

Dear Mr Chair,

Belgium wishes to thank the Executive Secretary and the SBSTTA Bureau for preparing this meeting.

As Norway, Belgium is a strong supporter of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and agrees that SBSTTA must endeavor to constantly improve the quality of its scientific, technical and technological advice to the COP by improving scientific, technical and technological input into, debate at, and work of, meetings of the Subsidiary Body, we welcome the new format of the meeting as outlined in the explanatory note UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/1/Add.2 as a valid attempt to strengthen SBSTTA's advisory role to both COP and the Parties in implementing the Strategic Plan..

We nevertheless would like to highlight that, whatever format is used to improve the SBSTTA, guidance as provided by the Conference of the Parties must be duly followed in the preparation of meetings of the SBSTTA. In particular, we would like to remind the Executive Secretary of §12 of the consolidated modus operandi of SBSTTA as decided by the eighth meeting of the COP, which determines that "documents will be distributed three months before the meeting in the working languages of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice", ... and "will include proposed conclusions and recommendations for consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice".

We would therefore appreciate a thorough evaluation of the results of a SBSTTA meeting under this new format to conclude on its potential added value and increased effectiveness in line with its modus operandi.

We will submit some language to reflect this point.

Thank you, Mr/Madam Chair.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopts a decision along the following lines:

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)

Reiterating the principles and guidance on the operation of the SBSTTA as adopted in the consolidated *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice as adopted by COP Decision VIII/10 and its annex III,

Requests the ES, in consultation with the COP and SBSTTA Bureaux, to evaluate the organization of the seventeenth meeting of the SBSTTA, in particular regarding the effectiveness to improve the quality of its scientific, technical and technological advice in support of the implementation of the work of the Conference of the Parties and the Strategic Plan of the Convention, for consideration by the XIIth meeting of the COP.