

EU response to CBD Notification 2009-064 on the Strategic Plan

The EU welcomes the Synthesis/analysis of views on the revision and updating of the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity as contained in document UNEP/CBD/SP/PREP/1. The EU is troubled by the fact that very few Parties replied to Notification 2008-076 on Updating or Revision of the Strategic Plan of the Convention after 2010. We commend the efforts of the CBD Secretariat to facilitate an inclusive discussion on the issue, and we stress the importance of a continued open process of collecting the views of Parties and stakeholders.

The Council of the European Union on 2 March 2009, underlined the need for the EU to establish, by mid-2010 at the latest, a vision and targets beyond 2010 for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within the EU, building on and contributing to deliberations at global level on a vision for biodiversity beyond 2010. On 25 June 2009, the Council underlined the need for the EU to develop before the end of 2009 key strategic principles in order to facilitate an active participation by the EU in deliberations at global level on the future CBD Strategic Plan and a vision for biodiversity beyond 2010. The EU looks forward to engaging further in these discussions and deliberations at global level, and encourages other Parties and stakeholders to take active part in them.

Our preliminary views on the new CBD Strategic Plan were submitted 22 December 2008 and still remain valid. At this point in time, we would be interested to hear views and comments from other Parties and stakeholders, before adopting more detailed positions. Hence, in the present submission, we will restrict ourselves to making a limited number of remarks on timely issues included in section V.B. *Challenges and outstanding issues* of the document UNEP/CBD/SP/PREP/1. This does not prejudge the EU position on the document as a whole.

Paragraph 78 suggests a regionally-balanced expert meeting to prepare ideas how to ensure a coherent relationship between the overall target, sub-targets, indicators and the means to achieve targets, including appropriate capacity-development activities. Such a meeting could provide the opportunity to receive input and contributions from Parties that have so far not provided views on the revision of the Strategic Plan. On the other hand, the EU recognizes that there are already many conferences and meetings scheduled where these issues will be discussed, and recommends to make maximal use of these opportunities as well as of written consultations. The United Kingdom will, for example, co-host a workshop with Brazil in January 2010. The workshop will be regionally balanced with a particular emphasis on facilitating the engagement of developing countries, and is expected to include the development of the post 2010 vision/target(s) to help inform negotiations in the run-up to COP. This meeting may help fulfil the need identified in paragraph 78.

Paragraph 79 suggests the establishment of an effective global framework of outcome and process oriented targets. The EU remains open to developing process oriented targets. We would, however, like to stress that the framework of targets and indicators should build on the existing framework. We will underline that changes made to the outcome oriented targets should be motivated by robust scientific evidence. The global framework should allow the flexibility necessary to adapt to local and changing conditions and to accommodate future evidence. The EU will promote the strengthening of science-policy interfaces on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and considers that this will be required in order to provide a basis for implementation and future revisions of targets and indicators.

Finally, the EU would like to point to the outcome of the International Expert Workshop on the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators and Post-2010 Indicator Development, Reading, UK 6-8 July 2009, which provides a useful basis for the process of revising targets and indicators. Biodiversity indicators need to have a broad acceptance in all relevant sectors and should fully relate to targets and be policy relevant. The development of targets and indicators should be undertaken in tandem through an iterative process, in order to provide for the development of relevant and measurable targets.

