

Revised 1 August 2001

FAO World Food Summit - five years later

Request for Urgent Input to the CSO Forum Access to Genetic Resources paper - please take a moment to review this note.

As you will be aware, FAO is hosting this Summit on the fifth anniversary of the 1996 World Food Summit. CSOs will, once again, have a parallel forum at which the issues of most relevance to the challenges of food insecurity will be discussed. One of the issues that the CSO Forum will tackle is **Access to Genetic Resources**. Pat Mooney, Henk Hobbelink and I have been asked to coordinate preparations of materials and "case studies" for this issue, and write an overview paper.

I have to confess that we have only just realised the imminence of the deadline - 15th August. This is to allow for translation of the paper into French and Spanish in time for Regional Preparatory meetings, the first of which will be in Asia at the end of August! At the end of last week the three of us had a teleconference and planned how we could do this in a very short space of time... Our apologies to all of you and we do hope that you can give this matter a degree of urgency - despite it being the holiday season for many in the Northern Hemisphere. Thank you.

I have put a number of the key papers, which many of you will already have received, on the UKabc website <www.ukabc.org/wfs+5.htm> and would draw your attention to the "Case Studies" paper and to the outcomes of the 1996 meetings - especially the Sustainable Agriculture Caucus and the WFS Plan of Action - Commitment 3.

In the following note I will attempt to describe the context, propose a purpose and structure for the paper and also some ideas of how we could develop this theme over the next few months (*the latter added on 1st August*).

Context

As you will already know, the International Undertaking (IU) text has been agreed (see <www.ukabc.org> for details) but three significant issues - IPRs, WTO relationship and List of Crops - are unresolved and will have to be negotiated at the FAO Conference in November, which is being held in parallel with the World Food Summit+5. In addition, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in association with the Convention on Biological Diversity is developing new programmes of work on agricultural biodiversity and the implementation of the Leipzig Global Plan of Action. The revision of the IU and these plans and programmes all arose as a result of the 1992 Rio Summit and the implementation of Agenda 21. The decisions were carried through to the 1996 World Food Summit Plan of Action - especially in Commitment 3 (See Annex 1) and they will be the subject of review in November.

Also, as part of the context, don't forget the CSO proposed but never adopted Commitment 8. This was an attempt to give disillusioned government delegates the opportunity to adopt a statement of personal dedication to a just and sustainable world free from hunger, as a supplement to the Rome Declaration and the Plan of Action. It focused on ensuring that food security should begin with people and communities and that they should be the starting point for international dialogue. Among other points it included: the Right to food; Farmers' Rights; full participation of women; the centrality of indigenous peoples, farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolk in

conserving and enhancing food security; sustainable food production, trade and innovation systems; and finally, commitment to accountable actions including developing a Covenant on the Right to Food Security developed from household to global levels by 1999.

Purpose

The timing of the Summit means that genetic resources, IPRs and wider issues on the sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity by and for farmers could dominate the proceedings at the *World Food Summit - five years later*. For this reason the overview paper needs to provide a comprehensive assessment of the issues in order to help other NGOs and government delegations understand the context, promises and pitfalls of the discussions in November. Furthermore, this paper could serve as a 'manifesto' for what needs to be carried forward to the first meetings of the Governing Body of the IU and to other fora, notably the WTO Ministerial in Qatar, the CBD/COP 6 in April 2002 and Rio + 10 - the World Summit on Sustainable Development - in Johannesburg in September 2002.

This paper could attempt to summarise the centrality of genetic resources and agricultural biodiversity issues not only for food security, agroecosystem integrity and Farmers' Rights but also the regulation of corporations, IPRs and GE. It will be translated and distributed by FAO and will therefore be written in a style that would be 'acceptable'!

Structure

We have only about 7 pages (maybe 4 - 5,000 words) in which to summarise a huge subject.

A. After the 1 page summary and introduction

B. Review of Activities since 1996. (2 pages) This should highlight a number of activities that farmers, their organisations and NGOs/CSOs have developed since 1996. These could be placed in the context of Commitment 3 of the WFS Plan of Action

" We will pursue participatory and sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development policies and practices in high and low potential areas, which are essential to adequate and reliable food supplies at the household, national, regional and global levels, and combat pests, drought and desertification, considering the multifunctional character of agriculture."

To this list I would add the activities that farmers, CSOs and others have engaged in to develop local defences against biopiracy, to increase capacity to engage in biosafety issues and to develop alternative Community Rights regimes.

WHAT WE ARE ASKING YOU FOR

Can you send, or advise who might have, good information, case studies or reports on these issues that are already prepared and which could be summarised in this paper? Weblinks would be OK...

C. Analysis of issues. (2 pages) We would then analyse the key issues that are driving this agenda forward, for good or ill. These would cover the positive trends in some fora and within CSO movements but would also include the Erosion of Genetic Resources, growth of Patenting and Biopiracy, TRIPs and the non-review, growth of GE and genetic pollution, even include failures in the livestock industry from pandemics - symptoms of a sick agriculture.

WHAT WE ARE ASKING YOU FOR

Can you highlight any key analytical reports or research findings that you think should be referenced in this section? As ever, weblinks would be OK...

D. 'Manifesto' for action. (2 pages) This final section would provide a set of ideas that could be debated in the CSO Forum and with Delegations in the run-up to the November Summit. It would cover governance issues and identify the actions that would be needed in different fora to ensure a more just, equitable and sustainable use of genetic resources. It will deal with Access and Control, IPRs and Use, Governance and Democracy.

As an example of the fora which will affect and be affected by these issues see Annex 2, taken from a paper on the outcome of the International Undertaking negotiations.

WHAT WE ARE ASKING YOU FOR

If you have key issues that you think should be dealt with in this section, please let us know...

Please send us any materials that you think might be useful for the paper. We will attempt to reference all the most valuable websites and to highlight key papers but if you have something that you think **must** be included, let us know.

Possible activities up to the WFS+5

In the run-up to the CSO Forum and WFS+5 there will need to be a number of lobbying activities as well as presentation of the issues at regional preparatory fora.

In September and October after the Bonn IFPRI meeting and NGO preparatory and the Havana CSO and Farmers' meeting preparing positions for the WFS+5, there are a number of other meetings (with parallel NGO/CSO processes) e.g. of the CGIAR, ECP/GR, WIPO, TRIPs Council, WTO Committee on Ag, Biosafety ICCP-2, as well as FAO Regional meetings. In preparation for and at each of these, the issues of Access to Genetic Resources, the finalisation of the IU and the sustainable development and use of agricultural biodiversity by and for farmers should be raised. The paper we are preparing may assist with this.

At the CSO Forum, opportunities will need to be sought to have dialogues not only with like minded CSOs and farmers' organisations, but also with the wider public in Rome and through the media.

We could also take the opportunity of seeking bilateral meetings with FAO staff, especially the Agricultural Biodiversity working group - a cross-departmental group of staff working on these issues, currently chaired by Peter Kenmore. After this meeting, we could arrange to see, separately, some of the ADGs from Agriculture, Economics, Forestry, Fisheries, Sustainable Development - the departments from which members of the working group come - to understand how FAO could raise the profile of this work internally and in its programmes and how CSOs could interact with this process.

Your views on this would be welcome.

Once again, I am so sorry there is such a short timeline for the paper- we will pull something together between us...and your help will be most gratefully received.

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ANNEX 1

COMMITMENT THREE

We will pursue participatory and sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development policies and practices in high and low potential areas, which are essential to adequate and reliable food supplies at the household, national, regional and global levels, and combat pests, drought and desertification, considering the multifunctional character of agriculture.

The Basis for Action

23. It is imperative that food production be increased, particularly in low-income, food-deficit countries, to meet the needs of the undernourished and food insecure, the additional food requirements resulting from population growth, demand for new food products due to rising standards of living and changes in consumption patterns. Production increases need to be achieved without further overburdening women farmers, while ensuring both productive capacity, sustainable management of natural resources and protection of the environment.

24. In many parts of the world, unsustainable and otherwise inadequate policies and programmes, inappropriate technologies, insufficient rural infrastructures and institutions, as well as pests and diseases, lead to inefficiency and wastage of natural and human resources, inputs and products. The resource base for food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry is under stress and is threatened by problems such as desertification, deforestation, overfishing, overcapacity and discards in fisheries, losses of biodiversity, as well as inefficient use of water, climate change and depletion of the ozone layer. This has a negative impact on both food security and the environment. The framework for sustainable agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development in relation to food security was elaborated in the Programme of Action for Sustainable Development (Agenda 21) of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Rio de Janeiro 1992, and recently expanded in both the Kyoto Declaration and Plan of Action on the Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security (Kyoto Declaration and Plan of Action), 1995, and the Leipzig Declaration on and the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Leipzig Declaration and Global Plan of Action), 1996.

25. Expanding production in low-income food-deficit countries (LIFDCs) is frequently one of the primary means to increase the availability of food and income for those living in poverty. Most of the increases in food output of these countries, and of more developed regions, are expected to come from areas which have the agro-climatic potential to generate sufficient surpluses in economically and environmentally sound conditions, in particular to feed growing numbers of urban consumers. The generation of employment and income will raise effective demand in these areas, thereby stimulating production, economic diversification and rural development. In marginal areas and coastal communities with lower potential and fragile environments, there is also a need to increase food production through the provision of inputs and appropriate technology to reduce rural migration, but this should be based on sustainable management of resources and environment. Efficient land use for sustainable agricultural activity in many areas will also contribute significantly towards reducing the pressure to convert forests to agricultural land.

26. Food security depends, *inter alia*, on sustainable management of fish, forests, and wildlife. In many indigenous communities, these resources are the principal sources of protein in the diet. The traditional knowledge within indigenous communities also plays an important role in the achievement of food security for these communities and others.

27. Establishing sustainable and diverse patterns of production should take into account the present and future needs of the people as well as the natural resources potential and limitations. Policies that provide an effective incentive structure for sustainable management of natural resources will help ensure that national agriculture, fisheries, forestry and natural resource plans and practices are developed and implemented in a holistic approach.

28. Small Island Developing States face the threat of land loss and erosion due to climate changes and sea level rises and have particular needs for their overall sustainable development. Improvements in trade, transportation, communication, human resources, stabilization of income and higher export earnings will increase food security in these countries.

29. Food production and rural development, particularly in those countries with significant food security inadequacies, require appropriate and up-to-date technologies which, according to sustainable development criteria and local food traditions, promote modernization of local production methods and facilitate transfer of technology. Full benefit from these technologies will require training, education and skill development programmes for local human resources. National efforts to increase local capacity, coupled with consolidated international cooperation, facilitate application of know-how and technology in areas with similar conditions and new techniques. This may be promoted by active international cooperation, particularly towards developing countries, both at the North-South and South-South levels.

30. Research in agriculture, fisheries and forestry will be essential to achieving the sustainable food productivity increases upon which the short and long term food security of a growing world population will depend. The combination of such research, and an enabling environment, can improve food security both at national and household levels. Equity issues and equality between women and men should be given appropriate consideration when setting research agendas for the future. Research efforts should clearly focus on poverty eradication and on the creation of more environmentally sustainable agricultural, fisheries, forestry and food production systems. This research should be directed to low, as well as high, potential areas according to their specific research needs. Renewed efforts should be made to involve farmers, fishers, foresters and their organizations in setting research priorities and directions, and to make experimental findings accessible to them.

31. The economic and social development of the rural sector is a key requisite for the achievement of food security for all. Rural poverty is a complex phenomenon that varies considerably between and within countries. The rural areas in developing countries are generally poorly equipped in terms of technical and financial resources and educational infrastructure. In these areas, lack of income opportunities, failure to crop and to maintain production systems, inadequate commodity and input and consumer goods distribution networks, limited access to public services and the poor quality of these services are all fundamental aspects that need to be considered with regard to rural food security. The main consequences of this are reflected in high population growth and out-migration, both internally and to other countries.

Objectives and Actions

32. Objective 3.1:

To pursue, through participatory means, sustainable, intensified and diversified food production, increasing productivity, efficiency, safety gains, pest control and reduced wastes and losses, taking fully into account the need to sustain natural resources.

To this end, governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society, and with the support of international institutions, will, as appropriate:

- (a) Establish policies and implement programmes to optimize, in an economically, socially and environmentally sound manner, sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry production, particularly of the main staple foods, aimed at achieving food security;
- (b) Promote policies and programmes which encourage appropriate input technologies, farming techniques, and other sustainable methods, such as organic farming, to assist farming operations to become profitable, with the goal of reducing environmental degradation, while creating financial resources within the farming operation; such programmes should, when relevant, build upon farmers' own experiences and indigenous knowledge;
- (c) Promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components in terrestrial and marine ecosystems, with a view to enhancing food security, notably through supporting the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992;
- (d) Promote sustainable development in mixed-farming systems and the processing and marketing of diverse food products and by-products, in response to the needs of the consumers for properly balanced diets;
- (e) Promote crop and livestock productivity through widespread use of improved seeds and breeds and integrated plant nutrition system methods, where necessary and ecologically and economically feasible; in addition, seek to achieve lasting fertility improvements in tropical soils;
- (f) Promote more efficient and sustainable livestock production systems through the improvement of grazing lands, fodder crops and the use of multiple sources of animal feed;
- (g) Promote development of environmentally sound and sustainable aquaculture well integrated into rural, agricultural and coastal development;
- (h) Promote the sustainable production and use of food, fodder, fuel and other products derived from forests to enhance food security; such action will also result in increased rural income and employment, thus contributing to sustainable forest management by increasing the value of forests;
- (i) Seek to ensure effective prevention and progressive control of plant and animal pests and diseases, including especially those which are of transboundary nature, such as rinderpest, cattle tick, foot and mouth disease and desert locust, where outbreaks can cause major food shortages, destabilize markets and trigger trade measures; and promote concurrently, regional collaboration in plant pests and animal disease control and the widespread development and use of integrated pest management practices.

33. Objective 3.2:

To combat environmental threats to food security, in particular, drought and desertification, pests, erosion of biological diversity, and degradation of land and aquatic-based natural resources, restore and rehabilitate the natural resource base, including water and watersheds, in depleted and overexploited areas to achieve greater production.

To this end, governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society, and with the support of international institutions, will, as appropriate:

- (a) Monitor and promote rehabilitation and conservation of natural resources in food producing areas as well as in adjacent forest lands, non-arable lands, and watersheds, and where necessary upgrade sustainably the productive capacity of these resources; and establish policies that create economic and social incentives to reduce degradation;
- (b) Identify the potential and improve the productive use of national land and water resources for sustainable increases in food production, taking into account the anticipated impacts of natural climate variability and climatic change on rainfall and temperature patterns;

- (c) Develop appropriate national and regional policies and plans for water and watersheds, and water management techniques; promote economically, socially and environmentally sound irrigation improvement, in particular small-scale irrigation, and sustainable intensification of rainfed agriculture, with a view to increasing cropping intensities and reducing the impact of droughts and floods on food output and restoring natural resources, while at the same time preserving the quality and availability of water for other purposes, especially human consumption;
- (d) Promote early ratification and implementation of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Instruments of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (the UN Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks) and of the FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas. Implement sustainable fisheries management and practices, in particular the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, to address a responsible and sustainable utilization and conservation of fisheries resources in order to optimize the long-term sustainable contribution of fisheries resources to food security - and fully recognizing Agenda 21, and the Kyoto Declaration and Plan of Action within the context of the relevant rules of International Law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)³ - by, *inter alia*, strengthening and establishing, as needed, appropriate regional and sub-regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, minimizing wastes in fisheries, reducing excess fishing capacity and applying the precautionary approach in accordance with the UN Agreement⁴ on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; by establishing and strengthening integrated marine and coastal area management; by conserving and sustainably utilizing marine and freshwater biodiversity; and by studying the effectiveness of multi-species management in the context of relevant provisions of UNCLOS and Agenda 21. In working to achieve the above, full recognition should be given to the special circumstances and requirements of developing countries, particularly the least developed among them and the Small Island Developing States;
- (e) Promote an integrated approach to conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, through *inter alia* appropriate *in situ* and *ex situ* approaches, systematic surveying and inventorying, approaches to plant breeding which broaden the genetic base of crops, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of such resources;
- (f) Promote the conservation and sustainable utilization of animal genetic resources;
- (g) Reduce the deforestation rate and increase forest coverage, maintain and develop the multiple contributions of forests, trees and forestry to food security for the conservation and sustainable use of land and water resources, including the protection of watersheds, and as reservoirs of biological diversity; to this end, implement the UNCED outcomes related to forests;
- (h) Seek to understand better the impacts of global environmental threats, in particular climate change and variability, the depletion of the ozone layer, loss of biodiversity and various forms of environmental pollution, on food security;
- (i) Implement the Leipzig Global Plan of Action;
- (j) Promote early ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, 1994, and implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, 1987, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992;
- (k) Seek to prevent and control degradation and overexploitation of natural resources in poorly endowed, ecologically stressed areas. In those areas critical to the

achievement of food security for developing countries, promote and provide location-specific institutional, infrastructural and technical support.

34. Objective 3.3:

To promote sound policies and programmes on transfer and use of technologies, skills development and training appropriate to the food security needs of developing countries and compatible with sustainable development, particularly in rural and disadvantaged areas.

To this end, governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society, and with the support of international institutions, will, as appropriate:

(a) Strengthen agricultural, fisheries and forestry education, training, skills development and extension systems, ensuring equal gender opportunities and close interaction with research systems and farmers, fishers and foresters, in particular small-scale farmers, fishers and foresters, and other food producers, and their representative organizations in food production technology and transfer, and initiate programmes to increase the proportion of women in these systems. National capacity-building efforts, principally in LIFDCs should be supported with North-South and South-South cooperation among education and extension and research institutions;

(b) Promote viable technology transfer and extension services that meet real local needs; stimulate programmes that will help identify possibilities of bilateral and regional cooperation so that experience and technology information can be exchanged on a South-South and North-South level;

(c) Promote means to reduce women farmers' workload by supporting and facilitating access to appropriate productive and domestic labour-saving technologies;

(d) Establish policies and programmes for the development and use of technologies that offer economic and ecological benefits and protect the consumer and the environment.

35. Objective 3.4:

To take decisive action in cooperation between the public and the private sectors to strengthen and broaden research and scientific cooperation in agriculture, fisheries and forestry in supporting policy and international, regional, national and local action to increase productive potential and maintain the natural resource base in agriculture, fisheries and forestry and in support of efforts to eradicate poverty and promote food security.

To this end, governments in collaboration with the international and scientific communities, in both the public and the private sectors, as appropriate, will:

(a) Strengthen national research systems in order to develop coordinated programmes in support of research to promote food security. Such programmes should focus on interdisciplinary research to provide a scientific basis for policies and action to maintain the natural resource base while increasing the productivity potential of agriculture, fisheries, including aquaculture, and forestry. Appropriate attention will be given to areas that are less endowed with natural resources. Increased cooperation with the private sector will be promoted;

(b) Strengthen international research systems, in particular the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), and promote coordination and collaboration among international, developed country, and developing country institutions;

(c) Participate actively in and support international cooperation in research to promote food security, in particular in developing countries, with special emphasis on underutilized food crops in these countries;

(d) Enhance the institutional framework allowing for the full participation of all interested parties, including indigenous people and their communities, local people,

consumers, farmers, fishers and foresters and their organizations and the private sector in the identification of research needs;

- (e) Promote suitable systems, *inter alia* participatory systems, for the dissemination and extension of research results;
- (f) Ensure that gender perspectives are integrated in research planning and implementation;
- (g) Promote development of methods and criteria for the strengthening of integrated and policy relevant scientific knowledge;
- (h) Promote research and development leading to the use, at regional, national and local levels, of appropriate technologies, relevant post-harvest and transformation techniques, and adapted plant and animal breeding that meet local needs;
- (i) Promote the research needed to continue international efforts to develop, disseminate and apply climate forecast information that will increase sustainable agricultural, fisheries and forestry productivity and be of particular benefit to developing countries.

36. Objective 3.5:

To formulate and implement integrated rural development strategies, in low and high potential areas, that promote rural employment, skill formation, infrastructure, institutions and services, in support of rural development and household food security and that reinforce the local productive capacity of farmers, fishers and foresters and others actively involved in the food sector, including members of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, women and indigenous people, and their representative organizations, and that ensure their effective participation.

To this end, governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society, and with the support of international institutions, will, as appropriate:

- (a) Include in their national social and economic development policies, plans and programmes, actions that will foster the social and economic revitalization of the rural sector, with particular regard to the promotion of investment and employment that will make good use of the rural workforce and to the promotion of political, economic and administrative decentralization;
- (b) Strengthen local government institutions in rural areas and provide them with adequate resources, decision-making authority and mechanisms for grassroots participation;
- (c) Encourage and enable farmers, fishers and foresters and other food producers and providers as well as their organizations, particularly small farmers and artisanal fisherfolk, by strengthening institutional structures to define their responsibilities and protect their rights and those of the consumer;
- (d) Promote the development and diversification of rural markets, reduce post-harvest losses and ensure safe storage, food processing and distribution facilities and transportation systems;
- (e) Reinforce the follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD), 1979;
- (f) Develop and encourage training programmes in sustainable natural resources management.

Governments, in cooperation with the private sector and non-governmental organizations, will:

- (g) Develop the technical and educational infrastructure in rural areas;
- (h) Promote the development of rural banking, credit and savings schemes, where appropriate, including equal access to credit for men and women, micro-credit for the poor, as well as adequate insurance mechanisms;
- (i) Promote food production, processing and marketing systems which increase opportunities for stable, gainful and equal and equitable employment conditions in

the food and rural sectors; where appropriate, promote off-farm activities in rural areas combining agriculture, fisheries and forestry production with processing and marketing activities, cottage industries and tourism, particularly in marginal areas and peri-urban areas;

(j) Foster the social and economic organization of the rural population with particular emphasis on the development of small-scale farmers', fishers', and foresters' cooperatives, community organizations and development associations, so that rural inhabitants may be actively involved in decision-making, monitoring and evaluation of rural development programmes;

(k) Recognize farmers', fishers', foresters', rural workers' and consumers' organizations at local, national, regional and international levels and promote a regular dialogue and partnership with their respective governments and their linkage with all appropriate institutions and sectors on sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry and sustainable management of natural resources;

(l) Promote the empowerment of small-scale family farmers, fishers and foresters, both women and men, to set up their own cooperatives and business undertakings, as well as farmers' and fishers' financial and mutual institutions;

(m) Enhance cooperation and exchange among farmers, fishers, foresters and their representative organizations, both within and between developing countries, industrialized countries and economies in transition.

Governments, in collaboration with the international community, will:

(n) Develop international South-South technical cooperation programmes that will facilitate the implementation of nutritional programmes that have proved successful in other developing countries;

(o) Implement the outcomes of UNCED, particularly as regards Chapter 14 of Agenda 21.

Annex 2

(Extract from paper, by Patrick, for the German NGO forum for the Bonn IFPRI 2020 Vision meeting in September, on the outcome of the International Undertaking negotiations)

GOVERNANCE

The International Undertaking (IU) is a profoundly important international agreement, which recognises in its preamble that *"the management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are at the meeting point between agriculture, the environment and commerce, and ... that there should be synergy among these sectors"*. (See Diagram 1).

During its lifetime since it was first agreed as a voluntary agreement in 1983, all the rules on Intellectual Property, Trade, Access and Benefit Sharing have been re-written and new agreements on Conservation and Sustainable Use have been ratified.

Consider this: the original IU was agreed before the first Life Patent was awarded and before the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade started. Biotechnology and the science of genetic modification was in its infancy. After the Rio treaties in 1992, the *Nairobi Final Act* in 1993, which implemented the Convention on Biological Diversity, also agreed a number of resolutions including *Resolution 3*, which called for the renegotiation of the IU in *"harmony with the CBD"*. This, though, pre-dated the birth of the WTO and the Agreement on TRIPs and its controversial Article 27.3(b) on IPRs and Genetic Resources.

Later still, after the 1996 landmark agreement in Leipzig on a *Global Plan of Action on PGRFA*, Decisions on Agricultural Biodiversity by the CBD (III/11, IV/6, V/5), various FAO Conference Decisions, the alarming spread of genetically-modified crops, the debacle of the WTO Ministerial meeting in Seattle and the successful agreement of the *Biosafety Protocol*, the IU entered its final and decisive stages of negotiation under the dynamic leadership of Ambassador Gerbasi from Venezuela.

It is unsurprising that these negotiations have been difficult, given the turbulent and changing context in which they have been conducted.

It is now important to ensure that the IU is agreed, implemented and recognised by many organisations with which it will interact. It will influence the policies of many intergovernmental organizations, for example:

- food security policies and practice and the management of agricultural biodiversity - a role fulfilled internationally by the **FAO**;
- the conservation and sustainable use and benefit sharing mechanisms for genetic resources for food and agriculture and agricultural biodiversity - the mandate of the **CBD**; and
- alternatives to IPR systems - a different way of excluding genetic resources for food and agriculture from systems of IPRs from those provided under Article 27.3(b) of the Agreement on Trade Related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) of the **WTO**.

Furthermore, this treaty could impact on:

- the implementation of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (**UPOV**) Convention to ensure that there is continued access to breeding material by farmers;
- the discussions in the World Intellectual Property Organization's (**WIPO**) "Intergovernmental committee on intellectual property and genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore" which will consider rights to genetic resources for food and agriculture;
- international agricultural research on genetic resources and agricultural biodiversity, especially through the International Agricultural Research Centres (IARCs) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (**CGIAR**), for which the IU will provide an intergovernmental forum in which their programmes can be addressed; and

- the effective use of Global Environment Facility (**GEF**) funds for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture, including providing further funds for international agricultural research - a preferable option to corporate sector funding through a proposed endowment fund.

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WORLD FOOD SUMMIT - FIVE YEARS LATER

The *World Food Summit - five years later* could provide an excellent opportunity to send clear messages about the importance of this treaty to the fourth Ministerial meeting of the *World Trade Organization* (WTO) in Doha, the sixth Conference of the Parties to the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD) in The Hague and the *World Summit on Sustainable Development* (WSSD) in Johannesburg. From 2 to 13 November, in Rome, Italy, 180 governments will be responsible for the final negotiations of the IU at the FAO Conference and the *World Food Summit - Five years later* at the same time must debate and agree how it will communicate the outcome of the IU negotiations to these other intergovernmental fora.

The IU has the potential to be a prime example of responsible global governance, ensuring that those genetic resources which underpin social needs are maintained in the public domain. This agricultural biodiversity provides security against future adversity, be it from climate change, war, industrial developments, biotechnological calamities or ecosystem collapse.

Diagram 1

INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING: Central to the Governance of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

