

March 2011



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة للأمم  
المتحدة

联合国  
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农业组织

Food and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of the  
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Organisation des  
Nations Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture

Продовольствен  
ная и  
сельскохозяйств  
енная  
организация  
Объединенных

Organización  
de las  
Naciones Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura y la  
Alimentación

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### Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda

## COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

#### Fifth Session

Rome, 27-29 April 2011

### COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT UPDATED *GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE*

1. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), at its Twelfth Regular Session in 2009, requested the Secretary to coordinate with the Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty), to ensure that specific issues of relevance to the International Treaty are taken into account. It requested the Bureaus of the International Treaty and the Commission to review the draft updated *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Global Plan of Action)*, prior to its Thirteenth Regular Session. The Commission further requested its Bureau and the Bureau of the International Treaty to coordinate the agendas of the Commission and the Governing Body of the International Treaty (Governing Body) for the purpose, *inter alia*, of reviewing the draft updated *Global Plan of Action*. The Bureaus, at the third Joint Bureau Meeting in November 2010, agreed that the draft updated *Global Plan of Action* be submitted to the Fourth Session of the Governing Body, for information. This document contains extracts from the report of the third Joint Bureau Meeting and from the relevant resolution of the Governing Body of the International Treaty, adopted at its Fourth Session.

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**EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE THIRD JOINT BUREAU MEETING OF THE  
GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC  
RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND THE COMMISSION ON  
GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
(Bali, Indonesia, 10 March 2011)**

2. The Bureaus considered document, *Draft updated Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. The Bureaus took note of the draft updated *Global Plan of Action* and expressed appreciation for its comprehensiveness and quality. The Bureaus recognized that the draft updated *Global Plan of Action* takes into account the gaps and needs identified in *The Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, the relevant provisions and articles of the International Treaty as well as inputs received from the regional consultations.

3. With regard to the finalization and adoption of the updated *Global Plan of Action*, the Bureaus requested the Secretariat of the Commission to explore, as a matter of urgency, all options to ensure that the updated *Global Plan of Action* can be adopted as soon as possible after it is agreed.

4. The Bureaus emphasized that prior to its adoption, the updated *Global Plan of Action* should be further streamlined, including through additional merging of priority activity areas and reducing existing redundancies within and among priority activity areas. The Bureaus welcomed the improvement of the language of the document and emphasized the need to use neutral language. Throughout the updated *Global Plan of Action* emphasis should be given to the fact that the Treaty and the updated *Global Plan of Action*, as one of its supporting components, are part of a common global approach to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The updated *Global Plan of Action* should also identify and incorporate appropriate actors supporting its implementation. The Bureaus felt that a revised executive summary of the *Global Plan of Action* could be useful to provide information to a wider non-expert audience. The updated *Global Plan of Action* should also refer to the need for fully implementing the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty so as to ensure that priority activities under the *Global Plan of Action* would be carried out. Various views were expressed regarding whether new and additional resources would be necessary for the full implementation of the updated *Global Plan of Action* with some regions expressing the view that they would be needed.

5. The Bureaus noted comments and suggestions by several Bureau Members with regard to linkages between the updated *Global Plan of Action* and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and encouraged them to submit these comments and suggestions during the review of the document by the Commission's Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. They agreed that the identification of the supporting components to the Treaty should be more explicitly expressed in the updated *Global Plan of Action*.

6. The Bureaus requested their Chairs to present orally the conclusions of the third Joint Bureau Meeting to the Fourth Session of the Governing Body. The draft updated *Global Plan of Action* would also be made available to the Fourth Session of the Governing Body. The Bureaus requested that the conclusions of the Joint Bureau Meeting as well as relevant considerations of the Governing Body be brought to the attention of the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group, for its consideration.

**EXTRACT FROM THE RESOLUTION, *COOPERATION WITH OTHER BODIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTRES OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT SIGNED AGREEMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 15 OF THE TREATY, ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY, AT ITS FOURTH SESSION (BALI, INDONESIA, 14-18 MARCH 2011)***

**THE GOVERNING BODY,**

[...]

**Recalling** Resolution 7/2009 on cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;

**Noting** the vision paper, *Policy coherence and complementarity of the work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and of the Governing body of the International Treaty*, prepared jointly by the two Secretariats;

[...]

**Part III. Cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

19. **Requests** the Secretary to continue pursuing initiatives for coordination and cooperation with the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, including through the convening of joint Bureau meetings;

20. **Welcomes** the adoption of the *Joint Statement for Cooperation between the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* by the Commission, at its Twelfth Regular Session;

21. **Emphasizes** the importance of cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body, in particular with regard to the supporting components of the Treaty, and **welcomes** the publication of *The Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* as well as the on-going process of updating the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*;

22. **Notes** with appreciation the on-going cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body, their Bureaus and their Secretariats;

23. **Requests** the Secretary to provide, in collaboration with the Secretary of the Commission, a paper on the legal, administrative and financial implications of transferring activities or tasks related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture from the Commission to the Governing Body of the International Treaty;

24. **Requests** the Bureau, in consultation with the Bureau of the Commission, to continue exploring options for close cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body that may gradually lead to an agreed functional division of tasks and activities between the Commission and the Governing Body within the terms of the International Treaty, taking into account the legal, administrative and financial implications;

25. ***Requests*** the Secretary to report to the Governing Body at its Fifth Session on relevant activities undertaken to maintain, strengthen and extend the partnerships, synergies and cooperation under the present Resolution.