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منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda

COMMISSION ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

Sixth Session

Rome, 19 - 30 June 1995

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROCEDURES FOR THE WORKING GROUP

		<u>Paras</u>
I.	Introduction	1 - 3
II.	Guidance provided by the Commission	4 - 5
	1. Mandate	4 - 5
	2. Composition	6 - 9
	3. Officers	10 - 12
III.	Conclusions and suggested action by the Commission	13
		<u>Page</u>
Annex I	Proposed statutes of the Working Group	4

**DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROCEDURES
FOR THE WORKING GROUP**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Plant Genetic Resources (CPGR), at its fifth session (19-23 April 1993), reviewed the terms of reference and procedures of its Working Group and *"requested the Secretariat to prepare, for its next session, draft statutes for the Working Group which would include the mandate, the composition of the Group, and the frequency of meetings"*.^{1/}
2. Pursuant to this request, the Secretariat prepared document CPGR/94/WG9/7, which was examined by the Working Group at its ninth session (11-12 May 1994). The Working Group *"recommended that the subject, with the Group's comments, be discussed by the Commission"*.^{2/}
3. The present document reproduces document CPGR/94/WG9/7, as examined by the Working Group at its ninth session, together with the comments made by the Working Group during that Session. It presents proposals for consideration by the Commission, on the basis of the observations and recommendations made by the Commission and its Working Group.

II. GUIDANCE PROVIDED BY THE COMMISSION

II.1 Mandate

4. The Working Group was established by the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources at its first session as a subsidiary body of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources under paragraph 4 of the Statutes of the CPGR with the following terms of reference: *"to consider the progress made in implementing the Commission's programme of work and any other matters referred to it by the Commission"*.^{3/}
5. The Commission on Plant Genetic Resources agreed, at its fifth session, that the terms of reference of the Working Group *"should be broad, in order to permit sufficient flexibility for the Commission to assign specific tasks to the Working Group. It was suggested that the Working Group take an active role reviewing the preliminary agenda of the Commission"*.^{4/}

II.2 Composition

6. As regards the composition of the Working Group, the Commission decided at its first session that *"it should be made up of 23 Members of the Commission with the following regional distribution:*

*4 representatives from Asia
4 representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean
5 representatives from Africa
3 representatives from Near East
5 representatives from Europe
1 representative from Southwest Pacific
1 Representative from North America"*.^{5/}

7. At its fifth session, the Commission *"reaffirmed the present composition of the Working Group, stressing the need to provide for the participation, upon invitation, in an observer capacity, of members of the Commission*

^{1/} CPGR/93/Rep, paragraph 89.

^{2/} CPGR-EX 1/94/2, paragraph 32.

^{3/} CPGR/85/Rep, paragraph 78.

^{4/} CPGR/93/Rep, paragraph 85.

^{5/} CPG/85/REP, paragraph 79.

that are not members of the Working Group, and experts, as well as representatives of specialized international organizations".^{6/}

8. The Commission further "agreed that the members of the Working Group should be nominated by the Chairman of the Working Group, according to the regional distribution agreed by the Commission in 1985, on the advice of each regional group".^{7/}

9. The procedure for electing Working Group members was discussed at some length during the ninth session of the Working Group. It was "agreed that election should be at the discretion of the regional groups, as should the question of rotation and continuity".^{8/}

II.3 Officers

10. At its first session, the Commission decided that its Chairman should chair the Working Group.^{9/}

11. At its second session, the Commission decided that its first Vice-Chairman should chair the Working Group.^{10/}

12. At its fourth session, "the procedures for selecting members of the Working Group, and its Chairman were discussed, and the view was expressed that this should be done on the basis of a system of rotation".^{11/}

III. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

13. The Commission is invited to examine the proposed Statutes for its Working Group reproduced in Annex I hereto with a view to their approval. The Statutes reflect fully the guidance provided by the Commission.

^{6/} CPGR/93/Rep, paragraph 86.

^{7/} CPGR/93/Rep, paragraph 88.

^{8/} Report of the First Extraordinary Session of the Commission, Appendix C, paragraph 29.

^{9/} CPGR/85/Rep, paragraph 80.

^{10/} CPGR/87/Rep, paragraph 80.

^{11/} CPGR/91/Rep, paragraph 112.

ANNEX I

**PROPOSED STATUTES OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE
COMMISSION ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES**

Article I

Terms of reference

The terms of reference of the Working Group shall be:

- a) to consider the progress made in implementing the Commission's programme of work;
- b) to consider and any other matters referred to it by the Commission; and
- c) to make suggestions for the Commission's consideration on the above.

Article II

Composition

The Working Group shall be composed of twenty-three Member Nations from the following regions:

- 5 from Africa
- 5 from Europe
- 4 from Asia
- 4 from Latin America and the Caribbean
- 3 from the Near East
- 1 from North America
- 1 from Southwest Pacific.

Article III

Officers

1. The Working Group shall have a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Working Group shall be elected by the Commission. They will remain in office until the next regular session of the Commission and shall be eligible for reappointment.
2. The election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall take place before the end of the second day of the Commission's session.
3. The Chairman, or in his absence the Vice-Chairman, shall preside over the meetings of the Working Group and exercise such other functions as may be required to facilitate its work. In the event that both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman are not available to preside at a meeting, the Working Group shall appoint one of its Members to take the chair.

Article IV

Election and term of office of Members

1. The Members of the Working Group shall be nominated by the Chairman of the Working Group on the advice of the respective regional groups.
2. The Members of the Working Group shall be elected by the Commission during its regular sessions. They shall serve until Members of the Working Group are elected at the next regular session of the Commission. They will be eligible for re-election.

Article V
Sessions

Sessions of the Working Group shall be held at least once a year, and shall normally, in the year in which a session of the Commission is held, be held immediately prior to the session of the Commission.

Article VI
Observers

1. Members of the Commission which are not Members of the Working Group may participate, upon request^{12/}, in the work of the Working Group in an observer capacity.
2. The Working Group may invite experts, as well as representatives of specialized international organizations, to attend its meetings.

^{12/} The Commission used the expression "upon invitation". It was not specified whether the Director-General or the Commission or the Working Group would send the invitation. Besides, the identification of the countries to be invited as well as of the applicable criteria would present a major difficulty. It is therefore proposed to use the expression "upon request" following the Statement of Principles relating to the Granting of Observer Status to Nations. (Basic Texts, I., Appendix).

At the ninth session of the Working Group, "Some countries felt that allowing observers to attend upon request might lead to overrepresentation of the developed countries, which could be undesirable during negotiations. They suggested that observers only be allowed to take the floor at the Chairman's request". (CPGR-EX 1/94/2, Para. 31).

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses of the members of the committee.

