



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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

Thirteenth meeting

Cancun, Mexico, 4-17 December 2016

Item 6 of the provisional agenda<sup>\*</sup>

### **DATE AND VENUE OF FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENTS THAT OFFERED TO HOST THE FOURTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH MEETINGS**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Pursuant to the invitation extended by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting for interested Parties to notify the Executive Secretary of their offers to host the fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the corresponding meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols (decision XII/35, paras. 1 and 2), the Governments of Egypt and Turkey offered to host the fourteenth meeting and the Governments of China and Peru offered to host the fifteenth meeting.

2. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation, at its first meeting, in its recommendation 1/11, took note of the interest of the respective Governments, along with a proposal submitted to it by the Secretariat and requested the Executive Secretary to consult with these Governments in order to clarify the requirements for hosting such meetings, including logistical requirements, such as security, technical and financial, and requirements related to privileges and immunities and facilitation of the issuance of visas, with a view to confirming, at least three months prior to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the offers to host the meetings (recommendation 1/11, paras. 5 and 6).

3. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary conducted consultations with the Governments concerned. The Executive Secretary circulated a questionnaire and invited the Governments concerned to provide information clarifying their preparedness to fulfil: (a) logistical; (b) financial; (c) technical; and (d) security, related requirements that they were prepared to provide for the meeting they respectively offered to host.

4. The present document provides a summary of the response received from the Governments of Egypt and Turkey with respect to hosting the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and the Government of China with respect to the hosting of the fifteenth meeting. The full response received from each of the Governments is compiled and made available as information document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/INF/4.

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<sup>\*</sup> UNEP/CBD/COP/13/1.

5. The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties reviewed, at its meeting held in Mexico City on 6 and 7 October 2016, the progress made with respect to the consultations on the hosting of the fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The member from Peru informed the Bureau that, after consultations with the Government of China, Peru was willing to consider hosting an intersessional meeting in preparation for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This arrangement between the two countries was in line with the Executive Secretary's call made in the letter that was communicated earlier accompanying the questionnaire. Egypt and Turkey were also encouraged to have bilateral talks with a view to considering a similar mutually agreed arrangement or possible solution that would facilitate the determination of the host of the fourteenth meeting, by the Conference of the Parties, at its thirteenth meeting.

## II. SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

### A. Egypt

6. Egypt submitted its response to the questionnaire on 1 September 2016. The following is a summary of the responses to the questions related to the core requirements.

Requirement		Response
<b>Logistical</b>	Entity/entities responsible for coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ministries of Environment, Foreign Affairs, Tourism, Agriculture, Interior and Defense, Communications, Governorate of South Sinai and Civil Aviation Authorities.</li> <li>- There is a plan to engage/hire professional conference organizer.</li> </ul>
	Proposed city or venue	Sharm El Sheikh - tourist resort area with small urban settlement. Sharm El Sheikh is well served by resorts and hotels.
	Proposed conference venue	Maritime Jolie Ville Sharm El Sheikh Congress Centre.
	Facilities and services	<p>The Congress Centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- is new, centrally located, with easy access to and from airport and hotels.</li> <li>- is furnished with latest conference equipment, technologies and other conference facilities.</li> <li>- the capacity of the venue could be increased to meet the needs of COP-14 and concurrent meetings through the construction of temporary buildings on the same grounds.</li> </ul> <p>The venue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- has good infrastructure for services such as restaurants and cafeterias, business centre, first aid centre.</li> <li>- complimentary shuttle bus services are provided by the hotels to and from airport.</li> <li>- the Government will also make available dedicated transportation.</li> <li>- is located within easy access to hospitals and banking services.</li> <li>- The nearest medical facility is 7 km away from conference venue.</li> <li>- There are many hotels of all grades with different capacities within walking distance of the venue.</li> </ul>
<b>Financial</b>	Budgetary provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An initial US\$ 7.5 million has been approved. There is also indication of commitment to allocate further funds based on the needs of the meetings as specified in the annexes to the sample host government</li> </ul>

Requirement		Response
		<p>agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commitment to make budgetary provisions for construction of temporary buildings and to engage a professional conference organizer apart from the initial provision.</li> <li>- Commitment to make funding available to cover the cost of participation of higher-level officials in line with previous COP practices apart from the initial provision.</li> </ul>
	Timeline to transfer the funds necessary to cover the Secretariat's additional costs expected	90 days prior to the start of the meetings.
	Provisions for a high-level segment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Government is prepared to host a high-level segment and make funding available to cover the cost of participation of higher-level officials (ministers and vice-ministers) from least developed countries and small island developing States in line with previous COP practices.</li> <li>- The Government is prepared to facilitate the convening of meetings or events by different sectors by, inter alia, offering meeting rooms, exhibition areas, local support staff, and other logistics, as appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>Technical</b>	Privileges and immunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Egypt is a party to the relevant conventions on privileges and immunities.</li> <li>- It hosts regional offices of several United Nations entities and international and regional organizations which enjoy appropriate privileges and immunities.</li> <li>- No restrictions on any national or international media and press to access the venue provided they fulfil the requirements pertaining to the registration of media and press personnel set by the State Information Service.</li> </ul>
	Visa arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No constraints on participants with regard to obtaining entry visas.</li> <li>- Visa is required for ordinary passport holders from 39 countries.</li> <li>- Visa upon arrival will be granted for travellers on diplomatic, official/service passports.</li> <li>- A liaison officer with experience in international meetings will be appointed to facilitate visa upon arrival for delegates from countries with no Egyptian diplomatic representation.</li> </ul>
<b>Security</b>	Arrangements to comply with the United Nations Enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Government is committed to providing the necessary security with extra security arrangements for ministers attending the high-level segment.</li> <li>- The Government is committed to accepting the authority of the United Nations over the premises for the period of the meetings, and access thereto shall be subject to United Nations authority and control. The</li> </ul>

Requirement		Response
	Minimum Operating Security Standards as applicable to the country or venue	premises, including any information and communications facilities located thereon, shall be inviolable for the whole period during which the premises are at the disposal of the United Nations.

### B. Turkey

7. The Government of Turkey submitted its response on 2 September 2016. The following is a summary of the responses to the questions related to the core requirements:

Requirement		Response
<b>Logistical</b>	Entity/entities responsible for coordination	- Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, Governorship of Istanbul. - An event organizing company will be engaged.
	Proposed city or venue	Istanbul - major hub for international and regional meetings.
	Proposed conference venue	Lütfi Kırdar International Convention and Exhibition Centre and Istanbul Congress Centre (Congress Valley).
	Facilities and services	- Both Centres are in the same grounds, thus walking between them is possible. - The Congress Valley is in the city centre of Istanbul, there are many services available in close proximity of the venue. - The International Convention and Exhibition Centre is served by a metro service. The nearest station is about 500 m from the Centre. - Istanbul is well served with hotels of all ranks. There are several hotels within walking distance to the venue. - The Government is committed to selecting a number of hotels and negotiate favourable rates for the meetings. - The closest medical facility is 2 km away from conference venue. - The Government will organize dedicated transportation to and from designated hotels and airport.
<b>Financial</b>	Budgetary provision	- Planned to make available a budget in the amount of US\$ 21,321,075. - Commitment to sponsor two delegates from each of developing countries to be represented at the meetings.
	Timeline to transfer the funds necessary to cover the Secretariat's	February and April 2018.

<b>Requirement</b>		<b>Response</b>
	additional costs expected	
	Provisions for a high-level segment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prepared to convene and host a high-level segment.</li> <li>- A budget of US\$ 529,520 will be allocated to sponsor the officials/participants of the high-level segment.</li> <li>- Transportation and security protection will be provided for the participants in the high-level segment.</li> <li>- Prepared to facilitate the convening of meetings or events by different sectors and to provide some funding support.</li> </ul>
<b>Technical</b>	Privileges and immunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is a Party to the 1946 Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and the 1959 Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Atomic Energy Agency.</li> <li>- Privileges and immunities of representatives of States, United Nations officials, experts on mission for United Nations and participants invited to a meeting by United Nations, visa and entry permits, the status of the meeting premises, security measures, liability and settlement of disputes are regulated under the Framework Agreement Between United Nations and the Republic of Turkey on Arrangements Regarding Privileges and Immunities and Certain Other Matters Concerning United Nations Conferences and Meetings Held in Turkey, signed on 23 February 2011.</li> </ul>
	Visa arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commitment to take all necessary measures to facilitate and ensure the unimpeded entry and exit and free movement for the staff and officials identified by the Secretariat as participating in the meetings.</li> <li>- Detailed list of requirements per country is provided.</li> <li>- Visas upon arrival are granted exceptionally but can be arranged upon receipt of a list of delegates from the Secretariat.</li> <li>- All necessary measures to facilitate and ensure the unimpeded entry and exit and free movement for members of the international press will be taken in coordination and cooperation with the Secretariat.</li> </ul>
<b>Security</b>	Arrangements to comply with the United Nations Enhanced Minimum Operating Security Standards as applicable to the country or venue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Armed police will be made available by Governorship of Istanbul to support the security of the meetings.</li> <li>- Additional security measures will also be appropriately taken on the basis of requirements identified in consultation with the Governorship of Istanbul and the United Nations Department of Safety and Security. Furthermore, all hotels which will be selected together with the relevant United Nations staff shall have their own security.</li> </ul>

**C. China**

8. The Government of China submitted its response on 5 September 2016. The following is a summary of the responses to the questions related to the core requirements:

<b>Requirement</b>		<b>Response</b>
<b>Logistical</b>	Entity/entities responsible for coordination	Ministry of Environmental Protection of China, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Public Security and General Administration of Customs, and other agencies, as appropriate.
	Proposed city or venue	Beijing - major hub for international and regional meetings and other events.
	Proposed conference venue	China National Convention Centre – about 30-minute drive to the Beijing Capital International Airport (BCIA).
	Facilities and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plenary hall can accommodate 6,000 delegates in a theatre style.</li> <li>- 25 hotels pre-selected. Government is committed to negotiating favourable rates for the participants of the meetings.</li> <li>- The Convention Centre is equipped to provide catering services for 10,000 to 15,000 people simultaneously, including a variety of restaurants, eateries, catering around the Olympic Park.</li> <li>- A number of hotels, hospitals, shopping centres, communication and business centres, and several banking services are available at the Centre or in proximity.</li> </ul>
<b>Financial</b>	Budgetary provision	A total budget of around US\$ 10 million.
	Timeline to transfer the funds necessary to cover the Secretariat's additional costs expected	No later than 90 days prior to the date of the meetings.
	Provisions for a high-level segment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plans to prepare for the organization of a high-level segment with necessary interpretation, including inviting high-level officials leading efforts to draft the outcome document.</li> <li>- Prepared to provide financial support for participants from least developed countries and small island developing States.</li> <li>- Support for parallel events, such as the civil society forum, indigenous forum, youth forum, and the cities summit, is contemplated.</li> </ul>
<b>Technical</b>	Privileges and immunities	- China is a Party to the relevant convention on privileges and immunities and is prepared to fulfil the obligations required under these conventions.

<b>Requirement</b>		<b>Response</b>
	Visa arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Government is willing to provide assistance for all participants, staff and officials identified by the Secretariat in terms issuance of visas.</li> <li>- Visa upon arrival is not contemplated in Chinese law. Visa waivers, including the waiving of fees, will follow the principle of reciprocity or bilateral agreements.</li> <li>- The Government will designate specially-assigned person to facilitate visa issuance for participants in the meetings when necessary.</li> </ul>
<b>Security</b>	Arrangements to comply with the United Nations Enhanced Minimum Operating Security Standards as applicable to the country or venue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Government will make arrangements to support and guarantee the security and safety of the meetings.</li> <li>- Chinese laws shall be applicable to the venue, but the premises are inviolable.</li> <li>- Relevant measures to be implemented will be specified in the host government agreement.</li> </ul>

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