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BRAINSTORMING MEETING ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY
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ELEMENTS FOR A MULTI-YEAR PLAN OF ACTION FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Since its establishment in 1964, the Group of 77 has attached the highest importance to the promotion of South-South cooperation (SSC) in achieving the objective of international cooperation for development, not as a substitute for the more traditional North-South cooperation but as a complement. The Caracas Programme of Action, adopted in 1981, provided the framework and mechanism of implementation for this important instrument, and as a result, South-South cooperation has emerged as a powerful instrument to foster the solidarity and the cohesiveness of the 131 members of the Group of 77, representing three regional groups of the United Nations system (Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean). It has also emerged as a unique mechanism for promoting exchange of experiences and dissemination of best practices based on the spirit of solidarity of its members. The United Nations supported the promotion of technical and economic cooperation among developing countries from its early beginning, as evidenced by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action on technical cooperation among developing countries and the ongoing technical and economic cooperation among developing countries of the United Nations Development Programme.

2. The successful implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), namely the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, is key to achieving sustainable development of all the members of the Group of 77. The overwhelming majority of the wealth in biodiversity of our planet is located in developing countries. Often, the countries poorest in financial resources are the richest in terms of biodiversity. However, this wealth is disappearing at a frightening pace, undermining the possibilities for sustained growth of developing countries and the possibility of improved access to, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the sustainable use of genetic resources.

* UNEP/CBD/BM-SSC/1/1.

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3. In order to benefit from their respective experience in promoting the sustainable use of biodiversity and ensuring that biodiversity will continue to contribute to their individual and collective long term development, the Chairman of the Group of 77 has taken the initiative of suggesting a long-term plan of action among developing countries for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Chairman of the Group of 77 also suggested that the draft plan of action be submitted for review by the Group of 77 and China and for adoption by the ninth Conference of the Parties, to be held in Germany in 2008. To assist in the preparation of this plan of action, a brainstorming workshop has been convened in Montreal from 6 to 8 November 2006 by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in partnership with the Chairman of the Group of 77.

4. This note has been prepared to assist the discussions on the elements of a multi-year plan of action of South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development. Section II of the note contains a brief description and review of South-South cooperation in the United Nations system. Section III discusses the links between biodiversity and development, section IV highlights biodiversity as an asset for developing countries, and section V records some lessons learned in promoting South-South cooperation, including mechanisms for countries to collaborate in the framework of South-South cooperation. Section VI lists some possible elements for South-South cooperation in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and section VII suggests some means of implementation for a plan of action for South-South cooperation on biodiversity and development. Annex I lists some examples of successful South-South cooperation, and annex II outlines the specific themes and activities described in the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and relates them to the mechanisms listed in section V.

II. SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

5. South-South cooperation 1/ (SSC) involves interaction between two or more developing countries that pursue their individual or collective goals through cooperative exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how. What characterizes South-South cooperation is that projects are conceived, designed, and managed by developing countries, and that the expertise and technology transferred are developed in the South.

6. Support to South-South exchanges by the United Nations system dates back to the 1970s following the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action at the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. 2/. In 1981, the Group of 77, which includes all developing countries at the United Nations, organized a high-level conference in Caracas, taking the lead in promoting joint initiatives in marketing and technology transfer. 3/ The Group of 77 has addressed South-South cooperation at the ministerial meetings held during the annual sessions of the United Nations General Assembly and at special high-level conferences with special emphasis on economic cooperation in Cairo (1986) and Bali, Indonesia (1998). In 2000, the Group developed the Havana Plan of Action, endorsed at the First South Summit of the Group of 77, followed by the Second South Summit in 2005, which adopted the Doha Plan of Action.

7. In December 2003, guided by the Havana Programme of Action, the Marrakech Framework of Implementation of South–South Cooperation made South-South cooperation not just an option but an

1/ The expression replaced the term “technical cooperation between developing countries” (TCDC) in the United Nations in 2003.

2/ The culmination of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the Plan of Action was signed by 138 Governments in Buenos Aires in September 1978. It was endorsed in December of the same year by the United Nations General Assembly. The Plan of Action took five years to develop, at the height of a historically significant period of decolonization, and it remains arguably the most carefully debated document on this subject.

3/ All action plans and statements in this paragraph can be found at http://www.biodiv.org/meetings/default.shtml.

imperative and recognized that sustainable development remains the primary responsibility of developing countries, while acknowledging the contribution of North-South exchanges. It acknowledged the role of non-governmental organizations, the business community, foundations, universities and other development actors in supporting Governments in this goal. Also in 2003, the United Nations General Assembly declared 19 December as the United Nations Day for South-South cooperation (resolution 58/220). In 2005, the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, submitted a report on South-South cooperation to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session (A/60/257).

8. More recently, in September, the 154 Heads of State and Government attending the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, also referred to as the 2005 World Summit, dedicated paragraph 30 of their declaration to South-South cooperation, recognizing its achievements and great potential and welcoming the decision of the leaders of the South to intensify their efforts at South-South cooperation, including through the establishment of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership. They also reiterated the need for the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of developing countries, *inter alia*, through the provision of the necessary resources, as well as through triangular cooperation. 4/ Today, more than just building bridges between developing countries, South-South cooperation should be thought of more in terms of placing the South "on the 21st century's global super highways", according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). 5/

9. While South-South cooperation has been incorporated into main programmes on the issues of trade, economic development and development, general issues relating to environment—and more so biodiversity—have yet to be approached in a comprehensive way, in spite of existing initiatives. More recently, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Global Ministerial Environment Forum adopted the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building at its twenty-third session, in February 2005, and established South-South cooperation as one of the primary mechanisms for the implementation of the technology support and capacity-building activities set forth in the Plan.

10. Following up on the Bali Strategic Plan, UNEP has embarked on a series of activities, including, *inter alia*:

(a) Policy-level consultation meetings on South-South cooperation (high-level consultation in November 2005 in Jakarta, and the Group of 77 retreat in Nairobi in November 2005);

(b) Development of a UNEP web-based clearing house for South-South cooperation in partnership with the UNDP Web for Information and Development (WIDE), the clearing-house mechanism under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other existing similar databases;

(c) South-South cooperation activities in Africa: Environment Information Network, South-South Network of GEO collaborating centres, the triangular Fredskorpset Norway Exchange;

(d) Production of the South Report on South-South cooperation with the UNDP Special Unit for South-South cooperation and other relevant United Nations agencies and international organizations, to be published in late 2007;

(e) Discussions with multilateral environmental agreements, particularly the Convention on Biological Diversity, other United Nations agencies and technical cooperation mechanisms, such as UNDP and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

4/ http://www.un.org/ga/59/hlpm_rev.2.pdf

5/ Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, UNDP Administrator, in *Forging a Global South*, 2004 (see footnote 13 below).

11. In recent years, emphasis on South-South cooperation in the United Nations has coincided with a recognized need for interdependence among countries of the South as a strategy to harness opportunities of globalization, and to minimize risks from this trend. As highlighted in many publications on South-South cooperation, factors facilitating South-South cooperation include, *inter alia*:

(a) Developing parties share many of the challenges in terms of institutional circumstances, capacity to implement programmes, vulnerability to environmental disasters and degradation. Solutions produced in the South are often better for addressing problems from the South (the so-called "ecological specificity of technology");

(b) Trade between developing countries has grown 11 per cent a year for the last decade, with the rise in importance and numbers of regional trade organizations and partnerships such as NEPAD. This has led to the establishment of regional multi-polar spheres of influence, with several countries of the South becoming hubs for South-South exchanges. Furthermore, multinational corporations in the South are playing an increasingly important role in the global economy. South-South economic integration is inevitable: the challenge is to incorporate the three objectives of the Convention into development guidelines;

(c) Certain developing countries have an increasing critical mass of experts, scientists and specialists, with a greater reservoir of intellectual capital and innovations. Modern communication and information technologies allow for unprecedented levels of access and exchange. Moreover, and in spite of the widening income and access gap between North and South (the "technology divide"), with increasing access to literacy and especially the impact of communication, developing countries today house an unprecedented level of awareness and consciousness;

(d) Countries in the South tend to be clustered together and therefore share common borders and resources. For them, transboundary natural resources management issues can be successfully addressed only through South-South cooperation;

(e) In certain areas of policy development and management, countries in the South in fact have better abilities or capacity than their counterparts in the North. This is particularly the case regarding the issues related to indigenous and traditional knowledge.

12. It is based on such considerations that forums such as the Group of 15, 6/ the Group of Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries (LMMC) 7/ or the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum 8/ have been recently established to foster cooperation and enhance the solidarity and the interdependence of developing countries. The LMMC has been established in the context of the implementation of the Convention, demonstrating that the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention offers a unique opportunity to enhance South-South cooperation.

III. BIODIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT

13. In developing countries, natural resources, and particularly biodiversity, are often the foundation of economics and one of the main assets for development and poverty alleviation (as it has been for developed countries). Sustainable use of biodiversity is an essential component of any development strategy, in particular as refers to poverty alleviation, and to meet the needs of developing countries and

6/ The G-15 is comprised of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Nigeria, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

7/ The group of LMMC was formed in 2002 at the initiative of Mexico. It includes 17 countries, namely, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Madagascar, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, and Venezuela.

8/ http://www.indianembassy.org.br/port/relations/ForumForCo-operation.htm.

their populations. South-South cooperation on biodiversity should, therefore, have three objectives: to conserve a crucial asset of developing countries, to ensure that biodiversity can be used sustainably for the development of Southern countries, in meeting Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7, and to support developing countries in the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of their genetic resources.

14. Subsistence farming, managed by millions of resource-poor farmers on small parcels of marginal land in remote, mountainous, or arid regions, is estimated to produce as much as 20 per cent of the world's food, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The world's poor, 70 per cent of whom live in rural and coastal areas, depend on plants for as much as 90 per cent of their needs—food, fuel, medicine, shelter, transportation. Forests cover about one third of the world's total land area, and 1.6 billion people worldwide depend on forests for their livelihood. They provide multiple social, economic and environmental benefits (some 60 million people are employed in the tropical forestry and wood industries, according to the International Tropical Timber Organization) and provide habitats for about two-thirds of all species on Earth.

15. Moreover, the backbone of many developing countries' economies is based on natural resources. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 92 per cent of total exports earnings in Africa originate from primary commodities such as agriculture, mineral, marine and forest products. Environmental assets provide 25 per cent of wealth in developing countries.

16. The issue of access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources is of particular concern to developing countries and may also benefit from further South-South cooperation initiatives related to, inter alia, exchange of information and experiences, and capacity-building with a view to the successful negotiations of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing by 2010.

17. The costs of unsustainable approaches to the use of biodiversity in development are high, both in economic and social terms, especially in developing countries. To cite just a few facts reported in the literature:

(a) According to FAO, 70 per cent of the world's poor live in rural areas where uncontrolled alterations of ecosystems such as catchment areas and poorly managed logging often reduce the buffer-capacities of these ecosystems. When extreme weather hits, small farmers pay the price with failed crops and disrupted water supplies;

(b) Environmental pollution cost China 64 billion dollars in economic losses in 2004, amounting to 3.1 per cent of total economic output that year, according to State media. These costs go beyond the direct remediation of environmental impacts: in 2006, China expects to spend US$ 161 million relocating 240,000 people from areas requiring ecological protection this year – a reality faced likewise by several other developing countries;

(c) Fishing is one of the main economic activities in the Philippines. Its coastal and marine resources are described as "the richest in marine biodiversity in the world". However, as the country battled one of its worst oil spills in 2006, a joint report by the World Bank and the Government's Environment and Natural Resources Department proposed "reducing fishing effort to allow degraded stocks to recover, and to provide alternative livelihoods" to poor coastal communities. Habitat loss, unsustainable fishing practices including the use of dynamite and chemical poison to stun fish and trade in endangered species are considered key threats;

(d) Tourism is arguably the Caribbean's most significant industry. However, coral reef degradation, widespread urban development, and climate change are threatening several of its most attractive beaches. If Caribbean beaches are not protected and fall into a process of degradation—in

contrast to those of developed countries from where most of the tourists originate, where they are being recuperated and maintained—developing countries in the Caribbean may face a shift in the flow of tourists.

18. Any effective poverty reduction strategy therefore needs to consider the benefits of a healthy environment, and the threats of environmental degradation.

IV. BIODIVERSITY: AN ASSET FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

19. Biodiversity has particular significance for South-South cooperation as most of the world's living species (known and, more so, still unknown) are found in ecosystems in the South. Some facts help put this into perspective:

(a) Most major food crops (such as maize, rice and wheat) come from developing countries;

(b) Sixty-five per cent of the world's remaining forest cover is in developing countries; 9/

(c) Eighty-eight per cent of the most critical biodiversity conservation hotspots (highly threatened regions where some 60 per cent of all terrestrial species diversity are found and which cover only 1.4 per cent of the planet's land surface) are located in developing countries, according to the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund;

(d) A 25-acre portion of rainforest in Borneo may contain more than 700 species of trees—a number equal to the number of tree species in North America.

20. Additionally, the most significant threats to biodiversity, and greatest rates of loss, are found in developing countries, as evidenced in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Finally, Southern countries' direct dependence on biodiversity amongst the population is far higher, and people have a direct vested interest in better biodiversity management. According to the World Resources Institute, ecosystems contributed between 30 and 55 per cent of total household income in Africa in 2005.

21. Global biodiversity is particularly concentrated in a few countries (most of them developing, located in the tropics)—the megadiverse countries—where, according to Conservation International, less than the 10 per cent of the global surface harbours more than 70 per cent of the world's biodiversity. Some of those countries met in 2002 in Cancun, Mexico, and proposed to develop strategic projects and bilateral, regional and international agreements, within the framework of a more effective South-South cooperation, for the conservation and sustainable use of their biological diversity and genetic resources. 10/

22. Some 70 per cent of the 188 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity are developing countries belonging to the Group of 77. The importance of South-South cooperation for the Convention on Biological Diversity can also be assessed by the fact that in their third national reports, 84 per cent of developing country Parties that submitted reports (30 out of the 38) stated that they had engaged in some forms of cooperation with other developing countries.

23. Humanity is arguably at the eve of the most important mass extinction of species since the beginning of life on Earth. Species are disappearing at a rate not seen since the demise of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago, and their loss has serious consequences to the billions of people around the world who depend on natural resources for their well-being. The rate of extinction of species is now several times higher than its natural rate. During the last 500 years, experts estimate that 1000 species were lost

9/ http://www.earth-policy.org/Indicators/indicator4.htm.

10/ http://www.unido.org/file-storage/download/?file_id=11803

annually. Some experts estimate that between 15,000 and 50,000 species are now lost annually: this could mean that every hour, up to three species may be disappearing even as we discover them. The ongoing loss of biodiversity will have far-reaching implications on the planet and will particularly affect developing countries.

24. Eleven percent of the earth's surface covered by vegetation has been significantly degraded by human activity over the past 45 years, affecting more than 900 million people in 100 countries. This has important effects on developing countries:

(a) An estimated 80 per cent of the original forest that covered the Earth 8,000 years ago has been cleared, damaged or fragmented. Tropical rainforests in developing countries, which once covered 14 per cent of the Earth's land surface, now cover a mere 6 per cent, and experts estimate that the last remaining rainforests could be consumed in less than 40 years. Deforestation causes biodiversity loss, adverse impacts on the livelihoods of forest-dependent people, and increased carbon dioxide emissions: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change estimates that it contributes up to 25 per cent to global warming;

(b) Up to a third of the world's coral reefs have already perished and another third is under threat;

(c) As species disappear, so do many possible cures for life-threatening diseases. While 25 per cent of Western pharmaceuticals are derived from rainforest ingredients, less that 1 per cent of these tropical trees and plants have been tested by scientists.

25. Human activity is putting a strain on the ability of the planet’s ecosystems to support life on Earth. The second edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, released by the Convention on Biological Diversity earlier this year, echoed the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: two-thirds of the crucial services provided by ecosystems, such as fisheries, fuel wood, fresh water and pollination are in decline, largely due to the actions of humans.

26. The negative effects of the loss of biodiversity are compounded by the need to increase fair and equitable sharing of the benefits of genetic resources. As biodiversity and genetic resources are lost, the capacity to use these resources sustainably to meet the needs of developing countries, and the access to, and fair and equitable sharing of, the benefits of genetic resources are also decreased.

V. EXPERIENCE IN PROMOTING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

27. A number of developing countries have achieved significant success in one or more of the three components of the Convention on Biological Diversity, reducing loss of biodiversity, using resources sustainably and increasing appropriate access to, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the utilization of genetic resources. The importance of South-South cooperation for biodiversity goes beyond the 23 pivotal countries 11/ or the megadiverse countries 12/ within the Group of 77 under the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP). For biodiversity, rather than identifying and prioritizing pivotal countries, it may be best to benchmark particular areas within the Convention’s programmes of

11/ Pivotal countries are developing countries, which, by virtue of their capacity and experience in promoting South-South cooperation, are positioned to play a leading role in the promotion and application of technical Cooperation between developing countries. Such countries have a track record in promoting and financing South-South cooperation, and they have adopted the policies, mechanisms and guidelines that facilitate such exchanges. For UNDP, they include: People’s Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand, Ghana, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago, Egypt, Malta, Tunisia and Turkey.

12/ Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, and Venezuela possess 60-70 percent of the world’s living species.

work in which some countries excel, or may have experienced substantive progress. Countries may be more advanced in certain aspects of the Convention (on which they can be benchmarked as references), whereas their chosen exchange partners may have other fields of excellence that can benefit the first.

28. As reported in many publications, lessons learned indicate that successful South-South cooperation requires what some refer to as "an enabling environment". South-South cooperation has been most successful in countries where collaborating governments have:

(a) Identified optimal matches between available technology (benchmarking of centres of excellence and best practices) and needs assessed in recipient countries (the significance of the technology or experience to be transferred), 13/ It should be noted that in many cases both partners have technologies to exchange (i.e., South-South cooperation is not necessarily a one-way avenue, and centres of excellence also learn in the process of transferring technology); 14/

(b) Put in place explicit policies for South-South cooperation linked with a national development planning process; 15/

(c) Established strong focal points for South-South cooperation for all parties involved, with managerial capacity to support transfers and/or acquisitions, and with the necessary supporting structure; 16/

(d) Earmarked national budgetary allocations or devised means for innovative use of external assistance, including triangular cooperation. 17/

29. In many cases, collaboration between countries with similar ecosystems, development needs and socio-cultural conditions tend to be successful. However, it should not be assumed that socio-political differences between countries constrain South-South cooperation. In fact, improved cooperation on less controversial subjects, such as biodiversity, can, and has, helped to improve dialogue and cooperation on more sensitive issues. 18/ Finally, full participation of major groups is essential to successful South-South cooperation, and several successful examples involve non-governmental organizations, businesses (particularly networks and trade associations of small and medium-sized enterprises and larger transboundary corporations), people's organizations and indigenous and traditional communities from the South. 19/

30. South-South cooperation has been carried out under the following mechanisms:

(a) Human resources: joint training programmes, exchanges/secondments of experts and advisors, study visits, attachments, internships (see an example in annex I, box 1);

(b) Information sharing: actual or virtual conferences, seminars, workshops, web-based platforms and networks, clearing-house mechanisms, databases (see an example in annex I, box 2);

13/ *Forging a Global South*, United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, UNDP, 2005.

14/ *Windows on the South* newsletter, UNDP, 2006.

15/ "Pivotal Countries, an issue paper", UNDP/Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among developing Countries, 2003

16/ Cooperation South newsletter, UNDP 2006 - Juma, C., Gitta, C,. DiSenso, A. and Bruce, A., "Forging new Technology Alliances: the role of South-South Cooperation".

17/ UNDP/Japan Partnership Supporting South-South Cooperation, Innovative Triangular Cooperation towards the Millennium Development Goals, 1999-2004, UNDP, Special Unit for SSC.

18/ South-South Perspectives, South-South cooperation programme on environmentally sound socio-economic development in the humid tropics, UNESCO/MAB, December 1999.

19/ *Forging a Global South*, United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, UNDP, 2005

(c) Transboundary and regional initiatives, such as protected areas, exchange programmes and joint strategies for implementation of the decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity(see an example in annex I, box 4);

(d) Institutional partnerships for capacity-building (pooling resources to create networks of research or implementation bodies, centres of excellence, benchmarking of similar or related institutions – an example can be seen in annex I, box 7);

(e) Policy frameworks, legal and voluntary tools and incentive mechanisms, including the reduction of barriers (i.e. customs, visas, red tape) for South-South technological and technical cooperation (see an example in annex I, box 3);

(f) Collaborative research, low-capital innovative technology transfer, joint gap analysis and assessments (an example can be found in annex I, box 5);

(g) Identifying common positions in international negotiations, strengthening key proposals and lobbying for common interests;

(h) Market- and trade-oriented mechanisms for innovations in technology to favour biodiversity (public-private-partnerships), including the integration of biodiversity considerations into relevant regional trade agreements;

(i) Mobilizing resources for South-South cooperation: joint proposal development and fundraising, triangular arrangements (see an example in annex I, box 6);

(j) Monitoring and evaluation processes, defining and identifying indicators, , exchanging experiences and pooling resources in reporting (e.g. in the national biodiversity strategies and action plans).

VI. POSSIBLE ELEMENTS OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

31. A multi-year South-South plan of action for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention will make a major contribution in enhancing the implementation of the Convention. Indeed, many articles of the Convention on Biological Diversity (e.g., Articles 5 on cooperation, 6 on general measures for conservation and sustainable use, Article 7 on identification and monitoring, Article 8 on *in situ* conservation, Article 9 on *ex situ* conservation, article 12 on research and training, Article 16 on access to and transfer of technology, and particularly Article 18 on scientific and technical cooperation) provide for South-South cooperation. Various provisions of the Biosafety Protocol also require Parties to cooperate on different issues including: the development and/or strengthening of human resources and institutional capacities in biosafety for the purposes of the effective implementation of the Protocol (Article 22), the promotion of public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms (Article 23), and research and information exchange on socio-economic impacts of living modified organisms (Article 26). In addition, the implementation of the development objectives of the convention including the sustainable use as well as access and fair and equitable sharing of the benefit arising form biodiversity offer a unique opportunity to the members of the Group of 77 and China to enhance their intra and inter-regional cooperation for achieving sustainable development

32. The Convention's clearing-house mechanism (CHM) and the Protocol's Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH), by their very nature, are particularly suited as tools for facilitating South-South scientific and technical cooperation, and information exchange. The homepage of the clearing-house mechanism (http://www.biodiv.org/chm/default.asp) is linked to 79 national clearing-house sites, while

the Biosafety Clearing-House has more than 75 records of national biosafety websites and databases relevant to the implementation of the Biosafety Protocol (http://bch.biodiv.org/contacts/default.shtml). Both the clearing-house mechanism and the Biosafety Clearing-House also provide a number of tools for technical assistance to Parties in developing networks and websites.

33. Regional approaches to access and benefit-sharing may provide a useful response to challenges such as transboundary genetic resources and may facilitate cooperation among countries at the technical level and with respect to the exchange of information. Regional approaches to access and benefit-sharing have also been adopted through the Andean Pact Decision 391 on the Common Regime on Access to Genetic Resources, the draft Central American Agreement on Access to Genetic Resources and Bio-chemicals and related Traditional Knowledge, the draft ASEAN Framework Agreement on Access to Biological and Genetic Resources; and the African Model Law for the Protection of the Rights of Local Communities, Farmers and Breeders, and for the Regulation of Access to Biological Resources.

34. In translating some of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity into programmes of work, guidelines and approaches, and in making decisions to streamline and ensure progress, the Conference of the Parties provided, in its decisions, opportunities for fostering South-South cooperation. In some of the programmes of work of the Convention, such as those related to protected areas (decision VII/28) and technology transfer (decision VII/29), South-South cooperation is explicitly included.

35. The table in annex II lists a number of themes and activities from decisions from the Conference of the Parties that provide opportunity for South-South cooperation and that participants in the brainstorming meeting may wish to examine the activities, when discussing the elements for a plan of action for South-South cooperation. Those themes and activities are organized in the table under the South-South cooperation mechanisms identified in section V, above.

36. Cooperation between the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) is one example of a modality of collaboration among relevant regional institutions of developing countries. HE Henri Djombo, Minister of Forest Economy and Environment of the Republic of the Congo and past President of the COMIFAC, has suggested that exchange of experience with other similar basins could be a useful modality in enhancing South-South cooperation for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention. Such collaboration will be considered, among other mechanisms, during the implementation phase of the plan action when adopted by the Parties at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in May 2008, in Bonn, Germany.

VII. PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION, OF A PLAN OF ACTION FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY

37. Participants in the brainstorming meeting will be invited to propose elements for a five-year plan of action for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development. There is a need to agree on a process for the further consideration of these elements, and to develop this plan of action. The following process can be considered:

(a) Organization of regional meetings in early 2007 to review the outcomes of the brainstorm meeting in a regional context, identify possible gaps and prioritize the elements;

(b) Organization of an ad hoc open-ended expert meeting in September or October 2007, to synthesize regional inputs and develop a five-year plan of action;

(c) Holding of information sessions, by the Group of 77 and China, for Ministers for Foreign Affairs attending United Nations meetings in September 2007;

(d) The resulting plan of action may be introduced, by the Chair of the Group of 77, to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in 2008, and discussed at a high-level segment through a ministerial panel discussion.

38. The brainstorming meeting may wish to develop criteria for the selection of experts for the regional and global meetings (areas of expertise, whether governmental, non-governmental or inter-governmental, etc.) and suggest dates and venues for such meetings.

39. Participants may also discuss ways and means of ensuring a successful implementation of the Plan of Action, including:

(a) The establishment of a steering committee to guide the preparation and the convening of the meetings;

(b) Financial considerations including the establishment of a trust fund for its implementation;

(c) The possibility of establishing a joint secretariat co-chaired by the Executive Secretary of the Convention and the Executive Secretary of the Group of 77. This secretariat may be supported by an inter-agency task force comprising *inter alia* UNEP and UNDP. Support of relevant regional organizations including the United Nations regional economic commissions could also be sought;

(d) The creation of a group of experts, designated by the Group of 77 and other partners, to constitute an advisory committee;

(e) A forum of exchange of experience (South-South forums) during the meetings of the main organs of the Convention on Biological Diversity; and

(f) A follow-up mechanism that may consist of mid-term reviews every two years, with a view of adjusting it to new developments.

Annex I

CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

1 - The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has established a network of regional centres providing ***comprehensive training in biosafety****, to support compliance with the provisions of the Cartagena Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as with the relevant agreements of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The network comprises of the Universities of Concepción, Chile, Malaya, Malaysia and Biosciences Eastern and Central Africa, Nairobi, Kenya. These regional centres established the first South - South capacity-building network for biosafety training.*

http://binas.unido.org/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page

2 - Partnership is central to BioNET's philosophy and mode of operation. Its success depends on effective local and international collaboration between taxonomists, their institutions, technology developers and the users of taxonomy in conservation, agriculture, trade and other areas, who ***make their information available through a global network****. Partnerships are developed via workshops as well as publications, training and tool development. BioNET recently concluded an MOU with the Global Invasive Species Programme and the Global Taxonomy Initiative of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Regionally and nationally, BioNET's Locally Owned and Operated Partnerships (LOOPs) work with all who are committed to meeting locally defined taxonomic needs, as an example of a successful network-oriented facility.*

http://www.bionet-intl.org/opencms/opencms/index1.jsp

3 - The Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of the Guarani Aquifer System (GAS) Project was developed to support Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay to elaborate and implement a ***shared institutional, legal and technical framework*** *to preserve and manage the GAS for the current and future generations. Project components include a joint scientific assessment, production of a Strategic Action Plan and management framework for the aquifer, public participation, communication and education, assessment of potentials for geothermal energy, and groundwater management/mitigation measures for critical areas.*

The development of the US$ 26.7 million project was made possible thanks to the harmonious cooperation among the countries, with the collaboration of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the World Bank (WB), the Organization of the American States (OAS), the Netherlands and German Governments and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

http://www.oas.org/dsd/Events/english/Documents/OSDE_7Guarani.pdf#search=%22Guarani%20aquifer%20OAS%22

*4 - The "Heart of Borneo" is a **tri-country conservation initiative** supported by WWF that aims to preserve one of the most important centres of biological diversity in the world, approximately 220,000km^2 of equatorial forests and numerous wildlife species. The three Bornean governments – Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia – officially launched the initiative and declared their commitment to support it on 27 March 2006, during the Eighth Conference of Parties Convention of Biological Diversity, held in Curitiba, Brazil. The region is the source of 14 of the island's 20 major rivers and is considered one of the most important centres of biological diversity in the world. The area is also the object of a UNESCO/World Heritage initiative involving several NGOs and FAO, with the support of the United Nations Foundation, the Central African World Heritage Forest Initiative, and of COMIFAC.*

http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/mar2006/2006-03-30-01.asp

*5 - The "South-South Cooperation on Environmentally Sound Socio-Economic Development in the Humid Tropics" is jointly implemented by the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (UNESCO/MAB, in its SSC programme), the United Nations University (UNU), and the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), putting into action the recommendations of Convention on Biological Diversity. Its aim is to **provide research exchange** on sustainable livelihood for the inhabitants of the Humid Tropics, with special attention to strengthening of Biosphere Reserves and rational use of biodiversity. In over 8 years, the project has facilitated exchanges between more than 13 developing countries. The South-South Cooperation Programme is sponsored by Germany through the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Japan.*

http://www.unesco.org/mab/coop/south.shtml.

*6 - In 2004, government representatives from the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS, including China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar) worked together to address environmental challenges to sustainable economic growth and development through an **integrated project for which funds could be jointly raised.** Partially funded by the Asian Development Bank, the GMS Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative project started in 2006, and its technical assistance will focus on program development and implementation. The project will have a term of 3 years and will be implemented from January 2006 to 31 December 2008. Key activities include an assessment of the potential environmental impact of development strategies and investments, initiating the establishment of at least five biodiversity corridor pilot sites within GMS economic corridors, research and building capacity for the next round of environmental protection assessments (EPAs), and preparing a GMS environmental management and investment plan for 2009–2015. Seminars, study tours, and other relevant capacity building activities will be conducted to support implementation of these five components. The total cost of the project is estimated at U$36.11 million equivalent.*

http://www.adb.org/Documents/Reports/GMS-BCI/default.asp

*7 - The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) is a strategic alliance of countries, international and regional organizations, and private foundations supporting a **network of 15 international research centres** that work with national agricultural research systems and civil society organizations including the private sector. Thirteen of the Centres are headquartered in developing countries. The alliance mobilizes*

Annex II

MECHANISMS FOR FOSTERING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION AND THEIR RELATION TO SPECIFIC THEMES AND ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED IN THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

CBD programme / area	Human resources (training, HR exchanges)	Information sharing (experiences, CHM)	Transboundary and regional initiatives	Collaborative research	Mobilizing financial resources for collaborative work	Market- and trade-oriented mechanisms	International negotiations
Agricultural Biodiversity	Identify priority areas in collaboration with the partners, such as FAO and IPGRI, through the in-depth review process (VIII/23 para.6	Sharing regional case-studies of mainstreaming, best practices, assessments through in-depth review process	Collaborate in reviewing the three initiatives: (i) International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators (annex II to decision VI/5) (ii) International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity) (decision VIII/23 sec. B (iii) International Initiative on Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition (VIII/23 sec. A)	Participation at Platform for Agro - biodiversity Research		Follow-up and disseminate relevant information of the ITPGFA to developing countries In the treaty, recipients will pay 1.1% of the value of seed sales on commercialization of a product containing material from the Multilateral System	Participation at the Body International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), and mainstreaming the ABS (Access and Benefit-Sharing) related issues
Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity			Develop or implement activities, such as capacity-building and national, sub-regional, regional and global partnerships, that will facilitate and streamline implementation of	Systematic collection of biodiversity data at all three levels and across all representative biomes of the programme of work (VIII/2, para. 4) Improve data on dry and sub-humid lands ecosystem goods and	Provide technical and financial support, to support the implementation of the programme of work by developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing		Strengthen the synergy between the CBD and the UNCCD in implementing the joint work programme (VIII/2, para. 11b)

CBD programme / area	Human resources (training, HR exchanges)	Information sharing (experiences, CHM)	Transboundary and regional initiatives	Collaborative research	Mobilizing financial resources for collaborative work	Market- and trade-oriented mechanisms	International negotiations
			the programme of work, and overcome the identified obstacle (VIII/2, para. 7)	services; on species at lower taxonomic orders including soil biodiversity; and on threats to dry and sub-humid lands (VIII/2, para. 5)	States, among them, and countries with economies in transition (VIII/2 para. 8)		
Forest Biodiversity	Identify synergies between the three major forest areas (Amazon, Congo, Heart of Borneo)	Sharing regional case-studies of mainstreaming, best practices, assessments through in-depth review process (annex to VI/22)	Collaborate with the regional processes such as the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), the Montreal Process, and COMIFAC (Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale) for the in-depth review process (VIII/19 para 4) Decision VI/22, article 35. Invites Parties to foster cooperation and synergies between the expanded work programme on forest biological diversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Multi-Year Programme of Work and Plan of Action of the United Nations Forum on Forests.	Development of concept papers for the regional cooperation and cross-sectoral toolkit (VIII/19, para. 4)			Follow-up of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

CBD programme / area	Human resources (training, HR exchanges)	Information sharing (experiences, CHM)	Transboundary and regional initiatives	Collaborative research	Mobilizing financial resources for collaborative work	Market- and trade-oriented mechanisms	International negotiations
Inland Waters Biodiversity	Training of trainers workshop in collaboration with UNITAR (annual programme – last event Japan, 25-31 August 2006)		Implementation of the River Basin Initiative (Decision VII/4 activity 1.1.5)	With the CGIAR Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture – integration of biodiversity issues and assessing linkages between water, agriculture and the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems. With Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems – valuation methods, indicators of effectiveness (Decisions VIII/20, para 5(d)(i); VIII/15, para.2)	Decision VIII/8, para. 2) Invites Parties, other Governments and international organizations and the private sector, on a voluntary basis and in accordance with identified needs, to contribute financial and other resources to continue assisting the work of the Executive Secretary and the Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention on these matters	Development of improved valuation methods for the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems in collaboration with the Ramsar Convention	

CBD programme / area	Human resources (training, HR exchanges)	Information sharing (experiences, CHM)	Transboundary and regional initiatives	Collaborative research	Mobilizing financial resources for collaborative work	Market- and trade-oriented mechanisms	International negotiations
Island Biodiversity	Priority action 11.3.2.5: Provide training on the understanding of multilateral environmental agreements to enhance capacity to implement the programme of work on island biodiversity Priority action 11.3.2.4: Develop and implement training programmes to enhance science and technology capabilities relevant to the programme of work.	Sharing best practices among islands and disseminate sources of expertise through a Web portal, Item C (e).	6.1.2. Collaborate to identify and address pathways for movement of invasive alien species at the island, national, regional and global levels		Develop joint projects for GEF and other agencies to finance implementation of the IBPoW (decision VIII/1, articles 5 and 6)		1.2.1.3. Recognize, promote and establish marine, coastal and terrestrial protected areas… (b) Using international legal designations (such as Ramsar and World Heritage) to leverage support for island protected areas;
Marine and Coastal Biodiversity	Decision VII/5, annex I (PoW), Operational objective 5.2 (put in place mechanisms to control all pathways for potential invasive alien species in the marine and coastal environment) includes activity (c), "to exchange information and facilitate technical cooperation on effective techniques for prevention, early detection, eradication and control of invasive alien species in the marine and coastal environments Decision VIII/22 – para 4(g) invites Parties to "support collaboration with existing efforts for the development and use	Decision VII/5, annex I (PoW), Programme element 3 (protected areas), states the goal of establishing and maintaining marine and coastal protected areas that… contribute to a global network of marine and coastal protected areas, building upon national and regional systems. Decision VIII/22 – para 3 (g) invites Parties to facilitate effective implementation of Integrated Marine	Decision VIII/22 – para 3 (g) invites Parties to facilitate effective implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Area management by "considering participation in international initiatives and agreements, such as regional seas programmes, large marine ecosystem (LME) projects, and river basin initiatives,) in order to improve trans-boundary cooperation";	Decision VII/5, annex I (PoW), Appendix 4 (on research priorities) identifies the need to engage in research collaboration to establish a global network of marine and coastal protected areas. Decision VIII/21 – para 2. Recognizes that given the vulnerability and general lack of scientific knowledge of deep seabed biodiversity, there is an urgent need to enhance scientific research and cooperation and to provide for the			

CBD programme / area	Human resources (training, HR exchanges)	Information sharing (experiences, CHM)	Transboundary and regional initiatives	Collaborative research	Mobilizing financial resources for collaborative work	Market- and trade-oriented mechanisms	International negotiations
	of a global interactive database of integrated marine and coastal area management efforts".	and Coastal Area management by "considering participation in international initiatives and agreements, such as regional seas programmes, large marine ecosystem (LME) projects, and river basin initiatives,) in order to improve trans-boundary cooperation";		conservation and sustainable use of these genetic resources in the context of the precautionary approach;			
Mountain Biodiversity	Paragraph 7 of decision VII/27: Governments and other interested entities to form partnerships to address human, technological and financial capacity to implement the programme of work	Paragraphs 13 and 14 of decision VII/27: Sharing information on linking mountain biodiversity to sustainable development; upland-lowland contract, sustainable land use practices; case-studies and best practices on ways to mitigate negative impact of key threats.	Goal 2.3: Establish regional and transboundary collaboration and the establishment of cooperative agreements	Goal 3.4: Improve research, technical and scientific cooperation related to mountain biological diversity.		Activity 1.3.8: Promote the sustainable use of economically valuable wild plants and animals, as an income-generating activity for local inhabitants.	
Access to Genetic resources and Benefit-sharing		Action Plan on Capacity-building for Access and Benefit-sharing (decision VII/19F) addresses regional level activities	Action Plan on Capacity-building for Access and Benefit-sharing (decision VII/19F) addresses regional level activities				Group of like-minded megadiverse countries in the negotiations of the international regime on ABS

CBD programme / area	Human resources (training, HR exchanges)	Information sharing (experiences, CHM)	Transboundary and regional initiatives	Collaborative research	Mobilizing financial resources for collaborative work	Market- and trade-oriented mechanisms	International negotiations
Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices			Countries such as those in the LAC region which have ILCs across national borders and therefore traditional knowledge have been invited to consider the establishment of regional sui generis frameworks for the protection of TK with the full and effective participation of ILCs (COP 8 Dec. 5/E, para. 4)				Often LAC countries will group together in the considerations regarding ILCs participation across programme areas of the Convention including in ABS negotiations
Biological Diversity and Tourism	Article 11 calls for additional efforts to increase awareness and training on the Guidelines and their applicability between the tourism sector and other stakeholders.	Article 96: Information exchange and collaboration regarding sustainable tourism implementation through networking and partnerships between all stakeholders affected by, or involved in tourism, including the private sector, should be encouraged.	Manage impacts of tourism on transboundary and coastal/marine ecosystems and migratory species (article 20, C-i). Article 47. Impact management in relation to transboundary ecosystems and migratory species requires regional cooperation. Incorporate CBD Guidelines in regional tourism strategies, plans, organizations and policies (article 32 f)			Article 51: The tourism industry can assist in promoting corporate policies on sustainable tourism and biodiversity, incorporating CBD guidelines in global and regional corporate tourism codes of conduct, marketing and operations, monitoring and reporting their progress publicly on a regular basis.	Article 69: Indicators to cover aspects of management of biodiversity and sustainable tourism, including socio-economic and cultural aspects, should be identified and monitored at global, national, and local levels.

CBD programme / area	Human resources (training, HR exchanges)	Information sharing (experiences, CHM)	Transboundary and regional initiatives	Collaborative research	Mobilizing financial resources for collaborative work	Market- and trade-oriented mechanisms	International negotiations
Climate Change and Biological Diversity			Cooperate regionally to enhance habitat connectivity across ecological gradients, with the aim of enhancing ecosystem resilience and to facilitate the migration and dispersal of species with limited tolerance to altered climatic conditions (VIII/30, para. 4)	Address the research gaps outlined in the report of the AHTEG on Biodiversity and Adaptation to Climate Change (VIII/30, para. 5)	Consider the needs of the most vulnerable regions and ecosystems, and their indigenous and local communities, transition (VIII/30, para. 7)		
Economics, Trade Economics, Trade and Incentive Measures	Relevant regional organizations and initiatives to extend capacity-building and training on the application of positive incentive measures and on the valuation of biodiversity resources and functions and associated ecosystem services (VIII/25, 3, VIII/26, 5)	Parties to submit case studies, best practices and other relevant information on incentive measures and valuation of biodiversity functions and associated ecosystem services to the CBD Secretariat for compilation and dissemination through the clearing house mechanism of the Convention (VI/15, 6)	Research institutions to strengthen research activities on the assessment of positive incentive measures and their application at regional levels (VIII/26, 6 (c))	Research institutions to strengthen research activities on the valuation of biodiversity functions and associated ecosystem services, and on positive incentive measures for the cons and sustainable use of biodiversity, including research cooperation and exchange at regional levels and through South-South cooperation, and/or the establishment of regional research consortia as appropriate, in order to promote a common understanding of valuation techniques among governments and stakeholders.	Provide funding to research activities referenced in the left column (VIII/25, 9; VIII/26, 7)	Research institutions to strengthen research activities on the assessment of positive incentive measures and their application at regional levels (VIII/26, 6 (c))	

CBD programme / area	Human resources (training, HR exchanges)	Information sharing (experiences, CHM)	Transboundary and regional initiatives	Collaborative research	Mobilizing financial resources for collaborative work	Market- and trade-oriented mechanisms	International negotiations
				(VIII/25, 7; VIII/26, 6)			
Technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation	Encourage and facilitate community-to-community sharing and transferring of knowledge and technologies through such means as community personnel exchanges, workshops and publications (VII/29, annex, activity 3.2.7) Provide training with regard to supporting the development and operation of regional or international initiatives to assist technology transfer and cooperation as well as scientific and technical cooperation, particularly those initiatives designed to facilitate South-South cooperation and South-South joint development of new technologies (VII/29, annex, activity 4.4.1)	Parties to convene regional workshops to exchange information and experiences on, and to enhance capacity for, successful cooperation, transfer, diffusion and adaptation of environmentally sound technologies. (VII/29, para 5)	Develop/strengthen regional systems for the gathering and dissemination of relevant information on technology transfer and cooperation and technical and scientific cooperation, including the establishment of effective networks of electronic databases of relevant technology (VII/29, Annex, Programme element 2, activity 2.4.3)		Provide technical and financial support with regard to Supporting the development and operation of regional or international initiatives to assist technology transfer and cooperation as well as scientific and technical cooperation, particularly those initiatives designed to facilitate South-South cooperation and South-South joint development of new technologies (VII/29, annex activity 4.4.1)		
Global Strategy for Plant Conservation	Emphasizes the need for capacity building in developing countries, small island developing States to enable them to implement the Global Strategy for plant conservation (VI/9)	Develop an integrated, distributed , interactive information system to manage and make accessible information on plant diversity, activity iii of objective (a)		Promote research on the genetic diversity, systematics, taxonomy, ecology and conservation biology of plants and plant communities, and associated habitats and ecosystems, and on social, cultural and	Invites Parties, other Governments, the financial mechanism, and funding organizations to provide adequate and timely support to the implementation of the strategy,		

CBD programme / area	Human resources (training, HR exchanges)	Information sharing (experiences, CHM)	Transboundary and regional initiatives	Collaborative research	Mobilizing financial resources for collaborative work	Market- and trade-oriented mechanisms	International negotiations
				economic factors that impact biodiversity (activity iv of objective (a).,	especially by developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition;(para 7, VI/9)		
Global Taxonomy Initiative	Parties, governments and organizations are invited to promote cooperation and networking at national, regional, sub-regional and global levels in support of capacity-building activities related to the Global Taxonomy Initiative (VIII/3, para 10g) Parties, governments and organizations are invited to develop and implement capacity-building activities related to the Global Taxonomy Initiative, such as training in the areas of identification of taxa, information exchange and database management, taking into account national and region-specific needs (VIII/3, para 10d)	New GTI portal on the CBD web page (SBSTTA recommendation X/12)		Parties, governments and organizations are invited to promote taxonomy and taxonomic products and related research as a cornerstone for inventory and monitoring of biological diversity (VIII/3, para 10b)	invites BioNET-INTERNATIONAL and other relevant organizations to establish a special fund for the GTI (VIII/3, para 5);		

CBD programme / area	Human resources (training, HR exchanges)	Information sharing (experiences, CHM)	Transboundary and regional initiatives	Collaborative research	Mobilizing financial resources for collaborative work	Market- and trade-oriented mechanisms	International negotiations
Invasive Alien Species	Encourages Parties and other Governments to organize training and promote education and awareness raising of border control officials and other relevant persons regarding invasive alien species (VIII/27, para 17)	Invites Parties and other Governments to share, through the clearing-house mechanism and other means, national experiences in dealing with invasive alien species (VIII/27, para 16)	Notes that actions to address invasive alien species need to be taken at the international, regional, national and/or subnational levels, emphasizes the need to promote consistency among actions and efforts at the various levels, also emphasizes the appropriateness of regional and subregional approaches in particular (VIII/27, para 9)				
Impact assessment	Support to the integration of biodiversity issues in impact assessment regulations and procedures at project and strategic level (Ongoing activity: project on Capacity Building in Biodiversity and Impact Assessment - CBBIA)	Exchange of experiences and best practices through the CHM (Existing database of case studies on biodiversity and impact assessment at: http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/cross-cutting/impact/search.aspx) Support to integration of voluntary guidelines on biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment (decision VIII/28)	Subregional training workshops and exchange of information (e.g. through CBBIA); Support to integration of voluntary guidelines on biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment (decision VIII/28) to subregional regulations and approaches. Training on integration of Strategic Environmental Assessment in NBSAP processes.				

CBD programme / area	Human resources (training, HR exchanges)	Information sharing (experiences, CHM)	Transboundary and regional initiatives	Collaborative research	Mobilizing financial resources for collaborative work	Market- and trade-oriented mechanisms	International negotiations
		to national regulations and approaches					
Protected Areas	Target for goal 3.2: By 2010, capacity building programmes and initiatives are implemented to develop knowledge and skills at individual, community and institutional levels, and raise professional standards.	Activity 3.2.3: Exchange lessons learnt and capacity-building experiences among countries and relevant organizations, regarding planning, establishment and management of protected areas through the Clearing-house Mechanisms and other means.	Target for goal 1.3: Establish and strengthen by 2010/2012 transboundary protected areas, other forms of collaboration between neighbouring protected areas across national boundaries and regional networks, implementing the ecosystem approach.	Target for goal 4.4: Scientific knowledge relevant to protected areas is further developed as a contribution to their establishment, effectiveness, and management	Target for goal 3.4: By 2008, sufficient financial to meet the costs to effectively implement and manage regional systems of protected areas in the South are secured.	Activity 3.1.9: Foster economic opportunities and markets for goods and services produced by protected areas and/or reliant on ecosystem services, and promote the equitable sharing of the benefits.	Paragraph 25 of decision VII/28: Established an Ad-Hoc Open-ended Working group on protected areas to support and review implementation of the programme of work on protected areas and to report to the Conference of the Parties.
Communication Education and Public Awareness		Interconnect national and regional educational networks to share resources and expertise;	Collaborate to host regional workshops on CEPA in the implementation of NBSAPs Provide follow-up and reporting on the state of implementation of the results of workshops	Promote and encourage the development of open learning and distance education programmes by establishing partnerships among universities, centres of excellence in teaching, Parties and Governments and other stakeholders	Mobilize resources for the hosting of regional workshops on CEPA, for regional celebrations of the International Day for Biological Diversity, and exchange programmes		

Biosafety	Promote South-South and North-South partnerships as a means to increase the capacity available to Parties to implement the risk assessment and risk management provisions of the Protocol (Decision BS-III/11, paragraph 13).	Cooperate with a view to ensuring access and use the Biosafety Clearing-House, particularly in the areas of improved capacity for data collection and data management, strengthening of core human resources, and the establishment of appropriate infrastructure to share information at regional and sub-regional (Decision BS-II/2, paragraph 8).	Strengthening South-South cooperation in the building of capacities for the effective implementation of the Biosafety Protocol (Decision BS-III/3, annex)	Cooperate in exchanging experiences and building capacities in the use and development of easy to use, rapid, reliable and cost-effective sampling and detection techniques and the establishment of testing and detection facilities for LMOs, as well as regional, sub-regional and national centres of excellence in biosafety research		Cooperate on research and information exchange regarding socio-economic impacts of modern biotechnology in general, and that of LMOs (Decision BS-II/12).	
