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DIVERSITY**

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Tenth meeting

Bangkok, 7-11 February 2005

Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*

**COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS AND THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

***Outcome of the tenth regular session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and  
Agriculture***

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

1. At the request of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Executive Secretary is pleased to circulate herewith, for the information of participants in the tenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, note prepared by FAO on the outcome of the tenth regular session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as it relates to cooperation between FAO and the Convention on Biological Diversity.
2. The document is being circulated in the languages and form in which it was received by the Secretariat of the Convention.

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\* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/10/1.





## COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

### OUTCOME OF THE TENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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The Tenth Regular session of the inter-governmental Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture met in Rome from 8-12 November 2004. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Hamdallah Zedan was a keynote speaker. In his statement, he noted the importance of the growing cooperation between FAO and the Convention.<sup>1</sup>

The Commission then considered document CGRFA-10/04/12, *Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity*. This document, which reviews FAO's ongoing and planned cooperation with the CBD, is attached to the current information note.<sup>2</sup> The Commission, having considered this document, took the following decisions, which are extracted from its report, for the information of SBSTTA.

The Commission also requested preparation of a multi-year programme of work, for consideration at its Eleventh Session in 2006. Its decisions in this regard are also given, for the information of SBSTTA.

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#### ***EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE***

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### **VIII. COOPERATION WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

75. The Commission reviewed the document, *Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity*. It thanked the Secretariat for the very thorough picture it gave of the increasing cooperation between the two organizations, and noted that FAO was a major player in the CBD's programmes of work, in relation to agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The Commission welcomed the preparation of the revised Memorandum of Cooperation between the organizations, and expressed hope for its early conclusion. This would support the Commission's efforts to ensure complementarity with the work of the Convention, in mutual respect for their respective mandates, in order to ensure synergy.

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Zedan's speech is in *Appendix D2* of the Report of the Tenth Regular Session of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, available on the internet at <http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/docs10.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> It is also available on the internet at <http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/docs10.htm>.

76. Within the mandate of the Commission, and taking into account the timing and scope of the CBD's Programmes of Work, it accordingly:

- Decided that it would accept the invitation of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, to consider how the *Global Plan of Action* can contribute to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, in particular target 9, and noted the need for, and the importance of higher order indicators in this regard.
- Recommended that FAO work closely with the Executive Secretary of the Convention, and play a leading role in the in-depth review of the Convention's Programme of Work on Agricultural Biological Diversity, which will be considered at the Ninth Conference of the Parties in 2008, noting that the Convention's review process will not commence until around 2006, and that the Commission's Eleventh Session would consider any preliminary findings. It recommended that FAO convey to the CBD's Executive Secretary the Organization's willingness to play such a leading role, and in doing so, to indicate the need for collaboration in the mobilization of the necessary extra-budgetary resources.
- Supported FAO's contribution to the establishment of a cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition, within the CBD's existing Programme of Work on Agricultural Biological Diversity. It noted that this would involve cooperation with other organizations, such as IPGRI. The thematic study on the contribution of plant genetic resources to health and dietary diversity, within the process to prepare the second *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, would be an important element of this work.
- Supported FAO's offering to lead, in collaboration with the CBD's Executive Secretary, a process that engages stakeholders in the agricultural sector in an analysis of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, with a view to consider their application and further elaboration, specifically with respect of domesticated species, breeds and varieties.
- Supported FAO continuing to lead the development of agricultural biodiversity indicators, including indicators on genetic resources for food and agriculture (*inter alia* of domestic animals, fisheries and plants), to assist in determining progress toward the Convention's 2010 target of significantly reducing the current rate of biodiversity loss.
- In addition to responding to the above requests from the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, the Commission recommended that FAO and the Commission contribute to further work on access and benefit-sharing, in order to ensure that it move in a direction supportive of the special needs of the agricultural sector, in regard to all components of biological diversity of interest to food and agriculture. It recognised the essential role of the International Treaty in this context.
- Welcomed the support of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity for the development of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources, and the preparation of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*.

77. The CBD Secretariat welcomed the proactive and constructive role that FAO was playing in support of its programmes, and reviewed in detail the many aspects of cooperation between the two organizations, recognizing the lead role of FAO in the Programme on Agricultural Biological Diversity. As the Executive Secretary had highlighted in his introductory address, this was to the benefit of both organizations and their member countries. The updated Memorandum of Cooperation would provide a sound basis for further work.

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## X. FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

88. Within its mandate, the Commission should strengthen mutual cooperation with the CBD, and other relevant organizations.

89. In the medium and longer term, the Commission should implement its full mandate (Conference Resolution 3/95). The Secretariat was requested to prepare a document on the status and needs of sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture, other than plants and animals, including the various areas of biodiversity for

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food and agriculture, and the agro-ecosystem approach to genetic resource conservation and cross-sectorial matters... The Eleventh Session of the Commission would then decide on the Commission's Programme of Work.

90. Within its Mandate, the future work of the Commission should contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially Millennium Development Goal no. 1, *Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger*, and Millennium Development Goal no. 7, *Ensure Environmental Sustainability*.

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October 2004



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et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

### Item 7 of the Draft Provisional Agenda

## COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

### Tenth Regular Session

Rome, 8-12 November 2004

## COOPERATION WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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*Appendix I: Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Targets*

*Appendix II: Main elements of the Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity*

For reasons of economy, this document is produced in a limited number of copies. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring it to the meetings and to refrain from asking for additional copies, unless strictly indispensable.  
Most FAO meeting documents are available on Internet at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)





## II. INTRODUCTION

1. FAO is the main international forum where Governments form policy, and develop programmes, in relation to all aspects of food and agriculture. It hosts a number of crucial international instruments and programmes. Their implementation requires FAO to work with other organizations involved in natural resources management for food and agriculture, environment and trade. Collaboration with such organizations is essential for FAO and the food and agriculture sector generally, given the continued trend toward an inter-dependent and globalized world economy and the increasing need for common or integrated policies and regulatory frameworks.<sup>3</sup> FAO cooperates with relevant forums to address agriculture-related subjects, which for FAO includes agriculture, forestry and fisheries. It seeks to ensure that the specific needs and concerns of the food and agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors are adequately reflected within relevant international instruments, and that appropriate policy advice is provided to the forums dealing with natural resources, environment and trade.<sup>4</sup>
2. Biodiversity for food and agriculture is at the core of FAO's mandate, in raising improving nutrition and agricultural productivity and bettering the lives of rural populations. FAO has collaborated closely with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) since its entry into force in 1993. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture facilitates and oversees cooperation between FAO and the Conference of Parties to the CBD,<sup>5</sup> and seeks to develop appropriate mechanisms for cooperation and coordination with this and other international bodies, in the areas of the Commission's mandate.
3. The Commission responds to requests from the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, and has routinely discussed cooperation between the organizations. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention has over the years invited FAO to undertake activities in support of its programmes of work. At its Ninth Regular Session, it welcomed the growing cooperation with the CBD on a wide range of sectorial and cross-sectorial activities.
4. During their last Conference, in 2004 (COP VII), Parties took a number of decisions of direct relevance to the Commission, and addressed several requests to FAO and the Commission to assist with specific issues.
5. This document provides an overview of past cooperation between the organizations, and considers specific issues that the Convention will be addressing over next few years that are of direct relevance to the Commission. FAO's involvement in these activities will have human and financial implications for the Organization, and the Commission is requested to provide advice on priorities and how best to proceed on these matters.

## III. FAO'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

6. Since the 1992 Earth Summit, the CBD has become a major forum for the development of strategies and action plans for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of biological resources and the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.
7. To assist Parties achieve the objectives of the Convention, numerous programmes of work have been prepared. These include sectorial programmes of work that address agricultural biodiversity, forest biodiversity, inland water biodiversity, mountain biodiversity, marine and

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<sup>3</sup> *Strategic Framework for FAO 2000-2015*, para. 52, <http://www.fao.org/strategicframework/default.htm>.

<sup>4</sup> *Strategic Framework for FAO 2000-2015*, para. 56.

<sup>5</sup> CGRFA-10/04/inf.1, *Statutes of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, <http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/statC.htm>.

coastal biodiversity and the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands. A number of cross-cutting initiatives have also been developed, including, *inter alia*: access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing; traditional knowledge, innovations and practices; indicators; sustainable use of biodiversity; technology transfer and cooperation. The programmes of work routinely call upon international organizations, including FAO, to assist in their implementation. FAO is a key partner in, and contributor to, the implementation of the CBD. The following paragraphs provide a summary of the main areas where FAO has contributed to the implementation of the Convention.

8. In 1997, the FAO and the CBD entered into a Memorandum of Cooperation establishing an effective working arrangement to advance biodiversity initiatives of mutual interests. It provides a framework for the Joint Programme of Work between the two Secretariats. The organizations are currently revising the Memorandum of Cooperation, as described in Section III of the present document.

9. Between 1997 and 2003, FAO provided an Agricultural Biological Diversity Officer to the Convention Secretariat, in order to strengthen it in the initial phase of its activities, and to facilitate cooperation between the organizations and the implementation of agreed joint activities.

10. FAO has been requested to participate in the preparation and implementation of most of the programmes of work developed under the Convention. FAO was the main facilitator assisting Parties in the development of the Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity, and actively participated in the development of the programmes of work on Forest Biodiversity; Inland Water Biodiversity; Mountain Biodiversity; and Marine and Coastal Biodiversity. FAO has participated in the development of several of the Convention's cross-cutting initiatives, including on invasive alien species; access and benefit-sharing; sustainable use of biodiversity; the ecosystem approach; and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. FAO contributes to the implementation of all these programmes of work and cross-cutting initiatives.

11. FAO and its Commission have cooperated on activities that the Conference of the Parties to the CBD has invited FAO to facilitate and coordinate, and now lead in a number of specific activities, including:

- The International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators.
- The International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity.
- The development of indicators to monitor and assess the status and trends of agricultural biodiversity as part of efforts to assist the Parties in the implementation of the Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity.
- A study on the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on agricultural biodiversity and agricultural production systems.

12. In addition, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD recognizes that many of FAO's own agreements, programmes and policies contribute directly to attaining the objectives of the Convention, including, *inter alia*:

- *The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* [conservation and sustainable use genetic resources, including access and benefit-sharing].
- *The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* [conservation, management and development of living aquatic resources, with due respect for the ecosystem and biodiversity; COP VII urged Parties to implement the *Code*, in relation both to mariculture and to marine and coastal living resources.]
- The Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture [conservation and sustainable use genetic resources].

- The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture [understanding the status and trends of agricultural biodiversity].
- *The FAO Forest Resources Assessment 2000* [understanding the status and trends of forest genetic diversity].

In addition:

- FAO facilitates country efforts to identify and implement criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, including criteria and indicators for the conservation of forest biodiversity.
- A number of other initiatives directly support sustainable use of biological diversity. For example, in partnership with a number of conservation organizations, FAO is addressing the bushmeat and wildmeat crisis in Africa's tropical forests.
- Other ongoing FAO activities contribute to the application of the ecosystem approach within agriculture, and to managing agriculture within the wider environment, including through programmes to build farmer's capacity on integrated pest management, which, over the past 20 years, have undertaken Farmer Field Schools in over 100,000 local communities.

#### IV. REVISION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION: A FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE COOPERATION

13. The initiatives described above illustrate successful collaboration, with benefits for both organizations. It is in the interest of both that collaboration be maintained and strengthened. However, the growing number of programmes of work under the Convention, and requests by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to FAO, place considerable demands on the Organization's human and financial resources, which will need to be taken into account.

14. The revised Memorandum of Cooperation will provide a practical framework for increased synergy between the organizations, in the area of biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture, with due regard to the respective objectives, mandates and functions of each organization. It recognizes the importance in this respect of, *inter alia*: the *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, the *International Plant Protection Convention*, the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, the *Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources*, and the *Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries*.

15. The revised Memorandum of Cooperation makes provision for joint activities and activities FAO's undertakes at the CBD's request to be implemented through separate agreements annexed to the Memorandum of Cooperation, specifying the responsibilities of the each organizations and other cooperating organization, and the establishment of a budget and attribution of budgetary responsibilities. It also provides for FAO and the CBD to jointly seek to mobilize resources for such activities. Such budgets could be brought to the attention of meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the FAO Commission for advice.

16. As a further step toward an enhanced framework for collaboration, FAO will post a Senior Liaison Officer to the Secretariat of the Convention, to promote synergy and cooperation in all aspects of policy and programme development.

17. If completed by the time the Commission meets, the revised Memorandum will be available to it.

## V. REQUESTS FROM THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AND FURTHER COOPERATION WITH FAO AND ITS COMMISSION

18. While the revised Memorandum of Cooperation establishes the framework for collaboration, decisions arising from Conferences of Parties to the Convention raise questions as to what FAO's role should be, across a range of specific activities and programmes. These are outlined below.

19. Reference to FAO is made in almost all decisions of COP VII, for example on: access and benefit-sharing; dry and sub-humid lands; inland water ecosystems; marine and coastal biological diversity; protected areas; and traditional knowledge.

20. A number of decisions of COP VII address specific issues of particular interest to FAO, and direct specific requests to FAO, including:

- A request to consider how the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture could contribute to the implementation of the CBD's Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, in particular target 9;
- A series of decisions related to the CBD's programme of work on agricultural biological diversity that FAO could lead through :
  - The establishment of joint mechanisms for an in-depth review of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity;
  - Consultations, and presentation of options for a cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition, within the Convention's programme of work on agricultural biodiversity; and
  - The establishment of joint mechanisms to further elaborate the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, specifically with respect to domesticated species, breeds and varieties, in the context of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity;
- A request to FAO to participate in the task forces on indicators for assessing progress toward the Convention's 2010 target for reducing the current rate of biodiversity loss.

21. These are described in more detail in the following paragraphs.

### A. *THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION*

22. The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation was adopted at the Sixth Conference of the Parties (Decision VI/9 Para. 13). It includes objectives, principles and targets for plant conservation, as a framework for policy formulation and a basis for monitoring. National targets developed within this framework may vary, according to national priorities and capacities (Decision VI/9, para. 13).

23. The same decision invites relevant international and regional organizations to endorse the strategy and to contribute to its implementation, including through adopting the agreed targets in order to promote a common effort towards halting the loss of plant diversity. Parties also decided to consider the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as a pilot approach for the use of outcome targets under the Convention, within the context of the Strategic Plan, and the wider application of this approach in other areas. They agreed to review, at their Eighth and Tenth Conferences, the progress made in reaching the global targets, and to provide additional guidance in the light of the review.

24. Following the adoption of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, the Executive Secretary of the Convention invited FAO to facilitate a stakeholder consultation related to targets 6, 9, 12, and 13 (see *Appendix I*); these relate *inter alia* to sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, genetic diversity of crops, and sustainable production lands. In response, FAO, in collaboration with IPGRI (and with People and Plant International for target 13), developed background papers for each of the four targets and undertook consultations in 2003 amongst a wide group of stakeholders. Further work needs to be undertaken, *inter alia*, to ensure the definition of milestones and to enable coordination and synergies between sectors at national level.

25. At their Seventh Conference, Parties decided to integrate the targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation into all thematic and relevant cross-cutting programmes of work (Decision VII/10). They requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to prepare proposals for the respective programmes of work, when due for review under the multi-year programme of work of Decision VII/31. In Decision VII/10, Parties stressed that targets 6, 9 and 12, in particular, should be integrated into the Programme of Work on Agricultural Biological Diversity.

26. The Decision VII/10 (para. 12) also invited the Commission to consider how the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* contributes to the implementation of the Strategy, in particular target 9 (70 % of genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained).

#### **Guidance sought from the Commission**

27. **The Commission may wish to accept the invitation of the Conference of Parties, to consider how the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* contributes to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, in particular Target 9, and provide its views on how this process should be undertaken.**

### **B. THE CBD PROGRAMME OF WORK ON AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY, AND REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK**

28. In 1996, the Third Conference of Parties (COP III) decided to establish a multi-year programme of activities on agricultural biological diversity, welcomed FAO's offer to continue serving countries in implementing the Convention in this area, and underlined the necessity of avoiding duplication of work (Decision III/11). Parties invited FAO, in close collaboration with other relevant organizations, to identify and assess ongoing level activities and instruments. In response, FAO led a process for assessing such activities, enabling Parties to adopt a multi-year Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity in 2000 (COP V, Decision V/V). This contains four main programme elements, which are presented in *Appendix I*.

29. Parties invited FAO to support the implementation of the Programme of Work. This request was reiterated at COP VI. Parties requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with FAO, to prepare a synthesis of relevant studies and analyze gaps and opportunities in the implementation of the Programme of Work for consideration at the Eighth Conference of Parties (COP XIII) in 2006, drawing upon national thematic reports and information provided by relevant organizations (Decision VI/5).

30. Parties requested the Executive Secretary, during COP VII, to invite FAO, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, to identify and assess activities and available information on agricultural biodiversity before Parties' submission of the third national reports. During COP VII, Parties adopted a multi-year programme of work until 2010 (Decision VII/31), which provides for an in-depth review of the Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity at the Ninth Conference of Parties (COP IX). Parties agreed that this will focus on:

- Assessing the implementation of the Programme's effectiveness.
- If necessary, updating the Programme of Work by retiring or replacing activities and by making adjustments to reflect changes in the international context.
- Providing practical support for national and regional implementation.

31. The current Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity was developed with substantial input by FAO, and has provided opportunities to address a number of important issues. As indicated in Section II above, it has also resulted in the initiation of globally significant initiatives. If past successes are to be repeated, existing partnerships must be maintained or strengthened. The review of the current programme of work provides an opportunity to renew partnerships, and further engage agricultural stakeholders by providing them with an opportunity to establish a common agenda for addressing agriculture biodiversity issues. Substantial benefits would result from FAO leading the in-depth review of the Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity.

32. FAO has already demonstrated its capacity to undertake such a review, having led the process that provided the foundation for adoption of the current Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity. FAO has both technical and policy development competence to assist in evaluating progress and identifying emerging issues. FAO could utilize its global network of stakeholders and linkages with relevant organizations to assist in establishing future priorities.

33. As leader of the review process, FAO could ensure that the mandates of the various organizations involved in agricultural biodiversity matters are understood and respected. This would reduce the potential for duplication of effort among agencies and promote synergy with other organizations, whose full support will be essential in the implementation of the revised Programme of Work.

#### **Guidance sought from the Commission**

34. **The Commission may wish to recommend that FAO offer to lead, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the CBD, a process for undertaking an in-depth review of the Convention's Agricultural Biodiversity Programme of Work for consideration at the Ninth Conference of Parties to the CBD (2008), with preliminary findings made available to the Commission at its Eleventh Regular Session (2006). If so, the Commission may wish to recommend that the Director-General convey to the Executive Secretary of the CBD of the Organization's willingness to lead the review process, indicating the need for collaboration in the mobilization of the necessary extra-budgetary resources.**

#### **Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition**

35. In Decision VII/3, Parties to the CBD welcomed the FAO's decision to dedicate World Food Day 2004 to "Biodiversity for Food Security". They encouraged Parties and Governments and their Executive Secretary to participate in this celebration.

36. In Decision VII/32, Parties acknowledged linkages between biodiversity, food and nutrition, and noted the need to enhance the sustainable use of biodiversity, to combat hunger and malnutrition. Parties requested their Executive Secretary, in collaboration with FAO and IPGRI, and taking into account ongoing work, to undertake the necessary consultations and bring forward options for consideration by the Eighth Conference of the Parties on a cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition, within the existing Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity. The Decision stressed the need for relevant organizations to strengthen existing initiatives on food and nutrition and enhance synergies and fully integrate biodiversity concerns into their work, with a view to achieving target 2 of Millennium Development Goal 1 (halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger) and other relevant Millennium Development Goals.

37. Millennium Development Goal 1 directly restates the pledge of Governments in the *Rome Declaration and Plan of Action* adopted by the World Food Summit in 1996, and reaffirmed in the World Food Summit; five years later, in 2002. As part of FAO's long established work in food and nutrition to support dietary diversity, a series of activities have been undertaken that show the important role that the use of local biodiversity can play to guarantee sustainable improvements in nutrition.<sup>6</sup> In addition, the Intergovernmental Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources, at its second meeting, has recommended to undertake thematic studies (subject to availability of funds) to support the preparation of the second *Report of the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources*. One of them is on the contribution of plant genetic resources to health and dietary diversity.

#### **Guidance sought from the Commission**

38. **The Commission may wish to advise on the relative importance of the establishment of a cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition within the existing Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity, and propose options for priority elements and activities for such an initiative.**

#### **Sustainable Use: Exploring the applicability of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines to Agricultural Biodiversity**

39. The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity is an objective of the Convention. *Article 2* defines sustainable use as the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations. *Article 10* requests Parties to adopt measures relating to the use of biodiversity to avoid or minimize impacts on biodiversity.

40. Parties requested the Executive Secretary to assemble practical principles, operational guidelines and associated instruments, and guidance specific to sectors and biomes, which would assist Parties and Governments to develop ways to achieve the sustainable use of biological diversity, within the framework of the ecosystem approach (Decision V/24).

41. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary convened three regional expert workshops. At COP VI, Parties agreed to convene an open-ended working group to synthesize and integrate the outcomes of the regional workshops. It met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2003, and agreed to a set of principles and guidelines, which are referred to as the "Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity". These were adopted by Parties during COP VII and, in so doing, they recognized that "agricultural biodiversity was not fully addressed in the process leading up to the development of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines and that there is a need for their further elaboration specifically with respect to domesticated species, breeds and varieties in the context of the Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity."

42. Parties requested SBSTTA to explore the applicability of these principles and guidelines to agricultural biodiversity, in particular to domesticated species, breeds and varieties, and make appropriate recommendations, prior to COP IX. At the same time, countries through the Commission are undertaking the *Reports on the State of the World's Animal and Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. Moreover, FAO coordinates a number of activities related to sustainable use in the context of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources and the Global System on Plant Genetic Resources. Given the importance of these matters for FAO and its member countries, FAO could consider leading this endeavour, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the CBD.

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<sup>6</sup> See the section on nutrition, para. 20-24, of document CGRFA-10/04/10.2, *Report from FAO on its policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity: (2) cross-sectorial matters*.

### Guidance sought from the Commission

43. **The Commission may wish to recommend that FAO offer to lead, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the CBD, a process that engages agricultural biodiversity stakeholders in an analysis of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, with a view to consider their application and further elaboration, specifically with respect to domesticated species, breeds and varieties, in the context of the Convention's Programme of Work on Agriculture Biological Diversity**

### C. INDICATORS

44. Parties also requested FAO to play a lead role in the development of indicators to monitor and assess the status and trends of agricultural biodiversity, as part of the implementation of the Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity (decisions V/5 and VI/5). FAO submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention the *Reporting Format and Indicators for monitoring implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. FAO is continuing efforts to identify or develop indicators for agricultural biodiversity, including indicators for genetic diversity, genetic erosion and genetic vulnerability, and will inform the CBD of progress made.<sup>7</sup>

45. Parties to the CBD are engaged in the development of indicators to assess progress toward the 2010 biodiversity target "to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss at global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth". In line with COP Decision VII/30, the Executive Secretary of the Convention invited FAO to contribute to, and participate in, task forces to assess progress toward, and communicating the 2010 target at the global level. The areas for which FAO has been invited to contribute to are: reducing the rate of loss of the components of biodiversity, including: (i) biomes, habitats and ecosystems; (ii) species and populations; and (iii) genetic diversity; maintaining ecosystem integrity, and the provision of goods and services provided by biodiversity in ecosystems, in support of human well-being; and promoting sustainable use of biodiversity. FAO has already provided some inputs.

### Guidance sought from the Commission

46. **The Commission may wish to recommend that FAO continue the development of agricultural biodiversity indicators, including indicators on genetic resources for food and agriculture, to assist in determining progress toward the Convention's 2010 target for reducing the current rate of biodiversity loss.**

## VI. IMPLICATIONS FOR FAO'S PROGRAMME OF WORK

47. The CBD has a broad mandate in relation to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Its work programme is expanding rapidly and it relies on other organisations to provide policy input and to implement technical activities. It is increasingly turning to FAO in relation to many aspects of food and agriculture, as the requests by the recent Conference of the Parties show.

48. Since 1993, collaboration the FAO and the CBD has developed greatly, in breadth and depth, in support of the implementation of the CBD, at the request of the Conference of the Parties. This collaboration has helped foster the development of joint and complementary policies and programmes of work, and has largely avoided duplication of activities, in a spirit of mutual respect for each other's mandates. From FAO's point of view, it offers an opportunity to promote policy coherence across sectors and forums, and ensure that the nature and needs of the

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<sup>7</sup> An expert consultation was jointly organized by FAO and IPGRI to review and develop indicators of genetic diversity, genetic erosion and genetic vulnerability.



agricultural sector are taken into account in the work of the CBD. Moreover, countries increasingly request support from FAO to mainstream biodiversity into national food and agricultural policies and programmes.

49. Coordination within the FAO Secretariat has improved greatly since the establishment of the PAIA/IDWG for Integrated Management of Biological Diversity for Food and Agriculture (PAIA/BIOD).<sup>8</sup> The PAIA/BIOD provides adequate interdisciplinary and interdepartmental expertise for the technical and political analysis of issues arising in the cooperation with the CBD. The FAO Sustainable Department provides the focal point for official communication and follow up implementation of invitations made to FAO by the COP, and in this regard, FAO has so far relied on very limited financial or staff resources.

50. This raises substantial implications for FAO's Regular Programme, of two types:
- **Preparation of substantive technical programmes and activities.** A number of elements of these are close to FAO's own substantive activities, and can thus be absorbed. FAO has mobilized extra-budgetary funding for joint activities (for instance, the support from the Netherlands, through the FAO Netherlands Partnership Programme). The revised Memorandum of Cooperation should improve fund-mobilization. A growing proportion of elements of programmes and activities, however, require specific, additional commitment of Regular Programme resources.
  - **Implementation of the Organization's overall response to requests from the CBD.** Many of the CBD's activities have policy implications for FAO and its member countries. It remains important to strengthen this area of work, in order to ensure effective use of the Organization's limited resources, in a time of budgetary restraints.

51. At a time of increasing requests to FAO from the CBD and from Member countries, financial resources from the regular programme (and from extra budgetary sources) and dedicated staff would be required to enhance collaboration within FAO and with the CBD Secretariat. The guidance of the Commission is sought on how FAO should prioritize this cooperation in the rolling FAO's Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget.

## VII. ADVICE SOUGHT FROM THE COMMISSION

52. Advice from the Commission is sought on how to further strengthen cooperation with the Convention, and to determine priorities for collaboration and ways and means to addressing them.

53. In relation to **overall cooperation and coordination**, the Commission is requested to:
- Consider the steps FAO has taken to enhance the framework for collaboration with the CBD and provide any guidance on additional steps;
  - Advise FAO on priorities for future collaboration, which can be taken into consideration in establishing FAO's Medium Term Programme and Programme of Work and Budget, including in relation to coordination of collaborative activities;
  - Advise FAO on the mobilization of resources, including extra-budgetary resources, in order to implement expanding joint activities and programmes with the CBD;
  - Address any relevant recommendations it may wish to the Conference of the Parties of the CBD.

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<sup>8</sup> CGRFA-10/04/10.1, *Report from FAO on its policies, programmes and activities on agriculture biological diversity: (3) Priority Areas for Inter-disciplinary Action (PALAs)*, para. 5-12.

54. In relation to the **specific issues for further collaboration between FAO and the CBD** identified above, the Commission may wish to:

[See para. 22 - 27]

- Accept the invitation of the Conference of Parties, to consider how the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* contributes to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, in particular Target 9, and provide its views on how this process should be undertaken.

[See para. 28 -33]

- Recommend that FAO offer to lead, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the CBD, a process for undertaking an in-depth review of the Convention's Agricultural Biodiversity Programme of Work for consideration at the Ninth Conference of Parties to the CBD, with preliminary findings made available to the Commission at its Eleventh Regular Session.
- If so, recommend that the Director-General convey to the Executive Secretary of the CBD the Organization's willingness to lead the review process, indicating the need for collaboration in the mobilization of the necessary extra-budgetary resources.

[See para. 35 - 38]

- Advise on the relative importance of the establishment of a cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition within the existing Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity, and propose options for priority elements and activities for such an initiative.

[See para. 39 - 43]

- Recommend that FAO offer to lead, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the CBD, a process that engages agricultural biodiversity stakeholders in an analysis of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, with a view to consider their application and further elaboration, specifically with respect to domesticated species, breeds and varieties in the context of the Convention's Programme of Work on Agriculture Biological Diversity.

[See para. 44 - 46]

- Recommend that FAO continue the development of agricultural biodiversity indicators, including indicators on genetic resources for food and agriculture, to assist in determining progress toward the Convention's 2010 target for reducing the current rate of biodiversity loss.

55. The Commission may also wish to identify others issues for collaboration than those identified in this document.

56. The Commission is also requested to advise whether it would like to initiate one or more *technical consultations on agriculture, food, nutrition and biodiversity* to deal with the specific issues identified and to provide recommendations to the Commission, FAO, and the CBD; and whether this should be jointly organized by the FAO and the CBD Secretariat.

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## APPENDIX I : GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION TARGETS

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### A. Understanding and documenting plant diversity:

1. A widely accessible working list of known plant species, as a step towards a complete world flora;
2. A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, at national, regional and international levels;
3. Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience;

### B. Conserving plant diversity:

4. At least 10 per cent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved;
5. Protection of 50 per cent of the most important areas for plant diversity assured;
6. At least 30 per cent of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity;
7. 60 per cent of the world's threatened species conserved *in situ*;
8. 60 per cent of threatened plant species in accessible *ex situ* collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10 per cent of them included in recovery and restoration programmes;
9. 70 per cent of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained;
10. Management plans in place for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems;

### C. Using plant diversity sustainably:

11. No species of wild flora endangered by international trade;
12. 30 per cent of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed;
13. The decline of plant resources, and associated indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, halted;

### D. Promoting education and awareness about plant diversity:

14. The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, educational and public-awareness programmes;

### E. Building capacity for the conservation of plant diversity:

15. The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy;
16. Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels.

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## APPENDIX II: MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY

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**Assessments:** to provide a comprehensive analysis of status and trends of the world's agricultural biodiversity and of their underlying causes (including a focus on the goods and services agricultural biodiversity provides), as well of local knowledge of its management.

**Adaptive management:** to identify management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive and mitigate the negative impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, and enhance productivity and the capacity to sustain livelihoods, by expanding knowledge, understanding and awareness of the multiple goods and services provided by the different levels and functions of agricultural biodiversity.

**Capacity-building:** to strengthen the capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders, to manage sustainably agricultural biodiversity so as to increase their benefits, and to promote awareness and responsible action.

**Mainstreaming:** to support the development of national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and to promote their mainstreaming and integration in sectorial and cross-sectorial plans and programmes.

The Programme of Work on Agricultural Biological Diversity was developed taking into account existing initiatives and agreements, including *The Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources, and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The Reports coordinated by FAO on *The State of the World's Plant and Animal Genetic Resources* are also acknowledged as important contributions to a comprehensive analysis of the status of and trends in the world's agricultural biodiversity.