

**CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY**

Distr.  
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/6/5  
27 November 2001

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
Sixth meeting  
The Hague, 7-19 April 2002  
Item 10 of the provisional agenda\*

**REPORT OF THE OPEN-ENDED INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON THE STRATEGIC  
PLAN, NATIONAL REPORTS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY****INTRODUCTION****A. *Background***

1. In paragraph 38 of its decision V/20, adopted at its fifth meeting, held in Nairobi from 15 to 26 May 2000, the Conference of the Parties decided “to hold an open-ended inter-sessional meeting, to assist with the preparations for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The meeting will be of three days duration and is to be held in conjunction with an existing meeting. The meeting will consider, and to the extent possible develop draft elements of decisions on the following topics:

“(a) Preparation of the Strategic Plan for the Convention;

“(b) The second national reports; and

“(c) Means to support implementation of the Convention and, in particular, implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans.”

2. Pursuant to that decision, the Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reports and Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity was held from 19 to 21 November 2001 at the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal, immediately following the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSSTA).

3. Financial support for the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition was provided by Denmark, the European Commission, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

\* UNEP/CBD/COP/6/1 and Corr.1/Rev.1.

## ***B. Attendance***

4. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Parties and countries: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, European Community, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Slovakia Republic, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Zimbabwe.

5. Observers from the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and other bodies also attended: Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC).

6. The following were also represented by observers: Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, BirdLife International, BirdLife International/Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Greenpeace International, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), IUCN—The World Conservation Union, Lawyer's Environment Action Team (LEAT), McGill University, Observatoire d'Écopolitique International, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

### **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES**

7. The Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting was opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 19 November 2001 by Mr. Reuben Olembo (Kenya) on behalf of the President of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Welcoming the participants, Mr. Olembo said that there was a need to improve the strategic focus of the Conference of the Parties and to enhance the tools available to it. It was therefore necessary for the current meeting to deliver to the Conference of the Parties a package of recommendations that were strategic and mutually reinforcing. Taking place against the backdrop of the ten-year review of progress since the Earth Summit, the meeting was crucial. The Convention on Biological Diversity had an important role to play in reaffirming that global environmental issues, and biodiversity in particular, were absolutely central to the poverty-eradication and global-security agendas. It had an enormous responsibility in present circumstances to ensure that the political will to address global environmental problems was reinforced at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It therefore needed to be seen to be moving ahead vigorously towards agreed strategic objectives. Therein lay the importance of the meeting.

8. Opening statements were also made by Mr. Paul Chabeda, Division of Environmental Conventions of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), speaking on behalf of Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, and by Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

9. Mr. Chabeda stressed the importance of the current inter-sessional work in the context of build-up of momentum toward the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the ongoing debate on the

nature and form of international environmental governance for the post-World Summit era. A strong and visionary strategic plan that synthesized and crystallized relevant priority issues would give the Convention on Biological Diversity a critical role in how Governments around the world elaborated and implemented actions on conservation, sustainable use, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from biodiversity for the future. Similarly, the reports of Parties to the Convention should faithfully reflect the Strategic Plan's message, mission, vision and priorities. Mr. Chabeda highlighted the importance of a strategy for popularizing the Convention. A Strategic Plan that was a useful implementation tool and included an effective campaign for marketing the Convention would be a significant contribution to the package of products with which the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting could make the point that the Convention on Biological Diversity had come of age and was ready to spread a harmonized message to grassroots audiences and policy makers worldwide.

10. Mr. Zedan expressed his gratitude to Denmark, the European Commission, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom for their financial contributions in support of the participation of many developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Noting that the need to enhance implementation of the Convention had been clearly stated on many occasions, he said that it was all the more important in the time leading up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Much had already been achieved under the Convention. Nevertheless, biodiversity was being destroyed at an unprecedented rate. The challenge of the meeting was to find ways to improve the functioning of the Convention process, to give it a long-term focus, and to consider ways to support implementation. By producing proposals that reflected a consensus among all Parties on the future direction of the Convention, the present meeting would not only expedite the work of the Conference of the Parties, but would also send a clear signal to the World Summit that the Convention on Biological Diversity had the vitality and dynamism necessary to address the challenges of achieving sustainable development.

## **ITEM 2: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

### ***2.1 Election of officers***

11. The Bureau of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties served as the Bureau of the Inter-Sessional Meeting.

### ***2.2 Adoption of the agenda***

12. At its 1st plenary session, on 19 November 2001, the Inter-Sessional Meeting adopted the following agenda, on the basis of the provisional agenda that had been circulated as document UNEP/CBD/MSP/1:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
  - 2.1. Election of officers;
  - 2.2. Adoption of the agenda;
  - 2.3. Organization of work.
3. Strategic Plan for the Convention.
4. National reports.

5. Implementation of the Convention, in particular, implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
6. Operations of the Convention.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report.
9. Closure of the meeting.

### **2.3 Organization of work**

13. At its 1st plenary session, on 19 November 2001, the Inter-Sessional Meeting decided to establish two working groups: Working Group I, under the chairmanship of Mr. Peter Schei (Norway) to consider item 3 (Strategic Plan for the Convention) and Working Group II, under the chairmanship of Ms. Elaine Fisher (Jamaica) to consider item 4 (National reports), item 5 (Implementation of the Convention, in particular, implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans) and item 6 (Operations of the Convention).

14. During the adoption of the organization of work, the representative of Haiti, speaking on behalf of the Latin America and Caribbean Group, expressed reservations with regard to the proposal to have two working groups, believing that such an arrangement made it difficult for one-person delegations to fully follow the proceedings.

15. In the ensuing discussion, statements were made by Argentina, Belgium (speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States), Cameroon, Colombia, Cuba, Jordan (speaking on behalf of the Asian and Pacific Group), Norway (speaking on behalf of JUSCANZ), Slovenia (speaking on behalf of the Central and Eastern Europe Group), and Rwanda (speaking on behalf of the African Group).

16. Following the discussion, the Inter-Sessional Meeting agreed to proceed as originally proposed, but to reconvene in plenary the following day to assess whether to continue in that fashion.

### **ITEM 3: STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CONVENTION**

17. Agenda item 3 was taken up at the 1st plenary session of the meeting, on 19 November 2001. The meeting had before it a note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/MSP/2), containing a draft version of the Strategic Plan, as well as a summary of the background to the item. It also had before it, as an information document, a glossary of terms used in the Strategic Plan prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/MSP/INF/1).

18. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) said that it was the role of the Subsidiary Body to contribute input to the development of the Strategic Plan, so that it could be developed on the basis of the best possible scientific and technical information. That was important in particular both because the Strategic Plan was intended to be results-oriented rather than process-oriented and because the rate of change in biological diversity was proving to be more rapid than had been expected. He suggested that, to be effective, the Strategic Plan should be restricted to a small number of significant items.

19. The representative of the Seychelles presented the results of the Workshop on the Strategic Plan which had been held in the Seychelles in May 2001. Those conclusions were contained in document UNEP/CBD/WS-StratPlan/5, which had been widely circulated, and which had been incorporated into the

draft Strategic Plan in the note by the Executive Secretary on the subject. Expressing confidence that the outcome of the Workshop had provided a solid basis for the development of the Strategic Plan, he suggested that the present meeting should concentrate on the overarching principles of it, as contained in the vision and the mission statement. He pointed out that the draft contained suggestions for actions grouped around agreed goals and objectives, together with a few key outcome-oriented objectives.

20. Statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Belgium (speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States), Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Mexico, Namibia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

21. Statements were also made by the representatives of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

22. Statements were also made by the representatives of BirdLife International and Greenpeace International.

23. The item was then taken up by Working Group I at its 1st meeting, on 19 November 2001.

24. At the 2nd plenary session of the meeting, on 20 November, the Chair of Working Group I reported that the first four sections of the draft Strategic Plan had been addressed and added to in the Working Group. The revised version had then been circulated at the 2nd meeting of the Working Group as a Chair's text. Fruitful debate had taken place on operational goals linked to cross-cutting issues, but discussion on goals linked to the three main dimensions of the Convention required more strategic focus. Based on informal comments gathered from members by the Chair, the Working Group had decided that actions and activities would not be included in the Strategic Plan, since they were the purview of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and regional work. Issues linked to communications and the scope of the Strategic Plan's vision remained outstanding. The Chair of Working Group I announced that another draft document would be produced based on the work of the Working Group at its 3rd meeting. The draft would be reviewed by the Working Group at its 4th meeting, for submission to the plenary at its 3rd session.

25. At its 4th meeting, on 21 November 2001, the Working Group considered a draft recommendation submitted by the Chair on the Strategic Plan. After an exchange of views, the Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/MSP/L.2.

26. At the 3rd plenary session of the meeting on 21 November 2001, the Inter-Sessional Meeting took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/MSP/L.2 and adopted it, as orally amended, as recommendation 1. The text of the recommendation is contained in the annex to the present report.

27. During the adoption of recommendation 1 and in the course of discussions on the subject in Working Group I, reservations were expressed regarding the text of section B of the draft Strategic Plan (Mission Statement) by the representatives of Australia, Brazil, Jamaica, the Seychelles and South Africa.

#### **ITEM 4: NATIONAL REPORTS**

28. Agenda item 4 was taken up by Working Group II at its 2nd meeting, on 20 November 2001. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on national reports (UNEP/CBD/MSP/3). It also had before it the following information documents:

/...

(a) Harmonization of information management and reporting for biodiversity-related treaties: background paper for the third meeting of the Environmental Management Group (UNEP/CBD/MSP/INF/2);

(b) Harmonization of national reporting: report submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/CBD/MSP/INF/3);

(c) Preliminary synthesis of second national reports (UNEP/CBD/MSP/INF/4).

29. At the 2nd plenary of the meeting on 20 November 2001, the Chair of Working Group II reported that the Working Group had taken up agenda item 4 at its 2nd meeting, on 20 November 2001. A draft recommendation on national reports, produced by the Chair, would also be distributed to Working Group II on 21 November 2001. Working Group II had decided to suspend its work to allow its members to attend the discussion of outstanding issues related to the Strategic Plan at the 3rd meeting of Working Group I.

30. At its 3rd meeting, on 21 November 2001, Working Group II considered the draft recommendation on national reports. After an exchange of views, the Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/MSP/L.3.

31. At the 3rd plenary session of the meeting on 21 November 2001, the Inter-Sessional Meeting took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/MSP/L.3 and adopted it as recommendation 2. The text of the recommendation is contained in the annex to the present report.

#### **ITEM 5: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION, IN PARTICULAR, IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY ACTIONS IN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS**

32. Agenda item 5 was taken up by Working Group II at its 1st meeting, on 19 November 2001. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on implementation of the Convention, in particular, implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans (UNEP/CBD/MSP/4).

33. In her progress report to the 2nd plenary session of the meeting, the Chair of Working Group II reported that the Working Group had considered item 5 at its 1st meeting, on 19 November 2001. The Chair had then produced a draft recommendation on implementation of the Convention, which had been amended at the Working Group's 2nd meeting on 20 November 2001. A revised draft of the chair's recommendation would be presented to the Working Group for final review at its 3rd meeting, on 21 November 2001.

34. At its 3rd meeting, on 21 November 2001, the Working Group considered the revised draft recommendation on implementation of the Convention. After an exchange of views, the Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/MSP/L.4.

35. At the 3rd plenary session of the meeting on 21 November 2001, the Inter-Sessional Meeting took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/MSP/L.4 and adopted it as recommendation 3. The text of the recommendation is contained in the annex to the present report.

**ITEM 6: OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION**

36. Agenda item 6 was taken up by Working Group II at its 1st meeting, on 19 November 2001. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on operations of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/MSP/5).

37. In her progress report to the 2nd plenary session of the meeting, on 20 November, the Chair of Working Group II reported that the Working Group had considered item 6 at its 1st meeting, on 19 November 2001. The Chair had then produced a draft recommendation on the operations of the Convention, which had been amended at the Working Group's 2nd meeting on 20 November 2001. A revised draft of the Chair's recommendation would be presented to the Working Group for final review at its 3rd meeting, on 21 November 2001.

38. At its 3rd meeting, on 21 November 2001, the Working Group considered the revised draft recommendation on operations of the Convention. After an exchange of views, the Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/MSP/L.5.

39. At the 3rd plenary session of the meeting on 21 November 2001, the Inter-Sessional Meeting took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/MSP/L.5 and adopted it, as orally amended, as recommendation 4. The text of the recommendation is contained in the annex to the present report.

**ITEM 7: OTHER MATTERS*****World Summit on Sustainable Development***

40. At the 3rd plenary session of the meeting on 21 November 2001, the Inter-Sessional Meeting took up a draft recommendation on the World Summit on Sustainable Development submitted by the Chair of Working Group II (UNEP/CBD/MSP/L.6). The draft recommendation was adopted as recommendation 5. The text of the recommendation is contained in the annex to the present report.

***Expression of gratitude to the chairs of the working groups***

41. At the 3rd plenary session of the meeting on 21 November 2001, the Inter-Sessional Meeting expressed its gratitude for the hard work done by the chairs of the working groups.

**ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

42. The present report was adopted at the 3rd plenary session of the meeting, on the basis of the draft report that had been circulated as document UNEP/CBD/MSP/L.1.

**ITEM 9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

43. A closing statement was made by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

44. Statements were also made by the representatives of Argentina, Belgium (on behalf of the European Community and its member States), Brazil, Jamaica (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean group), Jordan (on behalf of the Asian and Pacific group), Slovenia (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European group), and Togo (on behalf of the African group).

45. Statements were also made by the representatives of Greenpeace International and of Lawyers' Environment Action Team.

46. The Chair of the Inter-Sessional Meeting also made a closing statement, and declared the meeting closed at 5.40 p.m. on Wednesday, 21 November 2001.



*Annex*

**RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE OPEN-ENDED INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING  
ON THE STRATEGIC PLAN, NATIONAL REPORTS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

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## 1. *Strategic Plan for the Convention*

*The Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reports and Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity,*

Noting that the recommendations of the current meeting may need to be adjusted in the light of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting,

1. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting consider the following elements of a draft decision with a view to their adoption:

*“The Conference of the Parties,*

1. *Takes note of* the conclusions of the Seychelles Workshop on the Strategic Plan;
2. *Adopts* the issue, mission statement, vision, constraints and operational goals contained in the annex to the present decision as the Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity;
3. *Urges* Parties, States, intergovernmental organizations and other organizations to review their activities, especially their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, where appropriate, in the light of this Plan.”
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with Parties and other relevant actors, if needed, parameters as outlined in paragraph 15 of decision V/20 for as many of the operational goals of the Strategic Plan for the Convention as possible before the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
3. *Invites* Parties, States, intergovernmental organizations and other organizations to provide input to the development of parameters as outlined in paragraph 15 of decision V/20 in time for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties by no later than 31 January 2002.
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties a multi-year programme of work for the Conference of the Parties up to 2010, on the basis of decision IV/16, suggestions by Parties received by 1 March 2002 and taking into account recommendation VII/12 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, on topics for future work.

### *Annex to recommendation 1*

## **DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

### **A. *The issue***

*Biodiversity is the living foundation for sustainable development*

1. Biodiversity—the variability within and among living organisms and the systems they inhabit—is the foundation upon which human civilization has been built. In addition to its intrinsic value, biodiversity provides goods and services that underpin sustainable development in many important ways. First, it supports the ecosystem functions essential for life on Earth, such as the provision of fresh water, soil conservation and climate stability. Second, it provides products such as food, medicines and materials for industry. Finally, biodiversity is at the heart of many cultural values.

*The rate of loss still accelerating*

2. The rate of biodiversity loss is increasing at an unprecedented rate, threatening the very existence of life as it is currently understood. The maintenance of biodiversity is a necessary condition for sustainable development and as such constitutes one of the great challenges of the modern era.

*The major threats must be addressed*

3. Addressing the major threats to biodiversity will require long-term and fundamental changes in the way resources are used and benefits are distributed. Achieving this adjustment will require broad-based action among a wide range of actors.

*The Convention is an essential instrument for achieving sustainable development*

4. The importance of the biodiversity challenge was universally acknowledged at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which met in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and through the development of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In ratifying the Convention, the Parties have committed themselves to undertaking national and international measures aimed at its achieving three objectives: the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

*Achievements*

5. Since the adoption of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties has met several times and, on each occasion, through its decisions has taken steps to translate the general provisions of the Convention into practical action. This process has initiated national action plans in over 100 countries, raised awareness about biodiversity and led to the adoption of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, a landmark treaty which provides an international regulatory framework for the safe transfer handling and use of any living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology.

*The challenges*

6. The implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity has been impeded by many obstacles as outlined in the appendix hereto. A fundamental challenge for the Convention lies in the broad scope of its three objectives. The need to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources across all sectors of the national economy, the society and the policy making framework is a complex challenge at the heart of the Convention. This will mean cooperation with many different actors, such as regional bodies and organizations. Integrated management of natural resources, based on the ecosystem approach, is the most effective way to promote this aim of the Convention.

7. The scope of the Convention means that the provision by developed country Parties of resources to implement the Convention is critical and essential.

8. The Strategic Plan can promote broad-based action by bringing about a convergence of actions around agreed goals and collective objectives.

**B. Mission statement**

9. To ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the components biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, as a means to achieve [sustainable development] and improve human well-being and health.

### **C. *Vision\****

#### *Option 1*

10. [The long-term vision is to effectively halt the loss of biodiversity at the national and global level.] Parties commit themselves to pursuing the following vision by 2010 in a strongly interrelated and collective manner to promote the holistic [approach] [implementation] of the Convention:

- Current rate of biodiversity loss is effectively reduced at the global, regional, subregional and national levels;
- Sustainable use of biodiversity, through the effective implementation of sustainable practices, is integrated in all sectors and continues to provide a base for food security, [sustainable livelihoods] and human health;
- The benefits arising from the use of [biological] [genetic] resources and associated traditional knowledge, innovations and practices are shared equitably in order to promote conservation of biological diversity, food security, human health and contribute to the alleviation of poverty, through appropriate mechanisms such as the transfer of technology and adequate financing.
- Availability of new and additional financial resources and increased access to new technologies and capacity-building mechanisms.]

#### *Option 2*

10. [These three elements of the vision reflecting the main pillars of the Convention are strongly interrelated and are aimed at a coherent and [holistic] implementation of the overall objectives of the Convention as set out in Article 1:

- The loss of biological diversity is effectively halted at the national and global level;
- Sustainable use of biodiversity is integrated into all sectors and provides a base for food security and sustainable livelihoods;
- The benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge are shared fairly and equitably.]

### **D. *Constraints***

11. The implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity has been hampered by many obstacles and challenges which are outlined in the appendix hereto. Addressing these obstacles and challenges will provide opportunities for action and achieving the aims of the Plan.

12. These challenges include:

- (a) Political/societal obstacles;
- (b) Institutional, technical and capacity-related obstacles;
- (c) Lack of accessible knowledge/information;

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\* The Meeting did not have time to fully consider the options.

- (d) Economic policy and financial resources;
- (e) Collaboration/cooperation;
- (f) Legal/judicial impediments;
- (g) Socio-economic factors;
- (h) Natural phenomena and environment change.

***E. Operational goals***

13. *Cross-cutting operational goals:*

1.1 Parties have a national biodiversity strategy and action plan, revised as needed, in place and under implementation that is adequately integrated into other national sectoral strategies and planning instruments related to biodiversity.

1.2 Biodiversity concerns are integrated nationally, regionally and internationally into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

1.3 [Increased financial, human and technical resources are [made available] [provided by developed country Parties and other donors to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition] to elaborate, revise and implement this Strategic Plan.]

1.4 Increased capacity-building support for implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategy and action plans is provided. Technical and scientific cooperation to implement strategic plan is promoted and facilitated through the clearing-house mechanism, as well as other mechanisms.

1.5 Key actors and stakeholders in the national implementation of the Convention have increased awareness and are actively supporting and involved in implementation.

1.6 The Convention is playing its leadership role in international biodiversity issues in cooperation with other conventions that support its implementation; other international processes shall actively support its implementation consistent with their respective frameworks.

1.7 Mechanisms are enhanced and fully mobilized to promote increased understanding of biodiversity and to develop and transfer improved biodiversity management techniques and research findings, and decisions are made on the basis of the best available science and traditional knowledge systems.

1.8 The Convention and Parties have better methods to monitor and evaluate progress in implementation of the Convention, to enable Parties, the Conference of the Parties and other bodies to assess the effectiveness of actions and measures taken to achieve the objectives of Convention.

1.9 The relationship between biodiversity and poverty is examined and its sustainable role in poverty alleviation is promoted and the negative effect of poverty on biological diversity is mitigated.

1.10 Communication, education and public awareness are used effectively to increase broad understanding of biodiversity, thus facilitating the full implementation of the Convention.

1.11 Tools are developed for the economic valuation of ecological goods and services provided by biological diversity with the goal of incorporating them into national accounts and as a contribution to global services.

14. *First element of the vision:*

2.1 Species, ecosystems and genetic diversity that are at imminent risk of [irreversible loss] [extinction] are subject to appropriate actions to prevent that loss.

2.2. Populations and ecosystems that are not currently threatened are monitored and managed to maintain species viability and the structure and natural function of those ecosystems.

2.3 Significant and emerging threats to biodiversity are identified and prevented or minimized.

[2.4 Conservation and management efforts are focused on areas with high biodiversity value, particularly through the establishment of a global ecological network.]

15. *Second element of the vision:*

3.1 National biodiversity strategy and action plans and biosafety frameworks identify the sustainable uses of biodiversity components at the national level.

3.2 [Living modified organisms that may have an adverse effect on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account human health, are transferred, handled, and used in a safe manner through the full and world-wide application of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety]

3.3 Awareness of the negative impacts on biological diversity of unsustainable patterns of consumption and production is raised [and economic [policy][instruments]] that support sustainable use are developed and readily available.

3.4 Tools, appropriate technologies and management systems that facilitate sustainable use of biological components are developed and promoted at national levels.

3.5 A framework for mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies is established and widely implemented.

16. *Third element of the vision:*

4.1 National legislation or other measures (including access and benefit-sharing strategies) on access and benefit-sharing, including financial, human, technical and technological resources, are developed and implemented [taking into account the Bonn Guidelines as appropriate].

[4.2 Intellectual property rights and other *sui generis* rights relating to the use of genetic resources, including the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, respect the countries of origin of those genetic resources, or the rights of the

populations involved, so as to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use.]

[4.3 The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of local and indigenous communities are respected, preserved, maintained, protected and promoted for wider application with those communities' full and effective involvement and approval.]

[4.4 Information exchange on sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources is enhanced, considering the special needs of developing countries.]

[4.5 Biotechnological and biochemical research and development activities that use genetic resources are promoted and established in countries of origin of these resources.]

**F. Monitoring and reporting and periodic assessment and review**

17. The schedule for assessing and reviewing progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan is set out in table 1 below.

18. The review of the progress of implementation of the Strategic Plan on the basis of relevant reports and information shall be undertaken by means of an appropriate inter-sessional activity.

*Table 1*

**REPORTING SCHEDULE AND REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLAN 2001-2010**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>National reports</b>	<b>Thematic reports</b>	<b>Strategic Plan</b>
2001		2nd national report due	3 thematic reports due on the in-depth items at COP-6	
2002	COP-6	COP (a) considers report on 2nd national reports and (b) approves format for thematic reports on the in-depth items at COP-7	Thematic reports assist COP consideration of its in-depth items (alien species, benefit-sharing, forest ecosystems)	COP adopts decision on Strategic Plan, the format and /timetable for its periodic assessment and review, and the terms of reference for the first inter-sessional review of the Strategic Plan
2003			3 thematic reports due on the in-depth items at COP-7	First inter-sessional review of Strategic Plan – based on 2nd national reports and other relevant reports and information
2004	COP-7	COP (a) approves format for 3rd national reports, to include information of implementation of Strategic Plan and (b) approves format for thematic reports on the in-depth items at COP-8	Thematic reports assist COP consideration of its in-depth items (mountain ecosystems, protected areas, transfer of technology and technology cooperation)	COP considers report on implementation of Strategic Plan
2005		3rd national report due	3 thematic reports due on the in-depth items at COP-8	

Year	Meeting	National reports	Thematic reports	Strategic Plan
2006	COP-8	COP (a) considers report on 3rd national reports and (b) approves format for thematic reports on the in-depth items at COP-9	Thematic reports assist COP consideration of its in-depth items	COP adopts terms of reference for second inter-sessional review of Strategic Plan
2007			3 thematic reports due on the in-depth items at COP-9	Second inter-sessional review of Strategic Plan – based on 3rd national reports
2008	COP-9	COP (a) approves format for 4th national reports, to include information of implementation of Strategic Plan and (b) approves format for thematic reports on the in-depth items at COP-10	Thematic reports assist COP consideration of its in-depth items	COP considers report on implementation of Strategic Plan
2009		4th national report due	3 thematic reports due on the in-depth items at COP-10	
2010	COP-10	COP considers report on 4th national reports	Thematic reports assist COP consideration of its in-depth items	COP considers outcome of Strategic Plan and adopts next Strategic Plan for 2011-2020

### ***G. Review of implementation***

19. The following activities should be undertaken in order to facilitate the appropriate review of the implementation of the Convention, as part of the agreed procedures for reviewing implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention:

- (a) Identification of major gaps in the implementation of the Convention;
- (b) Identification of best practices and successes in implementing the Convention;
- (c) Identification of the main difficulties, obstacles and challenges in implementing the Convention, in particular for developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- (d) Consideration of the level of participation of relevant stakeholders in the implementation process, including financial and technical support available to developing countries;
- (e) Consideration of the linkages and synergies with relevant conventions;
- (f) Consideration of strategies established within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies;

20. The Executive Secretary should disseminate the results of the review referred to in paragraph 19 above through the clearing-house mechanism and any other appropriate means;

### ***H. Communication***

21. The Strategic Plan and its operational goals and actions need to be effectively communicated to all relevant sectors of society, agencies and conventions and other interested



parties. A detailed proposal in this regard should be considered in accordance with the communication and outreach strategy of the Convention.

*Appendix\**

**OBSTACLES TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**1. *Political/societal obstacles***

- (a) Lack of political will and support to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity
- (b) Limited public participation and stakeholder involvement
- (c) Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors, including use of tools such as environmental impact assessments
- (d) Political instability
- (e) Lack of precautionary and proactive measures, causing reactive policies

**2. *Institutional, technical and capacity-related obstacles***

- (a) Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weaknesses
- (b) Lack of human resources
- (c) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise
- (d) Loss of traditional knowledge
- (e) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives

**3. *Lack of accessible knowledge/information***

- (a) Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented
- (b) Existing scientific and traditional knowledge not fully utilized.
- (c) Dissemination of information on international and national level not efficient
- (d) Lack of public education and awareness at all levels

**4. *Economic policy and financial resources***

- (a) Lack of financial and human resources
- (b) Fragmentation of GEF financing
- (c) Lack of economic incentive measures
- (d) Lack of benefit-sharing

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\* The Meeting did not have time to fully consider the appendix.

**5. *Collaboration/cooperation***

- (a) Lack of synergies at the national and international levels
- (b) Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders
- (c) Lack of effective partnerships
- (d) Lack of engagement of scientific community

**6. *Legal/juridical impediments***

- (a) Lack of appropriate policies and laws

**7. *Socio-economic factors***

- (a) Poverty
- (b) Population pressure
- (c) Unsustainable consumption and production patterns
- (d) Lack of capacities for local communities

**8. *Natural phenomena and environmental change***

- (a) Climate change
- (b) Natural disasters

## **2. National reports**

### **A. Request to the Executive Secretary**

*The Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reports and Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity*

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Undertake a full assessment of the information contained in the second national reports, including the identification of progress made by Parties in implementation of the Convention and of constraints to implementation they have encountered, and to submit this assessment to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Include in this assessment information on the specific experiences of small island developing States and least developed countries in the implementation of the Convention;

(c) Ascertain from Parties that have not submitted a second national report the reasons for late submission and include information on this in the report to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(d) Prepare for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting draft formats for the thematic reports on the items to be discussed in depth at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

### **B. Draft elements for a decision by the Conference of the Parties**

*The Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reports and Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity*

*Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting consider the following elements of a draft decision on national reporting with a view to their adoption:

*“The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Welcomes* the second national reports and the thematic reports submitted by Parties in accordance with decision V/19;

2. *Urges* Parties that have not submitted a second national report to do so without further delay;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Draw appropriate conclusions from the analysis of the second national reports and of the experiences of Parties in preparing national reports that can serve to facilitate the implementation of the Convention by Parties;

(b) Make this information available through the clearing-house mechanism and other appropriate channels prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and

(c) Prepare for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting a draft format for the third national reports that:

- (i) Builds on the format used for the second national reports;
- (ii) Includes questions on targets established under the Strategic Plan;
- (iii) Takes into account these conclusions and other available information on the experience of the process of national reporting;
- (iv) Focuses on allowing the Party to provide information on the experience of implementing its national biodiversity strategy and action plan and, in particular, the priority actions;
- (v) Frames questions in a direct way, such that the format is not overly complex and promotes the consultative processes involving all relevant stakeholders recommended in decision V/19;
- (vi) Facilitates the identification of obstacles and impediments to implementation encountered by the Party;
- (vii) Requests Parties to provide information on financial resources they have made available to other Parties for the purposes of implementing the Convention, where relevant, and on financial resources they have received from other Parties and financial institutions, where relevant;

4. *Invites* Parties to submit thematic reports on mountain ecosystems, protected areas, and transfer of technology and technology cooperation in accordance with the formats prepared by the Executive Secretary, which should identify priorities in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, impediments to implementation, and existing and potential areas of cooperation and capacity-building;

5. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, as the institutional structure operating the financial mechanism, to continue to provide, in a timely manner, support to eligible countries for the preparation of national reports;

6. *Welcomes* the publication of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and *decides* that the Global Biodiversity Outlook should continue to be prepared as a periodic report on biological diversity and implementation of the Convention, and be made available in all official United Nations languages;

7. *Decides* that the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook should be prepared for publication in 2004, drawing upon information contained in the second national reports, the thematic reports on the items for in-depth consideration at its sixth and seventh meetings, and on the review of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan to be undertaken in 2003;

8. *Welcomes* the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on the harmonization of environmental reporting and encourages its continuation, whilst recognizing the need to ensure that this does not affect the ability of the Conference of the Parties to adjust national reporting procedures under the Convention in order to better meet the needs of Parties.”



**3. *Implementation of the Convention, in particular, implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans***

*The Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reports and Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity*

*Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting consider the following elements of a draft decision with a view to their adoption:

*“The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Stresses* that the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans constitute the cornerstone of national implementation of the Convention;

2. *Urges* Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity:

(a) To develop and adopt national biodiversity strategies and action plans, where they have not yet done so;

(b) To give priority to the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, as well as benefit-sharing, into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies, in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention;

(c) To identify priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and other relevant national strategies;

(d) To implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans; and to periodically revise them in the light of the experience of implementation;

(e) To establish national mechanisms or consultative processes, with particular regard, where appropriate, to the special needs of indigenous and local communities, for coordinating, implementing, monitoring, evaluating and periodically revising national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(f) To identify constraints and impediments to implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to reflect them in the national reports;

(g) To make their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including periodic revisions, available through their national clearing-house mechanism and the Convention website;

3. *Encourages* Parties to develop regional, subregional or bioregional mechanisms and networks to support implementation of the Convention including, as appropriate, through the development of regional or subregional biodiversity strategies and action plans, the identification of common constraints and impediments to implementation; and promotion of joint measures for addressing these;

4. *Calls upon* multilateral, regional, bilateral and private donors and institutions able to support implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in particular of priority actions, to target such priority actions in an effective and coordinated manner within the framework of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;

5. *Encourages* private foundations and other donors that provide funding in support of sustainable-development activities to support implementation of nationally-identified priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

6. *Requests* donor institutions and agencies to simplify, to the extent possible, their administrative procedures in order to expedite access by eligible countries to the financial resources needed to assist implementation of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of access to and transfer of technology and of technical and scientific cooperation in the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

8. *Transmits* to the Council of the Global Environment Facility its view that a strategic approach to capacity-building for the global environment is urgently needed and that promoting cross-convention synergies, and national policy integration, national institutional development and cooperation among stakeholders in capacity-building activities, in order to promote efficiency and quality is a priority, and *notes* the potential contribution of the Capacity Development Initiative;

9. *Encourages* Parties to avail themselves of the assistance available through the financial mechanism for preparation of a national capacity self-assessment;

10. *Welcomes* the contribution to the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans provided by the Biodiversity Planning Support Programme established by the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme with core financial support from the Global Environment Facility and *requests* the agencies and partners involved to consider how regional support for biodiversity planning and capacity-building can be enhanced;

11. *Welcomes* the Biodiversity Service for the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in Central and Eastern Europe, established by the United Nations Environment Programme, IUCN—The World Conservation Union, the European Centre for Nature Conservation and the Regional Environmental Centre and financially supported by a number of donors; and *invites* Parties and intergovernmental and other organizations to review the operation of the Biodiversity Service and to benefit from its experience with a view to considering the establishment of regional capacity-building mechanisms to support the implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans in other regions;

12. *Commends* the assessments of implementation carried out by Parties in the Central and Eastern Europe/Newly Independent States and Central American regions to the attention of Parties in other regions, and *encourages* Parties in other regions to undertake similar assessments.



#### **4. Operations of the Convention**

##### **A. Requests to the Executive Secretary**

*The Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reports and Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity*

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with and under the guidance of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, to carry out a pilot review of the status of implementation and the continued relevance of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and:

(a) Propose a preliminary list of decisions and elements of decisions that could be retired, and those on which no progress in implementation has been made, and

(b) Identify issues on which the Conference of the Parties has commenced work but which it has not considered sufficiently to allow implementation to start,

and submit a report to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its sixth meeting;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with and under the guidance of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, to prepare a proposal for submission to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting, on the basis of the pilot review, outlining the manner in which the Conference of the Parties may wish to proceed with the review of the status of its decisions;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, with the assistance of the informal advisory committee of the clearing-house mechanism, to investigate innovative ways of improving the system of notifications in order to assist Parties to better respond to requests for action within the required deadlines.

##### **B. Draft elements for a decision by the Conference of the Parties**

*The Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reports and Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity*

1. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties, at its sixth meeting, recognize the increasing workload for Bureau members, particularly the Chairs, and request the budget committee to take this into account in any decisions on financial support for Bureau members from developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition;

2. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting consider the following elements of a draft decision with a view to their adoption:

*“The Conference of the Parties,*

**[Review of the status of implementation of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties]**

1. *Welcomes* the Handbook on the Convention on Biological Diversity and *encourages* the Executive Secretary to seek ways and means to make it available in other United Nations official languages;

2. *Decides* to review, on the basis of the proposals by the Executive Secretary, the status of implementation of all its decisions at its next meeting with a view to adopting a consolidated body of decisions and to inform decision-making on the long-term work plan of the Convention;

**[Review of SBSTTA recommendations]**

*Recalling* its decision to make an assessment at its sixth meeting of the recommendations made to it by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice with a view to providing guidance to the Subsidiary Body on ways to improve its inputs,

3. *Decides* that this assessment will be undertaken under the authority of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake, in consultation with the bureaux of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Conference of the Parties, a review of the recommendations of the Subsidiary Body with a view to improving its inputs and to report thereon to Subsidiary Body at its ninth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting;

5. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, on the basis of the review mentioned in paragraph 4 above, to prepare proposals for the improvement of the quality of its advice and to submit a report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting;

**[Roster of experts]**

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to make full use of the roster of experts identified by Parties through national nodes of the clearing-house mechanism, including for peer review and for Internet-based discussion groups;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to retire the roster of experts nominated by Parties for specific tasks or activities once those tasks or activities have been completed;

**[Regional and subregional mechanisms for implementation of the Convention]**

8. *Acknowledging* the important role that regional and subregional mechanisms and networks such as the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity for Tropical Andean Countries and the Central American Commission of Environment and Development play in promoting the implementation of the Convention, which, *inter alia*, provide forums for the preparation of regional inputs to meetings of the Convention and for translating decisions of the Conference of the Parties into regional actions,

(a) *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with Parties, to identify and assess the potential of existing regional and subregional instruments, institutions, networks and mechanisms in various regions as a basis for enhancing the implementation of the Convention, including as partners for capacity-building;

(b) *Encourages* Parties to strengthen regional and subregional cooperation, enhance the integration and promote synergies with relevant regional and subregional processes;

(c) *Invites* all donors and institutions in a position to do so to support the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes, as appropriate;

(d) *Invites* Parties, Governments, and relevant organisations to strengthen their existing regional and subregional mechanisms and initiatives for capacity-building and to contribute inputs regarding their experiences into the wider assessment process;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a report, based on the assessment referred to in paragraph 8(a) above, for submission to the Conference of the Parties and for distribution to all Parties and Governments. Each assessment should include a consideration of the following:

(a) The needs of and constraints within the region regarding the implementation of the Convention;

(b) The resources required and available to address the needs;

(c) The benefits to be gained through the utilization of regional and subregional institutions, mechanisms or networks;

(d) The views from regions as to the types of assistance required to respond to difficulties in implementing the Convention and their level of priority;

(e) The urgency of the priorities;

(f) The requirements necessary to strengthen such mechanisms and networks for the purposes of the implementation of the Convention;

10. *Invites* those countries in a position to do so, individually or collectively, on a bilateral or multilateral basis, to consider providing financial resources and technically qualified person(s) recruited from either government or the private sector to collaborate in the preparation of the assessment in the candidate regions;

11. *Decides* to further consider this issue, based on the assessment, at its seventh meeting;

#### **[Participation and procedures under the Convention]**

12. *Takes note* of concerns about procedural issues raised at inter-sessional meetings, and calls for the implementation of the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties and Subsidiary Bodies;

13. *Requests* the bureaux of the Conference of the Parties and of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to develop proposals for the further improvement of existing procedures for conducting meetings in order to allow a more effective participation of one-person delegations.

## 5. *World Summit on Sustainable Development*

### *The Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reports and Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity*

*Recommends* that, at its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties develop and adopt a message for transmission to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Such a message should be short and focused, and should highlight the central role that fulfilling the objectives of the Convention play in the implementation of the commitments on sustainable development undertaken at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in their further development. Elements of such a message could include:

- (a) Information on the state of implementation of the Convention, the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and the clearing-house mechanism, drawn from analysis of national reports and other relevant reports;
- (b) Information on the Strategic Plan for the Convention and the multi-year programme of work;
- (c) The need to renew the commitment to make available the financial resources and support for the capacity development required for the effective implementation of the Convention;
- (d) The leadership role that the Convention can play in the implementation of global and regional biodiversity-related conventions and agreements;
- (e) The Global Biodiversity Outlook and the outlook for biological diversity.

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