

**NEW AND EMERGING ISSUES RELATING TO THE CONSERVATION AND
SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda

Speaking Notes

Dear Mr Chair, dear ladies and gentlemen,

Belgium wishes to thank the Executive Secretary for preparing documents SBSTTA/17/2 part IV on new and emerging issues, and its annex summarising the submission of the Ottawa River Institute.

In line with its long-standing position on the issue, Belgium holds the opinion that adding any new and/or emerging issue to the agenda of SBSTTA is to be discouraged, in order to prevent further burdening the already heavily charged agenda of the meeting. We repeat that any potential new and emerging issue should fulfil the criteria established through decision IX/29 prior to consideration, and preferably be dealt with under existing PoWs.

With regards to the submission by the Ottawa River Institute on the impacts of neonicotinoid insecticides on biodiversity, Belgium considers that the issue of the impact of chemicals on biodiversity is being considered under other international forums, such as the Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SACM) of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), and that the impact of pesticides in general is better treated under the work of FAO.

Considering, however, that the draft work plan of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services contains a thematic fast track assessment on pollination and its impact on food security, we feel that it would be appropriate for SBSTTA through appropriate channels to suggest IPBES to pay special attention to the impact of systemic pesticides in this assessment, and to include the impact on biodiversity in the assessment. Further considering the work underway by the IUCN task force on systemic pesticides, to produce a synthesis report on the ecological risks of systemic pesticides, we believe it is again appropriate for SBSTTA to suggest IPBES to take into account this work in its assessment on pollination.

We will submit some draft text in line with our concerns to the secretariat.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Proposed elements for conclusion and/or draft decision

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

Reiterating decision IX/29, concludes that there is no need to add any new and emerging issue to the work under Convention;

Acknowledging the importance of systemic pesticides for biodiversity, *requests* the ES, pursuant Decision XI/3 (§7(a)), to suggest IPBES at its next meeting, to:

- a. include the threat posed by systemic pesticides on pollinators in the relevant element of its draft work program and include the impact on biodiversity in its assessment;
- b. take into account work by relevant initiatives, such as the IUCN task force, on systemic pesticides.