



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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### AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

Third meeting  
Nairobi, 24-28 May 2010  
Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

### SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE ON BIODIVERSITY, ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND HUMAN WELL BEING AND CONSIDERATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 8 of its decision IX/15, on the follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the Conference of the Parties noted the need for improved scientific information, as related to *inter alia* the interests of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other biodiversity-related conventions with a view to strengthening the role of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and scientific advisory bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions, and welcomed the agreement of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to convene an ad hoc open-ended intergovernmental multi-stakeholder meeting to consider establishing an efficient international science-policy interface on biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being. In paragraph 9 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Working Group at its third meeting to consider the outcome of the intergovernmental meeting and make recommendations for consideration at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. Accordingly, the Executive Director of UNEP organized the first Intergovernmental and Multi-Stakeholder Meeting of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in Malaysia, from 10 to 12 November 2008. The outcomes of this first meeting (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/3/INF/3) were presented to the twenty-fifth session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in February 2009. At that meeting, the Governing Council, in its decision 25/10, *inter alia*, requested UNEP to organize a second intergovernmental meeting on the subject, which was held in Nairobi from 5 to 9 October 2009.

3. This second Ad Hoc Intergovernmental and Multi-Stakeholder meeting on an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services was held from 5 to 9 October 2009 at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi. The eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 24 to 26 February 2010 noted the

\* UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/3/1.

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outcomes of this second meeting, (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/3/INF/6) and, *inter alia*, invited Governments and relevant organizations to finalize in 2010 their deliberations on improving on the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development and requested the Executive Director to convene, in June 2010, a third and final ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting to negotiate and reach agreement on whether to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and to transmit the outcomes to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session for consideration during the high level segment on biological diversity in September 2010 and thereafter (see annex I for the advance copy of the text of UNEP Governing Council decision SS.XI/3).

## II. NEXT STEPS

4. The draft Strategic Plan of the Convention beyond 2010 contained in (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/3/3) calls for regular assessment of the state of biodiversity and ecosystem services, future scenarios and effectiveness of responses amongst the mechanisms needed to support implementation of the Strategic Plan and the review of progress made in implementation. The future role of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in requesting scientific assessments or providing other guidance to the work of the proposed IPBES, and in responding to its outputs would need to be considered in light of any decision to establish such a mechanism.

5. Without assuming a specific outcome of such a decision, it is clear from the first two intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meetings that a number of issues will need to be addressed considering the possible establishment of an effective Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, as outlined in the following paragraphs:

6. There seems to be general agreement on **key operating principles**: The Platform should be:

(a) Inclusive of intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and building upon existing networks of scientists and knowledge-holders;

(b) Scientifically independent, credible and subject to critical expert peer-review as appropriate;

(c) Responsive to policy needs as identified by decision-making organizations at multiple levels, including biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, by being legitimate and policy-relevant without being policy-prescriptive;

(d) Underpinned by experiences of relevant assessment processes;

(e) Monitored from the outset with procedures for measuring its effectiveness.

7. There are a range of options considering the:

(a) **Scope**: whether or not the Platform will provide scientific support relevant to the other biodiversity-related conventions (the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), etc.) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), in addition to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and whether it should focus on the needs of Governments or also respond to the needs of other relevant stakeholders (United Nations agencies, international scientific organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector);

(b) **Legal and institutional status:** whether it would be an intergovernmental body or would be also combined with non-governmental entities, and whether it would be a subsidiary body, otherwise linked, or independent of one or more existing international organizations; and whether it would be established by a decision of an intergovernmental conference or by decision(s) of existing intergovernmental organization organization(s); and

(c) **The bodies to be established** (e.g., plenary; executive body; scientific advisory committee, bureau and secretariat).

8. There was general agreement at the second meeting that an IPBES should focus on assessing knowledge and capacity-development while supporting knowledge generation and use of knowledge. The options provided below draw from those discussions. However there are various options for the role of IPBES with regards to each of these, including:

(a) Whether it would catalyse knowledge generation beyond the identification of gaps;

(b) Whether it would focus on global assessments or also carry out subglobal assessments;

(c) Whether it would assist decision-makers in using knowledge beyond the identification of possible policy tools; and

(d) Whether it would carry out capacity-development activities beyond the identification of needs.

9. The role of other relevant initiatives including follow-up activities to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, such as the Millennium Assessment Knowledge to Action initiative of UNEP and other partners would also need to be considered.

10. Other areas to be resolved concern **funding modalities; selection criteria, nomination and selection process for chair(s); roles of scientific organizations, United Nations agencies, multilateral environmental agreements, non-governmental organizations, the private sector; selection of authors; peer-review process; and the report approval process.**

11. In decision IX/15, the Conference of the Parties requested the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, at its third meeting, to consider the outcome of the intergovernmental meeting and its implications for the implementation and organization of work of the Convention, including its Strategic Plan, and to make recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting. While the outcomes of this process and hence the implications for the Convention are yet to be decided it will be important that the third and final Ad Hoc Intergovernmental and Multi-Stakeholder meeting on an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services reaches agreement on whether to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services so that the outcomes can be transmitted to the General Assembly, as requested by the Governing Council decision SS.XI/3 reproduced in annex I below, and to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

### SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

12. The third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention may wish to make a recommendation along the following lines:

*The Ad Hoc Open Ended Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention,*

*Recalling* the global strategy for follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the outcomes of the consultative process towards an international mechanism of scientific expertise on biodiversity (IMoSEB),

1. *Takes note* of the outcomes of the two Ad Hoc Intergovernmental and Multi-Stakeholder meetings on an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

2. *Welcomes* the decision SS.XI/3 of the eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystems services,<sup>1</sup> as well as the section on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Nusa Dua Declaration,<sup>2</sup> noting the desirability of reaching a decision on whether or not to establish an IPBES in time for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to collaborate with the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant partners to ensure the full involvement of key stakeholders in the preparation of the third meeting on an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

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<sup>1</sup> Annex I below.

<sup>2</sup> Annex II below.

*Annex I*

**ADVANCE COPY OF UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL DECISION SS.XI/3 ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM AT ITS ELEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION**

**SS.XI/3: Intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services**

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its main functions and responsibilities set out in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, under which the Governing Council is, among other things, to promote the contribution of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information and, as appropriate, to the technical aspects of the formation and implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system,

*Taking note* of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and its follow-up process, the consultative process towards an international mechanism of scientific expertise on biodiversity and decision IX/15 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

*Recalling* its decision 25/10 of 20 February 2009,

*Noting* the outcomes of the second ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, held in Nairobi from 5 to 9 October 2009,

*Recognizing* the need to strengthen and improve the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services,

*Having considered* the report of the Executive Director on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services,<sup>‡</sup>

1. *Invites* Governments and relevant organizations to finalize in 2010 their deliberations on improving the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to support efforts by Governments and relevant organizations to finalize the above-mentioned deliberations and, in so doing:

(a) To convene, in June 2010, a third and final ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting to negotiate and reach agreement on whether to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

(b) To make available to all parties concerned, including participants in the third meeting, the information requested at the second meeting<sup>§</sup> in good time for the third meeting;

(c) To transmit, on behalf of the Governing Council, the outcomes of and necessary documentation from the third and final meeting to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session for consideration during the high-level segment on biological diversity in September 2010 and thereafter;

3. *Invites* Governments and organizations in a position to do so to provide extrabudgetary resources for the above-mentioned process;

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<sup>‡</sup> UNEP/GCSS.XI/7.

<sup>§</sup> UNEP/IPBES/2/4/Rev.1, annex, para. 29.

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to cooperate closely with the relevant secretariats of the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, multilateral financial institutions and relevant international organizations, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, to ensure the full involvement of key stakeholders in the preparation of the third meeting.

*Annex II***EXTRACT FROM NUSA DUA DECLARATION, BALI, MARCH 2010****E. Biodiversity and ecosystems**

15. We acknowledge that biodiversity is at the core of human existence; it is threatened by rapid global change and is under pressure from ecosystem degradation and change.
16. We recognize that the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 presents a unique opportunity to address biodiversity loss and to raise public awareness for achieving the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2010 biodiversity target, and also to reinforce the importance of promoting actions at national, regional and international levels for achieving the three objectives and the target.
17. We are committed in 2010 to finalize deliberations on improving the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services and in so doing negotiating and reaching agreement on whether to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services. We also welcome the commitment made by the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to finalize an international regime on access and benefit sharing in 2010 in accordance with decision UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/IX/12 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.
18. We also encourage the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to play a leadership role in advancing understanding of the economics of biodiversity and ecosystems services and its policy implications, through the initiative on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity.
19. We encourage and support the United Nations Environment Programme to contribute towards the high-level meeting on biodiversity at the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2010, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity and the high-level plenary meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly in 2010 to review progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, in particular in relation to environmental goals and targets, and in ensuring environmental sustainability in poverty eradication.

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