

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/WG.2/CRP.4
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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Sixteenth meeting

Montreal, 30 April – 5 May 2012

WORKING GROUP II

Agenda item 10

NEW AND EMERGING ISSUES RELATING TO THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Draft recommendation submitted by the Co-Chairs

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Having examined the submissions made in response to the invitation to propose new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,

Having discussed the issue of “geo-engineering: impacts on biodiversity and gaps in regulatory mechanisms” under the agenda item on biodiversity and climate change and made separate recommendations on this issue,

1. *Takes note* of the technical information on the impact of ground-level ozone on biodiversity contained in the annex to the note by the Executive Secretary on new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/13);
2. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties adopts a decision along the following lines:

“The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the proposals for new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on new and emerging issues relating to the conservation of biodiversity prepared for the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/13);

2. Option 1 [*Decides* not to add any of the proposed new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to the agenda of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;]

Option 2

[*Noting*, on the basis of precautionary approach, the potential impacts of products derived from synthetic biology on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and *requests* the Executive Secretary to:

- (a) Compile and synthesize relevant available scientific information, and submissions from Parties, other Governments, relevant international organizations, indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders, on the possible impacts of synthetic biology techniques and products on biodiversity and associated social, economic and cultural considerations;

/...

(b) Identify possible gaps and overlaps with the provisions of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

(c) Make the information from the above studies available for consideration at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

2.(bis) *Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant international organizations, indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders to submit relevant information on the possible impacts of synthetic biology techniques and products on biodiversity and associated social, economic and cultural considerations;]

3. *Noting* the effects of tropospheric ozone as a greenhouse gas and the significant potential contribution of its reduction in mitigating climate change, *noting also* its impacts on human health and on biodiversity, noting further relevant work on this issue undertaken under the auspices of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, *decides* to include the consideration of the impacts of tropospheric ozone in the programme of work on the interlinkages of biodiversity and climate change and *requests* the Executive Secretary to report on progress to a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice where biodiversity and climate change is on the agenda;
