



**Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States**

**174th session of the FAO Council**

**(Rome, 4-8 December 2023)**

**DRAFT rev1**

**Item 14: Report of the 19th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (17-21 July 2023)**

Dear Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States
2. *[XXX, align themselves with this written statement.]*
3. We recognise the important role of FAO, the Commission and its intergovernmental working groups in the process of finalising the second State of the World (SoW) report on forest genetic resources and the third SoW report on plant genetic resources, and look forward to their publication during the intersessional period. Moreover, we welcome the endorsement of the preparation of the third SoW on animal genetic resources.
4. We welcome the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF) in December 2022 and the endorsement of the associated draft resolution. We underline the high degree of mutual supportiveness of the KM GBF and the Commission's Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (FA BFA), endorsed by the FAO Council in 2021, and the Global Plans of Action (GPAs). Moreover, we value highly FAO's commitment to supporting its member states in implementing both frameworks, as they provide the cornerstones of a new international biodiversity policy agenda.
5. We welcome the establishment of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Microorganism and Invertebrate Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITWG MIGR) and the Ad Hoc Expert Team on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (BFA) as a major outcome of the 19th session. We are looking forward to their first meetings with a view to identifying current

needs and priorities in knowledge and policies for MIGR and to reviewing the FA BFA in light of the KM GBF, identifying gaps and possible work on BFA.

6. We welcome the activities undertaken by FAO in support of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use, and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We appreciate the Commission's commitment to the effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action and the ongoing need for continuous support, training, and collaboration at both national and international levels.
  
7. Lastly, we appreciate the work done by the FAO Commission and its member states in reviewing the special event 'Connecting the Dots: Biodiversity, Food and Agriculture', which marked the Commission's 40th anniversary. The event underlined synergies and linkages between FAO's work on biodiversity mainstreaming, the Commission's policies on conservation and sustainable use of GRFA and BFA, and the KM GBF.
  
8. With these comments, we endorse the report of the 19th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, including the KM GBF draft resolution and the establishment of the ITWG MIGR and the Ad Hoc Expert Team on BFA.

Thank you, Mr Chair