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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda

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

Sixth Session

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PREPARATION OF THE THIRD REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), at its last session, agreed that at its Fourteenth Regular Session it would review the preparatory process for *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Third Report), including the timeline and budget for its preparation.¹
2. This document provides a brief background on the preparatory process of the previous reports on the state of the world's plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) and proposes a process with timeline and a tentative budget for the preparation of the Third Report.

II. BACKGROUND

3. FAO launched the first report on *The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (First Report) in 1996 during the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources. The full version of the report was published by FAO in 1998. Whilst the First Report provided a general synthesis of the state of PGRFA, technological methodologies and capacities, the Commission recommended that subsequent editions should provide an update on these issues accompanied by a more in-depth study on a thematic or sectoral basis.²
4. The *Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Second Report) was presented to the Commission in 2009 and published by FAO in 2010. The Second Report updates the First Report with the best data and information available and particularly focuses on changes and developments that have occurred since 1996. It gives a concise assessment of the status and trends of plant genetic resources and identifies the most significant gaps and needs.
5. Both reports attracted wide interest and generated a positive response. The Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources welcomed the First Report as the “first comprehensive worldwide assessment of the state of plant genetic resource conservation and use”.³ The FAO Conference in 2009 requested FAO to publish and distribute the Second Report⁴ widely and the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity welcomed the publication of the Second Report as a “solid technical base for the further development of the global plan of action on plant genetic resources”⁵.
6. Both reports generated global policy responses. In response to the First Report, the Commission negotiated and 150 countries attending the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources in 1996 adopted the rolling *Global Plan of Action on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (GPA). In response to the Second Report, the Commission revised the GPA and the FAO Council, in 2011, adopted the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Second GPA). The Second GPA is a framework, guide and catalyst for action at national, regional and international level to create an efficient system for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, including seed systems. It provides a comprehensive and flexible framework for countries to adopt supportive policies and programmes for sustainable management of PGRFA, and calls for strengthening capacities and linkages among all stakeholders through a combination of appropriate policies, use of scientific information, farmers' knowledge and action.
7. With the adoption of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty) in 2001, the periodic reassessment of the state of the world's PGRFA as well as the updating of the Global Plan of Action have become integral components of the

¹ CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraph 108.

² CPGR-6/95/10, paragraph 8.

³ ITCPR/96/REP, paragraph 13.

⁴ C 2009/REP, paragraph 172.

⁵ Decision X/34, paragraph 2.

global legal framework governing the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use. According to Article 17.3 of the International Treaty, Contracting Parties shall cooperate with the Commission in its periodic reassessment of the state of the world's PGRFA to facilitate the updating of the Global Plan of Action, one of the "supporting components" of the International Treaty (Article 14).

III. MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND GPA AND PREPARING THE THIRD REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

8. The Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work (2013-2021)⁶, as adopted at the Commission's last session, as well as the *Draft Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2014-2021*⁷ foresee the presentation of the Third Report for the Commission's Seventeenth Regular Session, i.e. 2018/19. However, in reviewing its Multi-Year Programme of Work, the Commission agreed that at its Fourteenth Regular Session it would review the preparatory process for the Third Report, including the timeline and budget for its preparation.⁸

9. Preparing the Third Report and monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA, are complementary processes that need to be carried out in unison. The preparatory process for the Third Report should therefore be fully integrated with the process of monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA and reporting monitoring results to the Commission. The revised indicators for the implementation of the Second GPA (Appendix I)⁹ as well as the targets and "higher-order" indicators for PGRFA (Appendix II)¹⁰ submitted to the Working Group at this session, for review, will play a key role in this regard.

PGRFA status assessment (PGRSA): 2014/15 & 2018/19

10. In response to the Commission's request to monitor the implementation of the Second GPA and to undertake a first review of the implementation of the Second GPA at the Commission's Fifteenth Regular Session (2014/15), it is proposed to prepare, in addition to the Third Report, snapshot PGRFA status assessments (PGRSA) based on "higher-order indicators" for PGRFA (CGRFA/WG-PGR-6/12/2 Rev. 1, Appendix II). PGRSAs would be based on a smaller number of indicators and therefore require less information from countries. Countries would provide the information through National Information Sharing Mechanisms (NISMs) and the data provided would be publicly available under the World Information and Early Warning System on PGRFA (WIEWS). It is proposed that in 2014/15 and 2018/19 the report to the Working Group and the Commission would consist of a PGRSA.

GPA implementation assessment (GPAIA): 2016/17

11. For the Third Report, it is proposed that, in addition to the PGRSAs, a GPA implementation assessment is prepared, based on all the proposed indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA (CGRFA/WG-PGR-6/12/2 Rev.1). These indicators provide a comprehensive picture of the implementation of the Second GPA and the status of achievement of the three proposed targets. Like in the case of PGRSAs, data for GPAIAs would be provided by countries through NISM and would be made publicly available in WIEWS. It is proposed that the GPAIA be presented to the Working Group and the Commission in 2016/ 2017.

⁶ CGRFA-13/11/Report – Appendix F.

⁷ CGRFA/WG-PGR-6/12/Inf.2

⁸ CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraphs 108, 109.

⁹ CGRFA/WG-PGR-6/12/2 Rev.1, Appendix I

¹⁰ CGRFA/WG-PGR-6/12/2 Rev.1, Appendix II

The Third Report

Timeline

12. The Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work (2013-2021)¹¹ and the Draft Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2014-2021 (CGRFA/WG-PGR-6/12/Inf.2) currently foresee the presentation of the Third Report at the Commission's Seventeenth Regular Session. However, taking into account the proposed interim assessment reports, the PGRSAs in 2014/15 and 2018/19 as well as the GPAIA in 2016/17, it would seem reasonable to postpone the launch of the Third Report to the Commission's Eighteenth Regular Session and to keep this ten-year interval in the future. *Table 1* gives an overview of the different reports. *Table 2* provides a roadmap for the monitoring of the Second GPA and the preparation of the Third Report.

Scope

13. The structure of the Third Report should be slightly different from the structure of previous reports. It is proposed to align the structure of the Third Report with the structure of the Second GPA¹². The Third Report would therefore cover four key areas: *in situ* conservation and management; *ex situ* conservation; sustainable use; and institutional and human capacities. It should focus on policies, processes and practices that impact on the status of plant genetic resources for the future of food and nutrition security and identify gaps and needs. The Third Report should also take into account any emerging global challenges for sustainable crop production and food security, the provisions of the International Treaty and other relevant instruments as well as the major findings of *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*.¹³

14. The Third Report should provide a critical analysis of the status and trends in conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, focusing on the main changes since the last report, to provide a basis for updating the rolling GPA. The Third Report should therefore be a succinct, analytical and forward looking document, balancing details to provide a sound factual basis for updating the Second GPA, with conciseness for reaching a wide audience, including policy makers.

Sources of information

15. The process for the preparation of the Third Report should be as slim and efficient as possible and reporting obligations put on countries as limited as possible. The Third Report should be based on the data submitted by countries for the preparation of the PGRSA and the GPAIAs discussed above. An additional important source of information would be Country Reports which should be concise, analytical and strategic assessments of the progress in the implementation at the national level of each of the four key areas of the Second GPA.¹⁴ By taking advantage of the information gathered through the PGRSA and the GPAIAs, the Country Reports should focus on existing gaps, needs and challenges. Countries would be invited to confirm/nominate their National Focal Points (NFPs) for monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA and the preparation of Country Reports. The Commission could encourage countries to nominate one and the same person as NFP for monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA, the preparation of the Country Report and for the International Treaty or, where this is not possible, to ensure close collaboration and coordination among the different Focal Points.

16. It is suggested that FAO produce detailed guidelines to facilitate the preparation of Country Reports and ensure consistent reporting and strategic analysis of data. FAO would provide, upon request and subject to the availability of the necessary funds, technical assistance for the establishment or further development of NISMs, the updating of information in NISMs and the preparation of country reports. Supplemental, in-depth thematic studies could provide further information on the implementation of specific aspects of the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

¹¹ CGRFA-13/11/Report – Appendix F.

¹² CGRFA-13/11/Report, Appendix B.

¹³ To be presented in 2017 at the 16th Session of the Commission.

¹⁴ *In situ* conservation, *ex situ* conservation, sustainable use and institutional and human capacities.

17. Other relevant data for the preparation of the Third Report shall be gathered from published international and regional sources, including the GENESYS database, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), the European Internet Search Catalogue (EURISCO) and the upcoming Global Information System of the International Treaty, as well as selected databases from the CGIAR and Regional Agricultural Research Centres.

Table 1: Monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA and preparing *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

Reports to the Working Group and the Commission	Information sources	Timeline			
		ITWG-7 2014 CGRFA-15 2015	ITWG-8 2016 CGRFA-16 2017	ITWG-9 2018 CGRFA-17 2019	ITWG-10 2020 CGRFA-18 2021
PGRFA status assessments 2-year interval	Data provided by countries (through NISM) on the basis of “higher-order” indicators for monitoring the status of PGRFA Appendix II indicators				
GPA implementation assessments 4-year interval	Data provided by countries (through NISM) on the basis of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA Appendix I indicators				
Third Report 10-year interval	Data provided by countries (through NISM) on the basis of Appendix I & 2 indicators and through Country Reports Country Reports and Appendix I & II indicators, thematic studies, additional information				

Consultations

18. It is proposed that FAO hold technical consultations with relevant stakeholders at national, and regional levels to facilitate the preparation of Country Reports, to discuss preliminary results and identify common needs, gaps and priorities. These consultations will likewise contribute to the preparation of the Third Report and the review of the Second GPA in response to the findings of the Third Report. Consultations would include all stakeholders, including relevant international and regional organizations as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

Table 2: Roadmap for the monitoring of the Second GPA and the preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

2013	<p>Following the Fourteenth Regular Session of the Commission, Members Countries will be invited through Circular State Letter to confirm/ nominate their National Focal Points (NFPs).</p> <p>Data will be inserted through NISMs for the preparation of the First PGRSA on the basis of “higher-order” indicators for monitoring the status of PGRFA (CGRFA/WG-PGR-6/12/2 Rev.1, Appendix II).</p>
2014	The first PGRSA will be presented to the Seventh Session of the Working Group, for review.
2015	<p>The first PGRSA will be presented to the Commission's Fifteenth Regular Session.</p> <p>The GPAIA will be initiated. Countries will be requested to provide all data required for monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA (CGRFA/WG-PGR-6/12/2 Rev.1, Appendix I).</p>
2016	<p>The GPAIA as well as a detailed outline of the Third Report will be presented to the Eighth Session of the Working Group.</p> <p>Guidelines for the preparation of Country Reports for the preparation of the Third Report, will be made available to the Working Group for review at its Eighth Session.</p>
2017	The GPAIA as well as a detailed outline of the Third report, as reviewed by the Working Group, will be presented to the Sixteenth Session of the Commission, for its consideration.
2018	<p>The second PGRSA is undertaken and presented to the Ninth Session of the Working Group.</p> <p>Countries will be requested to submit the Country Reports for the Third Report. As mentioned above, these reports are expected to be succinct, providing an analysis of the country’s accomplishments, gaps and adjustments with respect to PGRFA conservation, sustainable use and capacity strengthening. There will a reduced reporting burden as technical data captured through the GPAIAs and the PGRSA are already available. To the extent possible, FAO will provide technical assistance.</p>
2019	<p>The second PGRSA and a report on the status of preparation of the Third Report will be presented to the Seventeenth Regular Session of the Commission.</p> <p>Thematic background studies, as approved by the Commission, will be developed in partnership with relevant stakeholders and subject to the availability of financial resources. Regional consultations will be held to support the preparation of Country and Regional Reports and to review the Second GPA in the light of gaps, needs and priorities identified.</p>
2020	The draft Third Report will be presented to the Tenth Session of the Working Group, for review.
2021	The Third Report will be presented to the Eighteenth Regular Session of the Commission.

IV. EXTRA-BUDGETARY RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

19. As indicated, the preparation of the Third Report will require substantial investment in human and financial resources to gather high-quality data and information in a sustained manner, to enable countries to provide country reports as well as establish or update NISMs. For the preparation of the assessments, technical adjustments will need to be made to the existing software for which extra-budgetary resources will be required. Financial support will also be required to enable the full

participation of developing countries in the process, including for establishing/updating NISMs, preparing country reports, and for participation in regional consultations. Organization of the regional and external consultations will require extra-budgetary resources.

20. For the preparation of the Third Report, it is estimated that about USD 3.2 million will be required as extra-budgetary funds (see *Table 3*). This would support PGRSAs and GPAIAs in at least 120 countries, the preparation of Country Reports in about 100 countries, seven thematic studies as well as the organization of four regional consultations. A full breakdown of the cost will be provided to the Fifteenth Regular Session of the Commission. The cost estimate has been based on the previous experiences in preparing the first and second reports. The cost for the First Report amounted to a total of USD 5.5 million received from France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America.¹⁵ For the Second Report, an estimated amount of USD 3 million was spent including extra-budgetary resources from Canada, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway and Spain.¹⁶

Table 3: Cost estimates for extra-budgetary resources required in support of monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA and the preparatory process for *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

Item	Estimated Costs (USD)	NOTES
Staff Cost	200,000	To assist secretariat in the coordination of the process
Establishment / Update of National Information Sharing Mechanisms (NISM) and reporting format	1,800,000	To establish/update 120 NISMs and help to produce snapshot assessments.
Development of country reports	400,000	To assist at least 100 developing countries to convene national workshops or consultations with stakeholders and prepare country reports @ USD 4000/ country
Development of thematic background studies	280,000	To support the development of thematic studies and other necessary background material and expert meetings for the Report. To be developed according to the priorities identified by the Commission. Budget calculated @ USD 40,000/ study for 7 thematic studies
Regional meetings	400,000	One meeting for each of 4 regions (Africa, CWANA, AP, LAC) @ USD 100 000 / region / meeting. For participation of developing countries and general organizational expenses
Technical consultancies	100,000	To assist countries in the preparation of Country Reports and sub-regional and regional analyses. 9 sub-regions @ USD 11 000
Total	3,180,000	

i Inflation rate up to 2018 taken in to account

¹⁵ The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Preface endnote 10, page 8.

¹⁶ CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/3, paragraph 20.

V. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

21. The Working Group may wish to request FAO to prepare a detailed plan of the Third Report including suggested chapters, thematic areas and estimated budget for consideration by the Commission at its Fifteenth Regular Session.
22. The Working Group may wish to request the Commission to:
 - Endorse the process and timeline for the preparation of the GPAIAs, the PGRSA and the Third Report as proposed in this document;
 - Encourage Member Nations and other countries and relevant international organizations to participate in the preparatory process and nominate a National Focal Point for monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA and for the Third Report;
 - Invite donors to provide the necessary extra-budgetary resources to allow the full participation of developing countries in the preparatory process.