



**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/43
20 March 2006

ENGLISH ONLY

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Eighth meeting
Curitiba Brazil, 20-31 March 2006
Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

REPORTS OF THE REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETINGS

***Report of the Asia and the Pacific regional preparatory meeting for the eighth meeting of the
Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity***

Note by the Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the report of the Asia and the Pacific regional preparatory meeting for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was held in Curitiba on 18-19 March 2006.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/8/1.

/...

**REPORT OF THE ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR
THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 33 of decision V/20, the Conference of the Parties recognized that activities at the subregional and regional levels have an important role to play in preparing for Convention meetings and enhancing the implementation of the Convention, called on Parties to participate actively in suitable subregional and regional activities, as well as on the Executive Secretary, subject to necessary voluntary contributions, to facilitate the involvement in such subregional and regional activities of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, and other Parties with economies in transition. The Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 3 of decision VI/27, adopted at its sixth meeting, encouraged Parties to develop regional, subregional or bioregional mechanisms and networks to support implementation of the Convention. In addition, in paragraph 11 of decision VI/27 B, the Conference of the Parties acknowledges the important role that regional and sub regional mechanisms and networks play in promoting the implementation of the Convention, by, *inter alia*, providing forums for the preparation of regional inputs to meetings of the Convention

2. The Executive Secretary convened a regional preparatory meeting for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for the Asia and Pacific Region in Curitiba, Brazil, from 18 to 19 March 2002.

Participation

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries in the Asia and the Pacific region: Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Palau, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Singapore, Thailand, and Tuvalu.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The meeting was opened at 9 a.m. on Saturday, 18 March 2006 by Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Dr Djoghlaif welcomed the participants and underscored the importance of the meeting. He emphasized the need for concerted efforts towards achieving the 2010 target. He thanked the Government of Japan for its financial assistance for the convening of the meeting.

5. The Bureau members from Asia and Pacific region, Ms Tererei Abete-Reema of Kiribati and Ms of Oyundari Navaan-Yunden of Mongolia, served as Co-Chairs of the meeting. The Co-Chairs thanked the Executive Secretary for convening the meeting and for other arrangements. The meeting adopted the agenda annexed to the present report. Participants decided to work in plenary throughout the meeting.

**ITEM 2. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION AT THE EIGHTH MEETING
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES**

2.1. Island biological diversity

6. Under this agenda item, the participants considered recommendation X/1 of SBSTTA on the suggested programme of work on island biological diversity as reflected in the compilation of draft decisions for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/1/Add.2). The Group, especially the island nations, affirmed its support to the new programme of work on island biological diversity. In this context the Group decided to include this issue in its statement in the opening plenary. The Group identified Palau as the lead country to prepare the draft statement on this item.

2.2. *Biological diversity of dry and sub humid lands*

7. Under this agenda item, the participants considered recommendation XI/1 of SBSSTA, as reflected in the compilation of draft decisions for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/1/Add.2). The Group felt the need for effective implementation of this programme of work in arid and semi arid countries of the region and affirmed its support to the draft recommendation. The Group identified Mongolia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and China as the lead countries to prepare the draft statement on this item.

2.3. *Global Taxonomy Initiative*

8. Under this item, the participants considered recommendation XI/2 of SBSTTA as reflected in the compilation of draft decisions for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/1/Add.2). The Group affirmed its support to the draft recommendation and identified Palau to prepare the draft statement on this item.

2.4. *Access and benefit-sharing*

9. Under this agenda item, the participants considered the draft recommendations contained in the compilation of draft decisions for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/1/Add.2). Japan gave a presentation on the national guidelines on access to genetic resources for users. Considering the complexity and contentious nature, the participants decided to take a common position at this juncture on strengthening of capacity, awareness-raising, the international regime on access and benefit-sharing and follow it up later in subsequent meetings of the Group. The group identified Malaysia, India, Mongolia, China and Japan as lead countries to follow this issue in the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2.5. *Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention*

10. Under this item, the participants considered the draft recommendation contained in the compilation of draft decisions for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/1/Add.2). The Group affirmed its support to draft recommendation. The Group identified Kiribati and Tuvalu as lead countries to prepare the draft statement on this item.

2.6. *Communication, education and public awareness (Article 13)*

11. Under this agenda item, the participants considered recommendation contained in the compilation of draft decisions for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/1/Add.2). Highlighting its importance, the Group affirmed its support to the draft recommendation. The Group identified Samoa, Palau, Malaysia and Fiji to prepare the draft statement on this item.

ITEM 3. STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR EVALUATING PROGRESS OR SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION, INCLUDING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET

3.1. *Progress in implementation of the convention and its strategic plan including the 2010 target and the convention's contribution to relevant millennium development goals*

12. Under this item, the participants considered the draft recommendations for agenda items 20.1 and 20.2 as contained in the compilation of draft decisions for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/1/Add.2). The Group affirmed its support to draft recommendations. The Group identified Kiribati for agenda item 20.1 and Thailand for agenda item 20.2 as lead countries to prepare draft statements under the respective items.

3.2. *Implications of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem assessment*

13. Under this item, the participants considered the draft recommendations contained in the compilation of draft decisions for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/1/Add.2). The Group affirmed its support for the draft recommendations.

3.2. *Refining mechanisms to support implementation*

14. Under this item, the group considered together the draft recommendations for agenda items 22.1, 22.2, 22.3 and 22.4 contained in the compilation of draft decisions for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/1/Add.2). The Group affirmed its support for the draft recommendations. The Group identified the following lead countries to prepare draft statements:

- China and Mongolia for agenda item 22.1.
- Malaysia for agenda item 22.2
- Japan and Fiji for 22.3
- China and Tuvalu for 22.4

3.3. *Monitoring progress and reporting processes, including integration of targets into the thematic programmes of work, national reporting and global biodiversity outlook*

15. Under this item, the Group considered the draft recommendation contained in the compilation of draft decisions for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/1/Add.2). The Group affirmed its support for the draft recommendation. The Group identified Kiribati and Mongolia as lead countries to prepare draft statements.

3.4. *Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives and engagement of stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention*

16. Under this item, the Group considered the draft recommendation contained in the compilation of draft decisions for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/1/Add.2). The group affirmed its support to draft recommendation. The Group identified Thailand and Mongolia as lead countries to prepare draft statements.

3.5. *Guidance to the financial mechanism*

17. Under this item, representative of Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat gave a presentation on the GEF resource allocation framework and the biodiversity criteria for funding. The Group in general expressed concern over allocation of funds and agreed to convey this in their opening statement, as well as in the working group. The Group identified Tuvalu, China, and Mongolia to prepare the draft statement.

ITEM 4. COMPOSITION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES: NOMINATION OF TWO REPRESENTATIVES FOR ELECTION TO THE BUREAU

18. After initial round of discussions, the Group decided to consider the matter in subsequent meetings.

ITEM 5. NOMINATION OF THE CHAIR OF THE THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH MEETINGS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE (SBSTTA)

19. By acclamation, the Group decided to nominate Dr. Asghar Mohammadi Fazel of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the Chair of the thirteenth and fourteenth meetings of SBSTTA .

ITEM 6: OTHER MATTERS

20. Under this item the Group considered the other items on the agenda for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as the proposal on drafting committee. The Group identified the following countries for preparing draft statements on other agenda items for the meeting:

- Nepal and Cambodia- Inland water ecosystems
- Palau- Marine and coastal biological diversity
- China- Protected areas
- Palau- Alien species
- Tuvalu and Cambodia- Biodiversity and climate change

21. Regarding the proposal on a drafting committee during the meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Group expressed some doubts about the need for establishing such a committee.

ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

22. The meeting was officially closed at 11.30 a.m., on 19 March 2004.

Annex

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Issues for in-depth consideration at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
3. Strategic issues for evaluating progress or supporting implementation, including progress toward the 2010 biodiversity target.
4. Composition of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties: nomination of two representatives for election to the Bureau.
5. Nomination of the Chair of the thirteenth and fourteenth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).
6. Other matters.
7. Closure of the meeting.
