



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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JAKARTA MANDATE ON MARINE AND COASTAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

First Meeting of Experts

Jakarta, Indonesia

7 to 10 March 1997

Proposed Mechanism of Work by the Meeting of Experts (Agenda item 6)

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Decision II/10, paragraph 7, instructs the Executive Secretary to provide, in accordance with Annex II of that decision, the SBSTTA with scientific, technical, and technological advice and options for recommendations to the COP in further elaborating the recommendations contained in recommendation I/8, with the exception of paragraphs 3 and 4.
2. Paragraph 4(b), Annex II of Decision II/10 further provides, that the Executive Secretary shall produce, among other relevant documents, annual reports to the SBSTTA, submitted 90 days prior to each meeting of that body. The first annual report will have to include a three-year work plan.
3. In addition, SBSTTA-2 requested that the Meeting of Experts assist the Executive Secretary in identifying priorities for implementing Decision II/10, identifying options for a pragmatic but comprehensive approach in addressing marine and coastal biodiversity, and identifying products, timetables, and ways and means in line with paragraph 1(b), 1(c) and 7 of Decision II/10.

4. Formulating a realistic three-year workplan will be a crucial phase in the development of the Jakarta Mandate. Although the Jakarta Mandate provides guidance as to the methods and approaches to be used in this regard, its operationalization requires further elaboration. In assisting the Executive Secretary with the formulation of the workplan, the Meetings of Experts, in particular the first Meeting, are to play an important role.

5. The role of the Meetings of Experts is an important component of the overall three-year workplan. Before assisting the Executive Secretary in the formulation of the workplan, and before discussing substantive issues, it is necessary to define more precisely the mechanism of work of the Meetings as such. To facilitate this discussion the present document suggests a four step approach.

II. The Meetings of Experts: a proposed mechanism of work

6. In translating the terms of reference in the Jakarta Mandate into a practical working format, the Meetings may consider a four-step approach. It is meant as a structure for the discussion on the substantive issues. Moreover, application of the approach to substantive issues will result in building blocks for the over-all three-year workplan. The approach can at the same time serve as a format for reporting to the Executive Secretary.

7. The four-step approach is believed to be standardized enough to ensure continuity in a structure where the personal composition of the Meeting of Experts changes, yet flexible enough to be applied to the wide array of issue-areas covered by the Jakarta Mandate. The four steps are outlined below and references are made to the corresponding elements of the Jakarta Mandate.

THE FIRST STEP: PROVIDING SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND TECHNICAL INSIGHT

8. The first step may be understood as a detailed introduction to the issue-area under review by the Meeting. The work done by SBSTTA in Recommendation I/8, in particular the Annex to that recommendation, should be used as a point of departure to avoid duplication of work.

9. Matters for consideration within the first step include:

- (a) specifying the need to address a certain issue-area;
- (b) identifying the knowledge base, including indigenous knowledge, and, where relevant, state-of-the-art technologies and know how, relating to the issue under review; and
- (c) identifying the gaps in knowledge with respect to the issue.

10. This step responds in particular to Decision II/10, paragraphs 1 and 7; Decision II/10, Annex II, paragraphs 1, 2(a) and 2(b); Recommendation II/10, (ii).

THE SECOND STEP: DEVELOPING A COLLABORATIVE NETWORK

11. The second step involves two distinctive elements. It first requires an analysis of which other entities or processes are, or will be, addressing the topic under review. Secondly, it should identify where opportunities exist for the establishment of collaborative linkages between the CBD process and other structures. The objective is to formulate specific proposals in this regard.

12. Entities or processes which are relevant here include, but are not limited to:

(a) biodiversity related conventions, including regional conventions;

(b) intergovernmental organizations;

(c) non-governmental organizations;

(d) research institutions and programmes; and

(e) international and regional scientific bodies.

13. In the present context, the Meeting is reminded of existing Memoranda of Cooperation, for examples those between the CBD Secretariat and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

14. In making proposals for the development a collaborative network, the Meeting may also wish to invite Parties to be lead countries for a specific issue addressed in the Jakarta Mandate, especially to accommodate the required focus on regional approaches. In identifying lead countries, the Meeting may call upon those Parties which already play an instrumental or administrative role in relevant regional conventions or frameworks.

15. This step responds in particular to: Decision II/10, paragraphs 4 and 13; Decision II/10, Annex II, paragraphs 2(c) and 3(b); Recommendation II/10 , (iii), (iv) and paragraph 3.

THE THIRD STEP: FORMULATING GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND IMMEDIATE POSITIVE ACTION

16. In the third step, the Meeting formulates guiding principles and suggest immediate positive

action with regard to the topic under review.

17. Guiding principles: The integration of specific biodiversity considerations, including ecosystem approaches, into national policies and programmes of relevant entities and institutions, requires the formulation of general guidelines with regard to the issue under review. The objective is to ensure a coherent and consistent interpretation of the objectives of the Convention with regard marine and coastal biodiversity.

18. Immediate positive action: Both the Jakarta Mandate and the preamble of the Convention prescribe the application of the precautionary approach. This requires identifying options for immediate action, despite a possible limited knowledge base and the need to conduct further research and assessments. Therefore the Meeting is invited to formulate those (priority and precautionary) measures which can be recommended to the Conference of the Parties by the SBSTTA, following the consideration of the annual reports of the Executive Secretary.

19. This step responds in particular to: Decision II/10, paragraphs 7 and 8; Decision II/10, Annex II, paragraphs 3(a) and 4(a); Recommendation II/10.

THE FOURTH STEP: FURTHER PLANNING AND EVALUATION

20. It is envisaged that in the fourth step the Meeting formulate specific activities required to further elaborate the issue under review. Such proposals may either follow from findings in the first three steps, or augment conclusions and proposals formulated in the first three steps. Part of this follow-up process should be the development of methods to monitor and evaluate progress of proposed actions by the Meeting.

21. Several different types of activities may be proposed by the Meeting, depending on the characteristics and special needs of the issue under review, and the financial resources available, in particular:

(a) Indicating the need for additional workshops, or special ad-hoc working groups of experts, on a specific issue, for instance to accommodate regional perspectives, and the identification of Parties and appropriate organizations and institutions to host such activities;

(b) Drafting questionnaires on specific topics with the view of obtaining additional input from the experts on the roster;

(c) Formulating specific scientific, technological and technical tasks and assignments, to be carried out by experts on the roster, under the guidance of the Executive Secretary. Examples of such tasks might include:

(i) gather, compile or synthesize primary information;

(ii) review scientific and technical literature and reports;

(iii) assess data from relevant national, regional and international organizations and institutions;

(iv) compile and report on methodological approaches for assessing the effectiveness of measures taken concerning the issue under review;

(v) conduct surveys of scientific programmes and international cooperation in research development; or,

(vi) conduct surveys of marine activities involving technology transfer and advise on the ways and means of promoting development and/or transferring of technologies.

(d) Formulating questions or requests for specific information from appropriate bodies, entities and actors.

(e) Contributing to the further development of the Convention's clearing house mechanism.

22. This step responds in particular to: Decision II/10, paragraph 8(a), paragraph 13; Decision II/10, Annex II, paragraph 3 (b) and (e); Recommendations II/10, paragraph 2.

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