

**BELGIUM-SPEAKING NOTES AND POSITIONS, SBSTTA 17  
FACILITATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020  
AND THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS THROUGH SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL MEANS>**

**Strategic goal A which addresses the underlying causes of biodiversity loss**

**A. Speaking Notes**

Dear Mrs Chair, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Belgium congratulates the Secretariat for the excellent reports we have in front of us on facilitating the implementation of the strategic plan for biodiversity and the Aichi biodiversity targets through scientific and technical means (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/2 and its annexes).

We fully support the approach to concentrate on practical progress throughout this SBSTTA and will therefore focus our responses accordingly.

Belgium welcomes the conclusions on Adequacy of guidance and tools in support of implementation at national level for Goal A. The conclusions mention among others that there is a gap to adapt the global guidance and methodologies to national level. Belgium would like to request the Secretariat to include a section on best practices on adaptation of guidance and tools on its CHM to enable Parties that have adapted and used them at national level to share their experiences. This will facilitate adaptation by other Parties.

We would like to inform on a reporting tool for national strategies towards the Strategic Plan 2011 - 2020 and its AICHI targets, which is currently under development by a working group of 6 Parties to the Convention, namely Belgium in cooperation with The Netherlands, Germany, France, Finland and the European Commission. The Secretariat of the CBD and the BIP are also involved in its development. The scope of this tool is to facilitate national reporting towards national strategies, regional strategies, the CBD and related Conventions by using the AICHI targets as common denominator. This tool, once thoroughly tested, will be made available, free of charge, to all Parties.

Belgium would like to highlight the scientific and technical needs to develop methods for translating biodiversity awareness into behavioural changes as well as methods for valuation of biodiversity including non-economical values. Further more, Belgium is fully conscious of the needs for effectively engaging the production sector and consumers. Incentives in favour of biodiversity need to be further promoted, in particular non economic ones, and there is a clear need to further identify, eliminate, phase out or reform incentives and subsidies that have negative impacts on biodiversity.

Belgium will hand in text in writing to reflect these points,  
Thank you Mr Chair.

## **B. Proposed elements for conclusion and/or decision**

*The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice* may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties adopts a decision along the following lines:

Requests the Executive Secretary:

To include sections on its CHM on best practices on :

- a) adaptation of guidance and tools to enable parties that have adapted and used the methods or tools at national level to share their experiences in order to facilitate adaptation by other Parties
- b) the benefits of ecosystem services

To further refine, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments, intergovernmental organizations and other relevant organizations, existing tools and guidance to improve :

- a) translating biodiversity awareness into behavioural change as well as methods for valuation of biodiversity including non-economical values
- b) identifying, eliminating, phase out or reforming incentives and subsidies that have negative impacts on biodiversity

Calls upon Parties and invites other Governments, intergovernmental organizations and other relevant organizations to:

To continue or engage research on methods for:

1. translating biodiversity awareness into behavioural change as well as
2. valuation of biodiversity including non-economical values
3. estimating of the economic and social benefits provided by ecosystem services,

To continue and enhance technical and scientific cooperation as well as capacity building through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation taking into account the special needs of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition.