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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	20th Regular Session of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Rome, 24-28 March 2025) – <i>Declaration of Competence and Voting Rights and final statements</i>

Delegations will find in annex the Declaration of Competence and Voting Rights (ANNEX I) and the final statements delivered on behalf of the European Regional Group (ERG) or on behalf of the EU and its Member States (ANNEX II) for the 20th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-20) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (Rome, 24-28 March 2025).

The Declaration of Competence and Voting Rights was approved by the Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture (Genetic Resources) at its meeting of 11-12 March 2025. All statements were agreed by the Working Party at its meeting of 11-12 March 2025 (with the exception of the statement for item 6.2, which was agreed on 18 March 2025 by written consultation) and then further discussed at ERG coordination with a view to reaching a common ERG position.

No agreement was reached at ERG level on the position on item 9.4. This statement was therefore delivered on behalf of the EU and its Member States. All other positions were agreed by the ERG during coordination meetings on 23 March 2025 and in the margins of CGRFA-20, and the corresponding statements were delivered on behalf of the ERG.



20th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Rome, 24 – 28 March 2025

**DECLARATION OF COMPETENCES AND VOTING RIGHTS SUBMITTED BY
THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
MS competence – MS Vote

CROSS-SECTORAL MATTERS

2. The role of genetic resources for food and agriculture in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change
Shared competence – MS Vote
3. Access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture
 - 3.1 Report of the Seventh Session of the Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-Sharing
Shared competence – MS Vote
 - 3.2 Implementation of access and benefit-sharing country measures
Shared competence – MS Vote
4. Digital sequence information and genetic resources for food and agriculture
Shared competence – MS Vote

BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

5. Biodiversity
 - 5.1 Report of the First Session of the Ad Hoc Expert Team on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture
Shared competence – MS Vote
 - 5.2 Implementation of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture
Shared competence – MS Vote

- 5.3 Preparation of *The Second Report on the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*
Shared competence – MS Vote

GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

6. Aquatic genetic resources

- 6.1 Report of the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Shared Competence – MS Vote
- 6.2 Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Shared Competence – MS Vote
- 6.3 Preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*
Shared competence – MS Vote

7. Animal genetic resources

- 7.1 Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Shared competence – MS Vote
- 7.2 Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources
Shared competence – MS Vote
- 7.3 Status of preparations of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*
Shared competence – MS Vote

8. Micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources

- 8.1 Report of the First Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Microorganism and Invertebrate Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Shared competence – MS Vote
- 8.2 Edible fungi and invertebrates used as dietary components of food/feed
Shared competence – MS Vote

- 8.3 Micro-organisms used in food processing and agro-industrial processes

Shared competence – MS Vote

- 8.4 Follow-up on other functional groups of microorganism and invertebrate genetic resources

Shared competence – MS Vote

9. Plant genetic resources

- 9.1 Report of the Twelfth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Shared competence – MS Vote

- 9.2 *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

Shared competence – MS Vote

- 9.3 Implementation and review of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Shared competence – MS Vote

- 9.4 *Effects of seed policies, laws and regulations*

Shared competence – MS Vote

10. Forest genetic resources

- 10.1 Report of the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources

Shared competence – MS Vote

- 10.2 *The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*

Shared competence – MS Vote

- 10.3 Implementation and review of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources

Shared competence – MS Vote

THE COMMISSION'S MODE OF OPERATION

11. Options for the identification of new and emerging issues

Shared Competence – MS Vote

COOPERATION

12. Cooperation with international instruments and organizations

Shared Competence – MS Vote

OTHER MATTERS

13. Any other matters
Shared Competence – MS Vote
14. Date and place of the Commission's Twenty-first Regular Session
MS Competence – MS Vote
15. Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and *Rapporteur*
MS Competence – MS Vote
16. Adoption of the Report
Shared Competence – MS Vote

**20th Regular Session of the
FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(Rome, 24-28 March 2025)**

**Opening Statement of the European Regional Group
23.03.2025**

Mr Chair,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. Firstly, we would like to thank the Secretariat for all the work that they put in organising this event, especially in the interim period since the departure of the previous Secretary, on working documents, and on the related information prepared for this session.
3. We would like to welcome the new Secretary of the Commission, Ms Manoela Pessoa De Miranda: welcome to this big family of enthusiasts about genetic resources for food and agriculture. We look forward to working with you over the next years.
4. We would also like to convey our greetings to you, Mr Chair, and to the other members of the Bureau. We look forward to a productive session under your guidance.
5. We have an exciting week ahead to discuss about the progress on the preparation of State of the World Reports, the implementation of the Global Plans of Action, and about other developments of the specific sectors. In this regard, we would like to highlight as outstanding outcomes of this session: the launch of the State of the World Reports of Forest and Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
6. We are also looking forward to hearing about the progress and future work on the very relevant cross-cutting issues such as climate change, access and benefit sharing, and Digital Sequence Information, and to reach an agreement on the best way to proceed with regard to the identification of new and emerging issues.

7. All of us know that genetic resources for food and agriculture are the very foundation for future sustainable and resilient food systems and forestry. Therefore, we would like to continue emphasising that the adoption of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has opened new opportunities to strengthen the implementation of the Commission's Framework and Plans of Action at the national level, through the recognition of these resources when Members are updating their National Biodiversity Strategies and Plans.
8. We hope to have a constructive and fruitful debate over the next week and are looking forward to sharing views with our colleagues from other regions on the different agenda items.

Thank you very much, Mr Chair.

**20th Regular Session of the
FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(Rome, 24-28 March 2025)**

**Position paper of the European Regional Group
23.03.2025**

Agenda item 2: Climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Mr Chair,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We thank the Secretariat for providing the documents relevant to this agenda item.
3. We appreciate the draft baseline report on genetic resources for food and agriculture and climate change. However, we note, with concern, the limited number of responses received.
4. We request the Secretariat, with the support of the Bureau, analyse the possible reasons behind the low response rate to the questionnaire, and to present a summary of the findings at the next sessions of the ITWGs and the Commission. This will help identifying ways to improve such processes for future surveys. In this analysis, we request the Secretariat to also consider the low responses to other questionnaires circulated from the Secretariat in the past.
5. To ensure the baseline is robust and serves as a valuable source of reference for the development of future State of the World's reports, its content must be strengthened. Therefore, we request the Secretariat to resend the questionnaire to the Commission's NFPs, with copy to the sectoral NFPs for information and their possible contribution to the coordinated national answer, to gather additional responses from members who have not yet participated. We also request the Secretariat to complement the study with information from other sources, including examples, lessons learned and case studies.

6. We welcome the proposal to convene a global multi-stakeholder workshop on climate change. However, we had anticipated receiving further information on the intended modalities and arrangements from the Secretary at this session. Therefore, we kindly request the Secretariat to provide this information during the current session.

7. We would like to stress the value of the Voluntary Guidelines. While we see that its revision could have positive outcomes, we find it surprising that, according to the draft baseline report, they have only been used by 13 countries. Therefore, we are reluctant to support its revision at this time. We recommend, instead, that the Working Groups and Commission consider revising them in light of the outcome of the global multi-stakeholder workshop and the additional responses received to the questionnaire.

8. We recommend that the Commission encourage Members to make use of the FAO tools and guidance on climate change adaptation and mitigation when developing or updating their National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions. Additionally, in the light of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework these resources should be considered for other relevant documents, such as their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans. We request that this addition be reflected in the guidance sought.

9. Given that many of these plans are under the control of different ministries in various countries, we would like to highlight the urgent need for cooperation between ministries at the national level in this area.

10. We appreciate the information provided on the work of FAO on climate change, and request FAO to continue fostering cooperation amongst its relevant units in order to support work on conservation and sustainable use of GRFA, including for the implementation of FAO's Strategy on Climate Change and Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across agricultural sectors.

11. I will now read our comments on the guidance sought and we will also send them in writing.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Amendments to the 'guidance sought'

The Commission may wish to:

(i) invite Members to make use of the FAO tools and guidance on climate change adaptation and mitigation when developing or updating their National Adaptation Plans and NDCs, **and other relevant documents, such as their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans;**

(ii) take note of the draft baseline report and request the Secretariat to update it based on a additional round of responses to the questionnaire and on the outcomes of the global multi-stakeholder workshop on climate change and GRFA, and to complement the study with information from other sources, including examples, lessons learned and case studies provide further guidance with regard to the further development of the report;

(ii bis) request the Secretariat to analyse, with the support of the Bureau, the reasons behind the low response rate to this and other questionnaires circulated in the past and to present a summary of the findings at the next sessions of the ITWGs and the Commission;

(iii) recommend that FAO initiate targeted GRFA sector-specific surveys on climate change and compile the results for information of the global multi-stakeholder workshop on climate change and GRFA; and

(iv) recommend that the Working Groups and the Commission at their next sessions consider revising the Voluntary Guidelines ~~be revised~~ in light of the outcome of the global multi-stakeholder workshop, and ~~taking into account~~ the additional responses received to the questionnaire ~~and possible inclusion of the Voluntary Guidelines in the Climate Toolbox of the NDCs Partnership, for consideration in regional consultations and subsequently by the Working Groups and the Commission.~~

(v) welcome FAO's work on climate change and request FAO to continue fostering cooperation amongst its relevant units in order to support work on conservation and sustainable use of GRFA, including for the implementation of FAO's Strategy on Climate Change and Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across agricultural sectors.

**20th Regular Session of the
FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(Rome, 24-28 March 2025)**

Position paper of the European Regional Group

23.03.2025

Agenda item 3.1: Report of the Seventh Session of the Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing

Agenda item 3.2: Impact of access and benefit-sharing country measures on genetic resources for food agriculture and associated traditional knowledge

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Mr Chair,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We thank the Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing for their work and welcome the report of its Seventh Session. We believe that the work of the ABS Expert Team should continue, especially in light of Decision 16/2 of CBD.
3. We thank the Secretary, the authors of the study and the ABS-Expert-Team for their work to prepare, revise and improve the draft report on “The impact of access and benefit-sharing measures on the use and exchange of genetic resources for food and agriculture and associated traditional knowledge”. We have some minor editorial comments to the report which we will send in writing.

4. We acknowledge the report, which highlights the complexity of the existing landscape of ABS country measures, and the challenges to assess their practical operation, specifically for the use and exchange of GRFA. We request the Secretary to finalise and publish the report promptly after this Commission Meeting and to send it to the ABS Clearinghouse as a valuable contribution to the second assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS.
5. Although we acknowledge the low response rate to the survey, we do not support repeating this exercise with a revised version of the questionnaire at this time, as we do not see much added value.
6. Furthermore, we request the Secretariat continue monitoring the developments regarding ABS in other fora, including on the 2nd assessment of the Nagoya Protocol, and provide a report on them to the Commission at its Twenty-first Regular Session.
7. Our comments on the guidance sought is to delete paragraph (iii).

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Amendments to the 'guidance sought'

The Commission may wish to:

- (i) take note of the draft report *The impact of access and benefit-sharing measures on use and exchange of genetic resources for food agriculture and associated traditional knowledge*;
- (ii) request the Secretary to publish the finalized report and submit it to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House with a view to making it available for the second assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization;
- ~~(iii) request the Secretary to revise the questionnaires in light of the responses received, repeat the survey on the basis of the revised questionnaires and present the results for consideration by the Commission at its Twenty-Second Session; and~~
- (iv) request the Secretary to continue monitoring developments regarding ABS in other fora relevant to the mandate of the Commission, and report on them to the Commission at its Twenty-first Regular Session.

**20th Regular Session of the
FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(Rome, 24-28 March 2025)**

**Position paper of the European Regional Group
24.03.2025**

Agenda item 4: Benefit-sharing from digital sequence information on genetic resources for food and agriculture

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Mr Chair,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We welcome Decision 16/2 of the Parties to the CBD which established modalities to operationalize the multilateral mechanism, including the Cali Fund. We encourage users of DSI, who generate commercial benefits using digital information on genetic resources to take their responsibility and contribute to the Cali Fund which aims to support conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
3. We specifically welcome the recognition, in Decision 16/2, of the vital role of IPLCs in the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources. Additionally, we appreciate the provision that at least half of the funding of the Cali Fund should support the self-identified needs of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in all countries.
4. At this point, our region would like to underline the important role of the Commission in providing information on DSI on GRFA, thereby supporting negotiations at the CBD and other fora. Studies requested by the Commission on the role of DSI in the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA, and on how DSI is generated, stored, accessed and used for research and development related to GRFA were very important both for the Commission Members and the negotiators from the environmental sector. We would like to recognise these efforts and congratulate the Commission's Secretariat for facilitating the implementation of the DSI work stream.

5. We also appreciate the excellent summary of recent developments related to DSI on genetic resources in other fora given in the annex of Document CGRFA-20/25/4. We support continuation of this monitoring, to help Commission Members assess the implications of those developments for the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA. We suggest some language change to reflect this focus on GRFA in the conclusions.
6. A better understanding of the landscape of domestic ABS measures that apply to DSI is important, as these may have implications for the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA. Therefore, we would welcome more submissions from Commission Members on this topic, noting that only three Members have provided information on this topic to date.
7. We also believe that a workshop, organized jointly with the International Treaty Secretariat and the CBD Secretariat, could be very useful to consider the implications of decision 16/2 on research and development in the food and agriculture sector. In this regard, it would also be beneficial to invite representatives from the plant and animal breeding industry as well as other DSI users from different sectors related to food and agriculture to this workshop.
8. Finally, noting the importance of supporting capacity building measures, we would like to highlight the role FAO can play in this regard, and invite FAO to assist countries, upon request, in building the necessary capacities regarding the use of DSI from GRFA for research and development for food and agriculture
9. To conclude, Mr Chair, the ERG supports the guidance sought section of this agenda item with small amendments regarding (i), (iii) and (iv), and one addition:

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Amendments to the 'guidance sought'

IV. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

1. The Commission may wish to:

(i) welcome Decision 16/2 of the CBD COP on *Digital sequence information on genetic resources*, including the modalities for operationalizing the MMBS **multilateral mechanism**, including the Cali Fund **for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources**;

(ii) take note of the submissions by Members on domestic ABS measures applying to DSI and their actual or potential implications for the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA, including their exchange, access to them and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use;

(iii) recognize the vital role that Indigenous Peoples, ~~farmers, fishers~~ and local communities, play in the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA and the need for building their capacity to support the effective implementation of DSI mechanisms, including the exchange of, access to and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of GRFA; and

(iv) request the Secretariat to:

a. continue monitoring developments regarding DSI in other fora, with a view to considering their potential implications, including potential opportunities and challenges **for the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA** ~~for the Commission, its Members, and other stakeholders~~, and to report back to the Commission; ~~and~~

b. invite the Secretariats of the CBD and the International Treaty to co-convene a workshop, subject to the availability of resources, on the implications of Decision 16/2 for research and development in the food and agriculture sector, including the exchange of, access to and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of DSI on GRFA; **and**.

v) Request FAO to assist countries, upon request, in building the necessary capacities regarding the use of DSI from GRFA for research and development for food and agriculture.

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(Rome, 24-28 March 2025)**

**Position paper of the European Regional Group
23.03.2025**

Agenda item 5.2: Implementation of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Mr Chair,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We thank the Secretariat for the working document CGRFA-20/25/5.2, including the Draft Questionnaire on the Implementation of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture in its Annex, as well as for the information document CGRFA-20/25/5.2/Inf. 1, including the revised Draft voluntary guidelines for the implementation of the Framework for Action.
3. We welcome the progress made on the implementation of the Framework for Action and would like to further encourage countries to integrate the Framework and sectoral Global Plans of Action, when developing their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, making best use of their mutual supportiveness.
4. We encourage the use of the draft guidelines which will support the implementation of the Framework for Action at national level, and we support its swift finalisation.
5. We note that FAO's Global Plans of Action and the Framework for Action play a key role in FAO's efforts to support its members in mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors. We therefore request FAO to seek additional budget to support countries in their implementation efforts, while recognising the ongoing support in this endeavour also through the different tools and guidelines.

6. Regarding the monitoring of the implementation of the Framework for Action, we strongly support the finalisation of the draft questionnaire at this Commission Session, as the envisioned 2nd State of the World report on BFA should make use of its results. We believe that the discussions from the first meeting of the Expert Team on BFA have been incorporated properly.
7. To avoid duplicative work and enhance synergies, we propose that the Secretariat collaborates with the activities of the FAO Agri-NBSAPs Support Initiative, where relevant, and reports back to the Expert Team on BFA, prior to its second meeting, detailing how the results can contribute to the Commission's work.
8. Finally, we support the Guidance sought with a few amendments and will read out the proposed changes.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Amendments to the 'guidance sought'

23. The Commission may wish to:

- (i) request the Expert Team to review the revised *Draft guidelines for the implementation of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, for endorsement by the Commission at its next session;
- (ii) review and, as appropriate, revise the Draft Questionnaire on the Implementation of the FA BFA, as contained in the Annex to this document, and request the Secretariat to:
 - (a) circulate the questionnaire to the National Focal Points for BFA for completion by 1 November 2025; and (b) summarize responses for information of the Expert Team and the Commission at their next sessions;
- (iii) recommend that FAO continue to support countries, at their request, in the coherent implementation of the FA BFA, GPAs and the KM GBF, including by **ensuring necessary funding and** implementing the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors;
~~and~~
- (iv) invite Members to make use of the FA BFA, the Commission's GPAs and other FAO tools, instruments and other resources, including the FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub, when reviewing, developing and/or implementing relevant national policies or legislation, including NBSAPs and/or national strategy and action plans for BFA; **and**.
- (v) request the Secretariat to closely follow the activities of the FAO Agri-NBSAPs Support Initiative and report back to the Expert Team on BFA, prior to its second meeting, detailing how the results can contribute to the Commission's work.**

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FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
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**Position paper of the European Regional Group
23.03.2025**

Agenda item 5.3: Preparation of the second report on the state of the world's biodiversity for food and agriculture

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Mr Chair,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We thank the Secretariat for providing the working document CGRFA-20/25/5, that proposes the scope, process and timeline for the preparation of the 2nd report on the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (2nd SoW BFA).
3. Firstly we would like to acknowledge that the 1st SoW-BFA was an important milestone for the Commission in 2019. This was followed by endorsement of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture in 2021, a comprehensive framework for the management of BFA as a whole, that promotes coordinated action across all sectors of food and agriculture
4. The 2nd SoW BFA Report should encompass all sectors of BFA, including the interlinkages between sectors, and the overall management of BFA, including ecosystem services. In addition to plant, animal, forest and aquatic genetic resources, special attention should be given to microorganism and invertebrates as these were not adequately addressed in the first SoW BFA due to a lack of available information.

5. We recognise the mutual supportiveness of the Framework for Action, sectoral Global Plans of Action, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. We also note that the preparation of a 2nd SoW-BFA report and the monitoring of the implementation of the Framework for Action are considered complementary processes.
6. As such, the SoW should include approaches and best practices that support the coherent implementation of the various frameworks.
7. The preparation of the 2nd Report should utilize information from monitoring of the the Framework for Action and the Global Plans of Action, as well as other existing monitoring and reporting processes, including those under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2nd Report should be based on various sources of information, particularly those provided by countries, international organisations, relevant stakeholders, thematic studies and literature reviews.
8. We request the Secretariat to prepare a simplified draft Country Reporting Questionnaire for review by the Expert Team on BFA. We would like to highlight the need to test the questionnaire to ensure its soundness and user-friendliness.
9. We support the list of tasks proposed for the next meeting of the Expert Team as the Expert Team could support a swift and coordinated approach for the preparation of the second SoW-BFA report. Therefore, the Expert Team should i) prepare an annotated outline of the 2nd Report, ii) identify relevant indicators to inform the preparation of the 2nd Report, iii) review draft country reporting questionnaire for the 2nd report, and iv) review and, as appropriate, revise the process and timeline for preparing the 2nd report, for consideration by the Commission at its next Session.
10. Furthermore, we request the Secretariat to estimate resource requirements for preparation of the 2nd report before the 21st Regular Session of the Commission. We also request FAO to allocate sufficient regular budget for the preparation and publication of the 2nd SoW BFA report and invite donors to provide extra-budgetary resources.
11. As proposed in the Working Document, we agree with the revised proposed timeline, to consider a draft of the Second Report at the 23rd Regular Session of the Commission.
12. Finally, we support the *Guidance sought* with a few amendments and will read out the proposed changes.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Amendments to the 'guidance sought'

The Commission may wish to:

- (i) recommend that the Second Report focuses on approaches, **information and practices** that support the coherent implementation of various framework, including the FA BFA, the GPAs, KM GBF and the SDGs;
- (ii) recommend that the Second Report addresses the interlinkages between the sectoral work streams of the Commission **and the overall management of BFA, including ecosystem services**~~in a non-duplicative manner, to describe the contributions made by BFA to sustainable development;~~
- (iii) recommend that the preparation of the Second Report make use of information from the monitoring of the FA BFA and GPAs, as well as from other existing monitoring and reporting processes, including those under the KM GBF and the SDGs;
- (iv) request the Secretariat to prepare a simplified draft Country Reporting Questionnaire for review by the Expert Team, test the questionnaire to ensure its soundness and user-friendliness and submit it to the Commission, for its consideration at its Twenty-first Regular Session;
- (v) request the Expert Team, at its Second Session, to undertake the following, for consideration by the Commission at its Twenty-first Regular Session:
 - identify existing indicators and processes that may inform the preparation of the Second Report, including relevant indicators used to monitor progress towards the goals and targets of the KM GBF and the SDGs;
 - prepare an annotated outline of the Second Report;
 - review the draft Country Reporting Questionnaire for the Second Report; and
 - review and, as appropriate, revise the process and timeline for preparing the Second Report.
- (vi) request the Secretariat to estimate the resource requirements for the preparation of the Second Report, based on the outcomes of the Second Session of the Expert Team, for consideration by the Commission at its Twenty-first Regular Session;
- (vii) **request FAO to allocate sufficient regular budget for the preparation of the 2nd SoW BFA Report, and** invite donors to provide extra-budgetary resources to support the preparation of the Second Report and countries in the completion of the Country Reporting Questionnaires; and
- (viii) agree to consider a draft of the Second Report at its Twenty-third Regular Session in 2031.

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FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(Rome, 24-28 March 2025)**

**Position paper of the European Regional Group
24.03.2025**

Agenda item 6.2: Status of Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Mr Chair,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We thank the Secretariat for the working document describing the Status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
3. We appreciate the important activities undertaken by FAO to facilitate the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and for its dissemination worldwide.
4. We would like to encourage countries to take further action to implement the Global Plan of Action and to create national registries of AqGR, and recommend that FAO continue supporting countries in the use of the FAO Aquatic Genetic Resources Information System (AquaGRIS).
5. We welcome the Guideline for Sustainable Aquaculture and would like to thank the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and its Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (COFI: AQ) for their endorsement of the Guideline for Sustainable Aquaculture at its Thirty-sixth Session.
6. We welcome the launch of AquaGRIS, which is a valuable first step in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and would become a critical source of information on the status of conservation, sustainable use and development of AqGR.

7. We appreciate the finalisation of the Glossary of terms for the description of aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture and notice its importance in supporting a correct implementation of AquaGRIS.
8. We take note of both the Draft guidelines on genetic management in stocking programmes for aquatic species and the draft practical guide on Ex situ in vitro gene banking of aquatic genetic resources.
9. We appreciate the action taken by FAO on the development of breeding programmes for lower-value species in developing countries.
10. We would also like to highlight the urgent need, particularly in the context of climate change adaptation and resilience, to intensify the development of breeding programmes for AqGR in all regions affected by climate change.
11. We welcome the finalisation of the dual monitoring framework for the Global Plan of Action, as reported in the document Monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
12. We welcome the recommendation from the ITWG to defer the decision on the frequency of the updating of AquaGRIS, and thus the generation of resource indicator reports, until 2027 when Members will have more experience with the workload involved with entering and updating data in AquaGRIS.
13. We support section Guidance Sought with one amendment, which I will now read out.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Amendments to the 'guidance sought'

We appreciate the action taken by FAO on the development of breeding programmes for lower-value species in developing countries.

We point out the need to develop breeding programmes for AqGR in all countries, and particularly in the context of adaptation and resilience to climate change.

The Commission may wish to:

- (i) take note of the actions taken by FAO to facilitate and support the implementation of the Global Plan of Action;
- (ii) recommend that countries take further action to implement the Global Plan of Action and to create national registries of AqGR, and recommend that FAO continue supporting countries in the use of AquaGRIS;
- (iii) welcome the GSA and note the key role of the Global Plan of Action in the conservation of aquatic biodiversity, genetic resources management and sustainable seed supply in aquaculture;
- (iv) welcome the finalization of the glossary of terms for the description of AqGR and recommend its publication and dissemination;
- (v) welcome the finalization and recommend the publication of the *Guidelines on genetic management in stocking programmes for aquatic species* and the practical guide on *Ex situ in vitro gene banking of aquatic genetic resources*;
- (vi) take note of the preparation of: (i) guidelines for policymakers to promote the development of breeding programmes for lower-value species in developing countries; and (ii) a policy brief to support the development of capacity to design and implement selective breeding programmes in aquaculture;
- (vi bis) point out the need to develop breeding programmes for AqGR in all countries, not least in the context of adaptation and resilience to climate change;** and
- (vii) invite international organizations, partners and donors to support the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

**20th Regular Session of the
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(Rome, 24-28 March 2025)**

**Position paper of the European Regional Group
24.03.25**

Agenda item 6.3: Preparation of *The Second Report on the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Mr Chair,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We would like to thank the Secretariat for the working document describing the activities in the scope of the preparation of *The Second Report on the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, and the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for their contribution to the preparation of the Second Report.
3. We appreciate the idea of using the Global Information System on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (AquaGRIS) and extending the functionality of the AquaGRIS platform for preparation of the Second Report. It seems that the data gathering via AquaGRIS and the process indicator questionnaire built into the AquaGRIS platform will allow a significant simplification of the data collection and analysis process for the Second Report.
4. We also appreciate the principle that the Second Report will provide essentially the same information elements covered by the First Report but with a shorter, more concise quantitative analysis, thereby reducing the administrative burden, while understanding that its development and scope depend on national registries of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (AqGR) that Members are expected to create in AquaGRIS.

5. We therefore join the call upon countries to create and improve national registries of AqGR in AquaGRIS and request FAO to support countries in the improvement of such registries as well as we encourage all countries to complete the process indicator questionnaire when requested by FAO.
6. We appreciate the proposed timelines and encourage resource partners and donors to financially support the preparation of the Second Report.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Amendments to the 'guidance sought'

No amendments proposed.

The Commission may wish to:

1. Take note of the proposed preparation of *The Second Report on the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, including the emphasis on efficient reporting through utilization of data from AquaGRIS, and the proposed timelines;
2. Call upon countries to create national registries of AqGR in AquaGRIS and invite FAO to support countries in the creation of such registries;
3. Call upon countries to complete the process indicator questionnaire when requested by FAO;
and
4. Take note of the extra-budgetary resources required and encourage resource partners and donors to financially support the preparation of the Second Report.

**20th Regular Session of the
FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
(Rome, 24-28 March 2025)**

**Position paper of the European Regional Group
24.03.2025**

Agenda item 7.2: Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Mr Chair,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We would like to thank the Secretariat for providing the working document and three information documents for this agenda item.
3. We acknowledge FAO's efforts in supporting the implementation of the Global Plan of Action (GPA) and emphasise its importance for the conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources, contributing to a diverse and resilient livestock sector. We urge FAO Members and international organisations to prioritise GPA implementation through national and regional policies and measures. Furthermore, the implementation of the GPA will contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 and 15 as well as the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly target 4 and 10, and thereby support sustainable transformation of our sector and beyond.
4. We commend the development of a number of new tools and features in the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) database. We invite FAO to continue its work in this area and ensure further improvement of the user-friendliness and responsiveness of DAD-IS for general users accessing it online.
5. We also appreciate FAO's continued efforts to enhance the interoperability of DAD-IS with existing regional data information systems, particularly in collaboration with the European Regional Focal Point (ERFP) and EUGENA, the European Genebank Network for Animal Genetic Resources.

6. We recommend expanding technical support for GPA implementation and engaging more proactively with National Coordinators to improve data collection and reporting. In this regard we recognise the important role of capacity-building initiatives and training programmes supported by the Technical Cooperation Program, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and CJN in advancing the GPA implementation. Countries should regularly collect and update national data, including all data categories that can currently be stored in DAD-IS.
7. We welcome the efforts of Commission Members in collecting data on managed bee populations. However, we acknowledge that the current volume and geographical coverage of data remain insufficient to draw robust conclusions.
8. We welcome awareness raising activities to celebrate World Bee Day and the First International Forum for Action on Sustainable Beekeeping and Pollination, organised in collaboration with the Government of Slovenia.
9. We support FAO's proposal to expand SDG Indicator 2.5.2 to include all breeds at risk of extinction, ensuring accurate risk reporting for local and transboundary breeds.
10. We recognise the potential of an image-based breed identification tool and await further clarification on its applications, including webinars and crowdsourcing efforts.
11. We also commend the use of the online assessment tool to evaluate the quality management system of animal gene banks against international standards, initially developed by the EU-funded IMAGE project, and currently used by EUGENA.
12. We are concerned that no additional funding was received for the FAO Trust Account during the intersessional period, but we appreciate the continuing voluntary contributions made to FAO that support the implementation of the GPA.
13. We recognise the need to further mobilise funding for the implementation of the GPA, including through continued partnerships and alliances between FAO and other international organisations and mechanisms.
14. We would like to draw to the attention of Members and the CGRFA Secretariat that the Secretariat of the FAO Committee on Agriculture Sub-Committee on Livestock launched a consultation on a Global Plan of Action on Sustainable Livestock Transformation on 20 March 2025. We encourage the CGRFA Secretariat to closely collaborate with the SCL Secretariat to ensure that animal genetic resources are considered in the new GPA on Sustainable Livestock Transformation. We also encourage Members to actively participate in these consultations.

15. Finally, Mr Chair, we support the recommendations in the Guidance Sought section of document 7.2. However, we propose adding “proactively” in point 35 (iii) and “breeding programmes” in point 35 (v), as well as a new paragraph linking to the Global Plan of Action on Sustainable Livestock Transformation.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Amendments to the 'guidance sought'

See para 35 (iii), (v) and new (vii).

34. The Commission is invited to review the progress made in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. It may wish to:

- (i) welcome progress made in implementation of the Global Plan of Action and the support provided by FAO;
- (ii) invite countries to strengthen efforts to implement the Global Plan of Action, with a view to contribute to achievement of SDGs 2 and 15, and to the sustainable transformation of the livestock sector;
- (iii) invite countries to inform FAO of national projects and policies related to the conservation and sustainable use of AnGR, and recommend that the information received and reported to the Commission, be arranged according to the strategic priority areas of the Global Plan of Action;
- (iv) recommend that FAO continue to support countries in implementing the Global Plan of Action, including through its Technical Cooperation Programme, provision of relevant information and facilitating cooperation among countries and regions;
- (v) recommend that FAO prepare a technical guidance document exploring the range of disaster mitigation and recovery measures as they relate to AnGR, including in situ and ex situ conservation, for review by the Working Group;
- (vi) recommend that FAO evaluate previous capacity-development workshops and take the evaluation results into account in conceptualizing future events;

(vii) invite donors to contribute to support countries in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including by providing funds to the FAO Trust Account; and

(viii) invite FAO and relevant stakeholders to continue and strengthen their efforts in raising awareness, particularly among decision makers, on the importance of AnGR and the roles of livestock keepers and of livestock species and breeds and their production systems in providing ecosystem services.

35. The Commission may further wish to:

(i) stress the importance of DAD-IS as the international clearing-house mechanism for AnGR and recommend that FAO continue to provide the support necessary to maintain and further develop DAD-IS;

(ii) reiterate its invitation to countries to regularly update their national data in DAD-IS and recommend that FAO provide the necessary technical support, as appropriate;

(iii) recommend that FAO **proactively** follow-up with countries regarding the status of breeds with unknown risk status and invite them to regularly update their national breed lists in DAD-IS;

(iv) recommend that FAO report in greater detail the data made available to DAD-IS on cryoconserved material, including material from transboundary breeds;

(v) recommend that FAO, in order to facilitate decision making, develop a new index combining existing information in DAD-IS on cryoconserved material, demographic risk status and existence of in situ conservation **and breeding** programmes; and

(vi) invite countries to provide images of livestock cattle breeds for the breed recognition tool and recommend that FAO organize a webinar to share information about the use of the tool, explore further options for data collection and validation and report to the next session of the Working Group on the status of development and use of the tool.

(vii) invite Members to participate in the development of the Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Livestock Transformation and request the Commission Secretariat to collaborate with the Secretariat of the sub-committee on Livestock and the FAO NSA Division in this regard.

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**Position paper of the European Regional Group
24.03.2025**

Agenda item 7.3: Preparation of the Third Report on The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Mr Chair,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We would like to thank the Secretariat for providing the working document and related information documents relevant to agenda item 7.3.
3. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the support provided through various meetings and workshops related to country reporting for the preparation of the Third Report.
4. We have reviewed the status of the preparation of the Third Report and noted that, despite efforts from many countries to update information and submit reports, significant data gaps remain.
5. We furthermore support the extension of the deadline for updating the questionnaire to April 30th, 2025. We encourage National Coordinators and country representatives to update their country reports as appropriate and submit their reports within this deadline, if they have not already done so.
6. We believe that the Third Report will offer updated information and new insights, helping to raise awareness among governments and institutions about the critical situation of AnGR. These genetic resources are essential for addressing current and future global challenges, as well as supporting the sustainable transformation of the livestock sector. The Third Report will also provide relevant information to facilitate the implementation of measures to halt erosion of AnGR.

7. In this regard we would like to raise the attention of the CGRFA Secretariat to closely collaborate with the FAO Committee on Agriculture Sub-Committee on Livestock for the new Global Plan of Action on Sustainable Livestock Transformation and to ensure that AnGR are considered in this new GPA. Simultaneously we encourage Member States to actively participate in the ongoing consultation of the GPA on Sustainable Livestock Transformation.
8. We appreciate the preparation of the thematic studies on special topics, which will be open for comment alongside respective sections of the draft of the Third Report. These include the vulnerability of AnGR in the face of climate change, breeding programs in challenging environments, and genomic measures of genetic variation and the future use of the breed concept. In addition, we greatly appreciate FAO's consideration of the ITWG AnGR's proposal to undertake a study on genome editing and emerging technologies in animal phenotyping. We welcome further opportunities to provide comments to thematic studies and draft elements of the Third Report, during this stage of preparation.
9. We support the ITWG AnGR's recommendation that the Third Report should take regional specificities into account and emphasise key issues and data, particularly those concerning cryoconservation.
10. To ensure effective dissemination of the Third Report, we emphasise the need for in-brief versions, summaries, flyers, and extracts that highlight key aspects of the findings in concise publications for a wider audience. Additionally, we recommend further promotion through websites, social networks, newsletters or journals to reach relevant actors and stakeholders.
11. Finally, we express our gratitude to the Government of Germany for their financial contribution to the preparation of the Third Report and we appeal to all FAO Members and relevant international organisations, funds, donors and bodies to consider a contribution to the finalisation and dissemination of the Third Report.
12. To conclude, Mr Chair, we support the guidance sought section of working document 7.3.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Amendments to the 'guidance sought'

No amendments proposed.

The Commission may wish to:

- (i) encourage countries to continue the collection of information and data for the updating of their country report questionnaires, as appropriate;
- (ii) endorse the updated timeline and invite countries to update their country report questionnaires (and countries that have not yet done so to complete the questionnaire) by 30 April 2025;
- (iii) recommend that FAO publish online for review by Members draft elements of the Third Report, as they become available, and engage with Members actively in the finalization of the Third Report by organizing a dedicated webinar for each element;
- (iv) invite FAO Members to provide support and expertise for the preparation and review of the Third Report; and
- (v) appeal to FAO Members and relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies to consider timely allocation of resources for the finalization of the Third Report.

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**Position paper of the European Regional Group
24.03.2025**

Agenda item 8.2: Edible fungi and invertebrates used as dietary components of food/feed

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Mr Chair,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We thank the Secretariat for the Draft study and for organising the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Microorganism and Invertebrate Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
3. We support this study to be finalised, disseminated and brought to the attention of the Global Soil Partnership, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Convention on Biological Diversity.
4. We fully support the recognition of the importance of both groups – edible fungi and invertebrates. They provide us with food or feed of high nutritional value and low environmental impact, and both groups can help to improve circularity in food systems. In this context, we acknowledge the importance of improving standardisation in production procedures and labelling of products that should guarantee the safety of food and feed.
5. Furthermore, there is also a concern regarding health risks associated with the collection or harvesting of wild species. Therefore, we would like to draw attention to the aspect of potentially harmful residues in GRs and the risks associated with the transfer of pathogens and introduction of invasive alien species. In this context, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) conducts risk assessments and publishes scientific reports, which may include specific guidelines for this type of food. The development of methods for safe collecting and processing could also be a role for the Codex Alimentarius.

6. Considering the Guidance Sought, we generally agree with the proposal, but apart from the conservation and sustainable use activities, we also see the key role of national governments in further research, knowledge dissemination, monitoring, identifying and addressing threats affecting these functional groups, in particular overharvesting and habitat destruction.
7. In this regard, we would like to make the following changes to the Guidance Sought.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Amendments to the 'guidance sought'

The Commission may wish to:

- (i) recommend that the draft study be finalized, published as a background study paper, widely publicized and brought to the attention of the Global Soil Partnership, and the relevant bodies of IUCN and the CBD, through their respective secretariats; ~~and~~
- (ii) invite countries to promote ~~the sustainable use and conservation~~ **research and monitoring** of edible fungi and invertebrates, **and to identify and address threats affecting these functional groups, in particular overharvesting and habitat destruction; and**
- (iii) invite countries to address conservation, preservation and sustainable use of edible fungi and invertebrates,** ~~including by ensuring that they are addressed in national strategies and frameworks for genetic resources, and by promoting~~ **to promote** their inclusion in ~~university-level~~ **relevant** curricula, **and to disseminate information on the positive benefits of these functional groups.**

**20th Regular Session of the
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**Position paper of the European Regional Group
24.03.2025**

Agenda item 8.3: Microorganisms used in food processing and agro-industrial processes

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Mr Chair,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We thank the Secretariat for the Draft Study that was also discussed at the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Microorganism and Invertebrate Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
3. We support the recommendation of FAO to finalise the study and distribute it accordingly.
4. Fermented foods can play an important role in healthy, safe and nutritious diets. Also, in wider agro-industrial applications, fermentation creates opportunities in the production of desirable biochemical compounds, for example, additives, food ingredients or proteins, and is also beneficial in the utilisation of by-products or wastes derived from agrifood systems. These innovations support the circular economy and bioeconomy, and ensure access to safe and healthy food. They also offer unique opportunities for on-farm innovations, diversification and value-addition.
5. As with other functional groups, there is room for improving the current state of play. The study identified several gaps and needs, for example lack of financial and human capacities to improve characterisation, conservation and documentation of these genetic resources, including at regional level and associated traditional or local knowledge. Also, there is a need to raise awareness about the relevance of labelling, certification procedures and quality-control procedures.

6. This functional group also has a great untapped potential for public-private partnerships and collaboration research between agro-industrial companies and public research organisations.
7. We suggest one adjustment to the Guidance Sought, which I will now read out.

Thank you, Mr Chair

Amendments to the 'guidance sought'

The Commission may wish to:

- (i) recommend that the draft study be finalized, published as a background study paper and widely publicized; and
- (ii) invite countries to (a) strengthen the ~~documentation of traditional knowledge associated with fermented foods~~ **characterization, conservation and documentation of fermentation MiGR and associated traditional knowledge**, (b) take supportive actions to address shortages in fermentation capacity to meet the demand for fermentation-derived foods, and (c) improve the integration of fermentation processes into agrifood systems through appropriate regulatory instruments and other measures.

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**Position paper of the European Regional Group
24.03.2025**

Agenda item 8.4: Follow-up on other functional groups of microorganism and invertebrate genetic resources

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Mr Chair,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We would like to congratulate the Secretariat on all the work done on microorganism and invertebrates' genetic resources and publication of Background Study Papers.
3. In relation to this work, we wish to highlight specifically the progress made on biological control agents and biostimulants, as this sector is developing very rapidly due to increasing demand for reduced use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides.
4. We would also like to emphasise the work done so far on pollinators and in this regard, we would like to support the establishment of the Global Pollinator Platform that would promote at the global level the importance of pollinators and deal with the decline of their populations.
5. On the other hand, a number of cross-cutting issues relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of microorganism and invertebrates' genetic resources were identified and need to be addressed. For example, the lack of data in the information systems or maintenance and accessibility of *ex situ* collections are relevant to most functional groups.
6. In this regard, we would like to stress the key importance of the national policies, programmes and strategies that can help to solve the issues.

7. It is clear now that the timetable set out in the Work Plan comes to an end by this Session of the Commission, and we need to agree on the future work.
8. We recommend that the Working group continues its work, moves beyond the current functional groups setting, and addresses the cross-cutting issues or functional group-focused issues based on agreed priorities.
9. Finally, we have the following adjustments to the Guidance Sought.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Amendments to the 'guidance sought'

See points (v) and (viii).

The Commission wish to:

- (i) recommend that FAO invite FAO Members, technical experts, stakeholders and potential partners to a meeting to consider next steps in the establishment of a global pollinator platform that responds to the priorities and needs identified in Background Study Paper No. 72, and builds upon the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators and other relevant initiatives, and report on progress made to the next session of the Commission;
- (ii) request the Secretariat to support in the establishment of the global pollinator platform to promote the importance of pollinator genetic resources to agrifood systems;
- (iii) recommend that FAO continue developing tools and technical guidance documents, as appropriate, to support countries' pollinator-monitoring efforts;
- (iv) invite countries to ensure that they effectively implement the Updated Plan of Action 2018-2030 for the International Initiative on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators, establish or strengthen national monitoring programmes for invertebrate pollinators, promote research on drivers of change in pollinator populations and health, and on the impacts of both managed bees and wild invertebrate pollinators on wild plants and crop production, and insert data on managed bees into the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS);

- (v) recommend that FAO conduct, in consultation with relevant organizations and instruments, a review of policy, legal and institutional frameworks related to the **monitoring, conservation and sustainable** use of microbial and invertebrate BCAs and microbial biostimulants, ~~addressing, *inter alia*~~ **compiling the information of:** the use of terminology; legislation and regulatory policies pertaining to authorization and use of BCAs and biostimulants; risk assessment criteria and risk-benefit analysis; the role of ABS measures for the utilization of MIGR; intellectual property rights; the availability of information systems; and regulatory gaps and restrictions affecting the use of microbial and invertebrate BCAs and microbial biostimulants, and options for the harmonization of regulatory requirements, as appropriate;
- (vi) request the Secretariat to convene, prior to the Twenty-Second Regular Session of the Commission, an informal consultation among experts nominated by countries and selected by the Bureau on the above-mentioned review, and, subsequently, a meeting of the Working Group;
- (vii) invite countries to establish or strengthen national policy, legal and institutional frameworks related to the management of rumen microorganisms and take action to strengthen collections of, and facilitate access to, rumen microbial isolates;
- (viii) agree to consider taxonomic and characterization work on MIGR ~~and other components of genetic resources~~ for food and agriculture in the context of the review of the MYPOW at its Twenty-first Regular Session; and
- (ix) amend the model terms of reference for National Focal Points for plant, aquatic and forest genetic resources and for biodiversity for food and agriculture and National Coordinators for animal genetic resources for food and agriculture to also apply to National Focal Points for MIGR.

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**Position paper of the European Regional Group
24.03.2025**

Agenda item 9.2: Finalization of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Mr Chair,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. First of all, we would like to congratulate the Secretariat on the finalisation and launch of the Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We greatly appreciate all the work the Secretariat has done to create this report. The State of the World reports are the flagship publications of the Commission that we all could be proud of.
3. We also appreciate that there were several rounds in which comments could be submitted to draft versions of the Third Report, and the way the Secretariat processed these comments.
4. We would like to stress again that the limited number of countries that provided data for the preparation of the Third Report and the very low number that provided summative narratives remains a great concern for us. We therefore underline the importance of the request that the Commission already made both at its 18th as well as its 19th regular sessions to revise and significantly simplify the WIEWS Reporting Tool and indicators against which countries shall report.

5. In accordance with the Guidance sought, we would like to request the Secretariat to present the Third Report and disseminate its key findings among stakeholders, including at relevant international meetings, to promote the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and inform global processes. As part of the dissemination efforts, we request the Secretariat to publish an in-brief version of the Third Report in all official languages of the FAO. Furthermore, we would like to request the Secretariat to publish the five thematic background studies. We suggest adding these points to the Guidance sought (ii).
6. Finally, we also invite countries to respond to the findings of their country reports, through adequate policies, programmes, and activities at national and regional levels, as appropriate.
7. I will now read our comments on the guidance sought and we will also send them in writing.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Amendments to the 'guidance sought'

61. The Commission may wish to:

(i) welcome the Third Report;

(ii) request the Secretariat to present the Third Report, **publish an in-brief version of the Third Report in all official languages of the FAO,** and disseminate its key findings among stakeholders, including at relevant international meetings, to promote the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and inform global processes, **and to publish the five thematic background studies;** and

(iii) invite countries to respond to the findings of their country reports, through adequate policies, programmes and activities at national and regional levels, as appropriate.

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**Position paper of the European Regional Group
26.03.2025**

Agenda item 9.3.1: Implementation of the second global plan of action for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Mr Chair,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We thank the Secretariat for the documents related to this agenda item.
3. We also thank the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for its work in providing helpful advice to the Commission and welcome its report.
4. We also wish to express our gratitude to the retiring Secretariat staff of the ITWG for their efforts and commitment to move the work of the ITWG forward over all those years.
5. We welcome the support provided by FAO to countries in all areas of implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action and recommend that the Commission request FAO and donors to continue providing this support.
6. We recommend that FAO finalise, publish and disseminate the two practical guides for the implementation of the Genebank Standards on conserving species producing non-orthodox seeds and on cryopreservation.
7. We also recommend that FAO translate these practical guides into all official UN languages and consider and present options for the development of capacity necessary to fully implement the practical guides.

8. We would appreciate if FAO include in future reports about the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, where and how the support to the implementation is carried out in collaboration with the Plant Treaty.
9. Also, we would appreciate if FAO could address in situ conservation of wild PGRFA and on-farm management of farmers' varieties and landraces in separate sections in future reports to the Working Group and the Commission, as recommended by the ITWG at its last session.
10. We notice that recommendations made by the ITWG related to national seed systems, crop improvement and capacity building have not been considered in the documents and could be reflected in the guidance sought.
11. Last month, the first of the three annual seed deposits to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault was organised, which now secures more than 1.3 million safety duplicates of seeds from 127 gene banks from all over the world. The European Regional Group emphasises the importance of encouraging gene banks to consider the use of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault as a safety back-up for their seed collections, preferably before a threat to the seeds arises.
12. We suggest additions to the guidance sought for these last points, which I will now read out.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Amendments to the 'guidance sought'

GUIDANCE SOUGHT on implementation of GPA2

The Commission may wish to recommend that FAO:

- (i) invite countries to further strengthen their efforts to conserve PGRFA both *in situ* and *ex situ*, and to maintain them on-farm and strengthen the links and complementarity between *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation;

(i bis) invite all gene banks to consider using the facilities of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault as a safty back up of their seed collections;

(ii) provide support to countries, including in the development or revision of their national plans for the conservation and sustainable use of crop wild relatives/wild food plants and farmers' varieties/landraces, taking into account the Commission's *Voluntary Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Crop Wild Relatives and Wild Food Plants* and the *Voluntary Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Farmers' Varieties/Landraces*;

(iii) continue providing support to countries in their efforts to conserve PGRFA *ex situ* and *in situ*, and highlight the importance of maintaining PGRFA on-farm and strengthening the links and complementarity between *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation;

(iv) finalize, **translate into the official UN languages**, publish and disseminate the two practical guides for the implementation of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; **and consider and present options for the development of capacity necessary to fully implement the practical guides**;

(iv bis) continue supporting countries, in close coordination with the International Treaty, in strengthening their crop improvement capacity;

(iv ter) continue assisting countries in strengthening national seed systems, including plant breeding, for the delivery of quality seeds and planting materials, in particular to smallholder farmers;

(iv quater) offer support, upon request, to countries in the development or revision as well as implementation of their national seed policies and legislations, taking into account the Commission's Voluntary Guide for National Seed Policy Formulation;

(iv quinquies) invite countries to strengthen their PGRFA-related human and institutional capacities for research and development;

(v) continue reporting, on an annual basis, on the status of implementation of SDG Target 2.5 and share results with the Working Group and the Commission;

(vi) invite countries to validate their National Focal Points for PGRFA, as given on the Commission's website, for correctness; and

(vii) continue operating and further developing the WIEWS portal and strengthening cooperation with GLIS and Genesys to avoid duplication of efforts.

(viii) include in its reports to the Commission about the implementation of the GPA, where and how its work has been carried out in collaboration with the Plant Treaty;

(ix) address activities related to in situ conservation of wild PGRFA and those related to on-farm management of landraces and farmers' varieties in separate sections in its reports to the Commission.

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**Position paper of the European Regional Group
26.03.2025**

Agenda item 9.3.2: Review of the second global plan of action for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Mr Chair,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We thank the Secretariat for the documents related to this agenda item.
3. We appreciate that regional consultations were held to provide input to the review process, and that the key issues were compiled in the appendix of the working document. We also acknowledge that the ITWG-PGR reviewed and revised the list of key issues at their previous session in December.
4. Regarding these key issues, we make a comment to priority areas 8 and 14.
5. In PA8, in the fourth bullet, we would like to suggest adding the words “and making available” after the words “the importance of recording”.
6. Regarding PA14, we interpret the first bullet as referring specifically to national networks and their integration into national programmes. Therefore, we suggest adding the word “national”. Otherwise, it would appear to have the same content as the last bullet in PA13.

7. Regarding the review of the Second Global Plan of Action, we highlight the Commission's request that FAO revise and simplify the reporting format for monitoring GPA implementation. The regional consultations have shown that the revision of the second Global Plan of Action consists mainly in updating and streamlining, rather than in changes of priority areas. Therefore, we suggest that FAO start the revision of the reporting format as early as possible. Accordingly, we suggest that FAO proposes a process and key issues for simplifying the reporting format to the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group at its next session. We suggest a change to the guidance sought to reflect this.
8. One possible approach to simplification of the reporting format might be to define some key indicators as compulsory and keeping the rest voluntary.
9. I will now read out our suggestions to the guidance sought and the key issues, which will be provided also in writing.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Amendments to the 'guidance sought'

GUIDANCE SOUGHT on the review of GPA2

The Commission may wish to:

- (i) review and revise, as appropriate, the key issues for the review of the Second GPA given in the *Appendix*;
- (ii) recommend that FAO prepare, based on the key issues identified by the Commission, a revised Second GPA for review by the Working Group and, subsequently, the Commission at their next sessions; and
- (iii) recommend that FAO revise and simplify the reporting format for monitoring the implementation of the revised Second GPA, including the WIEWS Report Tool and the indicators against which countries shall report, ~~once the review of the Second GPA has been completed~~ **and present a proposal for the process and key issues for the revision and simplification of the reporting format to the Intergovernmental Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources at its 13th session.**

PA 8. Expanding the characterization, evaluation and further development of specific subsets of collections to facilitate use

•**Enhance evaluation data and their availability:** The PA should emphasize the importance of recording and making available data on nutritional components, biochemical profiles, digital sequence information (DSI)/ genetic sequence data (GSD) and high-throughput phenotypes and genotypes using standardized descriptors.

PA14 Promoting and strengthening networks for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

•**Integration of national networks into national programmes:** The PA should emphasize the need for long-term funding of national networks and promote their incorporation into national programmes. Sustainability should be ensured by positioning networks as platforms for the development of inter-institutional project proposals and hubs of expertise for national programmes.

**20th Regular Session of the
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(Rome, 24-28 March 2025)**

**Position paper of the European Union and its Member States
26.03.2025**

Agenda item 9.4: Effects of seed policies, laws and regulations

Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

Mr Chair,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.
2. We would like to thank the Secretariat for providing the working document and the related revised concept note.
3. We appreciate that the overall aim of this study shall be to in particular focus on the impact of specific policy instruments that were adopted with the explicit intention to improve farmers' ability to access farmers' varieties/landraces, rather than a process for national policy revision. This would facilitate a better understanding on how seed policies, laws and regulations can be designed and formulated to better support and promote diversity.
4. We support, based on the availability of extra-budgetary resources, that further work in this regard should be conducted in cooperation with the International Treaty, taking into account all relevant resources available from the Treaty, including those listed in the concept note.
5. In order to further reduce costs, we suggest not to include country case studies at this point. We want this be reflected accordingly in the draft concept note.
6. We also support the recommendation that FAO in collaboration with the International Treaty, engages an external partner through a call for expressions of interest.
7. We suggest one additions to the guidance sought and another one to the Annex. I will read them out now and they will also be submitted in writing.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Amendments to the 'guidance sought'

The Commission may wish to:

- (i) review and, as appropriate, revise the draft concept note contained in the *Annex*;
- (ii) recommend that FAO, in collaboration with the International Treaty, engage an external partner through a call for expressions of interest made via the United Nations Global Marketplace and based on the concept note, as revised by the Commission; and
- (iii) invite Members **and stakeholders** to provide extra-budgetary resources to fund the research.

Amendments to draft concept note

Page 5, second paragraph:

An entity or entities experienced in the organization and conduct of this type of research should be involved in the preparation of the study. Interviews should be conducted with different stakeholder groups. Preliminary results should be shared and discussed with an inclusive multistakeholder group to ensure that the research meets the stated purpose. **The selection of stakeholder groups for interviews and result discussion should be transparent and inclusive.**

**20th Regular Session of the
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(Rome, 24-28 March 2025)**

**Position paper of the European Regional Group
26.03.2025**

Agenda item 10.2: Finalisation of the Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Mr Chair,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We would like to thank the Secretariat for providing the working document. We support the guidance sought but we would like to highlight the following points.
3. We would also like to thank to Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources for its work in providing helpful advice to the Commission on its programme of work.
4. We acknowledge the efforts of all the parties involved in preparing the Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources and to make possible the launch of the report in 2025. Still, we wish that more countries could have completed the online questionnaire and submitted their written reports, to enable a more comprehensive and balanced global report.
5. We also acknowledge the efforts of FAO to consider the comments of the National Focal Points in the revision of the draft of the Second Report.
6. As few members submitted national reports as the basis for the Second Report, not only compared to the First Report, but also compared to other sectors of genetic resources, we support revision of the reporting format for the Third Report, based on the Global Information System on forest genetic resources that FAO has launched. To improve this process, we invite the Commission to gather from National Focal Points, regional networks on FGR and relevant international organisations suggestions for the improvement of the reporting process for future global assessments on FGR, and present options to the next session of the Working Group for its consideration.

7. We would like to request the Secretariat to disseminate widely the Second Report and its in-brief version, and communicate its key messages to relevant stakeholders, to inform global processes on biodiversity, climate change, forests and ecosystem restoration. We strongly support using electronic formats and online tools in communication.
8. We will submit our comments in writing.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Guidance sought

No amendments proposed.

The Commission may wish to:

- (i) welcome the Second Report and take note of its findings;
- (ii) request the Secretariat to:
 - a) disseminate widely the Second Report and its in-brief version and communicate its key messages to relevant stakeholders;
 - b) increase international awareness of the importance of FGR by bringing the Second Report to the attention of governments and relevant stakeholders; and
- (iii) gather from NFPs, regional networks on FGR and relevant international organizations suggestions for the improvement of the reporting process for future global assessments on FGR and present options to the next session of the Working Group for its consideration; and
- (iv) invite countries to respond to the findings of the Second Report, through relevant policies and actions at national and regional level, as appropriate.

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**Position paper of the European Regional Group
26.03.2025**

Agenda item 10.3: Implementation and review of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Mr Chair,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We would like to thank the Secretariat for providing the working documents and related information document.
3. We support the guidance sought, but would like to highlight the following points.
4. We note that in connection to the seventh meeting of the ITWG-FGR, the Secretariat organised an informal session for the delegates, to promote free exchange of views and news from the members. We understand the limitations of such a session, including the lack of interpretation, which limits equal participation of all delegates. Nevertheless, we consider the session extremely fruitful for learning from each other, and we would like to encourage the Secretariat to continue with this type of activities, as appropriate.
5. We appreciate the activities undertaken by FAO in support to Members of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. We regret that there is no FAO-coordinated project specifically focusing on *ex situ* conservation of FGR at the moment. We would like to highlight the importance of integrating genetic aspects in the many ongoing and future projects on sustainable management and use of forests, biodiversity, including conservation and forest adaptation and mitigation measures for climate change.

6. We are pleased to see that the global information system on forest genetic resources (SilvaGRIS) is now available for all Member countries to use and would like to congratulate the team with this achievement. We recognize SilvaGRIS as a key tool for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. Furthermore, we emphasise the importance of providing necessary training by FAO for the National Focal Points as soon as possible, to facilitate the submission of data by Members in the future. We recommend that FAO actively collect feedback from the National Focal Points, and based on this further develop the global information system in the coming period.
7. We take note of the draft updated Global Plan of Action and appreciate its comprehensiveness. However, we feel that the draft Global Plan of Action should be checked for consistency in the use of terms with respect to language used in international conventions.
8. We invite the Director-General to bring the draft revised Global Plan of Action and the draft Conference Resolution, as revised by the Commission, to the attention of the FAO Conference with a view to their possible adoption.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

GUIDANCE SOUGHT

CGRFA-20/25/10.3.1 (no amendments proposed)

30. The Commission may wish to take note of the activities undertaken in support of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and:

- (i) welcome the launch of SilvaGRIS as a key source of information on the global status of forest genetic resources and essential tool for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action;
- (ii) encourage Members that have not yet done so to provide their data to SilvaGRIS to facilitate the monitoring of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action;

- (iii) remind Members of the possibility of requesting support from FAO through its Technical Cooperation Programme for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, and invite Members to include relevant activities in their Country Programming Frameworks;
- (iv) invite countries to integrate activities related to the conservation and sustainable use of FGR, as appropriate, into project proposals prepared for multilateral financing mechanisms to enhance sustainable forest management, including conservation and use of forest biodiversity, and forest-based adaptation and mitigation measures for climate change; and
- (v) encourage donors to contribute to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

CGRFA-20/25/10.3.2 (no amendments proposed)

9. The Commission may wish to:

- i) review and revise, as appropriate, the draft revised Global Plan of Action as contained in *Appendix I* to this document, and the draft Conference Resolution, as contained in *Appendix II*;
- ii) invite the Director-General to bring the draft revised Global Plan of Action and the draft Conference Resolution, as revised by the Commission, to the attention of the FAO Conference with a view to their possible adoption.

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**Position paper of the European Regional Group
26.03.2025**

Agenda item 11: Options for the identification of new and emerging issues

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Mr Chair,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We would like to thank the Secretariat for the working document CGRFA-20/25/11 that clearly presents the challenges related to bringing into consideration of the Commission any new and emerging issues relevant to the scope of the work of the Commission.
3. The current procedures allowing to update the MYPOW or propose new agenda items for the Commission's consideration, provide a substantial challenge. We note the current difficulties to prepare relevant documentation in all languages, especially if a new agenda item is introduced during the Commission's Session.
4. Therefore, we welcome efforts to establish a new procedure at this Session, benefiting both the Secretariat and Commission Members.
5. We would like to ask the Secretariat about the reason for the change in the draft procedure discussed by the ITWGs and now by the Commission. For instance the working document CGRFA/WG-AnGR-13/24/7 stated "the proposals can be put forward by Commission Members, **and possibly observers**" while the Appendix to working document CGRFA-20/25/11 starts: "**Any Member or observer** of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture may propose within a period" and so on.

6. According to this proposal, Members and observers of the Commission have the same rights to propose new and emerging issues for the agenda. We wonder why this change was made as none of the ITWGs included such a recommendation in their report.
7. We believe that observers should propose changes to the agenda through Commission Members.
8. Regarding the procedure itself, we agree that any proposed new agenda item should be accompanied by detailed information. This will allow the Secretariat to add available additional information and enable assessment of the proposal by the Bureau of the Commission.
9. The assessment of the proposal should be based on established criteria to ensure transparency and equal treatment. This also ensures that proposals are relevant to the work of the Commission.
10. However, the criteria outlined in para 4 of the Appendix seem overly complicated, excessively broad in scope, not always necessarily relevant in all cases, and often unclear. This may deter Members from proposing new items for the agenda of the Commission. In particular, criteria iv, vi and vii require further clarification and consideration;
11. Criteria (vi) suggests considering only the negative impact on GRFA. We suggest aligning with the other criteria and just mention impact, which can be either negative or positive. For instance new emerging technologies could positively impact the conservation and sustainable use of BFA.
12. We would welcome the views of other Commission Members on the content of the Appendix to document CGRFA-20/25/11, to understand if they share our concerns.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

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Position paper of the European Regional Group

26.03.2025

Agenda items 12.1 and 12.2: Cooperation with international instruments and organizations and Cooperation with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Statement on behalf of the European Regional Group

Mr Chair,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group. In this statement we would like to address both items 12.1 and 12.2.
2. We would like to thank the Plant Treaty and all the relevant international instruments and organisations for providing information on their policies and activities relevant to the themes of this Session of the CGRFA. However, we regret the late availability of documents for this agenda item.
3. We request the Secretary to continue to seek inputs on prioritised themes of the regular sessions from international instruments and organisations and to make them available to the Commission. We would also welcome an update on the Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition initiative of the CBD.
4. Beyond seeking inputs, we can also encourage an active collaboration with the relevant instruments and initiatives and continue to raise awareness of the Commission's work in relevant fora.
5. We would also like to request that information is provided regarding the work of, and collaboration with, the World Intellectual Property Organization, given the Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge. It would be interesting to learn more about its work and understand what the implications are for the Commission.

6. It is noteworthy that various aspects of collaboration between the secretariats of the Plant Treaty and the CGRFA strengthen the efforts in the field of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture both within the FAO and other international fora. We encourage both Secretariats to continue their collaboration, in particular taking into account upcoming developments with the Treaty and broader access and benefit sharing landscape.

7. We request the Secretary to continue enhancing collaboration and coordination with the Secretary of the Treaty to ensure alignment in developing and implementing the respective work programmes of both bodies.

8. I will now read our comment on the guidance sought and we will also send it in writing.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Amendments to the 'guidance sought'

CGRFA-20/25/12.1

The Commission may wish to:

(i) thank the international instruments and organizations for providing information on their policies, programmes and activities relevant to the prioritized themes of this Session; and

(ii) request its Secretary to continue to seek inputs on prioritized themes of the regular sessions from international instruments and organizations and to make them available to the Commission for its information;

(iii) request the Secretariat to continue collaboration with the relevant instruments and initiatives, including by raising awareness of its work.

CGRFA-20/25/12.2 (no amendments proposed)

The Commission may wish to request the Secretary to continue strengthening collaboration and coordination with the Secretary of the International Treaty to promote coherence in the development and implementation of the respective programmes of work of the Commission and the Governing Body of the International Treaty.

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Closing statement of the European Regional Group

28.03.2025

Mr Chair, distinguished delegates,

1. I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.
2. We are proud to be part of this big group of dedicated people committed to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture.
3. We want to thank all Commission members for your hard work throughout the week, and congratulate all of us for the achievements made on all agenda items. We recognise the experience, flexibility and engagement shown by all colleagues from all the regions.
4. In this regard, we would like to highlight once again two very important milestones, namely the publication of the two State of the World reports. In addition, and just to mention a few examples, we welcome the launch of both SilvaGRIS and AquaGRIS.
5. Climate change is an increasing threat to biodiversity for food and agriculture. We reiterate the call to Members that have not yet done so, to contribute to the ongoing work on climate change by responding to the questionnaire that will soon be available.
6. We are pleased that we reached agreement with regard to Access and Benefit Sharing, Digital Sequence Information, and the way forward to identify new and emerging issues.
7. We thank the Secretariat, the Bureau, and especially you, Mr Chair, for the time and efforts in making all these achievements possible.
8. We look forward to hearing about the progress made in the next Session, especially in the ongoing work on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture; the establishment of a global pollinator platform; the development of the study on seed policies, laws and regulations; and to celebrate the finalisation of the Third Report of the State of the World of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture.

9. We would like to congratulate the elected Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur, and wish them the best of luck and much success during the upcoming biennium.
10. A big “thank you” to all the observers who attended for their contributions, and to the interpreters for helping us to understand each other.
11. We wish you all a well-deserved rest. Take good care, we hope to see you all soon.

Thank you, Mr Chair.
