



## Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.  
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA-  
BUR/2013/2  
25 February 2013

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific,  
Technical and Technological Advice  
Conference call, 25 February 2013

### **MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE CALL OF THE BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE (SBSTTA)**

**Present:** Mr. Gemedo Dalle Tussie (Chair, Ethiopia), Ms. Brigitte Baptiste (Colombia), Mr. Floyd Homer (Trinidad and Tobago), Ms. Risa Smith (Canada), Mr. Jean-Patrick Le Duc (France), Mr. Maadjou Bah (Guinée), and Mr. Yousef Al-Hafedh (Saudi Arabia). Ms. Ivna Vuksic (Croatia) and Mr. Alexander Shestakov (Russian Federation) were unable to attend. Due to the time difference to Kiribati, Mr. Cooper conducted a separate conference call with Ms. Nenenteiti Teariki-Ruatu (Kiribati). From the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the following staff members were present: Mr. David Cooper, Ms. Simone Schiele and Ms. Annie Cung.

1. The teleconference was opened at 9:15 am (Montreal time). Mr Gemedo Dalle Tussie, SBSTTA Chair, welcomed the members of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to the conference call, and thanked the secretariat for convening the call. The members of the bureau agreed on the proposed agenda without changes.

#### **ITEM 1. UPDATE ON RECENT MEETINGS**

2. Mr. Dalle Tussie requested Mr. Cooper, SBSTTA Secretary, to provide a brief update on recent relevant meetings, including the first session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-1) held in Bonn, Germany, from 21-26 January 2013, and a meeting of the “Friends of the CBD” held in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland, from 11 to 12 February.

3. Mr. Cooper, Mr. Homer and Mr. Al-Hafedh reported that at IPBES-1 the IPBES Chair, members of the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) were elected. Mr. Homer was elected as member of the MEP for the Latin American and Caribbean States and Mr. Al-Hafedh as member of the MEP for the Asia-Pacific States. They also mentioned in their summary that delegates agreed to a strategy for developing a first work programme for 2014-2018, adopted an initial budget and moved forward on rules of procedure, financial procedures, and institutional arrangements for the Secretariat. They noted that requests from the CBD will feed into the IPBES process, but that the links between IPBES and the CBD need to be further refined. It was clarified that Mr. Dalle Tussie will participate as SBSTTA Chair in the MEP.

4. Mr. Cooper reported that the meeting of the Friends of the CBD, where all COP Bureau members, former and future COP presidencies and a number of experts from non-governmental organizations were present, discussed issues related to the future organization of the CBD. Participants mainly engaged in a brainstorming exercise regarding the organization of COP, re-emphasizing the need for support to the

implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets. Some questions were also discussed which concern the way SBSTTA is conducted, including whether the Secretariat should prepare draft recommendations for all SBSTTA agenda items.

#### **ITEM 2. ALLOCATION OF AGENDA ITEMS TO SBSTTA-17 and SBSTTA-18.**

5. The Bureau agreed in general terms on the allocation of agenda items, which relate to the identification of scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, to SBSTTA-17, as proposed in the draft circulated by the Secretariat. This should include the identification of additional new and emerging issues, while synthetic biology as an unresolved issue from an earlier round of submissions will be addressed by SBSTTA-18. Mr. Cooper will consult with the responsible programme officers at the Secretariat which other items could potentially be considered already by SBSTTA-17, in particular on ecosystem restoration. SBSTTA-18 will consider all remaining items which are more specifically related to programmes and Aichi Targets. The Bureau agreed to engage in consultations on the detailed allocation of agenda items via email.<sup>1</sup>

#### **ITEM 3. DISCUSSION OF OPTIONS FOR THE FORMAT FOR SBSTTA-17 IN ORDER TO ENHANCE DIALOGUE ON TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ISSUES**

6. Mr. Cooper, upon invitation of Mr. Dalle Tussie presented this agenda item as an opportunity to consider different formats for SBSTTA-17. Options include an in-depth discussion of the role of traditional knowledge in IPBES and further strengthening the role of side-events and in-session dialogues in the SBSTTA process. Bureau members also proposed the introduction of discussions on agenda items by scientific and technical keynote speeches, the preparation of background documents by experts and moving political items from SBSTTA to the agenda of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI). Members of the Bureau proposed that SBSTTA-17 will receive a report from the dialogue on traditional knowledge and science, which will take place during the meeting of the Working Group on Article 8j and related provisions in the week preceding SBSTTA-17. The Bureau agreed to continue the brainstorming process via email and to further discuss this agenda item at the next face-to-face Bureau meeting in May.

#### **ITEM 4. TIMETABLE FOR THE PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR SBSTTA-17**

7. The Bureau agreed that the Secretariat will prepare a background document in April in order to stimulate more input from Parties regarding the identification of scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets. Furthermore, the Secretariat will make available online surveys on related issues. Subject to the availability of resources, informal consultations among Parties, if possible also on the regional level, will be conducted. Experts from the scientific community may be invited to these consultations.

#### **ITEM 5. NEXT MEETINGS, INCLUDING OPTIONS FOR A FACE-TO-FACE MEETING**

8. The Bureau agreed that the next teleconference should be held in April. A face-to-face meeting of the Bureau is planned for end of May back-to-back with the Trondheim Conference.

#### **ITEM 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

9. The Chair and Mr. Cooper thanked the Bureau for their participation in the teleconference. The meeting was closed at 11 am (Montreal time).

-----

---

<sup>1</sup> Ms. Nenenteiti Teariki-Ruatu (Kiribati) mentioned further ideas in the call with Mr. Cooper.