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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Twenty-fourth meeting

Online, 3 May – 9 June 2021

Agenda item 3

POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THE REVIEW OF THE UPDATED GOALS AND TARGETS, AND RELATED INDICATORS AND BASELINES

Draft recommendation submitted by the Chair

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting adopt a decision that includes the following elements, taking into account also the conclusions of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework:

The Conference of the Parties

1. [Adopts the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework annexed to the present decision;¹]
2. *Decides* to use the period from [2011-2020], where data is available, as the reference period, unless otherwise indicated, for reporting and monitoring progress in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, [while *noting*][and *recognizes*] that baselines, conditions and periods used to express [different responsibilities,] desirable states or levels of ambition in goals and targets should, where relevant, take into account [historical trends,][historic loss,] current status, and future scenarios of biodiversity [, including available information on the pre-industrial period];
3. *Also decides* to consider a review of the monitoring framework in order to finish its development at its sixteenth meeting, and thereafter keep the monitoring framework under review, as appropriate;
4. [Further *decides* that the headline indicators will be used in [global assessments] to monitor progress towards the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, complemented, as appropriate, by the component and complementary indicators;]
5. [Also *decides* that the headline indicators [should] [will] be used by [all] Parties in their national reports for reporting on their implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, where technically feasible and as [appropriate][applicable][and in accordance with Article 20][and *encourages* the establishment of mechanisms to build capacity in developing countries to support filling monitoring and reporting gaps;]

¹ The annex will be developed in the light of further discussions, including negotiations in the third meeting of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and finalized by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

6. [*Encourages* all Parties to use the headline indicators in national planning processes, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans [or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity] and other national planning processes [as appropriate and according to their national priorities and circumstances;]]

7. [*Invites* Parties to [adapt and] use the list of component and complementary indicators in their national planning processes [as appropriate and according to their national priorities and circumstances] and in their national reports for reporting on their progress in implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in line with Article 26 of the Convention, [as appropriate and according to their national priorities and circumstances;]]

8. [*Recognizes* the value of aligning][*Further invites* Parties to align] national monitoring with the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting statistical standard in order to mainstream biodiversity in national statistical systems and to strengthen national monitoring systems and reporting [as appropriate and according to their national priorities and circumstances;];

9. [*Encourages*] [*urges*] Parties [, pursuant to article 20,] and *invites* other Governments, the Global Environment Facility, the Biodiversity Indicator Partnership, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and other relevant organizations [and those invited to be part of the technical expert group on indicators] to support national, regional and global biodiversity monitoring systems;

10. *Invites* the United Nations Statistical Commission, the Global Earth Observations – Biodiversity Observation Network, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and other relevant organizations to support the operationalization of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

11. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc technical expert group, with a time-bound mandate until the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to advise on the further operationalization of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in accordance with the terms of reference contained in the annex to the present decision;

12. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to review outcomes of the ad hoc technical expert group and complete the scientific and technical review of the monitoring framework and report their findings for subsequent consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

13. *Decides* to consider the requirements for further work to fully implement and review the effectiveness of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the ad hoc technical expert group, and subject to the availability resources, to convene moderated online discussions on the monitoring framework;

15. [*Requests* the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions to continue the development of and operationalization of indicators related to traditional knowledge and indigenous peoples and local communities and report on this work to the Parties and for the Secretariat to make information available on progress and outcomes to the ad hoc technical expert group [and other relevant working groups];]

16. *Requests* the Executive Secretary [subject to the availability of resources], in collaboration with relevant partners:

(a) To [make available] [facilitate the development of] guidance on capacity [development][building] to support Parties to implement the monitoring framework, taking into

account the special needs, circumstances and priorities of developing countries, [in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition], in compiling and using the headline indicators, and component and complementary indicators when relevant, including in their national reports, national biodiversity strategies and action plans and other national planning processes;

(b) To facilitate the use of relevant tools, including the Data Reporting Tool (DaRT), to facilitate national reporting and the sharing of information between multilateral environment agreements.

[Annex

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON INDICATORS FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

1. The Group will work:

(a) To identify detailed metadata [and information] including [as appropriate, reference periods and] global baselines, prioritizing first headline indicators (according to the criteria identified in the annex of document CBD/-)[then component and complementary indicators] of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, taking into account existing methodologies and standards which have been developed, including the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting developed under the auspices of the United Nations Statistical Commission;

(b) To provide technical advice and develop guidance on addressing gaps in the monitoring framework, prioritizing headline indicators, and in the implementation of indicators for the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including advice on the use of harmonized and agreed indicator definitions, best practices for monitoring and national data sharing, and scientific and technical advice on the improvement of indicators or the addition of new indicators in the monitoring framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including indicators relevant to stakeholders;

(c) To provide technical advice on remaining and unresolved issues relating to the post-2020 monitoring framework, as outlined by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, and to prioritize work on the following elements leading up to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

- (i) Conduct a full assessment of headline, component and complementary indicators;
- (ii) Explore methods for the implementation of indicators in national planning and reporting;
- (iii) (list to be determined based on progress achieved by the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties);

(d) To provide guidance to Parties on ways to fill temporal and spatial data gaps, including through the use of big data, including citizen science, community-based monitoring and information systems, remote sensing, modelling and statistical analysis, and other forms of data and other knowledge systems, recognizing the specific challenges faced by developing country Parties to develop and access information tools;

(e) To provide advice on the existing capacity, gaps and needs in terms of capacity development, technology transfer and financing needs related to the monitoring of the global biodiversity framework in consultation with the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation.

2. The group will take into account:

(a) Previous work and experience under the Convention and other relevant programmes of work concerning indicators and monitoring;

(b) Statistical standards and development under the intergovernmental forum of the United Nations Statistical Commission;

(c) Previous work and experience with other relevant global, regional and national monitoring frameworks, multilateral environment agreements, and knowledge systems;

(d) Recent developments and information on issues related to the indicators, their metadata and baselines.

3. The group will be composed of 30 technical experts nominated by Parties, including statistics experts and experts in relevant social and natural sciences, and up to 15 representatives nominated by observer organizations and other relevant organizations. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, will select experts from the nominations submitted by Parties and organizations with due regard to representation of different areas of technical expertise, while recognizing the need for expert knowledge of biodiversity, and ensuring expertise on freshwater, marine and coastal ecosystems and also taking into account geographical representation, and the representation of indigenous peoples and local communities, major stakeholders and rights holders' groups, gender balance and the special conditions of developing countries, archipelagic States, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition.

4. The Group will nominate two co-chairs from among the selected experts.

5. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will be invited to participate in the group ex officio.

6. The Group may also invite other experts, as appropriate, from national Governments, [subnational and local governments,] the United Nations and other international organizations, civil society, youth, women's groups, indigenous peoples and local communities, including representatives from the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, academia and the private sector to contribute their expertise and experiences on specific issues related to the terms of reference of the Group.

7. The Group will primarily conduct its work electronically and [subject to the availability of resources,] will also meet physically, if possible, meeting at least twice during the intersessional period.

8. The ad hoc technical expert group should be established and start its work immediately after approval by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting and report on its work to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at meetings held prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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