

**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

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BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY

Montreal, 5 April 2012

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE COP-10 BUREAU**INTRODUCTION**

1. The fourth meeting of the Bureau elected at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties was held on Thursday, 5 April 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the headquarters of the Secretariat. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Kazuaki Hoshino, Adviser to Minister of Environment of Japan, representing the President of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
2. The following Bureau members attended the meeting: Ms. Snezana Prokic (Serbia); Mr. Ioseb Kartsivadze (Georgia); Ms. Ines Verleye (Belgium); Mr. Andrew Bignell (New Zealand); Mr. Spencer Thomas (Grenada) and Ms. Valeria Gonzalez Posse (Argentina). Ms. Eunhae Jeong attended on behalf of Mr. Yeon-chul Yoo (Korea) and Ms. Latifa Lakfifi (Morocco) attended via telephone. Ms. Kauna Betty Schroder (Namibia) and Dr. Akram Eissa Darwich (Syrian Arab Republic) were unable to attend.
3. The meeting was also attended by the following representatives of the Presidency: Ms. Noriko Moriwake and Mr. Kensuke Asahara of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan.
4. The Secretariat was represented by Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary; Mr. Olivier Jalbert (Principal Officer), Mr. Ravi Sharma (Principal Officer), Mr. Atsuhiko Yoshinaka (Global Coordinator), Mr. David Cooper (Principal Officer), Ms. Michele Rattray-Huish (Chief, Financial Resources Management Service) and Mr. Neil Pratt (Senior Programme Officer) .

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The meeting was opened by Mr. Hoshino, the representative of the President of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. He expressed gratitude to the generous contribution of the German government which had made possible the organization of this meeting instead of a telephone conference call and he welcomed the new Executive Secretary of CBD.

6. In his capacity as the new Executive Secretary, Mr. de Souza Dias said that he had accepted the post with the conviction that we can collectively implement the Convention in a more effective manner. He mentioned in particular the following needs: (i) to streamline the work of the Conference of the

Parties; (ii) better integrate of work programs and cross-cutting issues to fully explore synergies; (iii) mainstreaming of biodiversity into the development agenda; (iv) resource mobilization beyond identification of needs to leveraging of resources; (v) continuous monitoring system for the Aichi targets; (vi) enhance support to Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing states through a more structured and continuous process at regional and sub-regional levels; (vii) promote a more effective scientific and technical cooperation; (viii) the stronger recognition and support for community based approaches; (ix) expand the engagement of the business sector; and (x) promote the early ratification of the Nagoya Protocol. Bureau members welcomed the remarks of the Executive Secretary

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The Bureau reviewed and adopted the provisional agenda as contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP10/Bur/2012/1/1.

ITEM 3. PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION (WGRI-4)

(i) Rapporteur

8. The Bureau decided to designate one of its members as the rapporteur for WGRI-4 at its next meeting, on 6 May 2012. The President invited the Secretariat to hold consultations in this regard, as well as for possible chairs for contact groups.

(ii) Review of documents

9. Mr. Hoshino noted that the purpose of discussions under this agenda item was not to negotiate documents prepared by the Secretariat but to provide general advice and guidance to the Secretariat in the finalization of the documents with a view to facilitating the discussions at WGRI-4.

10. The Secretariat introduced the working documents of WGRI-4.

11. Some Bureau members expressed their concerns about the late preparation of documents by the Secretariat and the unavailability of languages.

12. Some Bureau members pointed out several agenda items were closely connected and recommendations on these items should be combined or cross-referenced to achieve efficient organization of WGRI-4 and COP-11.

13. With regard to the work program for the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Strategic Plan for biodiversity 2011-2020 (UNEP/CBD/WGRI/4/3/add.1), the strategy for the celebration of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/3/Add.2) and the Dehradun recommendations (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/5), it was pointed out that there was a need to clarify what is expected of the Conference of the Parties. In order to optimize the use of time at WGRI, it will be necessary to prioritize and evaluate whether or not there is a need to negotiate the proposed programme, the draft strategy and/or the Dehradun recommendations.

14. With regard to resource mobilization, there was general agreement on the need for a clear “roadmap” on the way forward from WGRI-4 to COP-11. The bureau agreed on the development of such

a roadmap and requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft roadmap in consultation with bureau members with a view to its circulation to all Parties before WGRI-4.

15. The Secretariat was requested to amend the pre-session documents of WGRI-4 based on the discussions in the Bureau.

(iii) Organization of work

16. Under this item, the Bureau decided to move item 6 (resource mobilization) to the first day of the WGRI-4. The Secretariat was requested to circulate a revised organization of work contained in document UNEP/WGRI/4/1/Add.1, Annex I.

17. The Bureau discussed the need for contact groups. The items of resource mobilization and implementation of strategic plan were regarded as possible issues that would require the establishment of contact groups.

ITEM 4. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (RIO+20)

18. With regard to the message to be transmitted by WGRI-4 to the Rio+20 conference, the Bureau suggested a two-track approach whereby the current document prepared by the Secretariat (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/4) would be used as a technical message that could be drawn upon by all focal points and the secretariat in the preparations for Rio+20. Furthermore, Bureau members agreed that a concise, high-level political message could be distilled from that technical message focussing on the essential role of biodiversity in supporting sustainable development, including poverty eradication and the green economy. It should position biodiversity as a central theme for the development of the proposed sustainable development goals and would be delivered to Rio+20 by the COP-10 President.

19. The Bureau took note of the presentation by the Secretariat of the plans for the Rio Conventions Pavilion in Rio de Janeiro.

ITEM 5. STATUS OF THE TRUST FUNDS OF THE CONVENTION

20. The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the report on the status of the Trust Funds of the Convention. One Bureau member requested to receive the documents related to the status of the Trust Funds electronically.

21. The representative of the President thanked the governments which had made assessed and voluntary contributions to the Trust Funds of the Convention and announced that Japan has, in the month of March 2012, contributed 4 billion Yen to the Japan Biodiversity Fund for the period 2012 to 2015. The Executive Secretary expressed his gratitude to the Government of Japan for their generous and unprecedented support. He pointed out that the Secretariat would soon prepare a draft budget for the next biennium as part of the documentation for COP-11. In this connection, he noted the need for a detailed approach to budget allocations for any activity proposed for consideration by COP. One Bureau member supported this need and noted that the cost implications of each proposed recommendation should indeed be available and considered whenever an activity is decided by COP. Appropriate linkage should be made in the documents.

ITEM 6. PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP-11) AND SIXTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL (COP/MOP-6)

22. The Secretariat reported on progress in the preparations for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-11) and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP/MOP-6). The Government of India intended to appoint a professional convention service company very soon to take care of logistics, including hotel booking, exhibition space, shipping, on-site transportation, etc. Information for participants would be available in May.
23. The Secretariat also shared with Bureau members the tentative program of the High Level Segment prepared by the host country in consultation with the Secretariat. This was circulated informally in consultation with the Government of India with a view to inviting the comments/guidance of Bureau members. Bureau members expressed support for the tentative program including the suggested panels.
24. Mr. Hoshino requested the Secretariat to convey the appreciation of the Bureau to the Government of India for the preparations for COP-11.
25. It was noted that, since the Nagoya Protocol was unlikely to enter into force prior to COP-11, then the issue of ABS would be dealt with by COP-11. The Bureau could support a recommendation from the ICNP2 to COP-11 to mandate the Co-chairs of the ICNP to chair a contact group on ABS during COP-11. This issue had been equally discussed during the meeting of the ICNP Bureau on 1st of March and Bureau members were encouraged to read the minutes of that meeting, given the consequences for the COP preparations. As it would be practically difficult to have a joint COP and ICNP Bureau at the margins of ICNP-2, the Bureau also suggested the COP President to invite the Co-chairs of the ICNP to attend a COP Bureau meeting to be held before COP11 to brief about ABS.
26. One Bureau member indicated concern that developing countries would have only one representative to cover biosafety, ABS and the Convention, which was excessive. This issue was also discussed within the ICNP Bureau and it was noted that this issue would need to be raised in the contact group on budget.

ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

27. Under this item, the representative of the President raised the issue of the lacuna in the Revised Administrative Arrangements between UNEP and the Secretariat of CBD (decision X/45, Annex I) and the need to address the issue of the extension/renewal of the mandate of the Executive Secretary in the Administrative Arrangements as well as to agree on a process for COP to exercise its authority to determine the term of appointment for the Executive Secretary (X/45, Annex I, §3). Bureau members agreed that it was neither necessary nor desirable to raise these matters at WGRI-4. They suggested handling this by means of consultations among the Bureau, the Secretariat and the ED with a view to submitting an agreed proposal to COP-11.
28. On a related matter, the Executive Secretary affirmed the desire of the Secretariat to finalize the Delegation of Authority proposed by UNEP as a complement to the Administrative Arrangement, while preserving the autonomy of the Executive Secretary in the implementation of the work programs adopted by the Conference of the Parties. The Bureau expressed its support to the Executive Secretary.

29. The Bureau requested the Executive Secretary to initiate discussions with UNEP on the review of the Administrative Arrangement to address the above-mentioned issues. The Executive Secretary undertook to keep the Bureau informed of progress.

30. The representative of Korea informed the Bureau that the Government of the Republic of Korea was offering to host the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Republic of Korea intends to make an intervention during WGRI-4 to present its bid.

31. While appreciative of the Korean initiative some members of the Bureau noted that, if held in Korea, COP-12 would be the third successive meeting of the Conference of the Parties in the same region. This raised the question of the practice of "alternance" between regions. While acknowledging this practice, the Secretariat noted that the hosting of COP is based on voluntary offers and that it is a very expensive undertaking for any host country. One Bureau member felt that there was a need to provide some background information to Parties on the requirements/cost involved in hosting a meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

32. Finally, the Bureau agreed on the need to work closely with the SBSTTA and ICNP Bureaus for an efficient management of COP-11, including the possibility of organizing joint meetings of the COP Bureau with the SBSTTA/ICNP Bureaus. A bureau member suggested holding a meeting of COP bureau in late July, by when the documents for COP11 will be ready, with ICNP Co-Chairs possible attendance.

ITEM 8. CLOSURE OF MEETING

33. The meeting was adjourned at 6.00 p.m.
