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MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Conference call, 5 March 2014

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

Present: Mr. Gemedo Dalle Tussie (Chair, Ethiopia), Mr. Mustafa Fouda (Egypt), Mr. Jean-Patrick Le Duc (France), Mr. Andrew Bignell (New Zealand), Mr. Alexander Shestakov (Russian Federation), Ms. Snezana Prokic (Serbia), and Ms. Brigitte Baptiste (Colombia).

Ms. Lourdes Coya de la Fuente (Cuba), Mr. Yousef Al-Hafedh (Saudi Arabia) and Mr. Youngbae Suh (Republic of Korea) were unable to participate in the call. From the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the following staff members were present: Mr. David Cooper, Mr. Robert Höft, Ms. Simone Schiele and Ms. Annie Cung.

INTRODUCTION

1. The meeting of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was held via teleconference, on 5 March 2014.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. The meeting was opened at 7.30 a.m. (Montreal time) on 5 March 2014. Mr. Gemedo Dalle Tussie, Chair of the Subsidiary Body, and Mr. David Cooper, secretary of SBSTTA, made opening remarks.

ITEM 2. UPDATE ON THE PREPARATIONS OF GBO-4

3. Mr. Robert Höft provided an update on the preparations of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4). He informed the Bureau that several first order drafts of the technical background documents related to GBO-4 are now available for peer review and comments, with the remaining technical background documents to be made available over the coming days. Bureau members were invited to provide comments on the drafts and to encourage technical experts in their country/region to review the documents. Following this peer review, the documents will be revised and new drafts will be made available in May along with a draft of the main GBO-4 report. These will also take into account

fifth national reports and additional NBSAPs received in time to be analysed. Further, at its eighteenth meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-18) will review the draft GBO-4 and provide advice on its finalization before its launch at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-12).

4. Mr. Cooper reminded the Bureau that GBO-4 will be a mid-term review of progress towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and that the fifth national reports will be a key source of information for GBO-4. Bureau members were invited to send a reminder to their region to submit their fifth national reports before 31 March 2014.

5. Mr. Cooper added that a workshop on GBO-4 will be organized on the Saturday before SBSTTA-18 (i.e. on 21 June 2014). The workshop would focus on understanding the evidence-base, methods and models used in GBO-4, the key messages, and possible implications for the future work of the Convention. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to look into the possibility of including a session on how to use GBO-4 in policy-making.

ITEM 3. DISCUSSION ON THE SCHEDULE OF PANEL PRESENTATIONS AT SBSTTA-18

6. The Secretariat circulated to the Bureau a preliminary draft outline with names of presenters and topics of possible panel presentations for SBSTTA-18. Mr. Cooper explained the format and rationale for the proposed panel presentation. In particular, given the heavy agenda for SBSTTA-18, there would be fewer and shorter panel presentations compared to SBSTTA-17. The presentations would focus on providing a scientific and technical introduction for three of the main items to be considered at SBSTTA-18: GBO-4, marine and coastal biodiversity (ocean acidification, underwater noise and coral bleaching) and invasive alien species. The speakers would be selected according to their expertise on the subject matter, presentational skills and their role in the preparatory expert process.

7. The Bureau considered the proposal and stressed the importance of inviting the most qualified and relevant speakers both in terms of their background and their role in the preparation for the specific agenda item and related processes, while, as far as possible, ensuring gender and geographical balance in the selection of presenters. In order to ensure that presentations are focused, it was suggested to prepare some guidance or template for the presenters.

8. The Secretariat will circulate the curricula vitae of the proposed presenters for consideration of the Bureau. The Bureau agreed to discuss further the proposals through email.

ITEM 4. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FROM SBSTTA-18 IN THE LIGHT OF THE COP-12 AGENDA

9. To illustrate how the outcomes of SBSTTA-17 and SBSTTA-18 relate to the expected outcomes of COP-12, the Secretariat circulated the draft annotated agenda for COP-12 as sent to the COP Bureau for comments on 26 February 2014. A revised version will be developed in July in light of the outcomes of the Subsidiary Bodies.

10. Mr. Cooper explained that COP-12 will be invited to assess progress towards the goals of the Strategic Plan, including the programmes of work and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and progress in providing support in implementing the objectives of the Convention and the Strategic Plan, and to take further action with a view to enhancing implementation to achieve the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. These matters are expected to result in a number of decisions that, collectively, may be known as the "Pyeongchang Roadmap for the enhanced implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets". These decisions are expected to provide for further tools and guidance, where necessary, to assist implementation of the Strategic Plan for

Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as for further capacity-building, enhancement of technical and scientific cooperation and other initiatives and measures regarding resource mobilization and the financial mechanism. A further decision would consider how the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets contribute to sustainable development and how biodiversity can be further integrated into the sustainable development agenda.

11. The Conference of the Parties is expected to develop a coherent decision, which notes the outcomes of the assessment and decides on further action to be taken with regard to enhancing implementation to achieve the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. The fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, and related recommendations from the seventeenth and eighteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body, updated information on the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and related recommendations from the fifth meeting of the Working Group on the Review of Implementation are expected to provide background and rationale for decisions on further action by the Conference of the Parties.

12. In addition, the Conference of the Parties will be invited to address matters that are highly specific to individual programmes of work and cross-cutting issues of the Convention under separate agenda items, including on marine and coastal biodiversity and invasive alien species. It is expected that the Subsidiary Body will prepare comprehensive draft decisions on these matters. While general progress in the implementation of the programmes of work will be considered as part of the assessment of progress towards implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, it is suggested that these very specific matters will be addressed separately in order to allow sufficient time for their consideration, and in order to focus the considerations on the assessment and further activities on more general terms.

13. In response to a question, Mr. Cooper reaffirmed that the Secretariat will provide comprehensive draft recommendations and decisions both for the Subsidiary Body and the Conference of the Parties.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

14. Under this item, participants discussed the follow-up to SBSTTA-17. In addition to the survey circulated in Montreal during the closing of SBSTTA-17, a notification was sent on 23 December 2013 inviting Parties and observer organizations to complete a questionnaire to enable a more comprehensive evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of the approach and format used in SBSTTA 17, and in order to guide the planning for future meetings of SBSTTA. In response to this notification, so far, 19 Parties and 5 observers have provided their views on the format of SBSTTA (Australia, Colombia, China, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Estonia, European Union, Japan, Mali, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Sudan, Thailand, United Kingdom, Republic of Korea and Yemen as well as UNEP-WCMC, DIVERSITAS, WWF, Birdlife International and SEARICE). The deadline for replies has been extended until 7 March 2014 (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2014/ntf-2014-023-sbstta-en.pdf>) and Members of the Bureau have been invited to encourage Parties in their region to fill in the questionnaire, in order to provide a sufficient basis for analysis. The results of the analysis of the questionnaires will be shared with the Bureau in due course.

15. Under this item, the Bureau also discussed opportunities for a face-to-face meeting of the Bureau before SBSTTA-18. The Secretariat will continue to look into funding and venue options for such meeting. The Chair also mentioned the need to discuss, at a future meeting, the division of tasks and chairing roles among Bureau members for SBSTTA-18. The Secretariat will prepare a draft for consideration by the Bureau.

ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

16. The Chair and Mr. Cooper thanked the Bureau for their participation in the teleconference. The meeting of the Bureau was closed at 10 a.m. (Montreal time) on 5 March 2014.
