



Convention on Biological Diversity

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EXPERT MEETING FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Montreal, 6-7 November 2008

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Note by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. At its ninth meeting, in May 2008, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity emphasized, in its decision IX/25, that South-South cooperation is important for development in the context of the Millennium Development Goals, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome ^{1/} as a complement to, and supported by, North-South cooperation. The Conference of the Parties noted the report on the brainstorming meeting of experts on South-South cooperation convened by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in November 2006, in Montreal which developed a draft framework for South-South cooperation on biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/11). It also noted the initiative of developing countries to prepare, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other partners, a multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development, based on the above-mentioned draft framework. In this context, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and other Governments, regional and international organizations to support the organization of a South-South cooperation forum on biodiversity for development at the margins of its tenth meeting, in October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan.

2. In June 2008, at the twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (IFC-XII) in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire, the member States of the Group of 77 launched the Development Platform for the South ^{2/} in the context of the new realities and emerging challenges facing the developing countries. The platform is considered an essential and necessary tool for policy-making and action to promote international cooperation in the South and support the participation and integration of developing countries into the global economy and the globalization process. Under item 4.II, paragraphs 42 through 46, the Development Platform recognizes that biodiversity is under threat and that South-South cooperation on biodiversity can be significant and fruitful. The Platform thus proposes that developing countries should be enabled to place high priority on biodiversity and biosafety in their national agendas (especially regarding the negotiations for an international instrument on access and benefit-sharing, as well as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety).

^{1/} See General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

^{2/} G-77/AM(XX)/2008/6. Also available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/ssc/emssc-01/other/emssc-01-platform-en.doc>.

3. In this spirit, the Platform encourages the Group of 77 to pursue a programme of action for South-South cooperation in biodiversity. In section B of chapter 3, on proposed measures for South-South cooperation, the Development Platform recommends the elaboration of a “multi-year work programme on South-South cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for protection of life on earth as well as the access and fair equitable sharing of benefit arising from the use of genetic resources”.

4. With financial support from the Global Environment Facility and in partnership with the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity is convening this expert meeting to:

(a) Review the above-mentioned draft framework for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for full integration into the G-77 Development Platform for the South; and

(b) Identify activities for inclusion in the multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development.

5. The outcomes of this expert meeting may be considered at two relevant events: the United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in 2009, and the third South Summit in Africa of the G-77, in 2010, prior to the South-South Cooperation forum on biodiversity for development to be organized at the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which will be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010. Pursuant to paragraph 6 of decision IX/25, the Executive Secretary will report on the preparation of the multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

6. Experts who will participate in the meeting have been identified by the Chairman of the Group of 77, based on their experience, their previous contribution to the theme (including to the brainstorming meeting organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in November 2006) and their involvement in the negotiations that led to the drafting of the text of the Development Platform for the South. Relevant United Nations agencies, regional cooperation bodies and representatives of executive bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity have also been invited to participate.

7. Participants will register between 9 and 9:30 a.m. on Thursday 6 November 2008, at the offices of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as described in the information note for participants.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

7. The meeting will be opened at 9.30 a.m. by H.E. Ambassador John Ashe of Antigua and Barbuda, Chairman of the Group of 77, who will also chair the meeting. Mr. Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity will also welcome participants.

8. Under this item, participants will be invited to adopt the agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/EM-SSC/1/1/Rev.1) and approve the organization of work proposed in annex I below.

9. A list of documents for the meeting is contained in annex II below. The documents are also available on the Secretariat's website at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EMSSC-01>. The language of the meeting will be English.

ITEM 2. PRESENTATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM FOR THE SOUTH

10. The Chairman of the Group of 77, H.E. Ambassador John Ashe, will make a presentation on the Development Platform for the South. He will highlight in particular the elements of relevance to biodiversity and explain how the Platform constitutes a suitable overall framework for the development of a multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development. For the purpose of this meeting, the text of

the “Development Platform for the South” is accessible at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/ssc/emssc-01/other/emssc-01-platform-en.pdf>.

ITEM 3. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT FRAMEWORK OF THE MULTI-YEAR PLAN OF ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM FOR THE SOUTH

11. The Secretariat of the Convention will summarize the evolution and the elements of the draft multi-year plan of action for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development, (UNEP/CBD/EM-SSC/1/2) which is based on relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties of the Parties and the framework contained in the report of the Brainstorming Meeting on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/11). The Secretariat will also describe ongoing activities relating to the strengthening of regional organizations’ capacity for international cooperation and partnerships, and the development of training modules targeting selected development sectors (such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and tourism) and communication and awareness raising materials. The Secretariat will also submit for discussion proposals for revising the draft framework in the context of the Development Platform for the South, including activities that could be considered in the multi-year plan of action in the areas of priority identified in the Development Platform for the South.

12. Under this item, participants may wish to exchange information and views on frameworks in other relevant processes, discuss the draft framework and contribute to the list of activities that could be included in the multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development. The meeting is expected to agree on a framework for the multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development that reflects the needs and expectations of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and contributes to the Development Platform for the South.

ITEM 4. PREPARATIONS FOR THE SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION FORUM ON BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

13. Under this item, the Secretariat will make a brief introduction. Participants may wish to raise and discuss ways and means for consultations among Parties, and for the successful validation and adoption of the multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development at the South-South Cooperation forum in Nagoya, on the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and for its implementation beyond that date.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

14. Under this item, participants may wish to raise and discuss matters of relevance to the meeting.

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

15. Participants will review and adopt the report of the meeting, which will be considered at the South-South Cooperation forum in Nagoya.

16. The meeting is expected to be closed at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, 7 November 2008. An optional visit to the Biodôme of Montreal will be offered to participants afterward.

*Annex I***PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
6 November 2008 9 to 9.30 a.m. 9.30 to 10.15 a.m.	Registration of delegates. 1. Opening of the meeting and organizational matters. HE Ambassador John Ashe, Chairman of the Group of 77, will offer opening remarks to participants, followed by welcoming remarks by Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
10.15 to 11 a.m.	2. Presentation of the Development Platform for the South by HE Ambassador John Ashe
11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	3. Review of the draft framework of the multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development in the context of the Development Platform for the South Presentation by H.E. Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Presentation by Eric Belvaux, SCBD Programme Officer, Biodiversity for Development Unit. Short remarks from other participants.
12.30 to 2 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
2 to 5 p.m.	Presentation on the draft framework of the multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development (Secretariat). Group discussions led by Professor James Seyani, member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, and Mr. Spencer Linus Thomas, Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA). Plenary for validation of results
7 November 2008 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	4. Preparations for the South-South Cooperation Forum on Biodiversity for Development Presentation on the process of the Multi-Year Plan of Action (Secretariat) Plenary discussions 5. Other matters. 6. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting.
12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
	Visit to the Biodôme de Montreal (optional).

*Annex II***LIST OF DOCUMENTS*****Working documents for the meeting****Symbol**Title*

UNEP/CBD/EM-SSC/1/1/Rev 1

Provisional agenda

UNEP/CBD/EM-SSC/1/1/Add.1/Rev.1

Annotations to agenda

UNEP/CBD/EM-SSC/1/2

Framework for a multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development

Other documents

UNEP/CBD/EM-SSC/1/2/Rev.2 and Corr.1

Elements for a multi-year plan of action for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development

UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/11

Report of the Brainstorming Meeting on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity

(<http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-09/information/cop-09-inf-11-en.pdf>)

Information note to participants

(<https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EMSSC-01>)
