



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
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Agenda item 29

### DECISION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

#### *XII/6. Cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives*

*The Conference of Parties,*

#### **A. Cooperation with other conventions**

*Noting* the report of the Executive Secretary on progress,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* decision XI/6, including paragraph 3, in which it urged Parties to pursue efforts to enhance synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions to promote policy coherence, improve efficiency and enhance coordination and cooperation at all levels, and with a view to strengthening Parties' ownership of the process,

*Reaffirming* the need to strengthen synergistic processes among the biodiversity-related conventions, building on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as the central pillar, in close collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant entities of the United Nations system, aiming for further development of system-wide tools and procedures to enable implementation of the conventions, in a harmonized manner, learning from other relevant processes, including the process within the chemicals and waste cluster,

*Noting* resolution 1/12 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and those multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the Secretariat,

*Noting*, with appreciation, the work of the biodiversity-related conventions to strengthen synergies among them and with relevant United Nations organizations,

*Noting* the benefits of greater involvement by national Governments in strengthening synergies for implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the respective biodiversity-related conventions at the national level, and recalling paragraph 89 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,<sup>2</sup> which encourages parties to multilateral environmental agreements to consider further measures to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels,

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CBD/COP/12/24.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication, and enhance coordination and cooperation among the multilateral environmental agreements,

*Stressing* the importance of supporting the biodiversity-related conventions to improve collaboration, communication and coordination with relevant organizations and processes as well as with other related multilateral environmental agreements at the national level,

*Without prejudice* to the specific objectives and recognizing the respective mandates of these conventions,

1. *Welcomes* the International Plant Protection Convention as a member of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions and *notes* with appreciation the role of the International Plant Protection Convention in helping to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9;

2. *Welcomes* the efforts by the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions to align their own strategies and plans with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

3. *Calls* on the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions to continue its work to enhance coherence and cooperation in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and to continue efforts to improve efficiency and reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication at all relevant levels among the biodiversity-related conventions;

4. *Reaffirming* decision X/20, *invites* the members of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions:

(a) To increase their cooperation, coordination and attention to synergies in the development of their respective reporting systems, including future online reporting systems, as a means to increase synergies in national reporting under the biodiversity-related conventions;

(b) To consider ways and means to increase cooperation on outreach and communication strategies;

(c) To undertake efforts to increase synergies with respect to monitoring and reporting and improve effectiveness through the use of coherent monitoring frameworks and indicator systems; and

(d) To consider ways to contribute to the assessment of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

5. *Encourages* Parties to improve cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and other organizations at all levels to enhance effectiveness and efficiency in the implementation of the objectives of the Convention;

6. *Decides*, subject to the availability of resources, to establish a regionally balanced informal advisory group, composed of two members per region, selected by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on the basis of nominations by Parties, to prepare, in consultation with the Secretariat, prior to the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, a workshop with the task to prepare options which could include elements for a possible road map, for Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among them, without prejudice to the specific objectives and recognizing the respective mandates and subject to the availability of resources of these conventions, with a view to enhancing their implementation at all levels; and *invites* the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions to participate in the informal advisory group;

7. With a view to engaging the other biodiversity-related conventions in the workshop referred to in paragraph 6 above, while recognizing the respective mandates of these conventions, *invites* the executive heads of the other biodiversity-related conventions to facilitate the participation of representatives of Parties to their conventions, through their standing committees, bureaux or other processes, as appropriate; representatives of each of the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions; observers, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United

Nations and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, as the organizations which provide the secretariats to such conventions; as well as representatives of indigenous and local communities;

8. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to transmit to the Conference of the Parties of each of the biodiversity-related conventions the results of its project on improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to organize the workshop referred to in paragraph 6 above and to facilitate, as appropriate, cost-effective ways for the informal advisory group to hold discussions, such as through a video-conference, by electronic correspondence, or other means, prior to the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation;

10. *Also requests* the informal advisory group to consider relevant inputs, including the Executive Secretary's response to the request in paragraphs 17 (b), (c) and (f) in decision XI/6, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The future we want", and the results of the United Nations Environment Programme project on improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies, outcomes arising from the work of the Liaison Group of the biodiversity-related conventions, the experience of the Chemicals conventions in improving synergies, and other recent relevant work on synergies;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a study on key capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements at the national level as an input for the workshop;

(b) To transmit the report of the workshop to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for consideration at its first meeting and subsequently to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its thirteenth meeting;

12. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to pursue collaboration and partnerships with Parties, entities of the United Nations system, indigenous and local communities and stakeholders from various sectors to support implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

## **B. Cooperation with international organizations and initiatives**

*Recognizing* the need for an all-encompassing effort by all relevant processes to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, taking into account different views and approaches to achieve the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and sustainable development,

13. *Reiterates* the importance of a United Nations system-wide approach to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the framework of the United Nations Decade for Biodiversity,<sup>3</sup> and *welcomes* the report of the Environment Management Group on relevant activities of the Issue Management Group on Biodiversity;<sup>4</sup>

14. *Invites* the United Nations and other organizations to continue their efforts in furthering the integration of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets throughout the United Nations system, in particular through the Environment Management Group and other relevant initiatives;

15. *Takes note* of the outcomes of the first European conference for the implementation of the joint programme between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the

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<sup>3</sup> See General Assembly resolution 65/161.

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/48. See also: United Nations Environment Programme, *Advancing the Biodiversity Agenda: A UN System-wide Contribution*. A report by the Environment Management Group (EMG/1320/GEN) (UNEP, 2010). Available from <http://unemg.org>;

Convention on Biological Diversity on the linkages between cultural and biological diversity, including, in particular, the Florence Declaration on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity;<sup>5</sup>

16. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for providing a summary of its available tools and guidance to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and *welcomes* the preparation of the *State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*;

17. *Noting* that the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* identifies that progress towards sustainable food and agriculture is crucial in determining whether the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 will succeed, *recognizes* the *Reviewed Strategic Framework 2010-19* of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, addressing agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, with its mutually reinforcing objectives to eradicate hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty while sustainably managing and utilizing natural resources, as an important contribution to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and *requests* the Executive Secretary and *invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue to strengthen their cooperation on relevant matters;

18. *Calls upon* the BioTrade Initiative of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to strengthen its technical support to Governments, companies and other stakeholders to enable them to incorporate biotrade, as well as sustainable harvesting practices within national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as appropriate, highlighting the importance of biotrade as an engine for sustainable use of biodiversity and its conservation through the involvement of the private sector;

19. *Acknowledges* the importance of further enhancing cooperation on forest biodiversity and *welcomes* the expanding collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Tropical Timber Organization towards implementation of the Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity in several tropical regions as part of the memorandum of understanding between the Secretariats of the International Tropical Timber Organization and the Convention on Biological Diversity, to reinforce cooperation and collaboration in support of the achievement of the Convention's work related to forest biodiversity, and *reiterates* its invitation to Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to support this joint initiative;

20. *Stresses* that the involvement of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests remains important for the effective implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity, and *requests* the Executive Secretary, as a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, subject to the availability of resources, to engage actively in the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, including in the ongoing process of review of the International Arrangement on Forests under the United Nations Forum on Forests with a view to addressing biodiversity-related issues adequately;

21. *Emphasizing* the actions outlined in decision X/36, *requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to prepare a study on the ways in which international organizations and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests are assisting in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of relevance to forests, and *invites* other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to contribute to the study; and *further requests* the Executive Secretary to report back to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including on options for further action to achieve the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in a mutually supportive manner, while *acknowledging* the ongoing review of the international arrangement on forests to be discussed at the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, in May 2015.

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<sup>5</sup> See <http://landscapeunifi.it/en/call>.