



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.: General
8 December 2025

Original: English

Subsidiary Body on Implementation

Sixth meeting

Rome, 16–19 February 2026

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation

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Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In its decision [15/8](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development. It also established a technical and scientific cooperation mechanism comprising a network of regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres to be coordinated by a global coordination entity.
2. In its decision [16/3](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation to identify suitable options to further address the technological, technical and institutional capability gaps that had been identified, in particular by developing country Parties, with a focus on the targets and cross-cutting considerations of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including those related to the Protocols to the Convention, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
3. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties also requested the Informal Advisory Group to prepare terms of reference for the independent evaluation of the relevance and effectiveness of the long-term strategic framework 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, using, among others, the relevant indicators of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including those for Target 20, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
4. The present document has been prepared pursuant to the aforementioned requests and contains the following:
 - (a) The views and recommendations of the Informal Advisory Group regarding options to address the technological, technical and institutional capability gaps identified by Parties (sect. II);

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

(b) Draft terms of reference for the independent evaluations of the relevance and effectiveness of the long-term strategic framework and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, taking into account the advice provided by the Group in the reports of its fourth and fifth meetings (sect. III);

(c) Elements of a draft recommendation for consideration by the Subsidiary Body (sect. IV).

II. Options to address technological, technical and institutional capability gaps identified by Parties

5. Pursuant to paragraph 6 of decision [16/3](#), the Informal Advisory Group discussed at its fourth and fifth meetings, held in August and September 2025, respectively, suitable options to further address the technological, technical and institutional capability gaps identified by Parties.

6. The Secretariat undertook an analysis of the needs and priorities expressed in the 3,300 national targets submitted by 140 Parties and the 54 revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans that had been submitted through the online reporting tool as at 21 August 2025. The analysis was used as a proxy to gain insights into the technological, technical and institutional capability gaps of Parties and as a basis for identifying options for addressing them. The analysis, including a target-by-target review of the needs, will be made available in document [CBD/SBI/6/INF/2](#).

7. In summary, the types of capacity needs expressed by a large number of the Parties across several targets relate to the following:

(a) Data and knowledge gaps are persistent across nearly all targets. For example, several Parties reported insufficient baseline data, fragmented databases, limited interoperability, a lack of standardized methods, understudied species or ecosystems (especially marine, freshwater and fragile ecosystems), challenges to the identification of areas of high ecological or biodiversity importance and limited integration of indigenous and local knowledge. Without strong data, monitoring systems and common platforms to share data, implementing effective policies and measuring progress remain a challenge;

(b) Technology needs were mentioned widely but unevenly across the targets. There was a demand for geographic information systems, remote sensing, drones, artificial intelligence machine learning, bioacoustics, environmental DNA, genetic sequencing and cloud-based data systems. A number of Parties mentioned a lack of infrastructure, laboratories, internet access and processing capacity. Technology adoption came out as fragmented and heterogeneous: some Parties had basic laboratory needs, while others sought cutting-edge artificial intelligence-based applications;

(c) Capacity-building was mentioned almost universally, but few Parties provided details on the specific kinds of capacity needed. The institutional limitations frequently cited by Parties included inadequate governance, fragmented responsibilities and a lack of political will. Specific challenges included overlapping or unclear mandates across ministries, poor enforcement of existing regulations and limited cross-sectoral coordination. Some of the solutions mentioned included stronger legal frameworks, participatory governance, the up-skilling of the workforce and the provision of specialized technical training;

(d) Inclusion and cooperation were recognized as essential for all targets. A number of Parties flagged gender-responsive approaches, access to justice and the recognition of knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities as critical enablers. Several Parties also mentioned that women were underrepresented, that marginalized groups faced barriers to participation and that traditional knowledge was often used without fair benefit-sharing. The need for enhanced international cooperation, inter-agency coordination, knowledge-sharing platforms and regional cooperation mechanisms was mentioned as critical to pooling resources and accelerating progress.

8. The Informal Advisory Group noted the limitations of the analysis undertaken by the Secretariat as a basis for identifying options to further address the technological, technical and institutional capacity gaps, owing to the lack of recent comprehensive global needs assessments,¹ the limited information on means of implementation in the submissions uploaded by Parties through the online reporting tool and the fact that the information that they had shared offered limited details and lacked specificity. For example, it was noted that the kind of capacity needed was not provided.

9. In the absence of a comprehensive analysis of technological, technical and institutional capacity gaps, the Informal Advisory Group could not identify suitable options to further address the gaps, as requested by the Conference of the Parties. In that regard, the Group advised the Secretariat to conduct further analyses when more comprehensive data became available through the seventh national reports and the needs assessments conducted by the technical and scientific cooperation support centres. It also recommended that data be disaggregated by region or subregion and by thematic areas or target, to better understand, articulate and prioritize specific capacity needs within national circumstances and institutional context. The Group also advised the Secretariat to elaborate options to address capacity gaps on the basis of the further analyses, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body at its future meetings.

10. In addition, the Informal Advisory Group made general recommendations² addressing the need to improve and harmonize capacity assessments in order to provide a basis for identifying options to address specific gaps. The Group also recommended that future capacity needs assessments be carried out using the Framework as the conceptual framework for the analysis, including by examining needs target by target. Furthermore, the Group advised that the analysis of capacity needs and gaps should be an ongoing exercise conducted periodically by the Secretariat or by partner organizations using information from the national reports, the assessments undertaken by the technical and scientific cooperation support centres, partner organizations and other relevant sources.

11. In addition, the Informal Advisory Group advised that, in future analyses of capacity needs and gaps, the Secretariat, the technical and scientific cooperation support centres, partner organizations and relevant stakeholders should consider the following:

(a) Establishing a typology of capacity gaps (technological, technical, institutional) and using comparable methods when undertaking needs assessments;

(b) Developing a readiness sequencing framework (status → actions → enabling conditions → implementation capacity) to analyse and structure reporting on gaps and solutions;

(c) Promoting a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach that includes indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other relevant stakeholders;

(d) Encouraging Parties, partner organizations and stakeholders to collaborate with the technical and scientific cooperation support centres in assessing and analysing capacity needs and gaps at the regional and subregional levels;

(e) Organizing multi-stakeholder consultations to verify and validate the results of the capacity assessments and analysis at the national level;

(f) Strengthening the capacities of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres to conduct regional or subregional capacity needs analyses, facilitate peer-to-peer learning and provide targeted support to Parties;

¹ The most recent comprehensive national capacity self-assessments were conducted between 2005 and 2009, with funding from the Global Environment Facility (see www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/publications/NCSA-SR-web-100913.pdf). The NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, in collaboration with the Secretariat, also conducted in 2023 a rapid capacity-needs assessment of Parties' capacity needs and priorities for the implementation of the Framework, but the response rate was limited (see www.cbd.int/documents/663c34274e6b25722120f32d).

² See [CBD/TSC/IAG/2025/2/2](http://www.cbd.int/doc/2025/2/2), item 7.

(g) Promoting cooperation across multilateral environment agreements and other convention secretariats to avoid duplication and maximize co-benefits;

(h) Encouraging Parties, the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and relevant stakeholders to leverage existing tools and initiatives to strengthen cooperation on thematically related targets;

(i) Matching the capacity needs, expressed by several Parties, with existing tools and initiatives, including through peer-to-peer exchanges and expert rosters.

12. Furthermore, the Informal Advisory Group suggested that the global coordination entity provide guidance (including in the form of definitions, templates and examples) to the technical and scientific cooperation support centres to improve and harmonize future needs assessments and reporting.

III. Draft terms of reference for the independent evaluations of the relevance and effectiveness of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism

13. Pursuant to paragraph 7 of decision [16/3](#), the Informal Advisory Group prepared at its fourth and fifth meetings draft terms of reference for the independent evaluation of the relevance and effectiveness of the long-term strategic framework and for the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism (see the annex to the draft decision below), for consideration by the Subsidiary Body at the present meeting.

14. The Informal Advisory Group offered the following advice regarding the evaluations:

(a) The data and information collection process of the evaluations should be aligned with those of the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework and the national reporting cycle, to minimize the reporting burden on Parties;

(b) Donors should be included among the target stakeholders for the evaluations to assess the extent to which they applied the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework in designing longer-term and more synergistic programmes;

(c) Additional sources of information, such as reports from projects funded by the Kunming Biodiversity Fund, reports of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and reports prepared by, or specific to, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other relevant non-governmental actors, should be explored;

(d) The evaluation of the effectiveness of the long-term strategic framework should be focused on its contribution to the indicative medium-term capacity outcomes set forth in section II. B of the strategic framework, noting that it is too soon to assess long-term, high-level outcomes;

(e) Contextual information should be collected during the evaluations to identify and document variations across contexts for each stakeholder group.

IV. Elements of a draft recommendation

15. The Subsidiary Body may wish to adopt a recommendation³ along the following lines:

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation

Recommends that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt elements of a decision⁴ along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions [15/8](#) of 19 December 2022 and [16/3](#) of 1 November 2024,

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

Recognizing the limitations encountered by the Informal Advisory Group in identifying suitable options to further address the technological, technical and institutional capacity gaps, owing to the lack of recent comprehensive assessments and limited data available for the analysis of such gaps,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation on its fifth meeting;⁵

2. *Decides* that a global analysis of the capacity needs and gaps related to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁶ and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁷ to be carried out by the Secretariat of the Convention, in collaboration with partners and using information contained in the national reports and assessments undertaken by the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and relevant organizations, will form the basis for identifying suitable options to further address the technological, technical and institutional capacity gaps of Parties;

3. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to collaborate with the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and relevant partners in the assessment and analysis of capacity needs and gaps at the national and subregional levels and to organize multi-stakeholder consultations to validate the assessment results;

4. *Urges* Parties to provide in their national reports and their responses to the assessments by the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and relevant partners detailed information on specific technological, technical and institutional capacity needs and gaps related to the implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and of the Framework;

5. *Requests* the global coordination entity, in collaboration with the Secretariat and the Informal Advisory Group, to provide guidelines and support to strengthen the capacity of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres to design and conduct future capacity needs assessments in a harmonized manner;

6. *Requests* the Informal Advisory Group, in collaboration with the Secretariat, and on the basis of the global analysis referred to in paragraph 2 above, to identify suitable options to further address the technical, technological and institutional capacity gaps identified by

³ The estimated extrabudgetary resource requirements for the activities outlined in the draft recommendation are shown in the annex to the present document.

⁴ Additional elements pertaining to the decision on capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation will be submitted for consideration at the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body.

⁵ [CBD/TSC/IAG/2025/2/2](#).

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁷ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

Parties, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its eighth meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

7. *Adopts* the terms of reference for the independent evaluations of the relevance and effectiveness of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism contained in the annex to the present decision;

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

(a) To develop, with the support of the Informal Advisory Group, guidance to assist Parties, the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and partners with the undertaking of capacity-needs assessments, including by developing an assessment framework and methodology, a typology of capacity gaps and a readiness sequencing framework to structure the analysis and reporting on needs, gaps and solutions;

(b) To conduct a global analysis of the capacity needs and gaps identified by Parties in their seventh national reports and in the assessments carried out by the technical and scientific cooperation support centres, disaggregated by region or subregion and by thematic areas or targets of the Framework, for consideration by the Informal Advisory Group, and to make the results available on the portal of the clearing-house mechanism;

(c) To identify, with the support of the Informal Advisory Group, suitable options to address the needs and gaps identified in the global analysis and to submit them for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting.

Annex

Terms of reference for the independent evaluations of the relevance and effectiveness of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism

1. The present terms of reference are divided into two components (the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism) to allow for the conduct of two separate but interconnected evaluations. Each component is further divided into two subsections (objectives and scope of the evaluation and methodology and sources of information) to guide the evaluation.

I. Evaluation of the relevance and effectiveness of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development

A. Objectives and scope of the evaluation

2. In accordance with paragraph 7 of decision [16/3](#), and taking into account relevant parts of section C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,⁸ the aim of the independent evaluation is to assess the relevance and effectiveness of the long-term strategic framework in guiding the capacity-building and development efforts of governmental and non-governmental actors in support of the Framework and to provide recommendations for its possible revision after 2030.

3. The evaluation will consist of an examination of how Parties and non-governmental actors have used the long-term strategic framework, whether it has supported the institutionalization of capacity-building and development within the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and the extent to which it has promoted

⁸ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

capacity-building and development efforts that are more coherent, efficient, effective, impactful and sustainable.

B. Methodology and sources of information

4. Subject to the availability of resources, the Secretariat will commission an independent evaluation in 2029, in conjunction with the second global review of the Framework. Three main data collection methods will be used: (a) a review of relevant documentation, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national reports and existing case studies and project reports; (b) an online survey; and (c) interviews with Parties and relevant stakeholders engaged in work on capacity-building and development, including both capacity providers and recipients.

5. The following non-exhaustive set of elements is intended to guide the design of the evaluation:

(a) Extent of the awareness among Parties and stakeholders of the role of the long-term strategic framework in guiding capacity-building and development efforts;

(b) Extent to which the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework has been used by Parties and stakeholders in their capacity-building and development interventions;

(c) Identification of the most effective strategies, approaches and mechanisms for implementation;

(d) Main challenges or obstacles in applying the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework;

(e) Extent to which the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework has encouraged and helped Parties and stakeholders with respect to institutionalizing capacity-building and development as part of the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(f) Extent to which the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework has led to desired changes and improvements, including the achievement of Target 20 of the Framework, and the indicative medium-term capacity outcomes set forth in the strategic framework;

(g) Extent to which the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework has resulted in enhanced coherence, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the capacity-building and development efforts of Parties and stakeholders;

(h) Extent to which donors have used the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework, especially in relation to the design of longer-term and more programmatic approaches;

(i) Relevance and appropriateness of the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework for responding to the needs and priorities of Parties and key stakeholders for capacity-building and development;

(j) Components and aspects of the long-term strategic framework that Parties and key stakeholders have found most relevant and helpful in guiding their capacity-building and development efforts;

(k) How the relevance of any of the components and aspects of the long-term strategic framework may have changed since the Framework was adopted;

(l) Lessons to be drawn from the experience of using the long-term strategic framework to guide capacity-building and development for biodiversity;

(m) What has worked well and what has not, what barriers have persisted and what gaps remain;

(n) Whether additional support is needed (e.g. guidance, tool kits or training) that would enhance the uptake and usability of the long-term strategic framework;

(o) Recommendations on approaches to capacity-building and development beyond 2030 (e.g. the continuation of the long-term strategic framework, its modification or its replacement by another framework or approach for capacity-building and development).

6. In addition to the elements listed above, and subject to the availability of data, the evaluation may, alongside relevant indicators under the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, draw on the following indicators proposed by the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation during its third meeting, in 2024:⁹

(a) Number of national organizations implementing elements of the long-term strategic framework;

(b) Number of countries that have developed national capacity development plans;

(c) Number of thematic capacity development actions plans to support the implementation of the Framework;

(d) Number of long-term capacity-building and development initiatives established to support the implementation of the Framework;

(e) Amount of funds mobilized and dedicated to capacity-building and development, in relation to implementation of the Framework, by funding source.

7. Information for the review will be drawn from various sources, including:

(a) National reports;

(b) Information published through the online reporting tool;

(c) Reports on the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework prepared by the Secretariat;

(d) Reports and submissions from the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies and other relevant funding mechanisms, including the Kunming Biodiversity Fund, as well as donors, organizations, initiatives and partnerships involved in or supporting capacity-building and development;

(e) Reports of the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres;

(f) Reports developed by and specific to indigenous peoples and local communities and key stakeholders, including women, youth, donors and other relevant non-governmental actors;

(g) Information gathered through an online survey and targeted interviews with a regionally balanced set of Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant stakeholders, including women, youth, donors and other relevant non-governmental actors, to ensure that contextual challenges are identified.

⁹ See [CBD/TSC/IAG/2024/1/2](#), in particular para. 26.

II. Evaluation of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism

A. Objectives and scope of the evaluation

8. In accordance with paragraph 7 of decision [16/3](#), and taking into account relevant parts of section C of the Framework, the aim of the evaluation of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism is to assess its relevance and effectiveness in supporting the implementation of the Framework. The specific objectives of the evaluation are:

(a) To review the effectiveness of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism as a means of supporting the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and the Framework;

(b) To take stock of the main achievements of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global coordination entity, the challenges encountered, and the opportunities seized;

(c) To identify good practices and lessons learned and make recommendations on enhancing the cooperation mechanism in support of national biodiversity strategies and action plans for the implementation of the Framework beyond 2030.

B. Methodology and sources of information

9. Subject to the availability of resources, the Secretariat will commission an independent evaluation in 2029, in conjunction with the second global review of the Framework, focused on the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism. Three main data-collection methods will be used: (a) a review of relevant documentation, including biennial workplans and activity reports of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global coordination entity, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national reports and relevant case studies and project reports; (b) an online survey; and (c) interviews with Parties, representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, and other stakeholders, including organizations representing women and youth, staff of the support centres and the global coordination entity, and key partners.

10. The following non-exhaustive set of elements is intended to guide the design of the evaluation:

(a) Extent to which the mechanism has succeeded in fostering technical and scientific cooperation among Parties and other stakeholders in support of the Framework and the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(b) Extent to which the mechanism has enhanced technical and institutional capacities in relation to science, technology and innovation;

(c) Identification of the most effective strategies implemented to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and the development, transfer and use of technology;

(d) Extent to which the activities and projects under the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism have been guided by the principles set forth in section B of annex II to decision [15/8](#) of the Conference of the Parties;

(e) Extent to which the technical and scientific cooperation support centres have been able to fulfil their functions, pursuant to paragraph 26 of decision [15/8](#);

(f) How resources have affected the fulfilment of the functions of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres;

(g) What has worked well and what has not worked well in operationalizing the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global coordination entity;

(h) Main challenges in operationalizing the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global coordination entity;

(i) Institutional, financial or operational constraints that have been faced by the technical and scientific cooperation support centres;

(j) Extent to which the technical and scientific cooperation support centres have been able to coordinate effectively with one another and other relevant initiatives, platforms, centres or networks in their respective region or subregions;

(k) Parties' level of satisfaction with the support that they have received from the technical and scientific cooperation support centres;

(l) Level of satisfaction of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres with the coordination and services offered by the global coordination entity;

(m) Key recommendations on enhancing the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism beyond 2030.

11. In addition to the elements listed above, the evaluation will be conducted, as appropriate, using the criteria for evaluating the performance of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global coordination entity to be developed jointly by the Secretariat and the Informal Advisory Group. Subject to the availability of data, the evaluation may, alongside relevant indicators under the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, draw on the following indicators proposed by the Group during its third meeting:¹⁰

(a) Number of countries receiving support from the technical and scientific cooperation support centres;

(b) Number of tools and technical resources exchanged across the technical and scientific cooperation support centres;

(c) Amount of funds mobilized through the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism;

(d) Number of technical and scientific cooperation opportunities made available and used by Parties;

(e) Number of successful matchmaking efforts;

(f) Number of technological applications adopted across countries;

(g) Number of expert exchange programmes implemented;

(h) Number of joint research programmes implemented;

(i) Number of joint technological development ventures implemented.

12. Information for the review will be drawn from various sources, including:

(a) Workplans developed for the technical and scientific cooperation centres and the global coordination entity;

(b) Biennial activity reports;

(c) Progress reports prepared by the Secretariat for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties;

(d) Reports on the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework prepared by the Secretariat;

¹⁰ See [CBD/TSC/IAG/2024/1/2](#), in particular para. 26.

- (e) Information gathered through an online survey and targeted interviews.

Annex

Estimated extrabudgetary resource requirements

The table below has been prepared by the Secretariat to show the estimated extrabudgetary resource requirements for the activities requested of the Secretariat, as outlined in the draft recommendation, in support of its consideration. The present annex is not part of the draft recommendation submitted for consideration by the Subsidiary Body.

Extrabudgetary resource requirements

(United States dollars)

<i>OP</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Meeting costs^a</i>	<i>Staff travel</i>	<i>Staff costs^b</i>	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>PSC (13 per cent)</i>	<i>Total</i>
8 (a)	Develop guidance for the undertaking of capacity needs assessments, including by developing an assessment framework and methodology, a typology of capacity gaps and a readiness sequencing framework	–	–	27 000	27 000	3 510	30 510
8 (b)	Conduct a global analysis of the capacity needs and gaps identified by Parties in their seventh national reports and in the assessments carried out by the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres	–	–	54 000	54 000	7 020	61 020
Total					81 000	10 530	91 530

Abbreviations: PSC, programme support costs; OP, operative paragraph of the draft decision.

^a Including participants' travel.

^b Consultants, partners and additional staff.