



Convention on Biological Diversity

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

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Agenda item 9

RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

24/7. Biodiversity and health

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions XII/21, XIII/6 and 14/4 on biodiversity and health and decision XIII/3 on the mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity within and across sectors,

Recalling the Sharm El-Sheikh declaration on the theme of *Investing in biodiversity for people and the planet* and the Kunming declaration on the theme of *Ecological civilization: building a shared future for all life on Earth*,

[*Noting* the resolution 48/13 [on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment][entitled “The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment”], adopted by the Human Rights Council,]

Also noting the resolution 5/6 on biodiversity and health of the United Nations Environment Assembly 5.2,

Taking note of the definition of One Health by the One Health High-level Expert Panel:

“One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems. It recognizes the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and inter-dependent. The approach mobilizes multiple sectors, disciplines and communities at varying levels of society to work together to foster well-being and tackle threats to health and ecosystems, while addressing the collective need for clean water, energy and air, safe and nutritious food, taking action on climate change, and contributing to sustainable development.”

Noting that this definition has not been discussed or agreed by the Convention and its Protocols,

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the importance of the relationship between health and well-being, and biodiversity, including the urgent need to reduce pressures on habitats and to decrease ecosystem degradation and consequently reduce the risk of pathogen spillover and outbreak, the importance of early warning, surveillance and prompt information-sharing for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and the need to address inequities in global health, including with respect to [equal and] equitable access to medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, and medical equipment,

Recognizing also the relevance of sustainable consumption and production patterns on biodiversity and health linkages,

Recognizing further that the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches, could contribute to the reduction of the risk of diseases of zoonotic origin, vector-borne and other infectious diseases, and to health and well-being for all,

[*Taking note* of the 2019 Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services¹ stating that zoonotic and vector-borne diseases are significant threats to human health, and that emerging infectious diseases in wildlife, domestic animals, plants or people can be exacerbated by human activities,]

Emphasizing the critical role of genetic resources, [in any form][digital sequence information,] [and associated traditional knowledge], in the research and development of health products and services, [including in the context of addressing emerging diseases which have potential to become pandemics,] and the importance of the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization in this regard, in line with the Convention, [and in a mutually-supportive manner with other relevant international agreements and instruments,]

Noting ongoing efforts to draft and negotiate a World Health Organization convention, agreement or other international instrument to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, [as well as ongoing negotiations to amend the International Health Regulations (2005),] and the need to [ensure alignment with the provisions][be consistent with, and not run counter to the objectives] of the Convention and its Protocols,

1. *Encourages* Parties and their subnational and local governments, and invites other Governments, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities, where appropriate, and relevant stakeholders:

(a) To take actions for a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, which contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and thereby contribute to minimizing the risk of future diseases of zoonotic origin, taking into account the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches;

(b) To further integrate the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches, in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national health plans, as appropriate, to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(c) To further support capacity-building development for mainstreaming biodiversity and health linkages into the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(d) To strengthen compliance with international and national provisions on access and benefit-sharing, in order to enhance the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources [and associated information] in the relevant health sectors.

2. *Invites* the Quadripartite for One Health (comprising the World Health Organization, the World Organisation for Animal Health, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the United Nations Environment Programme), the One Health High-level Expert Panel, and other relevant expert groups and initiatives:

(a) To take into account in their work [and outcomes] the linkages between health and biodiversity, [and] the need for the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches, pursuant to decisions XIII/6 and 14/4[, and the need to recognize socioeconomic inequities between developing and developed countries, particularly health inequalities, as well as the principles of equity and solidarity];

(b) To contribute with guidance, interdisciplinary education and training, to the implementation of health-related elements and the application of the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches, in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(c) To contribute to the development of, and reporting on, health-related indicators of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

¹ <https://ipbes.net/global-assessment>, approved by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services plenary at its 7th session in May 2019.

(d) To collaborate with the Executive Secretary in providing Parties with capacity-building, technology transfer, and resource mobilization opportunities for mainstreaming biodiversity and health linkages.

[3. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its mandate, as appropriate, to consider providing technical and financial support for mainstreaming biodiversity and health linkages;]

4. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and all relevant donors and funding organizations in a position to do so, to consider providing technical support and mobilizing resources for mainstreaming biodiversity and health linkages;

[5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and in collaboration with members of the Quadripartite for One Health, to complete the work pursuant to decision 14/4, paragraph 13 (b)(c) on targeted messages and a draft global action plan, drawing on the deliberations of the resumed session of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as follows:

(a) To produce an updated version of the draft global action plan and targeted messages based on the inputs received from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, and other relevant stakeholders [and prioritize the issues of equity, particularly through the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, [digital sequence information] and associated [traditional] information];

(b) To invite Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, and other relevant stakeholders to review the updated version of the draft global action plan;

(c) To make the outcomes of this work available for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advance at a future meeting, with a view to making recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.]
