



Convention on
Biological Diversity



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19 January 2011

NOTIFICATION

Invitation to provide information on new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources

Dear Madam/Sir,

In section II of decision IX/29 the Conference of the Parties decided on the process for the identification of new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. In accordance with paragraph 8 of this decision I am pleased to invite you to submit, **by 15 October 2011**, proposals for new and emerging issues to be considered by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. Please note that the proposals should, where possible, be accompanied with the information specified in paragraph 11 of decision IX/29. For ease of reference, section II of decision IX/29 is contained in the annex to this notification.

Furthermore, in accordance with paragraph 4 of decision X/13, I would appreciate receiving submissions of information on synthetic biology and geo-engineering, while applying the precautionary approach to the field release of synthetic life, cell or genome into the environment. You are also invited to provide further technical information on the impact of ground-level ozone on biodiversity (paragraph 7 of decision X/13)¹ and about your views on the scope and potential relevance of existing international scientific and regulatory mechanisms, including regional ones, on this issue.

After the deadline of 15 October 2011, Parties and relevant organizations will be notified of the opportunity to contribute relevant information and views related to the proposals taking into account the criteria listed in paragraph 12 of decision IX/29. The original submissions will be compiled along with the information and views received for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its sixteenth meeting.

Thank you for your cooperation and your continued support for the work of the Convention.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

¹ The impact of ground-level ozone on biodiversity had previously been proposed as an issue for possible consideration by SBSTTA (see original submissions www.cbd.int/doc/emer_gin_g-issues/emer_gin_gissues-2008-12-uk-groundlevel-ozone-en.doc and www.cbd.int/doc/emer_gin_g-issues/emer_gin_gissues-2008-12-royal-society-groundlevel-ozone-en.doc).

To: CBD National Focal Points and SBSTTA Focal Points, other Governments and relevant organizations



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COP 10 / MOP 5

Extract from decision IX/29

OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision VIII/10,

Recognizing the need to enhance the effectiveness of and streamline Convention processes with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention,

...

II. THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Additional elements to the consolidated modus operandi

Recalling the consolidated *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision VIII/10,

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate increased information exchange between the Bureaus of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice and the Conference of the Parties by *inter alia* inviting the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice to attend relevant meetings of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties;

7. *Calls upon* Parties to actively participate in the peer-review process for documentation related to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice prepared by the Executive Secretary and to include where appropriate experts qualified in the fields relating to the items on the agenda of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice on their delegations;

New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity

Recalling that, according to Article 25, paragraph 3, of the Convention, the functions, terms of reference, organization and operation of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may be further elaborated by the Conference of the Parties,

Also recalling that in accordance with decision VIII/10, annex III, paragraph 1, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will fulfil its mandate under the authority of, and in accordance with, guidance laid down by the Conference of the Parties, and upon its request,

Further recalling that in accordance with VIII/10, annex III, paragraph 5, that the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity shall apply,

mutatis mutandis, in accordance with rule 26, paragraph 5, to the proceedings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Underlining the need to reduce the number of agenda items for consideration by the Subsidiary Body at each meeting in order to improve the effectiveness of its proceedings (VIII/10, annex III, para. 14),

Also recalling that in accordance with decision VIII/10, annex III, appendix A, paragraph (d), one of the specific functions of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice is to identify new and emerging issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,

Emphasizing that the present decision is without prejudice to the rules of procedure and to the *modus operandi* contained in annex III to decision VIII/10,

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to notify Parties and relevant organizations after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the latest date by which proposals submitted for new and emerging issues based on the information requested in paragraph 10 below and the criteria listed in paragraph 11 will still be included into the compilation mentioned below;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to compile the submissions in the form in which they are received and notify Parties and relevant organizations of the opportunity to contribute relevant information and views related to the proposals taking into account the criteria listed in paragraph 12 below;

10. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a document compiling the original submissions and the information and views received for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

11. *Decides* that proposals for emerging issues should, where possible, be accompanied with information on:

(a) Why the issue needs urgent attention by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (including how it impacts biodiversity);

(b) How it affects the attainment of the objectives of the Convention (citing relevant articles);

(c) Thematic programmes of work and/or cross-cutting issues that could contribute to the resolution of the issue;

(d) Work already under way by relevant organizations addressing the issue; and

(e) Credible sources of information, preferably from peer-reviewed articles;

12. *Further decides* that the following criteria should be used for identifying new and emerging issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity:

(a) Relevance of the issue to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and its existing programmes of work;

(b) New evidence of unexpected and significant impacts on biodiversity;

(c) Urgency of addressing the issue/imminence of the risk caused by the issue to the effective implementation of the Convention as well as the magnitude of actual and potential impact on biodiversity;

(d) Actual geographic coverage and potential spread, including rate of spread, of the identified issue relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

(e) Evidence of the absence or limited availability of tools to limit or mitigate the negative impacts of the identified issue on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

(f) Magnitude of actual and potential impact of the identified issue on human well-being;

(g) Magnitude of actual and potential impact of the identified issue on productive sectors and economic well-being as related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

13. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to review and discuss the proposals and, as appropriate, identify new and emerging issues and elaborate a scientific and technical analysis with options for action for consideration and to submit this analysis to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration;

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