



## CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
Second meeting  
Jakarta, 6-17 November 1995

### REPORT OF THE ASIAN REGIONAL MEETING PREPARATORY TO THE SECOND MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

#### Introduction

1. Pursuant to decision I/11, on preparation for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, adopted at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Nassau, Bahamas from 28 November to 9 December 1994, and at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, the Asian regional meeting preparatory to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties met in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 4-5 November 1995.

#### AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. The meeting was opened by Mr. Calestous Juma, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, who welcomed the participants and recalled that the Asian regional meeting was the third meeting convened by the Secretariat for the preparation of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The African regional meeting was held in Pretoria, South Africa, on 9-10 October 1995 and concluded its work by adopting the Pretoria Declaration, a political platform highlighting the common position of the African Group on all the relevant issues on the agenda of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Latin America and Caribbean regional meeting took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 18-19 October 1995 and adopted the Buenos Aires Declaration. The Executive Secretary stated that these regional meetings appeared to be very useful mechanisms in assisting the various regional groups in preparing and elaborating their common position on the major issues to be considered by the forthcoming Conference of the Parties. They also offered the opportunity to participants to share their experience and to exchange useful information related to the status of biological diversity in their region, as well as on the implementation of the Convention at the national level.

3. The Executive Secretary also indicated that the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties would mark the beginning of a new phase in the implementation of the Convention. The decisions expected from that meeting would translate the provisions of the Convention into operational form, thereby giving a new impetus to the implementation of the Convention. He expressed the hope that the Asian regional meeting would make its contribution to such an achievement.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

4. Mr Aca Sugandhy (Indonesia) was unanimously elected Chairman of the meeting. Mr Seok Young Choi (Republic of Korea) was unanimously elected Rapporteur.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 3: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

##### **A: ATTENDANCE**

5. The meeting was attended by the representatives of the following countries: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

##### **B: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

6. Following one proposal for amendment by a representative, the meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Organization of work.
4. The Convention on Biological Diversity including its historical perspective.
5. National experience of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
6. Implementation of the Convention at the national level.
7. Preparation for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
8. Adoption of the report of the meeting.
9. Closure of the meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY INCLUDING ITS HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

7. Under this agenda item, the Executive Secretary introduced document UNEP/CBD/RG.AS/1/2, "The Convention on Biological Diversity, A Novel Approach". He recalled the historical process which led to the preparation, negotiation and adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity. He also

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highlighted the main features of the Convention, as well as its novel approach to the issues of the conservation of biological diversity, its sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of its benefits.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: NATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF THE CONSERVATION  
AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

8. Under this item, a presentation of the status of the biological diversity and the implementation of the Convention at national level were made by the following countries: Indonesia, India, Oman, Japan, Republic of Korea, China, Thailand, Australia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Mongolia and Viet Nam, and written texts were submitted to the Secretariat. In addition, written texts by Bangladesh and Turkmenistan were submitted to the Secretariat.

9. The discussion under this item provided the participants with useful information on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level. It also highlighted the need to continue to share experience and useful information among the Asian countries.

10. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a synthesis of these presentations.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AT THE  
NATIONAL LEVEL**

11. Under this agenda item, the representative of UNEP made a presentation on the document entitled "National Biodiversity Planning: Guidelines based on early experiences around the world", prepared by UNEP, the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), which would be officially launched during the proceedings of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

12. The representative of UNEP stated that, recognizing that in many cases a national biodiversity strategy would be the centrepiece of a country's efforts to fulfill the Convention's obligations, UNEP, WRI and IUCN, with financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), joined efforts in order to provide tools that would assist countries, developing countries in particular, to start the process of biodiversity planning. Eighteen countries in total, representing developed and developing countries, those with economies in transition and small island developing States, freely shared their experience which allowed the preparation of the document.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: PREPARATION FOR THE SECOND MEETING  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES**

13. Under this agenda item, the Executive Secretary introduced document UNEP/CBD/RG.AS/1/3 on the preparation for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties. He also made a short presentation on the different items on the agenda of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties and recalled the rationale for their inclusion.

14. A number of representatives indicated that they were still waiting for final instructions from their capitals on the major issues on the agenda of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties. They also noted that detailed consideration of the documents prepared by the Secretariat would be required for the finalization of their position. Accordingly, the meeting agreed to have a preliminary exchange of views on the major items on the agenda of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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15. The participants had a preliminary exchange of views and expressed their respective positions on the following items:

1. Pending issues arising from the work of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
2. Scientific, technical and technological matters, including:
  - report of the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;
  - clearing-house mechanism for technical and scientific cooperation;
  - ways to promote and facilitate access to and transfer and development of technology;
  - consideration of the need for and modalities of a protocol for safe handling and transfer of living modified organisms.
3. Matters related to financial resources and mechanism.
4. Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
5. Access to genetic resources.
6. Forms and intervals of national reports.
7. Administrative matters.

16. The participants agreed to continue their consultations on all the relevant issues during the proceedings of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

17. In addition, the participants recommended the candidature of Indonesia and India to the Bureau of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

18. In adopting the present report, the participants requested the Secretariat to make it available to the participants in the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

19. The participants expressed their gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for hosting the meeting, which was closed by the Chairman on 5 November 1995 at 11.30 a.m.