (trans)gene flow on the conservation and

Paper No.35 (English only)	sustainable use of genetic resources
Background Study Paper No. 36 (English only)	Technical review of status and trends of the world's forest genetic resources
Background Study Paper No. 37 (English only)	Status and trends in aquatic genetic resources: a basis for international policy
Background Study Paper No. 38 (English only)	The sustainable management of biodiversity for biological control in food and agriculture: status and needs
Background Study Paper No. 40 (English only)	Plant genetic resources of grassland and forage species

APPENDIX H

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT PRESENTED REPORTS TO THE ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

United Nations and other Inter-Governmental Organizations

African Union
Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI)
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE)
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)
Network for Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA)
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Southern African Development Community Plant Genetic (SADC-PGRC)
The World Bank
Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre (CATIE)
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
United Nations Development Programme – Global Environment Facility (UNDP – GEF)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations University (UNU)
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
World Organization for Animal Health

International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

Africa Rice Center (WARDA)
Bioversity International (formerly International Plant Genetic Resources Institute IPGRI; including the International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain INIBAP)
Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT)
Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y Trigo (CIMMYT)
Centro Internacional de la Papa (CIP)
Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI, including the International Service for National Agricultural Research ISNAR programme)
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF); WorldFish Center (WorldFish)

International Non-Governmental Organizations

ActionAid International
European SAVE Foundation (Safeguard for Agricultural Varieties in Europe)
International Centre for Underutilised Crops (ICUC)
International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)
Nordic Gene Bank (NGB)
Practical Action (also known as the Intermediate Technology Development Group - ITDG)
SEEDNet
Slow Food
Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE)
The International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)
The World Conservation Union (IUCN)

APPENDIX I – ANNEXE I – ANEXO I

LIST OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS
LIST DES DÉLEGUÉS ET OBSERVATEURS
LISTA DE DELEGADOS Y OBSERVADORES

Chairman Président Presidente	:	Mr. Bert Visser (the Netherlands)
Vice-Chairmen Vice-présidents Vicepresidentes	:	Mr. Paul Trushell (Australia) Mr. César Tapia Bastidas (Ecuador) Mr. Asmerom Kidane (Eritrea) Mr. Javad Mozafari Hashtjin (Islamic Republic of Iran) Ms. Vanida Khumnirdpetch (Thailand) Mr. David Hegwood (United States of America)

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION
MEMBRES DE LA COMMISSION
MIEMBROS DE LA COMISIÓN

AFGHANISTAN - AFGANISTÁN

Head of Delegation
Mr Mohammad Aziz OSMANZAI
Director
Agriculture Research Institute of Afghanistan (ARIA)
Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
Karta-e Sakhi
Kabul
Phone: +93 20 700207045
Email: aosmanzai@yahoo.com

ALGERIA - ALGÉRIE - ARGELIA

Chef de délégation
M Rachid MARIF
Ambassadeur
Représentant permanent adjoint auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de la République algérienne démocratique et populaire
Via Bartolomeo Eustachio, 12
00161 Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 0644202533/2546 - 0644236843
Fax: +39 0644292744

Suppléant(s)
M Mourad ABDELFETTAH
Chargé de recherche
Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA)
El Harrach, BP 115
Alger
Phone: +213 21521281
Fax: +213 21521283
Email: af_mourad@yahoo.fr; afmourad@hotmail.com

M Abderrahman HAMIDAOUI
Ministre plénipotentiaire
Représentant permanent adjoint auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de la République algérienne démocratique et populaire
Via Bartolomeo Eustachio, 12
00161 Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 0644202533/2546 - 0644236843
Fax: +39 0644292744
Email: hamidaoui@yahoo.fr

Mme Habiba TALEB
Secrétaire diplomatique
Ambassade de la République algérienne démocratique et populaire
Via Bartolomeo Eustachio, 12
00161 Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 0644202533/2546 - 0644236843
Fax: +39 0644292744

ANGOLA

Chef de délégation
M Carlos Alberto AMARAL
Conseiller
Représentant permanent suppléant auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de la République d'Angola
Via Druso, 39
00184 Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 060677254299
Fax: +39 060677254299 - 0677590009
Email: carlosamaral@tiscalinet.it

Suppléant(s)
Mme Stella MONTEIRO CIPRIANO
Conseiller
Ministère de l'agriculture et du développement rural
Rue Comandante Gika
C.P. 527
Luanda
Phone: +244 222 320552
Fax: +2442 320553

Mme Bernardette SANTANA
Directeur général adjoint des services vétérinaires
Institute des services vétérinaires
Largo Antonio Jacinto, Edificio B
4 Andar, Ala Direita
Luanda
Email: dnap@ebonet.net

Mme Elizabeth MATOS
Président
Comité national des ressources phytogénétiques
Prédio CNIC-U.A.N.
Av. Revolução de Outubro
10043 (BG) Luanda
Phone: +244 222 325673 - 321688
Email: cnrf@ebonet.net;
fitogen@ebonet. net

M António Alberto NEVES DE ALCOCHETE
Responsable
Laboratoire des caractérisationes moléculaire
Centre National des Ressources phytogénétiques
Faculdade Ciências
Universidade Agostinho Neto
Avenida 4 Fevereiro, 71
815 Luanda
Phone: +244 222 339877/29
Fax: +244 222 336168
Email: a_alcochete@yahoo.com

ARGENTINA - ARGENTINE

Jefe de Delegación

Sra María Esther BONDANZA
Embajadora
Dirección General de Asuntos Ambientales
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio y Culto
Esmeralda 1212
1007-Buenos Aires
Phone: +54 11 48197000
Fax: +54 11 48197324
Email: webmaster@mrecic.gov.ar

Suplente(s)

Sra Carla PASCALE MEDINA
Dirección de Agricultura
Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Alimentos
Paseo Colón 982
2 Piso, of: 220
(C1063AACW) Buenos Aires
Phone: +54 11 43492222/2226
Fax: +54 11 43492224
Email: cpasca@mecon.gov.ar

Sr Martín LEMA
Coordinador Técnico de Análisis y Formulación de Políticas
Oficina de Biotecnología
Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Alimentos
Paseo Colón 982
Buenos Aires
Phone: +54 11 4349 2070
Fax: +54 11 4349 2178
Email: mlema@mecon.gov.ar

Sr Marcelo Edmundo FERRER
Recursos Genéticos
Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria
Estación Esperimental Agropecuaria Pergamino
Ruta 32, Km 4,5
C.C.31 (2700) Pergamino
Buenos Aires
Phone: +54 2477 439000 - 439073 - 439032
Fax: +54 2477 439000 - 439073 - 439032
Email: mferrer@pergamino.inta.gov.ar

ARMENIA - ARMÉNIE

Head of Delegation

Mr Zohrab V. MALEK
Ambassador to FAO
Permanent Representative
Permanent Representation of the Republic of Armenia to FAO
Via Camillo Sabatini 102
Mailing address: C.P. 64194
00100 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 065201924
Fax: +39 065201924
Email: armambfao@virgilio.it

AUSTRALIA - AUSTRALIE

Head of Delegation
Mrs Judy V. BARFIELD
Counsellor Agricultural Affairs
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of Australia
Via Antonio Bosio, 5
00161 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0685272376
Fax: +39 0685272346
Email: judy.barfield@dfat.gov.au

Alternate(s)
Mr Paul TRUSHELL
A/g Manager
Trade and Environment Section
Multilateral Trade Branch
International Division
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
Phone: +61 2 6272 5628
Fax: +61 2 6272 4600
Email: paul.trushell@daff.gov.au

AUSTRIA - AUTRICHE

Head of Delegation
Mr Johannes KRESBACH
Officer for International Relations, FAO, OECD and Food Aid
Department III 3
Stubenring 12
1010 Vienna
Phone: +43 1 71100 - 2753
Fax: +43 1 71100 - 2959
Email: johannes.kresbach @lebensministerium.at

BANGLADESH

Head of Delegation
Mrs Nasrin AKHTER
Counsellor (Economic Affairs)
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Via Antonio Bertoloni, 14
00197 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 068078541 - 068083595 - 068078732
Fax: +39 068084853
Email: embangrm@mclink.it

BELGIUM - BELGIQUE - BÉLGICA

Chef de délégation
M Serge MASSART
Direction de la Qualité des Produits
DG Agriculture
Région Wallonne
Chaussée de Louvain 14
B-5000 Namur

BHUTAN - BHOUTAN - BHUTÁN

Head of Delegation
Mr Ugyen TSHEWANG
Program Director / Biodiversity Specialist
National Biodiversity Centre
Serbithang
Ministry of Agriculture
Tashichho Dzong
Thimphu
Phone: +975 2 351416
Fax: +975 2 351219
Email: nbc@druknet.bt

BOLIVIA - BOLIVIE

Jefe de Delegación
Sr Esteban Elmer CATARINA MAMANI
Embajador
Representante Permanente ante la FAO
Embajada de la República de Bolivia
Via Brenta 2a - Int. 28
00198 Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 068841001 - 0684081147
Fax: +39 068840740
Email: embolivia-roma@rree.gov.bo

Suplente(s)
Sra Maria Isabel CADIMA PAZ
Consejera
Representante Permanente Alterno ante la FAO
Embajada de la República de Bolivia
Via Brenta 2a - Int. 28
00198 Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 068841001 - 0684081147
Fax: +39 068840740
Email: embolivia-roma@rree.gov.bo

BRAZIL - BRÉSIL - BRASIL

Head of Delegation
Mrs Ligia Maria SCHERER
Minister Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation of the Federative Republic of Brazil to FAO
Via di Santa Maria dell'Anima 32
00186 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0668307576 - 0668398426 - 066789353
Fax: +39 0668398802
Email: rebrafao@brafao.it

Alternate(s)
Mr Saulo A. CEOLIN
First Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation of the Federative Republic of Brazil to FAO
Via di Santa Maria dell'Anima 32
00186 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0668307576 - 0668398426 - 066789353
Fax: +39 0668398802
Email: ceolin@brafao.it; rebrafao@brafao.it

Mr Arthur DA SILVA MARIANTE
Animal Genetic Resources
Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply
PqEB Estação Biológica
Brasilia DF
Phone: +61 34484904
Fax: +61 33403602
Email: mariante@cenargen.embrapa.br

Mr Lídio CORADIN
Plant Genetic Resources
Ministry of the Environment
Secretariat of Biodiversity and Forests
Department of Biodiversity Conservation
SCEN Trecho 02 BIH-IBAMA Sede
Sector de Clubes Esportivos Norte
70818-900 Brasilia
Phone: +55 61 40099577
Fax: +55 61 40099593
Email: lidio.coradin@mma.gov.br

BULGARIA - BULGARIE

Head of Delegation
Mr Krassimir KOSTOV
Minister Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation of the Republic of Bulgaria to FAO
Via Pietro Paolo Rubens, 21
00197 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 063224640/43 - 063213986
Fax: +39 063226122
Email: bgamb.roma@tin.it; bulgariafao@yahoo.com

BURKINA FASO

Chef de délégation
M Boubakar CISSÉ
Conseiller economique
Représentant permanent adjoint auprès de la FAO
Ambassade du Burkina Faso
Via XX Settembre, 86
00187 Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 0642010611
Fax: +39 0648903514
Email: bker_cisse@yahoo.fr; ambabf.roma@tin.it

BURUNDI

Chef de délégation
M Adrien NAHAYO
Premier Conseiller
Représentant permanent suppléant auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de la République du Burundi
Corso Francia, 221
00191 Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 0636381786
Fax: +39 0636381171
Email: ambaburoma@yahoo.fr

CAMEROON - CAMEROUN - CAMERÚN

Chef de délégation
M Moungui MÉDI
Deuxième Conseiller
Représentant permanent adjoint auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de la République du Cameroun
Via Siracusa 4-6
00161 Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 0644291285
Fax: +39 0644291323
Email: info@cameroonembassy.it

CANADA - CANADÁ

Head of Delegation
Mr Brad FRALEIGH
Director
Intergovernmental Relations
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Sir John Carling Building
7th Floor, Room 759
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5
Phone: +1 613 7597902
Fax: +1 613 7597771
Email: fraleighb@agr.gc.ca

Alternate(s)
Ms Kathryn MCKINLEY
Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Canadian Embassy
(Office of the Deputy and Alternate Permanent Representatives)
Via Zara, 30
00198 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06854442552
Fax: +39 06854442930
Email: kathryn.mckinley@international.gc.ca

Mr Barry GRACE
Science Director, Biodiversity
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Environmental Health
4200 Highway 97
Summerland, British Columbia V0H 1Z0
Phone: +1 250 4946412
Fax: +1 250 4946415
Email: graceb@agr.gc.ca

Mr Bryan HARVEY
Plant Sciences Department
University of Saskatchewan
51 Campus Drive
Saskatooon SK, S7N 5A8
Phone: +1 306 9665795
Fax: +1 306 9665015
Email: bryan.harvey@usask.ca

Mr Ken RICHARDS
Manager
Plant Gene Resources
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Environmental Health
Room P 104
107 Science Place
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0X2
Phone: +1 306 9567641
Fax: +1 306 9567246
Email: richardsk@agr.gc.ca

CAPE VERDE - CAP-VERT – CABO VERDE

Chef de délégation
M José Eduardo DANTAS FERREIRA BARBOSA
Ambassadeur
Représentant permanent auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de la République du Cap-Vert
Via Giosué Carducci 4 - Int. 3
00187 Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 064744678 - 064744596
Fax: +39 064744643
Email: jeduardo.barbosa@fastwebnet.it

Suppléant(s)
M Ilídio SANCHES FURTADO
Point Focal National
Plan d'action mondial pour la conservation et l'utilisation durable des ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture
Phone: +238 264 7227: +238 264 7541
Fax: +238 264 7543
Email: reic@cvtelecom.cv

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - RÉPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE - REPÚBLICA CENTROAFRICANA

Chef de délégation
M Oumar OUSMANE
Directeur
Centre régional polyvalent de l'ICRA
Ministère du développement rural
B.P. 786
Bangui
Phone: +236 614988
Fax: +236 614988 - 611997
Email: mdenissio@hotmail.com; ousmanboukar@yahoo.fr

CHILE - CHILI

Jefe de Delegación
Sra Teresa AGÜERO TEARE
Encargada ambiental, bioseguridad y recursos genéticos
Oficina de Estudios y Políticas Agrarias (ODEPA)
Ministerio de Agricultura
Teatinos 40 - 8 Piso
Santiago
Phone: +56 23973027 - 23973039
Fax: +56 23973044
Email: taguero@odepa.gob.cl

Suplente(s)
Sra Angela Luisa TORTORA URRUTIA
Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero
Phone: +56 23451563 - 23451561
Email: angela.tortora@sag.gob.cl

CHINA - CHINE

Head of Delegation
Mr Hongjie YANG
Chief
International Cooperation
National Animal Husbandry Service
Maizidian Street 20
Chaoyang District
100026 Beijing
Phone: +86 10 64194754
Fax: +86 10 64194611
Email: yanghj67@yahoo.com

Alternate(s)
Mr Wang SHUMIN
Deputy Director-General
Professor
Institute of Crop Science
Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences
12 Zhong Guan Cun Nan Da Jie
P.O. Box 100081
Beijing
Phone: +86 010 68918567
Fax: +86 010 68975212
Email: smwang@mail.caas.net.cn

Mr Lijun ZHAO
Programme officer
Department of International Cooperation
Ministry of Agriculture
N.11 Nong Zhan Guan Nan Li
100026 Beijing
Phone: +86 10 64192423
Fax: +86 10 6500 4635
Email: zhaolijun@agri.gov.cn

Ms Ming ZHANG
Second Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation of the People's Republic of China to FAO
Via degli Urali, 12
00144 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 065919311
Fax: +39 0659193130
Email: chinamission@chinamission.it

Mr Yuliang PANG
Third Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation of the People's Republic of China to FAO
Via degli Urali, 12
00144 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 065919311
Fax: +39 0659193130
Email: chinamission@chinamission.it

COLOMBIA - COLOMBIE

Jefe de Delegación
Sr Francisco José COY GRANADOS
Ministro Consejero
Representante Permanente Adjunto ante la FAO
Embajada de la República de Colombia
Via Giuseppe Pisanelli 4, Int. 10
00196 Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 063202405 - 063612131 - 063614348
Fax: +39 063225798
Email: eroma@minrelext.gov.co

CONGO

Chef de délégation
M Blaise GASSILA
Directeur de la Production agricole et de la Production des vegétaux
Point focal des ressources phytogénétiques du Congo
Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'élevage
6, rue Louis Tréchot
BP 2453
Brazzaville
Phone: +242 6692542 - 5642991
Fax: +242 814513
Email: blaisegassila@yahoo.fr

Suppléant(s)
M Emile ESSEMA
Deuxième Conseiller
Représentant Suppléant Permanent auprès de l'OAA
Ambassade de la République du Congo
Via Ombrone, 8/10
00198 Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 068417422
Fax: +39 068417422
Email: ambacorome@libero.it

COSTA RICA

Jefe de Delegación
Sra Yolanda GAGO DE SINIGAGLIA
Ministro Consejero
Representante Permanente Alterno ante la FAO
Representación Permanente de Costa Rica
Embajada ante la Santa Sede
Via G.B. Benedetti, 3
00197 Roma,Italia
Phone: +39 0680660390
Fax: +39 0680660390
Email: misfao@tiscalinet.it

Suplente(s)
Sra Greta PREDELLA
Asistente
Representante Permanente Alterno ante la FAO
Representación Permanente de Costa Rica
Embajada ante la Santa Sede
Via G.B. Benedetti, 3
00197 Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 0680660390
Fax: +39 0680660390
Email: misfao@tiscalinet.it

CROATIA - CROATIE - CROACIA

Head of Delegation
Mr Ante IVANKOVIC
Professor
Department of Animal Production
Faculty of Agriculture
University of Zagreb
Svetosimunska cesta 25
10 000 Zagreb
Phone: +385 1 2393991
Fax: +385 1 2393901
Email: aivankovic@agr.hr

CUBA

Jefe de Delegación
Sr Modesto FERNÁNDEZ DÍAZ-SILVEIRA
Funcionario
Dirección de Medio Ambiente
Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente (CITMA)
Capitolio y San José
Ciudad de la Habana
Phone: +537 8670598
Fax: +537 8670615
Email: modesto@citma.cu

CYPRUS - CHYPRE - CHIPRE

Head of Delegation
Mr Gabriel ODYSSEOS
Agricultural Attaché
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation of the Republic of Cyprus to FAO
Piazza Farnese, 44
00186 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 066865758
Fax: +39 066868038
Email: faoprcyp@tin.it

CZECH REPUBLIC – RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE – REPÚBLICA CHECA

Head of Delegation
Mrs Vera MÁTLOVÁ
National Coordinator for Animal Genetic Resources
Research Institute for Animal Production
10 - Uhrinevec
10400 Praha
Phone: +420 267009684
Fax: +420 267710779
Email: matlova.vera@vuzv.cz

Alternate(s)
Mr Karel Jan STOLC
Guarantee of Genetic Resource for Food and Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture
Tesnoy 17
11705 Praha
Phone: +420 2 2312728
Fax: +420 2 24810097

Mrs Daniela MOYZESOVÁ
Counsellor
Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Czech Republic
Via dei Gracchi, 322
00192 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06360957 - 0636095758/9 - 063609571
Fax: +39 063244466
Email: rome@embassy.mzv.cz

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Chef de délégation
M Fataye AKAMOU
Sous-directeur
Défense des Cultures
Direction de la Protection des Végétaux du Contrôle et de la Qualité
Ministère de l'agriculture
07 BP 25
Abdijan 07
Phone: +225 20228479
Fax: +225 20212032
Email: fatakam@hotmail.com; isysphyt@aviso.ci

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO – RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO – REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA DEL CONGO

Chef de délégation
M Albert LIKUNDE LI-BOTAYI
Directeur-Chef de Service
Direction de la Production et Protections des Végétaux
Ministère de l'agriculture
Croisement Blvd du 30 juin - Av. Batetela
B.P. 8722 Kin 1
Kinshasa-Gombe
Phone: +243 813331290
Fax: +243 8802381
Email: likundealbert@yahoo.fr

Suppléant(s)
M Innocent MOKOSA MANDENDE
Ministre Conseiller
Représentant permanent adjoint auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de la République démocratique du Congo
Via Barberini, 3
00187 Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 0642010779
Fax: +39 0642903331

DENMARK - DANEMARK - DINAMARCA

Head of Delegation
Mr Morten Kargo SØRENSEN
Scientist
Faculty of Agricultural Sciences
University of Aarhus
Blicher Allé 20
Postboks 50
DK-8830 Tjele
Phone: +45 89991900 - 89991264
Fax: +45 89991300
Email: morten.kargo@agrsci.dk

Alternate(s)
Mr Lars LANDBO
Scientific Advisor
The Danish Plant Directorate
Skovbrynet 20
2800 Lyngby
Phone: +45 45263649
Email: lbo@pdir.dk

Mr Soren SKAFTE
Minister
Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO
Royal Danish Embassy
Via dei Monti Parioli, 50
00197 Rome, Italy
Phone: +36 0697748329
Fax: +39 0697748399
Email: sorska@um.dk; romamb@um.dk

DOMINICA - DOMINIQUE

Head of Delegation
Mr Richard ALLPORT
Agricultural Officer I
Division of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment
Kennedy Avenue
Roseau
Phone: +1767 448 2401 (Ext. 3812)
Fax: +1767 448 8632
Email: agridivision@marpin.com; allportrs@hotmail.com

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - RÉPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINE - REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA

Jefe de Delegación
Sr Rafael PÉREZ DUVERGÉ
Director Ejecutivo
Instituto Dominicano de Investigaciones Agropecuarias y Forestales (IDIAF)
Rafael Augusto Sánchez 89
Ensanche Evaristo Morales
Santo Domingo
Phone: +1 809 567 8999
Fax: +1 809 567 9199
Email: idiaf@idiaf.org.do

Suplente(s)
Sra Yanina GRATEREAUX
Ministra Consejera
Represante Permanente Alterna ante la FAO
Representación Permanente de la República Dominicana ante la FAO
Via Baldassarre Peruzzi, 10 int. 2
00153 Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 0697613676
Fax: +39 0697256408
Email: rdfao@rdfao.com

ECUADOR - ÉQUATEUR

Jefe de Delegación
Sr César TAPIA BASTIDAS
Líder
Departamento Nacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos y Biotecnología (DENAREF)
Instituto Nacional Autónomo de Investigaciones Agropecuarias (INIAP)
Estación Experimental Santa Catalina
Panamericana Sur Km 1
Casilla 17-01-340
Quito
Phone: +593 22693359 - 092521219
Fax: +593 22693359
Email: denaref@ecnet.ec; denareg@yahoo.com

Suplente(s)
Sra Mónica MARTÍNEZ MEDUIÑO
Primer Secretario
Representante Permanente Alterno ante la FAO
Embajada de la República del Ecuador
Via Antonio Bertoloni, 8
00197 Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 0645439007 - 0645439083
Fax: +39 068076271
Email: mecuroma@ecuador.it

Sra Serena VIVIANI
Observadora
Embajada de la República del Ecuador
Via Antonio Bertoloni, 8
00197 Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 0645439007 - 0645439083
Fax: +39 068076271
Email: mecuroma@ecuador.it

EGYPT - ÉGYPTE - EGIPTO

Head of Delegation
Mr Mohamed Abdelhamid KHALIFA
President
National Gene Bank and Genetic Resources
9 El Gamea St
Giza Orman
Phone: +202 569 3241
Fax: +202 569 3240
Email: mkhalifa@ngb.gov.eg; mamkhalifa@hotmail.com

EL SALVADOR

Jefe de Delegación
Sr Carlos Roberto ARÉVALO ALVARADO
Técnico de Laboratorio de Biotecnología
Centro Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria y Forestal (CENTA)
Kilómetro 33 1/2
Carretera a Santa Ana, San Andrés
C.P. 885
San Salvador
Phone: +503 338 4266
Fax: +503 319 3864

Suplente(s)
Sra María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI ONORI
Ministro Consejero
Representante Adjunto ante la FAO
Embajada de la República de El Salvador
Via Gualtiero Castellini, 13
00197 Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 06 8076605
Fax: +39 06 8079726
Email: embasalvaroma@iol.it

EQUATORIAL GUINEA – GUINÉE ÉQUATORIALE – GUINEA ECUATORIAL

Jefe de Delegación
Sr Pascual BACALE MBIANG
Embajador
Representante Permanente ante la FAO
Embajada de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial
Largo Olgiata 17, Isola 70a
00123 Rome, Italia
Phone: +39 0630888269
Fax: +39 0630888269

Suplente(s)
Sr Santiago OCHAGA EDU
Delegado Provincial de Agricultura de Wele Nzás
Ministerio de Agricultura y Bosques
C/Carretera a Luba
Malabo
Phone: +2409 3464

ERITREA - ÉRYTHRÉE

Head of Delegation
Mr Zemede TEKLE WOLDETATIOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of Eritrea
Via Boncompagni, 16 - 3rd Floor
00187 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0642741293
Fax: +39 0642086806 - 0642741514
Email: segreteria@embassyoferitrea.it; info@embassyoferitrea.it

Alternate(s)
Mr Yohannes TENSUE
First Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of Eritrea
Via Boncompagni, 16 - 3rd Floor
00187 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0642741293
Fax: +39 0642086806 - 0642741514
Email: segreteria@embassyoferitrea.it; info@embassyoferitrea.it

Mr Asmerom KIDANE
Director
Natural Resources Management Research
National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)
Ministry of Agriculture
P.O. Box 4627
Asmara
Phone: +291 1 159841-46
Fax: +291 1 159803
Email: asmerom@yahoo.co.uk

ESTONIA - ESTONIE

Head of Delegation
Mr Ruve SANK
Deputy Secretary General for Foreign Relations and Development
Ministry of Agriculture
39/41 Lai Street
15056 Tallinn
Phone: +372 625 6129
Fax: +372 625 6200
Email: ruve.schank@agri.ee

Alternate(s)
Mr Vhur KUKK
Adviser to County Governor
Jõgeva County Government
Vice Chairman
National Committee for Agricultural Plant Genetic Resources
3 Suur Street
48306 Jõgeva
Phone: +372 776 6312
Fax: +372 776 6334
Email: vahur.kukk@jogevamv.ee

ETHIOPIA - ÉTHIOPIE - ETIOPÍA

Head of Delegation
Mr Kassahun EMBAYE
Deputy Director-General
Intitute of Biodiversity Conservation
P.O. Box 30726
Addis Ababa
Phone: +251 0911 206934 - 6612340
Fax: +251 0911 6613722
Email: ddg-ibc@ethionet.et

Alternate(s)
Mr Beide Melaku ASDESU
Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Office of the Permanent Representative to FAO
Via Andrea Vesalio,16
00161 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 064416161 - 06441616307
Email: embethrm@rdn.it

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (MEMBER ORGANIZATION) - COMMUNAUTÉ EUROPÉENNE (ORGANISATION MEMBRE) - COMUNIDAD EUROPEA (ORGANIZACIÓN MIEMBRO)

Chef de délégation
M Walter DE BACKER
Administrateur Principal
Biotechnologie et Santé des Végétaux
Direction générale
Santé et Protection des Consommateurs
232 Rue Belliard, bureau 3/16
B-1040 Bruxelles
Belgique
Phone: +32 2 2950473
Fax: +32 2 2956043
Email: walter.de-backer@ec.europa.eu

Suppléant(s)
M Kai-Uwe SPRENGER
Administrateur
Santé animale et comités permanents
Direction générale
Santé et protection des consommateurs
2332 Rue Belliard
B-1040 Bruxelles
Belgique

FINLAND - FINLANDE - FINLANDIA

Head of Delegation
Ms Susanna PAAKKOLA
Senior Administrator
Legal Affairs
Department of Agriculture, Research and Extension
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
P.O. Box 30
FI - 00023 Government
Helsinki
Phone: +358 916052331
Email: susanna.paakkola@mmm.fi

Alternate(s)
Ms Tuula PEHU
Senior Adviser
Department of Agriculture, Research and Extension
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
P.O. Box 30
FI - 00023 Government
Helsinki
Phone: +358 916052839
Fax: +358 916052203
Email: tuula.pehu@mmm.fi

Mr Asko MÄKI-TANILA
Professor
MTT Agrifood Research Finland
Biotechnology and Food Research
31600 Jokioinen
Phone: +358 341883601
Fax: +358 341883618
Email: asko.maki-tanila@mtt.fi

FRANCE - FRANCIA

Chef de délégation
Mme Marie-Anne VAUTRIN
Direction des politiques économiques et internationales
Ministère de l'agriculture et de la pêche
78, rue de Varenne
75007 Paris
Phone: +33 1 49554981
Fax: +33 1 49554784
Email: marie-anne.vautrin@agriculture.gouv.fr

Suppléant(s)
Mme Mathilde GUERAND
Chargée de mission au bureau de la génétique animale
Ministère de l'agriculture et de la pêche
Direction générale des politiques économique, européenne et internationale
Bureau de la génétique animale
3, rue Barbet de Jouy
75349 Paris 07 SP
Phone: +33 1 49554228
Fax: +33 1 49554925
Email: mathilde.guerand@agriculture.gouv.fr

Mme Andrée SONTOT
Chargée de mission
Bureau des Ressources Génétiques
16, rue Claude Bernard
75231 Paris cedex 05
Phone: +33 1 44087270
Fax: +33 1 44087263
Email: andree.sontot@inapg.inra.fr

Mme Éléonore CHARVOLIN
Chargée de mission, BRG
16, rue Claude Bernard
75231 Paris
Phone: +33 1 44087267
Fax: +33 1 49554925
Email: eleonore.charvoling@inapg.inra.fr

Mme Jean-Jacques SOULA
Conseiller scientifique
Représentant Suppléant Permanent auprès de l'OAA
Représentation permanente de la France auprès de l'OAA
Corso del Rinascimento, 52
00186 Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 0668405240 - 0668405212/3 - 0668405221/14
Fax: +39 066892692
Email: cad.rome-dfra@diplomatie.gouv.fr

GABON - GABÓN

Chef de délégation
M Louis Stanislas CHARICAUTH
Conseiller
Représentant permanent suppléant auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de la République gabonaise
Via San Marino, 36-36A
00198 Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 0685358970 - 0685304534
Fax: +39 068417278
Email: ambassadedugabon1@interfree.itt; lscharicauth@yahoo.fr

GERMANY - ALLEMAGNE - ALEMANIA

Head of Delegation
Ms Barbara WEBER
Deputy Head
Division 225 - Biological Diversity Genetic Resources
Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection
Rochusstrasse 1
53123 Bonn
Phone: +49 1888 529 4378
Fax: +49 1888 529 3425
Email: barbara.weber@bmelv.bund.de

Alternate(s)

Mr Heiner THOFERN
First Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to FAO
Via S. Martino della Battaglia, 4
00185 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0649213280 - 06492131
Fax: +39 0649213281
Email: heiner.thofern@diplo.de

Mr Jörg KALISCH
Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection
Rochusstrasse 1
53123 Bonn
Phone: +49 228 5293490
Email: joerg.kalisch@bmelv.bund.de

Mr Frank BEGEMANN
Head
Information and Coordination Centre for Biological Diversity (IBV)
Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food
Deichmanns Aue 29
53179 Bonn
Phone: +49 228 6845 3239
Fax: +49 228 6845 3787
Email: frank.begemann@ble.de

Mr Andreas KRUG
Federal Agency for Nature Protection (BfN)
Konstantinstr. 110
53179 Bonn
Phone: +49 228 8491/0
Fax: +49 228 8491 - 228 9999
Email: andreas.krug@bfn.de

Mr Eildert GROENEVELD
Federal Agricultural Research Centre (FAL)
Höltystraße 10
31535 Neustadt
Phone: +49 5034 871136
Fax: +49 5034 871143
Email: eildert.groeneveld@fal.de

Mr Siegfried HARRER
Information and Coordination Centre for Biological Diversity (IBV)
Plant Genetic Resources
Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food
Deichmanns Aue 29
53179 Bonn
Phone: +49 228 6845 3240
Fax: +49 228 6845 3787
Email: siegfried.harrer@ble.de

Ms Babette BALZER
Information and Coordination Centre for Biological Diversity (IBV)
Animal Genetic Resources
Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food
Deichmanns Aue 29
53179 Bonn
Phone: +49 228 68 45/3370
Fax: +49 228 68453787
Email: babette.balzer@ble.de

Ms Annette VON LOSSAU
Project Manager
P.O. Box 5180
65726 Eschborn
Phone: +49 6 19679 1473
Fax: 49 6 19679 6103
Email: annette.lossau-von@gtz.de

Ms Christina STRÖMHOLM
General Secretariat
General Directorate (Agriculture and Fisheries)
Council of the European Union
Rue de la Loi, 175
B-1048 Brussels
Phone: +32 2 2856004
Fax: +32 2 2857686
Email: christina.stromholm @consilium.europa.eu

GREECE - GRÈCE - GRECIA

Head of Delegation

Mr Andreas GEORGOUDIS
Professor
School of Agriculture
University of Thessaloniki
541 24 Thessaloniki
Phone: +30 2310 998683/87
Fax: +30 2310 998719
Email: andgeorg@argo.auth.gr

Alternate(s)
Ms Christina LIGDA
Researcher
N.A.G.R.E.F.
Veterinary Research Institute of Thessaloniki
P.O. Box 60458
57001 Thermi
Thessaloniki
Phone: +30 2310 471110
Fax: +302310 471209
Email: chligda@nagref.gr

GUATEMALA

Jefe de Delegación
Sr Arnoldo Roberto COBAQUIL GARCÍA
Jefe de Área Fitozoogenética
Unidad de Normas y Regulaciones
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación
7 Ave. 12-90
Zona 13
Ciudad de Guatemala
Phone: +502 24137000 - 24137469
Fax: +502 23328302 - 24137000
Email: roberto.cobaquil@mag.gob.gt

Suplente(s)
Sr Francisco Eduardo BONIFAZ RODRÍGUEZ
Embajador
Representante Permanente ante la FAO
Embajada de la República de Guatemala
Via dei Colli della Farnesina, 128
00194 Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 0636381143 - 0636299091
Fax: +39 063291639
Email: embaguate.italia@tin.it

Sra Ileana RIVERA DE ANGOTTI
Ministra Consejero
Representante Permanente Adjunto ante la FAO
Embajada de la República de Guatemala
Via dei Colli della Farnesina, 128
00194 Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 0636381143 - 0636299091
Fax: +39 063291639
Email: embaguate.italia@tin.it

GUINEA - GUINÉE

Chef de délégation
M Abdoulaye TRAORE
Conseiller economique
Représentant permanent suppléant auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de la République de Guinée
Via Adelaide Ristori, 9b/13
00197 Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 068078989 - 0680696467
Fax: +39 068077588 - 0680690221
Email: ambaguineerome1@virgilio.it

Suppléant(s)
M Boubacar DIALLO
Coordonnateur National pour les Ressources Génétiques Animales
Direction Nationale de l'Elavage
B.P. 559 Conakry
Phone: +224 60294328
Email: boubacarbalaise@yahoo.fr

GUINEA-BISSAU - GUINÉE-BISSAU

Chef de délégation
Mme Maria Rosa DE SÁ EVORA FERREIRA
Vice Président
Institut National de Recherche Agronomique (INPA)
Coordonnatrice Nationale de la Recherche Agronomique
Phone: +245 662 6161 - 6637046
Email: filintoferreira320@hotmail.com

HAITI - HAÏTI - HAITÍ

Chef de délégation
M Maurice DEJEAN
Directeur de la porduction animale
Minstère de l'agriculture, des ressources naturelles et du développement rural
Route Nationale No. 1
B.P. 1441
Damien
Port-au-Prince
Phone: +509 222 35 91
Fax: +509 222 35 91
Email: dejean_jeanmurice@hotmail.com

HUNGARY - HONGRIE - HUNGRÍA

Head of Delegation
Mr Tamas SZOBOLEVSZKI
Councellor
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Kossuth tér 11
1055 Budapest
Phone: +36 1 3014472
Fax: +36 1 3014668
Email: szobolevszkit@posta.fvm.hu; tamas.szobolevszki@fvm.hu

INDIA - INDE

Head of Delegation
Mr S.L. BHAT
Additional Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture
Room No.120, Krishi Bhawan
Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road
New Delhi 110 011
Phone: +91 11 23383370/2 - 23782691
Fax: +91 11 23384129

Alternate(s)
Mr A. KAUSHAL
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture
Room No.120, Krishi Bhawan
Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road
New Delhi 110 011
Phone: +91 11 23383370/2 - 23782691
Fax: +91 11 23384129

INDONESIA - INDONÉSIE

Head of Delegation
Mr Abdulah BAMUALIM
Director
Indonesia Center for Livestock Research and Development
Board Member of National Committee on Genetic Resources
Ministry of Agriculture
Jl. Raya Pajajaran Kav. E59
Bogor 16151
Phone: +02 51 322 185
Fax: +02 51 328 382
Email: genres@indo.net.id - eriansi@indo.net.id

Alternate(s)
Mr S. SUTRISNO
Director
Indonesia Center for Agricultural Biotechnology and Genetic Resources Research and Development
Executive Chair of National Committee on Genetic Resources
Ministry of Agriculture
Jl. Tentara Pelajar no. A
Bogor 16111
Phone: +62 251 316897
Fax: +62 251 338820
Email: s.trisno@indo.net.id

Mr Sugiono MOELJOPAWIRO
Senior Scientist and Plant Breeder
Indonesian Centre for Agricultural Biotechnology and Genetic Resources Research and Development
Member of National Committee on Genetic Resources
Ministry of Agriculture
Jln. Tentara Pelajar 3A
Bogor 16111
Phone: +62 251 316897
Fax: +62 251 338820
Email: sugionom@indo.net.id

Mr Erizal SODIKIN
Attaché
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
Via Campania 55
00187 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0642009150 - 064200911
Fax: +39 064880280 - 0648904910
Email: indorom@uni.net

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) – IRAN (RÉPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D') - IRÁN (REPÚBLICA ISLÁMICA DEL)

Head of Delegation
Mr Javad MOZAFARI HASHTJIN
Head
Department of Plant Genetic Resources (Seed and Plant)
Improvement Institute
Mahdasht Road
Karaj
Phone: +98 0261 2701260
Fax: +98 0261 2709405 - 2716793
Email: jmozafar@yahoo.com

Alternate(s)
Mr Seyed Morteza ZAREI
Attaché
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to FAO
Via Aventina, 8
00153 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 065743594 - 065780334
Fax: +39 065747636
Email: missiranfao@missiranfao.191.it; missiranfao@yahoo.com

IRAQ

Head of Delegation
Mr Akram H. AL-JAFF
Ambassador to FAO
Permanent Representative
Permanent Representation of the Republic of Iraq to FAO
Via della Camilluccia, 355
00135 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 063014452 - 063014508
Fax: +39 063014445
Email: iraqmission@yahoo.com

IRELAND - IRLANDE - IRLANDA

Head of Delegation
Mr Gerry DOHERTY
Agriculture Inspector
Department of Agriculture and Food
Potato Centre
Tops
Raphoe
Co. Donegal
Phone: +353 74 9145488
Fax: +353 74 9145262
Email: info@agriculture.gov.ie

ITALY - ITALIE - ITALIA

Chef de délégation
M Romualdo BETTINI
Ambassadeur
Représentant permanent auprès de la FAO
Représentation permanente de l'Italie auprès de la FAO
Piazza Margana, 19
00186 Rome
Phone: +39 066977961
Fax: +39 066796352 - 0669779635
Email: rapp.ita.onu.rm@esteri.it

Suppléant(s)
Mme Rita Giuliana MANNELLA
Conseiller
Représentant permanent suppléant auprès de la FAO
Représentation permanente de l'Italie auprès de la FAO
Piazza Margana, 19
00186 Rome
Phone: +39 066977961
Fax: +39 066796352 - 0669779635
Email: rapp.ita.onu.rm@esteri.it

M Mario MARINO
Fonctionnaire
Direction Générale du Développement Rural
Ministère pour les politiques agricoles et forestières
Via XX Settembre, 20
00187 Rome
Phone: +39 0646654035
Fax: +39 064814326
Email: m.marino@politicheagricole.it

M Fabrizio OLEARI
Directeur Générale
Secrétariat national d'evaluation du risque de la chaîne alimentaire
Département pour la santé publique vétérinaire, la nutrition et la sécurité alimentaire
Ministère de la Santé
Lungotevere Ripa 1
00153 Roma
Phone: +39 0659946115
Email: f.oleari@sanita.it

M Riccardo BOCCI
Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare (IAO)
Via Antonio Cocchi, 4
50131, Firenze
Phone: +39 05550611
Fax: +39 0555061333
Email: bocci@iao.florence.it

Mme Lorenza COLLETTI
Fonctionnaire
Ministère pour les politiques agricoles et forestières
Via XX Settembre, 20
00187 Rome
Phone: +39 0646654035
Fax: +39 064814326
Email: biodiversita@politicheagricole.it

M Lillo TESTASECCA
Fonctionnaire
Ministère pour les politiques agricoles et forestières
Phone: +39 0646654035
Fax: +39 064814326
Email: biodiversita@politicheagricole.it

M Angelo MARIANO
Fonctionnaire
Ministère pour les politiques agricoles et forestières
Via XX Settembre, 20
00187 Rome
Phone: +39 0646654035
Fax: +39 064814326
Email: biodiversita@politicheagricole.it

Mme Nadia CASTELLANO
Coordinateur National Supplèant aupres de la FAO
Phone: +39 0824334300
Email: consdabi@consdabi.org

M Carlo FIDEGHELLI
Institut Expérimental pour la culture fruitière
Via di Fioranello, 52
00134 Rome
Phone: +39 0679348109
Fax: +39 0679340158

Mme Anna BENEDETTI
Institut Expérimetnal pour la culture fruitière
Via di Fioranello, 52
00134 Rome
Phone: +39 0679348109
Fax: +39 0679340158

Mme Marina BARBA
Consiglio per la Ricerca e la Sperimentazione in Agricoltura

M Giorgio GIRAFFA
Consiglio per la Ricerca e la Sperimentazione in Agricoltura

Mme Sara LAURINI
Consultant
Bureau de la Coordination avec FAO/IFAD/PAM
Directeur de la Coopération multilaterale économique et financiaire
Ministère des affaires étrangéres
Piazzale della Farnesina, 1
Rome

Mme Marina CALVINO
Fonctionnaire URI
Ministère pour les politiques agricoles, alimentaires et forestières
Via XX Settembre, 20
00187 Rome

M Carmine DAMIANO
Institut Expérimental pour la culture fruitière
Via di Fioranello, 52
00134 Rome

JAMAICA - JAMAÏQUE

Head of Delegation
Mr Don MCGLASHAN
Chief Technical Director
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Hope Gardens
P.O. Box 480
Kingston 6
Phone: +1 876 9775921
Fax: +1 876 9271904
Email: ctdo@moa.gov.jm

Alternate(s)
Mrs Jasmin HOLNESS
Deputy Research Director
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Hope Gardens
P.O. Box 480
Kingston 6
Phone: +1 876 98328423 - 9832267
Fax: +1 876 9832088 - 9271904
Email: jaholness@moa.gov.jm:
jamekyah@gmail.com

JAPAN - JAPON - JAPÓN

Head of Delegation
Mr Takahiro ASANO
Technical Official
Innovative Technology Division
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Research Council
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and
Fisheries
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki
Chiyouda-ku
Tokyo 100-8952
Phone: +81 3 3502 8111 (Ext. 83734)
Fax: +81 3 3593 2209
Email: takaa@affrc.go.jp

Alternate(s)
Mr Tomotaro NISHIKAWA
Chief Researcher (Gene Bank)
Division of Genome and Biodiversity
Research
National Institute of Agrobiological
Sciences
2-1-2 Kannondai
Tsukuba
Ibaraki 305-8602
Phone: +81 2 9838 7406
Fax: +81 2 9838 7408
Email: tomotaro@affrc.go.jp

JORDAN - JORDANIE - JORDANIA

Head of Delegation
Mr Mohammed AL FAWAIR
Director of Plant Production
Ministry of Agriculture
University Street
P.O. Box 2099
Amman
Phone: +962 6 5686151
Fax: +962 6 5686310
Email: plantdir@moa.gov.jo

KENYA

Head of Delegation
Mr Cleophas OKORE
Senior Assistant Director
Livestock Production
Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
Development
Kilimo House
Cathedral Road
P.O. Box 30028
Nairobi

Alternate(s)
Mr Reuben Oyoo MOSI
Department of Animal Production
University of Nairobi
P.O. Box 29053
00625 Nairobi
Phone: +254 722799531
Email: oyoomosi@nonbi.ac.ke

Mr Kariuki MUCHEMI
Assistant Director
Veterinary Services

Mr Zachary Kithinji MUTHAMIA
Head
National Gene Bank
Kenya Agricultural Research Institute
P.O. Box 30148
00200 Nairobi
Phone: +254 20 2700662
Fax: +254 204183344
Email: ngbk@wananchi.com

Mr Joseph K. MBURU
Attaché (Agricultural Affairs)
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Republic of Kenya
Via Archimede, 164
00197 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 068082714 - 068082717/8
Fax: +39 068082707
Email: kenroma@rdn.it; agarome@rdn.it

KUWAIT - KOWEÏT

Head of Delegation

Ms Fadila AL-SALAMEEN
Biotechnology Department
Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research
P.O. Box 24885
13109 Safat
Phone: +965 4836100 (Ext.4325)
Fax: +965 4989096
Email: fslamian@kisr.edu.kw

LEBANON - LIBAN - LÍBANO

Chef de délégation

Mme Lamis CHALAK
Chercheur
Institut de Recherches Agronomiques Libanaises (IRAL)
Département de biotechnologie végétale
P.O. Box 287
Tal Amara, Rayak
Zahlé
Phone: +961 08900037 - 08900047
Fax: +961 08900077
Email: lchalak@lari.gov.lb

LESOTHO

Head of Delegation

Mr Matla M. RANTHAMANE
Director
Department of Agricultural Reseach
P.O. Box 829
Maseru 100
Phone: +266 22 320786 - 22 312395
Fax: +266 22 310362
Email: mranthamane@agricres.gov.ls

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA - JAMAHIRIYA ARABE LIBYENNE - JAMAHIRIJA ÁRABE LIBIA

Head of Delegation

Mr Abdalla Abdulrahman ZAIED
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to FAO
Via Torquato Taramelli, 30 int. 10
00197 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0632609854
Fax: +39 063225438
Email: faoprlby@yahoo.com

Alternate(s)

Mr Ibrahim Mohamed BEN AMER
Director
National Gene Bank
Agricultural Research Centre
P.O. Box 2480
Tripoli
Phone: +218 213705396 - 213229163
Fax: +218 213614993
Email: benamer55@yahoo.com

Mr Mustafa ALI AGEL
Researcher
National Gene Bank
Agricultural Research Centre
P.O. Box 2480
Tripoli

Mr Ali Faraj MEZUIGHI
Department of International Organizations

LITHUANIA - LITUANIE - LITUANIA

Head of Delegation
Mr Bronislovas GELVONAUSKIS
Director
Lithuanian Plant Gene Bank
Phone: +370 347 37289
Fax: +370 347 37002
Email: b.gelvonauskis@agb.lt

Alternate(s)
Ms Regina GIRDVAINYTE
Attaché (Agricultural Affairs)
Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania
Viale di Villa Grazioli, 9
00198 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 068559052 - 068540482
Fax: +39 068559053
Email: comm@ltemb.it - nfo@ltemb.it

MADAGASCAR

Chef de délégation
M R. RAKOTONDRAVAO
Chef
Département de recherche zootechnique et vétérinaire (FOFIFA)
Ministère de l'education nationale et de la recherche scientifique
BP 4
Antananarivo 101
Phone: +261 331215085
Fax: +261 320203345
Email: r.rakotondravao@blueline.mg

Suppléant(s)
Mme Michelle ANDRIAMAHAZO
Chargée d'etudes au sein du Service de l'environnement
Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche (MAEP)
Point focal du Traité International
B.P. 301 Anosy
Antananarivo 101
Phone: +261 2 2235569
Fax: +261 2 2226165
Email: samiandri@yahoo.fr

MALAWI

Head of Delegation
Mr Alfred Philemon MTUKUSO
Director
Agricultural Research Services
Focal Point on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
P.O. Box 30779
Lilongwe 3
Phone: +265 1 707398 - 8206822
Fax: +265 1 707374
Email: agric-research@sdnp.org.mw

MALAYSIA - MALAISIE - MALASIA

Head of Delegation
Mr Zakaria Abd. HADI
Deputy Undersecretary (Policy & Strategic)
Strategic Planning and International Division
Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry
Wisma Tani, Lot 4G1, Precinct 4
62624 Putrajaya
Phone: +603 88701204
Fax: +603 88888548
Email: drzakaria@agric.moa.my

Alternate(s)
Mr Wan Darman Bin WAN ABDULLAH
Assistant Director
Department of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Malaysia
Wisma Tani
Lot 4G2, Precinct 4
62632 Putrajaya
Phone: +603 8870 3206
Fax: +603 8888 6022
Email: darman@doa.gov.my

Mr Adrien Raymond KUMAR
Head of Breeding Unit
Livestock Industry Developement Division
Department of Livestock Services
Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Malaysia
Wisma Tani
Podium Block, Lot 4G1, Precinct 4
62630 Putrajaya
Phone: +630 8870 2226
Fax: +630 8888 6949
Email: adrien@jph.gov.my

Mr Mohd Shukor NORDIN
Senior Research Officer and Deputy Director
Biological Resource Program
Strategic Resource Research Center
Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute
Ministry of Agricultural and Agro-based Industry
P.O. 12301
50774 Kuala Lumpur
Phone: +603 8943 7391 - 89437437 - 03 89437911
Fax: +603 8948 7639
Email: dino@mardi.my

Ms Dató Lily ZACHARIAH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of Malaysia
Via Nomentana, 297
00162 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 8415808
Fax: +39 06 8555040
Email: mw.rome@flashnet.it

Mr Johari RAMLI
Agricultural Attaché
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Agricultural Attaché Office of Malaysia
Embassy of Malaysia
Via Nomentana, 297
00162 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 068419296
Fax: +39 068555110
Email: agrimoa.rome@ambasciatamalaysia.191.it

Mr Amri ISMAIL
Assistant Agricultural Attaché
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Agricultural Attaché Office of Malaysia
Embassy of Malaysia
Via Nomentana, 297
00162 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 068419296
Fax: +39 068555110
Email: agrimoa.rome@ambasciatamalaysia.191.it

MALI - MALÍ

Chef de délégation

M Modibo Mahamane TOURÉ
Deuxième Conseiller
Représentant Permanent suppléant du Mali auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de la République du Mali
Via Antonio Bosio, 2
00161 Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 0644254068
Fax: +39 0644254029
Email: amb.malirome@tiscalinet.it

MAURITIUS - MAURICE - MAURICIO

Head of Delegation

Mr Yacoob MUNGROO
Senior Technical Officer
Ministry of Agro Industry and Fisheries
Horticulture Division
Plant Genetic Resources Unit
Reduit
Phone: +230 4644857
Fax: +230 4644857
Email: yamungroo@mail.gov.mu

Alternate(s)
Mr Denis CANCY
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Republic of Mauritius
127, rue de Tocqueville,
75017 Paris
c/o Consulate of the Republic of Mauritius
Via G.B. Morgagni 6/A
00161 Rome, Italy
Phone: +331 42276670 - 42273019
Fax: +39 0644245659 (Rome);
+331 40530291
Email: ambassade.maurice@online.fr

MOROCCO - MAROC - MARRUECOS

Chef de délégation
M Mohamed AIT HMID
Ministre plénipotentiaire
Représentant Permanent Adjoint auprès des Organisations des Nations Unies à Rome
Ambassade du Royaume du Maroc
Via Lazzaro Spallanzani 8-10
00161 Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 064402524/87 - 064402506
Fax: +39 064402695
Email: sifamaroma@ambasciatadelmarocco.it

Suppléant(s)
M Amar TAHIRI
Chef
Service des Semences et Plantes
Direction de la Protection des Végétaux, des Contrôles Techniques et de la Répression des Fraudes
Ministère de l'agriculture, du développement rural et des pêches maritimes
BP 1308
Rabat
Phone: +212 37771085
Fax: +212 37779852
Email: amar.tahiri@menara.ma

MOZAMBIQUE

Head of Delegation
Mr Paulino MUNISE
Research Officer
Agriculture Research Institute of Mozambique (IIAM)
Ministry of Agriculture
Av. das FPLM 2698
3658 Maputo
Phone: +258 21 461876
Fax: +258 21 460074
Email: iniagef@teledata.mz

MYANMAR

Head of Delegation
Mr Hlaing MYINT OO
Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Union of Myanmar
Via della Camilluccia, 551
00135 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0636303753 - 0636304056
Fax: +39 0636298566
Email: meroma@tiscali.it

NAMIBIA - NAMIBIE

Head of Delegation
Ms Gillian MAGGS-KÖLLING
Chief Agricultural Researcher
National Botanical Research Institute
Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Private Bag 13184
Windhoek
Phone: +264 612022020
Fax: +264 61258153
Email: gmk@nbri.org.na

Alternate(s)
Mr Jacques ELS
Chief Agricultural Researcher (Large Stock)
National Coordinator for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources
Directorate of Agricultural Research and Training
Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Private Bag 13184
Windhoek
Phone: +264 61 2087034
Fax: +264 61 2087034
Email: elsj@mawrd.gov.na

NETHERLANDS - PAYS-BAS – PAÍSES BAJOS

Head of Delegation
Mr Bert VISSER
Director
Netherland Centre for Genetic Resources
Wageningen University
P.O. Box 16
6700 AA Wageningen
Phone: +31 317 477184
Fax: +31 317 418094
Email: bert.visser@wur.nl

Alternate(s)
Mr Theo VAN BANNING
Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN Organizations for Food and Agriculture
Via delle Terme Deciane, 6
00153 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 065740306 - 065742326
Fax: +39 065744927
Email: rof@minbuza.nl

Mr Sipke H. HIEMSTRA
Policy Advisor
Netherlands Centre for Genetic Resources
Wageningen University
P.O. Box 16
6700 AA Wageningen
Phone: +31 320 2 38009
Fax: +31 317 418094
Email: sipkejoost.hiemstra@wur.nl

Ms Marjolein GEUSEBROEK
Second Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN Organizations for Food and Agriculture
Via delle Terme Deciane, 6
00153 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 065740306 - 065742326
Fax: +39 065744927
Email: rof@minbuza.nl

NEW ZEALAND – NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE – NUEVA ZELANDIA

Head of Delegation
Ms Lucy SAUNDERS
Senior Policy Analyst
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
P.O. Box 2526
Wellington
Phone: +64 4 8940615
Fax: +64 4 8940741
Email: lucy.saunders@maf.govt.nz

NIGERIA - NIGÉRIA

Head of Delegation
Mr Lawrence A.O. ASIJE
Deputy Director
National Coordinator/Desk Officer
Animal Genetic Resources, L&PCS
Federal Ministry of Agriculture asnd Rural Development
Area 11, Garki
Abuja
Phone: +234 9 5233324
Fax: +234 9 3140336
Email: lawrenceaimio@yahoo.com

Alternate(s)
Mr Yaya Adisa OLAITAN OLANIRAN
Minister
Permanent Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to FAO
Via Orazio, 14-18
00193 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06683931 - 066896093
Fax: +39 066832528 - 066877840
Email: nigeriapermrep@email.com

Mr Yarama Dakwa NDIRPAYA
Desk Officer
Plant Genetic Resources
Biotechnology and Biosafety
Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Area 11,
P.M.B. 135, Garki
Abuja
Phone: +234 80 35925180
Email: yndirpaya@yahoo.com

NORWAY - NORVÈGE - NORUEGA

Head of Delegation

Mrs Grethe Helene EVJEN
Ministry of Agriculture and Food
P.O. Box 8007 Dep
0030 Oslo
Phone: +47 22249311
Fax: 4+47 22242753
Email: grethe-helene.evjen@imd.dep.no

Alternate(s)

Mrs Elisabeth KOREN
Adviser
Ministry of Agriculture and Food
P.O. Box 8007 Dep
0030 Oslo
Phone: +47 22249090
Fax: +47 22242753
Email: elisabeth.koren@imd.dep.no

Mr Tore SKRØPPA
Director
Norwegian Genetic Resource Centre
Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute
P.O. Box 115
1431 As
Phone: +47 64949067
Fax: +47 64948001
Email: tore.skroppa@skogoglandskap.no

Mrs Nina HOVDEN SAETHER
Adviser
Norwegian Genetic Resource Centre
Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute
P.O. Box 115
1431 As
Phone: +47 64949067
Fax: +47 64948001
Email: nhs@skogoglandskap.no

Mr Morten WALLØE TVEDT
Research Fellow
The Fidjof Nansen Institute
P.O. Box 326
1326 Lysaker
Phone: 47 67111925
Fax: +47 67111925
Email: mwt@fni.no

Mr Tore RIISE
Special Adviser
Department of Research and Innovation
Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs
Grubbeg 1
P.O. Box 8118 Dep
NO 0032
Oslo
Phone: +47 22 246454
Fax: +47 22 249585
Email: tore.riise@fkd.dep.no

OMAN - OMÁN

Head of Delegation

Mr Rasmi MAHMOUD
Adviser
Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman
Via della Camilluccia, 625
00135 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 0636300545 - 0636300517
Fax: +39 063296802
Email: rasmimahmoud@gmail.com;
embassyoman@virgilio.it

PAKISTAN - PAKISTÁN

Head of Delegation

Mr Ahmad ZAHOOR
Chief Scientific Officer
Deputy Director General
Plant Genetic Resources Institute
National Agricultural Research Centre
P.O. Box 1031, Park Road
ZIP, Postcode 45500
Islamabad
Phone: +92 51 9255203
Fax: +92 51 9255201
Email: zahmad51@hotmail.com

PAPUA NEW GUINEA – PAPOUASIE-NOUVELLE-GUINÉE - PAPUA NUEVA GUINEA

Head of Delegation
Mr Workneh AYALEW
Research Programme Leader
Livestock Programme, Labu
National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)
P.O. Box 1639
Lae 411
Moorobe Province
Phone: +675 475 1066
Fax: +675 475 1248
Email: workneh.ayalew@nari.org.pg; nari@global.net.pg; naridg@global.net.pg

PARAGUAY

Jefe de Delegación
Sr Luis Enrique ROBLEDO
Funcionario Técnico
Dirección de Investigación Agrícola
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
Presidente Franco 479
Asunción
Phone: +595 21441036
Fax: +595 21449951
Email: luisenriquerobledo@yahoo.com

Suplente(s)
Sra Liz Haydee CORONEL CORREA
Consejera
Representante Permanente Adjunto ante la FAO
Embajada de la República del Paraguay
Via Firenze, 43 Scala A, int 17
00184 Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 064741715
Fax: +39 064745473
Email: embaparoma@virgilio.it

PHILIPPINES - FILIPINAS

Head of Delegation
Mr Joel S. RUDINAS
Director
Deparment of Agriculture
Bureau of Plant Industry
692 San Andres Street
Malate, Manila
Phone: +63 2 5257857 - 5219135
Fax: +63 2 5217650
Email: jsrudinas@hotmail.com; jsrudinas@gmail.com; buplant@yahoo.com

Alternate(s)
Mr Noel D. DE LUNA
Agricultural Attaché
Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines
Viale delle Medaglie d'Oro, 112
00136 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0639746717 - 0639746622
Fax: +39 0639740872 - 0639889925
Email: philrepfao@libero.it; romepe@agora.it

Ms Maria Luisa GAVINO
Assistant Agricultural Attaché
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines
Viale delle Medaglie d'Oro, 112
00136 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0639746717 - 0639746622
Fax: +39 0639740872 - 0639889925
Email: philrepfao@libero.it; romepe@agora.it

POLAND - POLOGNE - POLONIA

Head of Delegation
Ms Zofia BULINSKA-RADOMSKA
National Coordinator for Plant Genetic Resources
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute at Radzików
PL 05-870 Blonie
Phone: +48 22 7253611 - 7253611
Fax: +48 22 7254714 - 7319617
Email: z.bulinska@ihar.edu.pl; postbox@ihar.edu.pl

Alternate(s)
Ms Elzbieta MARTYNIUK
National Coordinator for Animal Genetic Resources
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
National Research Institute of Animal Production
ul. Wspólna 30
00-930 Warszawa
Phone: +48 22 6231714
Fax: +48 22 6231056
Email: elzbieta.martyniuk@minrol.gov.pl

Mr Ryszard WOJTAL
Minister Counsellor
Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Republic of Poland (Office of the Permanent Representative to FAO)
Via Pietro Paolo Rubens, 20
00197 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0636204200 - 0636204237
Fax: +39 063217895
Email: faopoland@alice.it; ufficio.stampa@ambasciatapolonia.it

PORTUGAL

Head of Delegation
Mr Luis TELO DA GAMA
Researcher
Instituto Nacional de Recursos Biológicos
Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries
Estação Zootécnica Nacional
INIA
2000 Santarém
Phone: + 351 243767300
Fax: + 351 243767307
Email: ltgama@hotmail.com

REPUBLIC OF KOREA – RÉPUBLIQUE DE CORÉE – REPÚBLICA DE COREA

Head of Delegation
Mr Duck-jin LEE
Assistant Director
Agro-Bioindustry Policy Division
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Government complex Gwacheon
Jungang-dong 1, Gwacheon
Gyeonggi-do
Seoul
Phone: +82 2 500-589
Fax: +82 2 503-3236
Email: leedJin@maf.go.kr

Alternate(s)
Mr Hae-sung HWANG
Senior Researcher
National Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology
Rural Development Administration
250 Seodun-dong, Gwonseon-Gu
Suwon 441-707
Phone: +82 31 2991820
Email: hae0323@rda.go.kr

Mr Chong-dae KIM
Researcher
Animal Genetic Resources Station
National Livestock Research Institute
Rural Development Administration
Unbong eup Namwon
Jeonbuk
Phone: +82 63 6203535
Fax: +82 63 6203590
Email: chongkim@rda.go.kr

Mr Hae-dong SEO
First Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Republic of Korea
Via Barnaba Oriani, 30
00197 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0680246 - 0680246206
Fax: +39 0680246259
Email: dskwon92@mofat.go.kr; chakim11@hanmail.net

ROMANIA - ROUMANIE - RUMANIA

Chef de délégation

Mme Silvia STRAJERU
Directrice
Banque des Ressources Phytogénétiques Suceava de Roumanie
str. 1 Decembrie 1918, n. 17
5800 Suceava
Phone: +40 23 0521016
Fax: +40 23 0521016
Email: genebank@suceava.astral.ro

Suppléant(s)

Mme Valentina NICÓLESCU
Conseiller superiour
Ministère de l'agriculture, des forêts, et du développement rural
B-dul Carol I, nr. 2, secteur 3
Bucarest
Phone: +40 21 3072327
Fax: +40 21 3078627
Email: valentina.nicolescu@maa.ro

Mme Alina PUSCARAGIU
Représentant permanent adjoint auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de Roumanie
Via Nicolò Tartaglia 36
00197 Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 068073082 - 068078807 - 068084423
Fax: +39 068084995
Email: faopam@roembit.org

M Condrea DRAGANESCU
Professeur universitaire
Coordinateur National pour les ressources génétiques des animaux
Phone: +40 21 2227912
Fax: +40 21 3512080
Email: condrag2002@yahoo.com

RUSSIAN FEDERATION – FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE - FEDERACIÓN DE RUSIA

Head of Delegation

Mr Evgeny UTKIN
First Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Russian Federation
Via Gaeta, 5
00185 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 064941680/81 - 064941683 - 064440080
Fax: +39 06491031
Email: ambrus@ambrussia.it; eutkin@mid.ru

Alternate(s)

Mr Arsen M. VARTANYAN
Second Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Russian Federation
Via Gaeta, 5
00185 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 064941680/81 - 064941683 - 064440080
Fax: +39 06491031
Email: ambrus@ambrussia.it; arsen_vartanyan@mail.ru

SAMOA

Head of Delegation

Mr Seumanutafa MALAKI IAKOPO
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
P.O. Box 1874
Apia
Phone: +685 22561 - 20092
Fax: +685 24576
Email: miakopo@lesamoa.net

SAUDI ARABIA - ARABIE SAOUDITE - ARABIA SAUDITA

Head of Delegation
Mr Bandar AL-SHALHOOB
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to FAO
Via della Piramide Cestia, 63
00153 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 065740901
Fax: +39 065758916
Email: Saudimission.fao@tuttopmi.it

SENEGAL - SÉNÉGAL

Chef de délégation
M Adama BA
Deuxiène Conseiller
Reprèsentant permanent adjoint auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de la République du Sénégal
Via Giulia, 66
00186 Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 066872353 - 066865212 - 066872381
Fax: +39 0668219294
Email: ambasenequiri@tiscali.it

Suppléant(s)
M Alassane WELE
Deuxième Conseiller
Représentant permanent suppléant auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de la République du Sénégal
Via Giulia, 66
00186 Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 066872353 - 066865212 - 066872381
Fax: +39 0668219294
Email: ambasenequiri@tiscali.it

SERBIA - SERBIE

Head of Delegation
Mr Srdjan STOJANOVIC
Chef
Genetic Resource Office
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
Nemanjina 22-26
11000 Belgrade
Phone: +381 11 3616240
Fax: +381 11 3616241
Email: srdjan.stojanovic@minpolj.sr.gov.yu; agrvet@hotmail.com

SIERRA LEONE - SIERRA LEONA

Head of Delegation
Mr Abdulai JALLOH
Director
Institute of Agricultural Research
Njala, PMB 540
Freetown
Phone: +232 22 223380
Fax: +232 22 223473
Email: iarsl@sierratel.sl

SLOVAKIA - SLOVAQUIE - ESLOVAQUIA

Head of Delegation
Mr Pavol HAUPTVOGEL
Deputy Director
Gene Bank of the Slovak Republic
Slovak Center of Agriculture Research
Research Institute of Plant Production
Bratislavská cesta 122
921 68 Piestany
Phone: +421 33 7722311 - 722312 - 7722326 - 7722327
Fax: +421 33 7726306
Email: vurv@vurv.sk

Alternate(s)
Mr Milan KOVÁC
Counsellor
Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Slovak Republic
Via dei Colli della Farnesina, 144
00194 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0636715206
Fax: +39 0636715266
Email: milan_kovac@rim.mfa.sk

SLOVENIA - SLOVÉNIE - ESLOVENIA

Head of Delegation
Mr Dragomir KOMPAN
Biotechnical Faculty
Zootechnical Department
Groblje 3
1230 Domzale
Phone: +386 1 7217804
Fax: +386 1 7241005
Email: drago.kompan@uni-lj.si

Alternate(s)
Mr Primoz GRIZON
Phytosanitary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
Einspielerjeva 6
1000 Ljubljana
Phone: +386 1 3094379
Fax: +386 1 3094335
Email: primoz.grizon@gov.si

SOLOMON ISLANDS - ÎLES SALOMON - ISLAS SALOMÓN

Head of Delegation
Mr Nichol NONGA
Director
Animal Health and Production
National Coordinator for Animal Health and Production
Department of Agriculture and Livestock
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
P.O. Box G13
Honiara
Phone: +677 23039 - 94042
Fax: +677 27380
Email: nnonga@solomon.com.sb

SPAIN - ESPAGNE - ESPAÑA

Jefe de Delegación
Sr Luis SALAICES SÁNCHEZ
Jefe de Área
Registro de Variedades
Oficina Española de Variedades Vegetales
Minsiterio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación
Alfonso XII, 62
28014 Madrid
Phone: +34 91 3476712
Fax: +34 91 3476703
Email: luis.salaices@mapa.es

Suplente(s)
Sr Luis AYERBE MATEO-SAGASTA
Director
Centro de Recursos Fitogéneticos
Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentación
Minsterio de Educación y Ciencia
Autovía A2 , km 36
Apdo. 1045
28800 Alcalá de Henares
Phone: +34 91 8819286
Fax: +34 91 8819287
Email: ayerbe@inia.es

Sr Carlos ARRIOLA GARROTE
Jefe deServicio de Selección de y Reproducción Ganaderas
Subdirección General de Medios de Producción Ganaderos
Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación
Phone: +34 91 3476612
Fax: +34 91 3476671
Email: sgmpgana@mapa.es

Sr Ernesto RÍOS LÓPEZ
Consejero
Representante Permanente Adjunto ante la FAO
Embajada de España (Oficina de los Representantes Permanentes Adjunto y Alterno)
Largo dei Lombardi, 21
00186 Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 066878762 - 066869539
Fax: +39 066873076
Email: repfao@maparoma.191.it

Sra María Isabel ARAGÓN
Jefe de Servicio
Dirección General de Estructuras y Mercados Pesqueros
Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación
Phone: +34 91 3473680
Fax: +34 91 3478445
Email: iaragonc@mapya.es

Sra Nuria ALBA MONFORT
Departamento de Sistemas y Recursos Forestales
Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria (INIA)
Crta. de la Coruña, km. 7,5
28040 Madrid
Phone: +34 91 3478705
Email: alba@inia.es

Sr Fernando LATORRE
Centro de Recursos Fitosanitarios
Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria (INIA)
Autovía A-2, Km 36
Apartado 1045
Madrid
Phone: +34 91 8819286 (Ext. 25)
Fax: +34 91 819287
Email: latorre@inia.es

Sr Ángel OROZCO GÓMEZ
Agregado
Representante Permanente Alterno ante la FAO
Embajada de España (Oficina de los Representantes Permanentes Adjunto y Alterno)
Largo dei Lombardi, 21
00186 Roma
Italia
Phone: +39 066878762 - 066869539
Fax: +39 066873076
Email: repfao@maparoma.191.it

Sra Carmen GARRIDO
Técnica
Embajada de España (Oficina de los Representantes Permanentes Adjunto y Alterno)
Largo dei Lombardi, 21
00186 Roma
Italia
Phone: +39 066878762 - 066869539
Fax: +39 066873076
Email: repfao@maparoma.191.it

Sr José T. ESQUINAS ALCÁZAR
Profesor Titular
Departamento de Biología
Escuela Técnica Superior de Ingenieros Agrónomos
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
Avd. Complutense, s/n
Ciudad Universitaria
Madrid 28040
Phone: +34 696387697
Email: jose.esquinas@upm.es

SRI LANKA

Head of Delegation
Mr Muthukuda ARACHCHI
Deputy Director
National Coordinator Focal Point for Global Plan of Action
Plant Genetic Resources Centre
Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 59
Gannoruwa
Peradeniya
Phone: +94 081 2388494
Fax: +94 081 2388490
Email: pgrc@slt.lk

Alternate(s)
Ms Saranya Hasanthi URUGODAWATTE DISSANAYAKE
Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Alternate/Chargé Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Via Adige, 2
00198 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 068554560/18/493 - 068840801
Fax: +39 0684241670
Email: slembassy@tiscali.it

SUDAN - SOUDAN - SUDÁN

Head of Delegation
Mr Abbas Ibrahim HAMDI
Director
Standars and Quality Control Unit
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
P.O. Box 285
Al Gamaá Avenue
Khartoum
Phone: +249 918211470
Fax: +249 183782027
Email: hamdi20072000@yahoo.com

Alternate(s)
Mr Ibrahim Mohamed ELTAHIR
Head
Plant Genetic Resources Unit
Agricultural Research Corporation
Ministry of Science and Technology
P.O. Box 126
Wad Medani
Phone: +249 912536114 - 511 840031
Fax: +249 511843213
Email: elthair81@yahoo.com

Mr Mohamed El-Tayeb EL-FAKI EL-NOR
Counsellor
Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan
Via Prati della Farnesina, 57
00194 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0633220433
Fax: +39 06334084
Email: permrepoffice_sudanembassyrome@yahoo.it

SURINAME

Head of Delegation
Mr Gerald TJON-A-SAN
Livestock Specialist
Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources
Division of Livestock Development
Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries
Abattoirstraat
Beekhuizen, Paramaribo
Phone: +597 404415
Fax: +597 404407
Email: veeteelt@odve.minlvv.sr

SWEDEN - SUÈDE - SUECIA

Head of Delegation
Mr Christer WRETBORN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of Sweden
Piazza Rio de Janeiro, 3
00161 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06441941 - 44194254/2
Fax: +39 0644194762
Email: christer.wretborn@foreign.ministry.se

Alternate(s)
Ms Tina LINDSTRÖM
Senior Administrative Officer
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs
Fredsgatan 8
S103-33 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 4053508
Fax: +46 8 4054972
Email: tina.lindstrom@agriculture.ministry.se

Ms Ylva TILANDER
Senior Administrative Officer
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs
Fredsgatan 8
S103-33 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 4053091
Fax: +46 8 4054970
Email: ylva.tilander@agriculture.ministry.se

Ms Harriet FALCK REHN
Senior Administrative Officer
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs
Fredsgatan 8
S103-33 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 4051097
Fax: +46 8 4054970
Email: harriet.falck-rehn@agriculture.ministry.se

Ms Eva-Marie STALHAMMAR
Administrative Officer
Swedish Board of Agriculture
SB-551 82 Jönköping
Phone: +46 36155822
Fax: +46 36308182
Email: eva-marie.stalhammar@sjv.se

Mr Lennart ACKZELL
Senior Advisor
International Affairs National Board of Forestry
Vattgatan 8
S-55183 Jönköping
Phone: +46 36 155706
Fax: +46 36 166170
Email: lennart.ackzell@svo.se

Mr Johan DANNEWITZ
Researcher
Institute of Freshwater Research
Swedish Board of Fisheries
SE-178 93 Drottningholm
Phone: +46 18 471 64 88
Fax: +46 18 471 6424
Email: johan.dannewitz@fiskeriverket.se

SWITZERLAND - SUISSE - SUIZA

Chef de délégation
M François PYTHOUD
Etat-major de direction
Office fédéral de l'agriculture
Section Agriculture durable internationale
Mattenhofstrasse 5
CH-3003
Berne
Phone: +41 31 3234445
Fax: +41 31 3222634
Email: francois.pythoud@blw.admin.ch

Suppléant(s)
Mme Karin WOHLFENDER
Office fédéral de l'agriculture
Section Produits animaux et élevage
Mattenhofstrasse 5
CH-3003
Berne
Phone: +41 31 3222522
Fax: +41 31 3222634
Email: karin.wohlfender@blw.admin.ch

M Geert KLEIJER
Chef Ressources génétiques et laboratoire qualité
Station de recherche Agroscope Changins-Wädenswil
Case postale 1012
CH-1260
Nyon 1
Phone: +41 22 3634726
Fax: +41 22 3621325
Email: geert.kleijer@acw.admin.ch

Mme Barbara RYCHEN
Office fédéral de l'agriculture
Section Agriculture durable internationale
Mattenhofstrasse 5
CH-3003
Berne
Phone: +41 31 3250291
Fax: +41 31 3222634
Email: barbara.rychen@blw.admin.ch

Mme Marie KRAUS-WOLLHEIM
Institut Fédéral de la Propriété Intellectuelle
Division Droit et Affaires Internationales
Stauffacherstrasse 65
CH-3003
Berne
Phone: +41 31 3777220
Fax: +41 31 3777905
Email: marie.kraus@ipi.ch

M Hans-Jörg LEHMANN
Ministre
Représentant permanent auprès de la FAO
Représentation permanente de la Suisse auprès de la FAO
Viale Aventino, 89
00153 Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 065756293
Fax: +39 065756321
Email: vertretung@roa.rep.admin.ch

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC - RÉPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE - REPÚBLICA ÁRABE SIRIA

Head of Delegation
Mr Mohammad Walid TAWIL
Deputy Director-General
General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research
P.O. Box 113
Douma
Damascus
Phone: +963 11 5744053
Fax: +963 11 5757992 - 5744053
Email: gcsa-dir@mail.sy

THAILAND - THAÏLANDE - TAILANDIA

Head of Delegation
Ms Chutima RATANASATIEN
Senior Agricutural Scientist
Plant Variety Protection Division
Department of Agriculture (DOA)
Phaholyothin Rd
Chatuchak
10900 Bangkok
Phone: +66 02 9407214
Fax: +66 02 5614665
Email: chutima_ratanasatien@yahoo.com; chutimar@doa.go.th

Alternate(s)
Ms Dusadee RUNGSIPALASAWASDI
Chief
Agricultural Innovation and Traditional Knowledge Group
Agricultural Technology and Sustainable Agriclutre Policy Division (ATSAP)
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
Rajdamnoen Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10200
Phone: +66 2 6298971
Fax: +66 2 2801555
Email: dusadeer@hotmail.com

Ms Vanida KHUMNIRDPETCH
Animal Scientist
Department of Livestock Development (DLD)
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
Road Rajatavee
Phayathai
Bangkok 10400
Phone: +66 2 6534451
Fax: +66 2 6534922
Email: vanidak@yahoo.com

Mr Pan PANKHAO
Agricultural Scientist
Department of Agriculture
Plant Varieties Protection Division
50 Phaholyothin Rd., Ladyao
Chatuchak Bangkok 10900
Phone: +66 29407421
Fax: +66 25790548
Email: ppk1969@hotmail.com

TOGO

Chef de délégation
Mme Hadyatou DANTSEY-BARRY
Point focal national RPGAA
Chargée des ressources phytogénétiques
Institut Togolais de Recherche Agronomique (ITRA)
B.P. 1163
Lomé
Phone: +228 2252148
Fax: +228 9166189
Email: itra@cafe.tg; hadyabarry@yahoo.fr

TONGA

Head of Delegation
Mr Mana'ia HALAFIHI
Chief Agronomist and Coodinator for Plant Genetics
Ministry of Agriculture and Food
P.O. Box 14
Nuku'alofa
Phone: +676 23038
Fax: +676 27401

TUNISIA - TUNISIE - TÚNEZ

Chef de délégation
M Naceur HAMZA
Ingénieur général
Ministère de l'agriculture et des ressources hydrauliques
30 rue Alain Savary
1002 Tunis
Phone: +216 71755985 - 71230024
Fax: +216 71752897 - 71230077
Email: hamza.naceur@iresa.agrinet.tn

Suppléant(s)
M Mohamed KHARRAT
Maitre de Recheche
Institut National des Recherches Agronomique de Tunisie
Rue Hédi Karray
2080 Ariana
Phone: +216 1 230 024
Fax: +216 1 752 897
Email: kharrat.mohamed@iresa.agrinet.tn

M Abdelhamid ABID
Conseiller des Affaires Etrangères
Chargé du dossier de la Coopération de la Tunisie avec les Institutons Multilatérales établies à Rome
Ambassade de la République tunisienne
Via Asmara, 7
00199 Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 0686215033 - 068603060/8
Fax: +39 0686218204
Email: at.roma@tiscali.it

TURKEY - TURQUIE - TURQUÍA

Head of Delegation
Mr Vehbi ESER
Head of Department
General Directorate of Agricultural Research
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
06171 Yenimahalle
Phone: +90 312 3435675
Fax: +90 312 3152698
Email: veser@tagem.gov.tr

Alternate(s)
Ms A. Oya AKIN
National Coordinator for Animal Genetic Resources
Expert
General Directorate of Agricultural Research
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
06171 Yenimahalle
Phone: +90 312 3157623/240
Fax: +90 312 3153448
Email: oakin@tagem.gov.tr; akinoya@gmail.com

Mr Yüksel YÜCEKAL
Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Republic of Turkey
Via Palestro, 28
00185 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0644594200
Fax: +39 064941526
Email: yyucekal@mfa.gov.tr; faodt@libero.it; roma.be@libero.it

Mr Arzu ÜNAL
Expert
General Directorate of Agricultural Research
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
06171 Yenimahalle
Phone: +90 312 3157623'/288
Fax: +90 312 3152698
Email: aunal@tagem.gov.tr

UGANDA - OUGANDA

Head of Delegation
Mr Daniel K.N. SEMAMBO
Executive Director
National Animal Genetic Resources Centre and Data Bank (NAGRC&DB)
National Coordinator for Animal Genetic Resources
Ministry of Agriculture
P.O. Box 183
Entebbe
Phone: +256 41 320831
Fax: +256 41 349422
Email: cattbtd@imul.com

Alternate(s)
Mr Robert SABIITI
First Secretary/Agricultural Attaché
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Republic of Uganda
Via Lungotevere dei Mellini, 44
00193 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 063225220 - 063207232
Fax: +39 06 213688
Email: ugandaembassyrome@hotmail.com

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES – ÉMIRATS ARABES UNIS – EMIRATOS ÁRABES UNIDOS

Head of Delegation
Mr Ali Hassan Saeed Mohamed ALHAMOUDI
Ministry of Environment and Water
P.O. Box 213
Abu Dhabi
Phone: +971 2 6662781
Fax: +971 2 6654787
Email: ahhamoudi@moew.gov.ae

Alternate(s)
Mr Mirghani Hassan OBEID ALI
Embassy of the United Arab Emirates
Via della Camilluccia 492
00135 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0636306100
Fax: +39 0636306155
Email: uaeroma@tin.it

UNITED KINGDOM - ROYAUME-UNI - REINO UNIDO

Head of Delegation
Mr Martyn J. IBBOTSON
Head of Genetic Resources Team
Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Science Strategy and International Division
Genetic Resources and Kew Sponsorship Team
Area 1B, Nobel House
17, Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
Phone: +44 207 238 1653
Fax: +44 207 238 3297
Email: martyn.ibbotson@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Alternate(s)
Mr Mike T. ROPER
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
United Kingdom National Coordinator for Animal Genetic Resources
Livestock and Meat Chain Team
9, Millbank
c/o 17, Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
Phone: +44 207 238 3150
Fax: +44 207 238 3114
Email: mike.roper@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Mr Victor HEARD
Chair European Regional Group
Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO
United Kingdom Permanent Representation to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome
Via di Monserrato 48, Int 1
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0668400911 - 06684400919
Fax: +39 0668400920
Email: v-heard@dfid.gov.uk

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA - RÉPUBLIQUE-UNIE DE TANZANIE - REPÚBLICA UNIDA DE TANZANÍA

Head of Delegation

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania
Villa Tanzania
Via Cortina D'ampezzo, 185
00135 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0633485801 - 0633485820
Fax: +39 0633485828
Email: info@embassyoftanzania.it

Alternate(s)

Mr Mohamed Ahmed Mustafa MSABAHA
Assistant Director
Department of Research and Training
Ministry of Agricuture, Food and Cooperative
Kilimo House II
Mandela/Kilimo road
Box 2066
Dar es Salaam
Phone: +255 22 2865314
Fax: +255 22 2865312
Email: mmmsabaha@yahoo.co.uk

Mrs Perpetua Mary Simon HINGI
Agricultural Attaché
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania
Villa Tanzania
Via Cortina D'ampezzo, 185
00135 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0633485801 - 0633485820
Fax: +39 0633485828
Email: info@embassyoftanzania.it

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE – ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA

Head of Delegation

Mr David HEGWOOD
Minister-Counselor of Agricultural Affairs
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
United States Mission to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture (Permanent Representation to FAO)
Via Sallustiana 49
00187 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0646743500
Fax: +39 0646743535
Email: USUNRome@State.Gov

Alternate(s)

Mr Harvey BLACKBURN
Coordinator
National Animal Germplasm Program
National Centre for Genetic Resources Preservation
Agricultural Research Service
Department of Agriculture
1111 South Mason St.
CO 80515 Fort Collins
Phone: +1 970 4953268
Fax: +1 970 2211427
Email: harvey.blackburn@ars.usda.gov

Mr Robert BERTRAM
Team Leader
International Research and Biotechnology
Bureau for Economic Growth, Environment and Trade
United States Agency for International Development
Ronald Reagan Building
Washington, D.C. 20523-1000
Phone: +1 202 7124810
Fax: +1 202 2163524
Email: rbertram@usaid.gov

Mr William BRAKEL
First Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
United States Mission to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture (Permanent Representation to FAO)
Via Sallustiana 49
00187 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0646743500
Fax: +39 0646743535
Email: USUNRome@State.Gov

Mr Peter BRETTING
National Program Staff
Agricultural Research Service
Department of Agriculture
5601 Sunnyside Dr.
Beltsville, MD 20705-5139
Phone: +1 301 504 5541
Fax: +1 301 504 6191
Email: peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov

Ms Sezaneh M. SEYMOUR
Office of Ecology and Terrestrial Conservation
United States Department of State
Phone: +1 202 7364789
Email: seymoursm@state.gov

URUGUAY

Jefe de Delegación
Sra Stella Maris REGINENSI RIVERA
Coordinadora
Unidad de Tecnología de los Alimentos (Microbiología)
Facultad de Agronomía
Universidad de la República
Garzón 780
12900 Montevideo
Phone: +598 2 3547991
Fax: +598 2 3597191/94
Email: sregis@fagro.edu.uy

Suplente(s)
Sr Tabaré BOCALANDRO YAPEYÚ
Ministro
Representante Permanente Adjunto ante la FAO
Embajada de la República Oriental del Uruguay
Via Vittorio Veneto, 183
00187 Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 064821776 - 064821777
Fax: +39 064823695
Email: uruit@ambasciatauruguay.it

Sra Gabriela CHIFFLET
Consejera
Representante Permanente Alterno ante la FAO
Embajada de la República Oriental del Uruguay
Via Vittorio Veneto, 183
00187 Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 064821776 - 064821777
Fax: +39 064823695
Email: uruit@ambasciatauruguay.it

VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF) - VENEZUELA (RÉPUBLIQUE BOLIVARIENNE DU) - VENEZUELA (REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE)

Jefe de Delegación
Sra Carmen Danahe COVA CALMA
Directora General de Alimentos
Viceministerio de Políticas Alimentarias
Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Alimentación
Av. Andrés Bello
Edf. Las Fundaciones
Planta Baja Local 16
Municipio Libertador
Distrito Capital - Caracas
Phone: +58 212 5770257
Email: oirp@minal.gob.ve

Suplente(s)
Sra Ariadna Rosa GARDIÉ QUINTERO
Funcionaria
Dirección General de Alimentos
Viceministerio de Políticas Alimentarias
Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Alimentación
Av. Andrés Bello
Edf. Las Fundaciones
Planta Baja Local 16
Municipio Libertador
Distrito Capital - Caracas
Phone: +58 212 5770257
Email: oirp@minal.gob.ve

Sra Beatriz GRATEROL
Investigadora
Especialista Área Vegetal
Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agrícolas (INIA - Núcleo Amazonas)
Ministerio del Poder Popular para Ciencia y Tecnología
Avenida Universidad, vía El Limón
Apartado 2103
Maracay - Estado Aragua
Phone: + 58 243 2404642 - 2404911
Email: info@inia.gob.ve

Sra Mabel RUIZ MOLLEGA
Asistente
Embajada de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela
Via Nicolò Tartaglia, 11
00197 Roma
Italia
Phone: +39 068079797 - 068079464
Fax: +39 068084410
Email: embaveit@iol.it

YEMEN - YÉMEN

Head of Delegation
Mr Ali Abdulla AL-SHURAI
Director-General
National Genetic Rsources Centre
P.O. Box 3411
Hodeidah
Dhamar
Phone: +967 6 423917
Fax: +967 6 423914
Email: shuraiaa@yahoo.com;
shurai@y.net.ye:
NGRC_yemen@yahoo.com

ZAMBIA - ZAMBIE

Head of Delegation
Mr Godfrey MWILA
Expert
Principal Agricultural Research Officer
Minstry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Private Bag 7
Chilanga
Phone: +260 1 278380 - 966745604
Fax: +260 1 278130
Email: mwilagodfrey@yahoo.co.uk;

Alternate(s)
Ms Catherine MUNGOMA
Chief Agricultural Research Officer
Zambia Agriculture Research Institute
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust
P.O. Box 54
Fringilla
Phone: +260 1 213829
Fax: +260 1 213832
Email: maize@zamnet.zm

Mr Benson MWENYA
National Coordinator for Farm Animal Genetic Resources
Chief
Livestock Products Office
Mulungushi House
P.O. Box 50060
Lusaka
Phone: +260 1250274
Email: fangr@zamnet.zm

ZIMBABWE

Head of Delegation
Mr Claid MUJAJU
Head
Agricultural Research and Extension Services
Seed Services and Genebank
P.O. Box CY550
Causeway
Harare
Phone: +263 4 70453/9 - 720370
Fax: +263 4 791223
Email: seedserv@mweb.co.zw

Alternate(s)

Mr Michael MUCHENJE NYERE
Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe
Via Virgilio, 8
00193 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0668308282 - 0668308273/265
Fax: +39 0668308324
Email: zimrome-wolit@tiscalinet.it

REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES
REPRÉSENTANTS DES NATIONS UNIES ET INSTITUTIONS SPÉCIALISÉES
REPRESENTANTES DE NACIONES UNIDAS Y ORGANISMOS ESPECIALIZADOS

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
AGENCE INTERNATIONALE DE L'ÉNERGIE ATOMIQUE
ORGANISMO INTERNACIONAL DE ENERGÍA ATÓMICA

Mr Royal Frederick KASTENS
International Atomic Energy Agency (Geneva)
United Nations
Room B 426
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 9173632
Fax: +41 22 9170066
Email: iaeage@unog.ch

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
CONVENTION DES NATIONS UNIES SUR LA DIVERSITÉ BIOLOGIQUE
CONVENIO DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS SOBRE LA DIVERSIDAD BIOLÓGICA

Mr Kalemani Jo MULONGOY
Principal Officer
Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters Division
United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
413, Saint Jacques Street, suite 800
Montreal QC H2Y 1N9, Canada
Phone: +1 514 287 7027
Fax: +1 514 288 6588
Email: jo.mulongoy@cbd.int

OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
OBSERVATEURS DES ORGANISATIONS INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES
OBSERVADORES DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INTERGUBERNAMENTALES

COMMUNITY OF SAHEL-SAHARAN STATES
COMMUNAUTÉ DES ÉTATS SAHÉLO-SAHARIENS
COMUNIDAD DE ESTADOS SAHELO-SAHARIANOS

Mr Nuri Ibrahim HASSAN
Adviser to the Secretary General on Agriculture Issues
Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)
Aljazeera Square
P.O. Box 81824
Tripoli, Libya
Phone: +218 91 313 1020
Fax: +218 21 444 0076
Email: general.sec@cen-sad.org

CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
GROUPE CONSULTATIF POUR LA RECHERCHE AGRICOLE INTERNATIONALE
GRUPO CONSULTIVO SOBRE INVESTIGACIÓN AGRÍCOLA INTERNACIONAL

Mr Emile FRISON
Director-General
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese (Fuimicino)
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 066118202
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: e.frison@cgiar.org

Mr Paul BORDONI
Scientific Assistant
Global Facilitation for Underutilized Species
Global Partneships Programme
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese (Fuimicino)
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 066118302
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: p.bordoni@cgiar.org

Ms Marije BIJ DE VAATE
Associate Scientist
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
SSA office c/o ICRAF
P.O. Box 30677
00100 Nairobi, Kenya
Phone: +254 20 7224500 - 7224509
Fax: +254 20 7224501
Email: m.bijdevaate@cgiar.org

Mr Ehsan DULLOO
Project Coordinator
Conservation of Agricultural Biodiversity
Understanding and Managing Biodiversity
Programme
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese (Fuimicino)
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 006118206
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: e.dulloo@cgiar.org

Ms Elizabeth GOLDBERG
Head
Capacity Development Research and Support Unit
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese (Fuimicino)
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 066118237
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: e.goldberg@cgia.org

Mr Michael HALEWOOD
Head
Policy Research and Support Unit
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese (Fuimicino)
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 066118294
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: m.halewood@cgiar.org

Mr Olivier HANOTTE
Project Leader BT02
Animal Genetic Resources
International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI-CGIAR)
P.O. Box 30709
Nairobi 00100, Kenya
Phone: +254 20 4223466
Fax: +254 20 4223001
Email: o.hanotte@cgiar.org

Mr Toby HODGKIN
Director
Global Partnerships Programme
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese (Fuimicino)
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 066118212
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: t.hodgkin@cgiar.org

Ms Irmgard HOESCHLE-ZELEDON
Coordinator
Global Facilitation for Underutilized Species
Global Partnerships Programme
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese (Fuimicino)
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 066118236
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: s.hutchinson@cgiar.org

Ms Sara HUTCHINSON
Programme Assistant
Global Partnerships Programme
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese (Fuimicino)
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 066118236
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: s.hutchinson@cgiar.org

Ms Ruth RAYMOND
Head
Public Awareness Unit
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese (Fuimicino)
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 066118215
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: r.raymond@cgiar.org

Ms Laura SNOOK
Director
Understanding and Managing Biodiversity Programme
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese (Fuimicino)
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 066118343
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: l.snook@cgiar.org

Mr Jozef TUROK
Regional Director, Europe
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese (Fuimicino)
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 066118250
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: j.turok@cgiar.org

Mr Malcom BEVERIDGE
Discipline Director for Aquaculture and Genetics
WorldFish Center (CGIAR)
P.O. Box 1261
11728 Maadi
Cairo, Egypt
Phone: +20 2 736 4114
Fax: 20 2 736 4112
Email: m.beveridge@cgiar.org

Ms Isabel LÓPEZ NORIEGA
Legal Specialist
Policy Research and Support Unit
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 066118307
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: i.lopez@cgiar.org

Mr Eng Siang LIM
Honorary Research Fellow, Policy
Regional Office for Asia, Pacific and Oceania
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
P.O. Box 236
PM Post Office, Serdang
43400 Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia
Phone: +60 3 89423891
Fax: +60 3 89487655
Email: e.lim@cgiar.org

Mr Jan ENGELS
Genetic Resources Management Advisor
Global Partnerships Programme
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 066118222
Fax: +39 066118405
Email: j.engels@cgiar.org

Ms Barbara Ann RISCHKOWSKY
Senior Livestock Scientist
International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA-CGIAR)
P.O. Box 5466
Damascus Highway
Tel Hadya, Aleppo, Syrian Arab Republic
Phone: +963 21 2213433 - 2213477
Email: b.rischkowsky@cgiar.org

Mr Atli STANNARD
Intern
Bioversity International (CGIAR)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese(Fiumicino)
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0661181
Fax: +39 0661979661
Email: bioversity@cgiar.org

GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST
FOND FIDUCIAIRE MONDIAL POUR LA DIVERSITÉ VÉGÉTAL
FONDO MUNDIAL PARA LA DIVERSIDAD DE CULTIVOS

Mr Cary FOWLER
Executive Director
Global Crop Diversity Trust
c/o FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06570 53841
Fax: +39 06570 54951
Email: cary.fowler@croptrust.org

Mr Ola WESTENGEN
Programme Officer
Global Crop Diversity Trust
c/o FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracolla
00153 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0657054119
Fax: +39 06570 54951
Email: ola.westengen@croptrust.org

Ms Mellissa WOOD
Director of Programme Development
Global Crop Diversity Trust
c/o FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06570 55426
Fax: +39 06570 54951
Email: mellissa.wood@croptrust.org

Ms Britta SKAGERFÄLT
Associate Professional Officer
Global Crop Diversity Trust
c/o FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracolla
00153 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0657055142
Fax: +39 06570 54951
Email: britta.skagerfalt@croptrust.org

NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
CONSEIL NORDIQUE DES MINISTRES
CONSEJO NÓRDICO DE MINISTROS

Ms Lise Lykke STEFFENSEN
Nordic Council of Ministers
Store Strandstraede 18
DK 1255 Copenhagen, Denmark
Phone: +45 33960256
Fax: +45 29692933
Email: lls@norden.org

Ms Vivi NIELSEN
Dept. Of Agriculture Sciences
Faculty of Agricultural Sciences
University of Aarhus
Blichers Allé 20
P.O. Box 50
DK-8830 Tjele, Denmark
Phone: +45 89991361
Email: vivih.nielsen@agrsci.dk

Ms Benedicte LUND
Nordic Gene Bank Farm Animals
P.O. Box 5025
N-1432 As, Norway
Phone: +47 64965202
Email: benedicte.lund@umb.no

NORDIC GENE BANK
BANQUE NORDIQUE DE GÉNÉTIQUE
BANCO NÓRDICO DE GENES

Mr Erling FIMLAND
Director
Nordic Gene Bank (NGB) and Nordic Gene Bank Farm Animals (NGH)
Box 41
Se-230 53 Alnarp, Sweden
Phone: +47 926 98 547
Fax: +46 40536650
Email: erling.fimland@nordgen.org

Mr Magnus FINCKENHAGEN
Legal Advisor
Research assistant Fridtjof Nansen Institute
Nordic Gene Bank (NGB) and Nordic Gene Bank Farm Animals (NGH)
Box 41
Se-230 53 Alnarp, Sweden
Phone: +47 67111945
Fax: +47 67111910
Email: mfi@fni.no

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
COMMUNAUTÉ DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DE L'AFRIQUE AUSTRALE
COMUNIDAD PARA EL DESARROLLO DEL ÁFRICA MERIDIONAL

Ms Thandie LUPUPA
SPGRC Acting Director
SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre
Private Bag CH 6
ZA 15302 Lusaka, Zambia
Phone: +260 1 233391/2
Fax: +260 1 233746 - 230515
Email: spgrc@zamnet.zm

Mr Moneim FATIH
SPGRC Adviser
SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre
Private Bag CH 6
ZA 15302 Lusaka, Zambia
Phone: +260 1 233391/2
Fax: +260 1 233746 - 230515
Email: spgrc@zamnet.zm

WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ ANIMALE
ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DE SANIDAD ANIMAL

Mr Francesco BERLINGIERI
Deputy Director
International Trade Department
World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)
12, rue de Prony
75017 Paris, France
Phone: +33 1 44151888
Fax: +33 1 42670987
Email: f.berlingieri@oie.int; oie@oie.int

OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
OBSERVATEURS DES ORGANISATIONS NON GOUVERNEMENTALES
OBSERVADORES DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES NO-GUBERNAMENTALES

ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL
AIDE ET ACTION INTERNATIONAL

Ms Magdalena Anna KROPIWNICKA
Food and Hunger Policy Advisor
Actionaid International
Via Volta 39/B
00153 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0657137185
Fax: +39 065780485
Email: m.kropiwnicka@actionaidinternational.it

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

Ms Tasmin RAJOLTE
Representative
Quaker International Affairs Programme (QUIAP)
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)
574 Somerset Street W, Suite 3
Ottawa KIR 5K2, Canada
Phone: +1 613 2317311
Fax: +1 613 2317290
Email: qiap@quaker.ca

Mr Carlos CORREA
Consultant
Quaker International Affairs Programme (QUIAP)
Friends World Commitee for Consultation (FWCC)

Mr Geoff TANSEY
Consultant
Quaker International Affairs Programme (QUIAP)
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)
Royal House
Hebden Bridge, HX7 8BA
United Kingdom
Phone: +44 1422 842752
Fax: +44 1422 843917
Email: geoff@tansey.org.uk

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS
FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES MOUVEMENTS D'AGRICULTURE BIOLOGIQUE
FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE LOS MOVIMIENTOS DE AGRICULTURA BIOLÓGICA

Ms Cristina GRANDI
Liaison Office to FAO and IFAD
Via Piave 14
00187 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0645437485
Fax: +39 0645437486
Email: c.grandi@ifoam.org

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN IN LEGAL CAREERS
FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES DES CARRIÈRES JURIDIQUES
FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE MUJERES JURISTAS

Ms Antonietta CESCUT
Lawyer
Permanent Representative to the FAO
International Federation of Women in Legal Careers

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE
INSTITUTO INTERNACIONAL PARA EL DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE

Ms Ingrid BARNSLEY
IISD Reporting Services
212 47th St. 21F
New York NY 10017
United States of America
Phone: +1 646 5367556
Fax: +1 646 2190955
Email: ingrid@iisd.org

Mr Harry JONAS
IISD Reporting Services
212 47th St. 21F
New York NY 10017
United States of America
Phone: +1 646 5367556
Fax: +1 646 2190955
Email: harry@iisd.org

Ms Asheline APPLETON
IISD Reporting Services
212 47th St. 21F
New York NY 10017
United States of America
Phone: +1 646 5367556
Fax: +1 646 2190955
Email: asheline@iisd.org

INTERNATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY
COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE PLANIFICATION DES ONG/OSC POUR LA SOUVERAINETÉ ALIMENTAIRE
COMITÉ INTERNACIONAL DE PLANIFICACIÓN DE LAS ONG/OSC PARA LA SOBERANÍA ALIMENTARIA

Mr Andrea FERRANTE
Technical Coordinator
IPC Secretariat / AIAB
IPC for Food Sovereignty
Phone: +39 0761306589
Fax: +39 0761306589
Email: a.ferrante@aiab.it

Mr Saul VICENTE
IPC / International Indian Treaty Council
IPC for Food Sovereignty
Phone: +39 0761306589
Fax: +39 0761306589
Email: binizaa2002@yahoo.com.mx

Mr Antonio ONORATI
International Focal Point
IPC Secretariat / Crocevia
IPC for Food Sovereignty
Phone: +39 0761306589
Fax: +39 0761306589
Email: mc2535@mclink.it

Mr Pierluigi BOZZI
IPC / Crocevia
IPC for Food Sovereignty
Phone: +39 0761306589
Fax: +39 0761306589
Email: crocevia@croceviaterra.it;
p.bozzi@yahoo.it

Ms Beatriz GASCO VERDIER
Liaison Officer
IPC Secretariat
IPC for Food Sovereignty
Phone: +39 0761306589
Fax: +39 0761306589
Email: lo@foodsovereignty.org

Mr Massimo TANCA
IPC / Crocevia
IPC for Food Sovereignty
Phone: +39 0761306589
Fax: +39 0761306589
Email: crocevia@croceviaterra.it

INTERNATIONAL SEED FEDERATION
FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DU COMMERCE DES SEMENCES

Mr Bernard LE BUANEC
Secretary General
International Seed Federation
7 Chemin du Reposoir
1260 Nyon
Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 3654420
Fax: +41 22 3654421
Email: isf@worldseed.org

Ms Radha RANGANATHAN
Technical Director
International Seed Federation
7 Chemin du Reposir
1260 Nyon
Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 3654420
Fax: +41 22 3654421
Email: isf@worldseed.org

LEAGUE FOR PASTORAL PEOPLES
LIGUE DES PEUPLES PASTEURS

Ms Ilse KÖHLER-ROLLEFSON
League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development
Pragelatostr 20
64372 Ober-Ramstadt
Germany
Phone: +49 6154 53642
Fax: +49 6154 53642
Email: ilse@pastoralpeoples.org; ilse.koehlerroll@gmail.com

Mr Andreas WILKES
The Mountain Institute
Jianwai SOHO 3-1101
Chaoyang District Beijing
100022 China
Phone: +86 10 5869 8584
Fax: +86 10 5869 8629
Email: awilkes@mountain.org

Mr Marcelo PÉREZ CENTENO
AER INTA
CP 8353
Chos Malal, Neuquén
Argentina
Phone: +542948 422456
Email: pcenteno@bariloche.inta.gov.ar; pcenteno@speedy.com.ar

Ms Susanne GURA
League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development
Pragelatostr 20
64372 Ober-Ramstadt
Germany
Phone: +49 228 9480670
Fax: +49 2289764777
Email: gura@dinse.net; susanne@pastoralpeoples.org

Mr Thomas LOQUANG
Kisup Ateker Peace and Endogenous Development Organisation
c/o Lily Nakiru World Food Programme
Plot 17-19
Clement Hill Road, Kampala
Uganda
Phone: +256 772 224 466
Fax: +256 312 242 500
Email: aatomloquang@yahoo.com

Ms Tina GOETHE
Head of Development Politics
SWISSAID
Phone: +41 31 3505475
Email: t.goethe@swissaid.ch

Mr Hanwant SINGH RATHORE
Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan
P.O. Box 1
Sadri 306702
District Pali
Rajasthan
India
Phone: +91 2934 285086
Email: lppsraj@gmail.com; camelherds@yahoo.co.in

NETWORK OF AQUACULTURE CENTRES IN ASIA-PACIFIC

Ms Sena S. DE SILVA
Director General
Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
P.O. Box 1040
Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903
Thailand
Phone: +66 2 561172
Fax: +66 2 5611727
Email: sena.desilva@enaca.org

PRACTICAL ACTION
ACTION PRATIQUE
SOLUCIONES PRÁCTICAS

Mr Patrick MULVANY
Senior Policy Adviser
Practical Action
Schumacher Centre for Technology and Development
Bourton on Dunsmore
Rugby
CV23 9QZ
United Kingdom
Phone: +44 1926 634430
Fax: +44 1926 634401
Email: practicalaction@practicalaction.org.uk

SEEDNET

Ms Eva THÖRN
SEEDNet Coordinator
Swedish Biodiversity Centre
Box 41
230 53 Alnarp
Sweden
Phone: +46 40 415587
Email: eva.thorn@cbm.slu.se

SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGIONAL INITIATIVES FOR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Ms Wilhelmina R. PELEGRINA
Executive Director
South East Asia Regional Initiative for Community Empowerment (SEARICE)
29 Magiting Street
Teachers Village
Quezon City 1101, Philippines
Phone: +63 2 4337182 - 4332067
Fax: +63 2 9216170 - 9226710
Email: didit_peregrina@searice.org.ph; searice@searice.org.ph

Mr Chrisgel Ryan A. CRUZ
Policy Officer
Southeast Asian Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE)
29 Magiting Street
Teachers Village
Quezon City 1101, Philippines
Phone: +63 2 4337182 - 4332067
Fax: +63 2 9216170 - 9226710
Email: arcibaldcruz@gmail.com; policy@searice.org.ph; searice@searice.org.ph

SECRETARIAT OF THE FAO COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
SECRÉTARIAT DE LA COMMISSION DES RESSOURCES GÉNÉTIQUES POUR L'ALIMENTATION E L'AGRICULTURE DE LA FAO
SECRETARÍA DE LA COMISIÓN DE RECURSOS GENÉTICOS PARA LA ALIMENTACIÓN Y LA AGRICULTURA DE LA FAO

Mr Clive STANNARD
Officer in Charge
Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1
00153 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0657055480
Fax: +39 0657053057
Email: clive.stannard@fao.org

Mr Dan LESKIEN
Specialist Legal Adviser
Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1
00153 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0657054666
Fax: +39 0657053057
Email: dan.leskien@fao.org

Mr Álvaro TOLEDO CHÁVARRI
Programme Officer
Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1
00153 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 0657054497
Fax: +39 0657053057
Email: alvaro.toledo@fao.org

Mr Richard LAING
Consultant
Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1
00153 Rome, Italy

Ms Kim-Anh TEMPELMAN
Consultant
Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1
00153 Rome, Italy