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STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CONVENTION

Glossary of terms

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This present document is a slightly modified version of the draft glossary of terms prepared for the Workshop on the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Port Gland, Seychelles, from 28 to 30 May 2001 (UNEP/CBD/WS-Strat-Plan/3). It contains expressions used in the documentation relating to the Strategic Plan that are of a structural nature. It does not provide definitions for technical terms (for example, "biodiversity", "ecosystem", "incentives", etc.).

2. The purpose of a glossary is to develop a nomenclature for developing the Strategic Plan and thereby to enable those involved in this process to communicate their ideas in a common terminology. The definitions are not meant to be determinative or legally exact and, in some instances, denote special meanings that vary from the common understanding of the word. Nor has every term been explained; with the emphasis being on those terms that are essential or central to the development of the Strategic Plan.

3. The starting point for the glossary of terms is the Convention itself and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties. Decision V/20 of the Conference of the Parties, on the operations of the Convention, provides the basic outline for most of the terms, which has been further elaborated in the submissions on the Strategic Plan. Also included are a number of supplementary terms that have been used in the submissions on the Strategic Plan received from Governments and relevant organizations. The draft elements of the Strategic Plan prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/MSP/2) provides concrete examples of many of the terms.

4. The terms are set out in a hierarchical sense with the most strategic or highest-ranking terms being explained first. The term being defined is highlighted in the relevant paragraph.

II. TERMS

5. The **objectives** of the Convention are outlined in its Article 1 and are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the

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benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding.

6. The **principle** of the Convention is contained in its Article 3 and provides that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction

7. The **Strategic Plan** shall be based on the longer-term programme of work of the Conference of the Parties and SBSTTA. The Strategic Plan shall provide strategic and operational guidance for the implementation of these programmes of work.

8. **Strategic guidance** will principally come from the mission statement and vision (the overall objectives of the Plan). **Operational guidance** will come from the operational goals.

9. The **purpose** of the Strategic Plan should be to support and facilitate implementation of the Convention by Parties, primarily through their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

10. The **longer-term programme of work** of the Conference of the Parties and the SBSTTA refers to programme of work outlined in decision IV/16.

11. The **mission statement** refers to highest ideal or aspiration of the Strategic Plan. It is an aim that is meant to be shared by all those involved in the Convention process. It should always be true, expressing what the Convention is aspiring to achieve at any moment, now and in the future, namely to halt to the loss of biodiversity everywhere. It should be idealistic, as only strong beliefs are changing the world. Although the Convention is pragmatic in its actions and operational methods, it should be driven by a visionary conviction regarding what people around the world should aspire to. An example of a mission statement provided in the draft elements proposed by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/MSP/2) is “to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources”.

12. The **vision** refers to a limited and focused set of priority goals that that are central to achieving the aims of the Strategic Plan. They are basis of the strategic guidance that the plan is meant to provide. The examples provided in the draft elements proposed by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/MSP/2) are that by 2010:

- Current trends in the loss of biodiversity are effectively reversed at the global and national level;
- The incidence and impacts of unsustainable use are considerably reduced;
- The benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge are shared equitably.

13. Others could be:

- Entry into force of the Biosafety Protocol as soon as possible ;
- Universal membership of the Convention by 2004;
- Implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in all Parties by 2008.

14. The first step in the development of any plan is an **assessment** of the context in which the plan is meant to operate. In the case of the Strategic Plan for the Convention this means gathering information on the status and trends of biodiversity and the effectiveness of the Convention to date. A preliminary assessment is provided in the annex to the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/MSP/2).

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15. The Strategic Plan shall relate to the three main areas of the work: thematic programmes; cross-cutting issues and initiatives; and the implementation of the provisions of the Convention.

16. **Thematic programmes** refers to programmes of work on: marine and coastal biodiversity, the biodiversity of inland waters, forest biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity and the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands. It may also refer to other thematic issues as well such as mountain biodiversity and polar biodiversity.

17. **Cross-cutting issues and initiatives** refers to the work of the process regarding the following areas:

- (a) Access and benefit-sharing;
- (b) Alien species;
- (c) Biological diversity and tourism;
- (d) Economics, trade and incentives;
- (e) Ecosystem approach;
- (f) Education and public awareness;
- (g) Global strategy for plant conservation;
- (h) Global Taxonomy Initiative;
- (i) Impact assessment, liability and redress;
- (j) Economics, trade and incentives;
- (k) Identification, monitoring and indicators;
- (l) Protected areas;
- (m) Scientific assessments;
- (n) Sustainable use of biodiversity;
- (o) Traditional knowledge;
- (p) Financial resources;
- (q) Clearing-house mechanism;
- (r) National reports;
- (s) Biosafety;
- (t) Scientific and technical cooperation;
- (u) Technology transfer.

18. The **implementation of the provisions of the Convention** refers to the paragraphs of the Articles of the Convention.

19. The Strategic Plan shall contain a set of **operational goals**.

20. Each operational goal should contain a number of **action plans**, which are activities undertaken to achieve the relevant operational goal.

21. The operational goals and/or action plans are as far as possible to contain:

- (a) Planned activities;
- (b) The expected products;

- (c) The timing of each of these activities and products;
- (d) The actors carrying out these activities and cooperation with relevant organizations;
- (e) The mechanisms used to realize and/or support the goals and activities, or to generate the expected products; and
- (f) Financial, human-resource and other capacity requirements.

22. The **planned activities** indicate how each of the operational goals may be supported or promoted and which steps may be undertaken so far. Identification of these activities is, to a large extent based upon the content of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties related to the subject matter of each of the goals. Examples of planned activities can be found in the third column of the annex to the note by the Executive Secretary on preparation of the Strategic Plan, prepared for the Seychelles Workshop (UNEP/CBD/WS-Strat-Plan/4).

23. The **expected products** could include:

- (a) Manuals of best practice;
- (b) Guidelines;
- (c) Codes of conduct;
- (d) Criteria;
- (e) Indicators;
- (f) Standards/labelling; and
- (g) Protocols.

24. The action plans should not simply be “programmes of work” analogous to existing thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity. In order to add value to the existing initiatives, it is important that they contain targets.

25. There are a wide variety of possible **targets**. The types of targets that have been mentioned in the submissions include:

- (a) **Process targets**;
- (b) **Output targets**;
- (c) **Outcome targets**;
- (d) **Impact targets or biodiversity targets or substantive targets**.

26. In the case of biodiversity, the development of targets is dependent and linked to the issue of indicators, since it is not possible to actually measure biodiversity *per se*. This means that possible targets are closely related to the widely known pressure-state response framework. The key target “to slow the rate of biodiversity loss by 2015” is an example of an impact target. The key target of “Implementation of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans in all Parties by 2004” is an example of an outcome target. Adoption of a product such as a guideline is an example of an output target. Initiation of a programme of work on mountain biodiversity is an example of a process target.

27. The **actors** refers to the principle entity responsible for undertaking the planned activity and can include Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, local and indigenous communities, SBSTTA, the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat, the financial mechanism, the clearing-house, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP) and the Biosafety Clearing-House. Examples of the actors can be found in the sixth column of the annex to the note by the Executive Secretary.

28. The **mechanisms** used to generate the expected products refers to the use of the ad hoc technical expert groups, liaison groups, expert groups, workshops, working groups, SBSTTA, and any other process that provides input to support for a decision of the Conference of the Parties.

29. The **financial, human resource and other capacity requirements** refer to the resources needs and implications of the Strategic Plan in the widest sense of the word and includes, support from the budget of the Convention, the resources of the financial mechanism, the resources of Parties and other stakeholders.
