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منظمة الأغذية
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للأمم المتحدة

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Food
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des
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pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

Item 9 of the Draft Provisional Agenda

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Eleventh Regular Session

Rome, 11-15 June 2007

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Since 1995, by a decision of the FAO Conference, the Commission's mandate covers "all components of biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture".¹ At its Tenth Regular Session, the Commission considered the document, *Future work of the Commission*,² which suggested, in particular, that the Commission's capacity to act effectively within its statutes would be strengthened by the establishment of a Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW), with the objective of:

- Making it possible for the Commission to advise FAO systematically on the full range of its activities on genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture, and on the priorities to be accorded to such work in the Organization's Programme of Work and Budget;
- Facilitating cooperation with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, particularly in the case of the supporting components of the Treaty that are overseen by the Commission; and
- Helping to programme, in particular, FAO's growing cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which increasingly depends on FAO to support its work programme on agricultural biodiversity.

2. The Commission therefore requested its Secretariat, in cooperation with the relevant services and the FAO PAIAs (Priority Areas for Inter-disciplinary Action) and taking into account inputs from the Inter-Governmental Technical Working Groups on Plants and Animals, to submit a draft MYPOW to this session for consideration. The draft MYPOW is given in the *Appendix* to this document.

3. The Secretariat has also prepared a number of other documents that may be of relevance for the consideration of the MYPOW. These include:

- An analysis of the human and financial resources available within the FAO, to support work on the various sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture;
- Reports on the status and needs of sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture, other than plants and animals, including the various areas of biodiversity for food and agriculture and the agro-ecosystem approach to genetic resource conservation and cross-sectorial matters;
- Proposals for the streamlining of the Commission's operations.

4. The present document reviews the major challenges that the Commission may address through a MYPOW. It provides information on the process by which the draft MYPOW was prepared. It discusses the role of the MYPOW, as a planning tool for the Commission to schedule and review its work, with a rolling horizon of five sessions (that is, ten years). It suggests the main topics that the Commission may wish to address and provides in its *Appendix* a draft MYPOW, prepared on the basis of ideas put forward in the consultative process. The Commission's guidance is sought for the finalization of the MYPOW.

II. MAJOR CHALLENGES THAT THE COMMISSION MAY ADDRESS THROUGH A MULTI-YEAR MYPOW

5. The last decades have seen an increasing recognition of the importance of biodiversity and its components, as a crucial resource for sustainable development, at a time of accelerated loss and erosion. A number of major physical and socio-economic transformations at a global scale are underway. These increase uncertainty regarding the stability and sustainability of agriculture, fisheries

¹ FAO Conference Resolution 3/95.

² CGRFA-10/04/14.

and forestry. They include global warming and climate change, continued demographic growth, and the effects of rapidly globalizing markets. New crop uses, including for biofuel production, are becoming important. All these factors increase the option value of genetic resources for food and agriculture, to face challenges from diseases and pests, climatic uncertainty, and changing human needs. But the value of conserving these resources will only be realized if effective action plans and priority-setting support their optimal use within integrated agricultural production systems, and if their exchange between countries and regions is facilitated. The Commission can play an important coordinating role in developing international policy approaches under its mandate that relate to these key questions, and this can also provide frameworks for national policy formulation.

6. The wide consultation undertaken in the preparation of a draft MYPOW has shown that, in all sectors of food and agriculture, there is recognition of the crucial importance of achieving Millennium Development Goals nos. 1 and 7. Malnutrition affects more than 2000 million people, and 15 million people – mostly children – die as a consequence of hunger each year. A sustainable and nutritionally adequate and diverse global food supply can only be achieved by the integrated management of all components of biodiversity for food and agriculture. The work of the Commission can therefore have a significant impact on improving global food security, poverty reduction, environmental sustainability and income generation.

7. At its Tenth Session, the Commission reflected on its substantial past achievements and on plans for its future work. In deciding to consider a MYPOW at the current session, it recognized that work on plant and animal genetic resources is now well established, and while these sectors continue to include priority issues, it decided to plan to implement its full mandate. The Commission's future work programme will therefore need to deal, in a planned and staged approach, with biodiversity for food and agriculture in its broadest sense, including crop, forest, animal, fish, and micro-organism genetic resources for food and agriculture, in order to ensure synergy and complementarity and avoid duplication, within FAO, and between FAO and other relevant bodies. While individual sectors all have specific characteristics, such a broad approach will strengthen mutual cooperation with other relevant organizations, such as the CBD and WIPO, that approach biodiversity and genetic resources in a broad manner, and will increase the ability of FAO and representatives of the food and agriculture sector to play a full and effective role in the international arena. The Commission has already produced two country-driven *State of the World* reports, on plant and on animal genetic resources, which are recognized international tools for the management of these sectors. The Commission may now wish to plan to establish relevant information bases in other sectors, leading, in due course, to an authoritative strategic global assessment of the *State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, as envisaged by the Commission at its Eight Regular Session.

8. Through the preparation of *State of the World* reports and plans of action, the Commission can lead in the development of targets and indicators for biodiversity and genetic resources for food and agriculture, and periodically monitor their status and trends, in partnership with relevant processes in other international organizations. This can promote the mobilization of financial and technical support to build capacity, in particular in developing countries, for the priority assessment, conservation, inventory, characterization, and deployment in sustainable agricultural systems, of the full range of biodiversity for food and agriculture, including crops, animal, forest, aquatic and micro-organism genetic resources.

III. PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK

9. *Table 1* provides a brief synopsis of the various consultations held and processes monitored to obtain ideas for the MYPOW, as requested by the Commission – the relevant services and PAIAs in FAO, the FAO Regional Groups, and the Inter-Governmental Technical Working Groups on Plants and on Animals – in preparation for its consideration of a draft MYPOW. It should be borne in mind that the Secretariat of the Commission also served as Interim Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture throughout this period, which imposed a heavy burden on its limited manpower, such that the bulk of the work on the MYPOW had to await the completion of the major task of organizing and running the first session of the Treaty’s Governing Body, in June 2006, and following up on its decisions.

10. The outcome of the wide consultative process, namely ideas and comments for the structure and content of the MYPOW, is given in the document, *Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: compendium of ideas and comments*.³

Table 1: Consultations held and processes monitored to prepare the draft MYPOW	
October 2005	Third Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources
May 2006	Workshop on <i>The Status and trends in aquatic genetic resources: a basis for international policy</i> , Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
June 2006	The Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, at its First Session, “welcomed the Commission’s offer to support the implementation of the Treaty, including through the further development of components of the FAO Global System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as part of the Commission’s Multi-Year Programme of Work.”
October 2006	Sixth Session of the Advisory Committee on Fisheries Research, which welcomed the timely inclusion of fisheries in the future work of the Commission, as “genetic resources were becoming increasingly important in view of their roles in improved aquaculture production and threats to biodiversity and genetic resource conservation.”
November 2006	Invitation by the Secretary of the Commission to Chairs of the FAO Regional Groups to provide ideas and comments
December 2006	Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources
January 2007	Meeting of the Secretary of the Commission with the Asia Regional Group at the request of the Chair of the Group
February 2007	Fourteenth Session of the Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources
March 2007	Consultation with the Chairs of the FAO Regional Groups on the draft MYPOW
April 2007	Finalization of the draft MYPOW

³ CGRFA-11/07/21 Add.1.

11. In parallel to these consultations, the relevant services and PAIAs were consulted, as requested by the Commission. A Task Force on the MYPOW was set up to organize internal coordination, which included representatives of the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishery, Natural Resources and Economic Departments. The Task Force met eight times. In the case of plant and animal genetic resources, both the Commission's Intergovernmental Technical Working Groups,⁴ and the relevant departments of FAO provided suggestions for the MYPOW, which are reflected in the documents provided for agenda items 3 and 4. The relevant FAO Services and the Commission Secretariat also prepared a series of reports on the status and needs of sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture, other than plants and animals, and on cross-sectorial matters. These have, as far as possible, been prepared in a common format, to facilitate the finalization of the MYPOW:

- *The world's forest genetic resources: status and needs;*⁵
- *The world's aquatic genetic resources: status and needs;*⁶
- *Biodiversity of micro-organisms and insects for food and agriculture: status and needs;*⁷
- *The ecosystem approach applied to food and agriculture: status and needs;*⁸
- *Cross-sectorial international policy issues and genetic resources: status and needs.*⁹

12. In preparation for these documents, a series of additional papers were prepared in selected key fields:

- *Technical review of status and trends of the world's forest genetic resources;*¹⁰
- *Report of the Fourteenth Session of the FAO Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources;*¹¹
- *The status and trends in aquatic genetic resources: a basis for international policy;*¹²
- *The sustainable management of biodiversity for biological control in food and agriculture: status and needs;*¹³
- *Food, entomo-phytopathogenic and soil micro-organisms;*¹⁴
- *Importancia de los recursos genéticos microbianos: cuestiones emergentes identificadas en el Quinto Simposio de Recursos Genéticos para América Latina y el Caribe;*¹⁵
- *Pollinators: neglected biodiversity of importance to food and agriculture.*¹⁶

13. As noted in *Table 1*, various other processes, such as a meeting of the Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources, have also informed the process. The Commission thus has a substantial body of information at its disposal on which to base the finalization of its MYPOW.

⁴ see CGRFA-11/07/3 and CGRFA-11/07/10.

⁵ CGRFA-11/07/15.1.

⁶ CGRFA-11/07/15.2.

⁷ CGRFA-11/07/15.3.

⁸ CGRFA-11/07/15.4.

⁹ CGRFA-11/07/15.5.

¹⁰ Background Study Paper No.36.

¹¹ CGRFA-11/07/Inf.9.

¹² Background Study Paper No. 37.

¹³ Background Study Paper No. 38.

¹⁴ CGRFA-11/07/Circ.1, circulated at the request of the Government of Italy.

¹⁵ CGRFA-11/07/Circ.2, circulated at the request of the Government of Uruguay.

¹⁶ CGRFA-11/07/Inf.15.

IV. THE ROLE OF THE MYPOW AS A PLANNING TOOL FOR THE COMMISSION

14. MYPOWs are planning tools whereby institutions (such as commissions and governing bodies)¹⁷ can foresee, focus and order their future work, in order to fulfil their mandates and meet the targets they set themselves. MYPOWs therefore concentrate on identifying the meetings at which a limited number of specific topics will be scheduled. This facilitates the planning and implementation of individual outputs (for example, sectorial studies), and their subsequent integration into larger themes (for example, cross-sectorial outputs). They guide their secretariats' work programmes, identify and provide for any necessary cooperation with other institutions, and establish a reasoned basis on which to allocate resources. Characteristically, a MYPOW has an eight to ten year horizon, and is regularly reviewed and amended as necessary.

15. The adoption of a MYPOW makes it possible to plan upstream and downstream activities from a key decision, that is, to make provision for preparatory activities for consideration of a particular subject, and for regular monitoring and review. This is particularly important in situations where a parallel international process has requested an input from FAO and its Commission, and where preparatory work is required in order for the Commission to take a position. The CBD, for example, characterized its multi-year process as follows:

*“... there is a need for a programme of work that clearly sets out the proposed course of action for the process as a whole. Such a programme is seen as an important tool to assist Parties to implement the Convention, to allow for an effective prioritization in the use of scarce resources and to facilitate the effective involvement of the diverse range of institutions, bodies and individuals that are vital for achieving the aims of the Convention”.*¹⁸

16. In other forums, the adoption of MYPOWs has had substantial benefits, mobilizing interest and policy coherence within the organization, facilitating systematic partnership with other relevant processes, providing general policy frameworks that governments can use in structuring their relevant national processes, and helping to mobilize funding for agreed priorities.

17. In adopting a MYPOW that addresses all components of biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture, the Commission will be taking an important step forward in keeping under continuous review all FAO's relevant policy, programmes and activities. Within FAO, the Commission is the only body integrating work on biodiversity and genetic resources as a whole. Internationally, it is an acknowledged interlocutor with relevant cross-sectorial processes, in the environment and trade forums. This role of the Commission is recognized in *A strategic framework for FAO, 2000 – 2015*, which was adopted by the FAO Conference:

*“FAO is ideally placed to provide a global and neutral forum for the further development of the international policy and regulatory framework for food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry. The Organization draws upon a wide range of multi-sectorial technical and legal expertise and extensive experience in the development and adoption of international agreements, codes of conduct, undertakings, standards and other instruments on matters within its mandate. Through the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO has recognized competence in facilitating negotiations by governments of international instruments on aspects of biological diversity of relevance to food and agriculture”.*¹⁹

18. The *Strategic Framework* also stresses the need for the Organization to build upon its multi-disciplinary and cross-sectorial strengths:

¹⁷ For example, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the CBD, and the UN Forum on Forests have adopted such a MYPOW.

¹⁸ UNEP/CBD/COP/4/14: *Synthesis of views on the operations of the Convention*, paragraph 83.

¹⁹ Paragraph 57.

*“Inter-disciplinary approaches and cross-sectorial programmes build on the Organization's disciplinary excellence by making it possible to produce outputs which cannot be generated by one division or department working in isolation. Moreover, they are essential to ensure the requisite attention in all programmes and activities to cross-cutting priorities...”*²⁰

19. The Commission itself has “underscored the need for a coherent approach ... to many issues relevant to genetic resources for food and agriculture”.²¹

20. One major cross-sectorial international process, for example, relates to access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources. The CBD is currently negotiating an international regime on access and benefit-sharing, in response to a mandate from the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, with a target date of 2010.²² In this context, the Commission has “recommended that FAO and the Commission contribute to further work on access and benefit-sharing, in order to ensure that it move in a direction supportive of the special needs of the agricultural sector, in regard to all components of biological diversity of interest to food and agriculture”.²³ While the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture provides a multilateral system to address these matters in its sector, and while the Conference of the Parties to the CBD has recognized that the Commission’s on-going consideration on animal genetic resources will “contribute to ... access and benefit-sharing of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture”, there is as yet no accepted position regarding genetic resources for food and agriculture in general.²⁴ In order to contribute to the process underway in the CBD, within the accepted timeframe, the Commission may therefore wish to plan to address this inter-sectorial matter in the near future.

21. In keeping under continuous review all relevant policy, programmes and activities of FAO, it should be noted that activities on genetic resources are spread over all departments, and funded at the level of the individual Programme Entities within the Programme of Work and Budget. The review of status and trends has drawn attention to the relevance of much ongoing work. The MYPOW can assist Members in focussing more effectively, in a planned and strategic manner, the full range of relevant activities, in order to advise the Organization on their prioritization. The priorities that Members have expressed over the years, for work on plant and animal genetic resources, have resulted in priority being accorded to the relevant programme entities. Moreover, the Commission has helped mobilize very substantial extra-budgetary resources: for the Leipzig International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources and *The State the World's Plant Genetic Resources* and *Global Plan of Action*; for the negotiation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; and for the Interlaken International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources and *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*.

22. The Commission may wish to reflect upon how to draw experts and authorities from other sectors into its work. Historically, plant genetic resources were the first focus of the Commission, where its achievements have been important. The sector is large and well structured: there are substantial *ex situ* genebanks, important international institutions (such as the International Agricultural Research Centres of the CGIAR), and an international regime for the protection of new varieties of plants. Through its step-by-step process towards the Interlaken International Technical Conference, the Commission has also been able to mobilize the animal genetic resources sector, where

²⁰ Paragraph 110.

²¹ CGRFA-10/04/REP, paragraph 74.

²² Related processes are underway, as well, in WIPO’s Inter-governmental Committee on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, and in the WTO/TRIPS Council.

²³ *Ibid.*, paragraph 76.

²⁴ Although the Conference of the Parties has recognized, in decision V/5, “the special nature of agricultural biodiversity, its distinctive features and problems needing distinctive solutions”.

such institutions have been traditionally much weaker, and to bring to bear a critical mass of technical and policy skills, as well as to promote synergy between the plant and animal sectors.

23. Other sectors have different strengths and traditions that will need to be taken into account, and drawn into the process. In fisheries, for example, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries is a major established institution, but the status and needs study has identified the opportunity of now considering strengthening this, through the Commission's MYPOW, with a framework for aquatic genetic resources conservation and sustainable use, particularly for aquaculture, including in an inter-sectorial context. The forestry sector, through the Panel of Expert on Forestry Genetic Resources, has recommended working through the MYPOW towards a *State of the World's Forestry Genetic Resources*. Medium and long-term planning, in the MYPOW, will facilitate the mobilization of skills from these sectors, in a step-by-step manner, and promote the development, where appropriate, of common approaches to biodiversity for food and agriculture, including at the national level.

V. SCHEDULING OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MYPOW

24. The planning cycles for both plant and animal genetic resources are relatively clear, as these are now well-developed processes. The Commission will continue to convene as necessary, and set specific tasks for, its Inter-Governmental Technical Working Groups, to strengthen inter-sessional work.

25. Facilitating cooperation with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, particularly in the case of the supporting components of the Treaty that are overseen by the Commission, is one of the key objectives of the MYPOW.²⁵ The Commission may wish to inform the Governing Body of its scheduling of relevant processes, in particular for the adoption of the second *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, and the subsequent updating of *The Global Plan of Action*, and to invite the Governing Body, in due course, to make any recommendations it wishes, to be taken into account in the preparation of the two documents, as well as on any other relevant matters.

26. Planning effective cooperation with the CBD is a major element in considering cross-sectorial matters. The immediate focuses proposed are necessary to meet the 2010 targets,²⁶ and to take into account the on-going process on access and benefit-sharing.

27. Both the forestry and fisheries sectors welcome the opportunity to cooperate with the Commission, within the framework of the MYPOW. Both have suggested a process to draw up a *State of the World* report for their sector. For aquatic genetic resources, the development of a framework, within the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, on genetic resource management is also foreseen: this is opportune with the rapidly growing contribution of aquaculture to food supply, particularly in developing countries. While micro-organisms for food and agriculture were considered as being important in many of the consultations undertaken in preparing the draft MYPOW, the matter is complex, and needs to be approached in a step-by-step manner. Following the completion of the cycle of sectorial *State of the World* reports, a synthesis report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* will become possible: this should not be merely a compendium of sectorial approaches, but should deal with cross-sectorial and common themes, including the management of biodiversity in complex agricultural ecosystems, by the application of the ecosystem approach.

28. The Commission will be addressing questions that may require follow-up within its MYPOW at the current session. These include work towards a code of conduct, guidelines, or other approaches to biotechnology as it relates to genetic resources for food and agriculture.

²⁵ 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*.

²⁶ It is assumed that the Commission will hold its next session in late 2008.

29. The consultative process for the preparation of the MYPOW has benefited from considerable inputs from governments, through the Commission's Working Groups and consultations with the FAO Regional Groups. The process has itself improved coordination and inter-sectorial cooperation within FAO in the field of genetic resources for food and agriculture. It has attracted the interest of experts, and of a number of international organizations, which are willing to be associated with its implementation.

VI. TOWARDS THE ADOPTION OF THE MYPOW

30. The draft MYPOW has been constructed so as to allow the Commission to focus on a limited number milestones or outputs. This systematic approach would allow a thorough preparation of major decisions through preparatory activities over a number of years, and adequate time for informed debate. In practical terms, a focus on no more than four or five major outputs or milestones in each session is suggested. This does, of course, not mean that other important issues could not also be considered where necessary, and a common sense approach to the management of time and resources is required. Moreover, the Commission may at any session provide more precise guidelines as to what needs to be addressed in its next session, and how.

31. *Table 1* of the *Appendix* to this document provides a scheduling, over the Commission's next five sessions, of the suggested major outputs and milestones. It is based on the various consultations of the MYPOW process, and already attempts to take into account the scheduling of related activities in other relevant international processes. This forms the backbone of the MYPOW. The decision on the overall scheduling of the major outputs and milestones should be one of the final tasks in preparing the MYPOW, as such scheduling – while taking into account sectorial and cross-sectorial processes – needs to integrate them into a single coherent programme of work.

32. The major outputs and milestones suggested will now need to be fleshed out into a work programme, that is, the preparatory work for each of the major outputs needs to be expressed as a timed set of activities within the ten-year span of the MYPOW, progress in which would be reported to sessions of the Commission. At the same time, the substantive ideas and comments on possible elements of the MYPOW gathered through the consultation process, which are assembled in the document, *Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: compendium of ideas and comments*,²⁷ may be drawn upon to help define the scope and coverage of the major outputs more comprehensively, and to ensure that the timed set of activities covers the elements agreed.

33. A way of working in order to achieve this is proposed in the *Draft provisional annotated agenda and time-table*:

“The Commission may consider it helpful to establish a small MYPOW Committee at the beginning of the session, under this item of the agenda, to keep track of the various matters that the Commission discusses, and adjust the draft MYPOW accordingly, including its major outputs and milestones, for consideration as a whole under agenda item 9. The Commission could also assign this task to its Bureau”.²⁸

34. The overall process would be as in *Table 2*, below. In **STEP 1**, the Commission would consider the sectorial programmes, and the cross-sectorial matters under separate items of the agenda, and review them sequentially. This would allow the Commission, while working through the agenda, to identify issues that it wishes to address in the MYPOW, in order to implement its full mandate. In

²⁷ CGRFA-11/07/21Add.1.

²⁸ CGRFA-11/07/2, Agenda Item 2, Adoption of the agenda and time-table.

STEP 2, as each sectorial programme and cross-sectorial matter has been reviewed, the MYPOW Committee (or Bureau, if so decided), could schedule the major outputs and milestones in *Table I* of the draft MYPOW and integrate other activities and relevant conclusions for each agenda item into section II of the draft MYPOW. The schedule could take into account other international processes with which the Commission wishes to seek synergy. Section II of the draft MYPOW could also identify possible inter-sessional activities, which would help establish priorities for the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization and attract extra-budgetary resources or direct support for such activities. In **STEP 3**, the consolidated MYPOW would be presented for adoption under item 9 of the Commission's draft provisional agenda.

Table 2: Towards the adoption of the MYPOW						
STEP 1: Identification of milestones, outputs & activities	CGRFA Plenary					
	<i>Sectorial</i>					<i>Cross-sectorial</i>
	AnGR	PGRFA	FoGR	AqGR	MiGR	Biotechnology, the ecosystem approach, international policy issues, <i>etc.</i>
Agenda items:	3	4	6.1	6.2	6.3	5; 6.4; 6.5
	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
STEP 2: Consolidation of the draft MYPOW	MYPOW Committee (or Bureau)					
	↓					
STEP 3: Adoption of the MYPOW	CGRFA Plenary					
Agenda item:	9					

VII. GUIDANCE REQUESTED FROM THE COMMISSION

35. The Commission is requested to review and adopt its MYPOW, covering its five next sessions, as prepared during the session.

36. In addition, the Commission may wish to

- indicate what inter-sessional work it wishes its Secretariat and FAO generally to undertake in preparation for its twelfth session, and for the preparation of longer-term considerations within its MYPOW;
- indicate also the need to establish any *Ad Hoc* Subsidiary Body, which would meet in the inter-sessional period to advance implementation of the MYPOW, and if so, request FAO to mobilize the necessary funds to organize such meeting;
- request its Secretary to reduce routine reporting by international organizations, and concentrate upon focused consultation on the major themes for each session;

-
- recommend that FAO give priority in its biennial Programme of Work and Budget to future work on genetic resources, within the structure of the MYPOW of the Commission;
 - invite FAO to also mobilize extra-budgetary resources for the implementation of the MYPOW;
 - invite Members to support relevant inter-sessional preparatory activities;
 - request FAO to enhance synergies and build partnerships with relevant international organizations to facilitate the implementation of the MYPOW;
 - request its Secretary to transmit the MYPOW to the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; and
 - request the Secretary to transmit the MYPOW to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as it is an important tool to strengthen cooperation between FAO and the CBD, and invite him to inform the Conference of the Parties accordingly.

DRAFT**MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture,

Deeply concerned at the extent of hunger and poverty in the World, and the continuing erosion of biodiversity and genetic resources for food and agriculture;

Convinced of the critical importance of the Millennium Development Goals as a framework for the international efforts to address these and other development issues, and particularly that international cooperation for the exchange and management of genetic resources for food and agriculture is crucial for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals 1 (the eradication of extreme hunger and poverty) and 7(ensuring environmental sustainability);

Acknowledging that genetic resources for food and agriculture are an essential and indispensable raw material for human-kind to adapt to climatic and other environmental changes, and to ensure future human needs;

Aware of our responsibility to present and future generations to conserve the world's diversity of genetic resources for food and agriculture;

Recognizing that genetic resources for food and agriculture have distinctive features and problems needing distinctive solutions;

Recalling that, by a decision of the FAO Conference, the Commission's mandate covers "all components of biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture";²⁹

Convinced of the need to deal, in a planned and staged approach, with biodiversity for food and agriculture in its broadest sense, including crop, forest, animal, fish and micro-organism genetic resources for food and agriculture, and that this will strengthen international cooperation, within FAO, and between FAO and other relevant bodies, while ensuring synergy and complementarity and avoiding duplication;

Recalling its decision, at its Tenth Regular Session, requesting the Secretariat to submit a draft Multi-Year Programme of Work to its Eleventh Session;

has adopted this Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW):

I. MAJOR OUTPUTS AND MILESTONES

The Commission, at its following five Sessions, will focus on the major outputs and milestones shown in *Table 1* of this MYPOW.

II. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

In order to achieve the major outputs and milestones, as set out in *Table 1*, the following recommendations of the Commission will be taken into account with regard to preparatory activities and other specifications to organize future work.

²⁹ FAO Conference Resolution 3/95.

SECTORIAL PROGRAMMES**Plant genetic resources**

[Insert: MYPOW-relevant conclusions arising from consideration of agenda item 4]

Animal genetic resources

[Insert: MYPOW-relevant conclusions arising from consideration of agenda item 3]

Forest genetic resources

[Insert: MYPOW-relevant conclusions arising from consideration of agenda item 6.1]

Aquatic genetic resources

[Insert: MYPOW-relevant conclusions arising from consideration of agenda item 6.2]

Micro-organisms and insects

[Insert: MYPOW-relevant conclusions arising from consideration of agenda item 6.3]

CROSS-SECTORIAL MATTERS

[Insert: MYPOW-relevant conclusions arising from consideration of agenda items 5, 6.4 & 6.5]

III. MANAGEMENT OF THE MYPOW

The Commission will keep this MYPOW under review, in order that it may periodically update and amend it, to address new and emerging issues in the field of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and to take into account relevant processes in other forums.

A mid term review of the MYPOW shall be undertaken at the Fourteenth Regular Session of the Commission.

Table 1: Major outputs and milestones in the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work

	11 th Session	12 th Session	13 th Session	14 th Session	15 th Session	16 th Session
Plant Genetic Resources (PGRFA)	Cooperation with the International Treaty	<i>The State of the World's PGRFA</i>	Review of the <i>Global Plan of Action</i>	Review of cooperation with the International Treaty		Brief update of <i>The State of the World's PGRFA</i>
Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR)	Preparation of the Interlaken Conference	Follow-up to the Interlaken Conference		Review of implementation of Interlaken outcomes		Brief update of <i>The State of the World's AnGR</i>
Aquatic Genetic Resources (AqGR)			Review of information base for aquatic genetic resources, and key issues for <i>The State of the World AqGR</i>	Framework for AqGR in the <i>Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries</i>	<i>The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources</i>	
Forest Genetic Resources (FoGR)		Review key issues in forest genetic resources, for <i>The State of the World FoGR</i>		<i>The State of the World FoGR</i>		
Micro-organisms and insects			Review of key issues in micro-organisms and insects		Review of work on micro-organisms and insects	
Cross-sectorial matters	Cooperation with the CBD, in particular on Agricultural Biological Diversity Review of <i>Progress on the Draft Code of Conduct on Biotechnology (policy issues, gaps and duplication)</i>	Review of targets and indicators for biodiversity for food and food and agriculture (2010 target)	Policies and arrangements for access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture Review of progress towards a code or codes of conduct, guidelines or other approaches for biotechnology	Framework for 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	<i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>
Management of the MYPOW	Adoption of MYPOW			Mid-term review of the MYPOW		