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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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Item 28 of the provisional agenda*

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY FOR THE BIENNIUM 2007-2008

Addendum

Enhancing the Secretariat's support to implementation of the Convention and achievement of the 2010 target

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties takes place at an important juncture in the life of the Convention on Biological Diversity, coming as it does against the backdrop of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, as reinforced by the Second Global Biodiversity Outlook. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, carried out by 1,360 experts from 95 countries, is the first attempt by the scientific community to describe and evaluate, on a global scale, the full range of services people derive from nature. Its findings are clear and cannot be ignored: two thirds of the services provided by nature to humankind are in decline, worldwide. Humans have made unprecedented changes to ecosystems in recent decades to meet growing demands for food and other ecosystems services. These changes have put such strain on the natural functions of Earth that the ability of the planet's ecosystems to sustain future generations can no longer be taken for granted.

2. In 2002, Parties to the Convention committed themselves to achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss at global, regional and national levels as a contribution to poverty alleviation and benefit of all life on Earth. This commitment was endorsed by all Heads of State and Government at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. As the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment finds, "unprecedented efforts" will be needed to meet this target. Given that 2010 is fast approaching, increased efforts will be needed to implement the Convention.

3. Since the entry into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity on 29 December 1993, significant progress has been achieved in laying the foundations for achieving the objectives of this vital international legal instrument. Since the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, more than 278 meetings have been convened. A total of 182 decisions have been adopted at the seven meetings of the

* UNEP/CBD/COP/8/1.

Conference of the Parties and 14 by the two meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. As a result, a vibrant body of policy has been agreed upon.

4. However, in spite of the significant progress achieved by the Convention since its entry into force, the immensity of the biodiversity challenge facing the international community requires urgent additional sustained efforts as well as enhanced inter-agency collaboration and international cooperation on the scale necessary to translate the three objectives of the Convention into reality if the 2010 biodiversity target is to be achieved.

5. To achieve such a strategic objective, a new era of enhanced implementation is urgently required. The Secretariat is fully committed to playing an enhanced role in facilitating and supporting implementation of the Convention by Parties and stakeholders, in accordance with Article 24 of the Convention and relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

6. The present note provides an overview of the initiatives that the Secretariat will take to support implementation of the Convention in the remainder of 2006, and through the 2007-2008 biennium. These initiatives aim to build upon and consolidate existing efforts to promote implementation at national, regional and global levels, and are consistent with the proposals before the Conference of the Parties, including those resulting from the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention held in Montreal in September 2005.

7. Since the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has a separate budget from the one of the Convention, to be determined by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Biosafety, detailed activities in support of the Protocol are not included in the scope of this note. Nonetheless, as reflected in the Strategic Plan of the Convention, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is an essential instrument to achieve the 2010 target, by ensuring that the use of modern biotechnology does not adversely affect biodiversity, taking also into account risks to human health. The Secretariat will continue encourage Parties that have not already done so to ratify the Protocol, and will fully support Parties to the Protocol in their efforts to develop institutional frameworks for biosafety and implement the provisions of the Protocol.

8. The present note was finalized only two weeks after the incoming Executive Secretary assumed his responsibilities. The initiatives listed should therefore be regarded as provisional. They will need to be further refined in light of the outcome of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and its ministerial segment, as well as the agreed budget for the biennium 2007-2008.

II. ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP OF PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

9. Fourteen years after the opening for signature of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, 187 States and one regional economic integration organization are now Parties to the Convention. The United Nations has now 191 members. The Convention to Combat Desertification, which entered into force four years after the Convention on Biological Diversity, has now achieved universal membership with 191 Parties. The achievement of the objectives of the Convention requires universal and sustained efforts. No country can afford to adopt an observer status when it comes to the preservation of life on Earth.

10. The Secretariat will spare no effort to promote universal membership of the Convention and the Biosafety Protocol, by encouraging countries that have not yet become Parties to do so.

III. ENHANCING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET

A. *Enhancing the implementation of Article 6 (a) of the Convention on Biological Diversity*

11. Article 6 (a) of the Convention calls on Parties to develop national strategies, plans or programmes. As of January 2006, and 12 years after the entry into force of the Convention, some 131 countries have finalized their biodiversity strategies, plans or programmes (NBSAPs). Therefore, a little over two thirds of Parties have so far fulfilled this commitment. All efforts will be made by the Secretariat to assist and encourage the remaining 57 Parties to complete their NBSAPs expeditiously, and preferably in time for the review of NBSAPs envisaged to take place in preparation for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

12. In adopting its decision VI/27 A, the Conference of the Parties, at its sixth meeting, requested Parties “to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans; and to periodically revise them in the light of the experience of implementation”. As far as the Secretariat has been notified, only three countries—Finland, Indonesia and Morocco—have revised their national strategies, plans or programmes. All efforts will be made by the Secretariat to encourage the remaining 128 Parties to revise their existing strategies, plans or programmes in the light of the experience gained, and in doing so, to incorporate objectives related to the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target as a national priority. The 57 Parties that are in the process of developing or finalizing their strategies, plans and programmes will be encouraged to integrate the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target as a strategic national objective. In support of this, the Secretariat will work with partner organizations to undertake a thorough review of the obstacles to NBSAP development and implementation, and update the guidelines for the preparation of national strategies, plans and programmes (finalized in 1995 by UNEP, IUCN and WWF), with a view of integrating the lessons learned as well as the growing bodies of guidance of the Conference of the Parties, including the thematic work programmes and the cross-cutting tools.

13. For the majority of Parties that have NBSAPs or equivalent instruments, the priority will be to ensure their full implementation. To this end, the Secretariat will promote the sharing of good practices through case-studies, manuals, and guidelines, using the clearing-house mechanism, as well as other relevant tools. The Secretariat will also strengthen its technical support to Parties, as a service provider, as set out in other sections of this note.

14. Providing technical support and building the institutional and human capacity of CBD focal points will be key in ensuring the effectiveness of national strategies, plans and programmes in achieving the objectives of the Convention. Efforts will be undertaken to encourage the GEF and its Implementing Agencies to continue the support to the finalization, revision and adjustment of national biodiversity strategies, plans and programmes, building also on the experience of the the UNEP/UNDP Biodiversity Planning Support Programme, the Bioplan initiative and the European Biodiversity Service. Building on the experience of these initiatives, the Secretariat, in accordance with its mandate and in close cooperation with the sister agencies, will enhance its technical support to developing countries and in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, including through exchange of experiences and dissemination of lessons learned on issues related to the preparation, implementation and revision of national biodiversity strategies, plans and programme.

15. To enhance such technical support, the establishment of a small technical expert group—comprising possibly 10 members acting in their personal capacity, while taking fully into account geographical and gender balance—may be considered. The establishment of such an expert group may be guided by the experience of the expert group on national communications of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as well as the expert group on national reports

established recently by the seventh meeting of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The objective of such an expert group would be to provide guidance and technical advice based on experience gained to the Parties that are finalizing their biodiversity strategies, plans and programmes, as well as to Parties, engaged in the revision of their biodiversity strategies, plans and programmes, with a special emphasis on the integration of the 2010 biodiversity target as a national priority. Another objective of the expert group will be to assist in the establishment of a knowledge management system with a view of promoting exchange of experience and dissemination of lessons learned. The expert group will use modern communication tools including teleconference meetings in fulfilling its terms of reference. Face-to-face meetings may be convened preferably in conjunction with Convention's meetings. A detailed report on the activities of the expert group will be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.

16. Joining forces and entering into collaborative arrangements with sister agencies with strong operational experience will be crucial to ensuring the success of this strategic objective. Achieving the 2010 target and the objectives of the Convention requires universal commitments and concerted efforts of the international community as a whole. UNDP has agreed to take the lead in piloting, in one country by region, the implementation of the 2010 biodiversity target at national level. The results of this pilot activity, aimed at demonstrating the methodology for integrating the 2010 target at national level, will be presented by UNDP during the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The World Bank has also accepted to share its experience in incorporating biodiversity concerns into its Country Assistance Strategies. IUCN has further agreed to share its experience in implementing its 2010 Countdown European Initiative.

B. Mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant national sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies

17. Article 6(b) of the Convention calls on Parties to integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies. Indeed, mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into productive sectors, as well as into relevant national policy plans is key to the successful implementation of the three objectives of the Convention. Such mainstreaming is an essential component of the "unprecedented additional efforts" that the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment identified as necessary to reach the 2010 biodiversity target. Moreover, as recognized by the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation as well as the Millennium Declaration and 2005 Summit Review of the United Nations General Assembly, sustainable use of biological diversity has a major role to play in achieving sustainable development and the successful implementation of Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals.

18. According to an analysis of the second national reports submitted by Parties, 60 per cent of Parties report that their NBSAPs cover the integration of all major sectors. It must be noted however that since only 64 per cent of Parties have submitted their second national reports, no information on the implementation of Article 6 (b) is available for 68 Parties. Moreover, analysis by UNDP and the World Resource Institute (WRI) of Poverty Strategy Reduction Papers and Strategies for the Millennium Development Goals indicate very little consideration of biodiversity concerns in policies for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

19. The Secretariat, in cooperation with UNEP, UNDP and other partners, will enhance its support to Parties in the implementation of Article 6 (b) through a number of initiatives:

(a) A detailed analysis of the implementation of Article 6 (b) by Parties will be carried out with a view of recommending ways and means of enhancing the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in relevant productive sector such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism etc. The exchange of experiences and best practices, as well as of lessons learned, will be key to

the success of such endeavors. Such support will build on the experience gained by multilateral and bilateral partner agencies in mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant sectoral plans;

(b) In updating the guidelines for NBSAPs, referred to in the previous section, special attention will be given to mainstreaming of biodiversity in relevant sectors;

(c) A dialogue will be initiated with relevant partners to mainstream sustainable use of biodiversity into ongoing initiatives for addressing the poverty and environment nexus in the context of the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Development Project, including the Poverty and Environment Partnership recently established by the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP. Similar efforts will be undertaken in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into relevant developmental framework such as United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

(d) The Bureau can play a role in promoting, when appropriate, inter-ministerial, inter-agencies and cross-cutting dialogue with Parties and other partners for the implementation of Article 6 (b) and in mainstreaming the objectives of the Convention into relevant developmental processes and initiatives;

(e) The Secretariat will continue to work with United Nations specialized agencies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and other partners, to mainstream biodiversity concerns in other productive sectors;

(f) The Secretariat will step up efforts to disseminate and apply the tools and guidance developed under the Convention, such as the Ecosystem Approach, the Addis Ababa Guidelines Principles on sustainable use, and the guidelines for integrating biodiversity concerns into environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment. The Secretariat will also promote work on the valuation of biodiversity resources and functions, as well as of associated ecosystem services. Appreciation of these values is a crucial precondition for the successful integration of biodiversity considerations into decision-making. Incentive measures such as, for instance, payments for ecosystem services, as well as the removal of measures with detrimental side-effects on biodiversity (the so-called “perverse” incentives), provide important practical mechanisms for the mainstreaming of biodiversity objectives, and their development and use will be explored. In this regard, the Secretariat will cooperate with UNEP and other organizations to develop pro-poor markets for biodiversity-related ecosystem services.

C. Mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant regional developmental processes

20. Mainstreaming the objectives of the Convention into regional processes, with special emphasis on achieving the 2010 biodiversity target, is also essential. To this end, the Secretariat will promote the following initiatives, inter alia, through UNEP’s regional offices:

(a) Cooperation with the five United Nations regional economic commissions will be initiated with a view of enhancing the integration of biodiversity concerns into their regular activities;

(b) Integration of biodiversity issues into the agenda of Ministerial regional environmental meetings such as the African Ministerial Environmental Conference (AMCEN), the Ministerial environmental meetings of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Conference of the Arab Ministers Responsible of the Environment (CAMRE), the Commonwealth environmental meetings of Ministers, and relevant forums within the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the

Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other regional and sub-regional bodies. Agreement has been already reached with the Secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to promote a joint initiative aimed at strengthening the implementation of the biodiversity component of the Action Plan on the Environment Initiative of NEPAD, with a special emphasis on achieving the 2010 biodiversity target. Similar initiatives will be promoted in the context of the Latin America Sustainable Development Initiative, the Caribbean environment programme, the Regional Environment Action Plan for Central Asia, as well as relevant activities under SPREP, ASEAN and other relevant regional and sub-regional bodies;

(c) Enhanced collaboration with regional legal instruments and programmes of relevance to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target such as the Algiers Convention on the Conservation of Natural Resources, and the UNEP regional seas programmes.

D. Enhancing the effectiveness of the national reporting requirements

21. Article 26 of the Convention calls on Parties to submit national reports on measures taken for the implementation of the Convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the Convention. Compliance with this obligation under the Convention has been poor and compares unfavorably with practice in the other biodiversity-related conventions, and in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD):

(a) In decision II/17, the Conference of the Parties requested Parties to submit their first national report. Ten years after the adoption of this decision and after postponing the deadline of submission three times, only 140 Parties only have submitted their first national report;

(b) In decision V/19, the Conference of the Parties requested Parties to submit their second national report by 15 May 2001. Only 15 Parties submitted their report on time. Nearly five years after the agreed deadline only 120 Parties have done so;

(c) In decision VII/25, the Conference of the Parties requested Parties to submit their national report before 15 May 2005. Only 15 reports were submitted on time. By the end of 2005, 56 Parties had submitted their third national reports.

22. The Secretariat will make all efforts to encourage and assist the concerned Parties to submit their outstanding national reports in the course of 2006. The Secretariat will complete its work to revise the guidelines of the fourth national reports to place more emphasis on reporting on progress towards the 2010 target, develop supporting materials (e.g., a manual, including a sample completed report) and establish on-line tools to facilitate inter-agency collaboration in drafting. To facilitate the preparation of such report, and building on the experience of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the possibility of preparing model draft report to be used on a voluntary basis will be explored. The technical expert group referred to in paragraph 15 could also provide assistance to Parties in the preparation of their national reports.

23. Through its biodiversity-enabling activities window, the GEF has since 1996 provided on a regular basis financial resources to assist eligible Parties to prepare and submit their national reports. For the preparation of the third national report US\$ 20,000 have been made available through UNDP and UNEP to all eligible Parties. Taking into account the time constraints, the GEF has adopted expedited procedures through two Medium Sized Projects managed by UNDP and UNEP to assist eligible Parties to implement decision VII/25 B adopted at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Accordingly, lack of financial resources cannot alone explain observed delays. Rather, lack of institutional and of human capacity seem to be the important factors in late submissions. In consultation

with the GEF and its Implementing Agencies, efforts will be made to enhance the capacity of the focal points for the Convention. The possibility of establishing on-line technical support and training through the proposed knowledge management system of the Convention on Biological Diversity will be explored.

24. The Secretariat will establish a mechanism to adequately analyse and feedback information provided by Parties in their national reports, to demonstrate the relevance and importance of national reporting for fostering the implementation of the Convention. For example, success stories and lessons learned will be disseminated through the clearing-house mechanism, side-events at relevant meetings, and regional preparatory meetings. The mechanism could feed in to a larger “country-needs assessment” process, which would establish a database on country’s capacity building needs and priorities, based on national reports, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and reports from other agencies

E. *Facilitating the full use and access to the services provides by the clearing-house mechanism*

25. At the present time, of the 188 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 152 have designated a clearing-house mechanism national focal point (CHM NFP)^{1/} and there are 77 clearing-house mechanism web sites. Despite these significant achievements, 36 Parties have yet to designate their clearing-house mechanism national focal points. Furthermore, many clearing-house mechanism national focal points do not have the capacity to be effective (10 of them have no access to e-mail).

26. In July 2003, the second review of the clearing house mechanism identified the lack of technical capacity at national level as one of the most pressing problems for developing countries and recommended the organization of technical hands-on training workshops to enhance technical know how. As a result, the clearing-house mechanism has been organizing several capacity-building regional workshops on web-based technologies with a special focus on Africa. But more has to be done to address a wider-range of capacity-building needs while re-focusing efforts on the promotion and facilitation of technical and scientific cooperation.

27. To achieve this goal, the Secretariat, in cooperation with partner institutions and multilateral institutions, including the GEF, will enhance efforts to provide appropriate capacity-building to all Parties, according to their needs. First and foremost, a renewed effort will be made to get on board those Parties that have yet to designate their clearing-house mechanism national focal point. Second, as an isolated and ill-equipped clearing-house mechanism national focal point cannot be effective, the Secretariat will undertake to explore with partners adequate solutions to ensure that each national focal point from developing countries has the basic communication facilities it requires to fulfil its terms of reference. Third, training on web-based technologies will help national clearing-house mechanisms establish their web presence. Fourth, assistance will be provided to enhance the contents of national clearing-house mechanism web sites so as to turn them into relevant national biodiversity information dissemination instruments contributing to the achievement of the 2010 target. Fifth, technically advanced national clearing-house mechanisms will be encouraged to set up interoperability mechanisms to automate information exchange with the Secretariat, other Rio conventions or international biodiversity information networks to promote technical cooperation.

28. In the context of exchange of experience and South-South cooperation, national clearing-house mechanisms with the necessary expertise support will be encouraged to assist other clearing-house mechanism counterparts in need of assistance. The possibility of establishing regional clearing-house mechanism nodes to further enhance networking and partnerships will be also explored.

^{1/} See <http://www.biodiv.org/chm/stats.asp> for up-to-date figures.

29. The support will include enhanced guidance manuals, sharing of experiences among national focal points, and further training-of-trainers, taking into account also the experience of other conventions such as the UNFCCC. Workshops may be also organized in conjunction with the meetings of the Convention in the context of the broader efforts of the Secretariat to enhance the provisions of technical services to Parties.

30. The Secretariat will also strengthen the role of the clearing-house mechanism as a central gateway for technological transfer and scientific and technological cooperation, by promoting the transfer of environmentally sound technologies of relevance to the implementation of the Convention and identifying key existing international databases and strengthening interoperability with them; strengthening the role of national clearing-house mechanisms in identifying and disseminating technology-related information; and enhance integration of national clearing-house mechanisms and the central clearing-house. In addition, the Secretariat will explore the possibility of holding regular technology partnership fairs in association with major meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

F. Enhancing the capacity of the focal points for the Convention

31. The national focal points of the Convention have a critical role to play in implementing the Convention. Yet, unlike the Cartagena Protocol which sets out the role of its focal points, the Convention itself makes no reference to the focal points. As suggested by the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, at its meeting in Montreal, in September 2005, there is a need to better clarify the role and responsibility of the focal points and to keep the list updated. The Secretariat will undertake the following initiatives:

(a) A desk review of the experience of the focal points for the Convention will be undertaken, with a view of identifying and dissemination best practice and lessons learned, which could be made available to focal points in the form of a practical manual;

(b) In collaboration with the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, the advisability of piloting the establishment of national biodiversity committees of the focal points of the biodiversity related conventions, including regional conventions, will be explored;

(c) The possibility of an enhanced capacity-building programme for the focal points to be financed by the GEF and executed by its Implementing Agencies in collaboration with the Secretariat will be explored.

G. Making trade and biodiversity mutually beneficial

32. Addressing the linkages between trade and biodiversity issues and, consequently, between the Convention (including its Biosafety protocol) and the international trade regime (in particular the World Trade Organization (WTO)) is an important prerequisite to ensure that the provisions of the Convention and of WTO remain coherent, and to further enhance their mutual supportiveness. It is for this reason that obtaining observer status for the Convention on Biological Diversity in relevant bodies of the WTO has been given emphasis in a number of decisions of the Conference of the Parties. The Convention currently holds observer status in the Committee on Trade and Environment and is invited on an ad hoc basis to the meetings of this Committee in special (negotiating) session. Requests of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for observer status in four other bodies of the WTO (the Council for Trade related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs), the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)) are still pending.

33. While the Secretariat will continue to pursue the requests for observer status, all other means aimed at strengthening the existing cooperative relationship with the WTO Secretariat will be explored in the meantime. In this regard and in line with the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, options for closer cooperation will be explored with the WTO Secretariat, including the development of a memorandum of cooperation, which could build on the experience of, and complement, the existing cooperative arrangement between the WTO and UNEP, concluded in 1999. Regular and proactive exchange of information, including through informal staff briefings, could be one important element of such enhanced cooperation. To this end the establishment of the post of a liaison officer for the Convention to be located in Geneva is being proposed. The CBD liaison officer would not only represent the Convention on Biological Diversity at the WTO, but would also perform the function of representative to a number of other important CBD partners located in Europe, including IUCN, CITES, Ramsar, CMS, UNCTAD, UNESCO, WIPO, FAO and others.

34. Enhancing cooperation and coordination between environment and trade institutions at the national level is a key element in achieving mutually supportiveness, and the Secretariat will stand ready to provide technical support thereon. Such enhanced cooperation could *inter alia* result in the strengthening of the environmental guidelines of Export Credit Agencies. Building on the OECD Common Approaches on Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits, such strengthening could, for instance, include the prioritization for eligibility of exports with positive environmental and biodiversity impacts.

H. South-South cooperation

35. The World Review Summit of the General Assembly held in New York, in September 2005, reaffirmed the achievements and great potential of South-South Cooperation and encouraged such cooperation, which complements North South cooperation, as “an effective contribution to development and as a means to share best practices and enhanced technical cooperation”. The Summit highlighted the potential of South-South cooperation for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, including the biodiversity dimension of goal 7. In close cooperation with the Secretariat of the Group of 77 and China, all efforts will be made to enhance South-South cooperation for the implementation of the Convention. The integration of the biodiversity dimension in the ongoing frameworks of relevance to South-South cooperation, such as the Caracas Programme of Action on South-South cooperation of the Group of 77 and China, the Non-aligned economic programme of action and its relevant institutions, such as the Non aligned Center on Technical Assistance, will be encouraged. The exchange of experiences between developing country regions on management of major ecosystems will be explored, as well as technical assistance among developing countries. In this regard, integration of biodiversity cooperation into relevant international organizations such as the UNDP Special Unit on technical cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) will be considered. Major developing countries in position to do so will be encouraged to share their experience with least developed countries, and in particular African countries and small island developing States.

36. A particular focus of such activities could be cooperation among countries sharing similar biomes, for example, among those countries of the Amazon basin, Congo basin and South-East Asia, with extensive tropical forests.

IV. ENHANCING THE ENGAGEMENT OF MAJOR GROUPS

37. As emphasized by Agenda 21 and the relevant provisions of the Convention, achieving the biodiversity dimension of sustainable development and the effective implementation of the Convention requires the active involvement of all segments of the society and, in particular its major groups. The Convention has succeeded, so far, in engaging major stakeholders, including indigenous peoples, in the

development of its policy framework, where they have played a crucial role. Likewise, the major groups have a critical role to play during the enhanced implementation phase of the Convention, and in particular on issues related to the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target. Indeed an objective of the Strategic Plan of the Convention is that “Key actors and stakeholders, including the private sector, are engaged in a partnership to implement the Convention and are integrating biodiversity concerns into their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies”.

38. Based on decisions of the Conference of the Parties and relevant provisions of the Convention, the Secretariat will systematically enhance its efforts to enhance the engagement of all stakeholders in the Convention, including: indigenous and local communities; women, youth and children; the scientific community; the non-governmental community; the private sector; parliamentarians; and local authorities. To this end, focal points within the Secretariat will be designated for each of the major groups of the Convention. To facilitate the involvement of major groups in meetings of the Convention, virtual international conferences will be organized, where appropriate, building upon the experience of the first such conference to be organized in preparation for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

A. Indigenous and local communities

39. The Heads of State and Government attending the historic 2005 World Summit of the United Nations General Assembly held in New York in September 2005 recognized “that the sustainable development of indigenous peoples and their communities is crucial in our fight against hunger and poverty;”. They reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the spirit and letter of Article 8(j) of the Convention.

40. Indigenous and local communities have engaged in the implementation of the Convention in many ways including through partnership projects ^{2/} such as the International Expert Meeting on Traditional Forest-Related Knowledge and the Implementation of Related International Commitments which was held in San Jose, Costa Rica, from 6 to 10 December 2004, which provided a critical analysis of the implementation of the commitments of Parties to the Convention from an indigenous and local community perspective.

41. Further initiatives such as the recently adopted UNEP/GEF Medium Size Project on Indigenous Peoples’ Network for Changes aims at increasing awareness and capacity of indigenous and local communities and their greater involvement in the Convention’s processes, with a particular focus on women, will assist indigenous and local communities to more effectively participate in Convention processes with a renewed emphasis on implementation. This project, to be executed by the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests (ITAITPTF), and comprising representatives of 61 countries from nine regions, will enhance the participation of women from indigenous and local communities in support of the implementation phase of the Convention.

42. A fundamental principle of the programme of work for Article 8(j) has been the participation of indigenous and local communities in the work of the Convention. Participation has notably improved over time and could improve further through such mechanisms as the traditional knowledge information portal of the clearing-house mechanism, and the establishment of the voluntary funding mechanism. However, in contrast to groups representing indigenous peoples, the involvement of local communities ^{3/} has been limited for various reasons, including the lack of community infrastructure or representative groups. In fulfilling the mandate and programme of work for Article 8(j) and related provisions, it may

^{2/} This conference was a partnership between the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests, in association with Asociación Ixacavaa, the Government of Costa Rica, and the Secretariats of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

^{3/} Local communities include a rich complexity of non-indigenous traditional rural communities whose economic activities and cultural identities are based upon their uses of specific assemblages of plant and animal diversity.

be useful to consider targeted outreach to local communities, with the view of more fully involving them in Convention processes. With this in mind, the focal point for indigenous and local communities will give added emphasis to involving local communities in the work of the Convention with renewed emphasis of implementation.

B. Women

43. Women are major stakeholders in the Convention, in view of their close relationship to nature. In developing countries, in particular the least developed countries among them, biodiversity is vital for women's survival, well-being and empowerment, and for the survival of their families. As mothers and care-givers, women have a crucial role in educating future generations to care for the environment, and are often particularly concerned about the long-term consequences of biodiversity loss. It is for these reasons that the preamble of the Convention on Biological Diversity recognizes "the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity" and affirms "the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policymaking and implementation for biological diversity conservation". The workshop on indigenous women and biodiversity organized in Nairobi prior to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties called for the active and equal participation of women, especially from indigenous and local communities, for the implementation of the Convention.

44. In collaboration with relevant international organizations, and in particular the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Women, Environment and Development Organization, activities will be encouraged to enhance women's participation in the implementation of the Convention, focusing on their contribution to achieving the 2010 biodiversity target. A ministerial caucus of Women and Biodiversity, in conjunction with meetings of the Conference of the Parties, will be encouraged. A focal point within the Secretariat to encourage the active engagement of women in the enhanced era of implementation of the Convention has been already designated.

C. Children, youth and biodiversity

45. Youth make up almost one fifth of the world population. In developing countries, the children and youth are the majority segment of the society. Indeed 85 per cent of the youth in the world live in developing countries. Young people, as the leaders of tomorrow, are well-placed, and should be given opportunities, to shape and shift the present-day decisions that will impact on their future. The nexus between youth and environment was reaffirmed by chapter 25 of Agenda 21 which calls for "advancing the role of youth and actively involving them in the protection of the environment and the promotion of economic and social development". The tremendous potential of youth both as catalysts for change as well as major stakeholders of the Convention has yet to be fully tapped. Today's young generation has a tremendous contribution to make for the successful implementation of the threefold objective of the Convention, especially during its enhanced implementation phase. The possibility of establishing a Global Biodiversity Youth Forum in conjunction with meetings of the Conference of the Parties will be explored in consultation with UNEP's youth activities. The UNEP Division of Communication and Information has agreed to enhance the biodiversity component of its vibrant on going children and youth programmes such as the Youth Forum and Tunza programme. Collaboration with other youth networks such as the Children and Youth Unit of the World Bank and its Youth and Environment Team (YET), as well as Youth to Youth Commitment (Y2Y), will be explored. A partnership agreement with UNICEF will also be considered. A focal point within the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the children and youth has been already designated.

D. Non-governmental organizations

46. The NGO community has played a leading role in promoting the environmental agenda, including its biodiversity component. It has made a distinct contribution in promoting the very idea of a

biodiversity Convention, in its negotiation and in the development of the Convention's policy framework. During the enhanced implementation phase of the Convention, the NGO community will continue to have a major role to play. The establishment of a global NGO forum prior to the meetings of the Conference of the Parties will offer an appropriate framework for dialogue in support of the Convention's processes and an opportunity to catalyze the efforts of the NGO community for the achievement of the 2010 target. In order to enhance the role of NGOs in the implementation of the Convention, it was agreed that UNDP/Small Grant Programme financed by the GEF will take the lead in piloting the implementation of the 2010 biodiversity target in selected countries. A focal point within the Secretariat has been designated to act as an interlocutor with and a facilitator of the NGO community.

E. Scientific community

47. In support of the enhanced implementation era of the Convention, the scientific community, particularly from developing countries, needs to be mobilized. The Secretariat will seek to catalyse this by implementing the operational plan of SBSTTA, and working in partnership with partners such as UNEP, its Science Initiative, and the refocused Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the GEF, UNESCO, DIVERSITAS, the International Council for Science, national academies of science and the scientific societies. The Secretariat will encourage the establishment of a science forum for the 2010 biodiversity target. Together, these initiatives will provide an opportunity to further engage the scientific community on a more systematic basis. The establishment of a high-level scientific advisory panel comprising five to ten eminent experts selected on their personal capacity to advise the Executive Secretary on emerging scientific issues of relevance to the implementation of the Convention will be explored. If established, the panel would meet mainly through teleconferencing.

F. Private sector

48. Article 10(e) of the Convention commits Parties to encourage cooperation between government authorities and the private sector in developing methods for sustainable use of biological diversity. Objective 4.4 of the Strategic Plan aims that "key actors and stakeholders, including the private sector, are engaged in partnership to implement the Convention". However, the private sector remains, arguably, the least involved in the implementation of the Convention of all major stakeholder groups, yet the daily activities of business and industry have major impacts on biodiversity. By implementing and promoting better biodiversity practices, business and industry have the potential to make a significant contribution towards the objectives of the Convention. The need to realize this potential to achieve the 2010 target was recognized by the recent Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention. Increasingly, business and industry are acknowledging the need to integrate biodiversity and broader environmental considerations into their operations to sustain their productivity and profitability in the long-term, especially in the face of growing consumer demand for green products and services. Industry leaders in sectors ranging from agriculture to finance are already taking steps to improve their biodiversity practices, and are working through industry associations or multistakeholder partnerships to raise awareness about biodiversity and to develop and promote good-practice guidance.

49. The Secretariat will build on this experience, as well as on the outcomes of the Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge meetings (held in London, on 20 and 21 January 2005 and in São Paulo, from 3 to 5 November 2005) to increase private sector engagement in the implementation of the Convention substantially by 2010. It will establish forums for dialogue with industry leaders, catalyse and contribute to the development of good practice tools and guidance, work to integrate biodiversity into existing business and environment initiatives, including the global reporting and finance initiatives of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, work with the World Bank's International Finance Corporation to mainstream biodiversity concerns into private investment, and explore other innovative approaches to private sector engagement. A focal point within the Secretariat has been already designated as an interlocutor with the business community.

G. Parliamentarians

50. The parliamentarians of the world will need also to be further engaged on issues related to the implementation of the Convention, as their role will be crucial in enacting the necessary laws and regulations required to translate at national level the body of policy and guidelines developed by the Convention. Collaboration with the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), as well as regional unions and Globe will be enhanced. The possibility of a dedicated newsletter addressed to parliamentarians on issues related to biodiversity will be considered. A staff member within the Secretariat will act as a focal point with the legislators.

H. Local authorities

51. Local authorities have a significant role in the implementation of the objectives of the Convention. Their activities have a direct or indirect bearing on biodiversity, in areas such as land-use planning and development control, maintenance and development of physical infrastructure, organization of awareness-raising and educational programmes, waste management and pollution control. Agenda 21 recognizes the unique contribution of local communities in promoting the environmental dimension of sustainable development. As a result, local Agenda 21 campaigns were launched, through which local authorities in many countries were encouraged to develop biodiversity action plans. Yet, in many countries, owing to lack of capacity, local authorities have not efficiently integrated the threefold objective of the Convention into their planning and management functions. The Secretariat will liaise with relevant institution to encourage greater involvement of local communities in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention. A partnership with UN-Habitat on Cities and Biodiversity will be established.

V. OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

52. Article 13 of the Convention, on public education and awareness, is key to achieving the objectives of the Convention. The Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) provides a structured and coordinated approach for the successful implementation of Article 13. Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan provides the umbrella within which further development and implementation of biodiversity communication, education and public awareness initiatives could be carried out. The Secretariat will strengthen its capacity for outreach and communication, including closer work with the media. The Secretariat will also facilitate the establishment of national implementation structures for CEPA activities, developing a pilot audit methodology on national CEPA knowledge and a pilot national implementation toolkit, organizing regional workshops to develop national CEPA strategies, and developing infrastructure and support for the global initiative. Building upon the experience of the clearing-house mechanism and other initiatives such as “CC:iNet” of the UNFCCC, the Secretariat will strengthen its information dissemination activities on public awareness, information and training, in order to facilitate implementation of Article 13 of the Convention. The possibility of establishing a “CBD:iNet” will be explored .

53. The celebration on 22 May of International Biodiversity Day will be used as an opportunity to raise public awareness. Drawing on UNEP’s experience with World Environment Day, the celebration of 2006 Biodiversity Day will be led by the host country of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the host of the Secretariat. The possibility of inviting the United Nations General Assembly to proclaim the celebration of 2008 as the International Year on Biodiversity will be explored. Such a decision would assist in launching a worldwide campaign for the achievement of the 2010 target. On opening the first ministerial segment of the Conference of the Parties on 7 December 1994, in Nassau, Bahamas, the Executive Director of UNEP announced her intention to establish an international biodiversity prize. The possibility of establishing such an international prize on biodiversity, based on UNEP’s experience in managing environmental prizes, will be considered, in consultation with interested

parties. The possibility of including a youth category of such a prize will be also considered. The prize would be announced on the occasion of the International Biodiversity Day.

54. To mark the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the permanent Secretariat in Montreal, and with a view to mobilizing the support of the citizens of Canada for the enhanced implementation phase of the Convention, the possibility of establishing a non profit organization to be called “the Friends of the CBD “ will be explored . If established the first assembly will be held in conjunction with the 2006 celebration of the International Day on Biodiversity.

VI. ENHANCING THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL SERVICES OF THE SECRETARIAT AND PROMOTING INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

55. In fulfilling its terms of reference during the biennium 2007-2008, the Secretariat will build on the significant progress so far achieved in the implementation of the Convention while enhancing, in accordance with its mandate and the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, the quality of its services and technical support to Parties, especially the developing country Parties, and in particular the least developed countries and the small islands developing States, among them. The Secretariat will also enhance its role in promoting inter-agency collaboration in support of the implementation of the Convention.

A. Enhancing the provision of technical services of the Secretariat

56. The Secretariat of the Convention has played a major role in assisting Parties to develop the rich policy framework of the Convention. During the enhanced implementation era of the Convention, the Secretariat, in accordance with its mandate, in light of the requests being received from Parties, in particular the least developed countries, and based on the experience gained by the secretariats of the other Rio conventions and other biodiversity-related conventions, needs to enhance its role as a service provider in assisting countries to enhance the national implementations tools of the Convention. In doing so, the Secretariat will mainly rely on the operational capacity of the bilateral and multilateral operational entities including the Implementing and Executing Agencies of its financial mechanism. As set out earlier in this note, the Secretariat will enhance its technical and advisory support to Parties for the preparation, implementation and revision of national biodiversity strategies, plans and programmes and in the preparation and review of national reports, as well as the integration of biodiversity in productive sector and national policies and plans.

57. The Secretariat will also be guided by the experience gained in the implementation of relevant initiatives such as the European Biodiversity Services and the UNEP/UNDP Biodiversity Planning Support Programme. To this end, UNDP has accepted to assist the Secretariat in establishing a knowledge management system to support Parties in the implementation of the Convention, focusing on the 2010 biodiversity target. Ways and means to enhance the technical support activities being provided by the clearing-house mechanism under the Convention will be further explored.

58. Experience indicates that the focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity are faced with insufficient administrative, technical and institutional capacity at national level. The provision of technical training to the focal points of the Convention is essential in equipping them to raise to the challenges of the implementation phase of the Convention. With the support of GEF, technical and scientific training workshops for the Convention on Biological Diversity and SBSTTA focal points will be organized through UNDP and UNEP in conjunction with regular meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary organs. In this context, the establishment of a biodiversity virtual academy in collaboration with selected regional centres of excellence will be explored.

59. All efforts will be made to enhance the biodiversity component of the training initiatives currently undertaken by UNEP under relevant programmes such as Montevideo Programme III for the first decade of the twenty-first century or the Partnership for Development of Environmental Law and Institution in Africa (PADELIA). The Secretariat will make full use of the third international environmental law-making and diplomacy course organized jointly by UNEP and the University of Joensuu (Finland) which will focus on biodiversity. Discussion has been initiated with the new Director of the UNEP collaborative centre, the World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (WCMC), to enhance its support to responding to the technical assistance needs of the Convention.

60. The Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building, adopted by the twenty-third session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environmental Forum held in Nairobi, February 2005 aims at a more coherent and effective delivery of UNEP capacity-building and technological support at all levels, including at country level. The ninth extraordinary session of the Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum to be held in Dubai in February 2006 will adopt an implementation plan in collaboration with UNDP and the GEF. All 13 areas of the indicative list of the technology support and capacity-building contained in the Bali Plan have direct relevance to the implementation of the Convention. In addition, out of the 19 thematic areas identified in this plan, at least 10 are related to the Convention. Accordingly, agreement has been reached with UNEP to take into account the technology support and capacity-building needs of the Convention during the implementation phase of the Bali Plan. Appropriate collaborative arrangements will be agreed upon immediately after the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

61. Options for strengthening collaborative arrangements will be explored with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to respond to the training needs of the Convention. The Secretariat will initiate also a dialogue with UNESCO for enhancing the biodiversity component of activities to be undertaken under the United Nations Decade on Sustainable Development Education.

62. The recently adopted joint UNDP/UNEP project financed by the GEF on the global support programme to assist eligible countries to prepare their National Capacity-Building Needs Assessment of the three Rio conventions, including the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as the implementation of the potential 153 national capacity-building needs assessment, will offer a unique opportunity to address in a comprehensive manner the capacity-building needs of all eligible Parties of the Convention. The success of this initiative, implemented under the GEF strategic approach to capacity development, will require enhanced inter-agency collaboration including with GEF and its implementing/executing agencies, in support to the implementation of the Convention. The Secretariat will also enhance its capacity-building efforts to assist countries to finalize and implement their national biosafety frameworks.

63. The Secretariat will also strengthen its capacity to facilitate the mobilization of resources in support of the activities of Parties to implement the Convention and attain the 2010 biodiversity target. This will include work to identify, promote and provide advice on request to Parties about sources, innovative methods and incentives for mobilizing and channelling available resources, including through NGO and private sector entities. The Secretariat will promote actions leading to cooperation and coordination between Parties and resource providers (e.g., targeting financial institutions, and further increasing awareness of the Convention among identified foundations, academic institutions, NGOs and other private sector entities and facilitate contacts with them by interested Parties) and among Parties (e.g., disseminate best practices).

64. Many of the activities proposed in this note will require extra-budgetary financial resources. In order to mobilize the necessary resources, in a timely and predictable way, and in line with agreed priorities, the Secretariat will seek to establish a medium-and long-term partnership with major donors through a multi-year financing programme. To this end, annual meetings will be held with potential

donors. The first such meeting will be organized immediately after the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, preferably back-to-back with a meeting of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

B. Promoting inter-agency collaboration

65. The enhanced implementation era of the Convention further requires strengthened inter-agency collaboration. The Secretariat's activities in this regard will include:

(a) Enhanced cooperation with and within the entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention, *inter alia*, through a high-level dialogue between the Executive Secretary, the Chief Executive Officer of the Executive Coordinators of the GEF Implementing and Executing Agencies. Such a high-level dialogue will aim at facilitating the finalization of the operational modalities for the implementation of the guidance from the Conference of the Parties to the financial mechanism;

(b) Dialogue among international organizations in the framework of the Environmental Management Group (EMG) which has been established by the Secretary General, according to a mandate of the United Nations General Assembly for the purpose of enhancing United Nations system wide agency coordination in the field of environment and human settlements. It comprises the specialized agencies, the United Nations programmes and agencies, the Bretton Woods Institutions, WTO and the Secretariat of the Multilateral Environment Agreements, including the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development calls for strengthened inter-agency collaboration through the EMG using an issue-management and problem-solving approach. The idea of establishing a biodiversity issue-management group within the EMG for achieving the 2010 biodiversity target will be pursued. An inter-agency task force on the 2010 target at the level of head of agencies has been also suggested. The recent establishment of the liaison group of the biodiversity-related Conventions, as well as the joint liaison group of the Rio conventions, are major initiatives aimed at enhancing synergies and complementarities for achieving the objectives of the Convention. All efforts will be made to continue enhancing the effectiveness of these two mechanisms.

C. Reducing the environmental impact of the Convention processes, including the operations of the Secretariat

66. The processes of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including its meetings, should not contribute to the loss of biodiversity. During the last five years, the Secretariat has used 19 millions sheets of paper. The Secretariat will endeavour to progressively reduce the net environmental footprint of its activities, and will develop a detailed plan to this end. As an initial commitment, the Secretariat's consumption of paper will be reduced by at least 10 per cent over the next biennium. Among other initial steps, an agreement has been reached with the President of the Green Belt Movement, Mrs. Wangari Maathai, the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, to establish a mechanism to offset carbon emissions from Secretariat travel, through the planting of native trees to maintain or restore biodiversity—thus creating rich habitats while supporting local livelihoods. The agreement will be signed during the High-level Segment of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and donors are encouraged to provide financial resources for the implementation of this innovative agreement. Further, in cooperation with the host authorities, steps are being taken to reduce the environmental footprint of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties itself.

D. Training of staff

67. In order to assist the staff of the Secretariat — both Professional and General Service — to rise to the challenges of the enhanced implementation era of the Convention, training workshops will be

organized in a “biodiversity learning week”, organized in collaboration with major Canadian universities and other centres of excellence in early May 2006, to be followed on 29-30 May 2006 by a team-building exercise aimed at enhancing the collaborative spirit and cooperative work of the Secretariat.

VII. CONCLUSION

68. Because biodiversity is all life on Earth, in its various forms and wherever it is found, the scope and breadth of the Convention are the major challenges facing its Parties. The success of the enhanced implementation era, beginning in this second decade of the Convention’s existence, will depend on a strategic and programmatic approach, with clear priorities and achievable results. Enhancing the human and institutional capacity of the stakeholders of the Convention in developing countries and, in particular, in the least developed countries and the small island developing States among them, will be crucial to the success of this new phase. The role of the financial mechanism of the Convention, and that of UNEP under the Bali Strategic Plan on Technological Support and Capacity-Building, will be vital in ensuring the success of the enhanced implementation phase of the Convention and the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target.

69. An annual report of the Secretariat will be issued starting with 2006 in order to keep Parties and all stakeholders fully informed of the implementation of the Convention’s process and as an additional tool to raise public awareness. In order to ensure a greater transparency and financial accountability an audit of the Secretariat expenditure by the United Nations Independent Board of Auditors will be undertaken on a biennium basis and the report submitted to the Conference of the Parties.
