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Your ref

Our ref  
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**Submission of views from Norway on the revision of the strategic plan for the post 2010 period including new targets for the CBD**

With reference to your notification of 4 December 2009 we have the pleasure to submit the following views from Norway.

We welcome this opportunity to submit views on the revised strategic plan and in particular the new targets for biodiversity post 2010. We would also like to congratulate the CBD Secretariat in facilitating the process, and thus enabling broad contributions and discussions which will give us the best possible result for this important and challenging task.

The task is to develop a revised strategic plan with a vision, a mission, a set of targets and indicators to guide the work under the convention. There are some key principles which have to guide our work;

- i) All three objectives from the Convention on biological diversity must be addressed.
- ii) The revised strategic plan, and new vision, mission and targets should stimulate for better implementation of the CBD
- iii) The revised strategic plan should be short and focused. The plan should guide the work under the CBD, and we would like to see closer links between the strategic plan and relevant COP-decisions. For example with regard to mainstreaming of biodiversity, resource mobilization and CEPA (communication, education and public awareness), and we realize the possible links to how SBSTTA prepares COP-decisions. Mechanisms and

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- processes for enhancing dialogue and cooperation between countries to improve implementation should also be addressed.
- iv) We should build on existing frameworks of targets and indicators when possible.
  - v) Capture new knowledge and understanding of the broad range of values from biodiversity and ecosystem services.
  - vi) Take into account the need for some flexibility for national implementation of the new framework

The Norwegian Nature Diversity Act entered into force 1 July 2009. It is the most important law on nature ever in Norway. The Act will apply to all nature, from nature habitats and species to the genetic diversity within species. The Act applies to all sectors regulating the use of Norway's natural environment, for instance land use for transport, energy and construction, or the use of natural resources in forestry, hunting and fisheries.

The Act is the cornerstone in national implementation of the Convention in Norway. We would like to submit as an input to the process the purpose of the act and two of the management objectives given in the act. We believe that this language might be useful for the deliberations under the CBD. In this regard we see the full framework as relevant, namely the vision, mission and strategic targets.

*Section 1 (purpose of the Act)*

*The purpose of this Act is to protect biological, geological and landscape diversity and ecological processes through conservation and sustainable use, and in such a way that the environment provides a basis for human activity, culture, health and well-being, now and in the future, including a basis for Sami culture.*

*Section 4 (management objectives for habitat types and ecosystems)*

*The objective is to maintain the diversity of habitat types within their natural range and the species diversity and ecological processes that are characteristic of each habitat type. The objective is also to maintain ecosystem structure, functioning and productivity to the extent this is considered to be reasonable.*

*Section 5 (management objectives for species)*

*The objective is to maintain species and their genetic diversity for the long term and to ensure that species occur in viable populations in their natural ranges. To the extent necessary to achieve this objective, areas with specific ecological functions for different species and other ecological conditions on which they are dependent are also to be maintained*

In addition we would like to see the importance of ecosystem services and equitable sharing of benefits reflected in the vision/mission.

In our view the vision must have a quite long time period, and the year 2050 is reasonable. We would however also underline that the vision from the present strategic plan "The purpose is to effectively halt the loss of biodiversity so as to secure the continuity of its beneficial uses through the conservation and sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources" still is valid, but we are in favor of a rephrasing to also cover new aspects such as ecosystem services.

We agree that the mission should have 2020 as the target year, and that 2015 can be a milestone in relation to the reporting of the Millennium Development Goals.

We welcome that several options for the mission statement is given in document UNEP/CBD/SP/PREP2. The mission and the vision have to be seen together, and the short-medium term mission (e.g. by 2020) should complement the vision together with strategic, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound (SMART) targets.

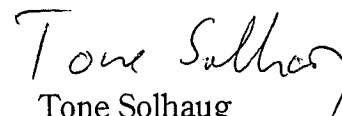
The form of the 2020 mission statement should be discussed; should it be process oriented or outcome oriented? If both the vision statement and mission statement will be actively used in the coming period it might be advisable to have one outcome oriented and one process oriented formulation.

The strategic goals will contain the more operative wordings, and as such be more practical tools for implementing the CBD. Due to the broad scope of the convention we realize that we most probably will need up to 20 strategic goals. We also fully support to use SMART criteria for the strategic goals/headline targets where this is possible.

Norway reserves its right to comment upon the revised strategic plan, the strategic goals and the 2020 headline targets later in the process.

Yours sincerely,

  
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