



**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/8/19
15 January 2006

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Eighth meeting

Curitiba, Brazil, 20-31 March 2006

Item 22.3 of the provisional agenda*

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Progress report on implementation

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In order to develop meaningful and effective action to enhance the implementation of Articles 16 to 19 as well as related provisions of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties, by decision VII/29, adopted a programme of work on technology transfer and technological and scientific cooperation and, in paragraph 3 of the decision, requested the Executive Secretary to carry out the activities under its responsibility as spelled out in the programme of work up to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as a first phase in the implementation of the programme of work. The present note reports on the activities undertaken pursuant to this request and suggests further action for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. Section II reports on requests expressed in decision VII/29 itself, whereas section III reports on activities spelled out in the programme of work annexed to the decision. Section IV reports on the exploration undertaken by the expert group on technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation of options for the development of an indicator for technology transfer as part of the framework for assessing progress towards the 2010 target.

**II. PARAGRAPHS IN DECISION VII/29 OF RELEVANCE FOR
CONSIDERATION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES**

A. Requests to the Executive Secretary

1. Paragraph 6 of decision VII/29

2. In paragraph 6 of decision VII/29, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to convene the informal advisory committee of the clearing-house mechanism, further to

* UNEP/CBD/COP/8/1.

decision V/14, to assist the Executive Secretary, including through electronic consultation and long-distance communication, to:

(a) Provide advice on the development of proposals on the possible role of the clearing-house mechanism as a central mechanism for exchange of information on technologies, as a core element in its role to facilitate scientific and technical cooperation, and for facilitating technology transfer and cooperation and to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and for technologies that make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment;

(b) Develop guidance for implementation by national clearing-house mechanism nodes for common or similar frameworks for identifying the availability of relevant technologies to enhance international cooperation and to facilitate the interoperability with relevant existing systems of national and international information exchange, including technology and patent databases.

3. Part (a) of this mandate corresponds to activity 2.1.2 of the programme of work, while element (b) of the mandate corresponds to activity 2.1.3 of the programme of work.

4. An initial discussion of this mandate took place at a meeting of the informal advisory committee on the 6 February 2005, in Bangkok. Further to this discussion, the Executive Secretary prepared draft proposals and guidance for consideration by the informal advisory committee. This documentation was circulated to the members of the informal advisory committee and considered by a meeting of the committee on 27 November 2005, in Montreal, in conjunction with the Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technical Cooperation. The proposals and guidance were revised in light of the discussions and recommendations of the informal advisory committee. They are contained in an addendum to the present document (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/19/Add.1).

Suggested action by the Conference of the Parties

5. The Conference of the Parties may wish to consider the proposals and guidance prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/19/Add.1) and may wish to decide on further activities to be undertaken accordingly.

2. *Paragraph 7 of decision VII/29*

6. In paragraph 7 of decision VII/29, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to establish an expert group on technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation, to assist, through electronic consultations and long-distance communications as well as through meetings in conjunction with the informal advisory committee of the clearing-house mechanism, in the:

(a) Preparation of proposals on options to apply institutional, administrative, legislative and policy measures and mechanisms, including best practices, as well as to overcome barriers, to facilitate access to and adaptation of technologies on the public domain and to proprietary technologies by developing countries and countries with economies in transition; and in particular, on measures and mechanisms that:

- (i) Foster an enabling environment in developing and developed countries for cooperation as well as the transfer, adaptation and diffusion of relevant technologies;
- (ii) Provide, in accordance with existing international obligations, incentives to private-sector actors as well as public research institutions in developed country Parties, to

encourage cooperation and transfer of technologies to developing countries, through, e.g., technology transfer programmes or joint ventures;

- (iii) Promote and advance priority access for Parties to the results and benefits arising from technologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Parties, in accordance with Article 19, paragraph 2 of the Convention, and to promote the effective participation in related technological research by those Parties;
- (iv) Promote innovative approaches and means of technology transfer and cooperation such as Type 2 partnerships, in accordance with the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, or transfers among actors, involving in particular the private sector and civil society organizations;

(b) Exploration of possibilities and mechanisms of cooperation with processes in other Conventions and international organizations, such as the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

7. Part (a) of the mandate reflects activity 3.1.2 of the programme of work on technology transfer and technological and scientific cooperation. Under this activity, the Executive Secretary was requested to undertake a “compilation and synthesis of information, including case studies, and preparation of guidance” on the issues enumerated in the previous paragraph.

8. Further to this request, the Executive Secretary sent notifications 032-2004 and 052-2004, in April and June 2004, inviting Parties and relevant international organizations to nominate experts for the expert group on technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation. A reminder was sent in September 2004 by notifications 078-2004 and 079-2004. The Executive Secretary informed Parties on the establishment of the expert group and the selected experts by notification 102-2004, sent in November 2004.

9. An electronic forum was set up to facilitate the work of the expert group. Communications from group members as well as draft documentation were also distributed to all members by electronic mail. Mechanisms were put in place to ensure that those members with limited access to the internet would be fully integrated into the flow of information, and members were repeatedly invited to indicate their interest to participate in the work of the group through these mechanisms. No such request was received by the Secretariat.

10. To initiate the discussion in the group, the Executive Secretary prepared a draft compilation and synthesis of pertinent information as requested in activity 3.1.2 of the programme of work and circulated this draft to the group for comment and review. The Executive Secretary subsequently prepared a second draft of this compilation and synthesis as well as, based on this document, draft proposals on options to apply measures and mechanisms to facilitate access to and adaptation of technologies. Based on the comments received, the Executive Secretary also prepared a draft exploration of possibilities and mechanisms of cooperation with processes in other Conventions and international organizations.

11. The drafts were circulated to the members of the expert group and considered by the group at a meeting on 27 November in Montreal. Members who were not able to attend this meeting were invited to communicate their comments by electronic form so that to ensure that they are fully reflected in the discussion and the subsequent revision of the drafts. The report of the meeting was sent to all member of the expert group. The revised drafts were also sent for another round of review by all members of the expert group. The proposals on options to apply measures and mechanisms to facilitate access to and adaptation of technologies (part (a) of the mandate) as well as the exploration of possibilities and

mechanisms of cooperation with processes in other Conventions and international organizations (part (b) of the mandate) are contained in an addendum to the present note (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/19/Add.2).

Suggested action by the Conference of the Parties

12. On part (a) of the mandate spelt out in paragraph 7 of decision VII/29, the Conference of the Parties may wish to take note of the proposals on options to apply measures and mechanisms to facilitate access to and adaptation of technologies (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/19/Add.2, section II), as a useful first step in providing guidance to Parties in their efforts to implement the activities foreseen in element three of the programme of work. The Conference of the Parties may also wish to consider the other conclusions of the group on part (a) of its mandate as contained in section 2 of its proposals and, in particular, the observation of the group that more work would be needed to develop a set of guidelines on enabling environments for technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation and its opinion that this work should be undertaken through a more elaborated technical process in the next biennium, leading to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. If the Conference of the Parties decides establishing such a more elaborated technical process, it may also wish to consider the development of terms of reference, which might, in accordance with the conclusions of the group, *inter alia* address: (i) the scope of such guidelines; (ii) priorities in developing enabling environments; (iii) linkages and differences between technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation; (iv) the development of a vision thereon.

13. The Conference of the Parties may also wish to consider whether to include the suggested supporting activities by international organizations and the Executive Secretary identified in the proposals on options to apply measures and mechanisms to facilitate access to and adaptation of technologies (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/19/Add.2, section II), in its decision of technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation in form of invitations to international organization and requests to the Executive Secretary.

14. On part (b) of the mandate spelt out in paragraph 7 of decision VII/29, the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider the exploration of possibilities and mechanisms of cooperation with processes in other Conventions and international organizations (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/19/Add.2, section III). The Conference of the Parties may, in particular wish to consider whether to include the opportunities and mechanisms of cooperation (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/19/Add.2, section III C) in its decision of technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation in form of invitations to international organization and requests to the Executive Secretary.

B. Other relevant paragraphs: paragraphs 11 and 12 of decision VII/29

15. In paragraph 11 of decision VII/29, the Conference of the Parties requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing to identify, during the development or review of work programmes, methods to increase the contribution of organizations, communities, academia and the private sector to the development and dissemination of scientific knowledge and the diffusion of technology needed for the implementation of those work programmes.

16. In paragraph 12 of decision VII/29, the Conference of the Parties agreed that the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting would, under the agenda item “refining mechanisms to support implementation”, review the results of the work referred to in the previous paragraph and would identify generic approaches for broadening the practical scientific and technical support for the implementation of the Convention.

17. While this matter was not addressed specifically by SBSTTA at its tenth or eleventh meetings, the following topics dealt with by the Subsidiary Body are relevant under this item: (i) proposed elements for a programme of work on island biodiversity (recommendation X/1); (ii) the further development of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity under the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity (recommendation X/10); (iii) biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands (recommendation XI/1); (iv) in-depth review of the programme of work and outline for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (recommendation XI/2); (v) vision, mission and goals of the programmes of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, mountains and forest biological diversity (recommendation XI/7); (vi) biological diversity of inland water ecosystems (recommendation XI/9); and (vii) advice on the review of implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity (recommendation XI/10). The recommendations mentioned are contained in the reports of the tenth and eleventh meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/2 and 3, respectively).

18. Furthermore, work on identifying indicators for the goals established under the Strategic Plan of the Convention is also pertinent, since objective 2.5 of the Plan is that “technical and scientific cooperation is making a significant contribution in building capacity”. The development of process indicators thereon would seem to require the identification of methods to increase cooperation.

19. At its tenth meeting, SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary, *inter alia*, to explore options for the identification of process indicators for the four global goals for the Strategic Plan of the Convention, and report thereon to the Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and to SBSTTA at its eleventh meeting (recommendation X/5, para 12 (f)). Further to this request, the Executive Secretary prepared a document on the framework for monitoring implementation of the Convention and achievement of the 2010 target, and review of the thematic programmes of work (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/9), which included options for process indicators towards the achievement of the Strategic Plan, including goal 2, objective 2.5.

20. In reviewing this document, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of the Implementation of the Convention recommended that the indicator related to goal 2, objective 2.5, should be developed consistent with decision VII/30.

21. As regards the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, the subject-matter of paragraph 11 of decision VII/29 corresponds to element (i) of the terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing for the negotiation of an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, annexed to decision VII/19. Progress made in the negotiations of an international regime, including any progress made on element (i) of the terms of reference, will be contained in the report of the fourth meeting of the Working Group (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/6).

Suggested action by the Conference of the Parties

22. The Conference of the Parties may wish to review the recommendations and reports referenced in the previous paragraphs and, based on this review, identify generic approaches for broadening the practical scientific and technical support for the implementation of the Convention.

III. REQUESTS TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IN THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND TECHNOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

1. Programme element 1: Technology assessments

Activity 1.3.1

23. In activity 1.3.1 of the programme of work, the Executive Secretary was requested to collect information on technology needs assessment methodologies, analyse their applicability and adaptation needs for technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment, and disseminate this information through the clearing-house mechanism or other means, as appropriate.

24. Pertinent information was subsequently collected and made available through the clearing-house mechanism. The information is accessible in the searchable information database on technology transfer and cooperation by choosing “information on technology needs assessment methodologies as search criterion. The information database is accessible under www.biodiv.org by clicking on: (i) programmes and issues; (ii) technology transfer and cooperation; and (iii) information database. An offline version of the database was made available in the toolkit on technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation, launched at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

25. Of the information collected, the handbook “Assessing Technology Needs for Climate Change”, prepared in 2003 by the United Nations Development Programme/Global Environment Facility (UNDP-GEF), seems to be of particular relevance. The handbook was prepared in cooperation with the Climate Technology Initiative (CTI) and with input from a wide range of multilateral agencies and country experts. It was designed to provide guidance on how to develop a straightforward approach to technology needs assessment (TNA) that may be adopted and adapted by countries undertaking TNA. According to UNDP, the handbook should not be seen as a self contained activity or a final product, nor can it provide detail on every aspect, because TNA is a complex process. It is intended that the handbook should be allowed to evolve.

26. After a brief overview of the process involved in TNA, the handbook provides, in section 3, extensive guidance on stakeholder involvement, including: the identification of stakeholders, stakeholder roles and responsibilities; and the engagement process. Section 4 of the handbook describes the TNA process and related activities, which falls into the following elements: (i) prepare a preliminary overview of options and resources; (ii) identify criteria for technology assessment; (iii) identify priority sectors and select technologies; (iv) identify barriers and policy needs; (v) define and select actions; and (vi) prepare a synthesis report. Section 5 addresses implementation actions. Annex I provides an overview over mitigation and adaptation options, while annex II provides technology information sources.

27. The primary purpose of the handbook is to help countries find ways of encouraging technology transfer as defined by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The handbook covers needs assessments both for technologies for mitigation of climate change and for technologies for adaptation to climate change. However, the degree of complexity and the challenges involved in TNA for adaptation, pertaining *inter alia* to the inherent uncertainty of impacts and vulnerability, long-term effects, site- or ecosystem-specificness, broader stakeholders (at community level), more complex investment decisions, specific challenges involved in assessing the need for ‘soft’ technologies etc, may in many instances also apply to TNA for the purposes of the Convention. Hence, the general approach and structure of the handbook, as well as many elements under this structure, may seem to be broadly applicable for the assessment of technology needs of relevance to the Convention.

28. There would however seem to be a need for adaptation of the more detailed guidance prepared by the handbook in order to make it fully applicable for the purposes of the Convention. For instance:

(a) In order to provide a starting point in the identification of relevant stakeholders, section 3 of the handbook includes an illustrative list of stakeholders. This list would need to be amended or modified in order to reflect relevant stakeholders for technology transfer under the Convention, as well as indigenous and local communities;

(b) Section four of the handbook, on the preparation of a preliminary overview of options and resources, provides a list of economic sectors affected by climate change adaptation and mitigation and are hence relevant for TNA. This list would again need to be amended or modified in order to reflect sectors of relevance for technology transfer under the Convention;

(c) Section four also addresses the identification of barriers and policy needs and provides an illustrative list of possible barriers. This list could again be adapted and/or further specified to reflect the specific barriers and policy needs arising in the context of the Convention;

(d) Section four, when addressing the identification of criteria for technology assessment, also refers to the development benefits and the market potential of transferred technologies. While these references may provide entry points in particular for the transfer of technology that make use of genetic resources in the context of the specific provisions of Article 16, paragraph 3, as well as Article 19, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, there would seem to be a general need to more fully reflect these specific provisions.

29. At its meeting on 27 November 2005, the Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation expressed a particular interest in an exploration of the UNDP handbook with a view to specifying its relevance to the Convention, and in particular to the transfer of technology and technology cooperation.

Suggested action by the Conference of the Parties:

30. The Conference of the Parties may wish to request the Executive Secretary to continue the compilation of pertinent information on needs assessment methodologies. The Conference of the Parties may also wish to consider requesting the expert group on technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation to undertake a full exploration of the applicability of the UNDP-GEF Handbook on Technology Needs Assessment and to specify its relevance in particular to the transfer of technology and technological and scientific cooperation under the Convention, as well as exploration of options for realizing synergy in technology needs assessments for the purposes of different conventions. The Conference of the Parties may wish to request the Executive Secretary to liaise with UNDP-GEF with a view to assist in these explorations.

2. *Programme element 2: Information systems*

Activity 2.1.1

31. In activity 2.1.1 of the programme of work, the Executive Secretary was requested to develop provisional web pages and print media that provide access to information on relevant initiatives and databases for the transfer of technology and for technology cooperation.

32. Web pages on technology transfer and technology cooperation that provide access to pertinent information were subsequently established under the clearing house mechanism of the Convention. There

are accessible under www.biodiv.org by clicking on: (i) programmes and issues and (ii) technology transfer and technology cooperation. A compilation and synthesis of relevant national, regional and international information systems including databases is provided in an information document.

Activities 2.1.2 and 2.1.3

33. In activity 2.1.2 of the programme of work, the Executive Secretary was requested to develop proposals to enhance the clearing-house mechanism, including its national nodes, particularly those in developing countries, as a key mechanism for exchange of information on technologies and as a core element in its role to promote and facilitate scientific and technical cooperation, for facilitating and promoting technology transfer and cooperation and for the promotion of technical and scientific cooperation relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment.

34. In activity 2.1.3 of the programme of work, the Executive Secretary was requested to develop advice and guidance on the use of new information exchange formats, protocols and standards to enable interoperability among relevant existing systems of national and international information exchange, including technology and patent databases.

35. An overview of activities undertaken pursuant to these requests as well as suggested action by the Conference of the Parties is provided in paragraphs 2 to 5 above.

Activities 2.2.1 and 2.4.2

36. In activity 2.2.1 of the programme of work, the Executive Secretary was requested to undertake a compilation and synthesis of information on national and regional information systems for technology transfer and cooperation, including the identification of best-practices and of needs for further improvements, in particular in regard to the accessibility of such systems for indigenous and local communities and all relevant stakeholders as well as information on capacity and human resources available and needed.

37. In activity 2.4.2 of the programme of work, the Executive Secretary was requested to undertake a compilation and synthesis of information on regional and international information systems, including best-practices and opportunities for further development and make this information available through the clearing-house mechanism and other means, as appropriate.

38. A compilation and synthesis of pertinent information is provided in an information document. Links to relevant national, regional and international information systems are also provided on the provisional webpages on technology transfer and technology cooperation (see paragraph 32 above).

Suggested action by the Conference of the Parties

39. The Conference of the Parties may wish to take note of the compilation and analysis contained in the information document.

3. Programme element 3: Enabling environments

Activity 3.1.1

40. In activity 3.1.1 of the programme of work, the Executive Secretary was requested to prepare, in cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and other relevant organizations, to prepare technical studies that

further explore and analyse the role of intellectual property rights in technology transfer in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity and identify potential options to increase synergy and overcome barriers to technology transfer and cooperation, consistent with paragraph 44 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The benefits as well as the costs of intellectual property rights should be fully taken into account.

41. Further to this request, the Executive Secretary sent letters to the executive heads of WIPO and UNCTAD inviting their cooperation on this task and requesting the nomination of staff that would act as focal point in the respective organization for undertaking this cooperative activity. Terms of reference including a draft outline of a technical study was subsequently prepared by the Executive Secretary in close cooperation with the nominated staff. Based on the draft outline, a first draft of the study was under preparation by the Executive Secretary as well as technical staff of WIPO and UNCTAD, and opportunities for further input from other relevant organizations were identified, by the time of preparation of this note. This first draft is expected to be sent to peer-review in conjunction with an invitation to relevant organization to consider contributing to the study, and be made available as an information document at the time of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Suggested action by the Conference of the Parties

42. The Conference of the Parties may wish to take note of the progress made in implementing this task and may wish to invite WIPO, UNCTAD and other relevant organizations, and request the Executive Secretary, to finalize the study.

Activity 3.1.2

43. In activity 3.1.2 of the programme of work, the Executive Secretary was requested to prepare a compilation and synthesis of information, including case-studies, and to prepare guidance on institutional, administrative, legislative and policy frameworks that facilitate access to and adaptation of technologies in the public domain and to proprietary technologies, especially by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and, in particular, on measures and mechanisms that:

(a) Foster an enabling environment in developing and developed countries for cooperation as well as the transfer, adaptation and diffusion of relevant technologies in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by countries;

(b) Present obstacles that impede transfers of relevant technologies from developed countries;

(c) Provide, in accordance with existing international obligations, incentives to private-sector actors as well as public research institutions in developed country Parties, to encourage cooperation and transfer of technologies to developing countries, through, e.g., technology transfer programmes or joint-ventures;

(d) Promote and advance priority access for Parties to the results and benefits arising from technologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Parties, in accordance with Article 19, paragraph 2, of the Convention, and to promote the effective participation in related technological research by those Parties;

(e) Promote innovative approaches and means of technology transfer and cooperation such as Type 2 partnerships, in accordance with the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable

Development, or transfers among actors, involving in particular the private sector and civil society organizations.

44. A compilation and synthesis of pertinent information was subsequently prepared by the Executive Secretary and reviewed by the Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation. This compilation and synthesis is provided in an information document (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/9).

45. As regards the preparation of guidance, an overview of relevant activities undertaken as well as suggested action by the Conference of the Parties is provided in paragraphs 6 to 13 above.

Suggested action by the Conference of the Parties

46. The Conference of the Parties may wish to take note of the compilation and synthesis of pertinent information (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/9).

IV. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDICATOR FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AS PART OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2010 TARGET

47. In decision VII/30, the Conference of the Parties adopted a provisional framework for assessing progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target, and also identified a number of indicators for development by SBSTTA or working groups, including an indicator for technology transfer. SBSTTA, at its tenth meeting, in the annex to recommendation X/5, invited Parties and other Governments to submit information on an indicator for technology transfer, and indicated that the expert group on technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation may wish to consider the matter.

48. The Executive Secretary subsequently informed the Expert Group about this invitation and included this matter in the agenda for the meeting of the Expert Group in November 2005. He also drew attention of the group to relevant work already undertaken by other experts groups under the Convention, and made the relevant documentation available to the Group, notably:

(a) The report of the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Review of Implementation of the Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/3), which identifies indicators for technology transfer in the context of forest biodiversity;

(b) The note of the Executive Secretary entitled "Indicators for assessing progress towards 2010 target: Possible indicators for development", prepared for consideration by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for Assessing Progress towards, and Communicating, the 2010 Target at the Global Level (UNEP/CBD/TEGIND/1/3), which examines, in paragraph 70 of the document, two options for the development of an indicator on technology transfer: (a) the expansion of the biodiversity marker of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), with a view to identify national official development assistance (ODA) programmes with a large technology component; and (b) the use of national information on access and benefit-sharing arrangements that are implemented by relevant actors that utilize genetic resources for building an indicator which would aggregate the value of technology transferred pursuant to those benefit-sharing arrangements that include provisions on the transfer of pertinent technologies.

49. During its meeting of 27 November 2005, the Expert Group held an initial brainstorming discussion under this item. As regards forest-related indicators for technology transfer, the representative of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) noted that UNFF country reports are prepared on a voluntary basis and often lack detail on technology transfer. They would hence not provide a comprehensive basis for the development of an indicator.

50. It was noted by a number of participants that option (b) discussed in document UNEP/CBD/TEGIND/1/3 might merit further consideration. In addition, several participants also pointed to a number of existing tools and methodologies, such as balanced-scorecard approaches or toolbox analyses, which might provide useful entry points for the development of indicators.

51. It was however the general feeling expressed that agreement on a limited number of indicators for technology transfer would be premature in light of the further work envisaged on enabling environment and the connection between technology transfer and technological cooperation (see paragraph 12 above). It was in particular noted that, as technology transfer includes much more than just a transfer of resources, it would be constraining to develop indicators of technology transfer that would focus on this particular aspect.

Suggested action by the Conference of the Parties:

52. The Conference of the Parties may wish to request the Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation to continue its exploration of options for the development of an indicator on technology transfer for assessing progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target in conjunction with the envisaged activities of the expert group spelled out in paragraph 12 above.
