



CBD



JOINT LIAISON GROUP OF THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, THE UNITED NATIONS
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND THE
UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE

Ninth meeting
New York, 14 May 2009

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP OF THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION, AND THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE**

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The ninth meeting of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held on 14 May 2009, on the margins of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in the Joint liaison office of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York.

2. Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity chaired the meeting. In welcoming the participants, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif stated that the meeting offers a unique opportunity to exchange information before COP-9 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, COP-15 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and COP-10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. A list of participants is contained in annex I.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. The agenda was adopted as presented in annex II. The main objective of the meeting was to take stock of the activities agreed at the previous meeting of the Joint Liaison Group and to further define proposals for joint activities. Mr. Djoghlaif suggested focusing on the activities for further action, including collaboration towards the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010.

III. REPORTS AND UPDATES

4. Mr. Djoghlaif provided a brief report on the specific outcomes of the ninth session of the Conference of Parties of relevance to the JLG i.e. decision IX/16; the successful organization of the first two Ad Hoc technical Expert Groups on Biodiversity and Climate Change (AHTEGs) in London and Helsinki on the linkages between biodiversity and climate change; the expected organization of the third AHTEG in Nairobi. He indicated that these outcomes will be communicated to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change after the Bureaus of COP-9 and SBSTTA had considered them. Mr. Djoghlaif also briefed the JLG on the process to prepare a new strategic plan and the ongoing work to evolve post 2010 targets, drawing attention to the

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organization of the recent Eminent Persons Group in Bonn to exchange ideas on the post 2010 targets as well as the roadmap ahead including the EMG interagency process, the proposed meeting to be organized by the United Kingdom and the Trondheim Conference in February next year. He called on partners to consider sectoral targets as a contribution to the post 2010 targets.

5. Mr. Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, then briefed the JLG on recent activities including the adoption of the Ten Year Strategy by the eight session of the Conference of the Parties, the seventh meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), the meeting of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) as well as the first and second meetings of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmonized Reporting. He also referred to a UNCCD initiative to organize a Land Day on 6th June on the margins of the Climate Change talks in Bonn so as provide a forum for interface between climate change negotiators and the land stakeholders. He also drew attention to the need for work at least on a pilot basis on joint implementation of national action programmes (NAPS) and national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAS) in some countries which could demonstrate joint action by the Rio conventions and respond to calls from Parties for greater synergies particularly at national level.

6. Mr. Yvo de Boer highlighted the good progress made, including under the Nairobi Work Programme, on ways to increase support for the implementation of adaptation actions; enhanced action on the provision of financial resources; an adaptation framework to support and enable the work at regional and national level and mechanisms to manage loss and damage, including insurance. On REDD, he emphasised the methodological work SBSTA is carrying out. Mr. de Boer drew attention to the reports currently being finalized by the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) as an input to the fifth session of the AWG-LCA and on the additional steps have been taken to facilitate the access of funds and the implementation of NAPAs, including the request to the Global Environment Facility to develop a timeline for accessing funds from the LDCF and to assist, in collaboration with its agencies and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), remaining LDCs in completing their NAPAs. He also highlighted recent work on agriculture, including a technical paper on challenges and opportunities for mitigation in the sector and the workshop held at the fifth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA).

7. Other issues discussed included the issue of joint implementation of NAPs and NAPAs on a pilot basis (5 countries have been selected), a bilateral activity between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and it was agreed this would be further explored between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the JLG. Sustainable agriculture was seen as a good candidate for nationally appropriate mitigation action (NAMAs) of developing countries, in particular for African countries, that will bridge the activities of the three conventions. There was a brief discussion on linkages between the debate on adaptation and mitigation of relevance to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

IV. DISCUSSION OF ACTIVITIES REQUESTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF A WORK PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

8. The meeting had before it a background document prepared by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity containing a detailed record on activities requested by the Conference of the Parties and suggestions for further consideration. This background document highlighted activities that have already been undertaken by the secretariats, such as the development of a REDD newsletter by the Convention on Biological Diversity and the establishment of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmonized Reporting by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and identified possible areas for further collaboration including the publication of a CBD Technical Series on biodiversity and climate

change based on the work of the AHTEG. It was agreed that the background documentation was useful and that this would be further elaborated with a projection of the human and financial implications, for further consideration at the next meeting of the JLG.

V. COORDINATION OF THE ROSTERS OF EXPERTS OF THE THREE CONVENTIONS

9. There was discussion on different aspects of the proposal and it was agreed that the relevant information technologies officers should discuss technical options for sharing such information. It was agreed that a joint roster of experts would be difficult to develop and therefore information sharing between the relevant technical staff of the respective secretariats will be encouraged in refining search criteria that could render the rosters of the three conventions mutually reinforcing.

VI. INDICATORS FOR ENHANCED SYNERGIES

- **Presentation by the UNCCD on proposed targets and indicators**
- **Discussion on common understanding of indicators and options for harmonized reporting**

10. There was detailed discussion, guided by the discussion note on harmonized reporting under CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC prepared by the UNFCCC, on the mandates of the three conventions emanating from their respective conferences of the Parties on reporting, the desirability and feasibility of harmonized reporting, the differences in reporting time cycles as well as themes/focus for each report. It was felt that the questions identified in the above-mentioned note need careful consideration and it was agreed to address these questions and further discuss the paper at the next meeting of the group and to provide the paper to the task force mentioned in paragraph 5 above. Further consultations on this issue would be held prior to expected call from their respective conferences of the Parties to parties to revise NAPS/NBSAPS in view of the 10YS of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the new post 2010 strategic plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity on issues such as time cycles, themes etc. It also agreed that the possibility of sharing relevant analysis based on the national reports among the Rio conventions could be further explored noting that such reports are already being cross-referenced, for example in the in-depth reviews of implementation of the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the cross-cutting issue on biodiversity and climate change under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

VII. ANALYSIS OF THE REQUESTS TO THE JLG FROM EACH CONVENTION PROCESS AND DISCUSSION ON HOW THE JLG CAN BE POSITIONED TO RESPOND TO THE DIFFERENT EXPECTATIONS UNDER EACH CONVENTION

11. The JLG took note of the background documentation prepared by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity with input from the other secretariats. This background document showed that the CBD and UNCCD processes have adopted specific decisions on harmonized planning and reporting and that the CBD and UNFCCC processes have set specific tasks concerning scientific and technical matters. Overall, it was noted that there remains a disconnect between the roles and mandates given to the JLG by each convention with this disconnect resulting in limitations when considering the implementation of the requested activities. For example, only activities that are mandated by all the governing bodies of each convention could be effectively implemented by the JLG. One option that was identified to address this issue was that the requests to the JLG emanating from the conferences of the Parties to the three Rio conventions could be forwarded to the relevant subsidiary bodies under each of the convention processes for advice and inputs.

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

- **Discussion on contribution of the JLG to the International year of Biodiversity**
- **Next meeting**

12. Mr. Djoghlafl briefed the JLG on the preparations for the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, including the high-level event of the 65th session of UNGA to be held in September 2010.

13. It was agreed that there would be consultations on the scheduling of the next meeting of the JLG. It was suggested that the tenth meeting of the JLG could be convened in conjunction with the launch of the International year on Biodiversity, in Paris on 21-22 January 2010.

IX. CLOSING

14. Mr Djoghlafl thanked the participants for their active participation in the meeting, which concluded at 4 p.m.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Convention on Biological Diversity

Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Nandhini Iyer Krishna CBD/UNCCD liaison officer in New York

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Mr. Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
Melchiade Bukuru , Head of office, UNCCD liaison office in New York
Sergio Zelaya Head PAGI United Nations

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Mr. Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on
Climate Change
Iulian Florin Vladu, Manager, Adaptation Technology and Science

Annex II

AGENDA

1. Welcome and opening.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Reports and updates.

CBD:

- COP decision IX/16 on activities for the JLG.
- First and second meetings of the Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change.
- Update on the development of the Strategic Plan.

UNCCD

- Eighth meeting of the COP.
- Seventh meeting of CRIC/CST.
- First and second meetings of the Inter-agency task force on harmonized reporting.

UNFCCC

- Fourteenth meeting of the COP/Fourth meeting of the CMP / 29th meeting of the SBs.
 - Seventh meeting of the AWG-KP.
 - Fifth meeting of the AWG-LCA.
4. Discussion on the activities requested by the COP to the CBD and development of a work plan for implementation or further consideration.
 5. Coordination of the rosters of experts of the three conventions.
 6. Indicators for enhanced synergies
 - Presentation by the UNCCD on proposed targets and indicators.
 - Discussion on common understanding of indicators and options for harmonized reporting.
 7. Analysis of the requests to the JLG from each convention processes and discussion on how the JLG can be positioned to respond to the different expectations under each convention.
 8. Other matters.
 - Discussion on contribution of the JLG to the International Year of Biodiversity.
 9. Closing.
