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INFORMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
NAGOYA PROTOCOL

Fifth meeting

Montreal, Canada, 20–22 June 2023

Item 8 of the agenda

Report of the Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on its fifth meeting

Introduction

A. Background

1. At its first meeting, in 2014, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the effective implementation of the Protocol (decision [NP-1/8](#), annex I). In paragraph 2 of the same decision, it established an informal advisory committee to provide advice to the Executive Secretary on matters related to the assessment of the effectiveness of the strategic framework.
2. In paragraph 8 of its decision [NP-4/7 A](#), adopted at its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with Parties, a revised strategic framework, in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework¹ and the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development,² taking into account the findings of the evaluation of the latter,³ for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting and for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting.
3. In paragraph 5 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties extended until its fifth meeting the mandate of the Informal Advisory Committee, updated its terms of reference⁴ to include supporting the revision and updating of the strategic framework and expanded the membership of the Committee to include representatives of the business sector, the research community and young people. In paragraph 6, the Conference of the Parties decided that the Committee would hold one meeting, and online consultations as needed, to fulfil its task.
4. The fifth meeting of the Committee was held in Montreal, Canada, from 20 to 22 June 2023.

¹ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

² Decision [15/8](#), annex I.

³ See [CBD/SBI/3/INF/1](#).

⁴ Decision [NP-1/8](#), annex II.

B. Attendance

5. Given that a number of countries had become Parties to the Protocol since the establishment of the Committee, there was a need to renew the composition of the Committee for the present intersessional period on the basis of new nominations from Parties.

6. In notification No. [2023-008](#), dated 8 February 2023, and in a reminder dated 7 March, the Executive Secretary had called for the nomination of experts actively involved in capacity-building and development related to access and benefit-sharing (ABS) to be considered for selection to attend the present meeting. Nominations had been received from 31 Parties and seven indigenous peoples and local communities. Furthermore, international and regional organizations involved in capacity-building and development related to ABS or organizations representing the business sector and research community, as well as representatives of women and youth groups, were selected and invited to participate in the meeting. The composition of the Committee was announced through notification No. [2023-042](#), dated 14 April 2023.

7. Owing to unforeseen circumstances resulting in some delegates not receiving their visas on time for travel, the Secretariat decided to conduct the first day of the meeting in a hybrid format. The remaining two days were held in person only. In the list below, all attendees who were able to attend the first day remotely only are marked with an asterisk.

8. The meeting was attended by experts nominated by Argentina, Belarus, Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire,* the Dominican Republic,⁵ Ethiopia,* France, Malaysia,* the Republic of Moldova, Saint Kitts and Nevis,* Solomon Islands, Uganda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The expert nominated by Bhutan was unable to attend.

9. Indigenous peoples and local communities were represented by members of the following associations and organizations: Asociación de la Juventud Indígena Argentina, Society for Wetland Biodiversity Conservation Nepal and Enda Santé. Women groups were represented by Rueda de Medicina y Asociados and youth groups were represented by the Tanzania Biodiversity Organization on behalf of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network.

10. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,* the European Bioinformatics Institute of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory,* the International Chamber of Commerce, the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Leibniz Institute DSMZ-German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures, the Union for Ethical BioTrade and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

11. Representatives of the following organizations were invited but were unable to attend: African Union Commission, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Commission for the Forests of Central Africa, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

12. The meeting was opened by the Acting Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on 20 June 2023.

13. He welcomed all participants to the meeting and acknowledged that it was the first time that representatives from women and youth groups, the research community and the business sector had been included in the Committee. He noted that 140 Parties had ratified or acceded to the Protocol and that more countries would soon become party thereto. He noted that, despite progress and great strides in advancing national implementation, Parties still lacked the capacity and financial resources necessary to make the Protocol operational. He highlighted that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which set out an ambitious pathway to reach the global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050, was a framework for all, the whole of government and the whole of society, with ABS at its core through its

⁵ The representative from the Dominican Republic was delayed owing to circumstances beyond her control and missed the first day.

Goal C and Target 13. He explained that the main element of Target 13 was to take effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures on ABS. He emphasized the need for capacity-building on ABS at all levels and that the needs and challenges related to achieving those objectives had been identified on multiple occasions.

14. The Acting Executive Secretary observed that Target 20 of the Framework called for strengthening capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and promoting technical and scientific cooperation. In its decision [15/8](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention had laid out the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development to guide Parties and stakeholders in their efforts to enhance means of implementation to achieve all the other targets.

15. Recalling its mandate, he urged the Committee to be creative, to find ways to design longer-term interventions to strengthen and retain capacity and to involve other actors in capacity-building and development. He highlighted the important role of developed countries not only in supporting capacity-building and development in developing countries, but also in raising awareness of the Protocol among their own citizens and in taking measures to ensure the sharing of benefits.

16. In concluding, he noted that the input from the Committee would be used to revise the strategic framework and develop a plan which would provide guidance for achieving Target 13 and move from agreement to action.

Item 2. Organizational matters

(a) Election of officers

17. Han de Koeijer (Belgium) was elected Chair of the meeting.

(b) Adoption of the agenda

18. On the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat,⁶ the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Organization of work.
3. Update on capacity-building and development processes.
4. Revision of the strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.
5. Revision of the terms of reference of the Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.
6. Other matters.
7. Conclusion and recommendations.
8. Adoption of the report.
9. Closure of the meeting.

⁶ [CBD/NP/CB-IAC/2023/1/1](#).

(c) Organization of work

19. The Committee approved the proposed organization of work as contained in annex I to the annotated provisional agenda.⁷

Item 3. Update on capacity-building and development processes

20. A representative of the Secretariat briefed the Committee on the results of the first meeting of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, held in Montreal from 14 to 16 June 2023.⁸ He provided an overview of the main outcomes and the ongoing processes of the Group, which included the establishment of three subcommittees, one on capacity-building and development, another on technical and scientific cooperation and a third one on knowledge management.

21. He explained that the subcommittee on capacity-building and development would be working on draft indicators for Target 20 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the long-term strategic framework and advice on how to enhance capacity-building and development for indigenous peoples and local communities. He also presented the plans for technical and scientific cooperation, knowledge management and the Clearing-House Mechanism.

22. He pointed out several elements of the work undertaken by the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation that might be useful to the implementation of the Protocol, such as indicators for measuring capacity-building and development, regional and subregional support centres to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, and knowledge management strategies that could be applied to ABS and support for Parties for monitoring the implementation of the Framework, including its Target 13.

23. Two representatives of the Secretariat then delivered a presentation on its priorities and strategy for capacity-building and development for the implementation of the Protocol. They outlined the importance of aligning efforts towards achieving Goal C and Target 13 and using the revision of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans as an opportunity to promote the implementation of ABS and the Protocol. The Secretariat had developed “quick guides” for each target of the Framework, including Target 13,⁹ to support work on the targets.

24. One of the representatives of the Secretariat outlined how the capacity-building and development priorities of the Secretariat had evolved over the years. He explained that, before the adoption of the Framework, priorities had been primarily focused on supporting Parties to “get ready for ABS” and had included activities supporting ratification, awareness-raising and developing the necessary ABS measures and institutional structures. Tools and materials developed to support that work were available on the website of the Convention and on the ABS Clearing-House platform.¹⁰ Since the adoption of the Framework, however, the Secretariat had been placing greater emphasis on working with the users of genetic resources and Parties that had made progress in setting up operational national ABS systems.

25. He highlighted the current priorities of the Secretariat for capacity-building and development. To mobilize support for that work, the Secretariat invited the Committee members to consider including the following activities in their capacity-building plans:

(a) Supporting and encouraging the publication and updating of available national mandatory information that Parties were to make available on the ABS Clearing-House in compliance with Article 14, and information relevant to monitoring progress towards Goal C and Target 13 (e.g. publication of ABS procedures, permits and checkpoint communiqués);

⁷ [CBD/NP/CB-IAC/2023/1/1/Add.1](https://www.cbd.int/np/cb-iac/2023/1/1/add.1).

⁸ The report of the first meeting will be made available at www.cbd.int/meetings/TSC-IAG-2023-01.

⁹ See www.cbd.int/gbf/targets/13/.

¹⁰ ABS awareness-raising material and tools developed by the Secretariat are available at www.cbd.int/abs/awareness-raising/, and ABS e-learning courses can be accessed at <https://scbd.unssc.org/course/index.php?categoryid=4>.

(b) Sharing relevant updates on the implementation status and progress of Parties (e.g. experience gained, new ABS cases or the availability of national information not yet published in the ABS Clearing-House) and relevant implementation needs, challenges and suggestions, in particular with regard to the use of the ABS Clearing-House;

(c) Developing or improving the useability of ABS procedures, ensuring that they were easy to understand and that they considered user needs, with a view to increasing understanding of and compliance with ABS obligations from users;

(d) Making use of and promoting interoperability between the ABS Clearing-House and national systems, as applicable, so as to publish such information as ABS permits and checkpoint communiqués efficiently;

(e) Inviting the Secretariat to provide online training, including for trainers, on how to use the ABS Clearing-House and to participate in the organization of relevant in-person workshops and events;

(f) Publishing capacity-development initiatives and resources in the ABS Clearing-House;

(g) Participating in the monthly ABS Clearing-House question-and-answer webinars organized by the Secretariat;

(h) Supporting the submission of the first national report;

(i) Using the first national report as a capacity-building and assessment tool to support the implementation of the Protocol and the achievement of Target 13.

26. Lastly, the representative of the Secretariat encouraged members of the Committee to participate in the forthcoming workshop on “Doing ABS” planned for 2024, in Bonn, Germany, and to showcase the experience gained and the results of their capacity-building efforts.

27. The representative of the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture gave an overview of and update on the capacity-building strategy for the Treaty, including the approach and rationale behind it. He presented the process undertaken to develop the strategy, which had included a draft capacity-development framework¹¹ and strategy,¹² and said that his Secretariat was currently developing an action plan taking into consideration the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. He also presented the main components of the draft strategy, as well as the guiding principles, strategic approaches and lessons learned. He further explained that gender and youth considerations were included in the development of the strategy.

28. The representative of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) provided an overview on the GEF-8 Programming Directions related to supporting the effective implementation of the Protocol,¹³ which included the areas for capacity-building supported by the Facility under the eighth replenishment. He explained that further guidance from the Conference of the Parties would be considered for the areas of project support provided by the Facility. He clarified that the allocation of resources was country-driven and that prioritization took place at the national level through the GEF focal points.

29. He informed the Committee that the resources for countries to undertake the revision of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans had already been allocated and would be provided over the course of the following six months, and that funds for the preparation of national reports would be made available. He

¹¹ International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, draft framework for the capacity development strategy of the International Treaty (2021–2025), document IT/GB-8/19/Report, appendix. Available at www.fao.org/3/na904en/na904en.pdf.

¹² International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, draft capacity development strategy of the International Treaty (2023–2030), Governing Body resolution 10/2022, annex. Available at www.fao.org/3/nk298en/nk298en.pdf.

¹³ Global Environment Facility, GEF-8 Programming Directions (GEF/R.08/17). Available at www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/2023-01/GEF-8_Programming_Directions.pdf. For information on the Protocol, see paras. 405–408.

also clarified that the Small Grants Programme provided funding directly to community organizations and was managed through a national committee composed of both government representatives and civil society organizations. Committee members were invited to share plans on capacity-building and development in support of the Protocol, as well as any plans to support the inclusion of capacity-building and development activities for achieving Target 13 in the revisions of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

30. The Chair, speaking in his capacity as the expert nominated by Belgium, reported that his Government had focused on capacity-building and development for scientists in Belgium to support them with complying with their obligations under the Protocol. Belgium had also been supporting the development of ABS measures in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

31. The expert nominated by the Republic of Moldova emphasized her country's commitment to implementing the Protocol, as stipulated in the latest national biodiversity strategy and action plan, and said that the revision of the strategy and action plan would address the capacity building activities needed for the implementation of the Protocol.

32. The expert nominated by Belarus reported on the completion of the UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project in 2020 and on the preparation of proposals for the Government for managing genetic resources, including a draft bill on ABS. She highlighted the importance of familiarizing young people with ABS and genetic resources by including those topics in national education curricula.

33. The expert nominated by Uganda shared plans for implementing an institutional capacity strengthening project involving 11 institutions. Uganda was working on setting up an electronic ABS permitting system linked to the national research information management system already in place and a process to designate checkpoints. It had established a task force to include ABS issues in the revision of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

34. The expert nominated by Solomon Islands explained that his country had decided on a process to designate an ABS national focal point and competent national authority and to review its national laws in order to include ABS. There were plans to include capacity-building to achieve Target 13 in the revision of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

35. The expert nominated by France said that implementing the national ABS system provided her unit within the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Cohesion of Territories with opportunities to engage with stakeholders and users, such as through webinars, in-person events, calls and email communications.

36. The expert nominated by the United Kingdom shared information on her work as a scientist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and on plans for enhancing capacity-building components for partnerships and future projects.

37. The expert nominated by Argentina highlighted the contribution of the UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project to national implementation efforts in her country, which had focused on strengthening regulatory framework and capacity-building. She reported that, over five years, 1,000 individuals had been trained, 12 administrative and policy measures on ABS had been approved and 69 certificates had been published on the ABS Clearing-House platform. She also reported on the creation of a university course on traditional knowledge and ABS.

38. The expert nominated by Malaysia provided information on a national capacity-building project for documenting the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, which included an element of awareness-raising of the ABS measures adopted by her country.

39. The representative of Asociación de la Juventud Indígena Argentina presented the activities of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and the Indigenous Women Biodiversity Network in Latin America. She reported that the Network was organizing a university course with Tres de Febrero University in Argentina to enable indigenous women and young people to participate in the revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The establishment of national teams of indigenous peoples to help to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was also ongoing.

40. The representative of the Society for Wetland Biodiversity Conservation Nepal said that an ABS bill was currently being drafted by Nepal and that indigenous peoples and local communities were engaging with the Government to ensure the inclusion of their contribution to the national biodiversity strategy and action plan. He added that capacity-building for indigenous peoples was organized by indigenous peoples.

41. The representative of Enda Santé reported on his participation in the national ABS committee of Senegal and on the work undertaken with the ABS national focal points in raising awareness among community organizations in four regions. He described the capacity-building plans of his organization for women, young people and traditional healers in rural areas in relation to ABS and the Protocol.

42. The representative of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network chapter in the United Republic of Tanzania, the Tanzania Biodiversity Organization, shared information on awareness-raising campaigns and plans to include capacity-building for the implementation of the Protocol in the training programmes of his organization. He said that young people were actively engaging with the Government to participate in the revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans at the global level.

43. The representative of Rueda de Medicina y Asociados reported on webinars and training activities with universities and academia and on work on advocacy and capacity-building at the local level, especially with women. With regard to the development of biocultural protocols, she said that there were strong and culturally adequate training opportunities available in indigenous languages, such as Zapotec. She shared experiences in developing the first microregional community protocol in Oaxaca State and informed the Committee of the inclusion of the recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities and Afro-Mexican people and of community protocols in the local constitution of Oaxaca.

44. The representative of the Leibniz Institute DSMZ-German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures described the work carried out to support researchers in understanding obligations under and compliance with the European Union ABS regulation and the Protocol. She also described the work of her organization in supporting the development of science-based policy on issues related to digital sequence information and monitoring non-monetary benefit-sharing.

45. The representative of the International Chamber of Commerce provided information on how the Chamber, sectoral associations and individual companies supported businesses on issues relating to ABS. Among other things, the Chamber provided guidance and awareness-raising materials and organized exchanges on developments relating to the Protocol and ABS more generally.

46. The representative of the Union for Ethical BioTrade described how ABS was at the core of the work of her organization, which, for example, supported its members with tools and training materials on ABS. A publication focused on how the beauty sector sourced its ingredients that came from biodiversity and included ABS issues was in preparation. The Union for Ethical BioTrade was planning to work with three countries as they embarked on the revision of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans to ensure the involvement of the business sector and that any changes necessary to meet the Framework targets was made.

47. The representative of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative introduced the multi-donor nature of the Initiative and its activities, which were mostly conducted in Africa but also, to a lesser extent, in other regions. He described how the Initiative was aligning activities with the Framework and engaging with indigenous peoples and local communities, users of genetic resources and Governments. He also described the work carried out to strengthen compliance with ABS regulations along value chains and to mainstream ABS, the programme BioInnovation Africa and the work to develop national indicators and support the revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in the future.

48. The representative of the European Bioinformatics Institute described how the Institute had been working with its international members to promote a better understanding of digital sequence information and open science and open data on non-monetary benefits from the use of digital sequence information. She mentioned the various partnerships with capacity-building components that had been developed.

49. The UNEP representative described the support provided by UNEP to 14 countries through GEF-funded projects to advance the operationalization of the Protocol. At the global level, UNEP was providing technical support to preparations for the interim national reports on the implementation of the Protocol and, more broadly, support to 69 countries in the revision of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans under the GEF Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support funding. The support included the preparation of guidance for undertaking a rapid assessment of existing national biodiversity strategies and action plans to identify gaps and developing checklists of key elements to be included.

50. The representative of the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture described the national training activities carried out to encourage the implementation of the Treaty and the Protocol in a mutually supportive way. She explained that representatives of ministries were invited to participate in those activities to discuss the scope and implementations of and technical issues related to standard material transfer agreements.

Item 4. Revision of the strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

51. A representative of the Secretariat introduced the first draft of the revised strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the effective implementation of the Protocol.¹⁴ She explained that the draft incorporated elements from the long-term strategic framework, including key concepts, guiding principles and a theory of change. Those elements had been included in the draft to help with conceptualization and development, but might not be kept in the final version to be considered by the Parties. Some elements could nevertheless be recalled in the recommendations to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

52. The Committee agreed that the revised strategic framework would be referred to as the capacity-building and development action plan for the Nagoya Protocol and that it could be considered a thematic capacity-building and development action plan, such as those recommended for development in the long-term strategic framework.

53. Committee members provided general comments on the capacity-building and development action plan for the Protocol and suggested the following:

(a) To incorporate the importance of including ABS as part of broader biodiversity capacity-building and development efforts and to showcase how ABS contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

(b) To include reference to the 2050 vision of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in the purpose of the action plan;

(c) To mention capacity-building and development consistently throughout the text of the action plan.

54. In discussing the draft action plan, members suggested clarifying that the section on “Target audience”,¹⁵ including its table 1, referred to the target audience of the action plan and that the list of actors contained in the table was not exhaustive, as it was meant to provide examples that may be relevant for the action plan. Members also indicated that the purpose and content of table 1 were not clear, especially in the light of the text in paragraph 2. Given that there were other tables referring to target groups and actors in slightly different ways, the Committee recommended that the Secretariat revise and harmonize those elements.

¹⁴ [CBD/NP/CB-IAC/2023/1/2](#), annex.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, sect. I.B.

55. Those comments notwithstanding, the members provided the following suggestions in relation to the examples of the various actors involved or targeted in capacity-building and development activities in table 1:

- (a) To include subnational governments and examples of possible relevant line ministries, such as agriculture, trade and research, under “Government”;
- (b) To mention organizations and institutions of indigenous peoples and local communities;
- (c) To include references to ex situ collections, databases, databanks and universities as part of the research community;
- (d) To refer to businesses of all sizes with activities relevant to ABS and the finance sector;
- (e) To list women and young people separately from civil society throughout the document;
- (f) To include the general public, funding agencies, journal publishers, journalists and the media as part of other groups whose capacity and awareness with regard to ABS should be reinforced.

56. The Committee provided comments on section II of the draft action plan, on links to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the long-term strategic framework and the sustainable development goals, and suggested to include Targets 19, 21, 22 and 23 as relevant targets for the action plan.

57. With regard to the theory of change in section IV, the members suggested the following:

- (a) To include the fact that benefits generated from traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources should be shared fairly and equitably with indigenous peoples and local communities;
- (b) To reflect, as part of the assumptions, that a series of stages must be followed sequentially before benefits can be shared, namely: (i) permission to access genetic resources is granted; (ii) permits are issued; and (iii) benefits are generated;
- (c) To revise table 2 of the draft action plan taking into account the comments included in paragraph 55 above and to include women and young people as primary target groups for capacity-building and development.

58. With regard to section V, on cooperation and coordination, the members suggested the following:

- (a) To emphasize that capacity-building and development should leverage local expertise and foster collaboration;
- (b) To highlight the importance of using existing regional and subregional support centres and to include how regional collaboration and cooperation can help towards harmonization of national ABS approaches and frameworks;
- (c) To include reference to cooperation with capacity-building and development initiatives under relevant international ABS instruments to encourage mutual supportiveness in implementation.

59. With regard to section VI, on resources for capacity-building and development, the Committee suggested the following:

- (a) To include reference to the GEF Small Grants Programme and encourage the use of the Programme to build capacity on ABS;
- (b) To refer more generally to resources instead of only funding throughout the text;
- (c) To note that the Biodiversity Finance Initiative methodology can support the development of national biodiversity finance plans;
- (d) To note the importance of in-kind contributions of the business sector and research community, and the benefit-sharing included in mutually agreed terms, and to acknowledge that business and research organizations do valuable work on raising awareness in their constituencies.

60. In relation to the role of the Secretariat, it was mentioned that indigenous peoples and local communities should be included among the actors listed in paragraph 33 of the draft action plan. It was also clarified that the review of the action plan should be undertaken by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

61. The Committee was divided in breakout groups, and each group was invited to review and comment on three of the following six outcome areas:

(a) Outcome area 1: Strengthened capacity to implement and comply with the obligations of the Protocol;

(b) Outcome area 2: Strengthened capacity to develop, implement and enforce domestic legislative, administrative or policy measures on ABS;

(c) Outcome area 3: Strengthened capacity to negotiate mutually agreed terms;

(d) Outcome area 4: Strengthened capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities to participate in the implementation of the Protocol;

(e) Outcome area 5: Strengthened capacity to undertake endogenous biodiversity-based research and development to add value to genetic resources;

(f) Outcome area 6: Strengthened capacity with regard to gender integration, multi-stakeholder cooperation and strategic communication.

62. Each outcome area was reviewed by two groups. In reporting on the highlights and main outcomes of their discussions on the review of the results for inclusion in capacity-building and development programmes or projects to support the effective implementation of the Protocol,¹⁶ members raised the following action points to be considered by the Secretariat when revising the draft action plan:

(a) To review the order of the outcome areas in order to align them with the key areas identified in Article 22 of the Protocol;

(b) With a view to clarifying the difference between outcome areas 1 and 2, to revise outcome area 1 to focus exclusively on outputs and activities related to strengthening capacities in preparation for the ratification of the Protocol, and to move other elements to outcome area 2;

(c) To ensure that activities in each output area are in the right place and logically contributing towards the outcomes

(d) To consider the proposal to add a column on key beneficiaries of the capacity-building and development activities;

(e) To incorporate needs assessments as initial activities that will serve as a basis for designing capacity-building and development interventions;

(f) To reflect the fact that many tools and materials have already been developed and that they are readily available or could be used after being reviewed, revised or updated, taking into account the specific circumstances of the target audience (e.g. literacy or access to technology), as appropriate and relevant;

(g) In accordance with the Protocol, to ensure that capacity-building and development activities related to indigenous peoples and local communities make reference to both genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and use the appropriate language consistently;

¹⁶ Ibid., appendix.

(h) To align gender-responsive capacity-building and development activities with the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030)¹⁷ and other relevant guidance documents on gender considerations in the context of ABS;¹⁸

(i) To include intergenerational and intercultural considerations, where appropriate;

(j) To reflect the mutual supportiveness of other international ABS instruments in capacity-building and development activities, where appropriate;

(k) To consider the establishment of regional hubs, platforms or centres of excellence for traditional, scientific and commercial value addition to genetic resources to foster exchange of best practices, know-how and skills with regard to the valorization of genetic resources.

63. The Secretariat took note of the suggestions and comments provided on the appendix with a view to taking them into account when revising the draft action plan.

64. The Committee was divided into four breakout groups and invited to review and comment on box 2 of the draft action plan, which contained examples of the roles and contributions of different actors. Each breakout group was invited to review two actor groups and provide feedback. The breakout groups reported in plenary session and made the following recommendations:

(a) Coherence among the actions in box 2 and the activities in the appendix should be reinforced;

(b) All levels of government, including at the national, subnational and local levels, should be reflected, and examples of different relevant line ministries should be included;

(c) Governments have a role in ensuring that the research community and the business sector understand what is needed to comply with the Protocol;

(d) Women and youth groups should have their own group category in the box;

(e) Women groups can promote gender-responsive approaches and empower marginalized groups for meaningful participation in capacity-building and development;

(f) Youth groups can promote intergenerational and intercultural approaches and empower young people for meaningful participation in capacity-building and development;

(g) The actions included as contributions of the business community should be changed to reflect a more active role and include business associations as actors playing an important role in helping their members to understand the Protocol;

(h) Data managers should be included as part of the research community and academia;

(i) Emphasis should be placed on integrating ABS into existing academic curricula and professional education;

(j) For indigenous peoples and local communities, it is important to include participation in government-led capacity-building and development strategic planning processes that include capacity assessments, and to facilitate transboundary exchanges;

(k) International, regional and subregional organizations should include ABS not only in strategic priorities but also in broader development programmes.

65. Detailed suggestions and recommendations for improvement of all actions in box 2 were submitted to the Secretariat and will be considered in the revision of the action plan.

¹⁷ Decision [15/11](#), annex, of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

¹⁸ Examples of relevant materials include: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Addressing Gender Issues and Actions in Biodiversity Objectives* (Montreal, 2019); Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Best Practices in Gender and Biodiversity* (Montreal, 2022); and UNDP, *Mainstreaming Gender into ABS Value Chains: Gender Toolkit* (Türkiye, 2019).

Item 5. Revision of the terms of reference of the Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

66. The Secretariat introduced the item and explained that the strategic framework for capacity-building and development gave it specific roles and responsibilities, namely, to promote and coordinate the implementation of the strategic framework.¹⁹ The findings of the evaluation of the strategic framework included specific recommendations to strengthen the role of the Secretariat and change the terms of reference of the Committee. Some of the recommendations, such as expanding the membership to representatives of the business sector, the research community and young people and enhancing engagement, had already been implemented.

67. The Committee reflected on issues for which it could provide future guidance, namely:

(a) Sharing good practices and case studies of effective capacity-building and development experiences with regard to the Protocol;

(b) Sharing successful approaches for integrating capacity-building and development with regard to the Protocol in national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(c) Identifying cases that could be included in the capacity-building and development forum before each meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (decision [15/8](#), para. 16 (g));

(d) Identifying how to upscale and systematize experiences to improve effectiveness in capacity-building and development initiatives;

(e) Considering shortcomings and challenges and discussing pragmatic and innovative approaches to capacity-building on the basis of lessons learned;

(f) Identifying capacity-building needs for monitoring progress against Target 13 and Goal C;

(g) Recommending programmatic priorities to be considered in the advice that the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol provides to GEF on the financial mechanism;

(h) Providing information on funding opportunities for capacity-building and development.

68. The Committee welcomed the examples provided by the Secretariat and suggested that it also provide advice on ABS-related priorities for technical and scientific cooperation that could be addressed by the regional and subregional support centres established under decision 15/8.

69. The Committee suggested that the Secretariat consider requesting the Conference of the Parties to expand the mandate of the Committee to providing advice on issues more generally related to the implementation of the Protocol, while keeping the current expanded membership.

Item 6. Other matters

70. The expert nominated by Argentina presented an ABS success story related to a shampoo that had been developed and commercialized after access was granted to harvest wild specimens of *Larrea divaricata*, which had been the subject of the first internationally recognized certificate of compliance²⁰ published by Argentina in the ABS Clearing-House. She also provided information on the monetary and non-monetary benefits shared with the province responsible for granting access. The non-monetary benefits included a management plan to ensure the plant harvest sustainability.

Item 7. Conclusion and recommendations

71. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat revise the draft action plan contained in the annex to document CBD/NP/CB-IAC/2023/1/2. It also recommended to shorten it, streamline the information contained therein, taking into account the comments provided at the present meeting, and make the revised

¹⁹ See decision NP-1/8, annex I, sect. 4.2.

²⁰ See <https://absch.cbd.int/en/database/IRCC/ABSCH-IRCC-AR-249004>.

draft available for comments on the online forum set up for the Committee on the ABS Clearing-House platform. Once revised, the draft action plan would be submitted to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for consideration.

72. The Committee considered that it would be useful to receive regular information on progress made by the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation and to ensure that the outcomes of the work of the Committee are shared with the Group, as well as with other relevant intersessional processes, (e.g. work on Article 8(j) or on resource mobilization and national biodiversity strategies and action plans).

73. The Committee highlighted the importance of regional approaches to capacity-building and development and of sharing best practices, guidelines and materials through the ABS Clearing-House, and it called upon Parties and other stakeholders to make their materials available.

74. The Committee emphasized how integrating and mainstreaming ABS and the Protocol into national targets and the revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework presented a great opportunity to boost effective implementation of the Protocol, address capacity-building and development needs and raise the profile and awareness of ABS. The revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans could also help to enhance the mainstreaming of ABS in other sectors and ensure mutual supportiveness in the implementation of various international ABS instruments. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat communicate this information and available opportunities to get support for implementation to Parties and others.

Item 8. Adoption of the report

75. The Chair introduced the draft report on the meeting, which was adopted, as orally amended.

Item 9. Closure of the meeting

76. A representative of the Secretariat made a closing statement. He thanked the members of the Committee for their valuable contributions to the revision of the strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the effective implementation of the Protocol and the development of an action plan intended to be a useful tool for all Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Protocol. He also highlighted the importance of the plan for the achievement of Target 13 and Goal C of the Framework.

77. In his closing statement, the Chair expressed satisfaction with the outcomes of the meeting. He encouraged the other members of the Committee to continue to play an active role during the current biennium and thanked the Secretariat for providing the Committee with excellent support and facilitating its work.

78. The Chair declared the meeting closed at 1 p.m. on 22 June 2023.

Annex

List of participants

Experts representing countries

Argentina

Micaela Anabel Bonafina
Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible

Belarus

Elena Makeyeva
Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences

Belgium

Han de Koeijer

Côte d'Ivoire

Alaki Véronique Amari Koffi

Dominican Republic

Mercedes Peguero
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos
Naturales

Ethiopia

Abiyot Berhanu
Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute

France

Jeanne Foucher
Ministère de la transition écologique et de la
cohésion des territoires

Malaysia

Nik Musa'adah Binti Mustapha
Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment
and Climate Change

Republic of Moldova

Angela Lozan
Ministry of Environment

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Eavin L. Parry
Ministry of Sustainable Development,
Environment, Climate Action and Constituency
Empowerment

Solomon Islands

Veira Talilotu Pulekera
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change,
Disaster Management and Meteorology

Uganda

Innocent Akampurira
Uganda National Council for Science and
Technology

**United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland**

Tiziana Ulian
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Indigenous peoples and local communities

Viviana Figueroa
Asociación de la Juventud Indígena Argentina

Ndiaga Sall
Edna Santé

Kamal Kumar Rai
Society for Wetland Biodiversity Conservation
Nepal

Women groups

Guadalupe Yesenia Hernández Márquez
Rueda de Medicina y Asociados

Youth groups

Ghaamid Abdulbasat Hatibu
Global Youth Biodiversity Network
Tanzania Biodiversity Organization

Relevant organizations

Andreas Gettkant ABS Capacity Development Initiative	Daniele Manzella Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Dan Leskien Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Melania Muñoz García Leibniz Institute DSMZ-German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures
Catherine Brooksbank European Molecular Biology Laboratory – European Bioinformatics Institute	Maria Julia Oliva Union for Ethical Biotrader
Daphne Yong-d'Hervé International Chamber of Commerce	Tita Korvenoja United Nations Environment Programme

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Alexandra Coelho Programme Management Assistant, Access and Benefit-sharing Unit	Taukanjo Sem Shikongo Senior Programme Management Officer, Access and Benefit-sharing Unit
David Cooper Acting Executive Secretary	Kristina Taboulchanas Programme Management Officer, Biobridge Initiative
Nusrat Sanjana Farah Individual contractor	Erie Tamale Senior Programme Management Officer, Capacity-building and Knowledge Management Unit
Regina Kipper Programme Management Assistant, Access and Benefit-sharing Unit	
