



CBD



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BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES
Dessau, Germany
11-12 January 2010

**MINUTES OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE 9TH CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY HELD IN
DESSAU, GERMANY 11-12 JANUARY 2010**

INTRODUCTION

1. The ninth meeting of the COP-9 Bureau was held on 11 - 12 January 2010 in Dessau, Germany after the launch of the International Year of Biodiversity in Berlin. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, who represented the President of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
2. The following Bureau members attended the meeting:
 - Ms. Somaly Chan (Cambodia)
 - Mr. Joseph Ronald Toussaint (Haiti)
 - Mr. Damaso Luna (Mexico)
 - Ms. Snežana Prokic (Serbia)
 - Dr. Abdelbagi Mukhtar (Sudan)
 - Ms. Asa Norrman (Sweden)
 - Mr. Robert Lamb (Switzerland)
 - Dr. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine)
3. Ms. Tania Temata, representative of the Cook Islands, and Professor James Seyani, the representative of Malawi, could not attend the meeting. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Masaki Suzuki (Director General, Nature Conservation Bureau in the Ministry of Environment), Mr. Kiyoshi Araki (Ambassador for COP10), and Mr. Masayoshi Mizuno, Director of the Global Environment Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, as ex-officio members of the Bureau, as the host of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Information from UNEP on relevant agenda items was circulated to the Bureau. Mr. Tim Hodges and Mr. Fernando Casas, the Co-Chairs of the ABS Working Group also attended. The Secretariat was represented by the Executive Secretary of the Convention, Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaf, Mr. David Ainsworth (Website Programme Officer) and Ms. Nandhini Iyer Krishna (CBD liaison officer in New York).

ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The President extended a warm welcome to all participants of the Bureau meeting to Dessau and earlier in the morning to the launch of the IYB in Berlin. The Executive Secretary and the Bureau expressed appreciation to Germany for the extraordinary, high profile launch of the IYB in Berlin and the participation by Chancellor Angela Merkel.

ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Update on the situation of trust funds BY, BE, BZ and VB
4. Preparation of the ninth meeting of the Ad hoc Open Ended Working Group on Access and benefit –sharing and regional consultations
5. Celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity
6. Preparation of the High Level Segment of the sixty – fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly
7. Preparations for the tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties
8. Other matters
9. Workshop: Protection of Marine Ecosystems
10. Closure of the meeting

ITEM 3: UPDATE ON THE SITUATION OF TRUST FUNDS BY, BE, BZ AND VB

6. The Executive Secretary briefed the Bureau and referred to the detailed documents that had been circulated to the Bureau. He clarified that funding for priority participants for ABSWG9 for LDCs and Africa had been received. He also briefed on the funding received so far for SBSTTA/WGRI, COP10 and participation of indigenous people.

7. Tim Hodges, Co-Chair of the Working Group on ABS, indicated his recollection that at the conclusion of WGABS8 that Canada had stated it would work to support the Co-Chairs' intersessional activities and indeed had already confirmed it would be assisting with the funding for the Friends of the Co-Chairs (FOCC) meeting and perhaps may also wish to consider covering DSA for the Co-Chairs' Informal Interregional Consultations (CIIC).

8. The Bureau expressed appreciation for the generosity of Canada.

9. In the discussions that ensued, points that emerged included a request for the Secretariat in line with decision XIII/10 to provide as early as possible cost estimates of envisaged activities to Parties so that approvals for financial decisions could be obtained for meaningful discussion at COP.

10. The President expressed concern for the constraints faced by the Secretariat without certainty in certain cases, of funding, even two weeks before a meeting was to be organized. There was a need for Parties to either provide adequate funding for activities or cut them down. There was a need to approach key donors ahead of COP 10. He expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Executive Secretary in reaching out to donors and urged that even more commitments by Parties should be requested.

ITEM 4: PREPARATION OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING (WGABS9) AND REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

11. The Executive Secretary briefed the Bureau on the finalisation of the venue for WGABS9 in Cali, Colombia. He referred to a meeting convened by the President with the Vice Minister of Colombia on the margins of the Copenhagen Summit, where Colombia had explained that it would make available the necessary funds by the end of January. UN rules provided that the finances for organising a meeting such as WGABS9 should be transferred at least three months in advance. Since their budgetary year began in January, Colombia had faced some difficulty in transferring the necessary funds last year. Colombia had given assurances that the funds would be transferred and the Host Country Agreement signed before the end of January. Therefore the invitations were being sent out. The Secretariat would be sending a team to see the facilities in Cali. The President paid tribute to the Executive Secretary for the flexibility he had shown to make this possible and stressed the importance of convening the last ABSWG meeting in a developing and megadiverse country.

12. Tim Hodges briefed the Bureau on developments since WGABS8. He referred to the UNU-IAS meeting on the sidelines of a meeting in Jakarta on Business and Biodiversity which had brought together users of genetic resources with a view to identifying solutions. The outcome would be made available on the UNU-IAS website shortly. The Co-Chairs had participated as observers and encouraged participants to see the ABS regime as an opportunity and he expressed the hope that users would carry feedback to their governments and that this would lead to adjustments in positions at the forthcoming negotiations. He then referred to a second meeting in Yokohama on ABS and the Strategic Plan. He stressed that the Strategic Plan would need to adequately include ABS if the Regime was to be implemented and the Plan credible. This would be important in building acceptance of ABS as a fundamental component of the CBD.

13. He referred to the upcoming regional consultations as well as the Asian group consultations which had recently been held in Siem Reap.

14. He also referred to the forthcoming meeting of the Friends of the Co-Chairs (FOCC) to be organised at the end of January in Montreal and expressed appreciation to Canada for its generous support and to the Co-Chairs' Informal Interregional Consultation (CIIC) scheduled for March.

15. Fernando Casas, Co-Chair, elaborated on the proposed FOCC. Nineteen friends from Parties had been identified by the Co-Chairs. They would be joined by 2 representatives each from industry, indigenous and local communities, public research and civil society, and also by one representative each from the COP9 and COP10 Presidencies as observers. A non paper would be circulated by the Co-Chairs as a basis for discussions and they would produce a Co-Chairs report on the FOCC for the CIIC.

16. Regarding the CIIC in Colombia in March, UN recognised regions would be invited to select 8 representatives, 5 as active participant representatives and 3 as advisors each. On request, during the CIIC, there would be flexibility for advisors to be switched with active participants. In addition, there would 3 representatives, 2 as active participants and 1 as an advisor each from indigenous and local communities, civil society, industry, and public research institutions. Therefore at the table there would be 52, 40 from Parties plus 12 from ILCs and stakeholders. Representatives of the COP 9 and COP 10 Presidencies would also be invited as observers.

17. Tim Hodges stressed that the CIIC would not seek to replicate the WG. Both the FOCC and the CIIC were intended to facilitate the work of the WGABS9 since a draft text of the ABS regime/protocol would need to be provided to Parties six months in advance of the COP, i.e. no later than 19 April 2010, in accordance with Article 28 of the Convention, if the objective is to adopt the ABS regime/Protocol at Nagoya. He flagged the need for WGABS9 to also work on the decision to be adopted on the ABS regime at COP10 along with the draft regime.

18. Fernando Casas also reminded the Bureau that since ABS was the third objective of the CBD, ABS needed to be integrated into all other relevant decisions e.g. the budget, programmes of work, strategic plan.

19. Tim Hodges summarised the briefing by stating that the Co-Chairs would provide to the Bureau shortly, the final list of Friends of the Co-Chairs, the non paper for the FOCC and the notification for the CIIC.

20. The points that emerged during the discussion included the following: the importance of transparency was flagged; need for balance between indigenous and local communities; clarifications were sought on the link between the various meetings; how the Asian group would nominate and send its nominations since its consultations had concluded; clarifications on the nature of the Co-Chairs report; funding for participation of developing country participants.

21. The representative of Switzerland requested that the number of representatives from regions, for the CIIC be increased at least by one or two to 6 to 7 with the addition of the 3 advisors and that this request, from the JUSCANZ be put on record. He reminded the Bureau that JUSCANZ had certain constraints since it was not a negotiating block. This group has a broad range of views that need to be well represented at the CIIC for the benefits of its positive outcome.

22. In response, the Co-Chairs clarified that the FOCC and CIIC were not intended to replace the ABSWG9. The FOCC would be tasked with suggesting solutions and the Co-Chairs report would reflect ideas that were generated as also an assessment on areas/issues where no solutions were suggested/feasible. The CIIC would be tasked with consolidating text. On the composition of the CIIC, the Co-Chairs indicated that they were cognizant of the desire of some regions/groups (including but not limited to JUSCANZ) to expand participation and for this very

reason they had allowed for the rotation between participants and advisors. The Co-Chairs stated that beyond this flexibility they were not inclined to expand the numbers further and, on the basis of advice from Bureau members, they would not allow additional observers (given they could be distracting to the process). They expressed thanks for the important proposal of the representative of Switzerland, on behalf of JUSCANZ, and expressed the hope that JUSCANZ and others would recognise their efforts to respond to JUSCANZ request by allowing for the exchange between participants and advisors from regions.

23. The Executive Secretary pointed out that once the notification had been finalised and the Secretariat had the nominations, it would assist in facilitating visas and would liaise with some donors for funding.

24. When the discussions resumed in the morning of 12 January on this agenda item, the President invited feedback from the Bureau on the assessments in their regions on the outcome of ABSWG8.

25. Bureau members briefed on the upcoming regional consultations. Points that emerged included the importance of consultations among and between regions, and bilateral.

26. Fernando Casas, Co-Chair, also requested the Bureau to convey the message that Parties come to the FOCC and CIIC with an open mind rather than using the meetings to reiterate positions.

27. The President summarised the discussions by stating that the Bureau would await from the Co-Chairs the final list of the Friends of the Co-Chairs and the non paper for the FOCC meeting. The notification for the CIIC would be finalised shortly by the Co-Chairs and to be sent and issued by the Secretariat.

ITEM 5: CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY

28. The Executive Secretary briefed the Bureau on the activities planned in celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity. He paid tribute to Germany for the launch of the IYB in Berlin and the importance of Chancellor Merkel's statement on that occasion. He referred to the launch of the IYB in Brazil on 8 January following the meeting on Cities and Biodiversity on 6 and 7 January in Curitiba. A ceremony, including the organisation of a major seminar, was planned in Aichi Nagoya on 16 January. He also referred to the forthcoming Aichi Nagoya E-conference, the simultaneous launch of GBO3 in Nairobi, London, Paris, Bonn, Tokyo and all the Regional Commissions in May on the eve of SBSTTA, the proposed interview of the Co-Chair of GBO3, Tom Lovejoy, on internet television which would have a wide audience, the agreement by KLM, Air Canada, Air Algérie, JAL and Lufthansa to profile IYB in their inflight publications and videos. Airbus would carry the IYB logo on the fuselage of its Airbus 380 at the forthcoming prestigious aero fair. The Executive Secretary indicated that no budget for IYB activities had been identified at COP 9. He paid tribute to the generosity of Japan and Canada which had made possible the activities envisaged. He also paid a tribute to the OMG team led by David Ainsworth for their work in this regard and referred to the information note that had been circulated to the Bureau on the status of preparations for the IYB by Parties.

29. The representative of the Secretariat, Mr. David Ainsworth supplemented the briefing and provided additional information on the communication products including the logo, the main

messages as also the video and print products being evolved, the IYB website, Facebook page, and the expected dissemination of IYB messages by many airlines, media such as the CNN. Bureau members were requested to encourage Parties in their regions to also organize IYB events.

30. The Executive Secretary also briefed the Bureau on the latest status on the proposal for the Secretary General to appoint an honorary Ambassador for the IYB. A proposal from the triple Presidency had been forwarded to the Secretary General's office in August and then revised in November. The Secretary General's office had requested the UN Division of Public Information to identify possible candidates, preferably high profile celebrities. However, the celebrity identified had declined. It was hoped that an announcement on the appointment of an IYB Ambassador would be made as soon as possible, preferably before the celebration of the IYB being organized by UNDP on 10 February.

31. The representative of Japan, Mr. Masaki Suzuki, briefed the Bureau on the preparations for the IYB in Japan, including setting up of a domestic committee and the closing ceremony.

32. In the discussions that ensued, the link to International Year of Forests (IYF) in 2011 was stressed. The Executive Secretary clarified that this had already been addressed. A MOU had been signed with UNFF in Copenhagen providing for staff exchanges and collaboration on IYF. UNFF would contribute to the closing of the IYB although they would have an official IYF launch in New York. The Secretariat was also gearing up for 2012 which would coincide with the 20th anniversary of the opening of the CBD for signature.

33. The President summarised the discussion by paying a tribute to the Executive Secretary and his team for the excellent work that had already been done on the activities planned for the IYB, which were especially noteworthy given the budgetary constraints.

ITEM 6: PREPARATIONS OF THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE SIXTY FIFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

34. The Executive Secretary briefed the Bureau on developments since the last meeting of the Bureau, including his visit to New York and the adoption of resolution 64/203 by the UNGA. He pointed out that resolution 64/203 was very substantive. The UNGA had decided that the CBD High level event should be convened as close as possible to the opening of the general debate of the UNGA. The UNGA had also decided to convene a MDG Summit from 20-22 September and the had also decided to exceptionally postpone the opening of the general debate by two days to 23 September. The possibility of attracting participation of HOS/G on the preceding (18-19 September) or succeeding weekend (19 September) were limited. Therefore the Group of 77 had proposed that one of the panel planned for the high level event i.e. on biodiversity and its contribution to the MDGs be convened in the afternoon of 22 September thereby contributing to the MDG Summit. The other two panels could be convened in the morning of 23 September after the formal opening of the general debate which would then be suspended for two hours. The President of the General Assembly was expected to undertake informal consultations on this shortly.

35. The Executive Secretary expressed appreciation for the generous financial support of Switzerland of US\$ 50,000 for a retreat to be organised at the Rockefeller Centre in Bellagio in

preparation for the High Level Event and brainstorm on possible elements for the Chair's summary. It was also intended to invite all previous COP Presidents up to the COP11 to provide inputs. He also indicated that the possibility of a dinner on 22 September and a lunch on 23 September were being explored so that discussions at the High Level Event on biodiversity could continue in a more informal setting.

36. The representative of Japan, Mr. Kiyoshi Araki, indicated that the High Level Event on biodiversity should attract HOS/G participation. He indicated that Japan supported the proposal to convene a panel on biodiversity in the afternoon of 22 September. But the feedback from experts on the suspension of the general debate on 23 September was that this might not be feasible. In such an eventuality, other options could be explored such as reconvening of the CBD event on 25 September. It should also be ensured that the event does not attract any programme budget implications.

37. The Executive Secretary clarified that even the postponement of the general debate was unprecedented and that suspension of the general debate for two hours therefore had a precedent. But in case the need arose, other options such as reconvening of the CBD event on 25 September could also be explored.

38. The President summarised the discussions by stating that the Bureau had discussed and noted the proposal made by the Group of 77 which presented a unique opportunity to ensure the highest level of participation in High level event on Biodiversity during the UNGA. This was essential for the success of the event for the High level event presented a unique opportunity to raise the profile of biodiversity issues which would not occur again. He suggested that the Secretariat continue to liaise with authorities in New York and offered to coordinate closely with Japan.

39. In view of other official commitments, Mr. Flasbarth requested Ms. Nicola Breier to chair the discussions on the remaining agenda items.

ITEM 7: PREPARATIONS FOR THE TENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES

40. The representative of Japan, Mr. Masaki Suzuki, briefed the Bureau on preparations for COP 10 and indicated that they were working closely with the Secretariat and that information on hotels etc. would soon be ready for dispatch with the invitation. An onsite visit by representatives from the Secretariat was expected in January. Efforts were being made to try to ensure that hotel rates were economical and that transportation to and from the conference venue be facilitated by public transport. He indicated that information was expected to be ready for dispatch to Parties in early April.

41. Issues raised in the discussion that ensued included the cost of hotel accommodation, how early hotel rooms needed to be reserved, need for information on transport to and from the conference venue, the need for additional members for developing countries delegations to be funded, given the ABS negotiations and the need for mobilisation of enhanced voluntary funding for this purpose, as also the issue of facilitation of visas.

42. The President summarised the discussions by stating that concerns on the issue of visas, as also additional funding for developing country delegations, would be put on record.

ITEM 8: OTHER MATTERS

43. Under this agenda item, a detailed note on the status of preparations of the 4th National Reports including an analysis of the 85 plus 13 advance drafts of national reports received was made available to the Bureau.

44. Under this agenda item, the representative of Sweden indicated that it would be useful for the Bureau to reflect on the outcome of UNFCCC Copenhagen Summit and its implications for CBD, as also to undertake a stocktaking of existing links and actions.

45. In the discussions that ensued, points that emerged included the need for this issue to be included in the next meeting of the joint COP-SBSTTA Bureaux, the need for the next SBSTTA and WGRI meetings preparing for a decision/inputs from COP10 on REDD plus, the need for a joint meeting of the CBD and UNFCCC COP and SBSTTA/SBSTA Bureaux, opportunity presented by the High Level Event on CBD planned for the 65th UNGA in which one of the panels was intended to focus on links between climate change and biodiversity, the possibility of the representative of Mexico serving as a link since they would host the next UNFCCC COP and the need for the Bureau to reflect on the need to adjust to the new evolving environment architecture including the proposal for a World Environment Organisation as proposed by Chancellor Merkel in her speech at the inauguration of the IYB and its implications for biodiversity.

46. The President summarised the discussions on the above issue by stating that it would be put on the agenda of the next meeting of the Bureau in Cali. The Secretariat in the meantime would undertake to provide an updated information note on the status of various ongoing initiatives e.g. letter from CBD COP Bureau to UNFCCC COP Bureau. The Secretariat was also tasked with preparing an analysis of the implications of the outcome of the Copenhagen Summit for the CBD, as a basis for discussion at the next meeting of the Bureau.

47. The representative of Japan, Mr. Kiyoshi Araki, introduced the proposal developed by Japan for the post 2010 targets, which was circulated, and expressed the hope that this would be suitably integrated into the Strategic Plan being prepared by the Secretariat. Mr. Masayoshi Mizuno elaborated on the proposal pointing out that the focus in the Japanese proposal was on “means of implementation” and requested members of the Bureau to assist in disseminating and consulting on the proposal among their regions.

48. In the discussions that ensued, points that were made included, the need for a robust target on ABS to be included, appreciation for the Japanese proposal to assist developing countries and request for feedback on the Tokyo workshop on the Strategic Plan.

49. The President summarised the discussions and conveyed appreciation to Japan for its detailed proposal.

ITEM 9: WORKSHOP: PROTECTION OF MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

50. Under the aegis of the Presidency, three detailed presentations were made on different aspects of the protection of marine ecosystems. This was followed by an intense question and

answer session. Appreciation was expressed by all Bureau members for the quality of the presentation and for the Presidency in organising such a workshop.

51. The President summarised the discussions under this agenda item by stating that the presentations would be made available on the CBD website, in the link devoted to the Bureau.

ITEM 10: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

52. The meeting was closed at 13:00 on Tuesday, 12 January.
