



CBD



**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL
AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE (SBSTTA)

Third Meeting

Montreal, 1-5 September 1997

SUBMISSIONS ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION

BIODIVERSITY CONVENTION (CBD) MODUS OPERANDI : UK SUBMISSION

1. COP decision III/22 invited parties to submit views on the operations of the Conference of the Parties (COP); the overall review of the medium-term programme of work for 1995-97; and a longer-term programme of work. This document is the United Kingdom's response to this invitation. It has been produced by the UK Government, but builds on the outcome of discussions with a number of outside organisations, held in London on 11 March. This meeting, which was organised jointly with the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development, was also attended by the CBD Executive Secretary.
2. The views in this paper are intended to stimulate and advance a debate on the CBD modus operandi; they do not represent a final UK position.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE

3. The UK regards the issues covered by decision III/22 as among the most important currently facing the Convention. Whatever is decided on other matters, if the way in which the Convention organises and carries out its work programme is not made as effective and efficient as possible, the overall implementation of the Convention will be appreciably weakened. COP4's review of the Convention's modus operandi and work programme provides an opportunity both to review the functioning of the Convention in its first five years, and to agree improvements for the future. The UK therefore sees this issue as one of the most important on the COP's agenda, and is keen to play an active part in helping prepare the ground for a successful outcome at Bratislava.
4. Were we starting from scratch, it would be sensible to identify the needs of the Convention and construct a modus operandi to meet them. In reality of course much of the structure already exists, in the form of the COP, other meetings and bodies, rules of procedure etc. COP4's review therefore needs to concentrate, in a practical way, on the existing status quo and its possible improvement. In doing so it should draw on other sources of relevant experience, including other international agreements both within the biodiversity sphere and beyond.

THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM

5. The UK considers that there are several ways in which the current operation of the Convention is in need of improvement. The existing workloads of both the COPs and the Secretariat are too heavy and likely only to get heavier; the Convention needs better quality and more useable scientific and technical input, particularly from the SBSTTA, than it currently receives; the intersessional preparations do not adequately prepare the ground for the work the COP has to do and the decisions it has to take; there is scope to

improve the participation of various players in the Convention process; the Convention still lacks a proven system for the delivery of results; and there is a case for improved co-ordination between the Convention and other biodiversity-related agreements and organisations. Each of these is now considered in turn.

WORKLOADS

6. There is now wide agreement that work under the Convention needs to be better prioritised, if we are to reverse the trend of an ever-growing COP agenda and lessen the risk of a situation in which no issue receives productive attention. However, while many now pay lip service to the need to prioritise efforts under the Convention, translating this into a more focussed agenda remains a difficult task. All Parties have their own priorities: what is needed is some system for establishing a consensus on the top ones. Such prioritisation might be identified through regional groupings, perhaps via more effective use of the existing structure of regional meetings (see below).

7. It is also timely to review the results of the current thematic treatment of issues, and decide whether or not there is some more effective way of focussing the Convention's resources and attention. While highlighting a particular ecosystem at each COP may appear to add focus, in practice this approach has tended to increase the workload, since much of the agenda is still taken up with progress reports etc on other matters. One solution might be for a revised intersessional body (see below) to monitor progress on most issues, and thereby relieve the COP of much of the preparatory aspects of its work.

8. The arguments about the need to prioritise workloads raised above in relation to the COP apply equally to the work of the Secretariat, which could legitimately expect Parties to do more than they have in the past to offer guidance on prioritising its workload, rather than simply taking every opportunity to add to it. Some of the burden on the Secretariat might be alleviated if more use was made of other sources of support work; this is related, inter alia, to the better exploitation of the services and expertise of other agreements and organisations, including NGOs, referred to below.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INPUT

9. SBSTTA has found it hard to become the purely scientific and technical advisory body the Convention meant it to be. Even were its meetings to consist of a majority of scientists, producing the required balanced and authoritative assessments of technical issues is a demanding task, especially without sufficient preparatory work. Possible responses to these problems include placing greater reliance on assistance commissioned from other expert organisations. Whilst these might add technical weight, they would still need the Secretariat's support, for example by being alerted to political sensitivities surrounding particular issues.

10. Consideration might also be given to the question of whether the CBD does enough to alert potential partner bodies to the opportunities which periodically arise for them to tailor their activities to its work programme. We await the results of the first meetings of experts drawn from the rosters of experts; this experience also needs to be assessed before it is possible to conclude whether or not this represents a productive route to follow.

INTERSESSIONAL PREPARATIONS

11. COP3's decision to move towards less frequent COPs may help tackle the problem of insufficient preparation for COPs, but only if this is supported by effective intersessional structures. The latter could also help tackle the needs to reduce the COP workload, and encourage better-informed and more effective decisions, referred to above. One possibility would be to establish a new subsidiary body on implementation by means of a decision under Article 23.4(g) of the Convention, although the UK shares the widely-felt reluctance to establish yet another body without a very clear case that the role could not be undertaken within the existing set of structures. If the idea seemed attractive, consideration might be given to using as a model the Open-Ended Working Group established by the Meeting Of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

12. An alternative would be to recognise, also by means of a COP decision, that SBSTTA, de facto, has tended to fulfil this role to date, and to make it do so more effectively, possibly by looking elsewhere for the detailed scientific and technical support it is supposed to provide. Consideration would need to be given to whether such outside support should be provided directly to the COP or via the SBSTTA. The latter would seem more appropriate, provided SBSTTA had the time sufficiently to digest and draw it together for presentation to Parties.

13. More effective use could perhaps be made of the current structure of regional meetings. As mentioned above, such meetings could have an important role to play in the process of identifying regional consensus, but this could be done more effectively than in the past if draft papers for the COP were produced early enough for regional consideration to influence their final form. The process might also operate more satisfactorily if a subsidiary body, whether the SBSTTA or a new implementing body, met sufficiently often intersessionally to feed advice and recommendations into a process of consideration first by regional meetings and later by the COP. The aim should be to make it possible for each COP to be presented with well-considered draft decisions before the start of its meeting.

PARTICIPATION IN THE CBD

14. Parties' own participation in the CBD process is of course ultimately for them to decide, but there could be merit in the COP considering whether we are getting the right

sort of expertise to various Convention meetings, and if not whether particular adjustments might help make discussions more productive. As already noted, delegation of scientific work elsewhere would have some impact on participation. Attention might also be given to the operation of the Convention Bureau, given the central role it is supposed to play under the CBD, not least in marshalling and prioritising issues for the agenda. Making sure the Bureau membership is of the highest quality and provides a balance of expertise and interests is clearly important if it is to fulfill a genuinely pivotal role not just at the COP meeting but also intersessionally. Broader issues include whether the Convention draws on the skills and interests of non-Parties, such as NGOs and the private sector, as effectively as it might. Encouraging more active participation from other relevant international fora (see below) is also likely to have an important part to play in efforts to improve the way in which the CBD operates. At the same time, Parties need to avoid the temptation to add to the burdens of others, including the CBD Secretariat, as a substitute for tackling issues more properly dealt with directly by themselves.

DELIVERY OF RESULTS

15. National reports under Article 26, the first due to concentrate on Article 6, are the main way in which the Convention will, in the immediate future, be able to demonstrate concrete progress towards its objectives, an important goal for it to achieve if it is to retain its standing as a major international environmental agreement. National reports in any case have an important part to play, given that the responsibility for implementing the Convention rests with the Parties. The Convention therefore needs to consider how to secure the appropriate focus on the reporting process and ensure it is conducted by all Parties to a high, consistent standard. One role of a subsidiary body for implementation (see above) might be to assist the process of collating and analysing such reports.

16. Other results of the Convention should not be overlooked, whether direct such as the Biosafety Protocol, or indirect such as the revision of the International Undertaking for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Such issues raise the fundamental question of how much of an umbrella, coordinating role the CBD should have in relation to all other biodiversity-related agreements, which is addressed below.

COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGREEMENTS AND BODIES

17. An issue frequently discussed, including at COP3, is the question of how the Convention integrates its activities with those of other, related agreements (specifically CITES, the Ramsar Convention on Wildfowl and Wetlands, the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species, the International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling, and the World Heritage Convention). One view is that better coordination, for example alignment of meeting cycles and even of individual agendas, might increase all-round effectiveness. Another possibility would be to create common data, scientific and other services between the conventions. Harmonising information management for

biodiversity-related treaties, for example, as recently proposed by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, might help alleviate the burden on developing country Parties with limited resources. (The Clearing House Mechanism of the CBD could have a role here, although much work remains to be done to turn the CHM from an all-purpose theoretical panacea into a workable reality.)

18. A more radical approach might recognise the overall umbrella role of the Convention and give it more of a leading position in relation to other biodiversity agreements than it currently enjoys, although the political, legal and administrative obstacles to such a fundamental change should not be underestimated. Any of the above changes might help avoid duplication and enhance cooperation, but would clearly need strong support at the highest level in all appropriate fora if they were to succeed. COP4 might also wish to look beyond the immediate sister agreements, for example to consider the role of organisations such as the IUCN and their more active participation in the work of the CBD.

LOOKING AHEAD

19. The UK will participate actively in efforts to address these and other questions which arise in following up COP decision III/22. As already noted, we regard it as a priority issue for COP4 and therefore for the UK's Presidency of the European Union which will take place in the first half of 1998 and thus include COP4. A successful outcome at COP4 will however require much careful preparation, especially for such a fundamental and wide-ranging issue. The most carefully constructed proposals will come to nothing if they do not take into account the range of views held by Parties and other participants in the Convention, and command the widest possible support. Parties will need to be involved in full and effective consideration of the modus operandi issues before COP4 begins, and this in itself will represent another substantial burden on the Secretariat. The UK hopes to play an active part in the required process of discussion and debate, including by participating in, and possibly helping to support, any meeting held to consider potential changes in more detail.

Japan's Views on Medium-Term Programme of Work for 1996-1997

According to Decision L.19 of the Conference of the Parties (hereinafter referred to as " COP") III to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Japan has the following view;

1. With regard to the effective and efficient operations of the COP, it is important to submit and distribute documents for the Conference well in advance, and to avoid duplication of similar meetings while keeping in close cooperation with other relevant conventions and arrangements properly.
2. The Secretary or bureau of the Convention should notify in advance Parties of information about the organization of the work of the COP and SBSTTA, including the number, schedule and agenda of working groups.
3. With regard to the overall review of the medium-term programme of work for 1995-1997, the following issues should be given high priority:
 - (a) issues related to the conservation of significant ecosystems and habitats with regard to conservation of biological diversity.
 - (b) the establishment of clearing-house mechanism and the analysis of national reports submitted by parties with regard to sharing information and experience.
4. As regards a long-term programme of work, the issues for which it is difficult to expect sufficient results in a medium-term programme of work should be dealt with under a long-term programme of work.



MEDIUM TERM PROGRAMME OF WORK: NEW ZEALAND VIEWS

A Operation of the Conference of Parties

Biennial COP Meetings

New Zealand is supportive of Conferences of the Parties (COPs) being held on a biennial basis in order to allow Parties adequate time to fully consider reports and advice from SBSTTA and other intersessional work.

Role of SBSTTA

With greater spacing between COPs it is important that the role of SBSTTA is clarified and that it receives clear direction from the COP. New Zealand is concerned that SBSTTA is being too heavily tasked. There has been useful progress on refining the modus operandi of SBSTTA - setting a limit on intersessional activities to no more than three ad hoc technical groups with other liaison groups being able to provide advice at the invitation of the Executive Secretary. Further consideration should now be given as to which key areas SBSTTA should focus on. COP3 decisions have provided a substantial amount of work for SBSTTA and it is not clear how this work will be dealt with given the limit on expert groups. Some priority setting is required and SBSTTA should be prepared to make recommendations on this based on scientific grounds. New Zealand supports a greater scientific focus for SBSTTA in line with its mandate.

New Zealand considers that SBSTTA could also make better use of existing information compiled by other agencies, in particular, UNEP's Global Biodiversity Assessment, in the same way as the FAO's Global Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture has been acknowledged by the COP.

Organisation of work for COPs

New Zealand believes that due to the volume of work, parallel working groups are essential to enable sufficient time to be allocated to the various agenda items. There needs to be some balance between the number of parallel working groups established and recognition of the difficulties faced by countries with small delegations to adequately represent their interests in these working groups. New Zealand suggests that the Executive Secretary address this issue in advance of the next COP by proposing a number of working groups based on the priorities on the agenda and seeking views of Parties. This would enable all Parties to better plan for their attendance at the COP.

In addition to greater spacing between COPs, New Zealand encourages the Secretariat to ensure that papers for the COP are circulated 6-8 weeks in advance of the meeting to allow Parties adequate time to prepare for their participation at the COP.

Participation of NGOs

Consideration could also be given to the role of NGOs at COPs. Indigenous people's groups played a prominent role at COP3 though the manner of their participation eg speaking rights, was dealt with in an ad hoc manner. The UN is currently considering this issue and New Zealand suggests that the Executive Secretary take note of developments in this regard.

B Review of Medium Term Programme of Work for 1995-1997

The medium-term programme of work is a very ambitious one and has resulted in overloaded agendas for the COP and SBSTTA meetings and a heavy work programme for the Secretariat. This is difficult to avoid in some respects as the work programme reflects the entire range of the Convention's objectives. Progress has also been affected by the move of the Secretariat to Montreal and delays in recruitment of permanent staff.

New Zealand considers that progress on implementation could be facilitated in a number of ways: prioritisation of work, which should be clearly linked to the budget and available resources; greater emphasis on a thematic approach, providing for consideration of cross-sectoral issues such as transfer of technology, information exchange and incentive measures; and strengthening the linkages with other international processes in order to avoid duplication of effort. Recognising the vital role of the Secretariat in progressing work on the medium-term programme of work, New Zealand urges the Secretariat to fill the full complement of permanent staff positions as soon as possible.

Clearing House Mechanism

The medium-term programme of work gives priority to the establishment of the clearing house mechanism (CHM). While New Zealand sees the establishment of the world wide web home page as an important development in the pilot phase of the CHM there is much that remains to be done. New Zealand advocates accelerated development of the CHM, particularly the newsletter. In addition to facilitating information exchange between Parties and providing for greater use of national reporting information to assist implementation of the Convention, the CHM should act as a key information source on progress on implementing the work programme and for notifying Parties of relevant activities, meetings etc and also staff appointments. New Zealand also places importance on improving the access of Parties to the CHM and is concerned that the regional workshops provided for in the pilot phase take place as soon as possible. To facilitate contact among national focal points New Zealand suggests that the Secretariat circulate a list of national focal points at the earliest opportunity.

C A Longer Term Programme of Work

The review of the medium-term programme of work will provide useful lessons for the development of the work programme in the longer term. The same points we have raised above also apply here. In particular, New Zealand believes the longer term programme of work should focus on implementing the decisions taken by previous COPs as a priority over identifying new areas of work, keeping in mind the need to achieve balanced implementation of each of the three objectives of the Convention. We note for example that it has taken a considerable length of time to advance work on the Jakarta Mandate despite clear agreement on how to proceed.



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Executive Secretary
Att.: Sam Johnston
Convention on Biological Diversity
World Trade Centre
393 St. Jacques Street, Office #300
Montreal, Quebec
CANADA H2Y 1N9

Our Ref.:

Date: March 28, 1997

Subject: Decision COP/III/22, the Medium-term Programme of Work for 1996-1997.

Dear Mr. Johnston,

Regarding views on the three issues (the operations of the Conference of the Parties, the overall review of the medium-term programme of work, a longer-term programme of work) requested in your letter dated 4 February 1997 herewith we forward some general views of the National Focal Point of the Republic of Slovenia.

General comments:

- (a) In a short time since Slovenia became a Contracting Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity it has been difficult to review all the actions included in the programme of the Conference of the Parties.
- (b) There are no particular comments on the operations of the Conference of the Parties and the overall review of the medium-term programme of work for 1995-1997. The involvement of Slovenia is too short to express any particular view.

- (c) In the long-run we strongly support:
integration of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectors. Information and experience in its implementation to be shared at the regional and global levels.

Exchange of experience is particularly relevant at the regional level and therefore more emphasis and practical support should be given to regional strategies (e.g. Pan-European Strategy on Landscape and Biological Diversity).

Practical work has to be shared in integrating the CBD and other relevant Conventions in different issues related to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Yours sincerely,

Gordana BELTRAM
Peter SKOBERNE
CBD National Focal Point

Gordana Beltram



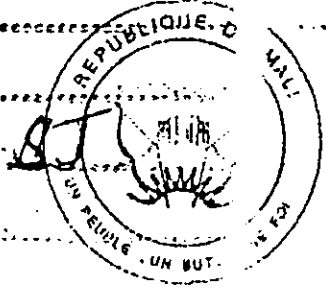
Mladen BERGINC
State Under-Secretary

Mladen Berginc

SECRETARIAT GÉNÉRAL

NO 406
INDRE-SG
APR 14 1997

Bamako, le 14 AVR. 1997



*Le Ministre du Développement
Rural et de l'Environnement*
(-)

Monsieur le Secrétaire Exécutif
de la Convention sur la Diversité
Biologique
Montréal, CANADA
Fax : (1.514) 288.6588

Objet :
Lettre du 4 Février concernant la décision III/22
de la Convention

Monsieur le Secrétaire Exécutif,

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire parvenir les points de vue des autorités maliennes sur la décision III/22 relative au programme de travail à moyen terme pour 1996-1997. Ces vues, dont vous trouverez ci-joint le détail des informations, concernent le fonctionnement de la Conférence des Parties, l'examen d'ensemble du programme de travail à moyen terme et le programme de travail à long terme tel que demandé.

Nous espérons que ces vues contribueront à améliorer le fonctionnement de la mise en œuvre de la Convention sur la Diversité Biologique.

En vous remerciant pour l'intérêt que vous portez à cette Convention, veuillez croire, Monsieur le Secrétaire Exécutif, à l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.



P/ Le Ministre P.O
Secrétaire Général

M. Gwinté
Gaudon GOITA

VUES DU GOUVERNEMENT DU MALI SUR LA DECISION III/22 DE LA CONVENTION SUR LA DIVERSITE BIOLOGIQUE

a) Le fonctionnement de la Conférence des Parties

1. Notre vue porte sur les aspects que sont la participation qualitative et quantitative des pays africains et des pays les plus démunis en général et sur un processus de concertation dynamique nationale et sous-régionale.
2. En effet le constat actuel est que les négociations continuent de se faire sur la base d'un déséquilibre en défaveur des pays les moins nantis financièrement. Cette situation se caractérise par une sous représentation systématique. La lettre d'invitation du 4 février du Secrétaire Exécutif pour la réunion du groupe de travail ad hoc, par son caractère de conditionalité de la participation des dits pays, illustre assez bien cette situation. Nous croyons fermement, et impérativement, que la Conférence des Parties doit examiner la question dans l'optique de trouver les voies et moyens pour un financement plus indépendant de cette participation pour garantir des discussions mieux équilibrées. La proposition que nous voudrions faire dans ce sens est d'inciter les pays concernés à concevoir avec le Secrétariat de la Convention une clause financière, indépendante de la cotisation des pays, pour régler cet aspect.
3. Sur un autre plan nous pensons que la seule issue salutaire pour les pays africains et les pays les moins nantis d'une manière générale est d'unir leurs voix et d'intégrer leurs voies. Il est donc, de notre avis, fondamental de profiter de la prochaine réunion pour concevoir et jeter les bases d'un mécanisme de concertation dynamique sous-régionale qui devra prendre le relais sur une concertation nationale. Nous proposons que la dite réunion soit le lieu d'identifier des partenaires pour les coordinations sous-régionales, et de recommander aux parties une grande hétérogénéité (diversité) au sein des organes nationaux de coordination de la Convention sur la Diversité Biologique.

b) L'examen d'ensemble du programme de travail à moyen terme pour 1996-1997

4. Nous proposons pour le point 2.4 du programme, portant sur les rapports des Parties sur la mise en oeuvre de la Convention, après analyse des résultats obtenus, que soit discutée une stratégie pour améliorer la progression des pays en retard sur la mise en oeuvre.

c) Un programme de travail à long terme

5. Notre pays souscrit au programme de travail à long terme (doc. UNEP/CBD/COP/3/18) portant sur la Désertification et la sécheresse, et le Développement durable des montagnes.
6. Cependant nous souhaiterions que ces rubriques soient gérées en portant une attention particulière aux aspects suivants:
 - l'investissement pour une agriculture durable qui nécessite une révision des principes et des mécanismes actuels de financement, en se basant sur le fait que la

vulgarisation des techniques est certes un maillon important, mais qu'elle doit avoir un support matériel;

- une stratégie de l'occupation de l'espace (exploitation et régime de propriété) qui favoriserait une gestion optimale des ressources et la sécurité pour l'activité agricole dans toutes ses composantes;

- la valorisation et l'écoulement des produits agricoles d'une manière générale sont gages de motivation des populations à la participation effective et efficiente pour une gestion durable et permettent de diminuer la pression sur les formations naturelles;

- une stratégie pour la fertilité des sols (réhabilitation) qui est une condition essentielle pour la restauration de la diversité biologique de l'espace agricole et la sauvegarde de celle de l'espace naturel, la notion de seuil de fertilité/pauvreté des sols doit être perçue et gérée en ce qui concerne les africains pour ces mêmes fins;

- une stratégie de professionnalisme pour les agriculteurs et les agricultrices des pays africains.

MINISTERE
DES
AFFAIRES ETRANGERES

REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE

DIRECTION GENERALE DES AFFAIRES
EUROPEENNES ET ECONOMIQUES

DIRECTION DES AFFAIRES
ECONOMIQUES ET FINANCIERES

Paris, le 11 juillet 1997

SOUS-DIRECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
ET DES COOPERATIONS SECTORIELLES

RESPONSABLE DU DOSIER : CH. AVELINE
N° 1636 DE/ECS

Monsieur le Secrétaire exécutif,

En réponse à votre demande, vous voudrez bien trouver ci-après quelques éléments relatifs au fonctionnement et au programme de travail de la Convention sur la diversité biologique.

I. FONCTIONNEMENT
Considérations générales

Il y a, semble-t-il, au sein de l'Union européenne un sentiment selon lequel le champ d'application de la Convention sur la diversité biologique est très vaste et génère une charge de travail très lourde pour le secrétariat qui ne peut toujours y faire face dans les meilleures conditions. La France partage cette analyse. Sur de nombreux points, le champ d'application de la Convention est commun ou partiellement commun avec d'autres conventions, organisations ou institutions. Cette situation est susceptible de créer des conflits entre ces organisations, d'être à l'origine de difficultés institutionnelles ou juridiques (absences de cohérence interne du droit international ainsi établi), et de gaspiller inutilement les ressources qui devraient être consacrées à la protection de la biodiversité.

Il est donc nécessaire qu'une certaine coordination puisse s'instaurer entre la Convention sur la diversité biologique et les autres conventions qui traitent de la diversité biologique et les organisations intéressées (OAA/FAO par exemple). Des accords de coopération existent déjà dans certains cas (Ramsar, Bonn), et il serait tout-à-fait souhaitable que d'autres soient mis en place sans que cela implique une subordination des conventions à la Convention sur la diversité biologique.

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Dans le même esprit, il serait intéressant que soit confié à l'organe subsidiaire l'examen d'un état des lieux des différentes conventions internationales, régionales ou autres, de leurs orientations actuelles, en essayant de préciser, entre autres, les doubles emplois, les complémentarités possibles, en envisageant leurs perspectives d'avenir. Ce vade-mecum pourrait alors permettre de déterminer quels sont les domaines dans lesquels la Convention sur la diversité biologique pourra avoir une réelle compétence affirmée.

Fonctionnement de la Convention

La situation actuelle se caractérise par des ordres du jour pléthoriques, un partage des rôles incertain entre l'organe subsidiaire et la Conférence des Parties, des documents trop nombreux se traduisant par une lourde charge pour le secrétariat et disponibles souvent très tardivement dans les langues de travail de la Convention.

En ce qui concerne l'ordre du jour, il serait préférable de favoriser plutôt une approche thématique. Cela permettrait de limiter l'ampleur des ordres du jour de chaque Conférence des Parties. L'approche par écosystème, parfois évoquée, conserve le caractère transectoriel de la convention et risque donc de conduire aussi à des ordres du jour passant en revue tous les chapitres de la Convention.

Le partage des tâches entre la Conférence des Parties et l'organe subsidiaire apparaît comme une nécessité. Ce dernier ne doit pas fonctionner comme une répétition générale de la Conférence des Parties mais renforcer son rôle de conseil scientifique. L'organe subsidiaire pourrait ainsi se voir confier la préparation et l'approfondissement de certains thèmes, conformément à son mandat de conseil, et présenter des propositions plus concrètes à la Conférence des Parties.

En revanche, il ne paraît pas souhaitable de créer de nouveaux organes subsidiaires non prévus par la convention ni d'avoir recours à des réunions intersessionnelles formelles, à la fois pour des raisons de coût budgétaire et d'efficacité. Il serait préférable de s'en tenir à deux enceintes dont les rôles sont clairement établis et qui puissent se réunir à intervalle régulier. Le recours, en tant que de besoin, à des panels d'experts ou à des groupes de contact limités, pour éclairer les travaux de l'organe subsidiaire ou de la Conférence des Parties devrait, quant à lui, être favorisé.

Enfin, pour assurer une participation équitable de toutes les Parties au processus de décision et de réflexion, un effort particulier doit être fait en ce qui concerne la disponibilité des documents de travail dans les langues de travail. De même, il conviendrait de limiter au strict nécessaire le nombre de groupes de travail fonctionnant en parallèle et d'y assurer une interprétation simultanée.

Calendrier des réunions

Pour permettre aux Parties à la Convention de faire un travail constructif, il serait souhaitable d'espacer davantage la périodicité des réunions de la Conférence des Parties : un délai de deux ans serait à ce stade raisonnable. En outre, il paraît nécessaire d'observer au minimum un délai de six mois entre les réunions de l'organe subsidiaire et de la Conférence des Parties. Enfin, compte tenu de la période estivale dans l'hémisphère nord, il serait préférable que les réunions de l'organe subsidiaire aient lieu à partir du 15 septembre pour permettre un examen plus approfondi des documents préparés par le secrétariat.

Langues

La diffusion tardive des documents préparatoires en anglais de la Convention n'est pas de nature à faciliter la préparation de la Conférence des Parties comme celle de l'organe subsidiaire, ni un examen en profondeur des dossiers.

A cela il convient d'ajouter que la communication encore plus tardive des documents dans les autres langues de la Convention qui parviennent bien souvent dans la semaine précédant lesdites échéances pénalisent les pays dont les experts ont une connaissance très approximative de l'anglais.

Cela est de nature à créer une inégalité de fait entre les délégations anglophones et les autres qui auront eu moins de temps pour préparer ces échéances et qui, de plus, en l'absence d'interprétation simultanée dans les groupes de travail se trouvent bien souvent exclues des discussions dans ces enceintes où sont négociés les projets de décision.

Il conviendrait de remédier à une telle situation qui, si elle devait perdurer, conduirait à priver la Conférence des Parties de la contribution d'une partie de la communauté internationale.

Programme de travail à moyen terme

Les remarques découlent de celles relatives au fonctionnement de la Convention. Le programme de travail est très chargé et la Convention ne pourra s'en acquitter qu'en rationalisant et en hiérarchisant ses activités.

D'une manière générale, comme le soulignait à Buenos Aires le Président du Comité plénier, il conviendrait maintenant d'approfondir les chantiers déjà engagés et de mettre en oeuvre ce qui a déjà été adopté par les Conférences des Parties successives plutôt que d'élargir encore le champ et de créer de nouveaux engagements.

Le Protocole sur la biosécurité fait actuellement l'objet de négociations délicates. Compte tenu de la complexité de cette question, il serait souhaitable de leur accorder le temps nécessaire pour qu'elles puissent aboutir dans le cadre strict de la décision prise par la 2ème Conférence des Parties (Djakarta, novembre 1995).

S'agissant des transferts de technologie, on ne saurait trop insister sur la nécessité de respecter les réglementations en vigueur touchant aux droits de propriété intellectuelle.

Enfin, il convient de rappeler que les questions relatives aux ressources génétiques doivent être nécessairement traitées en liaison avec l'OAA/FAO qui a une compétence première en la matière.

Programme de travail à long terme

On observe une évolution de la Convention vers l'utilisation durable de la biodiversité et le partage équitable des bénéfices . Il est important d'assurer un équilibre permanent entre les trois objectifs de la Convention et d'éviter que l'un d'entre eux prenne une importance trop grande au détriment des autres. En particulier, il paraît souhaitable que la Convention ne soit pas reléguée au second plan, notamment en ce qui concerne les relations entre la conservation "in situ" et "ex situ".

Les experts français en diversité biologique agricole et forêts sont nombreux et le choix de ceux qui pourraient être désignés comme les correspondants du secretariat de la convention n'est pas encore définitivement arrêté. En attendant, vous trouverez ci-joint une liste préliminaire d'experts qui pourraient être utilement approchés.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Secrétaire exécutif, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée./.



Samy HOFMANN

PRELIMINARY COMMENTS BY NORWAY TO THE MODUS OPERANDI AND THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

We refer to the letter of 4 February 1997, where the Executive Secretary of CBD invited Parties as a follow-up to COP Decision III/22, to provide their views on the operations of the COP, the overall review of the medium-term programme of work and a longer term programme of work. We consider this topic as one of the most important to be discussed at COP4. The topic should be seen in the context of the outcome of UNGASS recommendations with regard to «International institutional arrangements» and the ongoing UN-reform process.

The operations of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies

Operations of COP

The agenda for the COP meeting needs to be more focused. This could be achieved by a more effective prioritisation of activities and by enhancing the input from intersessional work

We support to organise the work based on the objectives of CBD and to continue with a systematic review of one major ecosystem category at each COP meeting. We need however some ideas on how to continue the work after we have pre-empted these categories of ecosystems. In order to keep up momentum, a review of how Parties are implementing various ecosystem work programmes needs to be undertaken at each COP meeting. This is particularly important with the new tendency to have less frequent COP meetings (every second year).

Taking into account the heavy workload facing the COPs, we need some kind of open-ended intersessional activity/body to relieve COP from some of the burdens.

The role of the regional meetings should be enhanced in order to come up with priorities for future work. Secretariat documents prepared for CBD meetings should be available in time for consideration by the regional meetings.

The Ministerial Segment is important in order to focus the work under the convention, but this potential is not yet fully utilized under the current organization. The ministerial meetings should be politically attractive and arranged with a view to promote a constructive dialogue. Arrangements with other conventions such as to have back-to-back high level political meetings with ministers should be sought in order to strengthen synergies and linkages between conventions, an example is the relevance of forest issues for both the CBD and the Convention on Climate Change.

Subsidiary bodies

Efforts should be made in order to ensure that the COP gives precise guidance to *SBSTTA* on the expected outcome of each *SBSTTA* meeting. There is a clear need to provide COP with timely and scientific advice in order to make effective decisions. We need a sound, scientific basis for the implementation of CBD. Scientific assessments are twofold: First, assessments of ecosystems as such and 2) scientific assessments of the state of knowledge. The first category of assessments should be based on country activities and inputs. The second category should be based on an open and transparent process drawing upon knowledge in all Parties/international organizations in order to identify scientific consensus, disagreements and gaps. The use of experts from all Parties is important for example by establishing scientific networks. The assessments should also build upon the Global Biodiversity Assessment (GBA) issued by UNEP in 1995. Experience drawn from other Conventions, like the Convention on Climate Change relying upon scientific advice from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) should be fully considered.

With regard to the use of *liaison groups* under *SBSTTA* it might be too early to assess the functioning of these groups and how they can contribute to the CBD work. The results so far with proposals for work programmes for various ecosystems is encouraging. As already included in the proposal for *SBSTTA Modus Operandi* these liaison and ad hoc technical expert groups as well as the Secretariat should make full use of roster of experts, inter alia through scientific peer review processes. The latter may prove especially fruitful when carrying out assessments on the state of knowledge on specific biodiversity issues.

Intersessional preparations

The *intersessional preparations* need to be improved. The new tendency to have less frequent COP meetings may lead to a serious loss of momentum unless effective intersessional mechanisms are introduced.

In addition to the existing mechanisms such as regional meetings; liaison groups; CBD workshops, it might be useful to consider whether an intersessional activity/body, open to all Parties, is needed, in order to undertake some of the intersessional work. This could be done by the establishment of ad hoc working groups or a subsidiary body on implementation, as also proposed by the EU.

The tasks of such a group or subsidiary body would be *inter alia* to prepare for the review of national reports. It would allow for the preparation of the review by the COP of national reports to be submitted in accordance with art. 26. The reporting mechanism will be a key instrument in assessing progress in Parties' implementation of CBD. Synthesis of these reports could be prepared in order for recommendations for future action to be developed and discussed by the COP. The work programmes and their outcome in terms of implementation by individual parties may also benefit from a review. Methodologies and indicators for reporting would also need to be developed.

It may prove useful to consider mechanisms used in other conventions such as the Convention on Climate Change. Under this Convention a Subsidiary Body for Implementation is

established to "assess the overall aggregated effect of the steps taken by the Parties". COP adopted a policy review process for national communications which is divided into three phases: 1) compilation and synthesis of national communications, 2) in-depth review and 3) review by subsidiary bodies and the COP. This is but one example, and whatever solution is chosen, we consider it important to focus at COP4 on how the work of reviewing national reports can be carried out effectively.

The parties may also volunteer for reviews to be carried out as is the case within the OECD's «Country performance reviews».

In addition *the Secretariat* should be given a role in such reviews. In order for this to be done effectively, the Parties should provide a clear mandate to the Secretariat on how to assess the reports and how to carry out reviews.

Cooperation with other agreements and bodies

Better coordination and cooperation is needed between CBD and other biodiversity related conventions. This is consistent with the UNGASS recommendations dealing with «Greater coherence in various intergovernmental organizations and processes». The possibility to develop a closer relationship between the global and regional conventions in this field need to be explored with a view to making implementation activities and institutional arrangements mutually supportive. The existing situation with overlapping work is ineffective and should be avoided. A coordinated approach with regard to adjustment of meeting schedules, agendas, programme elements with multiple benefits; the use of common data and scientific inputs should be considered. Also harmonisation/rationalization of national reports to be submitted under the various conventions needs to be done. It should be considered how related global and regional biodiversity conventions can be used in order to implement COP decisions and thereby strengthening the role of CBD as an umbrella convention in this field. The use of common electronic networks between Conventions should be considered for the dissemination of information (e.g. Clearing-house mechanism under the CBD).

The CBD also needs to establish closer linkages to other institutions like the FAO, WTO, UNESCO, GEF etc. We welcome the Decision from COP3 that the Executive Secretary of CBD apply for observer status in the CTE of the WTO.

Specific considerations should be given to linking the ongoing work on «The Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources» to the CBD, preferably in the form of a Protocol.

Long-term programme of work

With regard to the long-term programme of work, the EU proposal to organise the agenda items of future COPs according to the CBD objectives (conservation, sustainable use and sharing of benefits) seems attractive. We also agree that it is a merit in focusing on one ecosystem at each COP. In addition, review of progress in implementing the work programmes for various ecosystems needs to be carried out at each COP. A situation where review of progress of an ecosystem will take place only every ten years (with five ecosystems and COP meetings every second year) may not contribute to an effective implementation of

the CBD. Therefore a standing item of the agenda dealing with review of implementation of various work programmes should be considered.

General comments on the work programme:

- COP5 should focus on forest ecosystems
- COP 6 may focus on ecosystems not yet dealt with (e.g. dry land and mountains)
- each COPs should review progress made in implementing work programmes for various ecosystems
- with regard to sharing of benefits we propose that further work is carried out to implement art. 8 j and developing a multilateral framework on access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits. Under this heading future COPs should provide inputs to the review of the TRIPs agreement in 1999.
- the biosafety protocol should be adopted at COP 4 and if this is not possible at COP5
- future COPs should consider the necessity to develop further protocols

Programme of work for the CBD

Overall framework

Research Scientific assessm.	Policy-making	Implementation	Review
SBSTA Secretariat	COP	Parties Other organizations/ Conventions	Imple- entation body/ ad hoc working group
Liaison groups ad hoc technical expert groups	Protocols		
Parties			COP

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August 12, 1997

Dr. Calestous Juma
Executive Secretary
Convention on Biological Diversity
Montreal, Canada

COMMENTS ON MEANS OF IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SBSTTA

Dear Dr. Juma,

On behalf of Canada, I would like to convey a number of observations regarding intersessional activity leading to the preparation of materials for consideration at SBSTTA meetings. This is related to agenda item 9 in the forthcoming SBSTTA meeting.

Canada would first like to congratulate the secretariat in pulling together the large amount of documentation it has had to do for this meeting. It is a heavy agenda that would have been even heavier if the SBSTTA Bureau had not wisely trimmed it down to a manageable size. We welcome this Bureau initiative, but regret that this may result in COP not receiving the essential advice from SBSTTA on all appropriate agenda items. We hope and expect that the COP will take this into account in setting its own agenda.

Canada believes there is currently a problem with the transparency and clarity of the intersessional preparatory work. For instance, the distinction between liaison and expert groups, how they are constituted, how their mandate is set, and how the roster of experts is used. All these questions need further clarification. In general, we believe that such groups should be explicitly and transparently approved and established by SBSTTA. In addition, the Secretariat should provide a report to each meeting of SBSTTA of the status of each group.

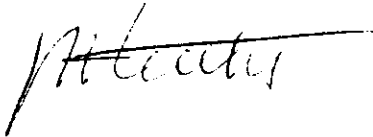
We also believe there is room to improve the quality of reports prepared through intersessional work by providing for better review of draft reports. A broader, more inclusive circulation among Parties would also have the effect of advancing the discussion, thereby making the debate at SBSTTA more efficient. The Clearing House Mechanism could be useful in this regard.



Finally, we also believe there is a need for more explicit rules governing the submission and acceptance of formal Inf. documents. Once produced as official documentation for the meetings, they take on a credibility and legitimacy in the process that may not always be warranted.

We look forward to an opportunity to discuss these matters during the SBSTTA meeting.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Herity", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John Herity
Director



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le 12 août, 1997

Monsieur Calestous JUMA
Secrétaire exécutif
Convention sur la diversité biologique
Montréal, Canada

COMMENTAIRES SUR LES MOYENS D'AMÉLIORER L'EFFICACITÉ DU SBSTTA

Cher Monsieur JUMA,

J'aimerais vous faire part, de la part du Gouvernement du Canada, de certaines observations regardant la préparation de matériaux pour considération lors des séances du SBSTTA.

Le Canada tient tout d'abord à féliciter le Secrétariat d'avoir pu préparer la grande quantité de documentation nécessaire pour cette réunion. L'ordre du jour du SBSTTA est très lourd, et il aurait été encore plus onéreux si le Bureau du SBSTTA n'avait pas eu la sagesse de le réduire à une taille plus raisonnable. Tout en accueillant favorablement cet initiative du Bureau, nous regrettons que la Conférence des Parties pourrait ne pas recevoir des conseils du SBSTTA sur tout les items appropriés sur l'ordre du jour. Nous espérons et nous attendons que la Conférence des Parties tienne compte de cette observation lorsqu'elle déterminera son propre ordre du jour.

Le Canada considère qu'il y a actuellement un problème en ce qui concerne la transparence et le clarté du travail préparatoire effectué entre les séances du SBSTTA. En particulier, la distinction entre les groupes des experts et les groupes de liaison, comment ils sont constitués, comment leurs mandats sont déterminés et l'utilisation des listes d'experts doivent tous être clarifiés. De façon générale, nous estimons que de tels groupes doivent être approuvés et établis explicitement par le SBSTTA. De même, le Secrétariat doit informer le SBSTTA du status de ces groupes lors de chaque séance.

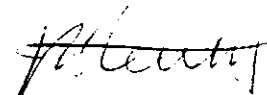
Nous croyons aussi qu'une meilleure revue des premiers ébauches des rapports préparés entre les séances pourrait améliorer leur qualité. Une plus large circulation de ces ébauches parmi les Parties permettrait d'enrichir la discussion des questions traitées, ce qui aurait le résultat de rendre les discussions du SBSTTA plus efficaces. Le Centre d'échanges pourrait contribuer à cet égard.



Enfin, nous estimons qu'il serait nécessaire d'établir des règles plus explicites pour gouverner la soumission et l'agrément des documents Inf. Ils acquièrent une crédibilité et une légitimité qui ne sont pas toujours appropriés, une fois distribués en tant que documentation officielle lors des séances du SBSTTA.

Nous anticipons l'opportunité de discuter de ces questions lors de la réunion du SBSTTA.

Je vous prie, Monsieur JUMA, d'agréer l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.



John Herity
Directeur

The Executive Secretary of the
Convention on Biological Diversity,
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Biodiversity Work Programme

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Dear Dr. Juma,

As president of the Council of the European Union, I am pleased to present to you a response of the European Union on your request for inputs regarding the follow-up of Decision III/22 on the Programme of Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The response outlines thoughts and considerations on the further development of mechanisms for the effective implementation of the CBD objectives, and does not represent a final EU position on this matter.

The European Union is looking forward to discussing the future programme of work and the modus operandi at the next SBSTTA- and COP-meetings and stands ready to provide the appropriate input to these discussions and the preparations for them.

Yours sincerely,

ir. Johan F. de Leeuw

Director-General
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Position of the European Union concerning the Programme of Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Decision COP/IIU/22)

With your letter dating 4 February 1997, referring to decision COP/IIU/22, you invited Parties to express their views on the operations of the COP, the overall review of the medium-term programme of work and a longer-term programme of work.

At COP-3 the Irish Presidency stated that: *"the EU is concerned that the agenda of the SBSTTA, and for that matter also the COP, tends to cover a too large number of issues at each meeting and considers that there is a need for a considerable streamlining and stronger focus on priority issues."*

The EU is of the opinion that the issue of the Programme of Work is one of the most important elements on the agenda of the fourth COP. The outcome of the deliberations should set a clear framework for further implementing the CBD over the coming years.

Setting priorities

The CBD is valued for its integrative nature and coherent objectives. The first three COP's have shown an ambitious approach, touching upon all challenges Parties are faced with in implementing the CBD. This has resulted in heavy workloads for all involved: Parties, the CBD-Secretariat and observers to the COP- and SBSTTA-meetings.

Notwithstanding the urgent need for action in fully implementing the CBD at the national level, a clear prioritisation and focus on an in depth treatment of priority issues is lacking for the international agenda. A system for establishing consensus among Parties on such priorities is needed; Parties should recognise that progress cannot be achieved internationally on all fronts at the same time.

The EU therefore proposes to consider at COP-4 the following possible mechanisms for priority setting:

thematic approach: establish comprehensive agenda's for the next COP's based on:

- 1) the CBD's objectives and
- 2) important ecosystems, such as marine and coastal systems, forests, etc..

As such each CBD-meeting could focus on a few central subjects, with a maximum of four (in addition to a limited number of standing items), one for each of the three objectives of the CBD and one ecosystem focused item.

annotated agenda's: COP-4 could provide for annotated agenda's of future COP and SBSTTA-meetings, making clear to all what will be dealt with under each agenda item, what kind of preparation is to be expected from the CBD-Secretariat and what kind of decision is being anticipated.

Organisation of work

The first COP's and SBSTTA-meeting may be qualified as highly dynamic, resulting in a broad range of decisions. Intersessional work is becoming a major tool for preparing both COP and SBSTTA.

The EU is of the opinion that COP-4 should clearly establish a transparent, efficient and effective organisation of work, taking into account the following possible elements:

regional meetings: the agenda of the next COP's and SBSTTA-meetings could be a standing agenda item for all regional meetings (taking place intersessionally and during COP's). Regional meetings could also play an important role in the process of identifying regional consensus, in particular if (draft) papers are produced early enough for regional consideration.

interagency co-ordination and co-operation: the COP could provide clear indications to its Secretariat on possibilities for making the best use of experience and information available at all relevant international conventions and organisations, including NGO's. These agencies may also be invited directly by the COP or SBSTTA to assist in implementing the Work Programme.

intersessional preparations: COP3's decision to move towards less frequent COP's offers an opportunity to tackle the workload at COP's and SBSTTA-meetings by making better use of intersessional mechanisms, such as regional meetings, expert and liaison groups meeting, teleconferences, CBD-workshops, and workshops related to the CBD-agenda. It might even be considered whether a new subsidiary body on implementation, open to all parties to ensure full representation, might be needed.

CBD-Bureau and SBSTTA-Bureau: both bureau's could provide guidance to the Secretariat in its work intersessionally. A mandate for each bureau for doing so would have to be elaborated. One alternative to a new subsidiary body on implementation (see above) might be to extend the COP Bureau, with appropriate regional representation on a national basis, as a cheaper option building on the experience of other conventions such as CITES.

national reports: national reports at a regular interval are a key tool for the Parties to demonstrate concrete progress in implementing the CBD. An appropriate focus on the reporting process will have to be secured and reports should be prepared by all Parties to a high, consistent standard. The Secretariat could be instructed on the way the reports are assessed and analysed for consideration by the COP's. Reports by Parties are the key tool to demonstrate the implementation of the Convention. To closely co-ordinate the future reports of Parties with activities relevant to sustainable development indicators under the CSD, a close collaboration could be envisaged. Some key indicators which might be used also for CSD reporting purposes could be included in the instruction for further reports on the basis of the evaluation of the first set of reports.

COP-meetings: The experiences of the first three COP's have shown that the issues under consideration are complex and that a longer time frame is needed for preparation of meetings. A more spaced-out cycle of COP-meetings could be considered. The EU considers that a COP every two years (maximal two weeks duration) could be more suitable. In order to provide for high quality advice, annual SBSTTA-meetings (maximal one week duration) may be appropriate.

Taking into account that at each COP the issues will have to be dealt with in a limited span of time, optimal use might be made of the possibility to establish two parallel working groups during COP-meetings in order to elaborate consensus on decisions. If the frequency of COP's is changed into one every two years, it could be considered whether a budget could be established for the two working groups to be conducted in the six UN languages.

Biosafety Protocol: Once the protocol has been agreed, it will be necessary to decide on associated arrangements such as provision of a Conference of Parties; this could be shared with the Convention, to save time and money, or separated in recognition of the differing expertise it would require.

The role and functioning of SBSTTA

The lack of clear prioritisation has hampered work of the SBSTTA. Since SBSTTA has to bridge the gap between scientific information and policy decision, COP should clearly instruct its subsidiary body on the expected results of each SBSTTA-meeting. As such, the EU proposed a revised draft agenda for next SBSTTA-meeting, which was transferred to the SBSTTA-Bureau at COP-3.

Furthermore, the EU would like to see the following mechanisms be applied for the SBSTTA:

relationship with COP: the COP could guide the SBSTTA on the kind of advice it expects for each agenda item. It could indicate to the SBSTTA whether it expects e.g. 1) information which the COP will take note of, 2) recommendations for approval by the COP and 3) input to COP decisions. Likewise the SBSTTA, when submitting papers to the COP, could indicate whether it expects the COP 1) to "take note of", 2) to "approve" and 3) to "decide" on the matter at hand. In the latter case, the SBSTTA could indicate the major elements of such decision(s).

improving input from expert networks/organisations: SBSTTA will have to operate both as a platform of experts, and as a focal point for expertise networks/organisations elsewhere.

rosters of experts: proper use should be made of rosters of experts, such as on marine and coastal biodiversity. Experts may be invited to provide written inputs or to participate in intersessional meetings. Communication with the experts should be taking place on a regular basis, making use of the CBD's Clearing-House Mechanism.

Programme of Work

In order to focus the discussion on a future Programme of Work the EU suggests to establish the agenda of the next three COP's. Taking into account the orientation towards a biannual frequency a program along the following lines could be considered:

COP5	
Conservation	establishment of (networks of) protected areas for the conservation of biological diversity
Sustainable use	sustainable tourism
Sharing of benefits	need and modalities for a multilateral framework on access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits
Ecosystem focus	forest ecosystems

COP6	
Conservation	biological diversity and integrated land use
Sustainable use	indicators for sustainable use of biological diversity (Article 7)
Sharing of benefits	co-operation on technologies for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (Article 16.1)
Ecosystem focus	- ecosystems not yet dealt with (e.g. dry-land, mountains) - marine and coastal ecosystems (progress)

COP7	
Conservation	conservation of biological diversity outside protected areas
Sustainable use	review of the implementation of Article 14 on environmental assessment
Sharing of benefits	development and use of indigenous and traditional technologies (Article 18.4)
Ecosystem focus	agricultural ecosystems (progress)