

# **Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Bureaux of COP and ICCP 15 March 2003**

## **Participation:**

- COP6 Bureau members: The Netherlands (President), Australia, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Belgium, Colombia, Egypt, India, Malaysia, Russian Federation, Slovenia
- ICCP Bureau members: Cameroon (Chair), France, India, Iran, Peru, Poland, Saint Kitts and Nevis, South Africa, Switzerland and Ukraine;
- The representative of UNEP;
- The Executive Secretary of the CBD and other relevant staff of the Secretariat.

## **Agenda:**

The meeting adopted the provisional agenda as attached hereto.

## **Deliberations of the meeting:**

1. *Status of ratification of the Biosafety Protocol and resulting preparations for the first meeting of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP/MOP-1)*

The Secretariat briefed the Bureaux on the status of ratification, and Bureaux members added information regarding the status within their respective constituencies. The Bureaux noted that only few more ratifications are required for entry into force of the Protocol. Upon consideration of the exchanges, it was concluded that many ratifications are expected in the coming months, and as such, it is likely that the Protocol will enter into force during 2003.

The Secretariat also briefed the Bureaux on the status of preparation of documentation for the first meeting of the COP/MOP. It was agreed that the ICCP Bureau will look at the draft documents as soon as they are made available by the Secretariat and review of the draft documents will be an item on the agenda of the next ICCP Bureau meeting. The draft documents for COP/MOP-1 will also be made available for members of COP Bureau.

The Secretariat and the representative of Malaysia also briefed the Bureaux on the status of arrangements for the hosting of both COP 7 and COP/MOP meetings in Malaysia. The Bureaux expressed again their appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for offering to host the meetings and called upon donor countries to make financial contributions to assist the participation of representatives of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in both meetings. In this regard, it was felt that to the extent possible and as appropriate, two delegates should be supported, one to attend COP 7 and another one to attend COP/MOP.

## **2. *Scenarios and modalities of organization of COP/MOP-1***

The Secretariat briefed the Bureaux on the different opinions it received since the last joint Bureaux meeting from Parties and Bureaux members themselves regarding modalities of organization of the COP/MOP-1. After a round of exchanges of views on this item, it was agreed that COP/MOP 1 will take place in conjunction with COP 7

With regard to sequence of the two meetings, it was agreed that COP 7 will precede COP/MOP 1; COP 7 will finalize and adopt its report with the exception of matters arising out the Biosafety Protocol that must also be considered by the COP, namely, budgetary arrangements and provision of guidance to the financial mechanism. COP 7 will then adjourn its session and COP/MOP 1 will follow. On the last day of the COP/MOP 1 meeting, COP 7 will resume its session to consider and adopt decisions on the two matters mentioned based on the recommendations of COP/MOP 1.

As far as participation on the resumed session of COP 7 is concerned, it was the view of the Bureaux that this is a matter to be determined by each country depending on the practical considerations.

With regard to the question of the composition of the Bureau for the COP/MOP, the meeting noted that guidance is provided by the Protocol (article 29, para. 3) and appropriate consultations will be made during COP 7 to address the issue of substituting those COP Bureau members representing countries that will not yet be Parties to the Protocol. It was agreed that ICCP Bureau members will be invited as observers in the Bureau of COP/MOP 1 in order to ensure continuity and institutional memory.

It was recommended that the opening ceremony and the ministerial segment of COP 7 should also address COP/MOP 1.

## **3. *The need for further joint meetings of the Bureaux of COP 6 and ICCP before the meeting of the COP-MOP***

The ICCP Bureau will meet sometime in September 2003 to consider the status of preparation of documentation for COP/MOP 1 and any other matters of relevance to its work. A further joint meeting of the two Bureaux will then take place in November 2003 in the margins of SBSTTA 9 meeting to consider any further developments in the preparations of COP/MOP 1.

## **4. *Update from the Executive Secretary on the capacity building project proposals***

The Executive Secretary briefed the Bureaux on the consultations undertaken in respect of the BCH-related capacity building project proposals. The Global Programme Coordinator of the UNEP/GEF NBF project also made a presentation on the status of the projects implemented by UNEP to support the implementation of the Biosafety Protocol.

The Bureaux noted the positive developments, and, recalling the conclusion at its last meeting, requests the Executive Secretary to continue the consultation with the GEF Secretariat and UNEP/GEF, with a view to reach agreement on the modalities for GEF funding and implementation of the proposals.

## 5. *Other matters*

### i) Cooperation with other international organizations:

- The Executive Secretary briefed the meeting on the consultations with the Secretariat of the IPPC with a view to finalizing a Memorandum of Cooperation between the two Secretariats;
- The Bureau member from France briefed the meeting on activities relevant for the Protocol undertaken by FAO, IPPC and the OECD Seed Schemes in which he participated. He stressed the need for strengthening the working relationships with these organizations.

### ii) BCH:

- The Bureaux were also briefed on the new version of the pilot phase of the BCH recently launched by the Secretariat. The Secretariat raised the need for translation of the BCH website into other UN languages.

### iii) Preparing for the entry into force of the Protocol:

- The Bureaux were also briefed on some outreach activities envisaged by the Secretariat to mark the entry into force of the Protocol. Members were invited to suggest further ideas to the Secretariat.