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BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON  
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND  
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE  
Antalya, Turkey  
10 and 12 December 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 Antalya, Turkey, in the margins of the second meeting of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-2). An informal meeting was held on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, followed by a formal meeting on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> December. Six members of the Bureau and two members of the Secretariat participated in the meetings. The list of participants is available in the Annex.

**ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

2. The meeting was opened at 1 p.m. on 12 December 2013. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body, Mr. Gemedo Dalle Tussie, welcomed participants to the meeting. He welcomed in particular Mr. Youngbae Suh, from the Republic of Korea, who had been nominated very recently to the Bureau.

**ITEM 2. REVIEW OF THE FORMAT OF SBSTTA-17**

3. Mr. David Cooper, CBD Secretariat, introduced a note prepared by the Secretariat in response to the request by the Subsidiary Body, in recommendation XVII/1, to conduct an evaluation of the approach and format used during SBSTTA-17. The note presents, among others, the results of the survey which had been conducted at the end of SBSTTA-17 at the request of the Bureau to solicit the views of participants with regard to the meeting format. The note will also inform the work of the Secretariat in response to decision XI/10, paragraph 2, on improving the efficiency of structures and processes under the Convention and its Protocols.

4. The overall result showed that the new format was positively received. The survey outcomes showed that participants, overall, were more in agreement than not with the positive statements presented in the survey regarding the format, documentation and outcomes of SBSTTA-17. However, the results showed

substantial differences among the regions, with, on average, respondents from Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean groups most enthusiastic about the new format. Respondents from Asia-Pacific and Central and Eastern Europe were also positive, on average. On the other hand, the respondents from the Western Europe and Others Group were somewhat negative, with overall score a little below “neutral”, on average. Mr. Cooper noted, however, that the average scores conceal a range of views within the regions for some of the statements, and, within the Western Europe and Others Group, an especially wide range of views for all questions. Also, almost all participants, even those who rated the format overall positively, acknowledged some shortcomings and provided suggestions for improvement. For example, some participants expressed their dissatisfaction with the absence of draft conclusions and recommendations. The Chair informed the meeting that he had also received a letter from Australia with specific suggestions for improvements, which will be shared with Members of the Bureau.

5. Mr. Cooper noted that this evaluation will be complemented by further analyses in the light of additional surveys. An additional survey, to be completed on behalf of a Party/observer organization, will be distributed in the coming days.

6. Members of the Bureau agreed that the results of the review and their own discussions with participants show that the format of SBSTTA-17 was a success. They agreed that it is therefore not feasible to completely return to the previous format of SBSTTA, but that the format used for SBSTTA-17 should be further improved and adapted to the agenda of future SBSTTA meetings. It was noted that it would be beneficial to speak to those countries in the Western Europe and Others Group region that were particularly critical of the format to discuss their views and receive their feedback with regard to the planning of SBSTTA-18.

### **ITEM 3. AGENDA OF SBSTTA-18**

7. Following an initial discussion on Tuesday, 10 December 2013, on the draft provisional agenda of SBSTTA-18, a revised version of the draft provisional agenda was presented to the Bureau by Mr. Cooper. He explained that most work will be required under the items on the Global Biodiversity Outlook, which will be made available for Parties to review, marine issues, and invasive alien species. The issues of underwater noise and marine debris have been split into two sub-items, and the item addressing issues related to IPBES and matters for which the Subsidiary Body is invited to consider ongoing work have been renamed following comments by Bureau members during the informal meeting.

8. Bureau members agreed with the draft provisional agenda as presented and asked the Secretariat to make it available to Parties together with the annotated agenda.

### **ITEM 4. FORMAT OF SBSTTA-18**

9. Regarding the organization of work for SBSTTA-18, some Bureau members noted that the heavy agenda of SBSTTA-18 would require that agenda items are addressed by working groups in parallel. Considering that the budget for SBSTTA-18 will not allow the holding of working groups, the Bureau recommended extending the meeting of the Subsidiary Body for half a day on Saturday, 28 June 2013.

10. The members of the Bureau agreed that introductory presentations should be used for some of the agenda items, but that their number needs to be limited. It was agreed to have presentations on the draft Global Biodiversity Outlook and the reports prepared on marine issues, as well as, potentially, on a topic related to the item on invasive alien species. The Bureau noted that information on speakers and topics of presentations should be communicated to Parties in advance of SBSTTA-18. Potential speakers will be discussed at the next meeting of the Bureau.

11. The Bureau also discussed the expected outcomes of SBSTTA-18 and noted that most items on the agenda will require the drafting of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, while for others, conclusions by the Subsidiary Body may suffice. It was agreed that the Secretariat will draft at least some form of draft conclusions or recommendations for each agenda item of SBSTTA-18 as part of the pre-session documentation for the meeting. For the item on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs), it was noted that the Subsidiary Body may wish to focus on the consideration of the reports of the workshops held to facilitate the description of EBSAs, while mandating the Secretariat to prepare a draft decision for the Conference of the Parties using the text of decision XI/17 *mutatis mutandis*.

12. The Bureau agreed with the distribution of agenda items during the week as proposed by the Secretariat, with each of the morning sessions starting with a major agenda item. It noted that some items, such as marine biodiversity, will require more than one session in plenary, while other issues may require more intensive discussion in contact groups, but less in plenary.

13. The possibility of holding a workshop on the day before the start of SBSTTA-18 was also discussed. Suggestions for potential topics included the Global Biodiversity Outlook, marine biodiversity issues, and the sustainable development goals.

#### **ITEM 5. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE**

14. The Bureau agreed that its next meeting should be held in late February or early March 2014, preferably face-to-face. The meeting of the Bureau closed at 3 p.m. on 12 December 2013.

## ANNEX

### List of Participants

<b><i>SBSTTA Bureau</i></b>	
Mr. Gemedo Dalle Tussie Ethiopia (Chair)	Mr. Mustafa Fouda Egypt
Ms. Brigitte Baptiste Colombia	Mr. Youssef Al-Hafedh, Saudi Arabia
Mr. Jean-Patrick Le Duc France	Ms. Lourdes Coya de la Fuente, Cuba (informal meeting on December 10 <sup>th</sup> only)
<i>Via telephone:</i>	
Mr. Andrew Bignell New Zealand	Mr. Youngbae Suh, Republic of South Korea
<b><i>Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity</i></b>	
Mr. David Cooper SBSTTA Secretary	Ms. Simone Schiele Junior Professional Officer

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