



Convention on Biological Diversity

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Subsidiary Body on Implementation

Sixth meeting

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Items 4 and 9 of the provisional agenda*

**Planning, monitoring, reporting and review: update on
national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national
targets and national reporting**

**Review of the effectiveness of the processes
under the Convention and its Protocols**

Update on the further development of the decision-tracking tool**

Note by the Secretariat

I. Background

1. In its decision XII/28, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop and maintain an online decision-tracking tool in the clearing-house mechanism with a view to supporting the review of existing decisions and improving the development and adoption of new decisions.¹ The Secretariat commenced the pilot phase of the development of the decision-tracking tool in 2016 with the review of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties taken at its eighth and ninth meetings. This was followed by the incorporation and review of decisions from the first to the seventh meetings and from the tenth to the thirteenth meetings, and the incorporation of the text of the decisions of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Executive Secretary provided an update on the development of the decision-tracking tool in document CBD/COP/15/INF/14.

2. In its decision 15/6, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to further develop the tool to support the operationalization of the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review with a view to enhancing implementation of the Convention and of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (para. 29 (e)). As the decisions of the Conference of the Parties are aimed at facilitating the implementation of the Convention, the tracking of implementation of the decisions is relevant to the Convention's planning, monitoring, reporting and review mechanism, and to the global review of implementation addressed in document [CBD/SBI/6/4](#).

3. In its decision 15/18, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare an analysis of options to further improve the effectiveness of meetings under the Convention and to submit the analysis to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for consideration at its fourth meeting (para. 10). Pursuant to that decision, the Secretariat conducted consultations with Parties and

* [CBD/SBI/6/1](#).

** The present document is being issued without formal editing.

¹ Online decision tracking tool: <https://www.cbd.int/decisions>

stakeholders through an online survey as highlighted in document CBD/SBI/4/11. The survey included a question on the decision-tracking tool.

4. As described in document CBD/SBI/4/11, many Parties are not aware of the decision-tracking tool. Parties highlighted that, in order to realize its full potential, further development and improvement of the tool was needed, including: improving the search function; enhancing the user interface, such as by adding intuitive navigation and interactive features for a more user-friendly experience; and regularly updating the tool. Parties also suggested that the Secretariat should proactively promote and raise awareness about the decision-tracking tool, including through training programmes and active collaboration with Parties in developing the tool. Parties also expressed that the tool could also improve the ability of Parties to identify if a recommendation or decision suggested by the Secretariat or submitted by a subsidiary body is new (aims to cover a matter or an issue that was not addressed before) and does not duplicate any previous decision or recommendation by the governing body concerned.

5. In paragraph 13 (d) of decision 16/25, on options to further improve the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols, the Conference of the Parties, and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol (decision CP-11/5), and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (decision NP-5/10) requested the Executive Secretary to make efforts to limit the size of draft recommendations by subsidiary bodies or draft decisions by governing bodies, and to avoid duplication and redundancy with existing decisions, without prejudice to the ability of the Conference of the Parties to revisit previous decisions, in order to facilitate the subsequent implementation of decisions. Document [CBD/SBI/6/9](#) contains a draft recommendation for the inclusion in the decision-tracking tool of decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.

6. This document provides an update on the further development of the decision-tracking tool and procedures for its use.

II. Enhancements to the tool and procedures for its use

7. The Executive Secretary has taken stock of the functionality and the use of the decision-tracking tool and considered the feedback received through the survey. Several enhancements were identified which would improve the utility of the tool and provide a more intuitive user experience, including:

(a) Tagging decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth and subsequent meetings, with the relevant goals and targets, and where possible elements of section C, of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(b) Refining the tagging of decisions with the relevant stakeholders and thematic areas/subjects in a systematic way using a common taxonomy;

(c) Developing a standard operating procedure within the Secretariat for the regular review of elements of decisions to validate tagging, to update status of implementation, and to share data across relevant systems internally;

(d) Linking decisions of the Conference of the Parties which cross-reference each other as well as linking decisions of the Conference of the Parties with relevant notifications, documents or other outputs. This would allow users to see both the history of the decision and the subsequent decisions and documents which were developed on the basis of a decision. This information could also provide evidence to justify a change of status to “Implemented” or “Superseded”;

(e) Providing functionality to allow Parties to use the tool to identify actions directed toward Parties and to track their own progress, and the overall status of the elements of decisions directed to Parties;

(f) Improving the online system behind the decision-tracking tool, including the search function to facilitate more precision in search outcomes;

(g) Dashboards for displaying progress to make the tracking of progress more visual and user-friendly;

(h) Linking and synchronizing the decision tracking tool to the calendar of actions and activities, the system that tracks notifications issued, and other relevant data systems such as those in use to cost draft recommendations/decisions.

8. The Secretariat has made progress toward a number of the above enhancements, including improving the search function, developing dashboards and tagging decisions with the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. In addition, with the generous funding from the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the Secretariat is working to implement additional enhancements mentioned above focusing in the short run on the decisions from the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties directed to the Executive Secretary. Given the importance of the tool, and the recommendations for further enhancement as mentioned in document [CBD/SBI/6/9](#), the Secretariat will continue to allocate programme and technical resources to this work.
