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منظمة الأغذية  
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للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
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Food  
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Agriculture  
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of  
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United  
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des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

**Item 3.1 (d) of the Draft Provisional Agenda**

**COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**Eleventh Regular Session**

Rome, 11-15 June 2007

**DRAFT**

**INTERLAKEN DECLARATION ON ANIMAL GENETIC  
RESOURCES**

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**DRAFT****INTERLAKEN DECLARATION ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES**

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Commission requested its Inter-Governmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources to prepare for the International Technical Conference. The Working Group stressed that the Conference presents an excellent opportunity to increase awareness of the roles and values of animal genetic resources, and that the participation of a wide-range of stakeholders should be encouraged.<sup>1</sup> It recommended that the outcomes of the Conference be a *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*, to be adopted through an *Interlaken Declaration on Animal Genetic Resources*.<sup>2</sup> The Working Group welcomed the offer of the Government of Switzerland to prepare a draft of the *Interlaken Declaration*, in collaboration with FAO, for consideration by the Commission.<sup>3</sup>
2. This present document contains the draft *Interlaken Declaration*, in the *Appendix*.

**II. GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE COMMISSION**

3. The Commission may wish to:
  - Agree that the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* will be adopted through an *Interlaken Declaration on Animal Genetic Resources*;
  - Thank Switzerland for having prepared the draft *Declaration*; and
  - Review the draft *Declaration*, with a view to its finalization and adoption at the Interlaken International Technical Conference.

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<sup>1</sup> CGRFA-11/07/3, paragraph 22.

<sup>2</sup> CGRFA-11/07/3, paragraph 26.

<sup>3</sup> CGRFA-11/07/3, paragraph 24.



## 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 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. Our objective is to enhance world food security, improve human nutritional status, and contribute to rural development.
3. 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*.
4. 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 continuing erosion and loss of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture will 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.
5. We recognize that the animal genetic resources of the species most critical to food security, sustainable livelihoods and human well-being are the result of both natural evolution and directed selection by livestock keepers, throughout the world, over generations. The result is a wide variety of livestock breeds that provide a diverse stream of benefits to humanity. 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.
6. 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 ecological, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, spiritual and aesthetic importance of breeds of livestock, and our ethical responsibility to ensure genetic resources are available to future human generations.

7. Recognizing that states have sovereign rights over their animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, we confirm our common and individual responsibilities in respect of these resources. We recognize the interdependence of countries and peoples regarding animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, and that access to these resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from their sustainable use must continue to be a priority.
8. 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 can also make an essential contribution to facilitating the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Convention on Biological Diversity.
9. 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 affirm that they should equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilization of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture. We affirm the desirability of protecting traditional knowledge relevant to animal breeding and production as a contribution to sustainable livelihoods, and the need for the full participation of local and indigenous communities and farmers and pastoralists in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources.
10. 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 knowledge and modern technologies, and the need to apply the ecosystem approach and integrated natural resource management practices.
11. 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 and long-term support and 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.
12. We recognize that access to, and the sharing of both, genetic resources and technologies, are essential for meeting world food security and the needs of the growing world population, and must be facilitated. Access to and transfer of technology, including that protected by intellectual property rights, to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, shall be provided and/or facilitated under fair and most favourable terms, in particular in the case of technologies for use in conservation 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, including on concessional and preferential terms where mutually agreed, *inter alia*, through partnerships in research and development. Such access and transfer shall be provided on terms that recognize and are consistent with the adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights.

13. 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 regional and international cooperation among countries, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

14. 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 long-term national commitments to integrated national biological diversity and agriculture policies, plans and programmes, and for 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.

15. 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.

16. We invite the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to oversee and assess progress in the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*.

**Adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2007**