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COOPERATION WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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COOPERATION WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

I. INTRODUCTION

1. FAO and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture have collaborated closely with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), since its entry into force in 1993, in a number of ways. The Commission and the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD, as well as the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the COP, have regularly exchanged information on matters of mutual interest; the FAO Secretariat has worked closely with the Secretariat of the CBD, particularly in relation to agricultural biological diversity; and FAO itself undertakes a number of activities which the CBD recognizes as being important to its work.

2. Since the Eighth Regular Session of the Commission in 1999, there have been two meetings of the COP, in which the Parties have addressed various matters to FAO and the Commission, and in this period FAO's joint activities with the CBD Secretariat have broadened. This document provides the Commission with information on the various aspects of this relationship.

II. INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS UNDER ARTICLE XIV OF THE FAO CONSTITUTION AND THE CBD

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

3. During the negotiations for the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, the Commission regularly reported progress to meetings of the COP, which regularly expressed its support for this process, recognizing, in decision II/15, "the special nature of agricultural biodiversity, its distinctive features and problems needing distinctive solutions".

4. The Chairman of the Commission reported to the Fifth Meeting of the COP (Nairobi, Kenya, May 2000) on the outcome of the negotiations during the Commission's Eighth Regular Session. On that occasion, it had been decided to convene a Chairman's Contact Group to advance the negotiations so that an extraordinary session of the Commission might adopt the text for forwarding to the FAO Council and Conference. He noted that this had been endorsed by the FAO Council in June 1999 and by the FAO Conference in November 1999. The Conference had considered that the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources was at the meeting point between agriculture, the environment and commerce, and agreed that there should be consistency and synergy in the agreements being developed in these different sectors. It had confirmed that the negotiations on the revision of the International Undertaking would proceed on the basis that the Undertaking would take the form of a legally binding instrument, closely linked to FAO and the CBD.

5. In its decision V/26, the COP urged the Commission to finalize its work as soon as possible, noting that the International Undertaking was envisaged to play a crucial role in the implementation of the CBD. It affirmed its willingness to consider a decision by the FAO Conference that the International Undertaking become a legally binding instrument with strong links to both FAO and the CBD, and called upon Parties to coordinate their positions in both forums. It stressed the importance that, in developing national legislation on access, Parties take into account and allow for the development of a multilateral system to facilitate access and benefit-sharing in the context of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.

6. Following the adoption of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture by the FAO Conference on 3 November 2001, the Director-General requested the Executive Secretary of the CBD to convey Resolution 3/2001 of the FAO Conference to the Sixth Meeting of the COP (The Hague, The Netherlands, April 2002). This resolution invited the COP to establish and maintain cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture acting as Interim Committee for the Treaty, and following entry into force, with the Treaty's Governing Body. The Chairman of the Commission reported on the adoption of the Treaty to the Meeting of the COP. The COP then adopted decision VI/6, which congratulated FAO and its Commission on successfully completing this important process; recognized the important role that the Treaty will have, in harmony with the CBD, for the conservation and sustainable utilization of this important component of agricultural biological diversity, for facilitated access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their utilization; appealed to Parties and other Governments to give priority consideration to the signature and ratification of the Treaty, so that it might enter expeditiously into force; and decided to establish and maintain cooperation with the Interim Committee and, upon the entry into force of the Treaty, with its Governing Body. (The full text of the decision is in *Appendix I*).

7. In adopting decision VI/24, on the Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of their Utilization, the COP recognized that these should be applied in a manner that is coherent and mutually supportive of the work of relevant international agreements and institutions, and that the guidelines are without prejudice to the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the Treaty. The decision also recognized the important role that the Treaty will have, in harmony with the Convention, for facilitated access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their utilization. Moreover, in decision VI/9, the COP decided that the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation would apply the Convention provisions on access and benefit-sharing, drawing as appropriate on the Bonn Guidelines for access and benefit-sharing, in a manner consistent with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

The International Plant Protection Convention

8. Since the Eighth Regular Session of the Commission, cooperation has developed between the IPPC and the CBD, particularly in relation to living modified organisms (LMOs) and alien invasive species.

9. The Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) of the IPPC considered the issue of Living Modified Organisms and Alien Invasive Species at its Second, Third and Fourth Sessions (1999, 2000 and 2001 respectively). An Open-ended Working Group met in 2000 to consider phytosanitary aspects of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), biosafety and invasive species. Its report (adopted by the Fourth ICPM), defined the IPPC's role regarding living modified organisms/products of biotechnology, and recognized the necessity of drafting an International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures on Living Modified Organisms. The Open-ended Working Group also determined the role of the IPPC regarding alien invasive species, and recommended that a supplementary standard for plant pest risk analysis involving living modified organisms be developed as a matter of urgency. The supplemental environmental standard is presently under development and a specification for an annex to the Pest Risk Analysis standard on living modified organisms was adopted by the Fourth Session of the ICPM in 2002.

10. On the recommendation of the Open-ended Working Group, that close cooperation be developed with the CBD and its Secretariat, and that communication and cooperation issues be addressed as part of the ICPM's planning process, the ICPM also endorsed the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the CBD and the IPPC. At the invitation of the

Chairperson of the ICPM, an IPPC consultation with CBD experts was held in 2001, to explore areas of potential collaboration between the CBD and the IPPC.

11. CBD experts are invited to relevant sessions of working groups where these issues are discussed. In parallel, the Chairperson and the Secretariat of the IPPC have participated in relevant meetings of the COP to the CBD and its Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).

12. The Sixth Meeting of the COP, in decision VI/20, *Cooperation with other organizations, initiatives and conventions*, welcomed the recommendations of the Open-ended Working Group of the ICPM on Specifications for an International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures on Living Modified Organisms, and requested the Executive Secretary to continue to maintain close cooperation with the ICPM of the IPPC as regards the development of standards for plant pest risk analysis involving living modified organisms. Decision VI/23, *Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species*, in acknowledging, *inter alia*, the contribution of the IPPC, recommends that Parties to the CBD and other Governments, as appropriate, consider ratifying the revised IPPC, and calls on Parties, Governments, and relevant organizations to actively work to enhance the implementation of the IPPC. The decision also invites the IPPC, in the elaboration or revision of standards, to consider incorporating criteria related to the threats to biological diversity posed by invasive alien species.

13. The Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, at its third meeting in The Hague, The Netherlands (22-26 April 2002), in considering the role of different entities in supporting capacity-building, noted the need to ensure coordination and mutual supportiveness with other bodies and conventions concerned with LMO issues: for example, the IPPC, the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), FAO and the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

III. JOINT PROGRAMME OF WORK ON AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

14. By decision III/11, the COP decided to establish a multi-year programme of activities on agricultural biological diversity, and welcomed the offer of FAO to continue serving countries in implementing the CBD in the area of agricultural biological diversity, underlining the necessity of avoiding any duplication of work with respect to the activities being undertaken by FAO. It invited FAO, in close collaboration with other relevant United Nations bodies and regional and international organizations, to identify and assess relevant ongoing activities and existing instruments at the international level. At its Fourth Meeting, by decision IV/6, the COP reiterated the wish that FAO maintain its coordinating role in the assessment of ongoing activities and instruments at regional and international levels.

15. At its Sixth Meeting, the COP then adopted its multi-year Programme of Work on Agricultural Biological Diversity, and invited FAO to support the development and implementation of the programme of work. The agreed programme of work was to a large extent developed on the basis of the findings of the assessment of ongoing activities and instruments, carried out by FAO, in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat. FAO has since cooperated closely with the CBD in the further development of this work programme, which includes joint coordination activities, activities that the COP has invited FAO to facilitate and coordinate, and independent activities by FAO which the COP considers to be important for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity. FAO has, moreover, seconded a full-time Agricultural Biodiversity Officer to the CBD Secretariat, to assist in the implementation of the Programme of Work. Two meetings of the CBD Liaison Group on Agricultural Biodiversity were organized by the FAO and the CBD secretariats jointly: the first, in Rome in September 1999, considered the proposed elements of the Programme of Work on Agricultural Biological

Diversity; the second, in Rome in January 2001, was to facilitate the implementation of the Programme.

16. The Programme of Work has four programme elements:

- The wider understanding of the functions of biodiversity in agro-ecosystems, and the interactions between its various components, at different spatial scales;
- The promotion of methods of sustainable agriculture that employ management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive and prevent or mitigate the negative impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, focusing on the needs of farmers and indigenous and local communities, to participate efficiently in the process of meetings those particular goals;
- Capacity-building in institutions, human resource development, training, communication, education and public awareness; and
- Mainstreaming.

17. At its Sixth Meeting, the COP reviewed the Programme of Work, and, in decision VI/5, requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with FAO, to prepare syntheses of relevant studies and an analysis of gaps and opportunities in the implementation of the Programme of Work, for consideration by the COP at its Eighth Meeting.

18. Decision VI/5:

- Established an ***International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators***, and welcomed the leading role played by FAO in facilitating and coordinating this initiative. In this role, FAO had in November 2000 held a meeting of key experts to discuss how to elaborate the International Pollinators Initiative. A Plan of Action had then been prepared by FAO and the CBD Secretariat, and endorsed by SBSTTA during its Seventh Meeting. FAO also supported the First Workshop for the African Pollinator Initiative (API), organized in February 2002 by a committee of experts involved in the Initiative from working Africa, to discuss the status of pollinator initiatives in Africa and to map out strategies for future activities. Case studies on pollination and sustainable livelihoods are being prepared, in cooperation with international institutions;
- Established an ***International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity***, and invited FAO and other relevant organizations, to facilitate and coordinate it. This resulted from the COP's consideration of papers on soil biodiversity that FAO had submitted to the Seventh Session of the SBSTTA, in November 2001, and subsequently to the COP. FAO is proposing an integrated ecological approach, which incorporates soil biological management into agricultural programmes and projects. It is working with interested partners to prioritize the identification and promotion of field activities, through capacity-building and the Farmer Field Schools approach developed in FAO's Integrated Production and Pest Management Programmes;
- Welcomed the process underway in this Commission (and to be discussed in this session), for the preparation of the First ***Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources***; encouraged Parties to participate in the development of the Report; and invited Governments, the CBD's financial mechanism, and funding organizations, to provide adequate and timely support to enable countries (especially developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, and in particular least developed countries and small island developing states) to participate fully in this process, and in the follow-up. FAO has kept Parties to the CBD informed of progress in this process, preparing information documents for the Seventh Meeting of SBSTTA and for the last Meeting of the COP.

- Requested the CBD Executive Secretary to study further the *impacts of trade liberalization on agricultural biodiversity*, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, FAO, the World Trade Organization and other relevant organizations; and
- Considered the *impacts of genetic use restriction technologies (GURTs) on smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities and Farmers' Rights*, in which context it invited FAO to undertake various actions. This question is covered in document CGRFA-9/02/17, *Potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies (GURTs) on agricultural biological diversity and agricultural production systems*, and all consideration by the COP of GURTs is reported there.

19. A further subject of particular importance to the CBD Programme of Work, and which was prepared and is monitored by this Commission, is the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. In its earlier decision III/11, the COP welcomed the *Plan's* contribution to the implementation of the CBD and endorsed its priorities and policy recommendations. The COP considered that the *Plan* would contribute significantly to the Agricultural Biodiversity Programme of Work. Priority activities of the *Plan* of particular relevance to the CBD Programme of Work include: supporting on-farm management and improvement of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; increasing genetic enhancement and base-broadening efforts; promoting sustainable agriculture through diversification of crop production and broader diversity in crops; promoting development and commercialization of under-utilized crops and species; and supporting seed production and distribution.

IV. OTHER AREAS OF FAO'S WORK OF RELEVANCE TO THE WORK OF THE CBD

20. At its second meeting, the COP decided that the **ecosystem approach** should be the primary framework for activities under the Convention. This is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources, which promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. Through decision V/6, the COP agreed on the following five points, as operational guidance for the application of the ecosystem approach:

- Focus on the functional relationships and processes within ecosystems;
- Enhance benefit-sharing;
- Use adaptive management practices;
- Carry out management actions at the scale appropriate for the issue being addressed, with decentralization to lowest level, as appropriate; and
- Ensure intersectorial cooperation.

21. Decision VI/12, *Ecosystem approach*, notes that, in many countries, implementation of the ecosystem approach has been slow due to financial constraints; and recognizes the necessity to apply the ecosystem approach in national policies and legislation, and to integrate the approach in thematic and cross-sectorial programmes of the Convention at the local, national and regional level, with a view to facilitating the integration of the approach, as appropriate, in the work of other forums and relevant international agreements.

22. A number of ongoing FAO activities contribute to **the application of the ecosystem approach within agriculture, and for agriculture in the wider environment**. FAO's Priority

Areas for Inter-Disciplinary Action (PAIA) on Biological Diversity for Food and Agriculture (document CGRFA-9/02/14.3) addresses the integrated management of biological diversity for food and agriculture; aims to further an understanding of the functions of biodiversity in agricultural ecosystems; and promotes the ecosystem approach for the management of agricultural production systems. Just such an integrated approach is taken in the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Farmer Field Schools now operating in over 100,000 villages: these enable over two million farm households to analyse their agro-ecosystems, in order to be able to make better field-management decisions. FAO's PAIA on Organic Agriculture also promotes an ecosystem approach to the management of agricultural biodiversity (document CGRFA-9/02/14.3) and documents the linkages between organic agriculture and the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity—including the use and importance of traditional knowledge of indigenous diversity and open-pollinated and regionally adapted genetic resources—through case studies in different geographic areas and for different agro-ecological zones. FAO provides continued support for the Global Terrestrial Observing System, to address the data and information needs related to global and regional change in the areas of land quality, freshwater resources, biodiversity, climate change, and pollution and toxics. FAO co-sponsors the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment programme.

23. In Decision V/5, the COP recognized the contribution of **farmers, indigenous and local communities** to the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and the importance of agricultural biodiversity to their livelihoods, and emphasized the importance of their participation in the implementation of the Programme of Work. Here again, the great outreach of the national IPM programmes supported by FAO's Agriculture Department shows how farmers may be enabled to manage their biodiversity effectively and sustainably. In this context, 15 Asian, 11 African, five Latin American and three Near Eastern countries are expanding local community networks of Farmer Field Schools, focussing on rice, vegetable, maize, cotton, legume, fruit-based and mixed agro-ecosystems. Other Farmer Field Schools initiatives by the Forestry and Sustainable Development Departments are expanding, with support from various donors.

24. FAO continued to collaborate with the CBD Secretariat in the implementation of the **Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity**, which contains many elements that are addressed in detail in FAO's comprehensive forestry programme. FAO's on-going work programmes in wildlife and protected area management; the management of forest genetic resources; forest assessment and monitoring; sustainable forest management; model and demonstration forests; forest plantations; and forest protection—including IPM and ecosystem-based management of forest fires—are closely related to elements of the Programme of Work. An Expert Meeting on Harmonization of Forest-Related Definitions for Use by Various Stakeholders was organized by FAO in January 2002, and its report was made available to the Sixth Meeting of the COP, which welcomed it and encouraged further collaborative action.

25. The **FAO Forest Resources Assessment 2000** provides base-line global data on forest areas, change, and status. Efforts towards a comprehensive assessment of forest genetic diversity are continuing, through support to a series of eco-regional workshops and the development of a global information system on forest genetic resources. A large number of countries are identifying and implementing criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, including for the conservation of biological diversity. FAO continues to facilitate the process and seeks to ensure compatibility among such criteria and indicators. In partnership with a number of conservation NGOs, FAO's wildlife and protected area management programme is addressing the bushmeat/wildmeat crisis in Africa's tropical forests, an initiative that directly supports the achievement of the Convention's objective of the sustainable use of biological diversity.

26. The **Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)**, which is chaired by FAO, was established to support the work programme coordinated by the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and to enhance cooperation and coordination among partners in UNFF-related efforts on sustainable forest management. Conservation of forest biological diversity is a cross-cutting

theme, which is addressed directly or indirectly in many of the UNFF programme elements. The CBD Secretariat is among the members of the CPF. The member organizations of the CPF can, individually and jointly, and within the framework of their established mandates and activities, also help the CBD and other international conventions in carrying out their work.

27. The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries is the primary instrument to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of living aquatic resources. It sets out principles and guidelines for responsible practices with a view to ensuring the effective conservation, management and development of living aquatic resources, with due respect for the ecosystem and biodiversity. Four voluntary International Plans of Action (<http://www.fao.org/fi/ipa/ipae.asp>) have been elaborated within the framework of the Code of Conduct: for reducing incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries; for the conservation and management of sharks; for the management of fishing capacity; and to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. The legally binding Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas will come into force on the deposit of the twenty-fifth instrument of acceptance; in July 2002, twenty-two such instruments had been deposited.

28. FAO continued to be involved with the CBD's Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity and on inland water ecosystems. A meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Expert Group on Mariculture was held from 1 to 5 July 2002, in FAO in Rome. The Group is intended to help implement programme element 4 (mariculture) of the Programme of Work, the operational objective of which is to assess the consequences of mariculture for marine and coastal biological diversity and promote techniques that minimize adverse impact. It evaluates the current state of scientific and technological knowledge regarding the effects of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity, and provides guidance on criteria, methods and techniques that avoid the adverse effects of mariculture on marine and coastal biological diversity and enhance the positive effects on marine and coastal productivity. FAO participated in the CBD inland water ecosystem liaison group meeting in Wageningen, The Netherlands, 13-15 June 2002, to revise the Programme of Work on Biological Diversity of Inland Water Ecosystems.

29. FAO's Fisheries Department has also initiated important work on assessments of freshwater biodiversity in China, Cambodia, and Vietnam, with future work planned in 2003 in West Africa. This work has documented the large contribution made by aquatic species to food and ecosystem services, and the richness of local knowledge applied in managing freshwater ecosystems. The FAO Species Identification Programme further documents, in particular, marine biodiversity of value to commercial fisheries.

V. OTHER ISSUES ADDRESSED TO FAO IN THE SIXTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

30. In addition to other matters covered earlier in this document, a number of other decisions of the Sixth COP concern FAO and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture:

- Decision VI/7, *Identification, monitoring, indicators and assessments*, stated that regional approaches to indicator development should be promoted in order to assess the status and trends of biodiversity. For the development of the list of indicators, there was a need for harmonization and collaboration with regional and international initiatives, including FAO.
- Decision VI/8, in endorsing the Programme of Work for the *Global Taxonomy Initiative*, specifically noted that the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture could play a key partnership role.
- Decision VI/9, which adopted the *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*, noted that the Strategy provided a framework by means of setting outcome-orientated targets, envisaging

that the activities necessary to reach those targets could be developed within this framework. It recognized that there were relevant activities under existing relevant initiatives, and mentioned the IPPC; the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of FAO; and the FAO *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

- Decision VI/10, *Article 8(j) and related provisions*, requested various international organizations to contribute to the undertaking of task 5 of the annex to decision V/16, namely that the Executive Secretary prepare an outline of a composite report on the status and trends regarding the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, and a plan and a timetable for its preparation. It stated that relevant information should be sought, *inter alia*, from FAO. It noted that, in recent years, many United Nations agencies, including FAO, and intergovernmental agencies and processes, had undertaken surveys and studies, and compiled reports concerning issues relevant to this task. As an example, it cited *The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, prepared under the guidance of this Commission, for the Leipzig International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
- In Decision VI/15, *Incentive Measures*, competent international organizations are invited to support the efforts of Parties in their work on incentive measures, in particular through the dissemination of information, the provision of expertise and technical guidance, and training. An inter-agency coordination committee should be established, including, *inter alia*, FAO, to coordinate activities at the international level, thus avoiding overlapping initiatives and activities, while providing support to Parties.
- Decision VI/20, *Cooperation with other organizations, initiatives and conventions*, welcomes the various contributions to the work of the SBSTTA and the Convention, including the FAO *Report on the State of the World's Plant and Animal Resources*. It invites FAO to continue its close working relationship with the Executive Secretary and to extend its cooperation on those relevant areas identified in the decisions of the meeting, under the item on agricultural biological diversity, in particular on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
- Decision VI/22, *Forest biological diversity*, took note of the report of the Expert Meeting on Harmonization of Forest-related Definitions, held in Rome from 23 to 25 January 2002, under the auspices of FAO and other partners. It invited FAO and other relevant organizations to include forest biodiversity in their assessments of fire impacts; to explore possibilities for a joint work programme with the CBD, including, *inter alia*, fire impact assessments, development of guidelines on fire management, and community-based approaches to fire prevention and management; and to report on progress to the SBSTTA prior to the seventh meeting of the COP.
- Decision VI/23, *Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species*, in addition to the various matters addressed to the IPPC and the ICPM mentioned above, invited, *inter alia*, FAO to take alien invasive species into account when considering the impacts of land-use change, agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, health and development policies and activities. It requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration, *inter alia*, with FAO, to identify a mechanism(s) for providing Parties with access to financial support for rapidly responding to new incursions by alien species, and report to the COP at its seventh meeting on progress to establish that mechanism(s).
- Decision VI/24, *Access and benefit-sharing as related to genetic resources*, states, as mentioned above, that the Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of their Utilization are without prejudice to the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic

Resources for Food and Agriculture. It furthermore invites relevant international organizations, including FAO, to contribute to the further study and analysis of various issues related to intellectual property rights in the implementation of access and benefit-sharing arrangements.

VI. COMPLEMENTARITY BETWEEN FAO'S MONITORING AND REPORTING ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY, AND GOVERNMENTS' REPORTING UNDER THE CBD

31. The Commission has stressed the need to ensure complementarity between FAO's monitoring and reporting activities in the area of agricultural biodiversity, and Governments' reporting to the Convention. Several items that are under consideration by the Commission during the current session may be relevant to establishing a consistent and complementary monitoring and reporting system, including: the monitoring process for the *Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (document CGRFA-9/02/7), the proposed Facilitating Mechanism for the Implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* (document CGRFA-9/02/9); the development of the second report on the *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources* (document CGRFA-9/02/8) as well as the report on the *State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* (document CGRFA-9/02/4); the *World Information and Early Warning System* (WIEWS) (document CGRFA-9/02/10); and associated indicators of genetic diversity and genetic erosion (document CGRFA-9/02/Inf. 2). The network of national focal points for the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* could assist in the mainstreaming of agricultural biodiversity considerations into agricultural sector plans and programmes.

VII. GUIDANCE REQUESTED FROM THE COMMISSION

32. In the light of the information provided in this document, the Commission may wish to provide guidance on how cooperation between FAO and the CBD may be strengthened, in the service of their Members, and in the light of their individual mandates. It may, in particular, wish to discuss ways in which complementarity between FAO's monitoring and reporting activities in the area of agricultural biodiversity, and Governments' reporting to the Convention, can be enhanced.

*Appendix 1***DECISION VI/6 OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY****The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture***The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Congratulates* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, where the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was negotiated, on successfully completing this important process;
2. *Recognizes* the important role that the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture will have, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for the conservation and sustainable utilization of this important component of agricultural biological diversity, for facilitated access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their utilization;
3. *Appeals* to Parties and other Governments to give priority consideration to the signature and ratification of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, so that it may enter expeditiously into force;
4. *Decides to* establish and maintain cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture acting as the Interim Committee for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and, upon the entry into force of the Treaty, with the Governing Body;
5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to develop cooperation with the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture acting as the Interim Committee for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and, upon its establishment, with the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to convey the present decision to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture acting as the Interim Committee for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.