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STEERING COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY

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DRAFT MULTI-YEAR PLAN OF ACTION FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT FOR 2011-2020

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its ninth meeting, in May 2008, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 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 as a complement to, and supported by, North-South cooperation. Taking note of the report¹ on the brainstorming meeting of experts on South-South cooperation that was convened by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) in November 2006, and that developed a framework for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to report on the development of a Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010.

2. On 25 September, 2009, at their annual meeting held in New York, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 (G-77) welcomed decision IX/25 and expressed their support to the ongoing work of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity towards the elaboration of a Multi-Year Plan for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development to be submitted to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and prepared in close collaboration with the Chair of the G-77. At this meeting they adopted a Ministerial Declaration welcoming the convening of the high-level special event to be held on 20 September 2010, in conjunction with the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly to mark the International Year of Biodiversity.

¹ UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/11.

Context

3. The successful implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 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 G-77. Biodiversity is a key economic, financial, cultural and strategic asset for developing countries. The overwhelming majority of the wealth in biodiversity of our planet is located in developing countries and often the countries poorest in financial resources are the richest in terms of biodiversity. According to Conservation International, less than ten per cent of the global surface harbours more than seventy percent of the world's biodiversity. However, this wealth is disappearing at a frightening pace. Seventy-nine percent of biodiversity hotspots are found within G-77 Member States.² Both the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment as well as the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook found that 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. This decline has concrete economic implications, which is the focus of the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study.³ For instance, the values for multiple ecosystem services provided by watersheds range from US\$ 200 to US\$ 1,000 per hectare per year.⁴ Additionally, coastal protection provided by coral reefs has been estimated between US\$ 55 to US\$ 1,100 per hectare per year in Southeast Asia – not to mention their economic value in terms of the fisheries and tourism sectors.⁵ Therefore, the loss of biodiversity undermines 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. Furthermore, it is important to note that biodiversity and its natural capital is a global public good. Consequently, ignoring biodiversity loss has regional as well as global consequences, and therefore it is in the self interest of our increasingly globalized society to cooperate on this critical issue.

4. South-South cooperation has been increasing in recent years, especially in the context of economic growth in the global South. Greater numbers of interregional agreements on cooperation and development assistance in which developed countries have supported South-South partnerships, increasing South-South flows of trade and investment, and growing trends towards regional integration.⁶ Developing countries have accumulated development and biodiversity-related knowledge and achievements in various domains that are of great use to support other countries' development efforts. 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 specifically to biodiversity, have yet to be approached in a comprehensive way. In 2005, 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, establishing 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. However, the preparation of a Multi-Year Plan of Action on Biodiversity for Development signifies the first time a South-South cooperation process has specifically addressed and acted on biodiversity-related concerns. In its adoption, the Plan of Action will complement other relevant United Nations South-South cooperation processes and related conventions.

² Center for Applied Biodiversity Science at Conservation International. 2007. *Biodiversity Hotspots*. <http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/Pages/default.aspx>, accessed 10 October 2009.

³ See the TEEB Interim Report found at the website <http://www.teebweb.org/>.

⁴ *ibid.*, p. 37.

⁵ *ibid.*, p. 36.

⁶ See the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation (2007) on the *Review of progress in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation and the decisions of the Committee*, SSC/15/1.

5. In developing countries, natural resources, and particular biodiversity-based ecosystem services, are often the foundation of economics and one of the main assets for development and poverty alleviation (as it has been for developed countries). The costs and risks of unsustainable approaches to the use of biodiversity in development, and of ecosystem changes, are high both in economic and social terms⁷. Ensuring that both the link between biodiversity and human wellbeing as well as the value of biodiversity are effectively communicated to political and sectoral decision-makers is critical to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity by Parties and therefore should be considered as a central goal of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development.

6. 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. Factors facilitating South-South cooperation in the Convention on Biological Diversity 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) With the rise in importance and numbers of regional trade agreements and partnerships regional multi-polar spheres of influence have formed and strengthened, 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. An important objective therefore 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, South-South cooperation is critical to transboundary natural resources management;

(e) Biodiversity-based ecosystem services are core foundations of economies and their conservation and sustainable use is critical for economic and social development as well as poverty reduction;

(f) The majority of the wealth in biodiversity of our planet is located in developing countries;

(g) One hundred and thirty, the majority, of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity are countries from the global South; and

(h) There is a need to increase South-South cooperation on biodiversity-related issues as well as ways and means of mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into development agendas. To assist in this task, triangular cooperation and arrangements in which a Party from the North works closely with Southern partners play an important role and should be further encouraged and supported.

⁷ See the 2005 the *Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Biodiversity Synthesis* of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005)

7. South-South cooperation has been most successful in countries where collaborating governments have:

(a) Identified optimal matches between available technology (for instance best practices in implementation of a project at the national level or technical expertise located at centres of excellence) and needs assessed in recipient countries;⁸

(b) Put in place explicit policies for South-South cooperation linked with a national development planning process;⁹

(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;¹⁰

(d) Earmarked national budgetary allocations or devised means for innovative use of external assistance, including triangular cooperation;¹¹

(e) Recognized and encouraged the full participation of major groups including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses (networks and trade associations of small and medium-sized enterprises as well as larger transboundary corporations), people's organizations, and indigenous and traditional communities from the South.

II. MULTI-YEAR PLAN OF ACTION FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

A. Vision

8. The Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development focuses on links between biodiversity, development, and human wellbeing. The purpose is to strengthen South-South cooperation and triangular arrangements as a complement to, and supportive of, North-South cooperation¹² in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, in the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (particularly Goals 1 and 7). The Multi-Year Plan of Action will support the implementation of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity which will integrate the 2050 biodiversity vision and 2020 Biodiversity Target to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties at their tenth meeting in Aichi/Nagoya, Japan from 19 to 29 October 2010. Therefore, the Multi-Year Plan of Action includes the following in its overarching vision:

(a) South-South cooperation through this Plan of Action will not replace North-South cooperation but rather complement and support triangular cooperation. Furthermore, investments in South-South cooperation are not a substitute to the necessary North-South investment including through the traditional Official Development Assistance for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

⁸ See *Forging a Global South*, United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation (UNDP, 2005) and *Windows on the South* Newsletter (UNDP, 2006). 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)

⁹ See the "Pivotal Countries, an issue paper" produced by UNDP/Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among developing Countries (2003).

¹⁰ See the *Cooperation South* newsletter, UNDP (2006) and the article by Juma, C., Gitta, C, DiSenso, A. and Bruce, A., "Forging new Technology Alliances: the role of South-South Cooperation".

¹¹ See UNDP/Japan Partnership Supporting South-South Cooperation, Innovative Triangular Cooperation towards the Millennium Development Goals, 1999-2004, UNDP, Special Unit for SSC.

¹² Encouraged by COP in decision IX/25, paragraph 2.

(b) The Plan of Action assists with the overarching goal of mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into relevant development sectors and into political, economic, and social decision-making at national as well as regional levels;

(c) The Multi-Year Plan of Action (as a complement to the Development Platform for the South¹³ launched by the G-77 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, Côte d'Ivoire) provides an opportunity to mobilize G-77 members on biodiversity, and to reenergize the G-77 in contributing to the Convention on Biological Diversity as a negotiation platform that adds value by facilitating common positions for developing countries;

(d) The Plan of Action supports the mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into regional integration processes, regional and subregional cooperation agreements,¹⁴ development programmes, and inter-regional South-South programmes;

(e) It serves the Parties, regional, and international organizations by facilitating projects and programmes aimed at joint conservation and sustainable use of cross border ecosystems, and by avoiding duplication of efforts;

(f) It is recognized that forums such as the Group of 15,¹⁵ the Group of Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries (LMMC)¹⁶ or the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum¹⁷ have been recently established in order 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. Therefore the Plan of Action envisions strong cooperation with such relevant forums;

(g) The Multi-Year Plan of Action supports the implementation of the Strategic Plan under the Convention on Biological Diversity, for 2011-2020 and its associated goals, targets, and indicators, using this as a guiding framework for coordinated actions among southern partners to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity and mainstream biodiversity considerations into cross-sectoral policies, programmes, strategies, and planning processes. The duration of the Multi-Year Plan of Action will coincide with the timeline of the Strategic Plan of the Convention for 2011-2020, taking into account the milestones included in the Strategic Plan;

(h) Implementation of the Plan of Action requires a multi-stakeholder approach including with academic institutions, the private sector, development partners, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, and local communities and indigenous peoples organizations;

(i) The Plan of Action is envisioned as facilitating a two-directional information exchange: (i) inputs into the processes of the Convention on Biological Diversity from the G-77 members on their priorities for South-South cooperation as well as ways member countries are implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity at national and regional levels; and (ii) integration of information on the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity into parallel South-South cooperation initiatives, agreements, and process;

¹³ The G-77 Development Platform for the South can be found at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/ssc/emssc-01/other/emssc-01-platform-en.doc>.

¹⁴ As encouraged by COP in decision IX/25, paragraph 2.

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ Information on the IBSA Dialogue Forum can be found at <http://www.indianembassy.org.br/port/relations/ForumForCooperation.htm>.

(j) The Plan of Action recognizes the specific needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS);

(k) The Multi-Year Plan of Action supports the previous Declarations and Plans of Actions of the G-77 on South-South cooperation, namely the Caracas Programme of Action (1981), the Cairo Declaration on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (1986), San Jose Declaration and Plan of Action (1997), the Bali Declaration and Bali Plan of Action on Regional and Subregional Cooperation of the Developing Countries (1998), the Declaration of the South Summit and the Havana Programme of Action (2000), the Marrakech Declaration on South-South Cooperation and the Marrakech Framework of Implementation of South-South Cooperation (2003), and the Doha Declaration and Doha Plan of Action (2005). Furthermore, it adds additional value by highlighting the importance of biodiversity considerations for South-South cooperation as well as North-South cooperation.

B. Objectives

9. The Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development has the following objectives:

(a) Provide a framework for Parties, development agencies, commissions and banks and regional bodies to develop and implement projects and activities on South-South cooperation on biodiversity under a common approach, to facilitate coordination, fundraising and implementation;

(b) Encourage Parties as well as regional and international organizations to support South-South and triangular cooperation by facilitating projects and programmes aimed at joint conservation and sustainable use of cross-border ecosystems to further contribute towards halting biodiversity loss:¹⁸

(c) Exchange scientific and technical knowledge and expertise (including on low-capital innovative technology transfer), as well as experiences, lessons learned, and best practices on biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into relevant cross-sectoral planning, agreements, strategies, and programmes, identifying optimal matches between available technology and needs assessed in recipient countries;

(d) Engage in and promote collaborative research on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, including joint gap analysis and strategic assessments, the identification of “win-win” opportunities, and the identification of common strengths;

(e) Develop multi-stakeholder collaborative partnerships, including with civil society and decision-makers across development sectors and the private sector, in order to develop human resources and strengthen institutions of the South;

(f) Mobilize and substantially enhance, by 2020, resources for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in the Convention on Biological Diversity, including through joint proposal development and fundraising as well as triangular arrangements;

(g) Identify 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 and mainstreaming biodiversity into productive landscapes and sectors; and

(h) Encourage South-South cooperation as an approach to strengthening the exchange of best practices and lessons learned from the preparation, updating, and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) through appropriate forums and mechanisms and as requested by the Conference of the Parties in decision IX/8.

¹⁸ COP decision IX/25 paragraph 5.

C. Implementation

10. The implementation of the Plan of Action will be led by the Steering Committee in close consultation with the chairmanship of the G-77 and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as key multi-stakeholder partners. This structure is illustrated under the section on Partnerships and Coordination Mechanism. The actions outlined below are considered as being interrelated. Furthermore, the Plan of Action recognizes the need to maintain flexibility in its strategy for implementation in order to accommodate changing national and regional priorities as well as future decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

11. Implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South cooperation on Biodiversity for Development will be in partnership with relevant parallel processes such as the South-South Cooperation Unit of UNDP, the United Nations' High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, and UNEP's initiative being coordinated under the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building. It is hoped that partnering with the initiatives coordinated by UNDP and UNEP will promote enhanced mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations into on-the-ground activities, for instance by engaging UNDP country offices.

1. Themes

12. South-South cooperation cuts across all programmes of work and issues of the Convention on Biological Diversity. For instance, the decisions adopted at the eighth and ninth meetings of the Conference of the Parties include specific mention to South-South cooperation in 18 different Programmes of Work of the Convention. Additionally, themes prioritized by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the Nagoya Roadmap are important to highlight and will benefit from enhanced South-South cooperation. Taking into account this far-reaching relevance of South-South cooperation, an indicative list of key themes includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Development of national legislative frameworks for access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing;
- (b) Protection of traditional knowledge (Article 8(j) of the Convention);
- (c) Protected areas (including concessions, tourism, and joint conservation and sustainable use of cross boarder ecosystems);
- (d) Sustainable use of the components of biodiversity;
- (e) Climate change and its impacts on biodiversity, the role biodiversity can play in adaptation and mitigation strategies, the impact of climate change on forests, dry lands, and islands;
- (f) Desertification and land degradation;
- (g) Incorporation of biodiversity concerns into regional and sub-regional cooperation agreements (decision IX/25); and
- (h) Biosafety and liability and redress.

2. Modalities

13. Building on the vision and list of objectives, the following can be considered as indicative modalities for implementing the Plan of Action:

- (a) As requested by the Conference of the Parties, in decision IX/25, engaging regional and subregional organizations will be important to the implementation success of the Plan of Action and to promoting mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into regional and subregional cooperation agreements. ACTO, ASEAN, CAMARE of the League of Arab States, CARICOM, CCAD (under the Central American Integration System), COMIFAC, Comunidad Andina, ECOWAS, Mercosur, NEPAD, OAS, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and SPREP have already been involved closely with the

Convention on Biological Diversity, in promoting the mainstreaming agenda.¹⁹ The Multi-Year Plan of Action aims to engage all relevant regional organizations, Economic Commissions, and regional Development Banks in its efforts to build awareness of the critical role biodiversity plays in sustainable development, the risks and costs associated with biodiversity loss, and the important role South-South cooperation plays in implementing the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity at national, regional, and international scales. This engagement will assist in creating a supportive environment for:

- (i) Transboundary conservation and resource management initiatives (for instance in the case of protected areas, forest basins, and watersheds that cross international borders²⁰);
 - (ii) Exchange programmes and institutional partnerships for capacity-building (pooling resources to create networks of research or implementation bodies, centres of excellence;
 - (iii) Human resources: joint training programmes, exchanges or secondments of experts and advisors, study visits, attachments, and internships;
 - (iv) Joint strategies for implementation of the decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity; and
 - (v) 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;
- (b) Over recent years, a number of regional organizations have supported the preparation of regional biodiversity strategies and/or action plans. These strategies and plans support the Multi-Year Plan of Action in that they provide an important and concrete platform for South-South cooperation by generating opportunities for interregional exchanges of information, coordinating transboundary projects, enhancing communication between neighbouring countries on biodiversity-related issues, and galvanizing action on mainstreaming biodiversity into trade and development agendas;
- (c) Parties shall identify and compile existing information on South-South cooperation to better inform the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity of activities taking place and so that it can, in turn, report back to Parties;
- (d) Engaging Universities, Centres of Excellence, and NGOs that specialize on the linkages between biodiversity, development, and poverty reduction is crucial to successful implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action. Examples include the Centres under CIFOR and CGIAR, as well as the South Centre. Also relevant is the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World, and the Third World Network of Scientific Organizations. Institutions that specialize in biodiversity, such as the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity headquartered in the Philippines, are also important partners. Finally, the Steering Committee should explore partnerships with new centres dedicated to South-South cooperation on science and technology, such as UNESCO's International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation (ISTIC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
- (e) The Convention's clearing-house mechanism (CHM) and the Protocol's Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) are particularly suited as tools for facilitating South-South scientific and technical cooperation, and information exchange, and therefore central to the successful implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action. Specifically, a web-based portal can be incorporated into the CHM that would provide a database of case-studies related to South-South cooperation on biodiversity and development, important references and web links, and sources of further research. Links should be made with other relevant CHMs such as UNDP's Web for Information and Development (WIDE) and UNEP's

¹⁹ Most of these organizations were involved in the global series of capacity development workshops on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans which formed an integral component of the two-year in-depth review of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan of the CBD.

²⁰ COP decision IX/25, paragraph 5.

Clearing-House Mechanisms for Bali Strategic Plan & South-South Cooperation. Coordination between these CHMs is required in order to make the most of these resources. Information also should be shared through actual or virtual conferences, seminars, and workshops;

(f) Developing a communication and public awareness strategy for the Plan of Action is important and will assist in facilitating implementation. Elements of this communication strategy will be discussed by the Steering Committee, including:

- (i) Types of communication materials;
- (ii) Appropriate venues for dissemination;
- (iii) The development of a web-based portal under the CHM and BCH; and
- (iv) The roles and responsibilities of partners in coordinating this task.

(g) Organizing international meetings and conferences for the key partners of the Plan of Action on margins of the Conference of the Parties, such as the Forum on Biodiversity for Development that will be organized during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010, will build momentum for implementing the Plan of Action and integrating new objectives and priorities;

(h) Raising awareness of biodiversity-related issues for negotiators involved in other South-South and South-North negotiations, for instance through organizing consultations and briefings with relevant colleagues across government agencies and ministries ahead of such negotiations, will help incorporate biodiversity considerations into more traditional international cooperation as well as cooperation important regional agendas as infrastructure, trade, and development;

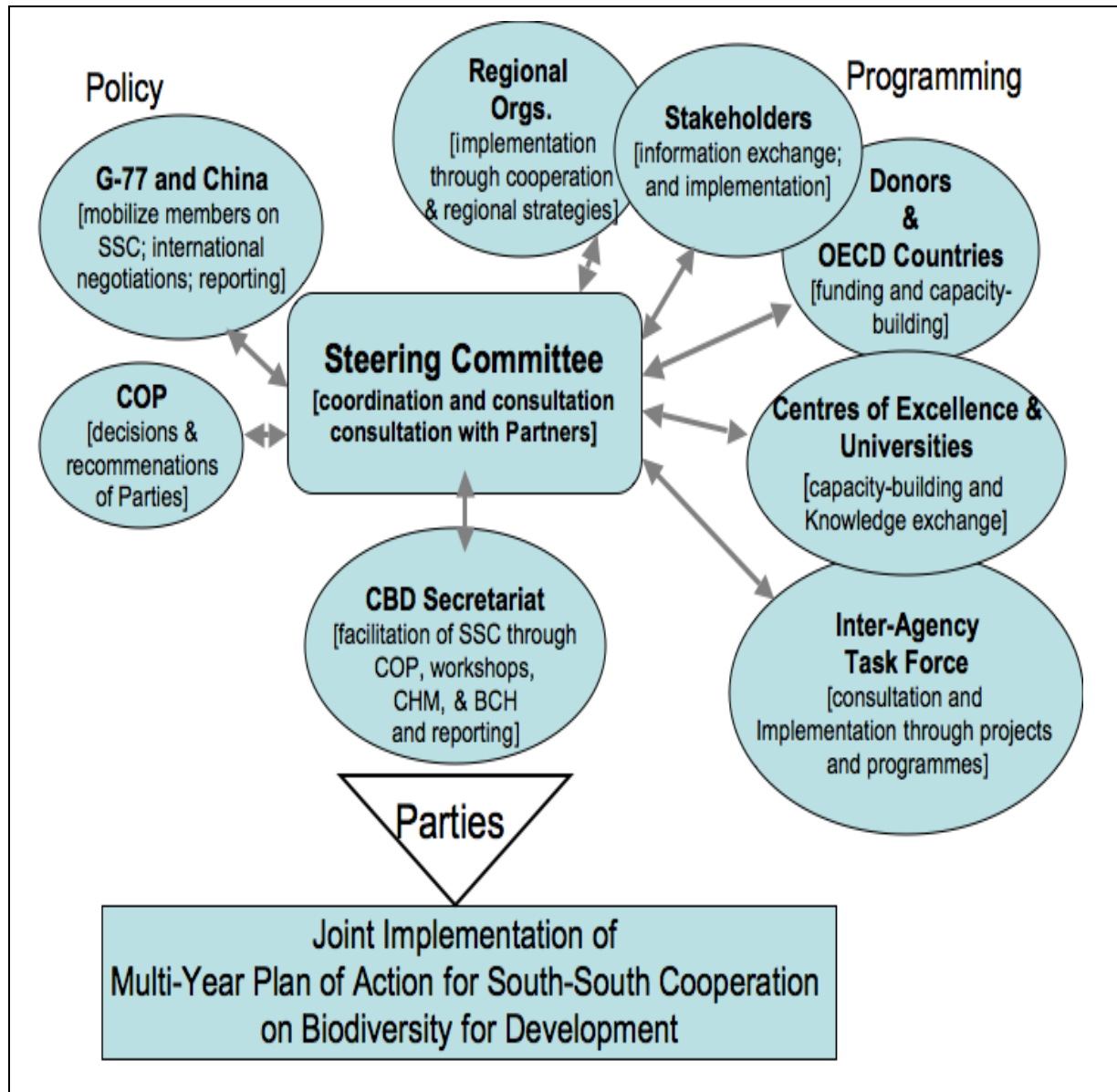
(i) Modalities for implementing the Multi-Year Plan of Action fall under both policy-making as well as programming. The Plan of Action is envisioned to be implemented at the policy level by the G-77, the secretariats of regional organizations, and through the Parties themselves as a result of their decisions negotiated at the Conference of the Parties. At the programming level, the Plan of Action is envisioned to be implemented through engaging, and developing partnerships with a range of key partners that can mobilize concrete avenues of cooperation on the ground at national, regional, and international scales. These are illustrated and further discussed in the following section.

D. Partnerships and coordination mechanism

14. During the 2008 Expert Meeting for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development, a Steering Committee was proposed comprising the former and current Chairs of the Group of 77 (South Africa, Antigua and Barbuda, Sudan and Yemen, the incoming chair for 2010) as well as the chair of the 2006 brainstorming session (Malawi) and the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (Grenada), to assist in the preparation and implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation, defined through decision IX/25 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. An Inter-agency Task Force has been proposed to support the Steering Committee, including the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and other relevant United Nations entities. It has been proposed during the consultations on the preparation for the Multi-Year Plan of Action that the Steering Committee will meet at least once a year on the margins of appropriate meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

15. Implementation also will be coordinated with United Nations bodies and key actors, such as centres of excellence and regional organizations and their secretariats. Wider issue-based consultations as well as implementation on the programming side may involve other relevant and interested stakeholders such as donors, economic commissions, regional development banks, LMMC, representatives of the private sector, NGOs, and indigenous peoples organizations as appropriate and by invitation of the Committee. The Steering Committee may want to consider the role of an advisory board which could include countries and donors under the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

(OECD), for instance to provide advice on funding opportunities. Additionally, regional capacity-development workshops being organized by the Convention on Biological Diversity on specific programmes of work (such as with the regional workshops on protected areas) as well as over-arching Mechanisms of the Convention (such as NBSAPs and National Reports) offer an concrete opportunities for South-South cooperation and furthermore have been welcomed by Parties. The above-mentioned partnerships and coordination are illustrated in the following diagram.



16. The Steering Committee will ensure the review of the status of implementation of the Plan, through existing review mechanisms of the Convention such as the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI) as well as in-depth reviews of the Convention’s programmes of work.

17. In order to efficiently coordinate tasks, the Steering Committee may want to consider identifying focal points within the Committee who will take charge of certain issues such as coordination with donor partners, coordination of implementation mechanisms, and monitoring and reporting on progress.

E. Monitoring and reporting

18. At each Conference of the Parties, a coordination group composed of representatives of the G-77, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and UNDP's South-South Cooperation Unit will be asked to report on implementation of the Plan of Action. Contributions will be sought from the members of the coordinating platform and from participating regional agencies. Additionally, the partnership may report regularly to key G-77 meetings, to the UNGA High-Level Commission on South-South Cooperation, and to the COP.

19. The Steering Committee, in consultation with the coordination group, will identify benchmarks for measuring success to guide the evaluations and reporting. Indicators to be used could include:

- (a) Number of events;
- (b) Number of projects;
- (c) Amount of funds generated and dedicated to supporting South-South cooperation on biodiversity; and
- (d) The number of people trained in the areas mentioned above under modalities.

Additionally, this evaluation process should include a periodic review of priorities and objectives in order to integrate new decisions of the Conference of the Parties as well as new priorities of the G-77.

20. Measuring the success of the Plan of Action would greatly benefit from reporting on South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation within international aid that targets biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. In assisting towards this end, the G-77 may consider suggesting that developing and emerging countries report to the Convention on Biological Diversity on South-South cooperation as part of their national reports, and that donors, including OECD and GEF, tag triangular cooperation so that the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity may be able to assist the Steering Committee in its efforts to monitor funding of South-South cooperation on biodiversity.

F. Funding

21. It is suggested that the G-77 identify a particular funding avenue that would be oriented specifically towards biodiversity for development and to the funding the implementation of this Plan of Action. This should take into account:

- (a) Devising a means for innovative use of external assistance, for instance through partnerships with the private sector and NGOs;
- (b) Engaging and linking with new and innovative financial mechanisms being discussed and formulated in other arenas such as climate change, payments for ecosystem services, and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD), to name a few;
- (c) Exploring opportunities presented by environmental fiscal reforms, including innovative taxation models and fiscal incentives for achieving the three objectives of the Convention;
- (d) Encouraging OECD countries to complement and match South-South cooperation investments through triangular cooperation;
- (e) Drawing on traditional forms of funding including from triangular cooperation with development agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors, and Global Environment Facility (GEF) implementing agencies;
- (f) Earmarking national budgetary allocations; and

(g) Enhancing financing sources such as the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund and the Voluntary Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation.

22. The Steering Committee may want to consider discussing with GEF the possibility of assisting in the efforts to implement the Multi-Year Plan of Action at the concrete project level in order to further expand the opportunities for capacity-development. This could be achieved, for instance, through:

- (a) Allocating specific percentages of funds to SSC and triangular cooperation;
- (b) Continuing to support capacity-building on South-South Cooperation within current projects.

G. Next steps

23. This Plan of Action will be submitted by the President of Group of 77 for consideration and adoption at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, scheduled for October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. It will link to other United Nations South-South cooperation processes and related conventions, to optimize visibility and coordinate efforts. The Steering Committee may consider proposing South-South cooperation as a strategy in the current revision of the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

24. As part of the process leading to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which will be held in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010, the Multi-Year Plan of Action will be discussed, and elements reviewed, at the following up-coming meetings:

- (a) Second meeting of the Steering Committee to be held in Khartoum in early 2010;
- (b) Third meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention to be held in Nairobi, from 24 to 28 May, 2010
- (c) A consultative expert meeting to be held in Kampala, Uganda from 31 May to 2 June 2010;
- (d) A high-level meeting of the G-77 to adopt the Plan in July/August in Abidjan ; and
- (e) Third South Summit of the G-77 to be held in Africa in 2010 prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

25. Following the request of the Conference of the Parties, a Forum on Biodiversity for Development will be organized on 18 October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan just prior to the opening of the tenth meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. This will provide an important opportunity to showcase the Plan of Action.

26. Other important opportunities to highlight the development of the Plan of Action will be during the next United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, which will be held on 19 December 2009, and during the United Nations High-level Conference on South-South cooperation from 1 to 3 December.

27. The roadmap to adoption of the Plan will include three main steps. The G-77 is expected to endorse the Plan of Action at the next High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. As requested by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity will prepare a report on preparation of Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South cooperation for review by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting. At the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Yemen, as future Chair of G-77, will coordinate an official proposal of the Multi-Year Plan of Action to the Conference of the Parties in conjunction with a statement to be presented at the Ministerial segment of the Conference. Support is expected from Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Malawi, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda, and Yemen.

III. KEY REFERENCES

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