



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/8/4
30 September 2005

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Eighth meeting

Curitiba, Brazil, 20-31 March 2006

Item 9 of the provisional agenda*

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

CONTENTS

<i>Item</i>	<i>Page</i>
INTRODUCTION	3
1. OPENING OF THE MEETING	3
2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS	9
2.1. Election of officers.....	9
2.2. Adoption of the agenda.....	9
2.3. Organization of work	10
3. PROGRESS TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND THE STRATEGIC PLAN AND ACHIEVEMENTS LEADING UP TO THE 2010 TARGET	11
3.1 Review of implementation of the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan and the framework adopted in decision VII/30, and of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;	
<i>and</i>	
3.2. Identifying and overcoming obstacles to implementation of the Convention, in particular at the national level.....	11
4. REVIEW OF THE IMPACTS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING PROCESSES UNDER THE CONVENTION.....	12
4.1. Meetings of the Conference of the Parties; the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, including ad hoc technical expert groups, ad hoc open-ended working groups, national focal points, and the Secretariat;	
<i>and</i>	
4.2. Programmes of work, tools and guidance developed under the Convention.....	12

* UNEP/CBD/COP/8/1.

4.3.	Mechanisms for implementation, including the clearing-house mechanism, financial resources and the financial mechanism, and communication, education and public awareness	14
5.	COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION	16
5.1.	Cooperation with other conventions, organizations and initiatives	16
5.2	Engagement of stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention	17
6.	MONITORING PROGRESS AND REPORTING PROCESSES.....	18
6.1.	Framework for monitoring implementation of the Convention and achievement of the 2010 target and for review of the thematic programmes of work.....	18
6.2.	National reporting under the Convention and other conventions	19
7.	OTHER MATTERS.....	20
8.	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT	21
9.	CLOSURE OF THE MEETING	21

Annexes

I.	RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION.....	22
II.	STATEMENT BY MR. HANS HOOGEVEEN, FORMER ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, AT FIRST MEETING OF THE THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION, MONTREAL, 5-9 SEPTEMBER 2005.....	59

INTRODUCTION

1. The first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of the Implementation was held in Montreal from 5 to 9 September 2005.
2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Parties to the Convention and other Governments: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, European Community, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
3. Observers from the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, convention secretariats and other bodies also attended: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations University (UNU).
4. The following were also represented by observers: Accion por la Biodiversidad, Association for Community Development and Human Technology, BirdLife International / Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Conservation International, Institut Hydro-Québec, Environnement, Développement et Société, Institute of Biodiversity and Biotechnology Initiatives and Services, International Chamber of Commerce, International Environmental Resources, IUCN—The World Conservation Union, Natura, Observatoire de l'Écopolitique Internationale, Reliance Infocom Ltd., Rio Tinto, Sierra Club of Canada, STEPPE, Tebtebba Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Université de Sherbrooke, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), WWF—World Wide Fund for Nature.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The meeting was opened at 10 a.m. on 5 September 2005 by Mr. Letchumanan Ramatha (Malaysia) on behalf of Dato' Sothinathan Sinna Goundar, President of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. In his opening statement, Mr. Letchumanan Ramatha, thanked those countries which had provided support for the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as such participation was essential to ensuring that the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group reflected the views of a broad range of Parties. Stressing the importance of the review process, to which he was committed in his capacity both as Chair of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group and as representative of Malaysia, he said that he would do his utmost to guarantee that the meeting contributed to improving the implementation and effectiveness of the Convention.
6. At the opening plenary session of the meeting, Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, expressed his sincere condolences to the people and Government of the United States of America in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He welcomed participants and expressed his appreciation to Canada, Denmark, Norway and the United Kingdom for their contributions that had enabled the organization of the meeting and the participation of representatives from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. He said that three distinct phases could be identified in the evolution of the Convention: its conception and negotiation; the policy-making phase following entry into force; and the current phase with the focus on implementation. Having outlined the mandate of

/...

the Working Group, as contained in decision VII/30 of the Conference of the Parties, he said that the agenda for the meeting had been divided into four main items: the assessment of progress in implementation of the Convention; review of the impacts and effectiveness of existing processes under the Convention; cooperation with other conventions and relevant organizations and the engagement of the full range of stakeholders in implementation; and assessment of the mechanisms and processes for monitoring progress in implementation.

7. He encouraged participants to take a holistic view to improving the implementation of the Convention, building on the many achievements already accomplished. In that respect, he said that the Secretariat had played a critical role, discharging fully its mandate and much more, in terms of the successful translation of the provisions of the Convention into programmes of work on thematic and cross-cutting issues with defined measurable targets; the adoption of the Biosafety Protocol; the negotiations of the international regime on access and benefit sharing; the evolution of SBSTTA into a recognizable intergovernmental scientific body; the release of the first edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) and the publication of the Convention's Handbook and the technical series; *CBD News*; engaging the scientific community and journals devoted to issues discussed under the Convention; forging strong partnerships with relevant organizations; making the Convention a forum for indigenous and local communities; the prominence of the Convention and biodiversity at the World Summit on Sustainable Development; and the active presence of the Convention at sessions of the General Assembly as well as the Commission on Sustainable Development. In recognition of those efforts and accomplishments, and as a strong indication of the Parties' confidence in the Convention process and its programmes of work, funding to the Secretariat had substantially increased over the years. The Secretariat had expanded from a few offices and few people to a full team of dedicated staff, capable of effectively responding to the needs of the Parties. In listing the achievements under the Convention, it was only right to acknowledge the efforts and hard work of the Secretariat's staff over the years.

8. It was also important not to lose sight of the key challenges facing the Convention: the need to translate the 2010 target into national goals and targets; the need to mainstream biodiversity in all economic sectors; the need to engage stakeholders, including civil society at large, indigenous and local communities and the private sector; the need to improve the effectiveness of national reporting; and, ultimately, the need to overcome the obstacles to implementation identified in the Strategic Plan and, in particular, to meet the capacity-building needs of Parties and to generate the necessary additional financial resources and the political will for effective action.

9. He encouraged participants to make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties to align and improve processes that would contribute to the long-term success of the Convention. He also encouraged the Working Group to consider its recommendations as a whole to ensure that the suggested tasks and timelines were feasible and complementary. In conclusion, he noted that the large number of meetings held under the Convention was stretching the capacity of Parties, the Secretariat and partner organizations. He urged participants to discuss frankly all possibilities to improve the effectiveness of the Convention without resorting to a multitude of meetings.

10. In his opening address, Mr. Ahmed Djoghla, Assistant Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, speaking on behalf of the Executive Director, Mr. Klaus Töpfer, expressed deep condolences to the people of the United States of America for the dramatic loss of life in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Following the observance of a minute of silence, which he requested in memory of the victims of the disaster, he highlighted the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, namely that nature's ability to deliver its vital services had been weakened by the unprecedented changes made to ecosystems in recent decades by humans. As a result, attainment of the 2010 biodiversity target would require unparalleled efforts and various paradigm shifts, to which end the Secretary-General of the United Nations had called for collective action. The current meeting offered a unique opportunity to contribute to such efforts, in particular by recommending future directions that would ultimately assist the international community in meeting the 2010 biodiversity target. In that connection, UNEP activities would only serve to further enhance its firm support of the Convention. He urged the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to recommend adjustments to the Convention processes

that would ensure their relevance, effectiveness and timeliness, thus mirroring the expected pledge by heads of State at the forthcoming 2005 World Summit in New York to make the United Nations more relevant, more effective, more efficient, more accountable and more credible.

11. At the opening plenary session of the meeting, the Working Group also heard statements by the representatives of Kiribati, on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group; the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the African Group; Poland, on behalf of the Central and Eastern European Group; the United Kingdom, (on behalf of the European Community and its member States, and with the support of Bulgaria and Romania); and Ecuador, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group.

12. The representative of Kiribati expressed her deep appreciation for the generous contributions on which many developing countries and countries with economies in transition depended for their participation in the meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity. In connection with the continuing visa problems experienced by some of her regional group, however, she appealed to the host Government to give special consideration to representatives wishing to attend meetings relating to the Convention. She pointed out that, owing to financial, capacity and technological constraints, the majority of developing countries, in particular small island developing States (SIDS), often lagged behind in their efforts to implement the Convention. It would therefore be practical and realistic to set different progress assessment periods for Parties on the basis of their grouping under the United Nations system, as in the case of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, without introducing incentives and disincentives, which would merely increase the burden on some Parties. Lastly, she urged the developed countries, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to continue their joint initiatives in partnership with the developing countries with a view to furthering achievement of the latter's national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

13. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania thanked those countries that had made it possible for African participants to attend the meeting and extended his deep condolences to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, which had been a reminder of the need for joint efforts to address the environmental and other effects of such disasters. In implementing their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, most African countries had encountered such challenges as inadequate funding and insufficient human, technical and technological capacities. Other requirements for successful implementation included the strengthening of national clearing-house mechanisms; the provision of resources to enable the revision of such strategies and plans in line with recent initiatives; the creation of synergies at the national level between the Convention and related multilateral agreements; the strengthening of communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) initiatives and their contents at the national level in order to enhance implementation; simplification of the national reporting process; and continuing support for the formulation or revision of national policies and other initiatives relating to access and benefit sharing and biosafety frameworks.

14. The representative of Poland emphasized the need to improve both the national implementation of the convention, and the need to help those countries that did not have sufficient capacity to do so. There was also a need to help countries implement their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and improve the national reporting process, both of which were essential for the implementation of the Convention.

15. The representative of the United Kingdom noted that only five years remained to achieve the 2010 target. He said that there was a need to focus on the issue of national implementation and urged that processes under the Convention be streamlined to release resources for that purpose. In addition, he stressed the need to improve political support and public awareness of the aims of the Convention and said that the economic and social importance of biodiversity needed to be conveyed to a wider audience.

16. The representative of Ecuador said that funds were needed to facilitate the development of capacity and the transfer of technology, and that new financial resources needed to be compatible with the achievement of both the 2010 target and the improved implementation of the convention. He suggested that priority be given to the discussion of those issues.

17. At the opening plenary session of the meeting, the Working Group also heard statements by the representatives of Canada, France, Mexico, Colombia, South Africa, New Zealand, Saint Lucia, Australia, Peru, Algeria, Tunisia and the United States of America.

18. The representative of Canada said that the Working Group needed to focus its attention on four issues: the finalization of a comprehensive framework for assessing progress in the implementation of the Convention, the use of such a comprehensive framework as a basis for national reporting, the establishment of improved technical cooperation programmes to better mobilize existing scientific and technical capacity, and the examination of ways and means to review the processes established under the Convention. He said that Canada was mindful of the importance of the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities in the implementation of the Convention. In that regard, the issue of technical cooperation could include the development and use of indigenous and traditional technologies.

19. The representative of France said that in order to help raise the awareness of biodiversity issues, it was important to make available scientific expertise that would be perceived by public opinion and political leaders as providing both an independent evaluation and systematic warnings of the biodiversity crisis. France therefore welcomed the fact that the International Scientific Conference “Biodiversity and Governance”, held in Paris in January 2005, had called for an international mechanism that linked scientists with representatives of Governments and members of civil society and international institutions. That had led to the formation of an international steering committee, which had met in Paris in June 2005. He said that the steering committee would continue and that its work would reinforce the activities of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice.

20. The representative of Mexico said that the past decade had seen the evolution of the Convention and that it was now necessary to focus on the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention at the national level. He also said that it was important to consider both the composition of the Bureau and the frequency of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the ministerial segments and the meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. Proposals for coordination between the Convention and other international meetings had to be carefully considered and there was a need to focus on the development of concrete proposals for submission to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

21. The representative of Colombia said that, while the review process was important, a review of non-compliance with elements of Article 20 of the Convention on Biological Diversity was also needed. He noted that recently there had been a lack of balance in the allocation of resources by the Council of the Global Environment Facility. He said that insufficient consideration had been given to the sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources, and he stressed that the protection of biological diversity outside national borders would have an effect on such sharing. It was therefore not possible to speak of implementation with respect to the second and third objectives of the Convention. With respect to cooperation with other conventions and organizations, he noted that there had been an inadequate effort to work together with the World Trade Organization. In closing he said that the Convention would not be successful unless ensured the fair and equitable sharing of benefits to local communities with developing countries.

22. The representative of South Africa said that the meeting was an important opportunity to devise innovative ways of implementing the Convention at national level, where global objectives were translated into action. Her country had recently finalized its national biodiversity strategy and action plan, which had included mapping of the country's terrestrial and marine ecosystems. The challenges in devising the plan had included finding the time and technical skill required to coordinate the necessary expertise, lack of national indicators and alignment of national with global indicators. The plan was being implemented at all levels of government, but information was lacking on progress made in inserting the three objectives of the Convention into programmes and activities. Her country considered that national reporting could be simplified by basing it on “headline” indicators, which would help countries to monitor progress towards achieving national priorities within the broader global goals.

23. The representative of New Zealand said that a number of efficiency measures could be taken to help countries implement the Convention. The agendas and the number of inter-sessional meetings should be reduced to facilitate the participation of as many signatories to the Convention as possible; the participation of other stakeholders should also be ensured for measured, transparent, inclusive decision-making. All working groups, subsidiary bodies and technical expert groups should have clear mandates and terms of reference to ensure that their outcomes were focused and unambiguous. The structure and format of national reports should be changed to ensure meaningful input for decision-making. Effective coordination between the Convention and other international forums should be promoted, to maximize synergies and avoid duplication of effort. Any guidelines and advice to overcome barriers to implementation should be practical ones.

24. The representative of Saint Lucia said that the goal of reviewing implementation should be to make biodiversity a basic issue in national development for all countries. The national biodiversity strategy and action plan of her country was being implemented with donor aid and national initiatives, and by collaboration with other conventions. At a recent “biodiversity awards ceremony”, schools, communities and businesses that played an active role in biodiversity management in the country had been recognized. Knowledge did not always lead to action and behavioural change: the review of implementation of the Convention should lead countries to change their behaviour with respect to biodiversity.

25. The representative of Australia said that her Government tried to ensure that all stakeholders in the country were in agreement with its stated priorities. Similarly, the guidance provided by the Convention on national implementation should accord with national priorities and capacity. In her view, there was a mismatch between the global priorities of the Convention and what Parties could do practically to conserve biodiversity and use it sustainably. Her country had been one of the first signatories of the Convention and had made significant progress in achieving its objectives; however, it seemed to be doing so independently of the Convention, with priorities that appeared to differ from the global priorities. New, seemingly less relevant priorities continued to emerge, while little more than half the Parties had produced a national biodiversity strategy — the most basic requirement of the Convention. Clear, practical solutions to those problems should be found at the present meeting.

26. The representative of Peru said that it was essential to review the efficiency with which the Convention was being implemented, as the well-being of the peoples of the planet depended on it. Clear changes should be proposed to improve the setting of priorities, to improve coordination mechanisms, to increase the effectiveness of the subsidiary bodies, with no further proliferation of bodies and committees, and to improve participation of all sectors in deliberations on the Convention. It was important to find a balance in achieving the three objectives of the Convention, and a clear, effective agreement should be reached for presentation to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.

27. The representative of Algeria welcomed the opportunity presented by the meeting to address any obstacles to implementation of the Convention. He agreed with the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania that countries had received inadequate funding and human and technical resources to allow them to achieve their objectives. In his view, the Working Group should focus on revising the Strategic Plan. Other questions could be addressed in other forums.

28. The representative of Tunisia said that the third phase of implementation of the Convention was the most important, and the current review would ensure that the objectives were attained, in order to meet the 2010 targets. He agreed with the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania on the importance of drawing up national biodiversity strategies and plans. His country had drawn up its plan and was now assessing the initiatives that had been completed. He asked for a report on the results of a preparatory meeting for the present meeting, which had been held three months previously in London.

29. The representative of the United States of America thanked all those who had expressed their condolences for the disaster that had struck his country. The event underlined the need to understand the natural world and in particular its conservation, equitable access to and sharing of its resources and sustainable use for a better world.

30. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) outlined the numerous aspects of the partnership between the Convention on Biological Diversity and her Organization. FAO had worked for many years on sustainable use of biodiversity and its conservation, and wished to continue and strengthen its cooperation with the Convention, within the mandates of the two organizations. That was crucial to meeting the Millennium Development Goals. She said that, at its tenth session in November 2004, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture had requested FAO to prepare a multi-year programme of work on agricultural biodiversity for consideration in 2006. One of the reasons for doing so was to be able to accommodate FAO's long-term planning with the long-term planning of the Convention. Another example of collaboration was on forest biodiversity and the upcoming meeting between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and FAO. Lastly, she stated that FAO was committed to further strengthening the Convention and further assisting countries to implement it, in which connection FAO served to voice the concerns and priorities of the agricultural, fisheries and forestry sectors.

31. At the invitation of the Chair, opening statements were also made in their personal capacities by Mr. Francis Nyenze (Kenya), President of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Mr. Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands), Acting President of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and Mr. Alfred Oteng-Yeboah (Ghana), former Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).

32. Mr. Nyenze commended the progress made in implementing the strategies for conserving inland, coastal and marine biodiversity. The second objective of the Convention had been operationalized by increasing sustainable use of biodiversity, encouraging ecotourism and initiating work on access and benefit-sharing. He recalled that biodiversity had been recognized at the World Summit on Sustainable Development as one of the five key issues for sustainable development. The current structure of the Secretariat of the Convention reflected its objectives, and the staff were the key assets. Mr. Zedan had been an exemplary Executive Secretary and had brought about a major transformation of the Secretariat, increasing its professionalism, scientific base and geopolitical objectivity; he had eloquently represented the Convention in international forums.

33. Mr. Hoogeveen said that biological diversity was higher on the political agenda than ever before. Although, as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment showed, biodiversity was decreasing rapidly, it was widely acknowledged that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity were a cornerstone of sustainable development and poverty reduction. The current challenge to the Convention lay in effective implementation of the ambitious plans that had been formulated during the first two phases. Important initiatives were: an international regime of access and benefit-sharing, which would depend on a compromise between developed and developing countries on providing access and sharing benefits; a legal instrument on forest conservation and sustainable use, to overcome the impasse reached by the United Nations Forum on Forests; greater commitment to implement the programme of work on protected areas; and full participation in working groups of civil-society organizations, including the private sector and indigenous peoples. The work of the Conference of the Parties should be streamlined by listing priorities and adhering to those lists, with a limit on the number of subgroup meetings. One of the major responsibilities of the Conference of the Parties, as stipulated in decision IV/17, was to decide on the level and term of office of the Executive Secretary of the Convention. Nevertheless, the procedures in that respect, especially the consultation with the Conference of the Parties and its Bureau, had not been followed. Much of the progress made in implementation of the Convention over the past 12 years had been due to the strong, capable leadership of Mr. Zedan, who had made the organization an example within the United Nations system. He proposed that Mr. Zedan be made Honorary Secretary to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and that he be appointed an "Ambassador" for the Convention, who would be involved in outreach activities. In conclusion, he requested that the full text of his statement be annexed to the report of the Working Group (see annex II below).

34. In response, the representative of the Executive Director of UNEP said that the appointment of the new Executive Secretary of the Convention had been the result of seven months of intensive consultations, in accordance with the provisions of decision VII/34 adopted by the Conference of the

Parties at its seventh meeting and taking into account the prerogative of the United Nations Secretary-General regarding the appointment of senior United Nations officials at the level of Assistant Secretary-General and above. The current administrative arrangements between UNEP and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting in 1998, contained the agreed procedure for the appointment of the Executive Secretary when the post was at D-2 level. UNEP welcomed the proposal of appointing an ambassador for the Convention, which would need to be in line with the United Nations procedure regarding the appointment of United Nations ambassadors of intergovernmental processes.

35. Mr. Oteng-Yeboah reported that over 80 per cent of the functions entrusted to the SBSTTA in Article 25 of the Convention had been fulfilled and he was confident that the remaining function, set out in paragraph 2 (b) of that article, would be implemented in the context of assessing progress towards the 2010 target and future reviews of programmes of work. It was considered by some that SBSTTA had become a “mini-COP” or preparatory process for the Conference of the Parties rather than a strictly scientific body. In large part this was because SBSTTA was an intergovernmental body and participants were often political negotiators, and also because of the nature of the requests made to SBSTTA by the Conference of the Parties. It was critical, however, to ensure that SBSTTA advice was based on the results of a sound scientific process and that it helped the Conference of the Parties to make sense of its advice in policy terms. To protect the integrity of the scientific process, ad hoc technical expert groups should not become political and should not mix scientific assessments with policy advice. In addition, full use should be made of external assessment processes. Any operational plan for SBSTTA should be considered in the context of existing operational guidance and, in his view, rather than creating an additional operational plan, it would be useful to combine all the guidance already existing into one coherent *modus operandi*. As far as review of implementation of the Convention was concerned, careful consideration had to be given to adopting an agreed set of targets and indicators for measuring progress towards the 2010 target. One aspect of monitoring that required particular attention was reporting, and the fact that so few countries had submitted national reports perhaps indicated that a new, less burdensome format was required so as to encourage submission of reports that were more outcome-oriented to allow the information they contained to be used to assess progress. Finally, in light of the need to review the implementation and effectiveness of the Convention in the lead up to 2010, consideration should be given to extending the life of the present Working Group.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. Election of officers

36. The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties served as the Bureau for the meeting. It was further agreed that Mr. Antonio Matamoros, Vice-President from Ecuador, would act as Rapporteur.

2.2. Adoption of the agenda

37. At the 1st plenary session of the meeting, on 5 September 2005, the Working Group adopted the following agenda, on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/1):

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - 2.1. Election of officers;
 - 2.2. Adoption of the agenda;
 - 2.3. Organization of work.
3. Progress towards implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan and achievements leading up to the 2010 target:

- 3.1. Review of implementation of the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan and the framework adopted in decision VII/30, and of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
- 3.2. Identifying and overcoming obstacles to implementation of the Convention, in particular at the national level.
4. Review of the impacts and effectiveness of existing processes under the Convention:
 - 4.1. Meetings of the Conference of the Parties; the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, including ad hoc technical expert groups, ad hoc open-ended working groups, national focal points, and the Secretariat;
 - 4.2. Programmes of work, tools and guidance developed under the Convention;
 - 4.3. Mechanisms for implementation, including the clearing-house mechanism, financial resources and the financial mechanism, and communication, education and public awareness.
5. Cooperation with other conventions and organizations and engagement of stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention:
 - 5.1. Cooperation with other conventions, organizations and initiatives;
 - 5.2. Engagement of stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention.
6. Monitoring progress and reporting processes:
 - 6.1. Framework for monitoring implementation of the Convention and achievement of the 2010 target and for review of the thematic programmes of work;
 - 6.2. National reporting under the Convention and other conventions.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report.
9. Closure of the meeting.

2.3. Organization of work

38. At the opening plenary session of the meeting, on 5 September 2005, the Working Group approved the organization of work of the meeting, on the basis of the suggestions contained in annex II to the annotations to the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/1/Add.1). Accordingly, the Working Group established two sessional sub-working groups: Sub-Working Group I, under the chairmanship of Mr. Matthew Jebb (Ireland), to consider items 4.1 (Meetings of the Conference of the Parties; the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, including ad hoc technical expert groups, ad hoc open-ended working groups, national focal points, and the Secretariat), 4.2 (Programmes of work, tools and guidance developed under the Convention) and 4.3 (Mechanisms for implementation, including the clearing-house mechanism, financial resources and the financial mechanism, and communication, education and public awareness); and Sub-Working Group II, under the chairmanship of Mr. Sem Taukondjo Shikongo (Namibia) to consider items 5.1 (Cooperation with other conventions, organizations and initiatives), 5.2 (Engagement of stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention), 6.1 (Framework for monitoring implementation of the Convention and achievement of the 2010 target and for review of the thematic programmes of work), and 6.2 (National reporting under the Convention and other conventions).

Work of the sessional sub-working groups

39. Sub-Working Group I held seven meetings from 6 to 9 September 2005. The Sub-Working Group adopted its report (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/L.1/Add.1) at its 7th meeting on 9 September 2005. The

report of the Sub-Working Group has been incorporated into the present report under the appropriate agenda items.

40. Sub-Working Group II held six meetings from 6 to 8 September 2005. The Sub-Working Group adopted its report (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/L.1/Add.2) at its 6th meeting, on 8 September 2005. The report of the Sub-Working Group has been incorporated into the present report under the appropriate agenda items.

41. The reports of the sub-working groups were presented to the plenary of the Working Group at the 3rd plenary session of the meeting, on 9 September 2005.

ITEM 3. PROGRESS TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND THE STRATEGIC PLAN AND ACHIEVEMENTS LEADING UP TO THE 2010 TARGET

3.1 *Review of implementation of the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan and the framework adopted in decision VII/30, and of national biodiversity strategies and action plans; and*

3.2. *Identifying and overcoming obstacles to implementation of the Convention, in particular at the national level*

42. The Working Group took up agenda item 3 at the 2nd plenary session of the meeting, on 5 September 2005. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan and progress towards the 2010 target (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/2).

43. The Working Group had also before it submissions from Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations on issues to be addressed by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/2), the report of the Chatham House/Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Workshop on Implementation and Effectiveness of the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/4), and a note by the Executive Secretary on guidance and guidelines on national biodiversity strategies and action plans (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/8).

44. Introducing the item, the Secretariat said that in order to evaluate, report on and review the Strategic Plan of the Convention, adopted in decision VI/26, the Conference of the Parties had adopted decision VII/30, which included a flexible framework of goals and sub-targets for assessing global progress towards the 2010 target of a substantial reduction in the loss of biodiversity. It also set out measures to assess and improve national implementation and, in paragraph 23, established the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of the Implementation of the Convention, one of the central tasks of which was to consider progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan, as well as achievements leading up to the 2010 target. A further task was to assess progress in the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies. Lastly, the Working Group was required to identify and overcome obstacles to implementation, particularly at the national level. It might wish to consider the suggested recommendations contained in the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/2), in particular the recommendation that an in-depth review of the implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan be undertaken at a subsequent meeting, bearing in mind that the future of the Working Group was to be discussed under item 4 of the agenda, and the recommendation that consideration be given to consolidated and up-to-date guidance for the future development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the effective integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors.

45. Following the introduction, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Australia, Barbados, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Togo, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Community and its member

States with the support of Bulgaria and Romania), the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the African Group), Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

46. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Environment Programme.

47. Following the initial discussion of item 3 in plenary, Sub-Working Group I considered at its 3rd meeting, on 7 September 2005, a draft recommendation submitted by the Sub-Working Group's Chair based on the discussions and the views expressed during the plenary.

48. At its 4th meeting, on 7 September 2005, the Sub-Working Group took up a revised text of part of the draft recommendation prepared by the Chair.

49. At its 6th meeting, on 8 September 2005, the Sub-Working Group considered the text of the draft recommendation as a whole and, after an exchange of views, agreed to transmit it to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.8.

50. At its 7th meeting, on 9 September 2005, the Chair drew the attention of the Sub-Working Group to the reorganization of the paragraphs in draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.8. After discussion, the Sub-Working Group agreed to send the document to plenary as it stood.

51. At the 3rd plenary session of the meeting, on 9 September 2005, the Working Group took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.8.

52. The representative of Namibia, Chair of Sub-Working Group II, referred to paragraph C (e) and questioned whether the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was a "biodiversity-related convention". He added that Sub-Working Group II had addressed the issue of cooperation with other conventions and had developed a comprehensive recommendation on developing a global partnership for participation that would allow organizations such as the FAO to participate. In his view, therefore, the subparagraph was out of place in the draft recommendation before the Working Group.

53. The Working Group adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.8 as recommendation 1/1, the text of which is contained in annex I to the present report.

ITEM 4. REVIEW OF THE IMPACTS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING PROCESSES UNDER THE CONVENTION

4.1. *Meetings of the Conference of the Parties; the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, including ad hoc technical expert groups, ad hoc open-ended working groups, national focal points, and the Secretariat; and*

4.2. *Programmes of work, tools and guidance developed under the Convention*

54. Sub-Working Group I took up agenda items 4.1 and 4.2 at its 1st meeting, on 6 September 2005.

55. In considering the items, the Sub-Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on the review of processes under the Convention (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/3), a summary of previous reviews, external reviews and submissions by Parties (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/3/Add.1) and a note by the Executive Secretary on the review of the programmes of work, guidance and tools developed under the Convention (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/3/Add.2).

56. Introducing the items, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention in particular to paragraph 23 of decision VII/30, by which the Working Group had been established in order to review the impacts and effectiveness of existing processes under the Convention, as well as to other relevant decisions and recommendations. The main issues facing the meeting were how to facilitate full and effective participation in meetings of the Convention; improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Conference of the Parties through a number of measures; improving the quality of SBSTTA advice;

assessing the need for an inter-sessional working group or body on implementation; enhancing regional cooperation through regional mechanisms, networks and preparatory meetings; enabling the Secretariat to be more proactive with regard to facilitating implementation and outreach and cooperation; defining a mandate, and providing capacity-building, for national focal points; and assessing the need for an independent review of the impacts and effectiveness of Convention processes.

57. Following the introduction, statements were made by representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Ghana, India, Kiribati, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Saint Lucia, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Community and its member States, and with the support of Bulgaria and Romania), the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the African Group), Uruguay and Zimbabwe.

58. A statement was also made by the representative of the Global Environment Facility.

59. The Sub-Working Group continued its discussion of agenda items 4.1 and 4.2 at its 2nd meeting, on 6 September 2005.

60. Statements were made by the representatives of Chile, Costa Rica, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Tunisia.

61. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 September 2005, the Sub-Working Group took up the note by the Executive Secretary on review of processes under the Convention (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/3).

62. After the Chair had called for comments on the suggested recommendations relating to SBSTTA, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Grenada, New Zealand and United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Community and its member States, and with the support of Bulgaria and Romania).

63. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Community and its member States, and with the support of Bulgaria and Romania) on the suggested recommendations relating to other matters and the associated annex IV to the note.

64. The Chair having called for comments on the suggested recommendations relating to the Conference of the Parties, and the associated annexes II and III, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Grenada, Mexico, United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Community and its member States, and with the support of Bulgaria and Romania) and the United Republic of Tanzania.

65. In response to a call from the Chair for comments on the suggested recommendations for immediate action, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, New Zealand and United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Community and its member States, and with the support of Bulgaria and Romania).

66. The Chair said that he would prepare a text reflecting all the comments and suggestions made, for consideration at a subsequent meeting of the Sub-Working Group.

67. At its 5th meeting, on 8 September 2005, the Sub-Working Group took up a revised text of the draft recommendation prepared by the Chair.

68. Following discussion at its 6th meeting, on 8 September 2005, the Sub-Working Group agreed to hold informal consultations in order to prepare a further revision to be considered at a subsequent meeting.

69. At its 7th meeting, on 9 September 2005, the Sub-Working Group took up a text covering outstanding issues in the draft recommendation prepared by the Chair. After an exchange of views, the Sub-Working Group agreed to transmit the complete amended text to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.10.

70. At the 3rd plenary session of the meeting, on 9 September 2005, the Working Group took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.10.

71. Following an exchange of views, the Working Group adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.10, as orally amended, as recommendation 1/2, the text of which is contained in annex I to the present report.

4.3. *Mechanisms for implementation, including the clearing-house mechanism, financial resources and the financial mechanism, and communication, education and public awareness*

72. Sub-Working Group I took up agenda item 4.3 at its 2nd meeting, on 6 September 2005.

Clearing-house mechanism

73. In discussing the clearing-house mechanism, the Sub-Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on review of the clearing-house mechanism (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/4) and a draft updated strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2005-2010 (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/11 and Corr.1).

74. Introducing the relevant part of the agenda item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that decision I/3 had established the clearing-house mechanism in implementation of Article 18, paragraph 3, of the Convention. The strategic plan and the longer-term programme of work for the clearing-house had been adopted for the period 1999-2004, and a second independent review had been conducted prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which had requested the Executive Secretary to update the plan to 2009. Among the issues to be addressed was the effectiveness of the clearing-house mechanism in achieving its three objectives, namely, the promotion and facilitation of scientific and technical cooperation, the development of a global mechanism for exchanging and integrating information on biodiversity, and development of the clearing-house mechanism network through focal points and their partners. Another issue that would have to be addressed by the Sub-Working Group was the impact of the clearing-house mechanism on the implementation of the Convention. The Sub-Working Group would also be asked to consider the draft strategic plan and programme of work of the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2005-2010, bearing in mind that the relevant document was for information and that the strategic plan and programme of work would be further reviewed by the informal advisory committee later in the year in the margins of the eleventh meeting of SBSTTA. The last issue would be to consider the proposal that the third in-depth review of the mechanism be conducted by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting.

75. Following the introduction, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, China, Colombia, El Salvador, Mali, Mexico, Saint Lucia, United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Community and its member States with the support of Bulgaria and Romania), and the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the African Group).

76. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair said that the comments made would be incorporated into a revised text of the strategic plan.

77. At the 4th meeting, on 7 September 2005, the Sub-Working Group considered a draft recommendation submitted by the Chair and, after an exchange of views, agreed to transmit it to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.2.

78. At the 3rd plenary session of the meeting, on 9 September 2005, the Working Group took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.2.

79. The Working Group adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.2 as recommendation 1/3, the text of which is contained in annex I to the present report.

Financial resources and the financial mechanism

80. In discussing financial resources and the financial mechanism, Sub-Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on financial resources and the financial mechanism (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/5).

81. Introducing the relevant part of the agenda item, the representative of the Secretariat said that it concerned a review of implementation of Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention, as well as other related decisions. The issues before the Working Group concerned the need for an in-depth review of financial resources and instruments, consideration of funding matters within the programmes of work of the Convention, ways and means of engaging and collaborating with financial institutions and development agencies, and implementation of decision VII/22 on arrangements for the third review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism.

82. Following the introduction, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Burkina Faso, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Ghana, Kiribati, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Peru, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Community and its member States with the support of Bulgaria and Romania) and the United Republic of Tanzania.

83. A statement was also made by the representative of the Global Environment Facility.

84. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair undertook to prepare a revised text of the draft recommendation taking into account the comments made.

85. The Sub-Working Group took up the revised text of the draft recommendation prepared by the Chair at its 4th meeting, on 7 September 2005.

86. After an exchange of views, the Chair agreed to prepare a further revised text for consideration by the Sub-Working Group.

87. At its 6th meeting, on 8 September 2005, the Sub-Working Group discussed a revised version of the draft recommendation prepared by the Chair.

88. During the deliberations, the representative of the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Community and its member States) agreed to the deletion of a preambular paragraph in the draft recommendation, which read: “*Welcoming* the commitments made in connection with the G8 Summit at Gleneagles to increase aid to Africa of \$25 billion a year by 2010, through a variety of means, including official development assistance, debt relief and innovative financing mechanisms”.

89. The representative of El Salvador asked that his objections to deletion of any part of paragraph 12 of the recommended decision be placed on record. The original version of that paragraph read: “*Urges* GEF to further simplify the procedures for disbursement of resources so as to take into consideration the special conditions within developing country Parties, in particular small island developing States as referred to in paragraph 6 of Article 20, in particular with respect to financing country-driven early action on protected areas in accordance with paragraph 10 (c) of decision VII/20”.

90. After a further exchange of views, Sub-Working Group I agreed to transmit the draft recommendation to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.9.

91. At the third plenary session of the meeting, on 9 September 2005, the Working Group took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.9.

92. Following an exchange of views, the Working Group adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.9, as amended, as recommendation 1/4, the text of which is contained in annex I to the present report.

Communication, education and public awareness

93. At its third meeting, on 7 September 2005, Sub-Working Group discussed communication, education and public awareness (CEPA). It had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on implementation of the Global Initiative on CEPA (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/6), as well as an information document containing a draft list of priorities for the programme of work on CEPA and a draft plan to guide their implementation (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/10).

94. Introducing the relevant part of the agenda item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that the Global Initiative on CEPA was defined within the framework of Article 13 of the Convention and had been adopted by the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 1 of decision VI/19. In paragraph 4 (ii) of decision VII/24, the Conference of the Parties had requested the Executive Secretary to convene an informal advisory committee to refine the programme of work on CEPA for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting. That committee had recommended that, rather than revise the programme of work, the Secretariat should select priorities from the existing programme and suggest means for implementing those activities. The key issues to be considered by the Sub-Working Group were the overall effectiveness of the CEPA initiative, lack of capacity to implement the CEPA programme, the list of priorities and means for implementing them.

95. Statements were made by representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Colombia, Grenada, Haiti, Kenya, Kiribati, Saint Lucia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Community and its member States and with the support of Bulgaria and Romania) and the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the African Group).

96. A statement was also made by the representative of the Global Environment Facility.

97. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair undertook to prepare a revised text of the draft recommendations, taking into account the comments made.

98. At its 5th meeting, on 8 September 2005, the Sub-Working Group considered a revised text of the draft recommendations submitted by the Chair and, after an exchange of views, agreed to transmit it to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.4.

99. At the 3rd plenary session of the meeting, on 9 September 2005, the Working Group took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.4.

100. The Working Group adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.4 as recommendation 1/5, the text of which is contained in annex I to the present report.

ITEM 5. COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

5.1. Cooperation with other conventions, organizations and initiatives

101. Sub-Working Group II took up agenda item 5.1 at its 1st meeting, on 6 September 2005.

102. In considering the item, Sub-Working Group II had before it notes by the Executive Secretary on cooperation with other conventions, organizations, and initiatives, and engagement of stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7), options for enhanced cooperation among the three Rio conventions (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7/Add.1), options for enhanced cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7/Add.2), and options for a global partnership for biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7/Add.3). It also had before it, as information documents, the report of the third meeting of the Biodiversity Liaison Group (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/7), and the report of the Workshop on Promoting CITES-CBD Cooperation and Synergy (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/9).

103. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat said that in decision VII/26 the Conference of the Parties had requested the Executive Secretary to inform the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention of ongoing work to enhance cooperation

between the major biodiversity-related organizations and secretariats, and to examine the options for developing a flexible framework linking all relevant actors to improve cooperation and enhance implementation of the Convention. The documents before the Sub-Working Group had therefore been prepared to assist the review of the effectiveness of the existing cooperative efforts, the determination of the ways and means of enhancing cooperation, and the exploration of options for a global partnership on biodiversity.

104. Following the introduction, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Ghana, Kiribati, Liberia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Thailand and the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Community and its member States and with the support of Bulgaria and Romania).

105. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

106. A statement was made by the representative of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

107. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Tebtebba Foundation and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

108. Following the exchange of views, the Chair said that he would later submit to the Sub-Working Group for its consideration a Chair's text that reflected the comments and suggestions made. On the few issues where there were diverging views, he would hold informal discussions with representatives with the aim of reaching an acceptable compromise.

109. At its 5th meeting, on 8 September 2005, the Sub-Working Group took up consideration of a draft recommendation on cooperation, submitted by the Chair.

110. The representative of FAO, speaking with reference to the requests made to the Executive Secretary in paragraphs 4, 7 and 8 (g) of the draft recommendation, said that FAO and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture would be pleased to assist by providing views and inputs.

111. Following an exchange of views, the Sub-Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.5.

112. At the 3rd plenary session of the meeting, on 9 September 2005, the Working Group took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.5.

113. The Working Group adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.5 as recommendation 1/6, the text of which is contained in annex I to the present report.

5.2 Engagement of stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention

114. Sub-Working Group II took up agenda item 5.2 at its 1st meeting, on 6 September 2005.

115. In considering the item, Sub-Working Group II had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on private-sector engagement in the implementation of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/8), and the report of the Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge meeting (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/5).

116. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat said the conclusion had been drawn that the private sector was less engaged than international organizations and other stakeholders in implementing the Convention. Article 10 (e), of the Convention stated that Parties should encourage cooperation between government authorities and the private sector in developing methods for the sustainable use of biological resources. Various decisions of the Conference of the Parties also referred to engaging the private sector in the implementation of the Convention, in particular decisions III/6, IV/12, V/11 and VI/16. The Working Group might wish to recommend ways and means of enhancing such private-sector engagement and also comment specifically on the ongoing efforts of the Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge initiative to facilitate that engagement in biodiversity-related issues. Those

points were reflected in the suggested recommendations contained in the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/8).

117. Following the introduction, statements were made by representatives of Canada, Ghana, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Thailand, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Community and its member States with the support of Bulgaria and Romania), and Zambia.

118. Statements were also made by the representatives of the International Chamber of Commerce, IUCN, Rio Tinto, and the Tebtebba Foundation.

119. At its 3rd meeting on 7 September 2005, the Sub-Working Group took up consideration of a draft recommendation, submitted by the Chair, on private-sector engagement.

120. Following an exchange of views, the Sub-Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.3, on the understanding that the representative of the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Community and its member States, and with the support of Bulgaria and Romania) might, at that time, wish to make additional comments on subparagraph 8 (i) after further considering the text, which had been newly proposed during the meeting by the representative of China.

121. At the 3rd plenary session of the meeting, on 9 September 2005, the Working Group took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.3.

122. The Working Group adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.3 as recommendation 1/7, the text of which is contained in annex I to the present report.

ITEM 6. MONITORING PROGRESS AND REPORTING PROCESSES

6.1. *Framework for monitoring implementation of the Convention and achievement of the 2010 target and for review of the thematic programmes of work*

123. Sub-Working Group II took up agenda item 6.1 at its 2nd meeting, on 6 September 2005.

124. In considering the item, Sub-Working Group II had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on the framework for monitoring implementation of the Convention and achievement of the 2010 target, and review of the thematic programmes of work (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/9), as well as an overview of the interlinkages among the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan, the framework for evaluating progress towards the 2010 target, and the various programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/1).

125. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat said that, under decision VII/30, the Working Group had been established in response to the need for a process to evaluate, report on and review the Strategic Plan. It had also been mandated to review the impacts and effectiveness of the existing processes and mechanisms for monitoring implementation. In addition, in response to paragraph 12 (f) of recommendation X/5 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), a list of potential process indicators had been prepared by the Secretariat for the four goals of the Strategic Plan. The Working Group might wish to consider ways and means of improving the effectiveness of the current monitoring and reporting mechanisms under the Convention, in particular by moulding existing mechanisms and processes into a cohesive, results-based framework, which would require the improvement of existing processes, the consideration of new processes and the definition of clear and logical links between all mechanisms and processes. Specifically, the Working Group might wish to streamline the goals of the Strategic Plan and the focal areas of the 2010 framework and consider the indicators for the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan, as well as the guidelines for reviewing programmes of work. All those issues were reflected in the suggested recommendations contained in the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/9).

126. Following the introduction, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Kiribati, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Community and its member States with the support of Bulgaria and Romania).

127. A statement was also made by the representative of The Nature Conservancy and the Conservation Measures Partnership.

128. Following the exchange of views, the Chair said that he would prepare a Chair's text incorporating the opinions expressed. He also said that he would establish a group of Friends of the Chair, consisting of the representatives of Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Ghana, Liberia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Community and its member States and with the support of Bulgaria and Romania), in order to further develop the indicators in view of the comments that they were not yet sufficiently mature. In response to the question of the framework raised by the Colombian representative, he said that he would hold informal consultations as to whether the goals and targets should be reviewed and, if necessary, further refined at the present time or during the next meeting of SBSTTA.

129. At its 4th meeting, on 7 September 2005, the Sub-Working Group took up consideration of a draft recommendation, submitted by the Chair, on the framework for monitoring implementation of the Convention and achievement of the targets; and review of programmes of work. Possible indicators for assessing progress in implementing the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan, as proposed by the group of Friends of the Chair, were contained in annex I to the draft recommendation.

130. Following an exchange of views, the Chair said that he would prepare a revised draft recommendation that would take into account the points raised in the discussion.

131. At its 6th meeting, on 8 September 2005, the Sub-Working Group took up the Chair's text containing a revised draft recommendation on a framework for monitoring implementation of the Convention and achievement of the targets and review of programmes of work, as well as annexes comprising indicators for assessing progress in implementing the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan, indicators relevant to the 2010 goals and targets (as contained in SBSTTA recommendation X/5, annex II) and draft guidelines for the review of the programmes of work of the Convention.

132. The representative of Colombia said that according to Article 25 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, SBSTTA was empowered to provide advice to both the Conference of the Parties and other subsidiary bodies. He also said that according to rule 2 (h) of the rules of procedure, working groups were included within the meaning of subsidiary bodies. He was therefore of the view that the Working Group could call upon SBSTTA to encourage activities during the inter-sessional period.

133. Following an exchange of views, the Sub-Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, together with the annexes as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.7.

134. At the 3rd plenary session of the meeting, on 9 September 2005, the Working Group took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.7 and adopted it as recommendation 1/8, the text of which is contained in annex I to the present report.

6.2. National reporting under the Convention and other conventions

135. Sub-Working Group II took up agenda item 6.2 at its 2nd meeting, on 6 September 2005.

136. To assist the Working Group in its consideration of monitoring and reporting processes, the Executive Secretary had prepared a note on reporting mechanisms under the Convention and other conventions (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/10), and had provided the report of the UNEP-WCMC Workshop Towards the Harmonization of National Reporting to Biodiversity-Related Treaties (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/6).

137. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat said that the national reporting process was the cornerstone of the overall monitoring and reporting framework of the Convention and provided

the basic information from the national level used to review the implementation of the Convention. He said that main issues for consideration by the Sub-Working Group were the ways and means of improving the national reporting process by linking national reporting to the 2010 framework and the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan, and by encouraging compliance with reporting requirements, learning from the reporting processes in other conventions and facilitating harmonization with the reporting processes under other biodiversity-related conventions.

138. Statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Lebanon, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, the Russian Federation, Thailand, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Community and its member States and with the support of Bulgaria and Romania), Uruguay, and Zambia.

139. A statement was also made by the representative of FAO.

140. A representative speaking on behalf of both Conservation International and the NASA-NGO group also made a statement.

141. Following the exchange of views, the Chair said that he would later submit to the Sub-Working Group for its consideration a Chair's text that reflected the comments and suggestions made.

142. At its 3rd meeting, on 7 September 2005, the Sub-Working Group took up the Chair's text containing a draft recommendation on national reporting, as well as annexes comprising a schedule of complementary reports on thematic programmes and a partial list of elements to be taken into account in developing the guidelines for the fourth national reports.

143. Statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Brazil, Canada, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Community and its member States and with the support of Bulgaria and Romania) and Zambia.

144. Statements were also made by the representatives of FAO and GEF.

145. The Chair said that he would prepare a revised draft recommendation that would take into account the points raised in the discussion. He also said that he would establish a group of Friends of the Chair, consisting of the representatives of Canada, China, Ghana, Liberia, New Zealand, Norway, and the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Community and its member States and with the support of Bulgaria and Romania), in order to further develop the list of elements to be taken into account in developing the guidelines for the fourth national reports.

146. At its 6th meeting, on 8 September 2005, the Sub-Working Group took up the Chair's text containing a revised draft recommendation on national reporting, as well as annexes comprising a schedule of complementary reports on thematic programmes and suggested principles and elements to be taken into account in developing the guidelines for the fourth national report.

147. The representative of Ghana said that other complementary reports on cross-cutting issues needed to be considered in addition to the complementary reports on thematic programmes listed in annex I to the Chair's text.

148. Following an exchange of views, the Sub-Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended, together with the annexes, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.6.

149. At the 3rd plenary session of the meeting, on 9 September 2005, the Working Group took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.6 and adopted it as recommendation 1/9, the text of which is contained in annex I to the present report.

ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

150. The representative of Brazil said that the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Curitiba, Brazil in March 2006, represented a milestone for the Convention of Biological Diversity as it would be returning to the place of its birth. As such Brazil was fully committed to making

the meeting a success. A website would be established to provide logistical information on both the eight meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

151. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic raised the issue of the difficulty that small delegations faced in participating in the meetings of sub-working groups.

ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

152. The present report was adopted at the 3rd plenary session of the meeting, on 9 September 2005, on the basis of the draft report prepared by the Rapporteur (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.1), as orally amended, and the reports of the sub-working groups (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/L.1/Add.1 and Add.2), as orally amended.

153. The representative of Algeria expressed his delegation's disagreement with the inclusion of the statement of Mr. Hans Hoogeveen, the President of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in an annex to the report. There were several reasons for his delegation's position. First, the speaker invited by the President did not represent an official point of view. Secondly, the speaker had made value judgements on the appointment of the new Executive Secretary, including by expressing his surprise at the appointment and questioning the procedures followed for the appointment. His delegation believed that that was a strictly personal opinion, and therefore the statement had no place in an official document such as the report of the meeting. Thirdly, his delegation believed that the statement was of a general nature and provided no input to the work of the Working Group. Therefore, it could not be considered to be a working document that could advance the work of the Group. The final point, which was related to the previous one concerned the financial implications of annexing the text. Those implications related to translation and reproduction costs, at a time when everyone had stressed the need to rationalize expenditure under the Convention.

154. The Chair said that the concerns of the representative of Algeria would be recorded in the report.

ITEM 9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

155. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention was closed at 1.45 p.m. on Friday, 9 September 2005.

*Annex I***RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING
GROUP ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION***Montreal, 5-9 September 2005***CONTENTS**

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Page</i>
1/1. Implementation of the Convention and Strategic Plan	23
1/2. Review of processes.....	25
1/3. Mechanisms for implementation: review of the clearing-house mechanism.....	34
1/4. Mechanisms for implementation: financial resources and financial mechanism.....	35
1/5. Mechanisms for implementation: review of the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness.....	38
1/6. Cooperation.....	40
1/7. Private-sector engagement.....	43
1/8. Framework for monitoring implementation of the Convention and achievement of the 2010 targets, and for review of the programmes of work	46
1/9. National reporting	55

1/1. Implementation of the Convention and Strategic Plan

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention

A. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties, at its eighth meeting:

1. *Considers* appropriate mechanisms to, *inter alia*:

(a) Undertake, prior to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, an in-depth review of the implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan (excluding consideration of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety), including an assessment of obstacles to their implementation and of ways and means of overcoming such obstacles on the basis, *inter alia*, of information provided in the third national reports and supplementary submissions provided by Parties, focusing in particular on:

- (i) The provision of financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer;
- (ii) The status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, their implementation and updating, and the extent to which biodiversity concerns are effectively integrated into relevant sectors and have been effectively mainstreamed in accordance with Article 6 (b) of the Convention;

(b) Develop, prior to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, consolidated and up-to-date guidance for the development, implementation and evaluation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the effective integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors, including financial considerations for implementing and updating national strategies and guidance on facilitating the involvement of indigenous and local communities;

2. *Recognizes* the need for increased capacity within Parties to implement the Convention, particularly with regard to national biodiversity strategies, policies, plans and legislation and national reports, and *considers* options for the provision of increased technical support for developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, for facilitating and promoting implementation of the Convention;

3. *Further considers* options to support Parties to undertake, on a voluntary basis, a review of national implementation of the Convention, as envisaged in paragraph 41 of decision V/20;

B. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

“The Conference of the Parties

Emphasizing the need to address each of the three objectives of the Convention,

Noting that the major obstacles to the implementation of the Convention have already been identified in the Strategic Plan, and ways and means of overcoming these obstacles need to be identified,

Stressing the need for the provision of new and additional financial resources for the implementation of the Convention in accordance with Article 20 and looking forward to a successful replenishment of the GEF,

Recalling that paragraph 4 of Article 23 tasks the Conference of the Parties with keeping under review the implementation of the Convention,

1. *Decides* that review of implementation of the Convention should be a standing item on its agenda;

2. *Takes note* of the analysis of progress towards the goals of the Strategic Plan summarized in paragraph 5 of the note by the Executive Secretary on implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan and progress towards the 2010 target (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/2);
3. *Decides* to consider, at its ninth meeting, the in-depth review of the implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan and consolidated guidance for the development, implementation and evaluation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the effective integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors;
4. In preparation for the review process referred to in paragraph 3 above, *invites* Parties to provide timely information on:
 - (a) The status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, their implementation and updating, and the extent to which biodiversity concerns have been effectively mainstreamed in accordance with Article 6 (b) of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
 - (b) The main obstacles to implementation of the Convention at the national level, including obstacles to the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to the effective integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors (using as a framework the list of obstacles identified in the Strategic Plan), and ways and means by which these obstacles might be overcome;
 - (c) An update on actions taken in response to paragraph 41 of decision V/20 on reviewing implementation at the national level.”
- C. In view of the work to be undertaken in connection with paragraphs A 1 (a) and B 3 above, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention *requests* the Executive Secretary to develop, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting:
 - (a) An outline of issues to be addressed by the in-depth review of national biodiversity strategies and action plans referred to in paragraph A 1 (a) above;
 - (b) A proposal on the form and scope of guidance for the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and cross-sectoral integration, referred to in paragraph A 1 (b) above;
 - (c) Options for the provision of technical support to Parties for facilitating and promoting implementation of the Convention, such as a technical assistance programme, including consideration of the potential role of the Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and other organizations as appropriate, and the financial implications of such options, drawing upon, *inter alia*, the experience of other conventions and international organizations;
 - (d) Options to support Parties to undertake, on a voluntary basis, a review of national implementation, as envisaged in paragraph 41 of decision V/20;
 - (e) A proposal on inviting other biodiversity-relevant organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to participate in the liaison group of biodiversity-related conventions (the “Biodiversity Liaison Group”).

1/2. Review of processes

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to develop, maintain, and publish on the website of the Convention on Biological Diversity an up-to-date list of standard notional costs covering all costs, including travel costs for participation from developing countries and countries with economies in transition for meetings of Convention bodies and expert groups and for other items with substantial costs, for use in estimating the cost implications of decisions under negotiation;

2. *Recalling* paragraphs 2 and 4 of decision VII/33 on the process for consolidating decisions of the Conference of the Parties and *noting* the need to align this process with the schedule for in-depth review of issues outlined in the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010, *requests* the Executive Secretary, under the guidance of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, to propose draft consolidated decisions for issues proposed for in-depth discussion at its eighth meeting, namely dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, Article 8(j), the Global Taxonomy Initiative, education and public awareness, national reports, cooperation with other bodies, and operations of the Convention;

3. *Takes note* of the outcome of the International Conference “Biodiversity: Science and Governance”, held in Paris in January 2005, and *invites* the Executive Secretary to report on progress to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, to explore options for facilitating exchange of information and views on the items on the agenda of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, including through informal workshops, with a view to facilitating the formal discussion of such items at meetings of the Subsidiary Body, and to report on such options to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consolidate the existing *modus operandi* of Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the proposed Operational Plan of the Subsidiary Body contained in annex I to this recommendation and the recommendations of this Working Group;

6. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties, at its eighth meeting, considers improved working arrangements for ad hoc open-ended working groups;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile the following information to assist the Conference of the Parties, at its eighth meeting, in its consideration of improved working arrangements for ad hoc open-ended working groups: relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties (V/20), the mandates of previous and existing ad hoc open-ended working groups, submissions by Parties to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, the note by the Executive Secretary on review of processes under the Convention (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/3 and Add.1), existing materials on procedures for subsidiary bodies in other conventions, the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties, the *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and a reference list of final reports from ad hoc open-ended working groups;

8. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties, at its eighth meeting, considers that, subject to the availability of the necessary budgetary resources and/or voluntary contributions, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention will meet prior to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

9. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties, at its eighth meeting, considers the procedure for decision-making with a view to reaching an agreement on paragraph 1 of rule 40 of the rules of procedure as soon as possible;

10. *Recalling* paragraph 3 of decision VI/27, *requests* the Executive Secretary to collect, compile and disseminate information on existing regional networks and mechanisms as a means of encouraging further regional and subregional cooperation;

11. *Recalling* paragraph 17 of decision VI/27 B, *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties consider approving the funding of participation of at least two delegates from developing countries or countries with economies in transition in meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice through the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating Participation of Parties in the Convention Process (BZ Trust Fund);

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, a series of options for restructuring the meeting schedule of the Convention to streamline Convention processes, including the implications of changing the frequency of its ordinary meetings;

13. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

“The Conference of the Parties

I. The Conference of the Parties

1. *Decides* to maintain the current periodicity of its ordinary meetings until its tenth meeting in 2010.

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau and the host country of any meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to develop a format for the ministerial segment that will enhance its contribution to the Conference of the Parties and generate support for, and raise awareness of, biodiversity-related issues and the implementation of the Convention, and *further requests* the Executive Secretary to work with host countries to ensure effective and productive ministerial segments;

3. *Decides* to consider the procedure contained in annex II below as guidance for the process of priority-setting for the allocation of financial resources by the Conference of the Parties;

4. *Decides* to refine the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010, specifying strategic issues for evaluating progress or supporting implementation for in-depth consideration, and to align the process for the consolidation of decisions with the schedule for in-depth consideration of issues, as set out in annex III below;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile a list of all proposals for new principles, guidelines and other tools contained in the draft decisions for the Conference of the Parties, and to update this as new proposals emerge over the course of a meeting;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, under the guidance of the Bureau, to propose draft consolidated decisions for issues related to agricultural biodiversity, the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, invasive alien species, incentive measures, the ecosystem approach, island biodiversity, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the financial mechanism and additional financial resources, and identification and monitoring, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, and to communicate the proposed draft consolidated decisions to Parties, Governments and relevant international organizations for their review and comments at least six months prior to that meeting;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in preparing for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, to keep the number and length of documents to a minimum, and

to circulate documents to Parties as early as possible, preferably no later than three months in advance of meetings;

8. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to minimize overlap among draft decisions, and to note linkages among them in the corresponding documentation, and *encourages* Parties and the Executive Secretary to bear these linkages and the need to maintain a manageable number of decisions in mind when considering or preparing draft decisions and to consider the amendment of current decisions before proposing additional ones;

9. *Decides* to maintain the changes it made to rule 21 of the rules of procedure in paragraph 5 of decision V/20;

II. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

10. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to carry out its mandate effectively as defined in Article 25 of the Convention;

11. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to ensure that assessments are carried out in an objective and authoritative manner, and that sufficient time is allocated for the consideration of results of assessments (in line with its recommendations VI/5 and X/2);

12. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to ensure that terms of reference for ad hoc technical expert groups clearly indicate their mandate, duration of operation and expected outcomes, that their mandates are limited to the provision of scientific and technical advice and assessments, and that ad hoc technical expert groups conform to their mandates;

13. *Requests* Parties to give priority to the nomination of appropriate scientific and technical experts for participation in ad hoc technical expert groups and other assessment processes, and *decides* to discontinue the maintenance and use of the roster of experts;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to develop and maintain a list of upcoming meetings of ad hoc technical expert groups, other expert groups and assessment processes that require Parties to identify experts, and to circulate the list to all national focal points after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

15. *Decides* to replace the first sentence of paragraph 12 (b) of the *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (decision IV/16, annex I) with the following paragraph:

“The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, will select scientific and technical experts from the nominations submitted by Parties for each ad hoc technical expert group;”

16. *Endorses* the consolidated *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

17. *Recognizing* that Parties determine the specific responsibilities of their focal points to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, *notes* that such focal points act as liaisons with the Secretariat on behalf of their Parties with regard to scientific, technical and technological matters related to the Convention and that, in doing so, they may undertake the following tasks:

(a) Developing linkages, and facilitating information exchange, between the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and relevant regional and national agencies and experts;

(b) Responding to requests for input from the Conference of the Parties and the Secretariat related to scientific, technical and technological issues;

(c) Communicating and collaborating with focal points for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in other countries to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body and to facilitate implementation of the Convention;

(d) Collaborating with other national-level focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity and focal points from other biodiversity-related conventions to facilitate implementation of the Convention at the national level;

18. *Encourages* Parties that have not already done so to appoint focal points for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

III. Other matters

19. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to maintain a list of requests for information, reports, views and compilations proposed during meetings of ad hoc open-ended working groups to allow Parties to have an overview of all requests to the Executive Secretary for further inter-sessional work.

20. [*Further requests* the Executive Secretary in undertaking the task above to provide information on: cost estimates, time-frames, and duplication with existing activities;]

21. *Recognizing* that Parties determine the specific responsibilities of their national focal points, *notes* that the primary function of national focal points is to act as liaisons with the Secretariat on behalf of their Parties and in so doing, they are responsible for:

(a) Receiving and disseminating information related to the Convention;

(b) Ensuring that Parties are represented at meetings under the Convention;

(c) Identifying experts to participate in ad hoc technical expert groups, assessment processes and other processes under the Convention;

(d) Responding to other requests for input by Parties from the Conference of the Parties and the Secretariat;

(e) Collaborating with national focal points in other countries to facilitate implementation of the Convention;

(f) Monitoring, promoting and/or facilitating national implementation of the Convention;

22. *Invites* Parties and Governments, international and regional financial institutions and development agencies, as well as other donors, to make funds available for strengthening the capacity of national focal points for the Convention so as to make them more effective, for example through regional and sub-regional workshops and the sharing of information and experience;

23. *Invites* Parties to identify focal points and institutions to facilitate regional and subregional preparation for meetings of the Conference of the Parties and implementation of the Convention at the regional and subregional levels as appropriate;

24. *Recalling* paragraph 10 of decision VII/33, requests the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of the necessary budgetary resources and/or voluntary

contributions, to make the necessary arrangements for at least one regional preparatory meeting per region prior to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

25. *Encourages* developed country Parties to provide financial resources to the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions to the Core Budget for Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity (BE Trust Fund) and the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating Participation of Parties in the Convention Process (BZ Trust Fund) in a timely manner to facilitate the planning of meetings and the full participation of representatives from developing country Parties and countries with economies in transition;

26. *Decides* that prior to the development of new principles, guidelines and other tools under the Convention, it will conduct a gap analysis with a view to:

- (a) Identifying existing, useful tools which it might endorse or welcome;
- (b) Identifying existing, useful tools, and tools under development that it might try to influence, such that they adequately reflect biodiversity considerations;
- (c) Identifying the need for new tools developed under the Convention;

27. *Noting* that the Conference of the Parties has frequently invited other institutions and organizations to make use of the principles, guidelines and other tools developed under the Convention, *requests* the Executive Secretary to identify ways and means to more actively promote the use of such tools by international organizations and institutions.

Annex I

DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

A. Purpose of the Operational Plan

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was established by the Convention, with its terms of reference set out in Article 25, paragraph 2. The present Operational Plan elaborates that role, reflecting the evolving nature of the work of SBSTTA, as the Convention moves to an implementation phase.
2. The plan is intended to guide the work of SBSTTA. It is designed to support implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention, in particular the 2010 biodiversity target (decision VI/26) and other targets agreed upon in its other decisions; the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 (decision VI/31); and other global goals such as the Millennium Development Goals and the goals in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

B. Mission

3. To provide the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies with timely advice relating to the implementation of this Convention, in particular with regard to achieving the mission and goals of the Convention's Strategic Plan (Article 25, paragraph 1).

C. Outcomes

4. Scientific and technical assessments of status and trends in, and threats to, components of biological diversity (Article 25, paragraph 2 (a)) in accordance with the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 (decision VI/31) and other biodiversity-related aspects as identified in the Strategic Plan of the Convention (decision VI/26) and framework for assessing progress towards the 2010 target (decision VII/30);
5. Scientific and technical assessments of the effects of types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of this Convention (Article 25, paragraph 2 (b));

6. Identification of innovative, efficient and state-of-the-art technologies and know-how relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and advice on the ways and means of promoting development and/or transferring such technologies (Article 25, paragraph 2 (c));
7. Identification of new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
8. Identification of opportunities for collaboration with, and engagement of, relevant scientific programmes and undertakings of international cooperation in research and development related to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (Article 25, paragraph 2 (d)); and
9. Responses to scientific, technical, technological and methodological questions that the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies put to SBSTTA (Article 25, paragraph 2 (e)).

D. Strategic ways and means for achieving the outcomes

10. Improving the scientific, technical and technological inputs into SBSTTA documents by, *inter alia*:
 - (a) Undertaking scientific and technical assessments according to the process for assessments initiated by SBSTTA outlined in the appendix hereto;
 - (b) Establishment of work plans, time tables and resource requirements, early identification of collaborators and contributors, and transparent processes for contributions, comments and feedback at various stages of document preparation; and
 - (c) Systematic use of peer-review and other consultative processes that involve the scientific community.
11. Improving the scientific, technical and technological debates during meetings of the Subsidiary Body by, *inter alia*:
 - (a) Identification of opportunities to prepare delegates, particularly those with limited experience, for the discussions on scientific and technical matters; and
 - (b) Increasing the scientific, technical and technological activities within, and inputs into, the meetings, through key-note speakers, posters, round-table debates, side-events and the provision of scientific publications, technical series documents and other relevant scientific, technical and technological inputs focusing on the main agenda items and the strategic issues identified by the Conference of the Parties for evaluating progress towards, and promoting achievement of, the 2010 biodiversity target.
12. Actively building relationships with the scientific and technical community, by, *inter alia*:
 - (a) Providing material about the work of SBSTTA that is accessible to the scientific and technical community (i.e. expresses it in language that is understandable by the scientific and technical community, and relates the material to the work of the scientific and technical community);
 - (b) Actively disseminating the results of the work of SBSTTA through scientific literature, both as reporting items and as scientific papers, as reviewed and approved by the Conference of the Parties;
 - (c) Participating in, and contributing to, the scientific and technical components of other biodiversity-related processes and initiatives, including the Joint Liaison Group and Biodiversity Liaison Group; and
 - (d) Using other bodies as a bridge between SBSTTA and the scientific and technical community in relation to work programmes (e.g. international thematic focal points and key partners).

*Appendix***STEPS FOR THE CONDUCT OF ASSESSMENTS INITIATED BY SBSTTA**

Assessment steps	Modalities / Activities
Recognition of assessment need/mandate	(i) Mandate is usually given by the Conference of the Parties; (ii) Needs are identified through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review of programme of work, e.g., for forest biodiversity, and biodiversity and climate change; • After an initial assessment, e.g., for invasive alien species; • During implementation of programmes of work (e.g., rapid assessment methods).
Preparation of background document or Note by the Executive Secretary	Background documents or detailed outlines drafted by the Executive Secretary with or without assistance from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Consultant/collaborating organization; and / or (ii) Expert meeting.
Consideration by an AHTEG ^{1/} established by the Conference of the Parties, SBSTTA or by an expert group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Review of background document or Note by the Executive Secretary; (ii) Identification of gaps; (iii) Revision of background document taking into account additional published information.
Peer-review	Peer-review, if applicable, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Selected reviewers; (ii) Wider peer-review involving Parties, other Governments, SBSTTA focal points, experts from the roster of experts of the Convention on Biological Diversity, organizations and indigenous and local communities; other conventions and their focal points.
Consideration by SBSTTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Conclusions on assessment; (ii) Recommendation to the Conference of the Parties.
Use and application of results (including consideration by the Conference of the Parties) and identification of gaps to be addressed in future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Utilization of the revised document to develop elements and activities for the relevant programmes of work, and follow-up activities; (ii) Decision by the Conference of the Parties; (iii) Publication of assessment reports in the CBD Technical Series; (iv) Use in other publications, e.g. Millennium Assessment report; (v) Use by Governments and others; (vi) Identification of additional information needs, including the needs for new assessments.

*Annex II***GUIDANCE FOR PRIORITY-SETTING TO GUIDE THE ALLOCATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES**

1. All draft decisions are accompanied by an assessment of their cost implications and a summary of those decisions and costs is included in the documentation on the budget and programme for the next biennium. Cost assessments are based on notional costs according to the list maintained by the Executive

^{1/} The cost of a meeting of experts (including 12 experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition) varies between US\$ 40,000 and US\$ 60,000 depending on the venue and participation of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity when meetings are held outside of Montreal.

Secretary, and reflect the major costs associated with the decision, such as the establishment of open-ended meetings, technical expert groups, liaison groups and partnerships, as well as an overall estimate of other costs, such as staff time.

2. The Executive Secretary prepares a stand-alone summary of these costs indicating costings for each proposed activity and updates it on daily basis.

3. Early in its discussions, the budget group estimates the cost of proposed activities, as well as the funds that are likely to be available to support those activities, taking into account administrative costs for the Secretariat, the Conference of the Parties and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. Simultaneously, working groups negotiate proposals and refine cost assessments accordingly.

4. Mid-meeting, the budget group presents its findings to the plenary of the Conference of the Parties. All proposals that have major financial implications, such as those establishing open-ended meetings, are considered and priorities for the allocation of resources are developed.

5. The budget group continues negotiations based on revised cost assessments and working groups proceed bearing in mind the identified priorities.

6. The plenary of the Conference of the Parties makes the final decision on core budget allocations in its consideration of budget papers and endorsement of draft decisions with a budgetary component.

Annex III

PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF DECISIONS AND CONSIDERATION OF STRATEGIC ISSUES THAT SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION IN LINE WITH THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES UP TO 2010

Explanatory note: Column 2 is reproduced directly from the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 (decision VII/31, annex) and is included for information only; column 3 specifies: (1) the focus of the review of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan; and (2) the mechanisms for implementation to be reviewed at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and column 4 proposes a schedule for the consolidation of decisions that is aligned, as far as possible, with columns 2 and 3 and will be completed by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting as per paragraph 2 of decision VII/33.

1. Meeting	2. Issues for in-depth review or consideration	3. Strategic issues for evaluating progress or supporting implementation	4. Issues for which decisions will be consolidated
COP 8	1. Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity 2. Global Taxonomy Initiative 3. Access and benefit-sharing 4. Education and public awareness 5. Article 8(j) and related provisions 6. Island biodiversity	1. Progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and follow-up on progress towards the 2010 target and relevant Millennium Development Goals: review of the second Global Biodiversity Outlook; consideration of findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2. National reports; cooperation; stakeholder engagement; operations of the Convention	1. Forest biodiversity <u>2/</u> 2. Access and benefit-sharing <u>2/</u> 3. Guidance to the financial mechanism <u>2/</u> 4. Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity <u>3/</u> 5. Article 8(j) <u>3/</u> 6. Global Taxonomy Initiative <u>3/</u> 7. Education and public awareness <u>3/</u> 8. National reports <u>5/</u> 9. Cooperation <u>5/</u> 10. Operations of the Convention <u>5/</u>

2/ Consolidation of decisions already requested for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (decision VII/33).

3/ Consolidation coincides with in-depth reviews of thematic programmes of work and cross-cutting issues.

1. Meeting	2. Issues for in-depth review or consideration	3. Strategic issues for evaluating progress or supporting implementation	4. Issues for which decisions will be consolidated
COP 9	1. Agricultural biodiversity 2. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 3. Invasive alien species 4. Forest biodiversity 5. Incentive measures 6. Ecosystem approach	1. Progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and follow-up on progress towards the 2010 target and relevant Millennium Development Goals: review of national biodiversity strategies and action plans 2. Financial resources and the financial mechanism; Identification and monitoring	1. Agricultural biodiversity <u>3/</u> 2. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation <u>3/</u> 3. Invasive alien species <u>3/</u> 4. Incentive measures <u>3/</u> 5. Ecosystem approach <u>3/</u> 6. Island biodiversity <u>4/</u> 7. National biodiversity strategies and action plans <u>5/</u> 8. Financial mechanism and additional financial resources <u>5/</u> 9. Identification and monitoring <u>5/</u>
COP 10	1. Inland waters biodiversity 2. Marine and coastal biodiversity 3. Sustainable use 4. Protected areas 5. Mountain biodiversity 6. Climate change	1. Progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and follow-up on progress towards the 2010 target and relevant Millennium Development Goals: review of the fourth national reports and the third Global Biodiversity Outlook; revision of the Strategic Plan and framework of goals and targets 2. Clearing-house mechanism; technology transfer; capacity-building	1. Inland waters biodiversity <u>3/</u> 2. Marine and coastal biodiversity <u>3/</u> 3. Sustainable use <u>3/</u> 4. Protected areas <u>3/</u> 5. Mountain biodiversity <u>3/</u> 6. Biodiversity and climate change <u>3/</u> 7. Biodiversity and tourism <u>4/</u> 8. Strategic Plan and the 2010 framework <u>5/</u> 9. Clearing-house mechanism <u>5/</u> 10. Technology transfer <u>5/</u> 11. Capacity-building <u>5/</u>

4/

Other issues.

5/

Consolidation coincides with the review of strategic issues for evaluating progress and supporting implementation.

1/3. Mechanisms for implementation: review of the clearing-house mechanism

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the informal advisory committee for the clearing-house mechanism, to finalize the draft of the second strategic plan for the clearing-house mechanism (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/11 and Corr.1), taking into account the views of Parties, Governments and relevant organizations made at the first meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention and to submit it to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for its consideration;

2. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties decide to institute a user-focused in-depth review and assessment of the clearing-house mechanism, for consideration at its tenth meeting.

1/4. Mechanisms for implementation: financial resources and financial mechanism

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention

1. *Recommends* to the Conference of the Parties that it adopt a decision including the following elements:

“The Conference of the Parties,

Reaffirming the importance of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of Article 20,

Bearing in mind the need for adequacy, predictability and timely flow of funds in support of the Convention,

Noting with regret the lack of voluntary contributions for the implementation of decision VII/22, on arrangements for the third review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism,

Recalling paragraph 3 of Article 21 and *emphasizing* the need to review the financial mechanism on a regular basis,

Realizing that synergy between the Rio conventions can offer opportunities to increase the effectiveness of the use of financial resources,

Noting the progress toward implementation of the Convention at the national level,

Noting also that although a number of developed countries have specific funding programmes for biodiversity, a much larger source of funding for developing countries is, and will continue to be, through development assistance,

Recognizing that official development assistance may provide additional financing opportunities for achieving the objectives of the Convention,

Recognizing also the dynamic nature of financial decision-making processes involving both donors and recipients,

1. *Urges* developed country Parties and other donors to increase their contributions to the Global Environment Facility;

2. *Considers* financial sustainability in advancing various programmes of work of the Convention;

3. *Examines* the New Resource Allocation Framework adopted by the Council of the Global Environment Facility with respect to potential implications on the implementation of the Convention,

4. *Affirms* that Parties and Governments should determine their own funding priorities for national biodiversity activities based on the Strategic Plan, and national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and taking into account relevant elements of the Convention's programmes of work;

5. *Decides* to conduct an in-depth review of financial resources and the financial mechanism at its ninth meeting. This review should:

(a) Build on past reviews;

(b) Focus on what action has been taken or needs to be taken to address identified obstacles;

(c) Examine how financial resources from the financial mechanism and official development assistance are being used to address national biodiversity priorities;

(d) Identify opportunities available to Parties from official development assistance for the implementation of the Convention, including through mainstreaming biological diversity;

(e) Explore options on how the financial mechanism can enhance cooperation between the three Rio conventions, bearing in mind Parties' priorities and each convention's scope;

(f) Develop a strategy for resource mobilization in support of implementation activities based on the results of the in-depth review;

6. *Adopts* an updated list of developed country Parties and other Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of the developed country Parties, by updating the list that was adopted in decision I/2;

7. *Considers* clarifying the eligibility criteria for access to and utilization of financial resources through the financial mechanism contained in decision I/2, annex I, by providing a list of developing country Parties;

8. *Takes note of, and encourages* the Executive Secretary to regularly update, the publications concerning financial resources and the financial mechanism that have been made available by the Executive Secretary in response to requests by the Conference of the Parties;

9. *Welcomes* the decision of the Working Party on Statistics (WP-STAT) of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD/DAC), at its meeting on 10-11 June 2004, to collect data through the Creditor Reporting System on aid targeting the objectives of the Rio conventions, and *invites* the Executive Secretary and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to further collaborate on data collection and to provide regular reports on the status and trends of biodiversity finance to the Conference of the Parties;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to explore opportunities for collaborating with the DAC Network on Environment and Development Co-operation of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, with a view to participating in its activities and promoting consideration of biodiversity-related financial issues through the DAC Network;

11. *Encourages* the Executive Secretary to enter into memoranda of cooperation with financial institutions and international development agencies, upon their request, in order to ensure the regular flow of information on the implementation of, and to inform, decisions of the Conference of the Parties regarding financial resources related to biological diversity;

12. *Urges* the Global Environment Facility to further simplify the procedures for disbursement of resources so as to take into consideration the special conditions within developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States among them, as referred to in paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 20;

13. *Invites* Parties to give biodiversity a prominent place in their development-planning systems, including in poverty reduction strategy papers, thus maximizing opportunities presented in official development assistance;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to develop proposals for the global initiative on banking, business and biodiversity, based on decisions VI/16, paragraph 11 (d), and VII/21, paragraph 8, taking into account also the recommendation 1/7, on private-sector engagement, of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention;

15. *Decides* that financial resources and the financial mechanism will continue to be a permanent agenda item for meetings of the Conference of the Parties.”

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Develop, for consideration at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a work plan, including provisions for an analysis of the relevant information in the third national reports and other submissions by Parties and organizations, to prepare for the in-depth consideration of financial resources and financial mechanisms at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Collaborate with the Global Environment Facility in a dialogue on ways to more effectively formulate and implement the guidance to the financial mechanism and explore opportunities for streamlining such guidance, taking into account the framework for goals and targets included in decision VII/30 as well as indicators for assessing progress toward the achievement of the 2010 target, and report the results of this dialogue to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(c) Revise if necessary, after consultation with Parties concerned, the list that was adopted by decision I/2 of developed country Parties and other Parties which voluntarily assume the obligations of the developed country Parties, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

(d) Develop ways and means of improving the process of review of the financial mechanism for consideration at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(e) Invite the Chairman of the Global Environment Facility to provide details of the Resource Allocation Framework adopted by the special meeting of the Council of the Global Environment Facility on 1 September 2005 and its implications and potential impact on the implementation of the Convention at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

1/5. *Mechanisms for implementation: review of the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness*

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention

1. *Takes note* of the draft list of potential priority activities for the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) and the draft plan for their implementation prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/10);

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the CEPA Informal Advisory Committee, to examine the need for the plan of implementation to involve the participation of indigenous and local communities, and to finalize the list of priority activities for the CEPA Initiative and the plan for their implementation for in-depth consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, taking into account the views expressed by Parties, other Governments and organizations at the first meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, including the need for the plan of implementation to address:

(a) The full range of potential audiences, including key stakeholders, the general public and donors;

(b) Adapted and differentiated messages to communicate to these audiences:

(i) Biodiversity as a concept;

(ii) The role and work of the Convention, including its three objectives and the 2010 biodiversity target;

(iii) The Convention's relationship to the work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and linkages to the broader issues of sustainable development and poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(iv) The need for attitudinal and behavioural changes where necessary;

(c) The institutional framework, means and resources for the implementation of identified activities, including, *inter alia*, the integration of communication, education and public awareness strategies into national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the work of national clearing-house mechanisms;

(d) The distinction among activities at the national, subregional, regional, and global level and distribution of tasks among Parties, the Secretariat and partners;

(e) The development and maintenance of partnerships and networks, including the use of existing regional bodies and initiatives to facilitate implementation of activities through sharing of best practices and success stories and capacity-building;

(f) A modular approach for implementation of identified activities, adapted to each of the potential audiences;

(g) The setting of realistic milestones and deadlines tied to the generation of relevant outputs;

(h) Outputs that meet the requirements of the different categories of users/audiences;

(i) The intended use and impacts of the outputs;

(j) Mechanisms for monitoring and assessment of the activities and their results;

(k) A comprehensive analysis of the funding needs for implementation of the plan;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to elaborate an indicative list of the various target audiences and the category of corresponding actors that are best suited to communicate to them;

4. *Recommends* to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting that it adopts a decision along the following lines:

“The Conference of the Parties,

Noting with appreciation the review and further development of the programme of work for the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA), prepared by the Executive Secretary with the support of the CEPA Informal Advisory Committee convened in response to decision VII/24 and, in particular, their efforts to identify a short list of priority activities in the CEPA programme of work to serve as the focus for the implementation of the initiative, as well as a plan for the implementation of the identified activities,

1. *Welcomes* the short list of priority activities for the CEPA Initiative comprising the communication, education and public awareness dimensions of the ongoing programmes of work of the Convention in the thematic areas and cross-cutting issues, including the programme of work for the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness annexed to decision VI/19;

2. *Adopts* the plan for the implementation of the identified priority activities;

3. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to make available the necessary financial resources to implement the identified CEPA priority activities at the national level in support of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

4. *Invites* Parties to contribute the necessary financial resources to implement the identified CEPA priority activities;

5. *Invites* Parties, international organizations and other partners to fully participate in, and contribute to, the implementation of the identified CEPA priority activities;

6. *Further invites* Parties to coordinate their CEPA activities with the corresponding activities of other biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, at national and regional levels as appropriate;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to cooperate actively with the secretariats of other conventions, in particular the Ramsar and Climate Change conventions, to build on experiences under those conventions, to ensure synergy, and avoid duplication;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary with the support of the Informal Advisory Committee to explore linkages with other global initiatives that are particularly relevant to the work of CEPA, *inter alia*, the global 2010 biodiversity target, the Millennium Development Goals, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.”

1/6. Cooperation

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention

1. *Welcomes* the signing of memoranda of cooperation with the following organizations since December 2003: BioNET International; the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology; the International Plant Protection Convention; the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; the World Heritage Centre of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);

2. *Recognizes* the contribution of scientific research and assessments to the work of the Convention, including by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, DIVERSITAS, FAO/Land Degradation Assessment in Dry Lands, the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, the Global Inland Waters Assessment, the Sea Around Us Project (University of British Columbia), the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, and the World Water Assessment Programme;

3. *Notes* the report of the third meeting of the liaison group of biodiversity-related conventions (the “Biodiversity Liaison Group”) (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/7) and *expresses gratitude* to the executive heads of the secretariats of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar) and the World Heritage Convention for their support to this process;

4. *Notes* the report of the Workshop on Promoting CITES-CBD Cooperation and Synergy (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/9), held on the Isle of Vilm, Germany, from 20 to 24 April 2004, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to further promote cooperation with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, including through participation in meetings under that Convention.

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consider further means to improve cooperation in implementation of the Convention at the global, regional and national levels, in addition to those referred to in the present recommendation, including with respect to promoting the sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, with a view to developing a systematic approach to cooperation, and to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

6. *Welcomes* the contribution made by the following initiatives and networks to the work of the Convention: Countdown 2010, the Global Invasive Species Programme, the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, the International Coral Reef Initiative, the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators, the River Basin Initiative, and the Collaborative Partnership on Protected Areas;

7. *Welcomes* the Countdown 2010 initiative in Europe and the IUCN proposals to expand the initiative to other regions;

8. *Suggests* that the Executive Secretary in relation to decision VII/26, paragraph 3, undertake consultations with relevant organizations and initiatives, and with representatives of indigenous and local communities, in order to provide proposals for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting for a flexible framework among all relevant actors, such as a global partnership on biodiversity, noting that:

(a) A bottom-up, partner-driven process should be used in developing proposals for a global partnership;

(b) A global partnership should address all three objectives of the Convention in a balanced way;

(c) A global partnership should facilitate on-the-ground action, particularly implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(d) A global partnership should enable results of scientific assessments of biodiversity to be translated into effective responses;

(e) A global partnership should facilitate the development of issue-based networks without attempting to direct these networks;

(f) A global partnership should be a voluntary alliance;

(g) Organizational and servicing options should be explored that would allow partners outside the Convention to play a leadership role in a global partnership;

(h) An assessment should be made of the resource implications of such proposals;

9. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties:

(a) *Urges* Parties to facilitate cooperation among international organizations, and to promote the integration of biodiversity concerns into all relevant sectors by coordinating their national positions among the various conventions and other international forums in which they are involved, as appropriate;

(b) *Invites* Parties to promote, as appropriate, coordination among national focal points for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity with a view to achieving synergies on cross-cutting activities, and to seek funding from the Global Environment Facility for these activities where appropriate;

(c) *Notes* the paper developed jointly by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity on options for enhanced cooperation among the three Rio conventions (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7/Add.1);

(d) *Notes* the paper developed jointly by the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) and the World Heritage Convention on options for enhanced cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7/Add.2);

(e) *Considers* improved cooperation with respect to the Convention's work on invasive alien species;

(f) *Considers* the establishment of a flexible framework among all relevant actors, such as a global partnership for biodiversity, taking into account the views of potential members;

(g) *Requests* the Executive Secretary, where appropriate and subject to the availability of necessary financial and human resources, in accordance with the priority-setting mechanism established by the Conference of the Parties, to liaise with the conventions, organizations and initiatives with which the Convention has already signed memoranda of cooperation with a view to advancing implementation of the Convention in line with the decisions of the Conference of the Parties, including the possibility of developing joint work programmes;

(h) *Requests* the Executive Secretary to liaise with the secretariat of the World Trade Organization on relevant issues, including trade-related intellectual property rights, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and environmental goods and services, *inter alia*, with a view to identifying options for closer collaboration, including developing a memorandum of cooperation to promote the three objectives of the Convention.

1/7. Private-sector engagement

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention,

Recalling decisions III/6, V/11 and VI/26 of the Conference of the Parties, in particular objective 4.4 of the Strategic Plan (“Key actors and stakeholders, including the private sector, are engaged in partnership to implement the Convention and are integrating biodiversity concerns into their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes, and policies”),

Emphasizing the need to involve all stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of the 2010 target, while mindful also that responsibilities for implementation rest primarily with Parties,

Noting that there are multiple reasons for promoting the engagement of business and industry in the implementation of the Convention, including the following:

(a) The private sector is arguably the least engaged of all stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention, yet the daily activities of business and industry have major impacts on biodiversity. Encouraging business and industry to adopt and promote good practice could make a significant contribution towards the 2010 target and the objectives of the Convention;

(b) Individual companies and industry associations can be highly influential on Governments and public opinion; thus, they have the potential to raise the profile of biodiversity and of the Convention itself;

(c) The private sector possesses biodiversity-relevant knowledge and technological resources, as well as more general management, research and communication skills, which, if mobilized, could facilitate the implementation of the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Ministry of the Environment of Brazil and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom, together with the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development (CEBDS), Insight Investment and the Executive Secretary, to develop ideas, that could best be pursued through the Convention or in support of its objectives, for engaging business in biodiversity issues, as a means of working towards the 2010 target;

2. *Notes* the report of the Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge meeting (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/5) held in London on 20-21 January 2005;

3. *Notes* that the following types of tools and mechanisms may be of use in facilitating contributions from business and industry towards the implementation of the Convention and its 2010 target:

(a) Awareness-raising materials and training workshops on business and biodiversity issues for the private sector;

(b) Guidance on the integration of biodiversity considerations into existing voluntary or mandatory reporting and performance standards, guidelines, and indices in order to mainstream biodiversity considerations into business practice;

(c) Certification schemes reflecting the full range of biodiversity-related issues to facilitate consumer choice based on companies’ biodiversity performance;

(d) Internationally agreed standards on activities that impact biodiversity;

(e) Guidance and tools to assist companies in implementing good practice with regard to biodiversity;

(f) Biodiversity policies and action plans to define and operationalize companies’ biodiversity commitments;

(g) Biodiversity benchmarks to guide and assess companies' biodiversity management practices;

(h) Guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into existing environmental impact assessment procedures and strategic impact assessment;

(j) Partnerships to facilitate knowledge-sharing with regard to good practice;

(k) Public-private partnerships;

4. *Notes* that some of the tools and mechanisms enumerated in paragraph 3 above may also be of use in facilitating cooperation among government agencies that deal with biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and those that deal with economic development, in regard to implementation of the Convention and achievement of its 2010 target;

5. *Notes* that contributions from business and industry towards the implementation of the Convention and its 2010 target could be facilitated by further work under the Convention to develop:

(a) Tools, guidance and standards on biodiversity-related issues relevant to the private sector;

(b) Tools for assessing the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services, for their integration into decision-making;

(c) Guidance for potential biodiversity offsets in line with the objectives of the Convention;

(d) Guidance on integrating biodiversity into industry standards, certification schemes and guidelines;

(e) A guide to the Convention for the private sector;

(f) Guidance for Parties on how to engage the private sector, in accordance with national needs and circumstances;

6. *Welcomes* the proposal of the partners referred to in paragraph 1 above to hold an additional meeting;

7. *Invites* the organizers and participants in the proposed meeting to address the following issues, and to make the results available for the information of the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting:

(a) Further development of the tools and mechanisms listed in paragraph 3 of the present recommendation;

(b) Engagement of the financial and insurance sectors in the implementation of the Convention, including options for a global initiative on banking, business and biodiversity as described in paragraph 11 (d) of decision VI/16;

(c) Engagement in the implementation of the Convention of companies that impact access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing;

8. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties as a contribution to objective 4.4 of the Strategic Plan:

(a) *Urges* national focal points, working with relevant government departments, to communicate the importance of biodiversity to companies operating within the jurisdiction of Parties, including state-owned companies and small and medium enterprises, to engage such companies in the development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to encourage such companies to adopt practices that support the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the objectives of the Convention;

(b) *Encourages* national focal points, where appropriate, to include private sector representatives on national delegations to meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and

Technological Advice, the Conference of the Parties, and other intergovernmental meetings, and nominate them to participate in technical expert groups;

(c) *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile information on the business case for biodiversity and good biodiversity practice, and to make this information available through the clearing-house mechanism;

(d) *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to include the private sector as a target audience for its outreach materials and in the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA);

(e) *Invites* businesses and relevant organizations and partnerships to develop and promote the business case for biodiversity, to develop and promote the wider use of good practice guidelines, benchmarks, certification schemes and reporting guidelines and standards, in particular performance standards in line with the 2010 indicators, and to prepare and communicate to the Conference of the Parties any voluntary commitments that will contribute to the 2010 target;

(f) *Invites* businesses to align their policies and practices more explicitly with the goals and targets of the Convention;

(g) *Encourages* business representatives to participate in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and other intergovernmental meetings;

(h) *Decides* to consider, at its ninth meeting, further ways and means to promote business engagement in the implementation of the Convention, with a particular emphasis on the Convention's role in facilitating such engagement.

(i) *Invites* the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) to address the role of the private sector in achieving the three objectives of the Convention and to consider the relevance of the present recommendation for the work of the Expert Group, and to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties.

1/8. Framework for monitoring implementation of the Convention and achievement of the 2010 target, and for review of the programmes of work

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention

1. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties:

(a) *Notes* that the framework for monitoring implementation of the Convention and achievement of the 2010 target is comprised of the following five components:

- (i) The four goals and 19 objectives of the Strategic Plan adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision VI/26;
- (ii) Indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, to be developed on the basis of the proposed indicators in annex I below;
- (iii) The provisional framework for goals and targets, consisting of seven focal areas, 11 goals and 21 targets, adopted in decision VII/30;
- (iv) Outcome-oriented indicators to measure progress towards the 2010 target (as adopted by decision VII/30 with amendments recommended by SBSTTA in recommendation X/5, as contained in annex II below); and
- (v) Reporting mechanisms, including the Global Biodiversity Outlook and the national reports;

(b) *Endorses* the guidelines for the review of the programmes of work provided in annex III below;

(c) *Decides* to align the timetable for consolidating decisions related to the programmes of work of the Convention with that for the in-depth review of the programmes of work, in order to facilitate the preparation of a consolidated body of advice on each thematic area, thereby improving the cohesiveness of advice to Parties and further reducing the reporting burden on Parties;

(d) *Decides* to consider at its ninth meeting the process for revising and updating the Strategic Plan with a view to adopting a revised Strategic Plan at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(e) *Further decides* to align the numbering of the goals and targets incorporated into the proposed programme of work on island biodiversity with that used in the framework for evaluating progress towards the 2010 framework;

2. *Notes* the mandate given to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in paragraph 12 (a) of decision VII/30 to review and if necessary further refine the goals and targets, and *encourages* the Subsidiary Body to fulfil this mandate;

3. *Invites* the Executive Secretary, before the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to consult the members of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for Assessing Progress Towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target, in order to further develop the list of proposed indicators for the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan, as contained in annex I to the present recommendation, and to provide information on the data availability and usefulness of the proposed indicators to the Conference of the Parties;

4. *Recalling* paragraph 7 of decision VII/30, *encourages* the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity to develop a provisional indicator for objective 4.3 of the Strategic Plan;

5. *Notes* the need to develop provisional indicators for the objectives of the Strategic Plan relevant to biosafety.

Annex I

INDICATORS FOR ASSESSING PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

<i>Strategic goals and objectives</i>	<i>Possible indicators</i>
Goal 1: The Convention is fulfilling its leadership role in international biodiversity issues.	
1.1 The Convention is setting the global biodiversity agenda.	CBD provisions, COP decisions and 2010 target reflected in workplans of major international forums
1.2 The Convention is promoting cooperation between all relevant international instruments and processes to enhance policy coherence.	
1.3 Other international processes are actively supporting implementation of the Convention, in a manner consistent with their respective frameworks.	
1.4 The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is widely implemented.	
1.5 Biodiversity concerns are being integrated into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies at the regional and global levels.	<p><i>Possible indicator to be developed:</i></p> <p><i>Number of regional/global plans, programmes and policies which specifically address the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies</i></p> <p><i>Application of planning tools such as strategic environmental assessment to assess the degree to which biodiversity concerns are being integrated</i></p> <p><i>Biodiversity integrated into the criteria of multilateral donors and regional development banks</i></p>
1.6 Parties are collaborating at the regional and subregional levels to implement the Convention.	<p><i>Possible indicator to be developed:</i></p> <p><i>Number of Parties that are part of (sub-) regional biodiversity-related agreements</i></p>
Goal 2: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical, and technological capacity to implement the Convention.	
2.1 All Parties have adequate capacity for implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategy and action plans.	
2.2 Developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States amongst them, and other Parties with economies in transition, have sufficient resources available to implement the three objectives of the Convention.	Official development assistance provided in support of the Convention (OECD-DAC Statistics Committee)

<i>Strategic goals and objectives</i>	<i>Possible indicators</i>
2.3 Developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States amongst them, and other Parties with economies in transition, have increased resources and technology transfer available to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.	
2.4 All Parties have adequate capacity to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.	
2.5 Technical and scientific cooperation is making a significant contribution to building capacity.	<i>Indicator to be developed consistent with VII/30</i>
Goal 3: National biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors serve as an effective framework for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention.	
3.1 Every Party has effective national strategies, plans and programmes in place to provide a national framework for implementing the three objectives of the Convention and to set clear national priorities.	Number of Parties with national biodiversity strategies
3.2 Every Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has a regulatory framework in place and functioning to implement the Protocol.	
3.3 Biodiversity concerns are being integrated into relevant national sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.	<i>To be developed</i> <i>Percentage of Parties with relevant national sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies in which biodiversity concerns are integrated</i>
3.4 The priorities in national biodiversity strategies and action plans are being actively implemented, as a means to achieve national implementation of the Convention, and as a significant contribution towards the global biodiversity agenda.	<i>To be developed</i> <i>Number of national biodiversity strategies and action plans that are being actively implemented</i>
Goal 4: There is a better understanding of the importance of biodiversity and of the Convention, and this has led to broader engagement across society in implementation.	
4.1 All Parties are implementing a communication, education, and public awareness strategy and promoting public participation in support of the Convention.	<i>Possible indicator to be developed:</i> <i>Number of Parties implementing a communication, education and public awareness strategy and promoting public participation</i> <i>Percentage of public awareness about the importance of biodiversity</i> <i>Percentage of Parties with biodiversity on their public school curricula</i>

<i>Strategic goals and objectives</i>	<i>Possible indicators</i>
4.2 Every Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is promoting and facilitating public awareness, education and participation in support of the Protocol.	
4.3 Indigenous and local communities are effectively involved in implementation and in the processes of the Convention, at national, regional and international levels.	<i>To be developed by WG8(j)</i>
4.4 Key actors and stakeholders, including the private sector, are engaged in partnership to implement the Convention and are integrating biodiversity concerns into their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.	<i>To be developed</i> <i>Indicator targeting private sector engagement, e.g. Voluntary type 2 partnerships in support of the implementation of the Convention</i>

Annex II

INDICATORS RELEVANT TO THE 2010 GOALS AND TARGETS (AS CONTAINED IN SBSTTA RECOMMENDATION X/5, ANNEX II)

<i>Goals and targets</i>	<i>Relevant headline indicators</i>
Protect the components of biodiversity	
<i>Goal 1. Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes</i>	
Target 1.1: At least 10% of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.	<p>Most relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage of protected areas <p>Other relevant indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats • Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species
Target 1.2: Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected	<p>Relevant indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats • Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species • Coverage of protected areas
<i>Goal 2. Promote the conservation of species diversity</i>	
Target 2.1: Restore, maintain, or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups.	<p>Most relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species <p>Other relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in status of threatened species

<i>Goals and targets</i>	<i>Relevant headline indicators</i>
Target 2.2: Status of threatened species improved.	<p>Most relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in status of threatened species <p>Other relevant indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species • Coverage of protected areas
<i>Goal 3. Promote the conservation of genetic diversity</i>	
Target 3.1: Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, and of harvested species of trees, fish and wildlife and other valuable species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained.	<p>Most relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in genetic diversity of domesticated animals, cultivated plants, and fish species of major socio-economic importance <p>Other relevant indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Biodiversity used in food and medicine (indicator under development)</i> • Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species
Promote sustainable use	
<i>Goal 4. Promote sustainable use and consumption.</i>	
Target 4.1: Biodiversity-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity.	<p>Most relevant indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management • <i>Proportion of products derived from sustainable sources (indicator under development)</i> <p>Other relevant indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species • Marine trophic index • Nitrogen deposition • Water quality in aquatic ecosystems
Target 4.2. Unsustainable consumption, of biological resources, or that impacts upon biodiversity, reduced.	<p>Relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ecological footprint and related concepts (indicator under development)</i>
Target 4.3: No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade.	<p>Most relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in status of threatened species

<i>Goals and targets</i>	<i>Relevant headline indicators</i>
Address threats to biodiversity	
<i>Goal 5. Pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced.</i>	
Target 5.1. Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased.	<p>Most relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats <p>Other relevant indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species • Marine trophic index
<i>Goal 6. Control threats from invasive alien species</i>	
Target 6.1. Pathways for major potential alien invasive species controlled.	<p>Relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in invasive alien species
Target 6. 2. Management plans in place for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.	<p>Relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in invasive alien species
<i>Goal 7. Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution</i>	
Target 7.1. Maintain and enhance resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change.	<p>Relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectivity/fragmentation of ecosystems
Target 7.2. Reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity.	<p>Nitrogen deposition</p> <p>Water quality in aquatic ecosystems</p>
Maintain goods and services from biodiversity to support human well-being	
<i>Goal 8. Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods</i>	
Target 8.1. Capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained.	<p>Relevant indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Biodiversity used in food and medicine (indicator under development)</i> • Water quality in aquatic ecosystems • Marine trophic index
Target 8.2. Biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people maintained.	<p>Most relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and well-being of communities who depend directly on local ecosystem goods and services <p>Other relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Biodiversity used in food and medicine</i>

<i>Goals and targets</i>	<i>Relevant headline indicators</i>
Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices	
<i>Goal 9 Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities</i>	
Target 9.1. Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.	<p>Most relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages <p>Other relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Additional indicators to be developed</i>
Target 9.2. Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefit-sharing.	<i>Indicator to be developed</i>
Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources	
<i>Goal 10. Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources</i>	
Target 10.1. All transfers of genetic resources are in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other applicable agreements.	<i>Indicator to be developed</i>
Target 10.2. Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources shared with the countries providing such resources.	<i>Indicator to be developed</i>
Ensure provision of adequate resources	
<i>Goal 11: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention</i>	
Target 11.1. New and additional financial resources are transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with Article 20.	<p>Most relevant indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official development assistance provided in support of the Convention
Target 11.2. Technology is transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with its Article 20, paragraph 4.	<i>Indicator to be developed</i>

Annex III

**DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMMES OF WORK OF THE
CONVENTION**

A. *Process for reviewing and, as necessary, revising the programmes of work*

1. *Review of the current programme of work*

The review of implementation of a programme of work could include:

1. *A review of implementation against the elements of the programme of work itself* (objectives, activities, etc). The review should ascertain:

(a) Whether, and to what degree, operational objectives and all or selected priority activities of the programme of work at the national, regional and global level were implemented by Parties, and others, and the extent to which this was facilitated by the Convention Secretariat and other partners;

(b) Whether, and to what degree, the programme of work has facilitated the mobilization of the necessary financial resources. This would involve analyzing the trends in funding for the thematic area, as well as actions taken by the financial mechanism and other multilateral and bilateral donors in response to the guidance of the Conference of the Parties regarding the programme of work;

(c) Whether, and to what degree, the implementation of activities has contributed to meeting the goals and objectives of the programme of work;

(d) Whether, and to what degree, the implementation of activities has contributed to meeting the goals and targets of the framework for evaluating implementation of the Convention and progress towards the 2010 target;

2. *An assessment of the adequacy of the programme of work to address major challenges.* The review should assess the current and future effectiveness of the programme of work in the context of the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The goals, objectives and activities of the programme of work should be assessed against the status and trends in biodiversity, current and projected major threats (including threats primarily associated with other biomes) and other emerging issues, to determine whether these remain adequate for reducing rates of biodiversity loss, promoting sustainable use, and contributing to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

2. *Revision and updating of the programme of work*

The programme of work should only be revised and updated if the need to do so is identified through the review process outlined in section 1 above. Steps to follow when revising and updating the programme of work are:

1. Define goals and objectives according to needs, in light of status and trends in biodiversity, and against current and projected major threats, and other emerging issues, in order to contribute to the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention;

2. Integrate the vision, mission and provisional framework of goals and targets as outlined in annex III to decision VII/30 into the programme of work and, where applicable, the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan;

3. Assess activities:

(a) Remove activities of earlier programmes of work that have been completed, are obsolete, or have shown to be ineffective;

(b) Include activities required to address needs, in light of: (i) status and trends in biodiversity, current and projected major threats to biodiversity, obstacles to sustainable use and to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources, and the experience

of the previous version of the programme of work; and (ii) results of a gap analysis taking into account all relevant activities including those being undertaken within the framework of other conventions, and by organizations and initiatives that contribute to the objectives of the programme of work. (The gap analysis would also help to identify opportunities for collaboration, as well as areas where additional activities would add the most value);

(c) Acknowledge activities being undertaken by other conventions, organizations and initiatives to meet the objectives of the programme of work and focus on activities in the programme of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity that fill gaps and provide added-value;

(d) Consider the financial implications of activities according to their likely effectiveness and impacts, and the capacity of Parties and partners to implement them,

4. Consider measures to provide practical support, including financial and technical support, for national and regional implementation.

B. Information, tools and mechanisms to support the review and revision of the programmes of work

1. Types and sources of information

1. Degree of implementation of the programme of work:
 - (a) Information from Parties (including national reports and thematic reports);
 - (b) Information from the 2010 monitoring exercise (indicators);
 - (c) Additional information from relevant United Nations agencies, conventions, international and regional organizations, indigenous and local communities, and other partners.
2. Status and trends in biodiversity, and threats to biodiversity and obstacles to sustainable use and to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources:
 - (a) Information from the 2010 monitoring exercise (indicators);
 - (b) Information from Parties (including national reports and the voluntary thematic reports);
 - (c) Additional information from relevant United Nations agencies, conventions, international and regional organizations and processes, and other partners, including in particular the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and other assessments.
3. Financial resources for implementation:
 - (a) Information from Parties and other Governments on financial resources and the financial mechanism with respect to programmes of work (including national reports and thematic reports);
 - (b) Reports of, and information from, the Global Environment Facility and other multilateral and bilateral donor agencies on thematic areas and cross-cutting issues;
 - (c) Additional information from relevant United Nations agencies, conventions, international and regional organizations, and other partners and stakeholders.

2. Supporting tools and mechanisms

1. Use of expert groups, regional workshops and consultations.
2. Development of a framework for the coordinated use of available assessment data from disparate sources.
3. Use of a rational timeline for review of implementation – one that takes into account when national reports and other information will be available.
4. Share experiences and approaches through the clearing-house mechanism and other mechanisms.

1/9. National reporting

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention

1. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties:
 - (a) *Recognizes* the need to align the national reporting process with the framework for evaluating implementation of the Convention and progress towards the 2010 target;
 - (b) *Underscores* the need to reduce overall reporting burdens on Parties, taking into account reporting obligations under other Conventions, and other relevant processes;
 - (c) *Decides* that the fourth and subsequent national reports should be outcome-oriented and focus on the status and trends of biodiversity, national actions and outcomes with respect to the achievement of the 2010 target and the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention, and progress in implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
 - (d) *Decides* that Parties shall submit their fourth national reports by 30 March 2009;
 - (e) *Invites* Parties that anticipate that they may encounter difficulty in completing their reports according to the date set by the Conference of the Parties to advise the Secretariat in advance;
 - (f) *Recommends* that regional and/or subregional workshops could facilitate the preparation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports, and the exchange of experiences on implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and on assessment of obstacles for the implementation of the Convention to achieve the objectives of subparagraph (c) above, and *requests* resourcing for these workshops be considered in budget deliberations at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
 - (g) *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to explore and establish easier and expeditious mechanisms for the provision of funds to eligible countries for preparing their future national reports;
 - (h) *Decides* that Parties will be invited to submit complementary reports on thematic programmes that are due for in-depth review according to the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 and accordingly, *invites* Parties, on a voluntary basis, to prepare complementary thematic reports according to the schedule in annex I below;
 - (i) *Decides* to establish an on-line reporting facility, through the clearing-house mechanism, for use by Parties on a voluntary basis as a planning tool;
 - (j) *Decides* that the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook shall be prepared for publication at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2010 and that it shall be based on the third and fourth national reports as well as other information received on progress towards the 2010 target;
 - (k) *Agrees* to base its review of the implementation of the Convention at its tenth meeting primarily on the basis of the third and fourth national reports as well as on the analysis in the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook;
 - (l) *Welcomes* the initiative of the five biodiversity-related conventions, through the Biodiversity Liaison Group, to:
 - (i) Keep each other informed of proposed developments in national reporting under each of the conventions, with a view to aligning approaches where possible;
 - (ii) Develop a Web portal with links to reports and guidelines of each of the conventions, similar to the Collaborative Portal on Forests;
 - (iii) Develop common reporting modules for specific themes, where possible, and appropriate;

(m) *Takes note* of the recommendations from the UNEP-WCMC Workshop Towards the Harmonization of National Reporting to Biodiversity-related Treaties, which was held in September 2004 (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/INF/6), and *encourages* the Biodiversity Liaison Group, in liaison with UNEP-WCMC, to give further consideration to issues of harmonization of reporting among the biodiversity-related conventions, and to develop proposals;

(n) *Encourages* Parties to harmonize the gathering and management of data for the five biodiversity-related conventions at the national level, where appropriate;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To develop, by January 2006, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, draft guidelines for the fourth national report, undertaking consultation with Parties in this process and taking into consideration the views expressed by Parties at the current meeting, including the elements contained in annex II below;

(b) To finalize these guidelines in light of the decisions of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and to make them available to Parties and other Governments by 1 July 2006;

(c) To identify additional ways and means to facilitate timely submission of national reports by Parties, and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth or ninth meeting on options;

3. *Notes* the need for Parties who have not completed their third national reports to do so expeditiously.

Annex I

SCHEDULE OF COMPLEMENTARY REPORTS ON THEMATIC PROGRAMMES¹

Thematic area ²	In-depth review		Date due for review
	By COP	By SBSTTA ³	
Forest biodiversity	COP-9	SBSTTA-12	September 2006
Agricultural biodiversity	COP-9	SBSTTA-13	March 2007
Inland waters biodiversity	COP-10	SBSTTA-14	July 2008
Mountain biodiversity	COP-10	SBSTTA-14	July 2008
Marine and coastal biodiversity	COP-10	SBSTTA-15	March 2009
Island biodiversity	t.b.d.	t.b.d.	t.b.d.

¹ Additional complementary reports on cross-cutting issues may be considered.

² The dry and sub-humid lands programme of work will be reviewed at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

³ The precise allocation of thematic areas to sessions of SBSTTA will be finalized following discussion with the SBSTTA Bureau.

Annex II to recommendation 1/9

SUGGESTED PRINCIPLES AND ELEMENTS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DEVELOPING THE GUIDELINES FOR THE FOURTH NATIONAL REPORT

1. National reports should:

(a) Use the goals, targets and indicators of the global framework in decision VII/30, where they are nationally relevant;

(b) Be outcome-oriented;

- (c) Present results of monitoring designed to describe national trends;
- (d) Relate to national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (e) Report on the 2010 target;
- (f) Assess and facilitate national implementation of the Convention rather than making comparisons among countries;
- (g) Facilitate self-assessment;
- (h) Serve multiple communication purposes;
- (i) Be useful to the decision-making processes of the Convention and lend themselves to synthesis;
- (j) Facilitate the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention;
- (k) Facilitate harmonized reporting, where possible, by using joint reporting modules with biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant processes.

2. National reports should allow Parties to provide information on:

- (a) The status and trends of biodiversity, with a focus on the outcomes of actions taken to achieve the 2010 target and the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan;
- (b) Progress and effectiveness of the measures implemented towards achieving the 2010 target and the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan and priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (c) The current status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (d) The results of efforts to mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectors;
- (e) Success stories in implementation, drawing on, *inter alia*, case-studies;
- (f) Obstacles and challenges, taking into account but not limited to the appendix to the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

3. The guidelines should:

- (a) Be short, simple, use clear language, and avoid repetition;
- (b) Use the structure of the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan and the framework for assessing progress in implementing the Convention as in decision VII/30;
- (c) Explain the purpose of the reporting exercise and what use will be made of the reported information;
- (d) Identify which of the reporting requests are used by other biodiversity-related conventions or processes;
- (e) Use a modular approach to facilitate multiple uses of the same information;
- (f) Provide cross references between information being requested and the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex II to the report

[ENGLISH ONLY]

STATEMENT BY MR. HANS HOOGEVEEN, FORMER ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION, MONTREAL, 5-9 SEPTEMBER 2005

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour and a pleasure to be invited to speak here today at the First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention.

Over the past decade my role within the CBD has taken on different forms. I was associated with the work of the CBD Secretariat immediately after COP-5 in Nairobi in preparation for COP-6, which took place in The Hague, the Netherlands, in May 2002. My involvement became stronger during COP-6 through COP-7 in my capacity as Acting President of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties. It allowed me to delve even further in this vast and fascinating organization that we all know and love.

Today biological diversity is higher on the political agenda than ever before. Not without reason. We depend largely on our natural resources; on our animals, plants and microorganisms for the production of food and medicine and for the intrinsic value of biological diversity. The last months we have seen the devastating powers of nature, especially in South-East Asia and last week in the United States. My condolences go to the families who lost beloved ones. The families who lost everything they had, need not only our sympathy, but also our support and help.

But, nature is also the source of our existence. Our challenges remain huge. Biological diversity continues to reduce at a rapid rate, as the recently published UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment has underscored. Over 10,000 scientists from all over the world worked on this and reached the same alarming conclusions that are, unfortunately, not restricted to the extinction of species. Alarming reduction within species, both in the wild and among those we use in agriculture, food supply and so on, are similarly threatened.

Mr Chairman,

The World Summit on Sustainable Development set a clear target to achieve by the year 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biodiversity. Today, the Millennium Review Summit coming up in New York in a week's time will provide a new impetus to achieve this and other related targets. Indeed, most countries now acknowledge that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is one of the cornerstones in achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication.

CBD priority: from development to implementation

Now it is time to take our work to the next level. COP-6 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) set the stage to mark the shift from formulating ambitious plans to the actual implementation. We all know it has proven difficult to develop these programmes. But, I would like to reiterate that the real challenge now lies in effective and efficient implementation. The motto "from development to implementation" is one that is more relevant today than ever. Indeed, it will be crucial to the future survival and success of the Convention. And let us recall that the CBD *is* one of the most successful conventions within the UN system.

Challenges

Distinguished delegates,

Aside from these general observations, I would like to take this opportunity to mention some challenges for the future of the Convention. Firstly, the importance of sustaining a CBD vision more firmly.

We have to build on the achievements and not allow it to become too theoretical and too technical. I appreciate that the scope of work in the Convention is vast and complex. Sometimes however, to quote a suitable Dutch phrase, we fail to 'see the forest through the trees'. The future challenges need our fullest attention in the coming years. These challenges lie both in the substance of the CBD work programmes as in the organization itself.

Challenge 1: ABS

On substance, one priority issue is clearly to make work on an international regime on access and benefit sharing. This means, once again, having the courage now to take the current negotiations a step further to the implementation phase. A legal instrument is needed. Why are we being so difficult on ABS? We are slowly but surely getting stuck in muddy trenches and for what reason? Are we ready to surrender and let others tell us we lack the ability to develop a *vision*? Of course not! It concerns me that we have so many existing instruments that could form a solid framework for an international regime and that we are now falling into the old trap of adding and developing more and more options and elements to an already practicable base. We have the Bonn Guidelines and other treaties, like the Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, which already have an ABS system in place. It's simple, really. The key lies in the notion of 'Access and Benefit-Sharing' itself. An ABS regime can *only* work if there is a balance on measures of access and benefit sharing. Where there is no access, there will not be any benefit sharing to give. Similarly, no benefit sharing measures will halt any possibilities for access. It is, my friends, literally a question of give and take.

Developing countries have a stake in getting an international regime ratified as soon as possible. Ratification requires agreement, and agreement depends on finding a compromise. But this compromise need not be a sacrifice to anyone.

Developed countries are traditionally more interested in developing and improving (national) access possibilities. This is fine, but it is a simple trade principle that you have to pay for the goods that you receive.

Developing a regime that holds a good balance in access and benefit sharing will be an investment in all of us. Let us stop with splitting ABS into separate camps and start listening to the possibility that access and benefit sharing aren't just mutually supportive, they are mutually dependent on one another.

So let us go to Granada in January and really be willing to negotiate a balanced ABS regime that ultimately benefits us all.

Challenge 2: Sustainable forestry

Another issue that is demanding our immediate attention is the forestry work programme under the CBD.

The UNFF process has come to a complete stand still. We have talked 15 years about an international instrument without any result. Forests play a crucial role in the conservation and sustainable use of our worldwide biodiversity. However, the loss of forests continues in an alarming rate. CBD has shown to be a powerful instrument and has developed a strong forest programme. Why not take the lead and show leadership by developing a legal instrument within this convention. If we don't act now then we run the risk of losing our voice for sustainable forest management altogether.

Sometimes we should make our life simpler. Developing countries are striving for a legally-binding instrument for ABS, while developed countries are hesitant. At the same time developed countries are striving for a legally binding instrument for forests, while developing countries are hesitant. Is there not an easy trade off within this Convention?

Challenge 3: Protected areas

Further, we need to really step up our commitment to implement the programme of work on protected areas, with special attention to new approaches like ecological networks and sectoral integration.

Challenge 4: Support base CBD

For the future of the CBD we must think seriously about creating a more sustainable support base for the Convention. We need to allow full participation of civil society organisations, including the private sector and indigenous peoples in all working groups.

Given the outstanding performance and dedication to the CBD the indigenous people and local communities deserve a more prominent role within the Convention. We also could do much to improve the Convention's profile by improving public education and awareness on biodiversity.

Institutional Challenges

A completely different type of challenge lies in the organization of the Convention. This week, you will all have the opportunity to look at the CBD as an international organization. How effective is the Convention really and how could it be improved? Key words here are to increase the triad of transparency, flexibility, and efficiency.

a. The Conference of the Parties and its Bureau

The Conference of the Parties as the governing body of the Convention has succeeded in guiding the process of translation of the provisions of the Convention into work programmes for implementation. However, the agendas of the COP meetings are heavy and as such there is a need for a mechanism to prioritize the issues that deserve substantive consideration by the COP. I believe that the multi-year work programmes as adopted at COP-7 is an important step forward in this direction. The COP should adhere to the list of priority items it identified and adopted.

There is also a need to limit the number of contact groups, friends of the Chair and other informal groups during the COP meetings.

There is a need to empower developing countries and countries with economies in transition to participate with more than one delegate. And there is a need to ensure the participation of representatives of indigenous and local communities in every meeting.

Leadership is crucial.

One of the major responsibilities of the COP as stipulated in decision IV/17 is its mandate to decide on the level and term of office of the Executive Secretary to the Convention. While we fully recognize the discretionary power of the United Nations Secretary-General to appoint senior staff members; such appointments however, should be in accordance with decisions of the Conference of the Parties. In the case of the CBD, the Administrative Arrangements between UNEP and the CBD require full consultation with the COP, through its Bureau, which retains the authority to determine the level and term of office of the Executive Secretary.

Here a critical remark is needed.

I must record my deep concern that this was disregarded and compromised particularly by the recent developments. I therefore fully endorse the recommendation of the Bureau that calls for the establishment of a transparent and objective appointment process during COP-8 for its immediate application. This is without prejudice to the skills and capacities of the newly-appointed Executive Secretary.

The achievements of the current management of the Secretariat to the Convention are well-known and undeniable. The international recognition and respect awarded to the Convention is one of many positive outcomes of the hard work, dedication and vision exercised by the present leadership of the Secretariat.

It was surprising to read the press release issued by UNEP in late June of this year announcing the change in leadership at the CBD Secretariat for several reasons.

This change was not undertaken in consultation with the COP and its Bureau as required by COP decisions, and disregarded the authority of the COP with regard to the level and term of office.

Ironically, this is taking place at a time when the United Nations Secretary-General has embarked on the reform of the Organization to render it more transparent and accountable to its member States.

We and you, as the Parties to the Convention, should ask ourselves and yourself the question is this the way we would like to work in the future?

b. The programmes of work, tools and guidance developed under the Convention

The COP through the work of SBSTTA, the Secretariat, and the establishment of issue-specific working and expert groups succeeded in adopting a series of thematic programmes of work and cross-cutting issues, guidelines and tools to guide the implementation of the Convention at the national level in accordance with their national priorities.

It also succeeded in launching the first Global Biodiversity Outlook, set the 2010 Biodiversity Target and adopted its first Strategic Plan to portray itself as the key international treaty for sustainable development, just to mention a few.

In this regard, I wish to pay tribute to the Secretariat of the Convention and all the delegations for the proactive and visionary role and securing the substantive and financial resources for these processes particularly for developing countries participation.

I must emphasize though that the effective implementation requires the availability of additional financial resources.

c. The Secretariat

The Secretariat has evolved considerably since the appointment of the current Executive Secretary who managed to put in place an invigorated Secretariat with professional and motivated staff able to respond to the needs of the Conference of the Parties.

It is only fair to state that the Secretariat achieved its mandate and is behind all the success and achievements under the Convention.

As the Convention is now in its implementation phase there is a real need to forge stronger and active partnership with key serious and committed organizations such as FAO, UNDP, WIPO, UNESCO and IUCN.

It is my concrete view that the Secretariat is not in a position to be involved with implementation at the national level.

We should learn from the experience of other UN organizations that pushed for a role at the national level while failed to secure the necessary resources.

To conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words of appreciation to Hamdallah Zedan and his predecessors.

The Convention, despite the challenges that lie ahead, has come a long way in the last twelve years.

Without a strong, capable executive secretary none of this would have been possible.

A ship cannot function without its Captain.

Similarly the convention is lost without a strong man to oversee its activities.

Hamdallah, you have provided the organization with a strong leadership that has become renowned in the UN system for its excellent administration and organization.

The Secretariat's preparatory work has been an example to other institutions.

I commend you for that and all the people who work in the Secretariat.

Dear friends,

I have always admired and respected Hamdallah's active involvement with the large scope of issues that the Convention covers.

It is admirable the extent to which you were always able to master this vast web of information. It also made it so much easier for us to approach you on any subject at any time. The Convention will lose a great leader.

Much of the achievements of the CBD can be attributed to your committed spirit and ceaseless energy. For all your work and dedication I would like to propose to the delegates that you honour Hamdallah at COP-8 with the appointment as Honorary Secretary

Dear delegates,

It is such a waste to lose someone of such expertise with a brilliant network. We speak of sustainability at a drop of a hat, but are we really conserving and making sustainable use of our natural resources? I'm thinking specifically about the many outreach activities that the CBD is involved in. But how can we do this?

I recently watched a movie and it hit me.

UNICEF, as many of you know, has Ambassadors to do their outreach activities. So, why should we not appoint Hamdallah as the first Ambassador for the CBD? I hope that the bureau can give a follow up to these two proposals.

For this and other reasons, I would like to have my statement be included verbatim and in its entirety in the body of the report of this meeting.

I would like to close now: let us forget ourselves, let our universal love for nature and biodiversity bridge our gaps and differences, so that we will be remembered as people who found and built on a common understanding for the conservation and sustainable use of our biodiversity. We cannot forget at the same time that we cannot segregate the importance to conserve biodiversity from the very real needs of people that depend on the same biodiversity for their daily life and existence!

Thank you.
