



Convention on Biological Diversity

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BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES
Strömstad, Sweden
9-10 September 2009

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY HELD IN STRÖMSTAD, SWEDEN, ON 9-10 SEPTEMBER 2009

INTRODUCTION

1. Thanks to the generous financial and logistical support of the Government of Sweden, the fifth meeting of the COP-9 Bureau was held on 9-10 September 2009, in Strömstad, Sweden, on the margins of the high-level conference for Europe - Visions for Biodiversity Beyond 2010 - hosted by the Ministry for the Environment of Sweden. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, who represented the President of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Mr. Flasbarth advised the Bureau that, further to his recent nomination as President of the German Environmental Protection Agency (Umweltbundesamt/UBA), in order to ensure continuity within the COP 9 Bureau he had been requested by the Minister to continue presiding over the Bureau process.

2. The following Bureau members attended the meeting:

Ms. Somaly Chan (Cambodia)
Mr. Joseph Ronald Toussaint (Haiti)
Professor James H. Seyani (Malawi)
Mr. Damaso Luna (Mexico)
Ms. Snežana Prokic (Serbia)
Dr. Abdelbagi Mukhtar Ali (Sudan)
Ms. Åsa Norrman (Sweden)
Mr. Robert Lamb (Switzerland)
Dr. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine)

Ms. Tania Temata, the Bureau member from the Cook Islands, expressed regret that she was unable to attend the meeting.

3. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Kazuaki Hoshino of the Ministry of Environment of Japan, ex-officio member of the Bureau as the host of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and Mr. Spencer Thomas, the Chair of SBSTTA. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme was represented by Mr. Bakary Kante, Director of the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DEL/C). The Secretariat was represented by the Executive Secretary of the Convention, Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif and Ms. Dominique Kayser, Secretary to the Governing Bodies.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The President welcomed the Bureau members to Strömstad and thanked the Government of Sweden for taking advantage of the opportunity to fund and organize the Bureau meeting on the margins of the high-level EU conference and the inauguration of the new Kosterhavet Marine National Park. He also welcomed the Executive Secretary and the representatives of the Government

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of Japan and UNEP. He informed the Bureau that the ABS Co-chairs would not be in a position to attend the meeting due to prior commitments and that, as a result, the issue of ABS would not figure on the agenda.

5. The representative of Sweden in turn, welcomed the Bureau to Strömstad, stating that Minister Carlgren was very pleased to have had the Bureau present for the high-level meeting and marine national park inauguration, and thanked them for having made the journey.

6. Before turning the floor over to the Executive Secretary, the President thanked the Secretariat and the Government of Sweden for the excellent arrangements made in organizing and hosting the meeting.

7. The Executive Secretary expressed thanks for the excellent leadership of the President and the German COP-9 Presidency team, and presented his congratulations to Mr. Flasbarth on his appointment as President of the UBA, citing ongoing support for Mr. Flasbarth's continuing leadership. He further welcomed the members of the Bureau to Strömstad, and expressed sincere thanks to the representative of Sweden for making it possible to convene the fifth meeting of the COP-9 Bureau on the margins of the high-level EU meeting. He informed members that the opportunity presented by the high-level meeting had allowed for the official launch of the IYB logo, and that several additional launch opportunities were planned before 2010 including: Nairobi at the second meeting of IPBES; Liege at the fifth meeting on Biodiversity in Europe, Buenos Aires at the high-level segment of COP9 of UNCCD, Montreal and Ottawa as well as Abidjan, Brasilia, Tokyo, Nagoya and Kobe. It will be presented to all environmental related meeting until the end of the year. He conveyed his gratitude to the Government of Canada for its financial support to prepare the logo and the message for this unique event in the life of the biodiversity family.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

8. The Bureau then turned its attention to adoption of the agenda, as outlined below:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. To do list from the previous meeting of the Bureau (Paris, March 2009).
4. Review of the availability of financial resources for the implementation of COP-9 decisions.
5. Revision of the Strategic Plan: 2010 Biodiversity target and post-2010 target.
6. Preparations for the third Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO 3).
7. Update on the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study.
8. Preparation of the International Year of Biodiversity, including the high level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly at its 65th session: review of the concept note.
9. Preparing for Copenhagen (Contribution of the CBD).
10. Preparations for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
11. Other matters.
12. Closure of the meeting.

9. Under agenda item 7, Update on the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study, the President informed the Bureau that Mr. Pavan Sukhdev would brief the Bureau on the state of play of the TEEB study, further to his participation in the ministerial segment of the Visions for Biodiversity and Beyond 2010 conference.

10. Under agenda item 11, Other Matters, the representative of Japan requested the opportunity to make a short presentation on the Japanese Satoyama Initiative.

11. With that, the agenda was adopted.

**ITEM 3. TO DO LIST FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE BUREAU
(PARIS, MARCH 2009)**

12. The President advised the Bureau that the outcomes of the Bonn workshop on the 2010 target, held in March, had been disseminated.
13. He went on to indicate that the Presidency was intent on continuing its discussion with the Government of the United States regarding its ratification of the Convention. Every communication opportunity was being used in an effort to encourage, by the end of this intersessional period, ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity by the United States. He informed the Bureau that a coalition of 13 NGOs had written to the Secretary of State asking that biological diversity be put on the Administration's agenda and that the United States ratifies the Convention on Biological Diversity. The response received from the State Department however, indicated that higher priority was being allocated by the U.S. Administration to the Law of the Sea and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants at this time. The President nevertheless encouraged the Government of Japan, as incoming President of the Conference of the Parties in 2010, to also use its authority to continue to encourage the United States to ratify the Convention.
14. The Executive Secretary advised the Bureau that the accession of Iraq, expected on 26 October of this year, would bring the number of Parties to 192. He further advised the Bureau that the Government of Somalia had finalized its internal procedure for becoming a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Government of Andorra was seriously considering accession to the Convention on Biological Diversity soon. He added that 2010 offers a unique opportunity to achieve universal representation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and all efforts should be made using all avenues, to join the Convention on Biological Diversity as a Party in Nagoya.
15. The representative of Sweden commented that her Government had been informed by an NGO that until negotiations of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing had been concluded, the United States would hesitate to accede to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
16. In response to the invitation extended by the President, the representative of Japan explained that his Ministry very much supported the idea of having the United States ratifying the Convention and that they would reach out to the State Department through the Japanese mission in Washington. He also put the following question to the other Bureau members: what actions did they feel could positively influence ratification by the United States of America?
17. In closing the discussion on this agenda item, the Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that the results of the ABS CEPA Communication workshops, organized in cooperation with GTZ, had been disseminated to Parties.

**ITEM 4. REVIEW OF THE AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS OF THE NINTH MEETING
OF THE PARTIES**

18. In keeping with the request made by the COP-9 Bureau at its meeting on 30 March 2009, in Paris, the Secretariat prepared a revised table highlighting the Status of Contributions to the BE Trust Fund of the Convention for the consideration of the Bureau. The changes included indication of the related decision of the Conference of the Parties for which funding has been provided, and a clear indication of the total balance of funds required for each approved activity.
19. The President thanked the Secretariat for this information, and it was agreed that a review of the status of pledges would figure on the agenda of Bureau meetings through the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
20. The representative of UNEP informed the Bureau that the Executive Director of UNEP had agreed that the BE Trust Fund for voluntary contributions would not be charged Administrative fees, thereby leaving additional funds for participation. This information was welcomed by the Bureau with much appreciation and thanks.
21. The Executive Secretary informed Bureau members that notifications for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on

Biosafety and the tenth meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity had been issued to Parties, as well as to Permanent Representatives in Nairobi and all missions at United Nations headquarters in New York, on 1 September. He advised members that the notifications for the sixth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and the eighth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing had been disseminated in July and that final reminder notifications for these meetings would be re-issued following the Bureau meeting. He further took the opportunity to inform the Bureau of the MoU signed between the Secretariat and Tourisme Montréal, wherein the latter would propose preferential rates at major hotels to delegates, as well as pay the Secretariat CDN \$10/delegate/night, funds which could be allocated to the costs of holding meetings at the headquarters of the Secretariat. Lastly, the Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that he had a meeting with the new Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization and agreement was reached to expedite the implementation of the spirit and letter of the MoU signed in February 2007 and enhance the support of ICAO to the Secretariat and explore further opportunities to reduce the costs of hosting meetings in Montreal at ICAO premises.

22. In reviewing the status of contributions, the President expressed concern that the level of funding available for participation in the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing was low, given that the meeting was to be held in just over 6 months. In response, the representative from the Sudan queried what would happen if not enough funds were pledged. Warning of a grave situation, the Executive Secretary stated that not enabling full participation of developing country parties in the processes of the Convention would be very negative, especially for the ABS process at this crucial time.

23. The representative of Haiti asked for an update on the status of preparations and funding for the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA). The Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that the dates, ranging over a 10-day period thanks to generous support received from UNEP, had been confirmed and that the agenda for the ten-day meeting had been finalized. In response to a query from the representative of Japan regarding the level of the funding shortage resulting from a ten-day versus five-day meeting, the Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that UNON would handle all organizational needs for SBSTTA meeting, hence there would be no costs associated with the involvement of Conference Services staff, and that this would reduce the overall cost of the meeting.

24. The President expressed his thanks to the representative of UNEP for having secured the pledge to allow SBSTTA-14 to be held in Nairobi. He then suggested that it would be useful to establish a deadline for receipt of pledges for participation in the ninth meeting of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, and further suggested that a provision be adopted wherein four weeks prior to any given open-ended working group meeting, the Bureau would receive advance notice of the status of financial contributions to the BE Trust Fund, along with a list of the countries whose participation could be funded. A best practice, he suggested, would be to ensure at least 80 developing country participants per meeting.

25. The representative of Malawi expressed his concerns that the sixth meeting of the Ad Hoc open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and the eighth meeting of the Ad hoc open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing would not benefit from the participation of a critical mass of developing countries. The representative of Sweden asked for information regarding the cost/delegate for meetings held in Montreal. With regard to the eighth meeting of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, the representative of UNEP reminded delegates that LDCs alone were numerous and that based on the figures presented the funds available would not cover LDC participation, let alone allow participation of SIDs. Therefore, in order to increase levels of participation, he announced the decision of the Executive Director of UNEP to waive the 13 per cent fee for the participation of developing countries to meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Bureau applauded the announcement made by the representative of the Executive Director. The Executive Secretary asked the representative of UNEP to convey to the Executive Director his sincere gratitude for this decision which will enhance the geographical representation of developing countries to meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity and especially during the crucial negotiation on access and benefit-sharing.

26. Discussion then turned to the issue of fundraising for key meetings, with the President underlining the need to identify a strategy for effective resource mobilization. The representative of Malawi asked that ideas on how such a strategy should be designed be submitted. The representative of Sweden queried whether it would be possible to approach the United States to seek voluntary contributions, despite their non-Party status. With respect to the ninth meeting of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, the President stated that most donors have not yet finalized their 2010 budgets and hence, the meeting may not figure on funding priority lists at this time. That said, he underscored the need for the ninth meeting of the Working Group on ABS to have full participation and reminded the Bureau that the funding of 100 participants would cost in the order of US\$ 800,000. Depending on the status of the funding situation at the outset of the new year, he indicated that mobilizing sufficient funds to allow for full participation may require personal and direct intervention on the part of high level individuals. The representative of Switzerland concurred with the President and requested that should such outreach ultimately be required, the biodiversity and development link should be stressed so that donors may bring their development agencies into the funding dialogue at the national level.

27. The question of whether it would be possible to lower the cost per sponsored delegate was raised. The Executive Secretary responded that sponsored delegates received the United Nations rate per diem, which was fixed, and that the best means by which to reduce costs was on travel. On this point, the representative of Japan asked that when additional funds were being requested, the Secretariat should underline to donors that all cost saving possible have been made.

28. The Secretariat was then requested to provide the Bureau with a list of the sponsored delegates that had attended the last two working group meetings on access and benefit-sharing. This information was provided to the Bureau the following morning. The numbers underlined the fact that the more direct the location, particularly for the African region, the more delegates could be sponsored.

29. The representative of Germany then took the floor to announce that she had just received word that her Government would contribute an additional €100,000 for participation in the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing. The representative of Malawi, on behalf of all funded regions, expressed sincere thanks to the Government of Germany for this additional support. He further asked that in order to ensure maximum participation, the Presidency and the Secretariat sent out another letter to donors requesting contributions to the BE Trust Fund for the whole, important ABS period. The President agreed, as did the representative of UNEP, who indicated that he believed that the Executive Director would be supportive of a comprehensive resource mobilization initiative that underscored the importance of the ABS period leading up to the tenth meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and therefore would be willing to put his name to such an outreach effort. The President asked the Secretariat to draft a letter to be signed by the Presidency, the Executive Director, and the Executive Secretary. The representative of Malawi requested that this approach include the caveat that UNEP's 13% administration fee be waived.

30. The representative of Sweden then asked whether private sector interests could be approached as part of the effort to mobilize funds for participation. The Executive Secretary responded that there was no precedent to have the private sector fund participation or travel of sponsored delegates. In general, he stated, the private sector funds activities related to the Convention on Biological Diversity. This source of funding, equally important, was supported by the Presidency's initiative to organize the first private donor forum in Berlin. Following on the success of that forum, he informed the Bureau that it had been agreed to organize a second donor forum in Nagoya during the tenth meeting of the Parties to the Convention.

ITEM 7. UPDATE ON THE ECONOMICS OF ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY (TEEB) STUDY

31. The members of the Bureau had the opportunity to receive a briefing from Pavan Sukhdev, the study leader of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study. At the invitation of the Swedish Minister for the Environment, Mr. Sukhdev had addressed the high-level segment of the Visions for Biodiversity Beyond 2010 conference. The conference, which ran from 7-9 September,

discussed preparations for the revision of the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity, post-evaluation of the 2010 Biodiversity Target, and addressed the links between biodiversity, ecosystem services and human wellbeing.

32. The Bureau welcomed Mr. Sukhdev to the meeting. Discussion between members of the COP-9 Bureau and Mr. Sukhdev focused on the economic arguments and policy options for supporting biodiversity and ecosystems, with regard to climate change adaptation and mitigation, as presented in the TEEB Climate Issues Update, and with particular emphasis on REDD plus.

33. The Executive Secretary underlined that the Convention on Biological Diversity must plan how to use the information emanating from TEEB. He made specific reference to the strategic plan, the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3), the post 2010 targets as well as protected areas management. The representative of Switzerland supported the Executive Secretary's intervention and highlighted the view that the Bureau must prepare Parties to take on board TEEB analysis. He further expressed the view that with respect to the financial mechanism, TEEB analysis should be used by the GEF when evaluating projects. He further suggested a joint meeting of the CBD and UNFCCC Bureaux, with participation of forestry experts, in order to arrive to a common understanding regarding definitions related to sustainable management of forests, which in turn could raise the comfort levels amongst Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The representative of UNEP informed Bureau members that UNEP's Division of Environmental Law and Conventions was funding the participation of approximately 20-25 forest experts in certain national delegations participating in the UNFCCC process.

34. There was general agreement regarding the fact that the TEEB study was a valuable tool and that it should be brought, in a more systematic manner, to the attention of the Parties and other relevant processes including UNFCCC. Enhancing communication flows with regard to the TEEB amongst Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was agreed upon.

35. In summation, the Bureau agreed that the President should send a letter to the incoming President of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, highlighting the latest TEEB report as well as the finding of the AHTEG proposing that the two bodies should seek opportunities to exchange views in the medium term, post Copenhagen. The representative of UNEP also proposed that a similar letter be sent by the Chair of SBSTTA to his counterpart in the SBSTA of the UNFCCC, reporting on the discussion that had occurred at the Bureau and inviting the possibility of enhanced working level communication in the post-Copenhagen, post-SBSTTA-14 period.

36. The COP-9 Bureau also welcomed the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change, which emanated from paragraph 12 (b) of decision IX/16, and authorized it to be presented as a CBD technical series paper to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen in December. The Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that the Secretariat would host a side event during the HLS segment of COP15 to present the results of the AHTEG report.

ITEM 5. REVISION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN: 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET AND POST-2010 TARGET

37. The Executive Secretary provided a summary status update to the Bureau, highlighting the fact that a synthesis and analysis of comments/contributions received was available. He indicated that, at the time of the Bureau meeting, 72 national reports received had been reviewed by the Secretariat, but that the Secretariat was hopeful that more would be received from Parties. As a first step, the upcoming joint meeting of COP-9 and SBSTTA Bureaux, on 7 November 2009 would allow for discussion on a way forward for the Strategic Plan, including endorsement of the framework and vetting of the Table of Contents. This framework would prove useful to the regional meetings on the post 2010 scenario being organized around the world, thanks to generous financial and organization support being provided by the European Union, the Government of Japan and UNEP. He expressed the hope that SBSTTA-14 in Nairobi would find the time in its heavy agenda to review and provide its input to the Strategic Plan.

38. The representative of Switzerland thanked the Executive Secretary for the overview presentation and expressed the hope that the draft of the new Strategic Plan would be made available soon. He impressed upon the Bureau the need to have access as soon as possible to the draft synthesis and the main elements of the updated Strategic Plan, stating that such a document would be useful in the upcoming Pan European Conference on Biodiversity and Landscape, which would involve the countries of Western and Eastern Europe. In response, the Executive Secretary advised Bureau members that the synthesis report would be made available. He went on to advise them that the Strategic Plan to be adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties should be integrated into revised NBSAP during the period 2010 to 2012 with a mid-term evaluation in 2015 and a final evaluation in 2020. It also suggested that the fifth and sixth national reports of Parties should be linked to mid-term and final evaluation of the implementation of the strategic plan.

39. The representative of Serbia expressed support for the regional strategy suggestions proposed by the Executive Secretary. The representative of Japan informed the Bureau of his country's national preparatory process regarding the post 2010 target, which includes a comprehensive stakeholder consultation exercise involving NGOs, business, the scientific community and localities. He indicated that in mid-October, the Government would host an international dialogue meeting on this issue in partnership with IUCN in Kobe, to be followed in mid-December by a meeting within the Asian region. The overall goal, he underlined, was to finalize the Japanese proposal on the post-2010 target by the end of 2009 such that Japan's views could be effectively incorporated into documents of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In order to inform the Bureau on the status of Japan's thinking on this issue, he circulated, for information, a preliminary draft of a non-paper that highlights the view that short-, mid- and long-term options are required in order to be able to move forward with concrete measures supported by quantitative indicators. The President thanked the representative of Japan for sharing his Government's thinking with the Bureau.

40. The representative of Malawi also expressed thanks to the representative of Japan. He reminded the Bureau that Strategic Plan requires Bureau endorsement prior to being submitted for consideration. He also underscored the need for the financial mechanism to fund eligible parties' enabling activities for the fifth and sixth national reporting cycle, and called for funding levels to be higher than that provided for the fourth national reporting exercise.

41. The representative of Sweden explained that during its tenure in the EU Presidency, Sweden had identified four priorities: climate change, biodiversity, oceans and an eco-efficient economy. These issues would be promulgated through a scientific conference on ecosystem services and human well-being, to be hosted by the Stockholm Resilience Centre, as well as through a policy-makers conference geared to national civil servants, with results contributing to the overall EU position regarding the Strategic Plan. With respect to the Chairman's report from the Strömstad conference, she indicated that it would highlight three key areas: (i) the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity, to encourage integration of full valuation; (ii) ecosystem services and poverty, linked to the MDG goals; and (iii) chart a new global vision for biodiversity in which the updated Strategic Plan would play a key role alongside governance and the biodiversity-climate change link. The Chairman's Report would be made available at www.se2009.eu.

42. The President sought to outline the formal next steps required in the workflow process on the Strategic Plan in the lead-up to Nagoya. He indicated that the November Bureau meeting would need to review the draft for distribution. He suggested to take advantage of the UNEP/GMEF meeting to be held in February 2010 in Bali, to engage Ministers as well as the United States of America in the discussion on the strategic plan.

43. The representative of Mexico informed members of a Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and Mexico, to be held in January 2010. The Forum agenda would include the outcomes of the UNFCCC COP-14, the Bali agenda and biodiversity and celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity. This meeting would provide an exclusive opportunity for Ministers to be briefed on the preparatory process for the Strategic Plan, as well as a valuable opportunity to reach agreement on a common position.

44. It was agreed that the process must remain inclusive throughout and must capture the partnership approach wherever possible. The architecture of the Strategic Plan, at the very least it's

indicative structure, must be made available in order that it can be taken into consideration in regional meetings beginning this autumn.

45. In closing discussion on this issue, the President requested that in preparation for the joint COP-9 and SBSTTA Bureaux meeting of 7 November 2009, documents be circulated in advance of the meeting.

ITEM 6 PREPARATIONS FOR THE THIRD GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK (GBO-3)

46. The Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that the zero draft of the GBO-3, based on data contained in 78 national reports received to date, had been circulated. A strategic in-house team at the Secretariat was now working on a review which would be presented to the Bureaux during the joint meeting on 7 November. He expressed thanks to the Chair and Bureau of SBSTTA for the efforts they had contributed to the process thus far. He informed the Bureau that a scientific review committee would meet in Montreal on 4-5 November to review GBO-3 with an objective eye. It will be chaired by Mr. Tom Lovejoy.

47. The Executive Secretary then explained to the members that despite generous support committed by the Executive Director of UNEP, funds for the GBO-3 communications strategy remained lacking. The GBO-3 communications strategy involved a release/launch in Nairobi at the outset of the meeting of SBSTTA-14, with simultaneous release/launches in Nairobi, Panama City, Bangkok, Geneva, Bonn, Rome, London, Paris, New York, Washington and other United Nations locations.

48. The representative of the Sudan queried the Executive Secretary as to how it would be possible to mobilize additional National Report submissions. The Executive Secretary underlined the fact that the Secretariat was reaching out on a continuous basis to Parties to encourage submissions and that there were only 18 Parties from whom no response had been received. The aim, he explained, was to have 100% submission by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Discussion then touched on ways in which countries not responding could be supported, with suggestions including assistance from regional colleagues, Ministerial contact, and access to donor funds in order to address and resolve technical assistance issues.

ITEM 8 PREPARATIONS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY, INCLUDING THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION: REVIEW OF THE CONCEPT NOTE

49. The Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that the IYB strategy was available on the web in all languages and that the logo had been released. He informed the Bureau that notifications had been sent out to all Parties and that a notification regarding the logo would soon be issued. He introduced the names of the individuals that had been chosen as Ambassadors for IYB from Brazil, Germany and Japan, and explained the basis for their selection. He further informed the Bureau that six IYB displays would be set up at UNEP's Regional Centres and that an exhibit would be organized with UNESCO, the posters of which would be distributed to all Governments. In November, a video message from the Secretary General, the Executive Director and the Executive Secretary, in all United Nations languages, would be released. The message would be screened by Air Canada and included in the in-flight magazine of Kenya Airways. At a meeting in Toulouse with representatives of airline companies on 15 October, screening of the video message would also be discussed. In addition, he informed the Bureau that Jean Lemire was launching a new voyage during which IYB and the Greenwave would be promoted. He also informed the bureau of the presentation called "Paradis Perdu" produced by Jean Lemire which would be presented in January 2010 in Montreal and would mark the launch of the IYB in Canada. He also referred to the High-Level Segment of the sixty-fifth session of United Nations General Assembly. IYB would close in Ishikawa prefecture, Japan, on 11-12 December 2010 and coincide with the launch of the new International Year on Forests, a ceremony that would be organized in partnership with the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). In the lead-up to IYB and throughout the year, there would be systematic communication to all

organizations hosting events, including those celebrating an international day, with which the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity could partner to promote IYB.

50. Interest was expressed to have posters provided to all countries. The representative of Mexico asked the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to send country-specific IYB messaging, as well as suggestions for activities at a national level that could be used over the course of the year. In response, the Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that 29 fact sheets would be prepared for use during IYB, with one specifically addressing ABS, and that 20 had already been finalized.

51. In response to a question regarding the role of the Ambassadors and the messages that they would convey, the Executive Secretary assured the Bureau that the Ambassadors TORs had been clearly spelled out and that they contained common objectives and messaging. He indicated that it was hoped that they would be officially designated by November so that they might meet with the Bureau on the margins of the eighth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing.

52. The representative of Cambodia informed the Bureau that during IYB her country would host a regional ABS consultation for Asia in February, funded by UNEP and the ASEAN Biodiversity Centre, which would be attended by the Deputy Prime Minister.

53. The President queried the status of the IYB Implementation Strategy, stating that some elements had been very precisely spelled out and others remained more general in nature. He also informed the Bureau that the IYB would be opened in Berlin in a ceremony involving the German Chancellor, and that the event was being organized in cooperation with the Secretariat and UNEP. The Executive Secretary concurred with the President that the official opening of IYB would indeed be held in Berlin. He indicated however, that there were opportunities available to promote the launch of IYB in the margins of other important events, namely an event on 8 January on the margins of the Cities and Biodiversity meeting being hosted in Curitiba, and the launch of the IYB exhibit at UNESCO in Paris, also in January. With respect to the question of the status of the IYB Implementation Strategy, the Executive Secretary reminded the Bureau that the IYB implementation strategy was a work in progress, based on the IYB strategy approved at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. He indicated that it would be regularly updated and posted on the Secretariat's website in English and French, and called upon the assistance of the Presidency and the Government of Japan to have the document made available in German and Japanese. The President requested that, for the Bureau's purposes, changes to the implementation strategy be provided in track changes so that new or changed activities were easily identifiable.

54. The Executive Secretary expressed the hope that each Bureau member would be in a position to organize a visible event to celebrate IYB in their country. The representative of Haiti indicated that he would seek to organize an event in cooperation with the Governments of Cuba and the Dominican Republic, and asked whether there might be funding available to support such activities. Although no discreet funding had been made available to support such IYB activities, the Executive Secretary suggested that individual donors may be interested in providing funds directly for IYB related activities.

55. The President on behalf of the Bureau congratulated the Executive Secretary for the excellent preparation of the IYB and asked him to convey the Bureau's sentiment of appreciation to the Secretariat's IYB team, as well as to all contributors to the process, and requested that the issue be an item on the agenda of future bureau meetings.

56. The Bureau then considered the revised concept note on the organization of the high-level segment of the sixty-fifth session of the UNGA prepared by the Executive Secretary. The President invited Bureau members to submit in writing, within the next 4 weeks, their final comments with a view of finalizing the note at the next meeting of the Bureau. The note will be sent to the office of the Secretary General by the Executive Secretary following the adoption in December by the sixty-fourth session of UNGA of the draft decision on this issue.

ITEM 9 PREPARING FOR COPENHAGEN (CONTRIBUTION OF THE CBD)

57. The Executive Secretary opened discussion on this agenda item by paying tribute to the participants of the AHTEG. The result of their work had yielded an impressive document, which had been cleared by experts. He explained that, pending the report's official consideration at SBSTTA-14, the report would be submitted to UNFCCC COP-15 as a technical series document. Further to previous discussion on this issue, he informed the Bureau that the technical series document would be presented at COP-15 high-level side event with the participation of the Presidency of the ninth and tenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the host countries of the two AHTEG meetings.

58. The Executive Secretary then took the opportunity to explain to the Bureau that the work had been completed with exceptional input from Secretariat staff, and expressed sincere thanks to Ms. Jaime Webbe for having managed to fulfill sixteen unfunded requests, involving 20 activities, made by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, as well as securing a secondment of 6 months to assist in covering the issue.

59. The AHTEG report was praised as an excellent document that, *inter alia*, provides a very valuable scientific basis against which to allow experts at the regional levels to continue their work. Discussion then focused on how best to forward the document to UNFCCC COP-15, with concern expressed that Bureau approval could not be provided in the absence of SBSTTA-14 endorsement. Ultimately, it was agreed that the report would be submitted to COP-15 as a technical series document, prefaced by a footnote from the Bureau that welcomes the report and authorizes its transmission to COP-15 as a technical series document.

60. The Presidency then stressed that the presentation of TEEB study findings to the UNFCCC COP Bureau should include a paragraph on the AHTEG report, accompanied by a call to encourage maximum use of its findings. In support, the representative of Switzerland reiterated the need to organize a meeting between the CBD COP 9 and UNFCCC COP 15 Bureaux, stressing that both the COP 9 and SBSTTA Bureaux stood ready to discuss with UNFCCC counterparts at the policy and scientific expert levels. The representative of Germany made reference to REDD Plus, underlining the obligation on the part of the Convention on Biological Diversity to engage in the process effectively. One possible approach espoused involves using the gap analysis tool under the programme of work on protected areas. The Executive Secretary responded that the Secretariat had issued a letter on 25 August to all Parties outlining ongoing pilot and demonstration activities at the national level in support of REDD. The Bureau took note of this and requested that all CBD national focal points be made aware of gap analysis activities within the context of REDD. The representative of Germany informed the Bureau that her Government had prepared a paper on gap analysis and REDD Plus which she would make available for distribution. The representative of Japan highlighted the need to accumulate and disseminate research results on climate change adaptation/mitigation activities and biodiversity in future.

61. In conclusion, the President requested the Executive Secretary to convey to Ms. Jaime Webb the deep appreciation of the Bureau for her outstanding contribution in servicing AHTEG and for her unique contribution in promoting biodiversity agenda within UNFCCC processes and enhancing the collaboration between the secretariats of the three Rio conventions.

ITEM 10. PREPARATIONS FOR THE TENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

62. The representative of Japan informed the Bureau that on 30 January 2010 his Government would host the second multi-stakeholder round table meeting in order to introduce efforts undertaken and share information regarding preparations for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Most recently, he informed members that in August, a two-level task force had been established: one level, made up of top civil servants, acting as the headquarters for COP-10 preparations; the other a working-level task force, appointed to act as the preparatory office for COP-10 which, the representative informed the Bureau, he had been nominated to oversee. With respect to the latter, MOE and MOFA would work in unison on preparations.

63. With respect to outreach and branding, he informed the Bureau that the COP-10 logo and slogan would be unveiled in October.
64. In terms of logistics, the Government continued to work in concert with the Secretariat and the Aichi/Nagoya Organizing Committee and that with respect to accommodations, a workshop for the online reservation service would be launched in the spring of 2010.
65. In order to be as inclusive as possible and make global issues and initiatives relevant at the local level, he indicated that the Aichi Prefecture and the City of Nagoya would use every opportunity possible to bring visibility to international efforts on biodiversity.
66. The President thanked the representative of Japan for the update, and recognized the contribution made by his Government to the post-2010 Strategic Plan discussion. The representative of Malawi, echoing the President, stated that he was impressed with the status of preparations but did raise two concerns: one regarding accommodation costs for funded participants; the other regarding assistance in securing visas. In response, the representative of Japan indicated that the preparatory office for COP-10, in concert with the Aichi/Nagoya Organizing Committee, would work to ensure that a full range of accommodations would be made available to participants. He also reported that MOFA had informed him that it would be impossible for participants to secure visas at ports of entry and that visas must therefore be obtained prior to arrival. The Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that the Secretariat would, as per usual, issue visa assistance letters to funded participants and, where necessary, would cover stop-over costs associated with obtaining a visa in a different country. He thanked Japan for communicating with its embassies to inform them, well in advance, of the Conference of the Parties and to encourage them to facilitate issuance of visas for funded participants.
67. The representative of Sweden asked whether exhibition space would be available, and received a positive response. With respect to the European Union coordination needs, she informed the representative of Japan that European Union coordination required an adequate conference room. The same request was made by the Malawi speaking on behalf of the African group.

ITEM 11. OTHER MATTERS

68. The Bureau discussed the fact that the views of the ABS Co-Chairs were imperative to discuss the strategy on ABS in the lead-up to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Bureau considered important to finalize the strategy as soon as possible. The President highlighted the fact that, prior to ABS-8, the Bureau will hold a one-day meeting during which the ABS Co-Chairs may present their strategy. The discussion will be held with a view of assisting the Co-Chairs in fulfilling their important responsibility and mobilizing the support of the respective regions to the suggested strategy.
69. The representative of Japan then made a presentation on the Satoyama Initiative. The Initiative advances socio-ecological production systems through the promotion of sustainable use of natural resources. It promotes 3 visions and identifies 5 perspectives through the involvement of 5 sets of stakeholders. He distributed an overview document that captures the overall essence of the Initiative and expressed the hope that the Satoyama Initiative would be actively promoted through international partnership.
70. The representative of Sweden thanked Japan and added that the Satoyama Initiative was inspirational in that it encompassed the fundamentals of the Convention on Biological Diversity, from its bottom-up approach to its call for sustainable use which was central to the second pillar of the Convention. She further suggested that the authors of the Satoyama Initiative made contact with the Swedish Resilience Centre in order to broaden its partnership potential.
71. The Bureau approved the agenda for the sixth meeting of the COP-9 Bureau, which will focus on the preparation of the sixth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) meeting. The meeting will be held on 1 November 2009 in Montreal, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Joke Waller Hunter conference room of the Secretariat.
72. The President expressed thanks to the Government of Sweden for hosting the COP-9 Bureau meeting on the margins of the Visions for Biodiversity conference. He expressed the view that both

meetings had been productive and that it had been very enjoyable to participate in the inauguration of the new Kosterhavet Marine National Park.

73. The meeting was closed at 1 p.m. on Thursday, 10 September.
