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BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Montreal, Canada, 18 October 2013

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE****INTRODUCTION**

1. The meeting of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) took place in Montreal, Canada, at the premises of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), in the margins of the seventeenth meeting of the SBSTTA, on 18 October 2013. The meeting was attended by seven members of the Bureau as well as three designated members of the incoming Bureau, a representative from the Republic of Korea, and four members of the Secretariat. The list of participants is available in the Annex.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. The meeting was opened at 2 p.m. on 18 October 2013. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body, Mr. Gemedo Dalle Tussie, welcomed participants to the meeting.

ITEM 2. WELCOME TO INCOMING BUREAU MEMBERS

3. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body, Mr. Gemedo Dalle Tussie, and Mr. Olivier Jalbert, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), thanked the Bureau members whose term of office will conclude at the end of the seventeenth meeting of SBSTTA: Mr. Maadjou Bah (Guinea), Ms. Risa Smith (Canada), Ms. Nenenteiti Teariki-Ruatu (Kiribati) and, in his absence, Mr. Floyd Homer (Trinidad and Tobago). Mr. Dalle Tussie and Mr. Jalbert highlighted in particular their important contribution to implementing the new format of SBSTTA at SBSTTA-17.

4. Mr. Dalle Tussie and Mr. Jalbert welcomed the incoming members of the Bureau: Ms. Lourdes Coya de la Fuente (Cuba), Mr. Andrew Bignell (New Zealand), Mr. Mustafa Fouda (Egypt), and Ms. Snezana Prokic (Serbia), as well as a representative from the Republic of Korea on behalf of the Bureau member from his country to be nominated at a later time.

ITEM 3. REVIEW OF THE FORMAT OF SBSTTA-17

5. Under this item, the members of the Bureau reflected on the format and outcomes of SBSTTA-17, as they had agreed at their meeting preceding the seventeenth meeting of SBSTTA, on Sunday, 13 October 2013. The Chair of SBSTTA, Mr. Dalle Tussie and Mr. David Cooper, Secretary of SBSTTA, invited the members of the Bureau to identify the aspects of the meeting format that were particularly effective, and those which required modifications.

6. Regarding the panel discussions, members of the Bureau highlighted the importance of tailoring the presentations and interventions specifically to the agenda items. They noted the need for the panel presentations and interventions to be focussed on the issue being addressed during the session, to contain information that is new for most of the delegates, in particular on national application of practical tools and methods, and not to address procedural issues. It was also recommended to increase the participation of Parties in the selection process for presenters and panellists, through a notification asking for nominations or to have a greater involvement of the Bureau to achieve the best possible representation of different regions, groups of Parties, language groups, and stakeholder groups, as well as gender balance on the panels.

7. The Secretariat was asked by members of the Bureau to build on the experience of SBSTTA-17 and continue to further develop the new format. Possible negative feedback by some Parties should not lead to a return to the old format. An evaluation of the experience of SBSTTA-17 should also consider the experience of SBSTTA-6, which also had been held using a different format.

8. Members of the Bureau stressed in particular the success of SBSTTA-17 in enabling the exchange of experiences and views among Parties. Some members stressed the importance of sharing experiences with regards to challenges in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and ways to overcome them.

9. More effective and timely communication with Parties was also one of the recommendations from the Bureau. Parties should be informed as early as possible, for example through an explanatory note, about the proposed organization of work for the meeting in order to allow ample time for preparations. In addition, at least some guidance on the nature and scope of the expected outcomes should be provided to Parties before the meeting and to the informal groups working on these outcomes.

10. The format of future SBSTTA meetings could be chosen to respond to the items on the agenda and available resources, either more focused on scientific and technical dialogue with a limited set of conclusions or recommendations or more focused on negotiations and preparations of draft recommendations for the Conference of the Parties. It was also suggested that, if there continues to be two meetings of the SBSTTA in the intersessional period, the first meeting could be more focused on scientific and technical dialogue, while the second could focus more on preparations for the Conference of the Parties.

ITEM 4. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

11. The meeting of the Bureau closed at 3 p.m. on 18 October 2013.

ANNEX

List of Participants

<i>SBSTTA Bureau*</i>	
Mr. Gemedo Dalle Tussie Ethiopia (Chair)	Ms. Brigitte Baptiste Colombia
Mr. Maadjou Bah Guinea	Mr. Alexander Shestakov Russian Federation
Ms. Nenenteiti Teariki-Ruatu Kiribati	Ms. Risa Smith Canada
	Mr. Jean-Patrick Le Duc France

<i>Incoming SBSTTA Bureau members</i>	
Ms. Lourdes Coya de la Fuente Cuba	Mr. Andrew Bignell New Zealand
Mr. Mustafa Fouda Egypt	Ms. Snezana Prokic Serbia
Mr Jin-Han Kim, Representative of the Republic of Korea for the incoming Bureau Member	

<i>Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity</i>	
Mr. Olivier Jalbert Deputy Executive Secretary	Ms. Simone Schiele Junior Professional Officer
Mr. David Cooper SBSTTA Secretary	
Mr. Robert Hoft Environmental Affairs Officer	

* Mr. Floyd Homer (Trinidad and Tobago) and Mr. Youself Al-Hafedh (Saudi Arabia) were unable to attend the meeting. In addition, the Executive Secretary was informed by the Minister of the Environment and Nature Protection of the Republic of Croatia that Ms. Ivna Vukšić (Croatia) would be unable to continue her term as Bureau member and therefore did not participate in the meeting.