



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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### CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Tenth meeting  
Nagoya, Japan, 18-29 October 2010  
Agenda item 6.1

### DECISION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AT ITS TENTH MEETING

#### *X/34. Agricultural biodiversity*

##### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Stresses the importance* of agricultural biodiversity for food security and nutrition, especially in the face of climate change and limited natural resources as recognized by the Rome Declaration of the 2009 World Summit on Food Security;<sup>1</sup>

2. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on the implementation of the agricultural biodiversity programme of work and the three international initiatives, on soil biodiversity, pollinators and biodiversity for food and nutrition, and *welcomes* the Strategic Plan for the period 2010-2017 for the implementation of the multi-year programme of work approved at the twelfth regular session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in 2009,<sup>2</sup> and, in this context, *welcomes* the planned periodic publication of the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, and on their different genetic resources components, which will provide a solid technical base for the development of action plans, and *welcomes in particular* the publication of the second State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture report, which will provide a solid technical base for the further development of the global plan of action on plant genetic resources, as well as the adoption of the funding strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on Animal Genetic Resources, and *invites* Parties, and other Governments, to take into account the inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral nature of these publications in their implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity;

3. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, for areas within its mandate, to contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 by refining targets for agricultural biodiversity, including at the ecosystem and genetic resources levels, and monitoring progress towards them using indicators;

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<sup>1</sup> FAO document WSFS 2009/2.

<sup>2</sup> CGFRA-12/09/Report, appendix G.

4. Welcomes, and notes the importance of, the joint work plan between the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture contained in the annex to the note by the Executive Secretary on the follow-up to requests contained in its decision IX/1 prepared for the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,<sup>3</sup> its important contribution to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7, and the opportunities to further enhance the joint work plan in accordance with relevant matters arising from the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including consideration of matters in relation to targets and indicators of relevance to the programme of work, and relevant matters arising from the Strategic Plan 2010-2017 for the implementation of the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary and invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to work together in their design of the second phase of their joint work plan covering at least until 2017 focusing on refinements required as a result of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, but also considering, as necessary, *inter alia*:

(a) Underutilized crops, wild relatives of cultivated plants and other potential food sources, to improve human nutrition, to address the impacts of climate change and other pressures as well as to contribute to food security;

(b) On-farm, *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of agricultural biodiversity; in accordance with decision IX/1 of the Conference of the Parties;

(c) Relevant aspects of access and benefit sharing consistent with relevant provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including as subject to the outcomes of the negotiation on the international regime on access and benefit sharing under the convention, as well as within the context of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, taking into account existing cooperation between the two secretariats consistent with resolution 18/2009 of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

(d) A review of the trends on the extent of patents and other intellectual property rights, such as plant variety protection, applied for and granted over plant, animal and microbial genetic resources, including relevant forest and pasture and rangeland genetic resources, as identified by the Global Assessments of Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, including the impacts of such property rights on local and indigenous communities, and small-scale farmers in developing countries, bearing in mind action item VI.1 of the Strategic Plan 2010-2017 for the implementation of the multi-year programme of work approved at the twelfth regular session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. This review should include, where appropriate, the impact on food security when genetic resources are patented or intellectual property rights are acquired for other sectors such as the pharmaceutical, cosmetic and other types of industries;

(e) Potential actions to promote sustainable biodiversity-related agricultural practices that contribute to biodiversity as well as ecosystem based carbon sequestration of soils and to conserve and restore organic carbon in soil and biomass;

(f) Ways and means to promote the positive and minimize or avoid the negative impacts of biofuel production and use on biodiversity and impacts on biodiversity that affect related socioeconomic conditions, bearing in mind decisions IX/2 and X/37, and any other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

(g) Ways and means to strengthen cooperation to:

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<sup>3</sup> UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/11.

- (i) Obtain and consider the views of farmers' and producers' organizations and the views of indigenous and local communities; and
- (ii) Facilitate their effective participation in the deliberations of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and their contributions to the implementation of the work of these bodies, as appropriate;

(h) A strengthened process to identify, indicate and disseminate information to relevant focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture regarding matters of common interest;

(i) Strengthening approaches which promote the sustainability of agricultural systems and landscapes such as, but not limited to, the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international obligations;

(j) Promoting opportunities for sustainable increases in agricultural productivity, including through maintaining and/or restoring the functioning of agro-ecosystems, the biodiversity within them and the services they deliver, building on, *inter alia*, available synergies between sustainable agriculture and biodiversity including the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources;

(k) Promoting public awareness of the importance of agricultural biodiversity and its relationship to advancing food security, in the context of production oriented agro-ecosystems, at the global, regional, national and local levels;

(l) The relevant findings and recommendations of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development<sup>4</sup> and their implementation, as appropriate; and

(m) Further exploring possibilities for actions, where necessary, to rehabilitate agricultural ecosystems and landscapes and restore their socio-economic functions on land where agriculture has declined, or ceased, and where the land was degraded as a result, with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, where appropriate;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of the processes led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, such as implementation of the Global Plan of Action on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture<sup>5</sup> and updating of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture,<sup>6</sup> which contribute directly to achieving the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in crop and livestock sectors;

7. *Invites* Parties to incorporate, as appropriate, relevant elements of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity into their national biodiversity strategy and action plans as well as into their relevant sectoral and inter-sectoral policies and plans;

8. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to take action, taking into account national circumstances, to support, among others, farmers in *in-situ* conservation of traditional and local varieties, races and breeds and efforts to conserve crop wild relatives as means to ensure food security and nutrition and support traditional lifestyles, consistent and in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity and relevant international obligations;

<sup>4</sup> See

[http://www.agassessment.org/reports/IAASTD/EN/Agriculture%20at%20a%20Crossroads\\_Global%20Report%20\(English\).pdf](http://www.agassessment.org/reports/IAASTD/EN/Agriculture%20at%20a%20Crossroads_Global%20Report%20(English).pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/a1404e/a1404e00.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> <http://typo3.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/documents/PGR/GPA/gpaeng.pdf>.

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to strengthen collaboration with the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) to improve collaboration in the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and the Treaty, as appropriate;

10. *Invites* the national focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to enhance their collaboration;

11. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to provide an expanded progress report on the implementation of the International Initiative on Soil Biodiversity (in addition to information already submitted in the progress report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on selected activities related to agricultural biodiversity circulated at the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice<sup>7</sup>) to the Executive Secretary for dissemination through the clearing-house mechanism;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of agricultural biodiversity and scientific, informal and traditional knowledge systems to the achievement of the objectives of the Convention, especially with regards to agricultural biodiversity, and *recognizes* the lead role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in supporting the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity as well as related traditional knowledge systems, while also *recognizing* the important contributions and roles of other partners in this regard, including those of indigenous and local communities;

13. *Noting* the excellent progress made in collaboration between the Executive Secretary and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and that there is considerable benefit from further enhanced cooperation, *requests* the Executive Secretary and *invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to strengthen their cooperation and *invites* Parties and other Governments to consider, as appropriate and feasible, providing further support to facilitate such enhanced cooperation;

14. *Recognizes* the continuing problems of nutrient loading caused by some agricultural practices, as noted in the in-depth review of the programme of work on inland water ecosystems,<sup>8</sup> *invites* Parties and other Governments, in accordance with paragraph 40 of decision IX/1 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to further enhance action on reducing nutrient loading caused by some agricultural practices and to provide further information to the Executive Secretary on the progress made, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to collate this information and to disseminate it through the clearing-house mechanism and other relevant means;

15. *Notes* the inter-connections between agricultural ecosystems and other ecosystems, particularly through land and water use activities, and *invites* Parties to consider the need for strengthened harmony between implementation of relevant elements of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and other programmes of work of the Convention, consistent with the ecosystem approach, including at national and, where appropriate, regional levels;

16. *Expresses its appreciation* to Bioversity International for seconding a staff member to assist the Executive Secretary, in particular regarding, *inter alia*, agricultural biodiversity and sustainable use;

17. *Notes* the importance of the issue of sustainable use of biodiversity to the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and *invites* Parties and *requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure coherence between the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and Article 10 of the Convention, on sustainable use, noting decision IX/1 paragraph 32, of the Conference of the Parties, relating to agriculture and the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity;

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<sup>7</sup> UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/INF/30.

<sup>8</sup> UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/3.

18. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and *invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Bioversity International, together with other relevant partners, including indigenous and local communities, subject to available resources, to provide further information on the nature of sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and sustainable agriculture, including building upon information contained in the information note submitted by Bioversity International to the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;<sup>9</sup>

19. *Welcomes* resolution X.31 of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) on the subject “Enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems”, which notes, *inter alia*, the culture of rice in 114 countries worldwide, that rice paddies (flooded and irrigated fields in which rice is grown) have provided large areas of open water for centuries and that they support a high level of rice associated biodiversity important for sustaining rice-paddy ecosystems, as well as providing many other ecosystem services, *recognizes* the relevance of this resolution to the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and *invites* relevant Parties, as appropriate, to fully implement this resolution;

20. *Recognizes also* the importance of agro-ecosystems, in particular rice-paddy and oasis systems, for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and *invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, subject to resources, and in consultation with the Executive Secretary and relevant partners, including indigenous and local communities, to undertake further studies on the valuation of the biodiversity and ecosystem services provided by agricultural ecosystems, in order to further support policy-relevant guidance to Parties for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting, consistent and in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international obligations.

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<sup>9</sup> UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/INF/34.