



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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First meeting

Paris, 4-8 September 1995

Item 5.3 of the provisional agenda

CONTRIBUTION TO THE PREPARATION FOR THE FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON THE CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN 1996

Note by the Secretariat

1. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. Preparations for the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources to be held in Leipzig, Germany, in June 1996 are currently underway under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The Leipzig Conference is expected to adopt a Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and a Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Biological Diversity. The Leipzig Conference will discuss issues of direct relevance to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Accordingly, at its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP) included in its medium-term programme of work for 1995 the need to be informed and consider the preparation for the Leipzig Conference. To consider the inter-linkages between the Convention and Leipzig Conference, the COP requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to provide advice on how the Convention might contribute to the preparatory process for the Leipzig Conference.

2. To facilitate the SBSTTA's consideration of how the Convention might contribute to the preparations for the Leipzig Conference, the Secretariat requested FAO to provide a report on its purpose, the status of preparations and its expected outcome. This report is attached as an annex to this note. Two appendices to the report contain the provisional agenda of the Technical Conference (appendix 1) and a list of major areas of activity for the global plan of action expected to be adopted by the Conference (appendix 3).

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United Nations
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Programme

3. The Convention on Biological Diversity is a comprehensive instrument which aims to address all facets and aspects of biological diversity. In explicitly including both wild and cultivated species and *in-situ* and *ex-situ* resources within its scope, the Convention recognizes the plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are critical components of biological diversity. Well over 100 governments have become Parties to the Convention and committed themselves to its comprehensive provisions and the fulfillment of its objectives. Any significant undertaking in the field of biological diversity must, therefore, at minimum be aware of the framework established by the Convention.

4. The report prepared by FAO and attached as an annex to this paper provides a good starting point for the SBSTTA to consider what advice it can provide to the COP on the possible contribution of the Convention to the preparation of the Leipzig Conference. The Convention on Biological Diversity is mentioned in the report. While the COP will make the ultimate decision as to the nature and form of its role, the SBSTTA may wish to inform the COP about the scientific and technical connections between the two processes that make the Convention's contribution important.

5. It is also important to note that if the Leipzig Conference adopts a global plan of action, an ongoing process will be initiated. The scientific and technical arguments for involvement in the preparatory process will be equally significant in the follow-up to Leipzig. The SBSTTA may wish to consider advising the COP on the scientific and technical value of institutionalizing the links between the Convention and the legacy of the Leipzig Conference in order to avoid two parallel processes with overlapping activities.

6. In addition to advising on the scientific and technical relationship at the conceptual level, the SBSTTA may wish to advise the COP on the specific areas envisaged under the Global Plan of Action where: (1) the Convention may have a significant role to play from a scientific and technical perspective and (2) the Leipzig follow-up activities might facilitate the implementation of COP's medium-term programme of work with overlapping areas of concern. In the latter case, it will be important to establish mutually reinforcing avenues of cooperation. Using the areas contained in appendix 3 of the FAO report (see headings below in italics), section 2 of this note aims to assist the SBSTTA in formulating its advice by identifying the points of intersection between the Convention and the medium-term programme of work, and the proposed areas of activities in the Leipzig Global Plan of Action.

2. SPECIFIC AREAS OF RELEVANCE TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, THE MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAMME OF WORK IN THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

7. *Monitor genetic diversity and erosion and establish an early warning system in order to mitigate loss of genetic resources, and identify sites for collecting or in situ-conservation.* Articles 7 *Identification and Monitoring*, 8 *In-situ conservation* and Annex 1 of the Convention are closely related to the activity listed above, including the idea of an early warning system (see Article 7 (b)). Also the medium-term programme of work of the COP specifically requested the second meeting of the COP to begin considering the components of biological diversity particularly under threat and action which could be taken under the Convention (item 5.2.1). It also calls upon the COP to provide information and share experiences on measures for implementing Article 8 *In-situ conservation* (item 5.2.2).

8. In addition, in order to make decisions on item 5.2.1 (preliminary consideration of components of biological diversity particularly under threat and action which could be taken under the Convention) the first meeting of the COP also requested the first meeting of the SBSTTA to include as a priority

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item: "Alternative ways and means in which the COP could start the process of considering the components of biological diversity particularly those under threat and the identification of action which could be taken under the Convention."

9. In addition, the medium-term programme of work for 1996 includes items on the monitoring of genetic resources. These are items 6.2.1 and 6.2.2 which call upon the COP to appraise the SBSTTA's advice on the review of the assessment of biological diversity for the implementation of Article 25 (2) (a) and advice on methodologies for future assessments.

10. *Explore and collect important and/or threatened plant genetic resources.* The Convention and the medium-term programme of work share the concern that led to the development of this activity. Threatened plant genetic resources has, however, a narrower focus than the Convention. For example, Article 8 (f) calls upon Parties to promote the recovery of threatened species and (k) to develop legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species. Relevant areas of the work programme are listed in paragraphs 7-9 above.

11. *Ensure the long-term safety of existing germplasm collections through a programme of regeneration and safe duplication.* Article 9 *Ex-situ* conservation of the Convention addresses measures for *ex-situ* conservation. Also, the medium-term programme of work will explore models and mechanisms for linkage between *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation (item 7.2).

12. *Establish and/or strengthen germplasm conservation facilities, technologies and programmes as part of an integrated conservation and utilization strategy.* This activity is related to work that will be necessary to implement Articles 6 *General measures for conservation and sustainable use*, 9 *Ex-situ* conservation (a) and (b); and 10 *Sustainable use of components of biological diversity*. Articles 6 and 10 recognize the need to integrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making. Establishing such facilities, technologies or programmes will require capacity building and the transfer and development of technologies. Hence, Articles 16 *Access to and transfer of technologies* and 18 *Technical and scientific cooperation* are of particular relevance.

13. Also, the medium-term programme of work for 1996 and 1997 of the second and third Conferences of the Parties on access to and transfer and development of technology was included. In addition, the first meeting of the COP sought advice to the SBSTTA, to inform the second meeting of the COP on the possible mechanisms to promote and facilitate access to and transfer and development of technologies.

14. *Identify and strive to overcome the obstacles for the utilization of conserved genetic resources in order to promote their use.* One of the goals of the Convention is the sustainable use of biological diversity. All the Convention's provisions must be considered as overall objectives. In calling upon Parties to facilitate access to their genetic resources, the thrust of Article 15 *Access to genetic resources* is relevant to the idea of overcoming obstacles for the use of conserved genetic resources. Item 6.6.1 of the medium-term programme of work for 1996 calls for the compilation of administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, to implement Article 15. In addition, item 6.3 calls upon the COP to consider the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity.

15. *Develop methodologies for and promote on-farm and community-level conservation and use of plant genetic resources as part of an integrated conservation and utilization strategy.* Articles 8(j) and in particular Article 10(c) and (d) specifically cover the need for the participation of the community in the conservation and use of plant genetic resources. This activity is also included in the medium-term

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programme of work for 1996 under item 6.3: Conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and under item 6.5 Knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities (6.5.1 Implementation of Article 8(j)).

16. *Promote the in situ-conservation of wild plants as part of an integrated conservation strategy.* As noted in Articles 6 and 10, paragraph 12 call for, in particular, the integration of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into national decision-making including relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies. Article 8 is devoted entirely to *in-situ* conservation. The medium-term programme of work for 1995 includes the consideration of information and experience on the implementation of Article 6 *General measures for conservation and sustainable development* and 8 *In-situ conservation*.

17. *Strengthen plant breeding and pre-breeding capabilities, utilize greater diversity in plant breeding and promote approaches to plant breeding which promote the maintenance of diversity and improve the availability of good quality seeds and other planting material to farmers including through the development of appropriate technologies.* Article 10 (b) of the Convention, in a broad sense, is also concerned with this issue. It calls upon Parties to adopt measures relating to the use of biological resources to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity. Items 5.5.1 and 6.7.1 of the medium-term programme of work of the COP for 1995 and 1996 call for the consideration of ways to promote and facilitate access to and transfer and development of relevant technologies. The technologies of concern to the activity listed above are also of relevance to these items of the medium-term programme of work. In addition, the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity is on the medium-term programme of work for 1996 (item 6.3.1).

18. *Improve conservation and utilization of under-utilized species and local crops and promote crop diversification.* As mentioned in paragraph 17, this activity is related to Article 10 of the Convention. It is also related to item 6.3 of the medium-term programme of work for 1996: Conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity. It is also relevant to item 6.5.1 Implementation of Article 8(j) which addresses knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities.

19. *Facilitate access to plant genetic resources, information and technologies and promote the development of legal and other mechanisms to protect the rights of providers of germplasm.* Article 15 *Access to genetic resources*, 16 *Access to and transfer of technology*, 17 *Exchange of information* and 18 *Technical and scientific cooperation* all relate to these activities. They are also provided for in the medium-term programme of work of the COP for 1995 under item 5.4 *Access to Genetic Resources*, which calls for the compilation of existing legislation, administrative and policy information on access to genetic resources and the equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use (item 5.4.1) and of information provided by Governments, as well as relevant reports from appropriate international organizations regarding policy, legislative or administrative measures related to intellectual property rights as provided in Article 16 of the Convention and to access to and transfer of technology that makes use of genetic resources (item 5.4.2).

20. The information on items 5.4.1 and 5.4.2 will assist Parties to implement Article 15. For this purpose, it is expected that the COP will examine the views of Parties on possible options for developing national legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, to implement Article 15 at the third meeting of the COP (see item 6.6.1 of the medium-term programme of work).

21. *Develop methodologies for the economic valuation of plant genetic resources and for the*

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realization of these values. In implementing Article 15 *Access to genetic resources* Parties are likely to develop new or adapt existing regulatory regimes. The nature of these regimes will depend upon some sense of the value of the resources being regulated. Also, Article 11 calls upon Parties to adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity methodologies for economic valuation will also be relevant to this task. Consideration of Article 11 is on the medium-term programme of work for 1996.

22. *Promote national and regional planning for the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources and integration with planning for sustainable agriculture.* This activity is covered by Articles 6 and 10 of the Convention and the medium-term programme of work of the COP by requesting provision of information and the sharing of experiences on the implementation of Article 6 (item 5.1.1) and upon request, to consider agricultural biological diversity within the context of the Convention's three objectives and its provisions (item 6.3.1).

3. CONCLUSION

23. In the light of the information provided here, the SBSTTA may wish to advise the second meeting of the COP on both the broad conceptual and specific areas of overlap between the Convention and the forthcoming International Technical Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Critical action is being undertaken and contemplated within each framework. Avoiding parallel, unconnected processes is of paramount importance. The SBSTTA may wish to advise the COP on the ways and means of connecting and making the processes mutually supportive so as to enhance the success of both.

Annex 1

THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

REPORT ON THE PREPARATORY PROCESS AND THE EXPECTED OUTPUTS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In line with decisions of FAO Conference, and with recommendations from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, FAO is organizing the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources in Leipzig, Germany, in June 1996. The Leipzig Conference is expected to adopt a first Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (SW/PGR) and a first Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources (GPA/PGR) as part of the FAO Global System on Plant Genetic Resources. A preliminary draft agenda for the Conference is attached as appendix 1.

2. At its first session, in November 1994, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CoP/CBD) decided that its medium-term programme of work would include the following item: "To be informed about and to be able to consider the preparation for the forthcoming International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in 1996". This item was included under item 5.9: "Relationship with the FAO Global System for Plant Genetic Resources". The Conference of the Parties also decided that its Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) should consider at its first meeting the question of "how the Convention on Biological Diversity could contribute to the preparation for the forthcoming International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in 1996."

3. This paper has been prepared by FAO, in response to a request from the Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

II. AIMS OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

4. The Fourth International Technical Conference and its preparatory process aims to develop consensus and commitment from countries, and from all relevant sectors, for the conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and their use in sustainable development, and, in particular:

(i) to catalyze action at the country level to promote capacity building, including increased communication and access to information, improved planning and evaluation, the identification of problems and emergency needs, the formulation of projects to address such needs, and the encouragement of regional cooperation and initiatives (see section III),

(ii) to describe, through the Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources (SW/PGR), the current situation of plant genetic resources, and identify gaps and needs and propose priorities for action (see section IV); and

(iii) to secure agreement on a Global Plan of Action for plant genetic resources (GPA/PGR), as it emanates from the Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources, building upon the outline plan of action of Agenda 21 (see section IV).

5. The Fourth International Technical Conference and its preparatory process will transform the

relevant parts of Agenda 21 into a costed Global Plan of Action, contribute to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and help make the FAO Global System on Plant Genetic Resources fully operational.

6. In 1983, the FAO Conference decided on the establishment of a permanent intergovernmental forum on plant genetic resources: the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. It also adopted a formal framework: the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. The Commission has since coordinated, overseen and monitored the development of a Global System for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, within the framework of the Undertaking. Other components of the Global System include a World Information and Early Warning System and a Network of Ex Situ Germplasm Collections. The Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (SW/PGR) and the Global Plan of Action are two further components of the Global System¹. The first Report and the first Global Plan of Action, which are being elaborated through the preparatory process for the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, will assist the Commission in exercising the coordinating and monitoring roles provided for in its mandate.

7. Agenda 21 of UNCED recommended, in programme area G of Chapter 14: "conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources for food and sustainable agriculture, inter alia, to prepare periodic state of the world reports on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and a rolling global cooperative plan of action on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; and to promote the Fourth International Technical Conference, which would consider the first Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources, and a Global Plan of Action. Agenda 21 also calls for the realization of Farmers' Rights². As noted by the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources at its Fifth Session, the Fourth International Technical Conference will "transform the relevant parts of Agenda 21 into a costed Global Plan of Action, based on the Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources".

8. Resolution 3 of the Nairobi Final Act, adopted together with the Convention on Biological Diversity, noted these recommendations and recognized the need for the provision of support to their implementation. It also called for some "outstanding issues", including the issues of access to samples of genetic material acquired not in accordance with the Convention, and the realization of Farmers' Rights, to be addressed in the context of the Global System. The FAO Conference subsequently called for negotiation by countries, through the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, of the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, in harmony with the Convention, and to address, inter alia, the issues of access on mutually agreed terms to plant genetic material and the realization of Farmers' Rights. A progress report on the revision of the International Undertaking will be presented to the International Technical Conference. The FAO Conference noted that the revision of the International Undertaking, and the development of a Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources and a Global Plan of Action, were major components of FAO's contribution to, and role in, implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity.

III. THE PREPARATORY PROCESS.

9. The first Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources and the first Global Plan of Action are being elaborated through a participatory, country-driven preparatory process for the Fourth

¹The chart in appendix 5 illustrates these and other components of the Global System.

²As adopted and developed in a series of FAO Conference Resolutions (4/89, 5/89 and 3/91): "Farmers' Rights" mean rights arising from the past, present and future contribution of farmers in conserving, improving and making available plant genetic resources, particularly those in the centres of origin/diversity.¹

International Technical Conference. The process has been designed to offer a number of opportunities for specific country inputs:

(i) the preparation of Country Reports assessing the status of plant genetic resources in each country, focusing on needs and gaps in institutional capacities for conserving and developing these resources. To date (20 July 1995) Country Reports have been received from 116 countries, and

(ii) a series of sub-regional and regional meetings, at which countries may present their reports, identify common problems and possible solutions; and discuss draft elements of the Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources and the Global Plan of Action. The meetings will adopt sub-regional synthesis reports. 12 meetings are planned for the second semester of 1995 (appendix 4).

10. The Commission on Plant Genetic Resources provides guidance on the process as a whole, and will review in detail drafts of the State of the World's PGR and the Global Plan of Action, at its Second Extraordinary Session in April 1996.

11. Additional technical inputs are provided by scientific and other experts through case-studies and issue-analysis papers, as well as through workshops and an electronic bulletin board system. This complements existing background information, including that held in FAO's World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources. In the preparation of the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, FAO is collaborating, in particular, with the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) and other International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

12. Further inputs to the process are provided through informal channels, including through visits to countries, complementary activities undertaken by governments, institutions, non-governmental organizations, and others, in support of the preparatory process.

IV. THE REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

13. The Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources will describe the current situation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, at the global level, and identify the gaps and needs for their conservation and sustainable utilization, as well as emergency situations. The Report will focus on plants' importance to world food security and sustainable agriculture. In so far as the Report covers matters specifically related to forest genetic resources, it will concentrate on agroforestry and forestry for food production. In particular, the Report will:

(i) assess the present state of genetic diversity, the degree of genetic erosion, the current coverage and status of *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation, and the utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Report will build upon assessments by country and by sub-region, and, to the extent feasible, by crop group;

(ii) identify major constraints to plant genetic resources conservation, utilization and exchange;

(iii) evaluate the extent to which collections are used and developed, and identify problems which hinder their full utilization for plant breeding;

(iv) assess national and regional capabilities for the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in terms of human resources, institutional structures and legal

mechanisms, and the methodologies employed;

(v) examine areas of special interest for the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, such as informatics, new biotechnologies, local technologies, and issues such as on-farm conservation, and the scope for new approaches to plant breeding which would maintain diversity in production systems; and

(vi) identify technologies appropriate for meeting the special needs of the developing countries, and assess the current state and pattern of technology transfer in plant genetic resources.

14. The report will be organized into four main parts:

- Part I: "State of Diversity" - an assessment of the state of conservation, erosion and utilization of plant genetic resources; and an analysis of the underlying processes;
- Part II: "State of the Art" - a survey of the state of scientific, technical, legal and other methodologies and tools for the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources;
- Part III: "State of Capacity" - a review of the state of human resources, institutional structures, and capacity to use relevant methodologies and tools, for the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources, at the (sub-) regional, and global levels;
- Part IV: "Summary and Conclusions" - a summary drawing together the main findings of the Report.

15. Each of the three main parts will include an assessment of the gaps and needs for improving the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources, including an identification of the major constraints to conservation, utilization and exchange, and an evaluation of the extent to which plant genetic resources are used and developed, identifying in particular problems which hinder their full utilization for plant breeding. An executive summary will also be provided.

V. THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

16. The Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources (GPA/PGR) will complement and draw upon the Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources (SW/PGR). Building upon the skeleton programme of action in Agenda 21, it will:

(i) propose policies and strategies for the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture at the national, regional and global levels, with particular attention to the linkages between conservation programmes, and utilization capabilities and programmes;

(ii) assist countries in elaborating plans or programmes of priority action for conservation activities at the national level;

(iii) assist countries in strengthening national capabilities for utilizing plant genetic resources, and their national plant breeding and seed production capacities;

(iv) propose appropriate and feasible measures to make the Global System for Plant Genetic Resources more effective; and

(v) include costed programmes, projects and activities, to be financed by an international

fund and other mechanisms.

17. appendix 2 provides the structure of the Global Plan of Action.

18. The Global Plan of Action will provide details on activities, including the basis for action, and information regarding their implementation. Appendix 3 provides an indicative list of the major activity areas for the Plan.

VI. HOW THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE PREPARATION FOR THE FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

19. The Global Plan of Action is part of FAO's contribution to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the area of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Therefore the SBSTTA may wish to recommend to the Conference of the Parties, at its second session in November 1995, that the Third Conference of the Parties, in late 1996, consider a report by FAO on the outcome of the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources and, in particular, the role of the Global Plan of Action, within the context of the FAO Global System, in the implementation of the Convention.

20. The SBSTTA may also wish to provide advice and expert opinion concerning the elaboration of the Global Plan of Action, as well as the Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources, in order to ensure complementarity and consistency between the outcome of the International Technical Conference and the work of the Conference of the Parties. In particular, the SBSTTA might wish to provide inputs to or comments on the list of major areas of activity provided in appendix 3.

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Appendix 1

**DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES**

Leipzig, Germany

17 - 23 June, 1996

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the Officers.
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work.
4. The Fourth International Technical Conference in the context of the FAO Global System for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources, and the preparatory process.
5. Progress report on the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources
6. Review of the Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources.
7. Review of the Global Plan of Action .
8. Adoption of the Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources, [and] the Global Plan of Action [and recommendations for its implementation and financing].
9. [Review of possibilities for the implementation and financing of the Global Plan of Action].
10. [Adoption of the Leipzig Declaration]
11. Adoption of the Report of the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources.
12. Closing of the Conference.

Appendix 2

STRUCTURE OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION¹

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.

The main body of the Plan providing 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. Major areas for the Plan are given in appendix 3.

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. This section might also include possible sources of financing, including resource reallocation.

A concluding section providing preliminary cost estimates. It would refer to and summarize priorities and list basic criteria for the allocation of resources. The concluding section would also identify all possible sources of funding for the conservation and utilization of PGRFA.

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.

An annex will provide a provisional project portfolio or illustrative examples of projects.

The Global Plan of Action might also include "the Leipzig Declaration" Alternatively, this might be included as a separate document.

¹ In line with the decisions of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources at its Sixth Session.

Appendix 3

MAJOR AREAS OF ACTIVITY FOR THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

- (i) monitor genetic diversity and erosion and establish an early warning system in order to mitigate loss of genetic resources, and identify sites for collecting or *in-situ* conservation;
- (ii) explore and collect important and/or threatened plant genetic resources;
- (iii) ensure the long-term safety of existing germplasm collections through a programme of regeneration and safe duplication;
- (iv) establish and/or strengthen germplasm conservation facilities, technologies, and programmes as part of an integrated conservation and utilization strategy;
- (v) characterize, evaluate and document germplasm collections;
- (vi) identify and strive to overcome the obstacles for the utilization of conserved genetic resources in order to promote their use;
- (vii) develop methodologies for and promote on-farm and community-level conservation and use of plant genetic resources as part of an integrated conservation and utilization strategy;
- (viii) promote the *in-situ* conservation of wild plants as part of an integrated conservation strategy;
- (ix) strengthen plant breeding and pre-breeding capabilities, utilize greater diversity in plant breeding and promote approaches to plant breeding which promote the maintenance of diversity;
- (x) improve the availability of good quality seeds and other planting material to farmers, including through the development of appropriate technologies;
- (xi) improve conservation and utilization of under-utilized species and local crop and promote crop diversification;
- (xii) facilitate access to plant genetic resources, information and technologies;
- (xiii) promote the development of legal and other mechanisms to protect the rights of providers of germplasm;
- (xiv) develop methodologies for the economic valuation of plant genetic resources and for the realization of these values;
- (xv) promote national and regional planning for the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources and integration with planning for sustainable agriculture;

Specific, concrete objectives would be developed for each area of activity. As far as possible, these would be formulated so that they could be used to monitor and assess the progress of the Plan. Details of the activities would be developed in Part II of the Global Plan of Action.

Each of the major areas of activity will be implemented in various ways, including:

- (a) National Capacity Building and Development, including training and other forms of human resource development, institutional development, and physical capacity building. In accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity, and with recommendations of the Commission, the main level for implementation of the GPA would be at the national level, including action taken at the level of the community, farm etc. This modality would include material support to national programmes and technical assistance to countries. It might include a specific allocation for action at the Community level;
- (b) Support to Sub-Regional and Regional Networks and Cooperation. This modality would include material support and technical assistance provided on a regional or sub-regional basis, including the strengthening of networks and other cooperative arrangements;
- (c) International Cooperation and Coordination. Whilst the emphasis of the Global Plan of Action would be at the local, national and regional levels, a certain amount of international coordination is required. This stems in part from factors such as the interdependence of countries for access to PGRFA. Such activity might include mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of germplasm, information and technologies, as well as activities such as global programmes to ensure regeneration and safe duplication of *ex-situ* collections. The Global System for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources will provide the framework for international coordination, including through its components such as the World Information and Early Warning System and the International Network of *ex-situ* Collections.
- (d) Policy formulation and implementation. Policies might need to be developed both for the national and international levels in order to promote conservation of genetic resources, transfer of technologies etc.
- (e) Scientific, Socioeconomic and Legal Research. The field of PGRFA is advancing rapidly both in technical/scientific areas, and in policy/legal matters. Further research may be warranted as part of the Global Plan of Action in order to improve the tools available for the conservation and sustainable utilization of PGRFA.

Appendix 4

SUB-REGIONAL MEETINGS

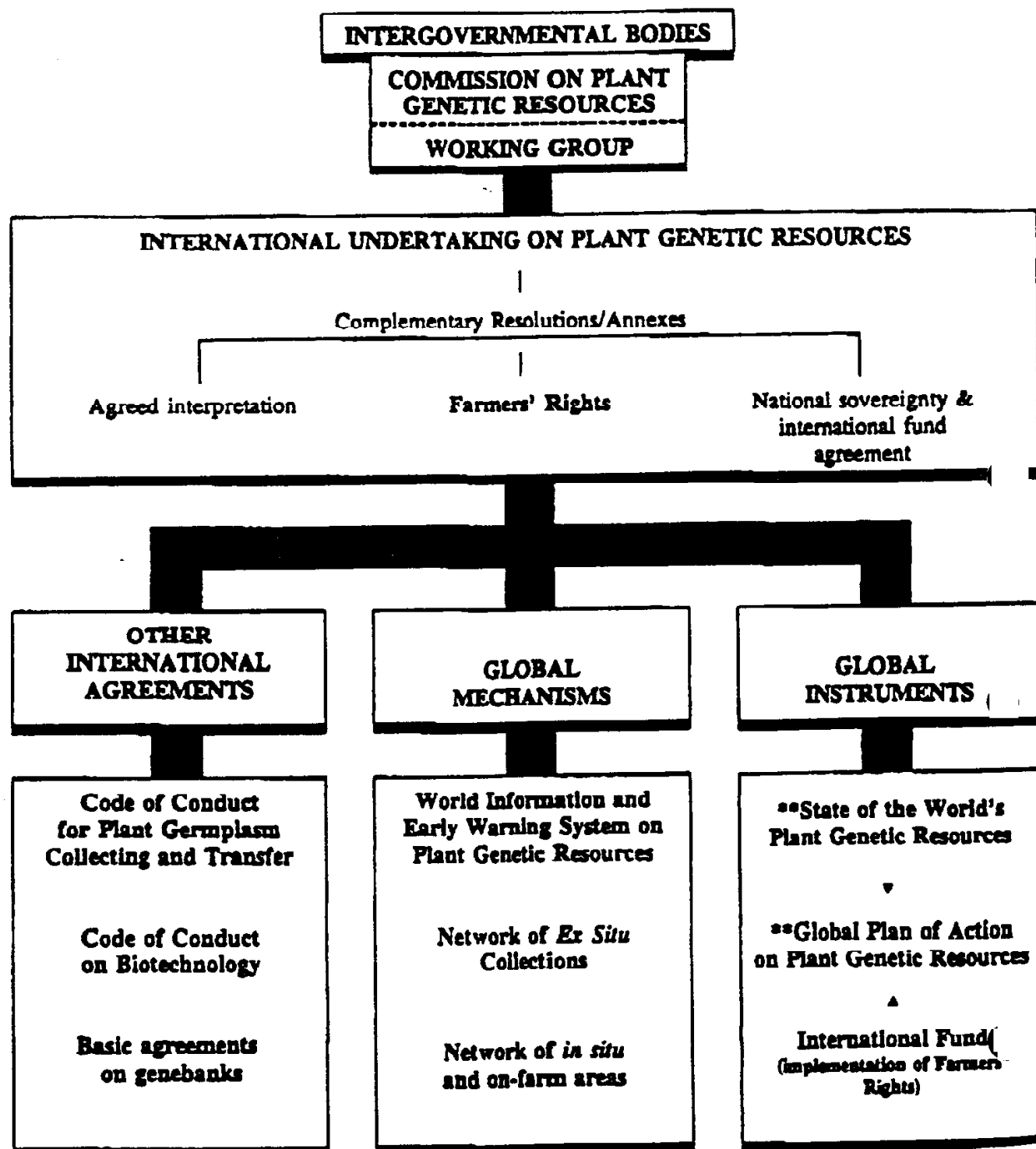
Preparatory to the Fourth International Technical Conference
on Plant Genetic Resources

Leipzig, Germany, 17-23 June 1996

Sub-region	Date (all meetings in 1995)	Host Country
East Asia	24-26 July	China (Beijing)
Central America & The Caribbean	21-24 August	Costa Rica (San José)
South America	29 August-1 September	Brazil (Brasilia)
Eastern Africa & Indian Ocean	12-14 September	Kenya (Nairobi)
Southern Africa	19-21 September	Zimbabwe (Harare)
Europe	24-27 September	Slovakia (Nitra)
Southeast Asia & Pacific	3-6 October	Thailand (Bangkok)
West & Central Asia	9-12 October	Iran (Teheran)
Mediterranean	16-19 October	Tunisia (Tunis)
Africa	27-30 November	Senegal (Dakar)
South Asia	to be determined	India (New Delhi)
North America	to be determined	to be determined

Appendix 5

**THE GLOBAL SYSTEM FOR THE CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION
OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE***



* For illustrative purposes only

** The first States of the World and Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources are being produced