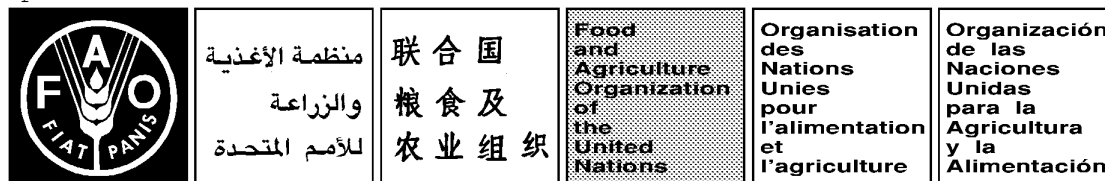


April 1995



Item 7.2 of the Provisional Agenda

COMMISSION ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

Sixth Session

Rome, 19 - 30 June 1995

REVISED STRUCTURE OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

OUTLINE OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE
UTILIZATION OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

REVISED STRUCTURE OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION.

1 The Global Plan of Action must be action-oriented. The main body of the Plan, therefore, should provide details of technically sound activities designed to strengthen plant genetic resource conservation and sustainable use. The Global Plan of Action will also provide a strategy to guide international cooperation on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the coming years. It must, therefore, be based upon clear aims and principles and include a strategy with priorities for action. These latter elements should be provided by means of a Declaration and a concise and explicit Introduction which gives purpose to the document as a whole. As previously decided by the Commission, the Plan must also be costed and [refer to mechanisms for implementation].

2 It is proposed, therefore, to organize the Global Plan of Action according to the following structure. The Plan would include:

- [2.1 a **Declaration** which sets the tone for the Global Plan of Action and includes the main principles on which the Plan is based. A draft of the Leipzig Declaration is provided in appendix 1;]
- 2.2 a brief **introduction** providing the framework for action, including:
- a short statement of the context and basis for action,

- based on the Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources;
- a succinct statement of aims, referring to and drawing upon, as appropriate, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Undertaking;
- an overall strategy for the Global Plan of Action as a whole, drawing upon section C of CPGR-6/95/11.

2.3 The **main body** of the Plan would provide recommendations of policies and priority activities for meeting the objectives of the Plan. In line with the wish that the Plan be "action-oriented", this will constitute the main body of the plan. This section would build upon the relevant parts of Agenda 21 for structure and content, and, in particular, programme area G of Chapter 14 [as described below].

The major areas of action in the plan will be based upon the list in para 14 of CPGR-6/95/11, taking into account the suggestions made by the Commission, *inter alia*, for adequate treatment of characterization of collected germplasm, genetic enhancement or pre-breeding, and the use of new technologies, and a greater attention to the role of research.

For each of the major areas of activity, the following would be provided:

- Basis for the activity: statement of the problem including a summary of relevant conclusions from the Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources and relevant recommendations from Agenda 21, *etc.*;
- Activities, including specific objectives, approach, assumptions, expected benefits and level of priority;
- Implementation of the activity through capacity building, research, technology development and transfer, policy guidance, regional cooperation and international coordination.
- Identification of financial resource needs: cost estimates [, possible sources of financing, including resource reallocation];

2.4 A concluding section would provide preliminary cost estimates (organized by category and tallied). It would refer to and summarize priorities (associated with the various activities detailed in the main body of the Plan) and list basic criteria for the allocation of resources (drawing upon section E of CPGR-6/95/11). Drawing on the SW/PGR, the concluding section would also provide a survey of possible sources of funding which would list financial resources¹ available for the conservation and utilization of PGR, and note areas where resource reallocations might be warranted to further the agreed priorities of the GPA.

It is understood that the above would not imply the negotiating of a financial mechanism for the funding of the GPA, or the making of a binding commitment to the funding - at any level - of the GPA.²

See also section E of CPGR-6/95/11.

The question of funding and funding obligations associated with the GPA would be left to another body, most probably the CPGR itself, at a future date.

- 2.5 [A provisional project portfolio] [Illustrative examples of projects] will be provided as an **annex** to the Plan, [containing indicative projects and programmes, and project and programme ideas].

THE LEIPZIG DECLARATION (DRAFT)**A Call for [Commitment for] the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of
Plant Genetic Resources for World Food Security**

1. We have gathered together in Leipzig, at the invitation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to recognize the vital importance of Plant Genetic Resources for food and agriculture to present and future generations. We have gathered together to assert and renew our commitment to the conservation, sustainable utilization and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits [arising out of the] of these resources.
2. Above all else, plant genetic resources are an essential foundation of world food security and sustainable development. We are also conscious of the intrinsic value of this biological diversity and of its ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, and aesthetic importance.
3. While recognizing and reaffirming states sovereign rights over their biological resources, we also confirm our common and individual responsibilities towards this heritage.
4. Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are the product of years of natural evolution, of creative human selection and scientific plant breeding. We acknowledge the roles played by generations of farmers, and in particular women farmers, farming communities and indigenous populations, as well as breeders and scientists, in conserving and improving plant genetic resources.
5. We are aware of the serious threats to the security of plant genetic resources and acknowledge that efforts to conserve, develop and use genetic diversity are inadequate. Diversity is being lost not only in the field, but also in gene banks. Major gaps and weaknesses exist in the capacity of existing national and international mechanisms to assess, study, monitor and use plant genetic resources to increase food production. Existing institutional capacity, structures and programmes are inadequate. And existing diversity in crop species is not used to the extent possible for increased food production in a sustainable way.
6. We recognize the interdependence of countries and peoples on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Access to and the sharing of both genetic resources and technologies are essential to the meeting of food and other needs of the growing world population and must be facilitated. We affirm the need to promote international and regional cooperation among States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. And we recognize that national capacities must be strengthened, especially in developing countries, to address the problems of conservation and utilization. [The mobilization of the necessary financial resources for these activities is of utmost importance] [Particular efforts will be required to mobilize financial resources for the priority areas].
7. Our primary objective must be to safeguard the world's plant genetic resources while conserving them to use sustainably. This will require integrated approaches combining the best of traditional knowledge and modern technologies. We believe in addition that means are needed to increase the benefits derived from this diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of those benefits and that such mechanisms would be in the interest of both equity and conservation.

8. We gather together in Leipzig in a spirit of hope, commitment and action, aware of the difficulties ahead, but confident that progress can, must and will be achieved. Our commitment to common action is a key element of our commitment to promoting world food security. It is part of our fundamental responsibilities to the people of this world.

9. We commit ourselves, therefore, to this Declaration and to this Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We invite all people as well as the international community to join us in our common cause.