

*Annex*

**RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION**

*Montreal, 5-9 September 2005*

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**1/1. Implementation of the Convention and Strategic Plan**

*The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention*

A. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties, at its eighth meeting:

1. *Considers* appropriate mechanisms to, *inter alia*:

(a) Undertake, prior to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, an in-depth review of the implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan (excluding consideration of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety), including an assessment of obstacles to their implementation and of ways and means of overcoming such obstacles on the basis, *inter alia*, of information provided in the third national reports and supplementary submissions provided by Parties, focusing in particular on:

- (i) The provision of financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer;
- (ii) The status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, their implementation and updating, and the extent to which biodiversity concerns are effectively integrated into relevant sectors and have been effectively mainstreamed in accordance with Article 6 (b) of the Convention;

(b) Develop, prior to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, consolidated and up-to-date guidance for the development, implementation and evaluation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the effective integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors, including financial considerations for implementing and updating national strategies and guidance on facilitating the involvement of indigenous and local communities;

2. *Recognizes* the need for increased capacity within Parties to implement the Convention, particularly with regard to national biodiversity strategies, policies, plans and legislation and national reports, and *considers* options for the provision of increased technical support for developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, for facilitating and promoting implementation of the Convention;

3. *Further considers* options to support Parties to undertake, on a voluntary basis, a review of national implementation of the Convention, as envisaged in paragraph 41 of decision V/20;

B. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

*“The Conference of the Parties*

*Emphasizing* the need to address each of the three objectives of the Convention,

*Noting* that the major obstacles to the implementation of the Convention have already been identified in the Strategic Plan, and ways and means of overcoming these obstacles need to be identified,

*Stressing* the need for the provision of new and additional financial resources for the implementation of the Convention in accordance with Article 20 and looking forward to a successful replenishment of the GEF,

*Recalling* that paragraph 4 of Article 23 tasks the Conference of the Parties with keeping under review the implementation of the Convention,

1. *Decides* that review of implementation of the Convention should be a standing item on its agenda;

2. *Takes note* of the analysis of progress towards the goals of the Strategic Plan summarized in paragraph 5 of the note by the Executive Secretary on implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan and progress towards the 2010 target (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/2);
  3. *Decides* to consider, at its ninth meeting, the in-depth review of the implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan and consolidated guidance for the development, implementation and evaluation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the effective integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors;
  4. In preparation for the review process referred to in paragraph 3 above, *invites* Parties to provide timely information on:
    - (a) The status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, their implementation and updating, and the extent to which biodiversity concerns have been effectively mainstreamed in accordance with Article 6 (b) of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
    - (b) The main obstacles to implementation of the Convention at the national level, including obstacles to the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to the effective integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors (using as a framework the list of obstacles identified in the Strategic Plan), and ways and means by which these obstacles might be overcome;
    - (c) An update on actions taken in response to paragraph 41 of decision V/20 on reviewing implementation at the national level.”
- C. In view of the work to be undertaken in connection with paragraphs A 1 (a) and B 3 above, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention *requests* the Executive Secretary to develop, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting:
- (a) An outline of issues to be addressed by the in-depth review of national biodiversity strategies and action plans referred to in paragraph A 1 (a) above;
  - (b) A proposal on the form and scope of guidance for the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and cross-sectoral integration, referred to in paragraph A 1 (b) above;
  - (c) Options for the provision of technical support to Parties for facilitating and promoting implementation of the Convention, such as a technical assistance programme, including consideration of the potential role of the Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and other organizations as appropriate, and the financial implications of such options, drawing upon, *inter alia*, the experience of other conventions and international organizations;
  - (d) Options to support Parties to undertake, on a voluntary basis, a review of national implementation, as envisaged in paragraph 41 of decision V/20;
  - (e) A proposal on inviting other biodiversity-relevant organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to participate in the liaison group of biodiversity-related conventions (the “Biodiversity Liaison Group”).

## **1/2. Review of processes**

### *The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention*

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to develop, maintain, and publish on the website of the Convention on Biological Diversity an up-to-date list of standard notional costs covering all costs, including travel costs for participation from developing countries and countries with economies in transition for meetings of Convention bodies and expert groups and for other items with substantial costs, for use in estimating the cost implications of decisions under negotiation;
2. *Recalling* paragraphs 2 and 4 of decision VII/33 on the process for consolidating decisions of the Conference of the Parties and *noting* the need to align this process with the schedule for in-depth review of issues outlined in the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010, *requests* the Executive Secretary, under the guidance of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, to propose draft consolidated decisions for issues proposed for in-depth discussion at its eighth meeting, namely dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, Article 8(j), the Global Taxonomy Initiative, education and public awareness, national reports, cooperation with other bodies, and operations of the Convention;
3. *Takes note* of the outcome of the International Conference “Biodiversity: Science and Governance”, held in Paris in January 2005, and *invites* the Executive Secretary to report on progress to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, to explore options for facilitating exchange of information and views on the items on the agenda of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, including through informal workshops, with a view to facilitating the formal discussion of such items at meetings of the Subsidiary Body, and to report on such options to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;
5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consolidate the existing *modus operandi* of Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the proposed Operational Plan of the Subsidiary Body contained in annex I to this recommendation and the recommendations of this Working Group;
6. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties, at its eighth meeting, considers improved working arrangements for ad hoc open-ended working groups;
7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile the following information to assist the Conference of the Parties, at its eighth meeting, in its consideration of improved working arrangements for ad hoc open-ended working groups: relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties (V/20), the mandates of previous and existing ad hoc open-ended working groups, submissions by Parties to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, the note by the Executive Secretary on review of processes under the Convention (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/3 and Add.1), existing materials on procedures for subsidiary bodies in other conventions, the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties, the *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and a reference list of final reports from ad hoc open-ended working groups;
8. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties, at its eighth meeting, considers that, subject to the availability of the necessary budgetary resources and/or voluntary contributions, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention will meet prior to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
9. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties, at its eighth meeting, considers the procedure for decision-making with a view to reaching an agreement on paragraph 1 of rule 40 of the rules of procedure as soon as possible;

10. *Recalling* paragraph 3 of decision VI/27, *requests* the Executive Secretary to collect, compile and disseminate information on existing regional networks and mechanisms as a means of encouraging further regional and subregional cooperation;

11. *Recalling* paragraph 17 of decision VI/27 B, *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties consider approving the funding of participation of at least two delegates from developing countries or countries with economies in transition in meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice through the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating Participation of Parties in the Convention Process (BZ Trust Fund);

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, a series of options for restructuring the meeting schedule of the Convention to streamline Convention processes, including the implications of changing the frequency of its ordinary meetings;

13. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

“The Conference of the Parties

**I. The Conference of the Parties**

1. *Decides* to maintain the current periodicity of its ordinary meetings until its tenth meeting in 2010.

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau and the host country of any meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to develop a format for the ministerial segment that will enhance its contribution to the Conference of the Parties and generate support for, and raise awareness of, biodiversity-related issues and the implementation of the Convention, and *further requests* the Executive Secretary to work with host countries to ensure effective and productive ministerial segments;

3. *Decides* to consider the procedure contained in annex II below as guidance for the process of priority-setting for the allocation of financial resources by the Conference of the Parties;

4. *Decides* to refine the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010, specifying strategic issues for evaluating progress or supporting implementation for in-depth consideration, and to align the process for the consolidation of decisions with the schedule for in-depth consideration of issues, as set out in annex III below;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile a list of all proposals for new principles, guidelines and other tools contained in the draft decisions for the Conference of the Parties, and to update this as new proposals emerge over the course of a meeting;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, under the guidance of the Bureau, to propose draft consolidated decisions for issues related to agricultural biodiversity, the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, invasive alien species, incentive measures, the ecosystem approach, island biodiversity, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the financial mechanism and additional financial resources, and identification and monitoring, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, and to communicate the proposed draft consolidated decisions to Parties, Governments and relevant international organizations for their review and comments at least six months prior to that meeting;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in preparing for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, to keep the number and length of documents to a minimum, and

to circulate documents to Parties as early as possible, preferably no later than three months in advance of meetings;

8. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to minimize overlap among draft decisions, and to note linkages among them in the corresponding documentation, and *encourages* Parties and the Executive Secretary to bear these linkages and the need to maintain a manageable number of decisions in mind when considering or preparing draft decisions and to consider the amendment of current decisions before proposing additional ones;

9. *Decides* to maintain the changes it made to rule 21 of the rules of procedure in paragraph 5 of decision V/20;

## **II. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice**

10. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to carry out its mandate effectively as defined in Article 25 of the Convention;

11. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to ensure that assessments are carried out in an objective and authoritative manner, and that sufficient time is allocated for the consideration of results of assessments (in line with its recommendations VI/5 and X/2);

12. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to ensure that terms of reference for ad hoc technical expert groups clearly indicate their mandate, duration of operation and expected outcomes, that their mandates are limited to the provision of scientific and technical advice and assessments, and that ad hoc technical expert groups conform to their mandates;

13. *Requests* Parties to give priority to the nomination of appropriate scientific and technical experts for participation in ad hoc technical expert groups and other assessment processes, and *decides* to discontinue the maintenance and use of the roster of experts;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to develop and maintain a list of upcoming meetings of ad hoc technical expert groups, other expert groups and assessment processes that require Parties to identify experts, and to circulate the list to all national focal points after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

15. *Decides* to replace the first sentence of paragraph 12 (b) of the *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (decision IV/16, annex I) with the following paragraph:

“The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, will select scientific and technical experts from the nominations submitted by Parties for each ad hoc technical expert group;”

16. *Endorses* the consolidated *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

17. *Recognizing* that Parties determine the specific responsibilities of their focal points to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, *notes* that such focal points act as liaisons with the Secretariat on behalf of their Parties with regard to scientific, technical and technological matters related to the Convention and that, in doing so, they may undertake the following tasks:

(a) Developing linkages, and facilitating information exchange, between the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and relevant regional and national agencies and experts;

(b) Responding to requests for input from the Conference of the Parties and the Secretariat related to scientific, technical and technological issues;

(c) Communicating and collaborating with focal points for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in other countries to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body and to facilitate implementation of the Convention;

(d) Collaborating with other national-level focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity and focal points from other biodiversity-related conventions to facilitate implementation of the Convention at the national level;

18. *Encourages* Parties that have not already done so to appoint focal points for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

### **III. Other matters**

19. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to maintain a list of requests for information, reports, views and compilations proposed during meetings of ad hoc open-ended working groups to allow Parties to have an overview of all requests to the Executive Secretary for further inter-sessional work.

20. [*Further requests* the Executive Secretary in undertaking the task above to provide information on: cost estimates, time-frames, and duplication with existing activities;]

21. *Recognizing* that Parties determine the specific responsibilities of their national focal points, *notes* that the primary function of national focal points is to act as liaisons with the Secretariat on behalf of their Parties and in so doing, they are responsible for:

(a) Receiving and disseminating information related to the Convention;

(b) Ensuring that Parties are represented at meetings under the Convention;

(c) Identifying experts to participate in ad hoc technical expert groups, assessment processes and other processes under the Convention;

(d) Responding to other requests for input by Parties from the Conference of the Parties and the Secretariat;

(e) Collaborating with national focal points in other countries to facilitate implementation of the Convention;

(f) Monitoring, promoting and/or facilitating national implementation of the Convention;

22. *Invites* Parties and Governments, international and regional financial institutions and development agencies, as well as other donors, to make funds available for strengthening the capacity of national focal points for the Convention so as to make them more effective, for example through regional and sub-regional workshops and the sharing of information and experience;

23. *Invites* Parties to identify focal points and institutions to facilitate regional and subregional preparation for meetings of the Conference of the Parties and implementation of the Convention at the regional and subregional levels as appropriate;

24. *Recalling* paragraph 10 of decision VII/33, requests the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of the necessary budgetary resources and/or voluntary

contributions, to make the necessary arrangements for at least one regional preparatory meeting per region prior to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

25. *Encourages* developed country Parties to provide financial resources to the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions to the Core Budget for Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity (BE Trust Fund) and the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating Participation of Parties in the Convention Process (BZ Trust Fund) in a timely manner to facilitate the planning of meetings and the full participation of representatives from developing country Parties and countries with economies in transition;

26. *Decides* that prior to the development of new principles, guidelines and other tools under the Convention, it will conduct a gap analysis with a view to:

- (a) Identifying existing, useful tools which it might endorse or welcome;
- (b) Identifying existing, useful tools, and tools under development that it might try to influence, such that they adequately reflect biodiversity considerations;
- (c) Identifying the need for new tools developed under the Convention;

27. *Noting* that the Conference of the Parties has frequently invited other institutions and organizations to make use of the principles, guidelines and other tools developed under the Convention, *requests* the Executive Secretary to identify ways and means to more actively promote the use of such tools by international organizations and institutions.

#### *Annex I*

### **DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

#### **A. Purpose of the Operational Plan**

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was established by the Convention, with its terms of reference set out in Article 25, paragraph 2. The present Operational Plan elaborates that role, reflecting the evolving nature of the work of SBSTTA, as the Convention moves to an implementation phase.
2. The plan is intended to guide the work of SBSTTA. It is designed to support implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention, in particular the 2010 biodiversity target (decision VI/26) and other targets agreed upon in its other decisions; the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 (decision VI/31); and other global goals such as the Millennium Development Goals and the goals in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

#### **B. Mission**

3. To provide the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies with timely advice relating to the implementation of this Convention, in particular with regard to achieving the mission and goals of the Convention's Strategic Plan (Article 25, paragraph 1).

#### **C. Outcomes**

4. Scientific and technical assessments of status and trends in, and threats to, components of biological diversity (Article 25, paragraph 2 (a)) in accordance with the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 (decision VI/31) and other biodiversity-related aspects as identified in the Strategic Plan of the Convention (decision VI/26) and framework for assessing progress towards the 2010 target (decision VII/30);
5. Scientific and technical assessments of the effects of types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of this Convention (Article 25, paragraph 2 (b));



6. Identification of innovative, efficient and state-of-the-art technologies and know-how relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and advice on the ways and means of promoting development and/or transferring such technologies (Article 25, paragraph 2 (c));
7. Identification of new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
8. Identification of opportunities for collaboration with, and engagement of, relevant scientific programmes and undertakings of international cooperation in research and development related to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (Article 25, paragraph 2 (d)); and
9. Responses to scientific, technical, technological and methodological questions that the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies put to SBSTTA (Article 25, paragraph 2 (e)).

**D. Strategic ways and means for achieving the outcomes**

10. Improving the scientific, technical and technological inputs into SBSTTA documents by, *inter alia*:
  - (a) Undertaking scientific and technical assessments according to the process for assessments initiated by SBSTTA outlined in the appendix hereto;
  - (b) Establishment of work plans, time tables and resource requirements, early identification of collaborators and contributors, and transparent processes for contributions, comments and feedback at various stages of document preparation; and
  - (c) Systematic use of peer-review and other consultative processes that involve the scientific community.
11. Improving the scientific, technical and technological debates during meetings of the Subsidiary Body by, *inter alia*:
  - (a) Identification of opportunities to prepare delegates, particularly those with limited experience, for the discussions on scientific and technical matters; and
  - (b) Increasing the scientific, technical and technological activities within, and inputs into, the meetings, through key-note speakers, posters, round-table debates, side-events and the provision of scientific publications, technical series documents and other relevant scientific, technical and technological inputs focusing on the main agenda items and the strategic issues identified by the Conference of the Parties for evaluating progress towards, and promoting achievement of, the 2010 biodiversity target.
12. Actively building relationships with the scientific and technical community, by, *inter alia*:
  - (a) Providing material about the work of SBSTTA that is accessible to the scientific and technical community (i.e. expresses it in language that is understandable by the scientific and technical community, and relates the material to the work of the scientific and technical community);
  - (b) Actively disseminating the results of the work of SBSTTA through scientific literature, both as reporting items and as scientific papers, as reviewed and approved by the Conference of the Parties;
  - (c) Participating in, and contributing to, the scientific and technical components of other biodiversity-related processes and initiatives, including the Joint Liaison Group and Biodiversity Liaison Group; and
  - (d) Using other bodies as a bridge between SBSTTA and the scientific and technical community in relation to work programmes (e.g. international thematic focal points and key partners).

*Appendix*

**STEPS FOR THE CONDUCT OF ASSESSMENTS INITIATED BY SBSTTA**

<b>Assessment steps</b>	<b>Modalities / Activities</b>
Recognition of assessment need/mandate	(i) Mandate is usually given by the Conference of the Parties; (ii) Needs are identified through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The review of programme of work, e.g., for forest biodiversity, and biodiversity and climate change;</li> <li>• After an initial assessment, e.g., for invasive alien species;</li> <li>• During implementation of programmes of work (e.g., rapid assessment methods).</li> </ul>
Preparation of background document or Note by the Executive Secretary	Background documents or detailed outlines drafted by the Executive Secretary with or without assistance from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Consultant/collaborating organization; and / or</li> <li>(ii) Expert meeting.</li> </ul>
Consideration by an AHTEG <sup>1/</sup> established by the Conference of the Parties, SBSTTA or by an expert group	(i) Review of background document or Note by the Executive Secretary; (ii) Identification of gaps; (iii) Revision of background document taking into account additional published information.
Peer-review	Peer-review, if applicable, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Selected reviewers;</li> <li>(ii) Wider peer-review involving Parties, other Governments, SBSTTA focal points, experts from the roster of experts of the Convention on Biological Diversity, organizations and indigenous and local communities; other conventions and their focal points.</li> </ul>
Consideration by SBSTTA	(i) Conclusions on assessment; (ii) Recommendation to the Conference of the Parties.
Use and application of results (including consideration by the Conference of the Parties) and identification of gaps to be addressed in future	(i) Utilization of the revised document to develop elements and activities for the relevant programmes of work, and follow-up activities; (ii) Decision by the Conference of the Parties; (iii) Publication of assessment reports in the CBD Technical Series; (iv) Use in other publications, e.g. Millennium Assessment report; (v) Use by Governments and others; (vi) Identification of additional information needs, including the needs for new assessments.

*Annex II*

**GUIDANCE FOR PRIORITY-SETTING TO GUIDE THE ALLOCATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES**

1. All draft decisions are accompanied by an assessment of their cost implications and a summary of those decisions and costs is included in the documentation on the budget and programme for the next biennium. Cost assessments are based on notional costs according to the list maintained by the Executive

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<sup>1/</sup> The cost of a meeting of experts (including 12 experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition) varies between US\$ 40,000 and US\$ 60,000 depending on the venue and participation of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity when meetings are held outside of Montreal.

Secretary, and reflect the major costs associated with the decision, such as the establishment of open-ended meetings, technical expert groups, liaison groups and partnerships, as well as an overall estimate of other costs, such as staff time.

2. The Executive Secretary prepares a stand-alone summary of these costs indicating costings for each proposed activity and updates it on daily basis.

3. Early in its discussions, the budget group estimates the cost of proposed activities, as well as the funds that are likely to be available to support those activities, taking into account administrative costs for the Secretariat, the Conference of the Parties and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. Simultaneously, working groups negotiate proposals and refine cost assessments accordingly.

4. Mid-meeting, the budget group presents its findings to the plenary of the Conference of the Parties. All proposals that have major financial implications, such as those establishing open-ended meetings, are considered and priorities for the allocation of resources are developed.

5. The budget group continues negotiations based on revised cost assessments and working groups proceed bearing in mind the identified priorities.

6. The plenary of the Conference of the Parties makes the final decision on core budget allocations in its consideration of budget papers and endorsement of draft decisions with a budgetary component.

### *Annex III*

## **PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF DECISIONS AND CONSIDERATION OF STRATEGIC ISSUES THAT SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION IN LINE WITH THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES UP TO 2010**

*Explanatory note:* Column 2 is reproduced directly from the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 (decision VII/31, annex) and is included for information only; column 3 specifies: (1) the focus of the review of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan; and (2) the mechanisms for implementation to be reviewed at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and column 4 proposes a schedule for the consolidation of decisions that is aligned, as far as possible, with columns 2 and 3 and will be completed by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting as per paragraph 2 of decision VII/33.

<b>1. Meeting</b>	<b>2. Issues for in-depth review or consideration</b>	<b>3. Strategic issues for evaluating progress or supporting implementation</b>	<b>4. Issues for which decisions will be consolidated</b>
<b>COP 8</b>	1. Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity 2. Global Taxonomy Initiative 3. Access and benefit-sharing 4. Education and public awareness 5. Article 8(j) and related provisions 6. Island biodiversity	1. Progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and follow-up on progress towards the 2010 target and relevant Millennium Development Goals: review of the second Global Biodiversity Outlook; consideration of findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2. National reports; cooperation; stakeholder engagement; operations of the Convention	1. Forest biodiversity <u>2/</u> 2. Access and benefit-sharing <u>2/</u> 3. Guidance to the financial mechanism <u>2/</u> 4. Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity <u>3/</u> 5. Article 8(j) <u>3/</u> 6. Global Taxonomy Initiative <u>3/</u> 7. Education and public awareness <u>3/</u> 8. National reports <u>5/</u> 9. Cooperation <u>5/</u> 10. Operations of the Convention <u>5/</u>

2/ Consolidation of decisions already requested for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (decision VII/33).

3/ Consolidation coincides with in-depth reviews of thematic programmes of work and cross-cutting issues.

1. Meeting	2. Issues for in-depth review or consideration	3. Strategic issues for evaluating progress or supporting implementation	4. Issues for which decisions will be consolidated
<b>COP 9</b>	1. Agricultural biodiversity 2. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 3. Invasive alien species 4. Forest biodiversity 5. Incentive measures 6. Ecosystem approach	1. Progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and follow-up on progress towards the 2010 target and relevant Millennium Development Goals: review of national biodiversity strategies and action plans 2. Financial resources and the financial mechanism; Identification and monitoring	1. Agricultural biodiversity <u>3/</u> 2. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation <u>3/</u> 3. Invasive alien species <u>3/</u> 4. Incentive measures <u>3/</u> 5. Ecosystem approach <u>3/</u> 6. Island biodiversity <u>4/</u> 7. National biodiversity strategies and action plans <u>5/</u> 8. Financial mechanism and additional financial resources <u>5/</u> 9. Identification and monitoring <u>5/</u>
<b>COP 10</b>	1. Inland waters biodiversity 2. Marine and coastal biodiversity 3. Sustainable use 4. Protected areas 5. Mountain biodiversity 6. Climate change	1. Progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and follow-up on progress towards the 2010 target and relevant Millennium Development Goals: review of the fourth national reports and the third Global Biodiversity Outlook; revision of the Strategic Plan and framework of goals and targets 2. Clearing-house mechanism; technology transfer; capacity-building	1. Inland waters biodiversity <u>3/</u> 2. Marine and coastal biodiversity <u>3/</u> 3. Sustainable use <u>3/</u> 4. Protected areas <u>3/</u> 5. Mountain biodiversity <u>3/</u> 6. Biodiversity and climate change <u>3/</u> 7. Biodiversity and tourism <u>4/</u> 8. Strategic Plan and the 2010 framework <u>5/</u> 9. Clearing-house mechanism <u>5/</u> 10. Technology transfer <u>5/</u> 11. Capacity-building <u>5/</u>

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4/ Other issues.

5/ Consolidation coincides with the review of strategic issues for evaluating progress and supporting implementation.

***1/3. Mechanisms for implementation: review of the clearing-house mechanism***

*The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention*

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the informal advisory committee for the clearing-house mechanism, to finalize the draft of the second strategic plan for the clearing-house mechanism (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/11 and Corr.1), taking into account the views of Parties, Governments and relevant organizations made at the first meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention and to submit it to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for its consideration;

2. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties decide to institute a user-focused in-depth review and assessment of the clearing-house mechanism, for consideration at its tenth meeting.

**1/4. Mechanisms for implementation: financial resources and financial mechanism**

*The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention*

1. *Recommends* to the Conference of the Parties that it adopt a decision including the following elements:

*“The Conference of the Parties,*

*Reaffirming* the importance of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of Article 20,

*Bearing in mind* the need for adequacy, predictability and timely flow of funds in support of the Convention,

*Noting* with regret the lack of voluntary contributions for the implementation of decision VII/22, on arrangements for the third review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism,

*Recalling* paragraph 3 of Article 21 and *emphasizing* the need to review the financial mechanism on a regular basis,

*Realizing* that synergy between the Rio conventions can offer opportunities to increase the effectiveness of the use of financial resources,

*Noting* the progress toward implementation of the Convention at the national level,

*Noting also* that although a number of developed countries have specific funding programmes for biodiversity, a much larger source of funding for developing countries is, and will continue to be, through development assistance,

*Recognizing* that official development assistance may provide additional financing opportunities for achieving the objectives of the Convention,

*Recognizing* also the dynamic nature of financial decision-making processes involving both donors and recipients,

1. *Urges* developed country Parties and other donors to increase their contributions to the Global Environment Facility;

2. *Considers* financial sustainability in advancing various programmes of work of the Convention;

3. *Examines* the New Resource Allocation Framework adopted by the Council of the Global Environment Facility with respect to potential implications on the implementation of the Convention,

4. *Affirms* that Parties and Governments should determine their own funding priorities for national biodiversity activities based on the Strategic Plan, and national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and taking into account relevant elements of the Convention’s programmes of work;

5. *Decides* to conduct an in-depth review of financial resources and the financial mechanism at its ninth meeting. This review should:

(a) Build on past reviews;

(b) Focus on what action has been taken or needs to be taken to address identified obstacles;

(c) Examine how financial resources from the financial mechanism and official development assistance are being used to address national biodiversity priorities;

(d) Identify opportunities available to Parties from official development assistance for the implementation of the Convention, including through mainstreaming biological diversity;

(e) Explore options on how the financial mechanism can enhance cooperation between the three Rio conventions, bearing in mind Parties' priorities and each convention's scope;

(f) Develop a strategy for resource mobilization in support of implementation activities based on the results of the in-depth review;

6. *Adopts* an updated list of developed country Parties and other Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of the developed country Parties, by updating the list that was adopted in decision I/2;

7. *Considers* clarifying the eligibility criteria for access to and utilization of financial resources through the financial mechanism contained in decision I/2, annex I, by providing a list of developing country Parties;

8. *Takes note of, and encourages* the Executive Secretary to regularly update, the publications concerning financial resources and the financial mechanism that have been made available by the Executive Secretary in response to requests by the Conference of the Parties;

9. *Welcomes* the decision of the Working Party on Statistics (WP-STAT) of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD/DAC), at its meeting on 10-11 June 2004, to collect data through the Creditor Reporting System on aid targeting the objectives of the Rio conventions, and *invites* the Executive Secretary and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to further collaborate on data collection and to provide regular reports on the status and trends of biodiversity finance to the Conference of the Parties;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to explore opportunities for collaborating with the DAC Network on Environment and Development Co-operation of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, with a view to participating in its activities and promoting consideration of biodiversity-related financial issues through the DAC Network;

11. *Encourages* the Executive Secretary to enter into memoranda of cooperation with financial institutions and international development agencies, upon their request, in order to ensure the regular flow of information on the implementation of, and to inform, decisions of the Conference of the Parties regarding financial resources related to biological diversity;

12. *Urges* the Global Environment Facility to further simplify the procedures for disbursement of resources so as to take into consideration the special conditions within developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States among them, as referred to in paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 20;

13. *Invites* Parties to give biodiversity a prominent place in their development-planning systems, including in poverty reduction strategy papers, thus maximizing opportunities presented in official development assistance;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to develop proposals for the global initiative on banking, business and biodiversity, based on decisions VI/16, paragraph 11 (d), and VII/21, paragraph 8, taking into account also the recommendation 1/7, on private-sector engagement, of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention;

15. *Decides* that financial resources and the financial mechanism will continue to be a permanent agenda item for meetings of the Conference of the Parties.”

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Develop, for consideration at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a work plan, including provisions for an analysis of the relevant information in the third national reports and other submissions by Parties and organizations, to prepare for the in-depth consideration of financial resources and financial mechanisms at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Collaborate with the Global Environment Facility in a dialogue on ways to more effectively formulate and implement the guidance to the financial mechanism and explore opportunities for streamlining such guidance, taking into account the framework for goals and targets included in decision VII/30 as well as indicators for assessing progress toward the achievement of the 2010 target, and report the results of this dialogue to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(c) Revise if necessary, after consultation with Parties concerned, the list that was adopted by decision I/2 of developed country Parties and other Parties which voluntarily assume the obligations of the developed country Parties, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

(d) Develop ways and means of improving the process of review of the financial mechanism for consideration at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(e) Invite the Chairman of the Global Environment Facility to provide details of the Resource Allocation Framework adopted by the special meeting of the Council of the Global Environment Facility on 1 September 2005 and its implications and potential impact on the implementation of the Convention at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.



**1/5. Mechanisms for implementation: review of the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness**

*The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention*

1. Takes note of the draft list of potential priority activities for the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) and the draft plan for their implementation prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/10);

2. Requests the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the CEPA Informal Advisory Committee, to examine the need for the plan of implementation to involve the participation of indigenous and local communities, and to finalize the list of priority activities for the CEPA Initiative and the plan for their implementation for in-depth consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, taking into account the views expressed by Parties, other Governments and organizations at the first meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, including the need for the plan of implementation to address:

- (a) The full range of potential audiences, including key stakeholders, the general public and donors;
  - (b) Adapted and differentiated messages to communicate to these audiences:
    - (i) Biodiversity as a concept;
    - (ii) The role and work of the Convention, including its three objectives and the 2010 biodiversity target;
    - (iii) The Convention's relationship to the work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and linkages to the broader issues of sustainable development and poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals;
    - (iv) The need for attitudinal and behavioural changes where necessary;
  - (c) The institutional framework, means and resources for the implementation of identified activities, including, *inter alia*, the integration of communication, education and public awareness strategies into national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the work of national clearing-house mechanisms;
  - (d) The distinction among activities at the national, subregional, regional, and global level and distribution of tasks among Parties, the Secretariat and partners;
  - (e) The development and maintenance of partnerships and networks, including the use of existing regional bodies and initiatives to facilitate implementation of activities through sharing of best practices and success stories and capacity-building;
  - (f) A modular approach for implementation of identified activities, adapted to each of the potential audiences;
  - (g) The setting of realistic milestones and deadlines tied to the generation of relevant outputs;
  - (h) Outputs that meet the requirements of the different categories of users/audiences;
  - (i) The intended use and impacts of the outputs;
  - (j) Mechanisms for monitoring and assessment of the activities and their results;
  - (k) A comprehensive analysis of the funding needs for implementation of the plan;
3. Requests the Executive Secretary to elaborate an indicative list of the various target audiences and the category of corresponding actors that are best suited to communicate to them;

4. *Recommends* to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting that it adopts a decision along the following lines:

“*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting with appreciation* the review and further development of the programme of work for the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA), prepared by the Executive Secretary with the support of the CEPA Informal Advisory Committee convened in response to decision VII/24 and, in particular, their efforts to identify a short list of priority activities in the CEPA programme of work to serve as the focus for the implementation of the initiative, as well as a plan for the implementation of the identified activities,

1. *Welcomes* the short list of priority activities for the CEPA Initiative comprising the communication, education and public awareness dimensions of the ongoing programmes of work of the Convention in the thematic areas and cross-cutting issues, including the programme of work for the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness annexed to decision VI/19;

2. *Adopts* the plan for the implementation of the identified priority activities;

3. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to make available the necessary financial resources to implement the identified CEPA priority activities at the national level in support of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

4. *Invites* Parties to contribute the necessary financial resources to implement the identified CEPA priority activities;

5. *Invites* Parties, international organizations and other partners to fully participate in, and contribute to, the implementation of the identified CEPA priority activities;

6. *Further invites* Parties to coordinate their CEPA activities with the corresponding activities of other biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, at national and regional levels as appropriate;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to cooperate actively with the secretariats of other conventions, in particular the Ramsar and Climate Change conventions, to build on experiences under those conventions, to ensure synergy, and avoid duplication;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary with the support of the Informal Advisory Committee to explore linkages with other global initiatives that are particularly relevant to the work of CEPA, *inter alia*, the global 2010 biodiversity target, the Millennium Development Goals, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.”

## ***1/6. Cooperation***

### *The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention*

1. *Welcomes* the signing of memoranda of cooperation with the following organizations since December 2003: BioNET International; the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology; the International Plant Protection Convention; the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; the World Heritage Centre of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
2. *Recognizes* the contribution of scientific research and assessments to the work of the Convention, including by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, DIVERSITAS, FAO/Land Degradation Assessment in Dry Lands, the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, the Global Inland Waters Assessment, the Sea Around Us Project (University of British Columbia), the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, and the World Water Assessment Programme;
3. *Notes* the report of the third meeting of the liaison group of biodiversity-related conventions (the “Biodiversity Liaison Group”) (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/7) and *expresses gratitude* to the executive heads of the secretariats of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar) and the World Heritage Convention for their support to this process;
4. *Notes* the report of the Workshop on Promoting CITES-CBD Cooperation and Synergy (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/9), held on the Isle of Vilm, Germany, from 20 to 24 April 2004, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to further promote cooperation with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, including through participation in meetings under that Convention.
5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consider further means to improve cooperation in implementation of the Convention at the global, regional and national levels, in addition to those referred to in the present recommendation, including with respect to promoting the sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, with a view to developing a systematic approach to cooperation, and to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;
6. *Welcomes* the contribution made by the following initiatives and networks to the work of the Convention: Countdown 2010, the Global Invasive Species Programme, the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, the International Coral Reef Initiative, the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators, the River Basin Initiative, and the Collaborative Partnership on Protected Areas;
7. *Welcomes* the Countdown 2010 initiative in Europe and the IUCN proposals to expand the initiative to other regions;
8. *Suggests* that the Executive Secretary in relation to decision VII/26, paragraph 3, undertake consultations with relevant organizations and initiatives, and with representatives of indigenous and local communities, in order to provide proposals for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting for a flexible framework among all relevant actors, such as a global partnership on biodiversity, noting that:
  - (a) A bottom-up, partner-driven process should be used in developing proposals for a global partnership;
  - (b) A global partnership should address all three objectives of the Convention in a balanced way;

(c) A global partnership should facilitate on-the-ground action, particularly implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(d) A global partnership should enable results of scientific assessments of biodiversity to be translated into effective responses;

(e) A global partnership should facilitate the development of issue-based networks without attempting to direct these networks;

(f) A global partnership should be a voluntary alliance;

(g) Organizational and servicing options should be explored that would allow partners outside the Convention to play a leadership role in a global partnership;

(h) An assessment should be made of the resource implications of such proposals;

9. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties:

(a) *Urges* Parties to facilitate cooperation among international organizations, and to promote the integration of biodiversity concerns into all relevant sectors by coordinating their national positions among the various conventions and other international forums in which they are involved, as appropriate;

(b) *Invites* Parties to promote, as appropriate, coordination among national focal points for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity with a view to achieving synergies on cross-cutting activities, and to seek funding from the Global Environment Facility for these activities where appropriate;

(c) *Notes* the paper developed jointly by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity on options for enhanced cooperation among the three Rio conventions (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7/Add.1);

(d) *Notes* the paper developed jointly by the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) and the World Heritage Convention on options for enhanced cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7/Add.2);

(e) *Considers* improved cooperation with respect to the Convention's work on invasive alien species;

(f) *Considers* the establishment of a flexible framework among all relevant actors, such as a global partnership for biodiversity, taking into account the views of potential members;

(g) *Requests* the Executive Secretary, where appropriate and subject to the availability of necessary financial and human resources, in accordance with the priority-setting mechanism established by the Conference of the Parties, to liaise with the conventions, organizations and initiatives with which the Convention has already signed memoranda of cooperation with a view to advancing implementation of the Convention in line with the decisions of the Conference of the Parties, including the possibility of developing joint work programmes;

(h) *Requests* the Executive Secretary to liaise with the secretariat of the World Trade Organization on relevant issues, including trade-related intellectual property rights, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and environmental goods and services, *inter alia*, with a view to identifying options for closer collaboration, including developing a memorandum of cooperation to promote the three objectives of the Convention.

**1/7. Private-sector engagement**

*The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention,*

*Recalling* decisions III/6, V/11 and VI/26 of the Conference of the Parties, in particular objective 4.4 of the Strategic Plan (“Key actors and stakeholders, including the private sector, are engaged in partnership to implement the Convention and are integrating biodiversity concerns into their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes, and policies”),

*Emphasizing* the need to involve all stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of the 2010 target, while mindful also that responsibilities for implementation rest primarily with Parties,

*Noting* that there are multiple reasons for promoting the engagement of business and industry in the implementation of the Convention, including the following:

(a) The private sector is arguably the least engaged of all stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention, yet the daily activities of business and industry have major impacts on biodiversity. Encouraging business and industry to adopt and promote good practice could make a significant contribution towards the 2010 target and the objectives of the Convention;

(b) Individual companies and industry associations can be highly influential on Governments and public opinion; thus, they have the potential to raise the profile of biodiversity and of the Convention itself;

(c) The private sector possesses biodiversity-relevant knowledge and technological resources, as well as more general management, research and communication skills, which, if mobilized, could facilitate the implementation of the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Ministry of the Environment of Brazil and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom, together with the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development (CEBDS), Insight Investment and the Executive Secretary, to develop ideas, that could best be pursued through the Convention or in support of its objectives, for engaging business in biodiversity issues, as a means of working towards the 2010 target;

2. *Notes* the report of the Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge meeting (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/5) held in London on 20-21 January 2005;

3. *Notes* that the following types of tools and mechanisms may be of use in facilitating contributions from business and industry towards the implementation of the Convention and its 2010 target:

(a) Awareness-raising materials and training workshops on business and biodiversity issues for the private sector;

(b) Guidance on the integration of biodiversity considerations into existing voluntary or mandatory reporting and performance standards, guidelines, and indices in order to mainstream biodiversity considerations into business practice;

(c) Certification schemes reflecting the full range of biodiversity-related issues to facilitate consumer choice based on companies’ biodiversity performance;

(d) Internationally agreed standards on activities that impact biodiversity;

(e) Guidance and tools to assist companies in implementing good practice with regard to biodiversity;

(f) Biodiversity policies and action plans to define and operationalize companies’ biodiversity commitments;

(g) Biodiversity benchmarks to guide and assess companies' biodiversity management practices;

(h) Guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into existing environmental impact assessment procedures and strategic impact assessment;

(j) Partnerships to facilitate knowledge-sharing with regard to good practice;

(k) Public-private partnerships;

4. *Notes* that some of the tools and mechanisms enumerated in paragraph 3 above may also be of use in facilitating cooperation among government agencies that deal with biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and those that deal with economic development, in regard to implementation of the Convention and achievement of its 2010 target;

5. *Notes* that contributions from business and industry towards the implementation of the Convention and its 2010 target could be facilitated by further work under the Convention to develop:

(a) Tools, guidance and standards on biodiversity-related issues relevant to the private sector;

(b) Tools for assessing the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services, for their integration into decision-making;

(c) Guidance for potential biodiversity offsets in line with the objectives of the Convention;

(d) Guidance on integrating biodiversity into industry standards, certification schemes and guidelines;

(e) A guide to the Convention for the private sector;

(f) Guidance for Parties on how to engage the private sector, in accordance with national needs and circumstances;

6. *Welcomes* the proposal of the partners referred to in paragraph 1 above to hold an additional meeting;

7. *Invites* the organizers and participants in the proposed meeting to address the following issues, and to make the results available for the information of the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting:

(a) Further development of the tools and mechanisms listed in paragraph 3 of the present recommendation;

(b) Engagement of the financial and insurance sectors in the implementation of the Convention, including options for a global initiative on banking, business and biodiversity as described in paragraph 11 (d) of decision VI/16;

(c) Engagement in the implementation of the Convention of companies that impact access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing;

8. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties as a contribution to objective 4.4 of the Strategic Plan:

(a) *Urges* national focal points, working with relevant government departments, to communicate the importance of biodiversity to companies operating within the jurisdiction of Parties, including state-owned companies and small and medium enterprises, to engage such companies in the development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to encourage such companies to adopt practices that support the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the objectives of the Convention;

(b) *Encourages* national focal points, where appropriate, to include private sector representatives on national delegations to meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and

Technological Advice, the Conference of the Parties, and other intergovernmental meetings, and nominate them to participate in technical expert groups;

(c) *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile information on the business case for biodiversity and good biodiversity practice, and to make this information available through the clearing-house mechanism;

(d) *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to include the private sector as a target audience for its outreach materials and in the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA);

(e) *Invites* businesses and relevant organizations and partnerships to develop and promote the business case for biodiversity, to develop and promote the wider use of good practice guidelines, benchmarks, certification schemes and reporting guidelines and standards, in particular performance standards in line with the 2010 indicators, and to prepare and communicate to the Conference of the Parties any voluntary commitments that will contribute to the 2010 target;

(f) *Invites* businesses to align their policies and practices more explicitly with the goals and targets of the Convention;

(g) *Encourages* business representatives to participate in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and other intergovernmental meetings;

(h) *Decides* to consider, at its ninth meeting, further ways and means to promote business engagement in the implementation of the Convention, with a particular emphasis on the Convention's role in facilitating such engagement.

(i) *Invites* the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) to address the role of the private sector in achieving the three objectives of the Convention and to consider the relevance of the present recommendation for the work of the Expert Group, and to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties.



**1/8. Framework for monitoring implementation of the Convention and achievement of the 2010 target, and for review of the programmes of work**

*The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention*

1. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties:
  - (a) *Notes* that the framework for monitoring implementation of the Convention and achievement of the 2010 target is comprised of the following five components:
    - (i) The four goals and 19 objectives of the Strategic Plan adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision VI/26;
    - (ii) Indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, to be developed on the basis of the proposed indicators in annex I below;
    - (iii) The provisional framework for goals and targets, consisting of seven focal areas, 11 goals and 21 targets, adopted in decision VII/30;
    - (iv) Outcome-oriented indicators to measure progress towards the 2010 target (as adopted by decision VII/30 with amendments recommended by SBSTTA in recommendation X/5, as contained in annex II below); and
    - (v) Reporting mechanisms, including the Global Biodiversity Outlook and the national reports;
  - (b) *Endorses* the guidelines for the review of the programmes of work provided in annex III below;
  - (c) *Decides* to align the timetable for consolidating decisions related to the programmes of work of the Convention with that for the in-depth review of the programmes of work, in order to facilitate the preparation of a consolidated body of advice on each thematic area, thereby improving the cohesiveness of advice to Parties and further reducing the reporting burden on Parties;
  - (d) *Decides* to consider at its ninth meeting the process for revising and updating the Strategic Plan with a view to adopting a revised Strategic Plan at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
  - (e) *Further decides* to align the numbering of the goals and targets incorporated into the proposed programme of work on island biodiversity with that used in the framework for evaluating progress towards the 2010 framework;
2. *Notes* the mandate given to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in paragraph 12 (a) of decision VII/30 to review and if necessary further refine the goals and targets, and *encourages* the Subsidiary Body to fulfil this mandate;
3. *Invites* the Executive Secretary, before the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to consult the members of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for Assessing Progress Towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target, in order to further develop the list of proposed indicators for the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan, as contained in annex I to the present recommendation, and to provide information on the data availability and usefulness of the proposed indicators to the Conference of the Parties;
4. *Recalling* paragraph 7 of decision VII/30, *encourages* the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity to develop a provisional indicator for objective 4.3 of the Strategic Plan;
5. *Notes* the need to develop provisional indicators for the objectives of the Strategic Plan relevant to biosafety.

*Annex I*

**INDICATORS FOR ASSESSING PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN**

<i>Strategic goals and objectives</i>	<i>Possible indicators</i>
<b>Goal 1: The Convention is fulfilling its leadership role in international biodiversity issues.</b>	
1.1 The Convention is setting the global biodiversity agenda.	CBD provisions, COP decisions and 2010 target reflected in workplans of major international forums
1.2 The Convention is promoting cooperation between all relevant international instruments and processes to enhance policy coherence.	
1.3 Other international processes are actively supporting implementation of the Convention, in a manner consistent with their respective frameworks.	
1.4 The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is widely implemented.	
1.5 Biodiversity concerns are being integrated into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies at the regional and global levels.	<p><i>Possible indicator to be developed:</i></p> <p><i>Number of regional/global plans, programmes and policies which specifically address the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies</i></p> <p><i>Application of planning tools such as strategic environmental assessment to assess the degree to which biodiversity concerns are being integrated</i></p> <p><i>Biodiversity integrated into the criteria of multilateral donors and regional development banks</i></p>
1.6 Parties are collaborating at the regional and subregional levels to implement the Convention.	<p><i>Possible indicator to be developed:</i></p> <p><i>Number of Parties that are part of (sub-) regional biodiversity-related agreements</i></p>
<b>Goal 2: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical, and technological capacity to implement the Convention.</b>	
2.1 All Parties have adequate capacity for implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategy and action plans.	
2.2 Developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States amongst them, and other Parties with economies in transition, have sufficient resources available to implement the three objectives of the Convention.	Official development assistance provided in support of the Convention (OECD-DAC Statistics Committee)

<i>Strategic goals and objectives</i>	<i>Possible indicators</i>
2.3 Developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States amongst them, and other Parties with economies in transition, have increased resources and technology transfer available to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.	
2.4 All Parties have adequate capacity to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.	
2.5 Technical and scientific cooperation is making a significant contribution to building capacity.	<i>Indicator to be developed consistent with VII/30</i>
Goal 3: National biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors serve as an effective framework for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention.	
3.1 Every Party has effective national strategies, plans and programmes in place to provide a national framework for implementing the three objectives of the Convention and to set clear national priorities.	Number of Parties with national biodiversity strategies
3.2 Every Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has a regulatory framework in place and functioning to implement the Protocol.	
3.3 Biodiversity concerns are being integrated into relevant national sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.	<i>To be developed</i> <i>Percentage of Parties with relevant national sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies in which biodiversity concerns are integrated</i>
3.4 The priorities in national biodiversity strategies and action plans are being actively implemented, as a means to achieve national implementation of the Convention, and as a significant contribution towards the global biodiversity agenda.	<i>To be developed</i> <i>Number of national biodiversity strategies and action plans that are being actively implemented</i>
Goal 4: There is a better understanding of the importance of biodiversity and of the Convention, and this has led to broader engagement across society in implementation.	
4.1 All Parties are implementing a communication, education, and public awareness strategy and promoting public participation in support of the Convention.	<i>Possible indicator to be developed:</i> <i>Number of Parties implementing a communication, education and public awareness strategy and promoting public participation</i> <i>Percentage of public awareness about the importance of biodiversity</i> <i>Percentage of Parties with biodiversity on their public school curricula</i>

<i>Strategic goals and objectives</i>	<i>Possible indicators</i>
4.2 Every Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is promoting and facilitating public awareness, education and participation in support of the Protocol.	
4.3 Indigenous and local communities are effectively involved in implementation and in the processes of the Convention, at national, regional and international levels.	<i>To be developed by WG8(j)</i>
4.4 Key actors and stakeholders, including the private sector, are engaged in partnership to implement the Convention and are integrating biodiversity concerns into their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.	<i>To be developed</i> <i>Indicator targeting private sector engagement, e.g. Voluntary type 2 partnerships in support of the implementation of the Convention</i>

*Annex II*

**INDICATORS RELEVANT TO THE 2010 GOALS AND TARGETS (AS CONTAINED IN SBSTTA RECOMMENDATION X/5, ANNEX II)**

<i>Goals and targets</i>	<i>Relevant headline indicators</i>
<b>Protect the components of biodiversity</b>	
<i>Goal 1. Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes</i>	
Target 1.1: At least 10% of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.	Most relevant indicator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coverage of protected areas</li> </ul> Other relevant indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats</li> <li>• Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species</li> </ul>
Target 1.2: Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected	Relevant indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats</li> <li>• Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species</li> <li>• Coverage of protected areas</li> </ul>
<i>Goal 2. Promote the conservation of species diversity</i>	
Target 2.1: Restore, maintain, or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups.	Most relevant indicator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species</li> </ul> Other relevant indicator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in status of threatened species</li> </ul>

<i>Goals and targets</i>	<i>Relevant headline indicators</i>
Target 2.2: Status of threatened species improved.	<p>Most relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in status of threatened species</li> </ul> <p>Other relevant indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species</li> <li>• Coverage of protected areas</li> </ul>
<i>Goal 3. Promote the conservation of genetic diversity</i>	
Target 3.1: Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, and of harvested species of trees, fish and wildlife and other valuable species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained.	<p>Most relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trends in genetic diversity of domesticated animals, cultivated plants, and fish species of major socio-economic importance</li> </ul> <p>Other relevant indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Biodiversity used in food and medicine (indicator under development)</i></li> <li>• Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species</li> </ul>
<b>Promote sustainable use</b>	
<i>Goal 4. Promote sustainable use and consumption.</i>	
Target 4.1: Biodiversity-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity.	<p>Most relevant indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management</li> <li>• <i>Proportion of products derived from sustainable sources (indicator under development)</i></li> </ul> <p>Other relevant indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species</li> <li>• Marine trophic index</li> <li>• Nitrogen deposition</li> <li>• Water quality in aquatic ecosystems</li> </ul>
Target 4.2. Unsustainable consumption, of biological resources, or that impacts upon biodiversity, reduced.	<p>Relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ecological footprint and related concepts (indicator under development)</i></li> </ul>
Target 4.3: No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade.	<p>Most relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in status of threatened species</li> </ul>

<i>Goals and targets</i>	<i>Relevant headline indicators</i>
<b>Address threats to biodiversity</b>	
<i>Goal 5. Pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced.</i>	
Target 5.1. Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased.	<p>Most relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats</li> </ul> <p>Other relevant indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species</li> <li>• Marine trophic index</li> </ul>
<i>Goal 6. Control threats from invasive alien species</i>	
Target 6.1. Pathways for major potential alien invasive species controlled.	<p>Relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trends in invasive alien species</li> </ul>
Target 6.2. Management plans in place for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.	<p>Relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trends in invasive alien species</li> </ul>
<i>Goal 7. Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution</i>	
Target 7.1. Maintain and enhance resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change.	<p>Relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connectivity/fragmentation of ecosystems</li> </ul>
Target 7.2. Reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity.	<p>Nitrogen deposition</p> <p>Water quality in aquatic ecosystems</p>
<b>Maintain goods and services from biodiversity to support human well-being</b>	
<i>Goal 8. Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods</i>	
Target 8.1. Capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained.	<p>Relevant indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Biodiversity used in food and medicine (indicator under development)</i></li> <li>• Water quality in aquatic ecosystems</li> <li>• Marine trophic index</li> </ul>
Target 8.2. Biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people maintained.	<p>Most relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and well-being of communities who depend directly on local ecosystem goods and services</li> </ul> <p>Other relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Biodiversity used in food and medicine</i></li> </ul>

<i>Goals and targets</i>	<i>Relevant headline indicators</i>
<b>Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices</b>	
<i>Goal 9 Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities</i>	
Target 9.1. Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.	Most relevant indicator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages</li> </ul> Other relevant indicator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Additional indicators to be developed</i></li> </ul>
Target 9.2. Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefit-sharing.	<i>Indicator to be developed</i>
<b>Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources</b>	
<i>Goal 10. Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources</i>	
Target 10.1. All transfers of genetic resources are in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other applicable agreements.	<i>Indicator to be developed</i>
Target 10.2. Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources shared with the countries providing such resources.	<i>Indicator to be developed</i>
<b>Ensure provision of adequate resources</b>	
<i>Goal 11: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention</i>	
Target 11.1. New and additional financial resources are transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with Article 20.	Most relevant indicator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Official development assistance provided in support of the Convention</li> </ul>
Target 11.2. Technology is transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with its Article 20, paragraph 4.	<i>Indicator to be developed</i>

*Annex III*

**DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMMES OF WORK OF THE CONVENTION**

**A. *Process for reviewing and, as necessary, revising the programmes of work***

*1. Review of the current programme of work*

The review of implementation of a programme of work could include:

1. *A review of implementation against the elements of the programme of work itself* (objectives, activities, etc). The review should ascertain:

(a) Whether, and to what degree, operational objectives and all or selected priority activities of the programme of work at the national, regional and global level were implemented by Parties, and others, and the extent to which this was facilitated by the Convention Secretariat and other partners;

(b) Whether, and to what degree, the programme of work has facilitated the mobilization of the necessary financial resources. This would involve analyzing the trends in funding for the thematic area, as well as actions taken by the financial mechanism and other multilateral and bilateral donors in response to the guidance of the Conference of the Parties regarding the programme of work;

(c) Whether, and to what degree, the implementation of activities has contributed to meeting the goals and objectives of the programme of work;

(d) Whether, and to what degree, the implementation of activities has contributed to meeting the goals and targets of the framework for evaluating implementation of the Convention and progress towards the 2010 target;

2. *An assessment of the adequacy of the programme of work to address major challenges.* The review should assess the current and future effectiveness of the programme of work in the context of the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The goals, objectives and activities of the programme of work should be assessed against the status and trends in biodiversity, current and projected major threats (including threats primarily associated with other biomes) and other emerging issues, to determine whether these remain adequate for reducing rates of biodiversity loss, promoting sustainable use, and contributing to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

*2. Revision and updating of the programme of work*

The programme of work should only be revised and updated if the need to do so is identified through the review process outlined in section 1 above. Steps to follow when revising and updating the programme of work are:

1. Define goals and objectives according to needs, in light of status and trends in biodiversity, and against current and projected major threats, and other emerging issues, in order to contribute to the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention;

2. Integrate the vision, mission and provisional framework of goals and targets as outlined in annex III to decision VII/30 into the programme of work and, where applicable, the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan;

3. Assess activities:

(a) Remove activities of earlier programmes of work that have been completed, are obsolete, or have shown to be ineffective;

(b) Include activities required to address needs, in light of: (i) status and trends in biodiversity, current and projected major threats to biodiversity, obstacles to sustainable use and to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources, and the experience



of the previous version of the programme of work; and (ii) results of a gap analysis taking into account all relevant activities including those being undertaken within the framework of other conventions, and by organizations and initiatives that contribute to the objectives of the programme of work. (The gap analysis would also help to identify opportunities for collaboration, as well as areas where additional activities would add the most value);

(c) Acknowledge activities being undertaken by other conventions, organizations and initiatives to meet the objectives of the programme of work and focus on activities in the programme of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity that fill gaps and provide added-value;

(d) Consider the financial implications of activities according to their likely effectiveness and impacts, and the capacity of Parties and partners to implement them,

4. Consider measures to provide practical support, including financial and technical support, for national and regional implementation.

***B. Information, tools and mechanisms to support the review and revision of the programmes of work***

*1. Types and sources of information*

1. Degree of implementation of the programme of work:
  - (a) Information from Parties (including national reports and thematic reports);
  - (b) Information from the 2010 monitoring exercise (indicators);
  - (c) Additional information from relevant United Nations agencies, conventions, international and regional organizations, indigenous and local communities, and other partners.
2. Status and trends in biodiversity, and threats to biodiversity and obstacles to sustainable use and to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources:
  - (a) Information from the 2010 monitoring exercise (indicators);
  - (b) Information from Parties (including national reports and the voluntary thematic reports);
  - (c) Additional information from relevant United Nations agencies, conventions, international and regional organizations and processes, and other partners, including in particular the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and other assessments.
3. Financial resources for implementation:
  - (a) Information from Parties and other Governments on financial resources and the financial mechanism with respect to programmes of work (including national reports and thematic reports);
  - (b) Reports of, and information from, the Global Environment Facility and other multilateral and bilateral donor agencies on thematic areas and cross-cutting issues;
  - (c) Additional information from relevant United Nations agencies, conventions, international and regional organizations, and other partners and stakeholders.

*2. Supporting tools and mechanisms*

1. Use of expert groups, regional workshops and consultations.
2. Development of a framework for the coordinated use of available assessment data from disparate sources.
3. Use of a rational timeline for review of implementation – one that takes into account when national reports and other information will be available.
4. Share experiences and approaches through the clearing-house mechanism and other mechanisms.

### ***1/9. National reporting***

#### *The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention*

1. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties:
  - (a) *Recognizes* the need to align the national reporting process with the framework for evaluating implementation of the Convention and progress towards the 2010 target;
  - (b) *Underscores* the need to reduce overall reporting burdens on Parties, taking into account reporting obligations under other Conventions, and other relevant processes;
  - (c) *Decides* that the fourth and subsequent national reports should be outcome-oriented and focus on the status and trends of biodiversity, national actions and outcomes with respect to the achievement of the 2010 target and the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention, and progress in implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
  - (d) *Decides* that Parties shall submit their fourth national reports by 30 March 2009;
  - (e) *Invites* Parties that anticipate that they may encounter difficulty in completing their reports according to the date set by the Conference of the Parties to advise the Secretariat in advance;
  - (f) *Recommends* that regional and/or subregional workshops could facilitate the preparation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports, and the exchange of experiences on implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and on assessment of obstacles for the implementation of the Convention to achieve the objectives of subparagraph (c) above, and *requests* resourcing for these workshops be considered in budget deliberations at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
  - (g) *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to explore and establish easier and expeditious mechanisms for the provision of funds to eligible countries for preparing their future national reports;
  - (h) *Decides* that Parties will be invited to submit complementary reports on thematic programmes that are due for in-depth review according to the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 and accordingly, *invites* Parties, on a voluntary basis, to prepare complementary thematic reports according to the schedule in annex I below;
  - (i) *Decides* to establish an on-line reporting facility, through the clearing-house mechanism, for use by Parties on a voluntary basis as a planning tool;
  - (j) *Decides* that the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook shall be prepared for publication at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2010 and that it shall be based on the third and fourth national reports as well as other information received on progress towards the 2010 target;
  - (k) *Agrees* to base its review of the implementation of the Convention at its tenth meeting primarily on the basis of the third and fourth national reports as well as on the analysis in the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook;
  - (l) *Welcomes* the initiative of the five biodiversity-related conventions, through the Biodiversity Liaison Group, to:
    - (i) Keep each other informed of proposed developments in national reporting under each of the conventions, with a view to aligning approaches where possible;
    - (ii) Develop a Web portal with links to reports and guidelines of each of the conventions, similar to the Collaborative Portal on Forests;
    - (iii) Develop common reporting modules for specific themes, where possible, and appropriate;

(m) *Takes note* of the recommendations from the UNEP-WCMC Workshop Towards the Harmonization of National Reporting to Biodiversity-related Treaties, which was held in September 2004 (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/6), and *encourages* the Biodiversity Liaison Group, in liaison with UNEP-WCMC, to give further consideration to issues of harmonization of reporting among the biodiversity-related conventions, and to develop proposals;

(n) *Encourages* Parties to harmonize the gathering and management of data for the five biodiversity-related conventions at the national level, where appropriate;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To develop, by January 2006, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, draft guidelines for the fourth national report, undertaking consultation with Parties in this process and taking into consideration the views expressed by Parties at the current meeting, including the elements contained in annex II below;

(b) To finalize these guidelines in light of the decisions of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and to make them available to Parties and other Governments by 1 July 2006;

(c) To identify additional ways and means to facilitate timely submission of national reports by Parties, and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth or ninth meeting on options;

3. *Notes* the need for Parties who have not completed their third national reports to do so expeditiously.

#### *Annex I*

### **SCHEDULE OF COMPLEMENTARY REPORTS ON THEMATIC PROGRAMMES<sup>1</sup>**

Thematic area <sup>2</sup>	In-depth review		Date due for review
	By COP	By SBSTTA <sup>3</sup>	
Forest biodiversity	COP-9	SBSTTA-12	September 2006
Agricultural biodiversity	COP-9	SBSTTA-13	March 2007
Inland waters biodiversity	COP-10	SBSTTA-14	July 2008
Mountain biodiversity	COP-10	SBSTTA-14	July 2008
Marine and coastal biodiversity	COP-10	SBSTTA-15	March 2009
Island biodiversity	t.b.d.	t.b.d.	t.b.d.

<sup>1</sup>Additional complementary reports on cross-cutting issues may be considered.

<sup>2</sup> The dry and sub-humid lands programme of work will be reviewed at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

<sup>3</sup> The precise allocation of thematic areas to sessions of SBSTTA will be finalized following discussion with the SBSTTA Bureau.

#### *Annex II*

### **SUGGESTED PRINCIPLES AND ELEMENTS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DEVELOPING THE GUIDELINES FOR THE FOURTH NATIONAL REPORT**

1. National reports should:

(a) Use the goals, targets and indicators of the global framework in decision VII/30, where they are nationally relevant;

(b) Be outcome-oriented;

- (c) Present results of monitoring designed to describe national trends;
- (d) Relate to national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (e) Report on the 2010 target;
- (f) Assess and facilitate national implementation of the Convention rather than making comparisons among countries;
- (g) Facilitate self-assessment;
- (h) Serve multiple communication purposes;
- (i) Be useful to the decision-making processes of the Convention and lend themselves to synthesis;
- (j) Facilitate the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention;
- (k) Facilitate harmonized reporting, where possible, by using joint reporting modules with biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant processes.

2. National reports should allow Parties to provide information on:

- (a) The status and trends of biodiversity, with a focus on the outcomes of actions taken to achieve the 2010 target and the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan;
- (b) Progress and effectiveness of the measures implemented towards achieving the 2010 target and the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan and priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (c) The current status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (d) The results of efforts to mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectors;
- (e) Success stories in implementation, drawing on, *inter alia*, case-studies;
- (f) Obstacles and challenges, taking into account but not limited to the appendix to the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

3. The guidelines should:

- (a) Be short, simple, use clear language, and avoid repetition;
- (b) Use the structure of the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan and the framework for assessing progress in implementing the Convention as in decision VII/30;
- (c) Explain the purpose of the reporting exercise and what use will be made of the reported information;
- (d) Identify which of the reporting requests are used by other biodiversity-related conventions or processes;
- (e) Use a modular approach to facilitate multiple uses of the same information;
- (f) Provide cross-references between information being requested and the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties.

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