



Convention on Biological Diversity

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Subsidiary Body on Implementation

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Agenda item 8

Synthetic biology: thematic action plan to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing

Synthetic biology: thematic action plan to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing

Draft recommendation submitted by the Chair

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation

1. *Notes* the review of the draft thematic action plan to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹ and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework² conducted by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-eighth meeting;³

2. *Recommends* that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt elements of a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Articles 8(j), 11, 12, 16, 18, 19 and 20 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and their [possible] relevance to the use and application of synthetic biology, as well as to the implementation of the thematic action plan to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology for the implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,⁴

Recalling also its decisions [15/8](#) of 19 December 2022 and [16/21](#) of 1 November 2024,

1. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant stakeholders to make use of the thematic action plan to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework[, including its Target 17, on mutually agreed terms, where applicable] [, on a voluntary basis,] in accordance with national priorities and circumstances

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

² Decision [15/4](#), annex.

³ See recommendation 28/3 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

⁴ The thematic action plan will be included in annex I to the present decision (see annex I to the draft decision set out in recommendation 28/3 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice).

[and in line with the precautionary approach for the environmental release of the applications of synthetic biology];

2. *Invites* Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety⁵ and Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization⁶[, including digital sequence information on genetic resources,] to use the thematic action plan without duplicating, and in a manner that is complementary to and coordinated with, the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol⁷ and the capacity-building and development action plan for the Nagoya Protocol;⁸

3. *Invites* Parties to consider, as appropriate, the actions contained in the thematic action plan in the development, updating and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as in relevant sectoral policies, strategies and plans, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances;

4. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, with their free, prior and informed consent,⁹ in the implementation of the thematic action plan, in accordance with national legislation;

5. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, academia, research institutions and other relevant organizations to consider, as appropriate, other complementary frameworks and guidelines when planning activities to implement the thematic action plan;¹⁰

6. *Invites* Parties and regional organizations, as appropriate, to assess capacities and identify needs and priorities, including for strengthening national capacities for horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment, in line with the indicative strategic actions set out under output 1.1 of the thematic action plan, in order to support the adaption and implementation of the thematic action plan in accordance with national and regional circumstances and priorities;

7. *Invites* Parties to share, as appropriate, their needs and priorities with regard to the implementation of the thematic action plan with the regional and subregional support centres of the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Mechanism,¹¹ to complement the implementation of the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol and the capacity-building and development action plan for the Nagoya Protocol;

8. *Invites* the technical and scientific cooperation support centres to facilitate the implementation of the thematic action plan, as appropriate;

9. *Encourages* developed country Parties, and invites Parties in a position to do so, other Governments and relevant organizations, to make financial, technical and in-kind resources available to support the implementation of the thematic action plan, especially for developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and country Parties with economies in transition, in line with Articles 16, 18 and 20 of the Convention;

[10. *[Invites][Requests]* the Global Environment Facility, and invites other donors, to make available new, additional, [adequate], predictable, easily accessible and [sustainable], timely financial resources to Parties, especially developing country Parties, to support the

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

⁷ Decision [CP-10/4](#), annex.

⁸ Decision [NP-5/3](#), annex.

⁹ All references to “free, prior and informed consent” refer to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

¹⁰ Examples of other complementary frameworks and guidelines are provided in section V of the thematic action plan.

¹¹ See decision [16/3](#), annex I.

implementation of the thematic action plan, in accordance with national needs and priorities, including for strengthening national capacities for horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment, environmental risk assessment, risk management and regulatory oversight;]

[11. *Encourages* Parties to submit to the Global Environment Facility and other donors project proposals to support the implementation of the thematic action plan, including on the identification of needs and priorities and the national and regional adaptation of the plan;^{12]}

12. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, academia, research institutions and other stakeholders to share, on a voluntary basis and through the clearing-house mechanisms, information on the implementation of the thematic action plan complementary to that on the implementation of the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol and the capacity-building and development action plan for the Nagoya Protocol;

13. *Encourages* Parties, international organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, academia and other relevant stakeholders to facilitate scientific and technical cooperation on synthetic biology, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, to support the implementation of the thematic action plan;

14. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit to the Executive Secretary information on national and regional experiences, best practices and lessons learned with regard to capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology;

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

(a) To create a compilation of the national and regional experiences, best practices and lessons learned referred to in paragraph 14 above as a resource to support the implementation of the thematic action plan;

(b) To enhance the section on the thematic action plan of the Secretariat website¹³ with the information referred to in paragraphs 12, 14 and 15 (a) above, with a view to promoting capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing relevant to the implementation of the thematic action plan;

(c) To facilitate capacity-building and development and knowledge-sharing activities, in particular for developing countries, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, in order to facilitate the implementation of the thematic action plan;

[(d) To develop a [voluntary monitoring mechanism for tracking][mechanism to monitor on a voluntary basis] the implementation of the thematic action plan[, including, where appropriate, by considering biosafety, biosecurity, environmental risk assessment, regulatory considerations and broader environmental and socioeconomic implications].]

¹² See output 1.1 of the thematic action plan.

¹³ Available at www.cbd.int/synbio.