



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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### Subsidiary Body on Implementation

#### Fourth meeting

Nairobi, 21–29 May 2024

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

#### **Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management under the Convention and its Protocols**

### **Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, and technology transfer, clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management\*\***

Note by the Secretariat

## I. Introduction

1. In its decision [15/8](#), the Conference of the Parties adopted a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support priorities determined by Parties in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, (para. 1 and annex I).
2. In paragraph 24 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties established an informal advisory group on technical and scientific cooperation to provide strategic advice on practical measures, tools and opportunities to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex III to the decision. The terms of reference also included providing advice on ways and means to promote and facilitate technology transfer, capacity-building and development, knowledge management, and the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Framework.
3. In paragraph 25 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties established a mechanism comprising a network of regional and/or subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres to be coordinated by a global coordination entity and requested the Executive Secretary to implement a process for selecting entities and organizations to host the regional and/or subregional support centres outlined in paragraph 32 (b). Furthermore, it was decided that the modalities for operationalization of the global coordination entity would be developed by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting (para. 27).
4. In paragraph 31 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation to prepare recommendations on how to monitor progress against the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the mechanism to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation, for consideration by the Subsidiary

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\* CBD/SBI/4/1.

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

Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting, with the aim of informing their periodic review, update and enhancement.

5. In its decision [15/16](#), the Conference of Parties requested the Executive Secretary to further develop, in collaboration with Parties and relevant organizations and with the support of the Informal Advisory Group, the draft knowledge management component of the Framework, for peer review by Parties and for review by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions at its twelfth meeting, and for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting and by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting (para. 9(a)).

6. In the same decision, the Conference of Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, in collaboration with the Informal Advisory Group, a proposal for an updated work programme for the clearing-house mechanism and submit it for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting and consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

7. The present note contains an overview of the actions taken to implement the above requests and of the relevant documents prepared for consideration by the Subsidiary Body at its fourth meeting. Section II contains an overview of the actions taken to operationalize the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, including the selection of organizations to host the regional and/or subregional support centres and the preparation of draft modalities for the operationalization of the global coordination entity. Section III contains draft proposals on how to monitor the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism. The updated work programme for the clearing-house mechanism is contained in section IV, the draft knowledge management strategy in section V and a report on the work of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation in section VI. Section VII contains draft recommendations, including elements of a draft decision to be submitted for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

8. The present note will be complemented by the following addenda for consideration by the Subsidiary Body: the draft work programme for the clearing-house mechanism 2024–2030 (CBD/SBI/4/7/Add.1), the draft knowledge management strategy to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD/SBI/4/7/Add.2) and a progress report on work undertaken by the Secretariat in partnership with other organizations in fulfilment of other work mandated by the Conference of the Parties to support the implementation of its decisions 15/8 and 15/16 (CBD/SBI/4/7/Add.3).

## **II. Operationalization of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism**

9. This section contains updates on the steps taken to operationalize the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, including updates on the process for selecting entities and organizations to host regional and/or subregional technical and scientific support centres and draft elements of the possible modalities for operationalization of the global coordination entity.

### **A. Selection of regional and/or subregional support centres**

10. Pursuant to decision 15/8, the Executive Secretary, with the support of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, implemented a process for selecting entities and organizations to host regional and/or subregional technical and scientific support centres, based on the criteria specified in section III of annex II to the decision. The process was divided into two stages following advice provided by the Informal Advisory Group at its first meeting held from 14 to 16 June 2023.

11. During the first stage, 42 entities and organizations submitted expressions of interest to host a regional and/or subregional support centre, which were evaluated by the Secretariat using an assessment framework developed with support from the Informal Advisory Group. Subsequently, 26

entities were invited to participate in the second stage of the selection process and provide detailed information.

12. Following a thorough assessment of the information submitted by the 26 entities and organizations during the second stage, the Secretariat prepared an assessment report with a ranked shortlist of applicants per subregion and provided information on how the selection criteria were applied. The Informal Advisory Group reviewed the report during its third meeting held from 19 to 21 February 2024 and provided its advice on the most suitable entities and organizations to host the regional and/or subregional support centres and the number of centres required.

13. The key recommendations of the Informal Advisory Group regarding the selection of the regional and/or subregional support centres include the following:

(a) The establishment of at least 15 subregional support centres would ensure optimal geographical coverage with minimal overlaps;

(b) In addition to geographical coverage, other factors, such as type of organization (i.e. national, regional or global; intergovernmental or non-governmental, etc.); willingness to service additional countries outside their current mandated coverage and willingness to enter into collaborative arrangements should be taken into consideration by the Bureau in its final decision;

(c) Entities, especially those that participated in the second stage of the selection process, should be invited and encouraged to contribute to the implementation of the mechanism, for example by co-hosting a regional or subregional support centre with the selected entity; partnering with a regional or subregional support centre and/or working through the global coordination entity to provide specialized technical support to Parties in multiple regions.

14. The report of the Informal Advisory Group on the assessment of entities and organizations to host the regional and/or subregional support centres will be made available as document CBD/TSC/IAC/2024/1/2/Add.1.<sup>1</sup> The Secretariat issued a notification on 21 March 2024<sup>2</sup> inviting Parties to submit their views on the assessment report and the advice of the Informal Advisory Group. In accordance with the process for the selection of the entities and organizations to host the regional and/or subregional support centres, the aforementioned report of the Informal Advisory Group, together with a compilation of views submitted by Parties, will be presented to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its meeting to be held in Nairobi on 20 May 2024.

## **B. Modalities for operationalizing the global coordination entity**

15. The Executive Secretary, with the support of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, prepared draft elements of modalities for operationalizing the global coordination entity of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism presented in the annex to the present note to assist the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in addressing the request made by the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 27 of its decision 15/8. An analysis of options for the modalities will be made available in document CBD/SBI/4/INF/7.

16. The draft modalities were developed in line with the core functions specified in paragraph 27 of decision 15/8, taking into consideration the experience and lessons learned from other multilateral environmental agreements and processes that have similar mechanisms, including the regional and coordination centres under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions,<sup>3</sup> the Technology Mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>4</sup> the United Nations Technology Facilitation Mechanism to support the implementation of the Sustainable

<sup>1</sup> [www.cbd.int/meetings/TSC-IAC-2024-01](http://www.cbd.int/meetings/TSC-IAC-2024-01).

<sup>2</sup> Notification No. 2024-028.

<sup>3</sup> Under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions a total of 23 [regional and subregional centres](#) have been established to provide technical assistance, capacity-building and to promote the transfer of technology.

<sup>4</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/ttclear/support/technology-mechanism.htm>.

Development Goals,<sup>5</sup> the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as international initiatives, such as the Bio-Bridge Initiative.

17. The Informal Advisory Group reviewed the draft modalities proposed by the Executive Secretary during its third meeting and provided specific inputs and comments on various elements. With regard to the proposed operational modalities and procedures, the Group recommended that these be elaborated by the Executive Secretary with input from the Group so that they be applied as soon as Conference of the Parties designates the organization to host the global coordination entity and not wait for their approval by the following meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

18. Concerning the organizational structure, the Informal Advisory Group advised that the global coordination entity should comprise a lean team of professional and administrative staff. The Group also emphasized the need to have guaranteed core funding to cover basic operating costs of the global entity, including costs for its staff, office equipment and supplies, travel and communications. In this regard, the Group recommended that a supplementary budget, to be paid through assessed contributions, be included in a note on budgetary matters prepared by the Secretariat for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

19. The Group considered two possible options for operationalizing the global coordination entity, one where an international organization with a global mandate would be identified and selected through a competitive process to host and operationalize the global coordination entity, and second option where the Convention Secretariat would be selected to host the global entity.<sup>6</sup> Following a detailed analysis of the key steps to be taken and the estimated time and effort required to operationalize it, as well as the comparative advantages and disadvantages of each option against a set of criteria outlined in the draft modalities, which the host organization would have to meet, members of the Informal Advisory Group suggested that the Convention Secretariat would be best placed to host the global coordination entity.

20. In addition to the specific comments provided, the Informal Advisory Group made the following recommendations to assist in the operationalization of the global coordination entity:

(a) The host of the global coordination entity should work with relevant international organizations, including those with specialized expertise;

(b) The Secretariat should include in the document on budgetary matters prepared for the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties a supplementary budget to be paid through assessed contributions to cover the basic operating costs of the global coordination entity;

(c) In the interest of time and to avoid unnecessary delays, the Executive Secretary should elaborate the operational modalities and procedures of the global coordination entity with inputs and advice from the Informal Advisory Group in advance of its establishment;

(d) In the interim, the Bio-Bridge Initiative should be invited to provide support until the global coordination entity is established and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism is fully operational.

### **III. Monitoring the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism**

21. In its decision 15/8, the Conference of the Parties requested the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation to prepare recommendations for monitoring progress of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth

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<sup>5</sup> See <https://sdgs.un.org/tfm>.

<sup>6</sup> The report of the Informal Advisory Group is available at: [www.cbd.int/meetings/TSC-IAC-2024-01](http://www.cbd.int/meetings/TSC-IAC-2024-01).

meeting, with the aim of informing the periodic review, update and enhancement of the long-term strategic framework and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism.

22. In response to the above request, the Informal Advisory Group, through its subcommittee on capacity-building and development, held an online meeting in July 2023 to discuss possible indicators that could be used to monitor and measure the progress. The subcommittee prepared and submitted to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, a set of binary indicators for Target 20 of the Framework, which were subsequently considered by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-fifth meeting in October 2023.

23. In response to recommendation 25/1<sup>7</sup> of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and at the invitation of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators, the Informal Advisory Group also provided additional advice on the binary questions, the proposed glossary of key terms, and the complementary indicators for Target 20 through an online discussion forum held from 23 February to 5 March 2024. The views and comments provided are summarized in information document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/21.

24. At its third meeting, the Informal Advisory Group further considered draft elements of possible indicators for monitoring progress of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, in accordance with decision 15/8 and proposed the following indicators for that purpose:

- (a) Number of national organizations implementing elements of the long-term strategic framework;
- (b) Number of countries integrating capacity-building and development into their revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (c) Number of countries that have developed a national capacity development plan;<sup>8</sup>
- (d) Number of thematic capacity development action plans to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;<sup>9</sup>
- (e) Number of long-term capacity-building and development initiatives established to support implementation of the Framework;
- (f) Number of countries receiving support from regional and/or subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres;
- (g) Number of tools and technical resources exchanged across regional and/or subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres;
- (h) Amount of funds mobilized through the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism;
- (i) Number of technical and scientific cooperation opportunities made available and utilized by Parties;
- (j) Number of successful matchmaking efforts;
- (k) Number of technologies transferred across countries.
- (l) Number of expert exchange programmes implemented.

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<sup>7</sup> In paragraphs 6 and 7 of recommendation 25/1, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice invited the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators to provide advice on the wording of the list of binary questions and also requested the Expert Group to provide additional explanatory information on the list of binary questions, including a glossary of key terms used.

<sup>8</sup> Some examples of existing national capacity development plans or strategies are available at [www.cbd.int/cb/plans](http://www.cbd.int/cb/plans).

<sup>9</sup> Examples of thematic capacity development action plans include the Capacity-Building Action Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (contained in the [annex to decision CP-10/4](#)) and the draft Capacity-Building and Development Action Plan for the Nagoya Protocol (contained in document [CBD/NP/CB-IAC/2023/1/2](#)).

- (m) Number of joint research programmes implemented;
- (n) Number of joint technological development ventures implemented;
- (o) Number of regional or subregional expert networks established.

25. The Subsidiary Body may wish to take note of the above indicators to be used by the Informal Advisory Group in monitoring progress of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism.

26. It is also proposed that Informal Advisory Group be invited to prepare draft terms of reference for the independent evaluation of the relevance and effectiveness of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism to be undertaken in 2029, in conjunction with the global review of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

#### **IV. Updated work programme for the clearing-house mechanism**

27. Pursuant to decision 15/16, the Executive Secretary, with the support of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, has prepared an updated work programme for the clearing-house mechanism for 2024–2030, which is contained in document CBD/SBI/4/7/Add.1.

28. In accordance with Article 18 and other relevant provisions of the Convention, the goals of the updated work programme are: to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation; to facilitate exchange of information; to support planning, monitoring, reporting, and review; and to facilitate networking and collaboration. The outcomes expected under each of the four goals, the strategic actions to achieve the outcomes, the key actors that will lead or contribute to the implementation of the strategic actions, and the indicative delivery time frames are defined in the updated work programme.

29. The updated work programme envisions the clearing-house mechanism not just as an information-sharing portal but as a broad mechanism encompassing: the people and institutions that provide and use the information, expertise, technologies and other resources relevant to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols; the processes (including protocols and standard procedures) that govern and guide the exchange of information and cooperation among Parties and various stakeholders; the technologies and tools (including databases, online tools and platforms, discussion forums, etc.) that allow Parties and other stakeholders to collect, manage and share information, expertise and other resources, and to interact and network; and the metadata on the resources (information, knowledge, expertise, technologies, and other resources) that are shared through the mechanism.

#### **V. Knowledge management strategy to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

30. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of decision [15/16](#), the Secretariat, in consultation with the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, prepared a draft knowledge management strategy to support the implementation of the Framework.<sup>10</sup> The draft strategy ([CBD/WG8J/12/4](#)) was reviewed by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions at its twelfth meeting, with particular attention to traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities. The result of that review was incorporated in an updated draft strategy

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<sup>10</sup> In the light of the fact the Conference of the Parties already adopted the Framework at its fifteenth meeting, the instrument is now referred to as the “knowledge management strategy to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework” rather than the “knowledge management component of the Framework.”

contained in the annex to [recommendation 12/3](#) of the Working Group. Pursuant to recommendation 12/3, the Secretariat also prepared a draft indicative workplan for the implementation of the strategy.

31. Subsequently, the Secretariat circulated the revised draft strategy and the draft indicative workplan for peer review through notification No. 2024-010<sup>11</sup> and received submissions from eight Parties and 12 organizations. A compilation of the input received is made available as document CBD/SBI/4/INF/8. Taking into account input from the peer review, the Secretariat has prepared an updated knowledge management strategy which is available in document CBD/SBI/4/7/Add.2. The updated draft indicative workplan for the implementation of the strategy is made available as an information document (CBD/SBI/4/INF/9).

## VI. Report on the work of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation

32. Pursuant to paragraph 32 (k) of decision 15/8, this section contains a summary report on the work of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation. The mandate of the Informal Advisory Group is to provide strategic advice on practical measures, tools and opportunities to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, capacity-building and development, knowledge management and the clearing-house mechanism in support of the implementation of the Framework.

33. The Informal Advisory Group was constituted in April 2023, on the basis of the nominations that were received in response to notification No. [2023-010](#). It comprises 33 members, including 19 members nominated by Parties and 14 members from indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, regional and international organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector and the scientific community, as well as two Co-Chairs of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, as ex officio members.<sup>12</sup> The Informal Advisory Group held three meetings, two in-person (14–16 June 2023 and 19–21 February 2024) and one online (1–2 November 2023).

34. At its first meeting, the Informal Advisory Group, among other things, adopted its operational procedures and modalities and a rolling workplan for 2023–2024 and established three subcommittees on capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer, and knowledge management. It was agreed that the work related to the clearing-house mechanism would be handled by the entire Group given that the clearing-house mechanism supports the elements addressed by the other three workstreams. The Group requested the Secretariat to set up online discussion forums to facilitate deliberations and exchange of views on specific topics during the intersessional periods between the in-person meetings. Accordingly, online discussion forums were established for each of the subcommittees and one for the entire group.<sup>13</sup>

35. During its first meeting, the Informal Advisory Group also provided advice on the process for assessing and selecting the entities and organizations to host the regional and/or subregional support centres of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism. The Group also had preliminary discussions on the indicators and methods for monitoring progress against the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism. Furthermore, the Group reviewed and provided comments on the draft work programme for the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2024–2030, and the knowledge management component of the Framework. The Group also received updates on key initiatives and partnerships promoting and facilitating the implementation of the Framework and provided advice on how to strengthen coordination, synergy and the sharing of information and lessons among those initiatives.

36. After the first meeting, the three subcommittees handled different issues through their respective online meetings and discussion forums. The Subcommittee on Capacity-building and

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<sup>11</sup> [www.cbd.int/notifications/2024-010](http://www.cbd.int/notifications/2024-010).

<sup>12</sup> See the list of members at: [www.cbd.int/tsc/tsc-iag/members](http://www.cbd.int/tsc/tsc-iag/members).

<sup>13</sup> The online discussion forums can be accessed at: [www.cbd.int/tsc/tsc-iag](http://www.cbd.int/tsc/tsc-iag).

Development held discussions on the indicators and methods for monitoring and measuring the implementation of Target 20 of the Framework and provided the Informal Advisory Group's input on possible binary indicators to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators. The Subcommittee on Technical and Scientific Cooperation and Technology Transfer held online discussions in late August to early September 2023 and provided advice on the assessment framework for regional and/or regional support centres during stage 1 of its evaluation process. The Subcommittee on Knowledge Management held four online meetings and a discussion forum to further review the draft knowledge management component of the Framework.

37. During its second meeting, which was held online, the Informal Advisory Group reviewed the results of the assessment undertaken by the Secretariat during the first stage of the evaluation of expressions of interest to host regional and/or regional support centres and provided advice on the cut-off points for entities and organizations that had expressed interest in hosting a support centre to proceed to the second stage. The Group also provided advice on the assessment framework for the second stage and proposed other factors, besides the scores, that may be considered during the shortlisting of entities and organizations for each region or subregion.

38. At its third meeting, the Informal Advisory Group reviewed the draft assessment report prepared by the Secretariat, which included a ranked shortlist of entities and organizations per region and subregion to host the regional and/or subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres, and provided advice on the most suitable ones and the number of centres required under three possible scenarios. The Group also discussed and provided advice on the draft elements of modalities for operationalization of the global coordination entity described in section III of the present note, above. Furthermore, the Group discussed possible indicators and the process for monitoring the progress of implementing the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism. In addition, the Group reviewed and provided final comments on the updated draft knowledge management strategy and the revised draft work programme for the clearing-house mechanism (2024–2030).

39. The reports of the three meetings of the Informal Advisory Group are available on the Convention website.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> [www.cbd.int/tsc/tsc-iag](http://www.cbd.int/tsc/tsc-iag).



## VII. Recommendations

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

*The Subsidiary Body on Implementation*

1. *Takes note* of the report on the work of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation,<sup>1</sup> including on the assessment and selection of regional and/or subregional technical and scientific support centres, and welcomes the progress made;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Initiate, as soon as possible, the process of signing the host agreements with the entities and organizations selected to host the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres;

(b) Fast-track the mobilization of resources from potential donors to enable the entities and organizations selected to host the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres to embark on delivering support to Parties to implement Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

3. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties, at its sixteenth meeting, adopt a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties,*

**Capacity-building and development**

*Recalling* decisions 15/8 of 19 December 2022, 14/23 of 29 November 2018 and XIII/23 of 17 December 2016,

*Taking note* of the progress report on the implementation of previous decisions on capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, the clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management,<sup>2</sup>

1. *Invites* Parties and relevant organizations to share through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism, information about their ongoing and planned capacity-building and development activities supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the national and regional levels with the view to fostering programmatic synergy, coordination and cooperation;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, with the support of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Continue, in collaboration with the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation centres and relevant organizations, to support Parties in assessing and communicating their capacity needs and priorities through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism;

(b) Further identify and map initiatives and partnerships supporting capacity-building and development for the implementation of the Framework in order to provide a global overview of their coverage, identify gaps and foster coordination and collaboration;

(c) Continue to implement joint capacity-building activities and programmes with the Secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the biodiversity-related conventions to

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<sup>1</sup> CBD/TSC/IAC/2024/1/2.

<sup>2</sup> CBD/SBI/4/7/Add.3.

strengthen integrated and synergistic implementation of the conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level.

### **Technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer**

*Recalling* decisions 15/8, 14/23 and XIII/23,

*Stressing* the need to operationalize the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism as soon as possible to support of implementation of the Montreal-Kunming Global Biodiversity Framework,

*Noting with appreciation* the work undertaken by the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation during the intersessional period,

*Noting* the progress made with the operationalization of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism,

1. *Endorses* the selection of the entities and organizations to host the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres made by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, as listed in annex -- to the present decision;<sup>3</sup>

2. *Decides* that the operationalization and activities of the regional and subregional technical and scientific support centres will be funded from various sources, including the financial mechanism of the Convention, bilateral, multilateral, private sector and philanthropic sources, as well as financial and in-kind contributions of the entities and organizations selected to host support centres;

3. *Invites* the selected regional and subregional support centres to develop, with the support of the global coordination entity, a biennial workplan for the period 2024–2026, in line with the mandate specified in paragraph 26 of decision 15/8;

4. *Invites* Parties and relevant stakeholders to make full use of the regional and/or subregional support centres to strengthen their capacities and to cooperate with each other to foster the effective utilization of science, technology and innovation to support the implementation the Convention, its Protocols and of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

5. *Invites* Parties, relevant organizations and development cooperation agencies to collaborate with the regional and subregional support centres in the delivery of support to Parties in the respective regions and subregions to foster programmatic coordination, complementarity and synergy;

6. *Requests* the regional and subregional support centres to submit to the Executive Secretary their activity reports for the period 2025–2026 for review by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

7. *Adopts* the modalities for operationalizing the global coordination entity, contained in annex -- to the present decision;

8. *Decides* to designate the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to serve as the host of the global coordination entity of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism;

9. *Also decides* that the global coordination entity of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism should work with the support of relevant international organizations, including those with specialized expertise, as relevant;

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<sup>3</sup> The list of the selected entities and organizations would be annexed to the decision.

10. *Approves* a supplementary budget, to be paid through assessed contributions, to cover the core operating costs of the global coordination entity, including costs for its staff, equipment and travel;<sup>4</sup>

11. *Requests* the global coordination entity, in collaboration with the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, to elaborate and apply the operational modalities and procedures of the entity outlined in section C of the annex below and to report, through the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, on progress to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

12. *Decides* that, in the interim, the Bio-Bridge Initiative will continue to provide coordination support until the global coordination entity is fully operationalized;

13. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and organizations, in a position to do so, to provide financial and in-kind contributions and other resources to support the programmes and activities supported by the regional and subregional support centres and the global coordination entity;

14. *Invites* the Kunming Biodiversity Fund to support the operationalization of the regional and subregional support centres and the global coordination entity, including financing the technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and capacity-building support programmes and activities approved in response to requests by Parties in their respective subregions;

15. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, including through the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, to support technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and capacity-building support programmes and activities proposed by the subregional technical and scientific cooperation centres in response to requests by Parties in their respective subregions, to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

16. *Take note* of the indicators proposed by the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation to be used by the Group in monitoring the progress of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism;<sup>5</sup>

17. *Decides* that the monitoring and reporting of progress of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism will be conducted as part of the process for monitoring and reporting of the progress in the implementation of the Framework in line with decisions 15/6 and 16/--,<sup>6</sup> making use of information contained in the progress reports prepared by the Executive Secretary and the regional and subregional support centres and the national reports submitted by Parties;

18. *Requests* the Informal Advisory Group to prepare terms of reference for the independent evaluation of the relevance and effectiveness of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, to be undertaken in 2029 in conjunction with the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework, utilizing, among other things, the relevant indicators of the monitoring framework, including those for Target 20, for consideration by

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<sup>4</sup> To be transferred for consideration by the committee established by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting to consider the budget for the integrated programme of work of the Secretariat.

<sup>5</sup> The indicators are contained in the report of the third meeting of the Informal Advisory Group (CBD/TSC/IAG/2024/1/2).

<sup>6</sup> Decision by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting on the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

19. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Set up, recruit staff and initiate operations of the global coordination entity as soon as possible;

(b) Organize a meeting of the selected regional and subregional support centres to orient them on their mandate, operational procedures and guidance;

(c) Identify and mobilize additional financial resources and technical assistance to enable the regional and subregional support centres to initiate support programmes and activities in their respective regions and subregions as soon as possible;

(d) Organize annual joint meetings of all the regional and subregional support centres to enhance coordination and synergy in delivery of support to Parties and the sharing of experience, best practices and lessons learned among them;

(e) Prepare, in collaboration with the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, the criteria for evaluating the performance of regional and subregional centres;

(f) Prepare a progress report on the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, including operations of the regional and subregional support centres based on their annual activity reports and of the global coordination entity, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its sixth meeting and by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

#### **The clearing-house mechanism**

*Recalling* decisions 15/16 of 19 December 2022, 14/25 of 29 November 2018, XIII/23 B of 17 December 2016, XII/2 B of 17 October 2014 and XI/2 of 19 October 2012,

*Emphasizing* the critical importance of the clearing-house mechanism in supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

*Recognizing* the importance of the clearing-house mechanism in supporting the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, the knowledge management strategy to support the implementation of the Framework, the communications strategy to support the implementation of the Framework, and the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review,

1. *Adopts* the programme work of the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2024–2030, contained in annex -- to the present decision;<sup>7</sup>

2. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to implement the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism to support the implementation of the Convention, its Protocols and the Framework;

3. *Encourages* Parties to continue to take the necessary steps to establish or strengthen national clearing-house mechanisms and to ensure their sustainability;

4. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations in a position to do so, to provide financial, technical and human resources to enable developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to implement the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2024–2030;

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<sup>7</sup> This annex is the programme work of the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2024–2030 currently contained in the document CBD/SBI/4/7/Add.1.

5. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its mandate, to provide financial support to eligible developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, as well as Parties with economies in transition, to implement the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2024–2030;

6. *Invites* the regional and subregional support centres and the global coordination entity of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism to facilitate the implementation of the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in collaboration with the Secretariat and relevant organizations and initiatives;

7. *Takes note* of the progress made on the development of version 2.0 of the Bioland tool with a new user interface design and interoperability features and the number of Parties that have used the tool to establish or strengthen their national clearing-house mechanism portals;

8. *Invites* Parties that have not yet done so to use the Bioland tool to establish or strengthen their national clearing-house mechanism portals;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Implement the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism for 2024–2030 in collaboration with Parties, regional and/or subregional support centres and the global coordination entity, relevant initiatives and organizations and with the guidance of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation;

(b) Facilitate, in cooperation with the regional and/or subregional support centres and relevant organizations and initiatives, capacity-building and development activities to enable Parties to implement the work programme;

(c) Further develop and strengthen the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism in line with the work programme for the clearing house mechanism;

(d) Enhance the organization and management of content in the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism in order to facilitate its accessibility, exchange and utilization across diverse applications and platforms;

(e) Further improve the Convention's website and maintain it in all the six official languages of the United Nations;

(f) Further develop the Bioland tool and train Parties to effectively use it to develop and/or strengthen their national clearing-house mechanism portals in line with the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism.

### **Knowledge management**

*Recalling* decisions 15/16 and 14/25,

*Also recalling* Target 21 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

*Further recalling* the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism, the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, the communications strategy to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review,

*Emphasizing* the critical importance of ensuring easy and timely access to quality data, information and knowledge to support the implementation of the Framework,

1. *Adopts* the knowledge management strategy to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, contained in annex -- to the present decision;<sup>8</sup>
2. *Takes note* of the indicative workplan for the implementation of the knowledge management strategy to support the implementation of the Framework for the period 2025–2030 contained in document CBD/SBI/4/INF/9;
3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to implement the knowledge management strategy to support the implementation of the Framework;
4. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations in a position to do so, to provide financial, technical and human resources to enable developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to implement the knowledge management strategy;
5. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its mandate, to provide financial support to eligible developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, as well as Parties with economies in transition, to support the implementation of the knowledge management strategy;
6. *Invites* the regional and subregional support centres and the global coordination entity of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism to facilitate the implementation of the knowledge management strategy in collaboration with the Secretariat and relevant organizations and initiatives;
7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to:
  - (a) Support the implementation of the knowledge management strategy to support the implementation of the Framework with the guidance of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation;
  - (b) Further implement, in collaboration with the regional and/or subregional support centres, the Global Knowledge Support Service for Biodiversity and relevant organizations, the Knowledge Management for Biodiversity (KM4B) Initiative to strengthen the capacities of Parties in knowledge management, including through organizing training courses, regional and global workshops, webinars and knowledge fairs and catalysing the establishment and strengthening of biodiversity networks and communities of practice;
  - (c) Further develop, with the guidance of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, biodiversity-related vocabularies, taxonomies, ontologies and meta data standards through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism to improve classification, standardization, search and retrieval of the information on biodiversity, including information related to the goals, targets and indicators of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
  - (d) Further classify the available information relating to the targets and other elements of the Framework using the appropriate meta data standards and taxonomies as currently defined in the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism of both the Convention and the Protocols;
  - (e) Submit a report on the implementation of the above activities for consideration and further guidance by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Conference of the Parties at its xx meeting.

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<sup>8</sup> This annex is the knowledge management strategy to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, currently contained in the document CBD/SBI/4/7/Add.2.

## Annex

### **Modalities for operationalizing the global coordination entity of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism**

1. Pursuant to paragraph 27 of decision 15/8, the global coordination entity of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism will be operationalized in accordance with the modalities set out below and in line with its mandate as outlined in that decision.

#### **1. Organizational structure**

2. The global coordination entity will have a lean and agile team of professional and administrative staff, which will be responsible for the day-to-day administration and management of activities and operations, in line with the mandate outlined in paragraph 27 of decision 15/8.

3. The global coordination entity will establish partnerships with international organizations with specialized expertise in areas related to biodiversity to provide, through the regional and/or subregional support centres, support in areas where expertise or capacity is lacking to respond to all needs identified by Parties.

#### **2. Governance and oversight**

4. The global coordination entity will be accountable to the Conference of the Parties and will operate under its strategic guidance and direction. The general programme priorities, the biennial workplan and budget, and the delivery approaches will be approved by the Conference of the Parties. The entity will report to the Conference of the Parties, through the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, the progress of its work and that of the regional and subregional support centres.

5. The Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation will provide technical advice and guidance to the global coordination entity and the regional and subregional support centres on the effective and timely discharge of their functions. It will also assist in monitoring activities and operations and proposing measures to ensure these adequately respond to the needs and priorities identified by Parties.

6. The Executive Secretary will, if applicable, facilitate the preparation and signing of a host agreement with any external organization selected to host the global coordination entity. The host agreement will include a requirement for the entity and the regional or subregional support centres to elaborate biennial results-based workplans, with appropriate performance indicators, and to produce periodic reports.

7. The Executive Secretary will communicate to the global coordination entity, as well as to the regional and/or subregional support centres, the priorities identified by Parties in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports regarding capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, and technology transfer; and will maintain synergy and collaboration with biodiversity-related conventions and relevant organizations and initiatives.

#### **3. Operational modalities and procedures**

8. The global coordination entity will implement “fit-for-purpose” operational modalities, procedures, criteria and guidelines related to its functions developed with input from the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation. These operational modalities and procedures will take into account the guiding principles of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism outlined in annex II to decision 15/8 and will be refined over time based on experience and lessons learned. The core modalities and procedures may, inter alia, include the following:

(a) Modalities for promoting and maintaining coordination, collaboration and synergies among the regional and/or subregional support centres;

(b) Criteria for priority setting and programming, including guidelines for the delivery of support tools;

(c) Modalities to ensure balance and equity among regions in the delivery of support to Parties, including access to information on opportunities for technical and scientific cooperation;

(d) Guidelines and modalities to support the regional and/or subregional centres to align their work with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, including guidelines to ensure a gender-responsive approach;

(e) Criteria for the identification of organizations and experts that can be mobilized to assist the regional and/or subregional technical cooperation support centres at their request;

(f) Guidelines for active engagement of relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;

(g) Modalities for operationalizing a help desk to provide information, advice and technical support at the request of the regional and/or subregional centres;

(h) Guidelines, templates and procedures to assist the regional and/or subregional centres to report on their work to the Conference of the Parties through the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

9. The global coordination entity will work with the regional and/or subregional support centres to connect those Parties seeking specialized technical assistance with organizations, bodies, networks and experts that can and are best suited to provide the required support.

#### **4. Selection of the host of the global coordination entity**

10. The following criteria will be considered in the selection of the host of the global coordination entity:

(a) Ability to mobilize resources from diverse sources;

(b) Familiarity and experience with processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols;

(c) Ability to leverage expertise from external contacts and networks;

(d) Expertise on issues related to biodiversity;

(e) Strong convening power;

(f) Recognition as a neutral convenor;

(g) Demonstrated experience in engaging with multiple stakeholders;

(h) Experience in programme and project management.

11. The initial term of service of the host of the global coordination entity will be until the end of 2030. The renewal of this term will be subject to the host organization's satisfactory performance and the outcomes of the independent evaluation of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism referred to in paragraph 16 below. If the term is not renewed, the host will continue in its role until its replacement and a strategy for succession are put in place, in order to ensure continuity of support and that all related knowledge is properly transferred.

#### **5. Coordination and collaboration**

12. The global coordination entity shall facilitate coordination and collaboration among the regional and/or subregional support centres through various means, including organizing annual meetings with the coordinators of the regional and/or subregional support centres and maintaining a collaborative platform with a view to promoting synergies among the regional and/or subregional centres. This will also enable the centres to leverage and maximize the expertise and resources



available within other support centres and foster the sharing of experiences, best practices and lessons learned. The collaborative online platform will be accessible through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism.

13. The global coordination entity will promote, as appropriate, cooperation with relevant initiatives supporting implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as with relevant technical cooperation mechanisms led by other multilateral environmental agreements and relevant organizations.

## **6. Financial arrangements**

14. The Conference of the Parties will consider approving a minimum supplementary budget paid through assessed contributions to cover the basic operational costs of the global coordination entity, including staffing.

15. The global coordination entity will mobilize additional resources from a wide variety of sources, including from public and private grants and innovative financing instruments, as appropriate, and channel those resources to finance the technical and scientific cooperation support programmes of the regional and/or subregional centres.

## **7. Monitoring and review**

16. The Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation will periodically review the operations of the global coordination entity and of the regional and subregional support centres, including analyses of their periodic reports. A first review will be carried out for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting. The entities' results-based workplans and reports to the Conference of the Parties will be the primary source of information for monitoring and evaluating the mechanism and determining the renewal of the hosting arrangements/agreements for the global coordination entity. The Executive Secretary will commission an independent evaluation of the global coordination entity and the regional and subregional support centres to coincide with the review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to be conducted by the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth meeting. The report will be considered by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and subsequently by the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth meeting.

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