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TRUST FUND FOR FACILITATING PARTICIPATION OF PARTIES IN THE CONVENTION PROCESS: ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES AND POSSIBILITIES OF ENGAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Note by the Executive Secretary

BACKGROUND

1. In its decision [XIII/32](#) (para. 40) the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a report, for submission to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in accordance with the United Nations Environment Assembly Resolution 2/18, paragraph 3, and for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation with a view to a possible decision at the next meetings of the Parties to the Convention and its Protocols, on:

(a) The status of contributions to the BZ voluntary Trust Fund over the last four bienniums;

(b) The level of participation of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States and Parties with economies in transition, in meetings of the Convention and its Protocols in each of those bienniums and the effects of shortfalls in contributions on the attendance of all eligible Parties and of developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and Parties with economies in transition separately;

(c) The possible repercussions on the effective functioning of the meetings of the Parties to the Convention and its Protocols, including the open-ended intersessional meetings;

2. In the same decision (para. 36), the Executive Secretary was also requested to explore possibilities of formally engaging the private sector in supporting the BZ Trust Fund for the participation of developing countries, to further develop the modalities to ensure the transparency of private sector contributions and avoid the appearance of influence, in accordance with Principle 10 of the United Nations Global Compact, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting and a decision at the next meetings of the Parties to the Convention and its Protocols;

3. In response to these requests, sections I, II, III and IV of the present document addresses each of these issues in turn. Further section VI provides some general conclusions while section VII contains a draft recommendation for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting.

I. THE BZ VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND

A. Background

4. In 1996, the Conference of the Parties, in its decision [III/24](#), paragraph 5, established the Trust Fund (BZ) for facilitating participation of Parties in the Convention process. The objective of the BZ fund

* [CBD/SBI/2/1](#).

is to ensure that the developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, as well as small island developing countries, are able to participate fully and effectively in the negotiating process and to improve the legitimacy of the Convention decisions. In 2004, through its decision [BS-I/10](#), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety set up a similar fund (the BI special voluntary Trust Fund) for the Biosafety Protocol. However, in 2014, following a request from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (decision [BS-VII/7](#)), the Conference of the Parties decided to merge the two trust funds (decision [XII/32](#), para. 24). The Conference of the Parties further decided that the merged trust funds should also be available to facilitate participation of Parties in meetings related to the Nagoya Protocol (decision [XII/32](#), para. 25).

5. Funding for the BZ Trust Fund is provided by developed country Parties on a voluntary basis. The funding is then used by the Secretariat to provide eligible Party representatives with airline tickets and daily subsistence allowances to enable them to participate in meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and 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. Resources from the fund are also used to support the participation of eligible party representatives in relevant meetings of the Convention's and Protocols' subsidiary and associated bodies.

6. In its decision [IX/34](#) (para. 31), the Conference of the Parties adopted a procedure for the allocation of funding from the BZ Trust Fund. The procedure requires that priority to be given to least developed countries and small island developing States and thereafter aim at ensuring adequate geographical representation of all eligible developing country Parties. The United Nations classifies, for analytical purposes, countries into three broad categories: developing countries, countries with economies in transition and countries with developed economies. The developing countries category is further divided in three sub-categories: the least developed countries (LDCs), the small island developing States (SIDS) and other developing countries. The countries are classified according to their level of development by the United Nations Economic and Social Council's Committee for Development Policy. A country's classification is periodically reviewed and updated by the Committee. During the period from 2009 to 2016, some 153 Parties fell under the categories of developing countries and countries with economy in transition and were thus eligible for funding from the BZ Trust Fund.

7. Other Conventions and United Nations processes have similar criteria for funding and prioritization. For example the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) prioritizes LDCs and SIDS and other developing countries and countries with economy in transition below an income threshold.¹

B. Status of contributions

8. As per the mandate set out in the decision [XIII/32](#), information from the last four bienniums (2009 to 2016) is considered in the present document. In this period, 32 meetings were convened including:

- (a) Four meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP);
- (b) Four meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CP-COP-MOP);
- (c) Two meetings 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 (NP-COP-MOP);

¹ "Trust Fund for Participation in the UNFCCC Process." Background note prepared by the Secretariat (02 October 2017), available at <https://unfccc.int/es/process-and-meetings/conferences/un-climate-change-conference-november-2017/events-and-schedules/mandated-events/technical-workshop-on-ways-to-increase-the-efficiency-and-transparency-of-the-budget-process>

- (d) Seven meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advices (SBSTTA);
- (e) Three meetings of the Working Group on the Review of the Implementation (WGRI);
- (f) One meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI);
- (g) Four meetings of the Working Group on Article 8(j) (WG8J);
- (h) Four meetings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABSOG); and
- (i) Three meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol (ICNP).

9. A total of 92 contributions from 16 donors were received and deposited in the BZ Trust Fund between 2009 and 2016. Between 2009 and 2016 an average \$2 million was received per biennium. This equates to an average of \$250,000 for each of the 32 meeting held over this period. However, as shown in the figure below, the level of contribution to the BZ Trust Fund has varied through time. Contributions peaked at \$3.1 million in 2009-2010 and were received from 10 donors. In that biennium 9 meetings were convened. Since that time, the number of contributions to the BZ Trust Fund has declined and reached \$704,000 from 8 donors in 2015-2016 during which 7 meetings were held. This represents the lowest level of contribution to the fund since it was established in 1996 (see figure 1).

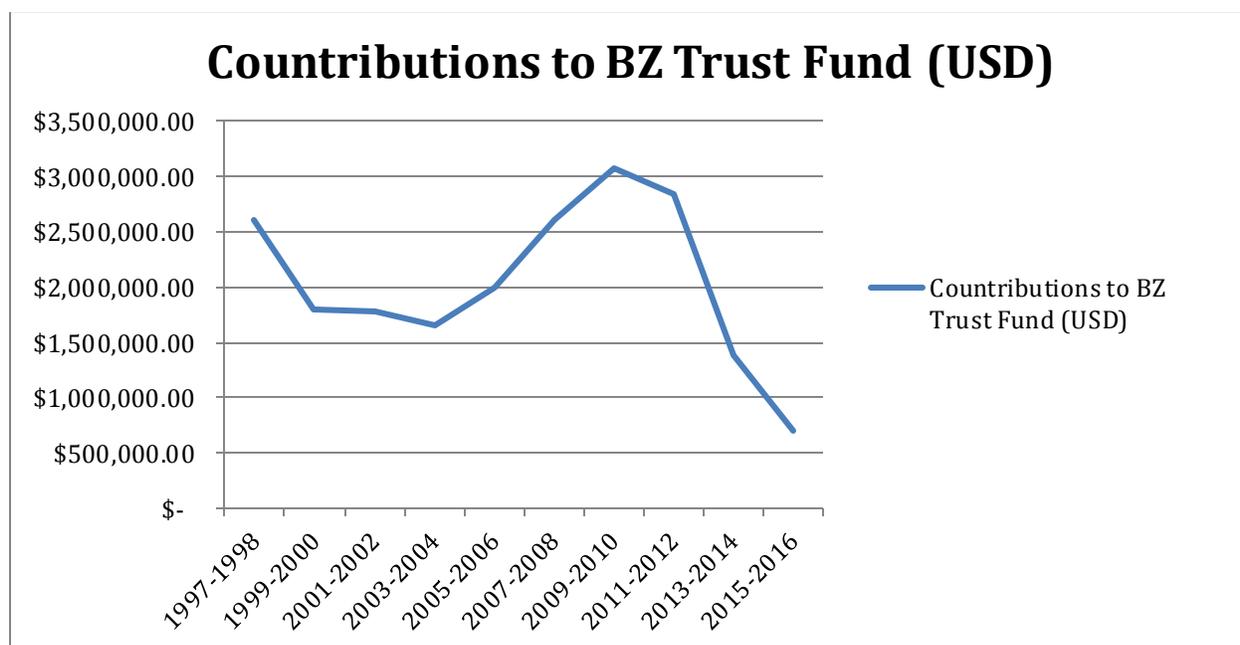


Figure 1. Trend in contributions to the BZ Trust fund for the period 1997-2016

II. LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY PARTIES IN MEETINGS OF THE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS

A. Background

10. The number of delegates from developing country Parties participating in meetings of the Convention, its Protocols and its associated subsidiary bodies has varied over time. Some Parties are reliant on the BZ Trust Fund for their participation while others make use of domestic sources of funding and/or funding provided through other funding channels, such as project funding, to either support their participation entirely or to complement the funding provided through the trust fund.

11. The number of Parties and participants that can be supported by the Secretariat with the funds provided by the BZ Trust Fund is dependent on the contributions received by the Secretariat, the daily subsistence rate of the country where the meeting is being held, the duration of the meeting and the cost of airfare. These have all varied between meetings making a direct comparison between meetings impossible.

12. Over the last four bienniums the BZ Trust Fund has not received sufficient funding for the Secretariat to be able to support all eligible Parties to participate for any of the 32 meetings convened during the period under review. As such, pursuant to the procedure for allocation of funding from the BZ fund set out in decision IX/34, the contributions received have been earmarked in priority for LDCs and SIDs on first come first served basis. Any surplus was then allocated to the other developing countries and to countries with economies in transition.

13. In order to give flexibility to funded Parties, the Secretariat, with the funds provided through the BZ Trust Fund, provides each eligible country with the equivalent of one return airline ticket and the equivalent of the daily subsistence allowance for the duration of the meeting. It is then up to the Party to decide how they wish to make use of the funds. For example, in the case of meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocols some Parties chose to send one participant to cover issues related to the Convention and its Protocols while others chose to distribute the airline ticket and DSA among multiple participants.

B. Participation

14. According to the meeting registration database of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 9,205 participants from developing countries have participated in meetings over the last four bienniums. The average number of delegates representing developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in a meeting during each biennium was 95 and participation has ranged from 86 in 2013-2014 to 101 in 2011-2012 (see figure 2 and table 1). The number of funded delegates from eligible Parties for each meeting ranged from 63 in 2013-2014 to 86 in 2011-2012. The average number is 77 funded delegates per meeting.

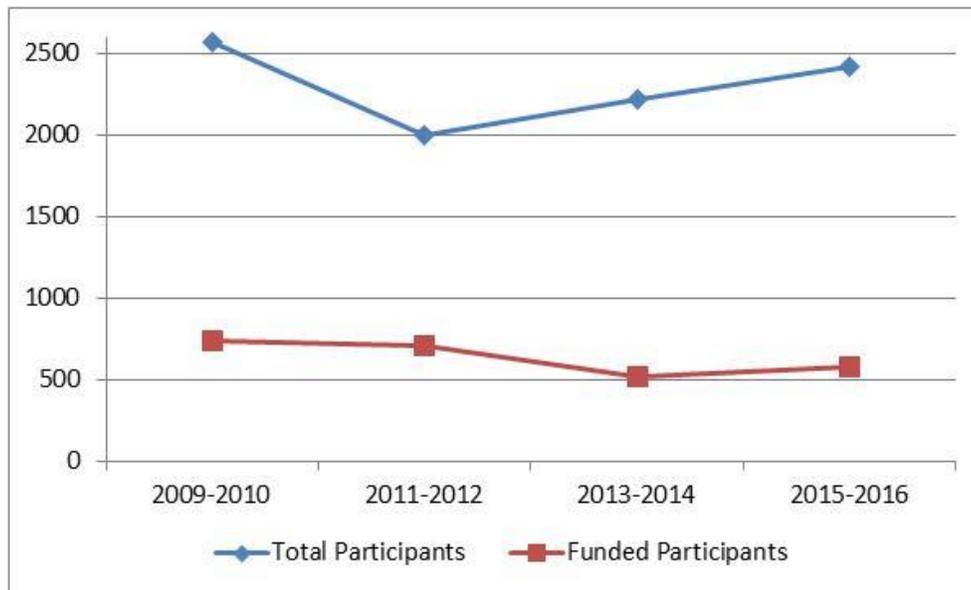


Figure 2. Participation of delegates representing developing country Parties in meetings during the last four bienniums

15. The number of participants funded through the BZ Trust Fund as a percentage of the total number of participants from developing country Parties averages 27%. However, the ratio has varied over time.

For example, in 2011-2012 it was 36% and in 2015-2016 it was 24%. Further, when developing countries are disaggregated there are clear differences. For example, for SIDS the percentage, on average for the four bienniums, is 65% while for LDCs and economies in transition it is 46% and 47% respectively. For other developing countries it is 13%. This suggests that the funding provided through the BZ Trust Fund is particularly important in ensuring the participation of representatives of LDCs, SIDS and economies in transition in meetings of the Convention and its Protocols.

Table 1. Participation of representatives of developing country Parties

<i>Biennium</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Total participants</i>	<i>Funded Participants</i>	<i>Funded participants as percentage of total participants</i>
2009-2010	LDCs	537	264	49%
	SIDS	285	175	61%
	Other developing countries	1616	240	15%
	Economies in transition	130	58	45%
	Total for the biennium	2568	737	29%
2011-2012	LDCs	437	240	55%
	SIDS	226	163	72%
	Other developing countries	1206	236	20%
	Economies in transition	129	71	55%
	Total for the biennium	1998	710	36%
2013-2014	LDCs	487	209	43%
	SIDS	206	145	70%
	Other developing countries	1424	120	8%
	Economies in transition	104	44	42%
	Total for the biennium	2221	518	23%
2015-2016	LDCs	478	213	45%
	SIDS	288	165	57%
	Other developing countries	1514	137	9%
	Economies in transition	138	61	44%
	Total for the biennium	2418	576	24%
Total for all four bienniums		9205	2541	28%

III. POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS ON THE EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS, INCLUDING THE OPEN-ENDED INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS

16. The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols as well their open-ended intersessional meetings operate on a consensus basis. The inability to facilitate the participation of all Parties in meetings threatens to undermine the legitimacy of the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols. It also threatens to undermine the legitimacy of recommendations taken and draft decisions prepared by the subsidiary bodies, increasing

the risks that issues already considered by such bodies will be re-opened by the Conference of the Parties or the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols, thereby decreasing the efficiency of the overall processes. Furthermore, the quorum for decisions to be taken by any body is two-thirds of the number of Parties. Thus, limited participation ultimately jeopardizes the possibility of any decision being taken.

Table 2 – Participation by developing country Parties in meetings of the Convention, its Protocols and subsidiary and associated bodies over the last four bienniums²

Biennium	Meeting	Number of Parties (LDCs and SIDS) eligible for support attending ³	Number of Parties (LDCs and SIDS) funded ⁴	Parties fully dependent on funding ⁵	
				Number of Parties (LDCs and SIDS)	Percentage of Parties (LDCs and SIDS)
2009-2010	WGR8J-06	84 (45)	83 (45)	64 (42)	76% (93%)
	ABSWG-07	94 (40)	85 (39)	59 (33)	63% (83%)
	ABSWG-08	93 (44)	83 (43)	64 (39)	69% (87%)
	COP-10	144 (45)	118 (42)	27 (5)	19% (13%)
	MOP-05	99 (31)	76 (28)	37 (16)	37% (52%)
	SBSTTA-14	83 (36)	56 (35)	40 (28)	48% (78%)
	WGRI-03	79 (35)	56 (35)	45 (29)	57% (81%)
	ABSWG-09	71 (32)	67 (32)	43 (24)	61% (75%)
2011-2012	ABSWG-09-2	91 (40)	85 (40)	67 (35)	74% (88%)
	SBSTTA-15	105 (40)	93 (40)	75 (34)	71% (85%)
	WGR8J-07	91 (39)	80 (37)	66 (33)	73% (85%)
	ICNP-01	91 (49)	71 (47)	60 (44)	66% (90%)
	MOP-06	101 (33)	81 (32)	48 (23)	48% (70%)
	SBSTTA-16	102 (44)	86 (40)	70 (37)	69% (84%)
	COP-11	137 (44)	111 (41)	27 (7)	20% (16%)
	WGRI-04	91 (41)	81 (40)	68 (40)	75% (98%)
2013-2014	ICNP-02	94 (41)	89 (40)	71 (37)	76% (90%)
	SBSTTA-17	88 (46)	78 (46)	57 (39)	65% (85%)
	WGR8J-08	69 (38)	62 (38)	41 (30)	59% (79%)
	COP-12	125 (64)	74 (56)	19 (16)	15% (25%)
	MOP-07	94 (43)	65 (38)	38 (27)	40% (63%)
	NP-MOP-01	69 (29)	37 (18)	15 (11)	22% (38%)

² This assessment assumes that if a Party delegate did not receive funding through the BZ Trust Fund that they would be unable to participate in the meeting. In the case where only one delegate from the Party attended the meeting, this would imply that the Party would not be represented. In cases where more than one Party delegate attended the meeting, it is assumed that the Party delegation would be reduced by the number of funded participants from the Party. The numbers in parentheses indicates the subset of eligible Parties that are LDCs or SIDS.

³ This column indicates the number of developing country Parties (LDCs and SIDS) participating in each meeting.

⁴ This column indicates the number of developing country Parties (LDCs and SIDS) receiving support from the BZ trust fund to participate in the meeting. In most cases, funding was provided for one delegate. However in some instances, for example when a Party representative was serving on the COP or SBSTTA Bureaus, more than one Party representative may have been funded.

⁵ These columns indicate the number and percentage of Parties (LDCs and SIDS) with single-member delegations that received funding. In the absence of funding from the BZ Trust Fund and of alternative sources of funding, Parties in this category would not have been represented at a given meeting.

Biennium	Meeting	Number of Parties (LDCs and SIDS) eligible for support attending ³	Number of Parties (LDCs and SIDS) funded ⁴	Parties fully dependent on funding ⁵	
				Number of Parties (LDCs and SIDS)	Percentage of Parties (LDCs and SIDS)
	SBSTTA-18	89 (48)	60 (47)	47 (37)	53% (77%)
	WGRI-05	75 (45)	56 (44)	42 (36)	56% (80%)
	ICNP-03	85 (46)	76 (46)	60 (40)	71% (87%)
2015-2016	SBSTTA-19	81 (40)	61 (40)	42 (34)	52% (85%)
	WGR8J-09	79 (40)	62 (40)	43 (35)	54% (88%)
	COP-13	133 (66)	108 (65)	34 (25)	26% (38%)
	MOP-08	125 (63)	108 (63)	48 (31)	38% (49%)
	NP-MOP-02	120 (62)	108 (62)	44 (28)	37% (45%)
	SBSTTA-20	83 (46)	55 (43)	45 (38)	54% (83%)
	SBI-01	84 (47)	55 (43)	46 (38)	55% (81%)

17. The funding provided through the BZ Trust Fund has been vital in ensuring the participation of developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in meetings of the Convention and its Protocols over the last four bienniums. In the absence of this funding, and assuming that eligible countries would be unable to secure other means of supporting their participation in a meeting, the average number of developing country Parties participating in meetings during the four bienniums under consideration would have been greatly reduced (see table 2). For the intersessional meetings (SBSTTA, WGRI/SBI and WG8J) the participation of eligible Parties would have been reduced by around 60% (48% to 76%). Participation in the meetings of the COP, CP-COP-MOP and NP-COP-MOP would have been reduced by about 20%, 40% and 30% respectively. The absence of this funding would have a particularly strong effect on the participation of the small island developing States and the least developed countries in meetings of the Convention's subsidiary and associated bodies, with around 80-90% of these countries dependent on financing from the BZ Trust Fund.

18. Further, given the same assumption above on the absence of funding, for the meetings of COP, an additional 16 to 21 Parties would have been reduced to one participant delegation and a further 14 to 24 Parties would have been reduced to two participant delegations. Given the complexity of COP meetings, this would have threatened the ability of these Parties to effectively participate in the deliberations. The issue of the size of delegations is likely to become increasingly important as the Convention moves towards convening meetings of COP and COP-MOPs concurrently. For example, a number of Parties, in response to a notification requesting views on the experience of convening COP 13, CP-COP-MOP 8, and NP-COP-MOP 2 concurrently, noted that effective participation in meetings is dependent on ensuring an appropriate delegation size.⁶

IV. ENGAGEMENT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE BZ TRUST FUND

19. In decision XIII/32, paragraph 36, the Executive Secretary was requested to explore possibilities for formally engaging the private sector in supporting the BZ Trust Fund and develop modalities to ensure the transparency of private sector contributions.

20. The potential role of the private sector in advancing sustainable development and in supporting the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development have been recognized in

⁶ For further information, see [CBD/SBI/2/16/Add.1](#), which will be considered under agenda item 15.

numerous processes.⁷ Across the United Nations system, various organizations have developed policies and/or guidance on how the relationship with the private sector should be managed. Examples of these include:

(a) The United Nations Global Compact — The Compact is a voluntary initiative that seeks to advance universal principles on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption through the active engagement of the corporate community, in cooperation with civil society and representatives of organized labour.⁸ The compact sets out ten principles which members agree to integrate into their operations;⁹

(b) The United Nations Guidelines on a Principle-based Approach to the Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector — The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a framework to facilitate the formulation and implementation of partnerships between the United Nations and the business sector, while safeguarding the integrity, impartiality and independence of the United Nations and preventing and mitigating potential risks of adverse impacts on people and the environment;¹⁰

(c) The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Private Sector Engagement Policy — The main purpose of the policy is to reposition and strengthen UNEP's work with the private sector by focusing on how the private sector and markets can contribute to achieving the environmental dimension of sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The policy specifies that strategic partnerships with the private sector need to be built on a set of clearly defined mutual benefits and long-term goals in adherence with the rules and regulations of the United Nations. As part of the policy, the private sector may provide logistical and financial support to specific activities of the United Nations Environment Programme subject to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;

(d) The UNFCCC Secretariat Guidelines for Partnership – The guidelines set out that partnerships should directly or indirectly support the activities of the UNFCCC Secretariat, and help it to leverage skills, expertise and other resources that will support and advance its mandate. The guidelines outline how the Secretariat selects partners, but also the purpose, benefits and guiding principles of partnership with the secretariat. The guidelines aim to facilitate partnership and to mitigate potential political and reputational risk and any conflict of interest associated with partnerships by setting out a set of guiding principles for such arrangements;¹¹

21. Generally, the policies that are in place are geared towards the involvement of the private sector in supporting specific projects and/or programmes. As such, they are rather general in nature and while they do not preclude the involvement of the private sector in supporting the travel of participants from eligible countries they do not explicitly address this issue either.

22. To date, the Secretariat has not had any experience with the involvement of the private sector in making formal contributions to the BZ Trust Fund or in otherwise supporting the participation of developing countries in meetings of the Convention and its Protocols. Similarly, the Secretariat has not received any offers from the private sector to do so.

23. Throughout the United Nations system, there is limited experience with engaging or otherwise relying on the private sector to support Party participation in meetings. However, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has recently explored the possibility of involving the private sector in the funding of participants to relevant meetings. To date, no contributions have been received from a private sector organization to support the travel of participants

⁷ For example, see General Assembly resolution [70/1](#), entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

⁸ For further information see <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/>

⁹ For further information on the principles see <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/mission/principles>

¹⁰ For further information see <https://business.un.org/en/documents/5292>

¹¹ For further information see https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/b_2017_1_unfccc_guidelines_for_partnership_final.pdf

from eligible countries to relevant meetings. However, CITES has secured some funding to support participation in meetings from a few charitable funds or organizations established by private sector organizations. The situation is similar for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

24. While the engagement of the private sector in the BZ Trust Fund has the theoretical possibility of increasing the amount of funding available, it would also result in a number of challenges which would need to be addressed. For example:

(a) The issue of the potential influence of private sector organizations in the operations of the Convention and its Protocols would need to be considered. This includes both real and perceived influence and could apply even in situations where donations were anonymized;

(b) Actively pursuing the private sector as a potential source of funding for the BZ Trust Fund could distract from other work under the Convention and its Protocols related to the engagement of the private sector, including the work on the mainstreaming of biodiversity into economic and productive sectors and its work on the Global Platform on Business and Biodiversity;

(c) Identifying appropriate private sector organizations to collaborate with would be a challenge as would managing any relationship with them. For example, among the issues that would need to be considered is the model of collaboration that should be used, issues related to oversight, monitoring and reporting, means of acknowledgement, means of ensuring transparency, potential conflicts of interest as well as ensuring that any potential partners are not currently in violation of existing United Nations' guidance or have been sanctioned for their behaviour. As such developing appropriate relationships with private sector organizations on this issue could require a significant amount of Secretariat staff time.

25. Based on the current practices of the United Nations and the experiences to date, there appears to be limited potential for the private sector to represent a consistent and reliable source of funding to support the participation of developing countries in meetings of the Convention, its Protocols and their subsidiary and associated bodies. Conversely, such an approach may expose the Convention on Biological Diversity to an array of reputational risks, bring into question its impartiality and distract from its other activities related to the private sector. In the light of this, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties request that developments on this issue across the United Nations systems be monitored.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

26. The amount of funds provided to the BZ Trust Fund has been declining throughout the last four bienniums. The limited funding prevents the Secretariat from funding all eligible Parties to participate in meetings. Further, the number of funded participants per biennium in relevant meetings has declined between 2009 and 2014, and though it has increased slightly in 2015-2016 it is still below what is required. If the current trend continues, this could create challenges for the operations of the Convention and its Protocols and threatens the legitimacy of the agreements reached under these bodies.

27. With the increased integration between the Convention and its two Protocols, including the organization of concurrent meetings of the Conference of the Parties and meetings of the Parties to its Protocols, there is a need for more support for developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to be funded to attend the meetings of the Convention and its Protocols. In the light of this, and the recurring deficits in the BZ Trust Fund, Parties may consider reviewing the mechanisms currently in place for the funding of participants to the meetings of the Convention and its Protocols to ensure that funding needs can be met in a timely and predictable manner. Until such a time that sufficient resources are available for all eligible Parties to be able to participate in relevant meetings, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation may wish to consider recommending to the Conference of the Parties that resources from the BZ Trust Fund continue to be allocated, on a priority basis, to the least developed countries and small island developing States and thereafter aim at ensuring adequate representation of all eligible developing country Parties in line with paragraph 31 of decision IX/34. For other developing countries and countries with economies in transition, consideration may be given to prioritizing, within this group, low-income countries and lower middle-income countries, also taking into account the need for regional balance.

VII. SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION

28. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation may wish to adopt a recommendation along the following lines:

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation

1. *Notes* the analysis of the contributions to the BZ Trust Fund and of the level of participation of developing countries in the meetings of the Convention and its Protocols;
2. *Notes* that current trends in the level of funding and participation could have implications for the operations and legitimacy of the Convention and its Protocols.

29. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation may also wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Calls upon* developed country Parties to increase their contributions to the BZ Trust Fund in order to ensure the full and effective participation of representatives of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, as well as Parties with economies in transition;
 2. *Recalls* paragraph 31 of decision [IX/34](#), and *requests* the Executive Secretary, when allocating the funding from the BZ Trust Fund, to continue to accord first priority to funding for least developed countries and small island developing States;
 3. *Takes note* of the various existing guidelines for the engagement of the private sector with the United Nations system;
 4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to keep under review the experience of other conventions and United Nations processes in engaging the private sector to contribute to funds for the participation of delegates from developing countries in their meetings, and to inform the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties of further developments in this respect.
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