



Convention on Biological Diversity

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Sixteenth meeting

Montreal, 30 April-5 May 2012

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

OUTCOME OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE PLENARY MEETING TO DETERMINE MODALITIES AND INSTITUTIONAL MODALITIES FOR AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Information note by the Executive Secretary

1. The second session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional modalities for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services was held in Panama City, Panama, 16 – 21 April, 2012. This note provides an informal summary of the outcomes of the session for the information of the participants in the sixteenth session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific technical and Technological Advice. It supplements the information provided in the note by the Executive Secretary on ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/2). The official report of the session will be provided on the IPBES website.¹
2. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) was established as an independent intergovernmental body, by means of a resolution supported by more than ninety countries present at the session.
3. The functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements of the Platform were elaborated, although some details are yet to be finalized.
4. In line with the Busan outcome, the functions of the Platform may be summarized as (i) identifying scientific needs and catalysing knowledge generation, (ii) performing regular and timely assessments of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their inter-linkages, (iii) identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies, and (iv) supporting and catalysing capacity building.
5. The Plenary will be the Platform's decision-making body, open to membership from States members of the United Nations. A Bureau, comprising the Chair and four Vice-Chairs and five additional officers will oversee the administrative functions, while a Multidisciplinary Expert Panel will carry out the scientific and technical functions, initially comprised of five members from each of the five United Nations regions, and with the Chairs of the biodiversity and ecosystem services -related MEA scientific subsidiary bodies to be invited as observers.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/1.

¹ www.ipbes.net. The in-session documents and draft outcomes are available at www.ipbes.net/panama.html

6. It was agreed that the seat of the Secretariat will be located in Bonn, Germany.
7. The rules of procedures for the platform's plenary were also determined, although many elements remain to be finalized. Rules of procedures based on those of UNEP Governing Council will be used for the first meeting of the IPBES Plenary in those remaining areas. The first meeting of the IPBES Plenary is expected to determine arrangements for the Secretariat, the work-programme and the budget. The first session of the IPBES Plenary is also due to decide on the link of the Platform with the United Nations system.
8. In preparation for the first session of the IPBES Plenary, an inter-sessional work programme was agreed including the following elements:
 - (a) Preparation of a catalogue of assessments, and a review of these assessments highlighting the implementation of capacity-building activities, the use of conceptual frameworks, the scope of assessments, the experiences with the integration of knowledge systems, the use of scenarios and other tools, the lessons learned with respect to achievement of the impact of assessments, and the gaps in knowledge and coverage of assessments;
 - (b) Preparation of a draft conceptual framework;
 - (c) Further consideration of capacity-building needs and suggestions for the activities and partnerships that might address those needs;
 - (d) Consideration, based on submissions from Governments, multilateral environmental agreements and other entities, of the process by which requests might be submitted to the Plenary of the Platform, and on the process by which the plenary might prioritize such requests,
 - (e) Consideration, based on submissions from Governments, multilateral environmental agreements and other entities, of the process that should be followed for scoping potential assessments and other Platform activities once they have been prioritized by the Plenary of the Platform, and on the expected outputs of such a process.
9. The biodiversity-related conventions represented at the session, including the CBD Secretariat, indicated their interest and willingness to contribute to these inter-sessional activities. A joint statement of the biodiversity-related conventions is included in the report of the session. In addition, a statement prepared by the chairs of the scientific subsidiary bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions, prepared at the third meeting in Dublin on 25 March 2012, was made available as an information document for the second session.²

² UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/16 available at <http://www.ipbes.net/plenary-sessions/second-session-of-plenary.html>