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### SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda\*

### CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT, TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. In decisions [XIII/23](#) and [14/24](#), the Conference of the Parties addressed issues relating to capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer. Among other things, the Executive Secretary was requested to initiate the process for preparing a draft long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020 aligned with the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup> for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting and subsequently by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

2. The Executive Secretary was also requested, in decision 14/24 B, to further promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation (para. 8), and to prepare proposals for an inclusive process to review and renew technical and scientific cooperation programmes and submit the proposals for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at their meetings prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (para. 9).

3. In its recommendation [23/6](#), the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice took note of the draft proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework contained in annex I to the recommendation, and requested the Executive Secretary to further develop them, taking into account views and suggestions from Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations. In doing so, the Executive Secretary was also requested to provide information on the advantages, disadvantages and costs of the three options for institutional arrangements to facilitate and enhance technical and scientific cooperation, and a compilation of relevant institutional arrangements and networks for technical and scientific cooperation relating to different thematic topics.

4. The present document presents an overview of the actions taken and the documents prepared pursuant to the above decisions. Section II provides a summary of the preliminary final report on the implementation of the short-term action plan (2017-2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols,<sup>2</sup> and introduces the long-term strategic framework for capacity development to support implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (contained in annex I below and elaborated in document CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.1). Section III provides a summary progress report on technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer,<sup>3</sup> and introduces the proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation (made available in document CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.2) and the

\* CBD/SBI/3/1.

<sup>1</sup> See General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

<sup>2</sup> The full version of the report is available as CBD/SBI/3/INF/14.

<sup>3</sup> The full progress report is available in CBD/SBI/3/INF/18.

proposals for an inclusive review and renewal process. Section IV highlights the interlinkages between the various means of implementation for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (including capacity development, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge management and communication), the enabling conditions, as well as the enhanced planning, reporting and review mechanism. Section V presents draft elements of a decision on capacity development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer.

## II. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

### A. Preliminary final report on the implementation of the short-term action plan (2017-2020)

5. In its decision XIII/23, the Conference of the Parties adopted a short-term action plan (2017-2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with partners, to support and facilitate its implementation.

6. Decision XIII/23 also requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to commission an independent evaluation of the impacts, outcomes and effectiveness of the short-term action plan (2017-2020), including recommendations for improvement, to be submitted to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for its consideration at its third meeting. However, the required financial resources were not secured to undertake this independent evaluation.

7. From January 2017 to June 2020, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in collaboration with partners, facilitated the implementation of several capacity development activities in the short-term action plan, supported mainly by the Governments of Japan (through the Japan Biodiversity Fund), the Republic of Korea and the European Union. Other Parties that provided financial support included Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. For instance:

(a) More than 105 face-to-face workshops and round tables were organized on different topics, benefiting more than 2,800 participants;

(b) Nearly 90 pilot and demonstration projects were supported by the Secretariat through the Japan Biodiversity Fund (JBF), the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI), the Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI), the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), the Peace and Biodiversity Dialogue Initiative (PBDI) and the Biosafety Capacity-building Initiative;

(c) 15 online courses and 17 webinars were conducted, through which more than 4,000 participants were trained in various fields, including biodiversity finance, sustainable tourism, wildlife and sustainable use for conservation, protected areas, traditional knowledge, DNA technologies, seed conservation, the online reporting tool for the sixth national report, detection and identification of living modified organisms (LMOs), risk assessment of LMOs, public awareness, education and participation, implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the access and benefit-sharing (ABS) clearing-house.

8. A detailed preliminary final report on the main outputs and outcomes of the short-term action plan is made available in document CBD/SBI/3/INF/14. The document also identifies relevant implementation partners and sources of funding for the respective activities. More details on some of those activities are presented in past editions of a quarterly e-newsletter entitled *BioCAP: Biodiversity Capacity Development Update*.<sup>4</sup>

9. The Secretariat adopted a systematic approach to the engagement of partners to promote integrated and coordinated implementation of capacity development. For example, it continued to convene a group of capacity development coordinators of biodiversity-related convention secretariats and relevant international organizations to advance implementation of decisions XIII/23 and 14/24 and relevant elements of decision [XIII/24](#). Among other things, the group identified the following priority areas for collaboration: strengthening the capacities of national focal points in data collection and management, biodiversity project design and resource mobilization, spatial planning and gender mainstreaming. The group developed a

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<sup>4</sup> The BioCAP issues are available on the Convention's website, at <https://www.cbd.int/cb/BioCAP/>.

concept note for a joint initiative to strengthen biodiversity project design and resource mobilization. The group also participated in the peer review of the draft long-term strategic framework for capacity development.

10. Furthermore, progress was made in diversifying the modalities and approaches for delivering capacity development support. In addition to face-to-face workshops, the Secretariat and its partners expanded the use of e-learning, help desk support, small-scale projects, regional dialogues and learning missions, training-of-trainers activities, provision of learning and guidance materials and the development of support tools (such as the Bioland tool for national clearing-house mechanism websites).<sup>5</sup> Some capacity development activities successfully adopted a “blended learning” approach involving two or more of these modalities. E-learning (including self-directed e-learning modules, massive open online courses and webinars) has grown steadily as a delivery modality with the potential to broaden accessibility of the learning content developed by the Secretariat and partner organizations to a wider range of users in different parts of the world. However, some developing countries have reported difficulties in accessing the modules and courses offered through the Biodiversity e-Learning Platform due to limited Internet connectivity.

11. The training-of-trainers approach has been applied by various programmes, including the GTI training programme, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, and the indigenous peoples and local communities training programme. This approach has proven to be a useful model for scaling training delivery, by training pools of trainers who have, in turn, gone on to train others in their respective regions.<sup>6</sup>

12. The use of targeted pilot and demonstration projects as an approach to capacity development has also grown. As described in document CBD/SBI/3/INF/14, the Secretariat has supported at least 50 pilot projects which have directly benefited more than 40 countries.<sup>7</sup> The pilot projects focused on various issues, including ecosystem restoration, spatial data and information, socioeconomic data, biodiversity mainstreaming, biosafety mainstreaming, ecosystem accounting and DNA barcoding, among others. These projects have contributed to learning by doing, helped strengthen institutional capacities, and enhanced collaboration and networking at the national and regional levels.

13. The Secretariat expanded the provision of help desk support for the access and benefit-sharing clearing-house, national reporting, the Bio-Bridge Initiative and national clearing-house mechanisms. Advice and prompt responses to specific questions or requests for information were provided to Parties and relevant stakeholders. According to the feedback received, a number of stakeholders have found this service very helpful.

14. Furthermore, the Secretariat in collaboration with partners broadened efforts to facilitate the establishment or strengthening of regional and global support networks. Examples include the regional implementation support networks for protected areas,<sup>8</sup> CBD-BIOFIN regional technical support nodes,<sup>9</sup> regional networks of laboratories for the detection and identification of living modified organisms,<sup>10</sup> and the global network of access and benefit-sharing legal experts.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> See further details about Bioland at <https://demo.chm-cbd.net/>.

<sup>6</sup> For example, since 2015, the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) has been providing training opportunities on DNA technologies useful for biodiversity management that requires rapid species identification. Trainers trained in the first phase of the GTI trainings (2015-2017) have since co-facilitated additional trainings, thus further spreading the skills attained (see CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/18).

<sup>7</sup> Some of the countries that have directly benefited from small-scale projects include Antigua and Barbuda, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

<sup>8</sup> To facilitate decentralized implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 road maps, the Secretariat facilitated the establishment and operationalization of implementation support networks in 10 subregions.

<sup>9</sup> See details at <http://www.biodiversityfinance.net/regional-nodes>.

<sup>10</sup> See details at [http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal\\_detection/lab\\_network.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_detection/lab_network.shtml).

<sup>11</sup> See <https://www.idlo.int/fr/what-we-do/initiatives/capacity-building-programme-support-implementation-nagoya-protocol>.

15. Countries' capacities have also been enhanced through processes and activities that are not traditionally considered to be capacity-building. For example, the voluntary peer review (VPR) of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) provides opportunities for peer learning for the Parties involved.

16. Overall, the short-term action plan has been successfully implemented (estimated 90 per cent implementation rate) and a number of concrete capacity results envisaged in the plan have been achieved.

17. Some of the main limitations and challenges encountered include the following:

(a) The short-term vision of the action plan resulted in a high volume of one-off face-to-face workshops, with high transaction costs and limited follow-up;

(b) The absence of a common monitoring and evaluation and reporting framework made it difficult to assess the effectiveness and impact of the activities across the board;

(c) The implementation of some activities was subject to the availability of resources, which in some cases were secured late or not secured at all, thus limiting the level of implementation;

(d) The high-level process through which the action plan was negotiated and adopted, with limited input from partners, also constrained the collaboration of relevant organizations and stakeholders;

(e) Finally, no formal or informal mechanism was established to mobilize and leverage partnerships, and no resources were allocated or offered to facilitate the process.

18. A number of lessons have been learned during the implementation of the action plan. Some of the main lessons learned include the following:

(a) Capacity development activities need to move beyond training workshops focused at the individual level. Focusing on other levels of capacity (i.e. organizational and/or enabling) and other delivery modalities must be encouraged;

(b) A long-term vision and holistic approach, including financial considerations, must be contemplated when designing capacity development interventions;

(c) A monitoring and evaluation framework must accompany capacity development interventions;

(d) Potential partners must be involved in the design of joint capacity development interventions to avoid duplication of efforts.

19. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation may wish to take note of the preliminary final report presented in document CBD/SBI/3/INF/14 and the lessons learned, and may wish to request the Executive Secretary to submit a final report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

#### **B. Preparation of the long-term strategic framework for capacity development to support implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**

20. Pursuant to decisions [XIII/23](#) and [14/24](#), the Executive Secretary has, with the support of a consultant, prepared a draft long-term strategic framework for capacity development, ensuring its alignment with the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the capacity-building work of the Cartagena and the Nagoya Protocols. A condensed version of the draft long-term strategic framework is presented in annex I below. A detailed version is presented in CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.1.

21. The draft strategic framework takes into account findings of the study conducted by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) on behalf of the

Secretariat to provide an information base,<sup>12</sup> the survey on capacity-building for coherent implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions conducted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN),<sup>13</sup> and the work of other multilateral-environmental agreements processes and organizations.<sup>14</sup> It also took into account the outcomes of the regional consultations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework held in 2019,<sup>15</sup> the meetings of the Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,<sup>16</sup> the Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol<sup>17</sup> and consultation workshops of biodiversity-related conventions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.<sup>18</sup> It also considers input provided during the thematic consultation on capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework held on 1 and 2 March 2020 in Rome,<sup>19</sup> the online discussion forum held from 25 May to 5 June 2020;<sup>20</sup> and the submissions from Parties, other governments and relevant organizations.<sup>21</sup>

22. The strategic framework aims to guide the capacity development efforts of government and non-government actors in support of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The strategic framework describes the overall vision and theory of change for capacity development, along with examples of the expected high-level capacity results. It also outlines the key guiding principles and success factors for effective capacity development; proposes key strategies for improving capacity development; and outlines key mechanisms to help put the proposed elements into action.

23. Complementary to the strategic framework, an action plan on capacity-building for the Cartagena Protocol, which references a number of the general principles, approaches and strategies set out in the strategic framework, has been developed in response to decision CP-9/3.<sup>22</sup>

24. While the discussion on the capacity-building action plan and implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol is planned to take place under item 5 of the provisional agenda (see [CBD/SBI/3/1/Add.1/Rev.2](#)), the Subsidiary Body on Implementation may also wish to take account of the capacity-building action plan for the Protocol under item 7.

25. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation may wish to review and revise, as appropriate, the draft long-term strategic framework and the draft recommendations along the lines proposed in section V below and forward them for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

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<sup>12</sup> The study, carried out by UNEP-WCMC from May to December 2019 with funding from the European Union, is made available as document [CBD/SBI/3/INF/9](#).

<sup>13</sup> The IUCN survey report is available at [https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/capacity\\_building\\_and\\_synergies\\_-\\_contribution\\_to\\_the\\_long-term\\_strategic\\_framework\\_for\\_capacity\\_building.pdf](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/capacity_building_and_synergies_-_contribution_to_the_long-term_strategic_framework_for_capacity_building.pdf).

<sup>14</sup> Biodiversity-related conventions have developed or are in the process of developing capacity development strategies or action plans (see [CBD](#), [CITES](#), [CMS](#), [IPPC](#), [ITPGRFA](#), [Ramsar](#) and [WHC](#)). The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services also adopted a capacity-building rolling plan (<https://ipbes.net/building-capacity>).

<sup>15</sup> Five regional consultations were organized between January and May 2019 (<https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020>).

<sup>16</sup> The Liaison Group provided input in the development of the draft strategic framework (see <https://bch.cbd.int/protocol/post2020/portal/review.shtml>). It also contributed to the development of a draft capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol for 2021-2030 (see [CBD/SBI/3/18](#)), developed complementary to the long-term strategic framework.

<sup>17</sup> The Informal Advisory Committee considered an evaluation of the Nagoya Protocol strategic framework for capacity-building and development with a view to ensuring an effective approach to capacity-building, consistent with the long-term strategic framework.

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/brc-ws>.

<sup>19</sup> The consultation was attended by 115 participants (62 females:53 males), representing 58 Parties and 32 organizations (CBD/POST2020/WS/2020/2/4).

<sup>20</sup> A total of 53 individuals (29 male:24 female) participated, and 99 messages were posted (<https://www.cbd.int/cb/discussion-forum/>).

<sup>21</sup> A compilation of the 27 submissions received is available: <https://www.cbd.int/cb/strategic-framework/>.

<sup>22</sup> Pursuant to decisions CP-9/7 and CP-9/3, the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol was developed in alignment with the implementation plan for the Protocol, and the two are presented alongside each other in CBD/SBI/3/18 to show their complementarity and to avoid duplication. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation, at its present meeting, is expected to consider these plans and make a recommendation to the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at their tenth meeting.

### III. TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

#### A. Progress report on technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer

26. Pursuant to decisions [XI/29](#), [XII/2](#) B, XIII/23 B and 14/24 of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary has, in collaboration with partners, undertaken activities to support and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer under the Convention. The activities have been implemented through various partnerships, programmes and initiatives, including GTI, the Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI), FERI, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI), the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, and the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species.<sup>23</sup>

27. GTI has provided a collaborative forum among taxonomic institutions in line with decision XI/29. The activities have been largely undertaken by partner institutions, such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), the International Barcode of Life Consortium, the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities, national museums, botanical gardens and culture collections. The numerous international projects contributed to discovery of biodiversity, advanced education for young taxonomists, databasing and data-sharing, and engagement of regulatory bodies and regional organizations to apply advanced technologies in taxonomy. Their technical and scientific products include: (a) documentation on biodiversity and specimen collections; (b) digital libraries<sup>24</sup> in taxonomy; and (c) technical guidance for access and benefit-sharing.<sup>25</sup> The products further contributed to advancing taxonomic studies, development of biodiversity field guides and the strong participation of citizen scientists in monitoring and recording of biodiversity at the local level.<sup>26</sup>

28. Since the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in November 2018, BBI has launched and successfully completed ten new demonstration projects, in Benin, Brazil, Liberia, the Republic of Moldova, Namibia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Thailand.<sup>27</sup> Following a call for proposals for the third round of BBI demonstration projects issued in June 2020,<sup>28</sup> a total of 99 proposals were received and evaluated, and, out of these, another 15 projects will be supported.

29. The Secretariat has updated the BBI web-based matchmaking platform and provided help desk services to support Parties having identified technical and scientific cooperation needs. To date, 48 entities from 21 countries are registered as providers of technical assistance on the platform, and 160 opportunities (including grants, fellowships or training opportunities) have been publicized.

30. The Secretariat has also continued to support the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity (CSP) to implement its programme of work. It notably helped CSP organize its general meeting and host two side-events in the margins of the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in November 2019. Furthermore, the Secretariat has continued to provide support to interested institutions in joining CSP as members. One institution, the National Institute of Biodiversity of Ecuador, joined the CSP, while five are in the process of doing so.

31. The Secretariat is facilitating preparations for the fifth science-policy forum for biodiversity to be held back-to-back with the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties under the theme of the role of

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<sup>23</sup> A full progress report on technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer is available in CBD/SBI/3/INF/18.

<sup>24</sup> The Biodiversity Heritage Library (<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>), Barcode of Life Data Systems (<http://boldsystems.org/>), Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (<https://www.gbif.org/search?q=GRIIS>).

<sup>25</sup> <https://absch.cbd.int/database/VLR/ABSCH-VLR-SCBD-239199> and <https://cetaf.org/services/natural-science-collections-and-access-and-benefit-sharing>.

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/11/10/2780>.

<sup>27</sup> The terms of reference and final reports of these projects are available here: <https://www.cbd.int/biobridge/projects/selected>.

<sup>28</sup> Notification 2020-042: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2020/ntf-2020-042-bbi-en.pdf>.

science, technology and innovation in stemming the loss of biodiversity and contributing to the achievement of the 2050 Vision of Living in Harmony with Nature.<sup>29</sup>

32. Building on the success of the Biodiversity Innovation and Solutions Fair,<sup>30</sup> which was held back-to-back with the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat is working towards the organization of a Biodiversity Technology and Innovation Expo to take place during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Expo is designed to provide a platform to showcase state-of-the-art technologies and innovative solutions relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including indigenous and traditional technologies, and to highlight opportunities offered by technology and innovation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In addition, the Secretariat is revamping the “Database on Scientific and Technological Cooperation and Technology Transfer”<sup>31</sup> to include the latest biodiversity-related technologies and make it more interactive and user-friendly.

33. FERI has provided financial and technical support for at least 12 pilot restoration projects that test a variety of innovative restoration techniques and has facilitated exchange of information on ecosystem restoration guidance and tools, solutions, and lessons learned. In addition, the Initiative has supported events bringing together Parties and stakeholders to, inter alia, exchange experiences and identify common challenges and solutions on the development and implementation of national plans for ecosystem restoration.<sup>32</sup>

34. The Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) brings together a wide range of partners to share and build on their experiences, knowledge and resources to achieve common goals. Among the recent achievements, the second meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue was convened in 2018 with a view to identifying opportunities to improve regional-scale cooperation urgently needed to accelerate national efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals. The resulting “Seoul Outcome +2” identifies practical ways forward for cross-sectoral collaboration at the regional scale, including the development of regional dialogues/partnership initiatives.<sup>33</sup>

35. The Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, which brings together various international, regional and national plant and conservation organizations to facilitate and promote implementation and monitoring of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, has fostered networks and partnerships at national and global levels and resulted in the development of a broad-based, multi-stakeholder, united community, committed to ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of plant diversity.<sup>34</sup>

36. The Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management has facilitated cooperation and coordination among its members to address wildlife management issues and promote the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife resources.<sup>35</sup>

37. The Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species seeks to facilitate cooperation among relevant organizations to support measures to prevent the introduction and mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species. Among its other activities, the Group co-organized an online discussion forum on the development of invasive alien species management tools and guidance in November 2019.<sup>36</sup>

38. Some of the main observations and lessons learned regarding technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer are the following:

(a) There is a high demand for opportunities to engage in biodiversity-related cooperation, including sharing of expertise and technical resources, collaborative initiatives for the development of and

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<sup>29</sup> The forum will be organized in collaboration with various partners.

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2018/parallel-meetings/innovation-fair>.

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/programmes/cross-cutting/technology/search.asp>.

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/restoration/feri/>.

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SOI-OM-2018-01>; <https://www.cbd.int/soi/>.

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.plants2020.net/news/1556/>.

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.fao.org/forestry/wildlife-partnership/en/>.

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/invasive/lg/>.

access to technologies, joint research and opportunities for mutual learning, as demonstrated by the number of Parties and organizations that have engaged with the initiatives highlighted above;

(b) There are opportunities for mutual learning and coordinated action among Parties within the same region or with similar ecosystems and environmental characteristics through South-South cooperation;

(c) Reliance solely on databases to collect and communicate the needs of Parties on the one hand, and opportunities and/or existing technologies to meet those needs on the other is not sufficient to catalyse and facilitate technical cooperation and technology transfer. Interventions to facilitate the liaison between Parties and stakeholders that have needs with those that can offer assistance is often required. Matchmaking continues to be a key modality for facilitating technical and scientific cooperation;

(d) The current approach to technical and scientific cooperation has assumed that relevant partners would be in a position to offer technical assistance to Parties with their own resources. However, finding Parties or organizations able to do so on such terms has proven challenging without supplementary financial resources to enable them to cover at least the operational costs, such as travel and accommodation;

(e) Facilitation of technical and scientific cooperation requires a strong and explicit mandate from the Conference of the Parties to broaden the ownership of initiatives and enable resource mobilization, and an effective governance mechanism to provide strategic vision and guidance, as well as a corresponding commitment in terms of financial and human resources commensurate to the demands from Parties;

(f) Past technical and scientific cooperation initiatives under the Secretariat have been small and short-term, limiting their ability to leverage additional resources and deliver greater and sustainable results. This has also made it difficult to adopt a long-term programmatic approach to address identified needs and gaps through multi-stakeholder partnerships.

#### **B. Preparation of proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**

39. In response to paragraphs 4 and 5 of recommendation 23/6 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Executive Secretary further developed proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which are contained in document CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.2. The document incorporates the views and suggestions received from Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations in response to notification [2020-001](#).<sup>37</sup> Information on the advantages and disadvantages of the three options for institutional arrangements suggested in the proposals, and the costs associated with those options, is provided in document CBD/SBI/3/INF/16. An initial compilation of relevant institutional arrangements and networks for technical and scientific cooperation relating to different thematic topics is made available in document CBD/SBI/3/INF/17.

40. Operationalizing the proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation will require predictable additional resources to support relevant activities of Parties, stakeholders and the Secretariat. In particular, the Secretariat would require dedicated resources, including human resources,<sup>38</sup> to, inter alia:

(a) Promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(b) Compile relevant information related to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer in the field of biological diversity and make it available to Parties through the clearing-house

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<sup>37</sup> A total of nine Parties (Egypt, European Union, Guyana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Republic of Korea and Suriname) and 12 organizations (ETC Group, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Carpathian Convention, EcoNexus, Global Commons Alliance, International Coral Reef Initiative, MedPAN, Regions4, Save Our Seeds, Third World Network, United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), and the United Nations University (UNU) made submissions.

<sup>38</sup> At present, most technical and scientific cooperation support functions are performed by staff supported by the Bio-Bridge Initiative funded by the Republic of Korea. The current funding commitment for the Initiative will end in 2020.

mechanism, in line with the knowledge management component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(c) Facilitate coordination and synergy, as appropriate, with biodiversity-related conventions, relevant agencies, the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, and other relevant networks and initiatives with technical and scientific expertise and/or involved in cooperation;

(d) Co-organize with partners biodiversity science forums, technology and innovation expos, round tables and other events to showcase cooperation initiatives, technologies and opportunities;

(e) Prepare relevant documents and reports on technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer for consideration by the Conference of Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

#### **C. Proposals for an inclusive process to review and renew technical and scientific cooperation programmes**

41. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of decision 14/24 B of the Conference of the Parties, and paragraph 2 of recommendation 23/6 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Executive Secretary has prepared proposals for an inclusive process to review and renew technical and scientific cooperation programmes contained in annex II below and elaborated in document CBD/SBI/3/INF/15.

#### **D. Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation**

42. In paragraph 6 of recommendation 23/6, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice also welcomed the draft terms of reference of a proposed Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation and invited the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting to consider them and make a recommendation to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting. The draft terms of reference are made available in annex III below.

### **IV. LINKAGES BETWEEN CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT, TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION**

43. There are close interlinkages between the various means of implementation for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (including capacity development, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge management and communication), the enabling conditions, as well as the enhanced planning, reporting and review mechanism.<sup>39</sup> For example, capacity development projects and programmes often contain elements on technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge management and communication. Likewise, technical and scientific cooperation initiatives, especially those involving developing countries, often include components for strengthening of capacities and sharing of knowledge and information. Furthermore, knowledge management initiatives often support organizational learning and sharing of expertise and transfer of know-how.

44. Thus, while these different work streams are not one and the same, they need to be treated as a package to foster synergies among them and avoid duplication of efforts. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation may therefore wish to recommend to the Conference of the Parties that it designate a common institutional mechanism to foster coordinated and synergistic implementation of the long-term strategic framework for capacity development, the proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation, and the knowledge management component of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework. For example, the proposed Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation (see annex III) could be requested to provide such guidance and support.

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<sup>39</sup> Some of the actions also overlap with the enabling conditions (including stakeholder engagement, partnerships, and collaboration with multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant international processes) and with the enhanced mechanisms for reporting, assessment and review of implementation.

## V. ELEMENTS OF A DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

45. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation may wish to consider recommending to the Conference of the Parties that it adopt a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties,*

### A. Capacity development

*Recalling* decisions [XIII/23](#) and [14/24](#),

*Noting with appreciation* the support provided by Parties, other Governments, the Global Environmental Facility and relevant organizations for capacity development and technical and scientific cooperation activities to assist developing country Parties, Parties with economies in transition, and indigenous peoples and local communities,

*Reaffirming* the need to promote strategic and coherent approaches to capacity development and technical and scientific cooperation in supporting the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols,

*Underscoring* the critical importance of capacity development for the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

*Taking note* of the final report on the implementation of the short-term action plan (2017-2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, and the lessons learned,<sup>40</sup>

*Welcoming* the outcomes of the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity held on 30 September 2020,<sup>41</sup> in particular the outcomes of the leaders' dialogue on harnessing science, technology and innovation, strengthening capacity development, and enhancing access and benefit-sharing, financing and partnerships for biodiversity,

1. *Adopts* the long-term strategic framework for capacity development to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, contained in annex I to the present decision;<sup>42</sup>

2. *Welcomes* the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and its Supplementary Protocol,<sup>43</sup> which has been developed to be complementary to the long-term strategic framework referred to in paragraph 1 above;

3. *Takes note* of the findings and recommendations of the evaluation of the strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol,<sup>44</sup> and *reiterates* its decision requesting the Executive Secretary to facilitate its revision in line with the long-term strategic framework referred to in paragraph 1 above;

4. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations, to use the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their capacity development initiatives supporting the achievement of the vision, mission, goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

5. *Urges* Parties and other Governments to put in place enabling environments (including relevant policies, laws and incentives) to promote and facilitate capacity development at various levels;

6. *Invites* biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environment agreements and processes to align their capacity development strategies, action plans, work programmes and mechanisms

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<sup>40</sup> The preliminary final report is available as CBD/SBI/3/INF/14; the final report will be issued in due course.

<sup>41</sup> See <https://www.un.org/pga/75/united-nations-summit-on-biodiversity-summary>.

<sup>42</sup> The long-term strategic framework is further elaborated in document [CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.1](#).

<sup>43</sup> See CBD/SBI/3/18.

<sup>44</sup> See CBD/SBI/3/16.

with the long-term strategic framework, as appropriate, to foster synergy, integrated programming and/or joint implementation of biodiversity capacity development initiatives;

7. *Also invites* Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations in a position to do so, as well as the Global Environmental Facility, to provide financial and technical support to enable developing country Parties, Parties with economies in transition and indigenous peoples and local communities to design and implement capacity development programmes aligned with the long-term strategic framework;

8. *Invites* the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions, in collaboration with governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders, to prepare, immediately following the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, thematic capacity development action plans for specific 2030 targets or groups of related targets, and to develop dedicated global, regional and subregional programmes to implement those thematic plans, in line with the long-term strategic framework;

9. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to integrate capacity development components in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and/or develop dedicated biodiversity capacity development action plans, as appropriate;

10. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to institutionalize and deliver capacity development interventions as part of their regular policies, plans and programmes;

11. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to allocate additional financial resources to support biodiversity capacity development, taking into account the priority needs identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and/or national capacity development strategies;

12. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to include biodiversity capacity development, as appropriate, in relevant development cooperation frameworks, partnerships and programmes;

13. *Invites* universities and other academic institutions to integrate into their curricula new specialized and transdisciplinary academic courses and programmes and/or expand and strengthen existing ones, generate and share new knowledge, and implement continuing education programmes to support the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

14. *Invites* relevant organizations and regional and subregional bodies, including regional economic integration organizations, to establish or, as appropriate, strengthen existing regional and subregional support networks to provide, upon request, assistance to enable national and subnational government institutions, local authorities and non-government actors within the respective regions or subregions to strengthen their capacities, while also mobilizing and fostering effective use and retention of the capacities developed;

15. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Management Group, in collaboration with the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, to designate a biodiversity capacity development task team to foster United Nations system-wide synergy, coherence and effectiveness in the provision of capacity development support and guidance for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in line with the proposed United Nations common approach to integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions for sustainable development into United Nations policy and programme planning and delivery;<sup>45</sup>

16. *Invites* regional teams of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and the United Nations regional commissions to initiate and facilitate the coordination and synergistic implementation of capacity development interventions in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

17. *Also invites* United Nations Resident Coordinators and the United Nations country teams to integrate biodiversity capacity development into country-level United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks to support national implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Sustainable Development Goals;

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<sup>45</sup> See [CEB/2020/1](#).

18. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:
- (a) To promote awareness of the long-term strategic framework including through the creation of a dedicated web page as part of the Secretariat's capacity development portal;
  - (b) To develop and make available additional guidance on capacity development, including tools, methods and case studies on good practices and lessons learned that can assist Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and other relevant stakeholders in their capacity development efforts;
  - (c) To collaborate with and support Parties and relevant organizations to prepare, immediately following the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, thematic capacity development action plans for specific 2030 targets or groups of related targets, as appropriate;
  - (d) To develop, in collaboration with relevant partners, complementary indicators and a methodology for measuring progress in the achievement of the long-term strategic framework goals and for enabling Parties to monitor, assess and report on the capacity development at the national level;
  - (e) To convene, in collaboration with partners, the first biodiversity capacity development forum, in collaboration with partners, to share experiences, good practices and lessons learned in capacity development for biodiversity, back-to-back with the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
  - (f) To prepare updates on the status of implementation of the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation;
  - (g) To undertake, in collaboration with other biodiversity-related conventions and partners, a review of the long-term strategic framework in 2025 to assess its use by Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders and, if necessary, propose updates to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness;
  - (h) To commission an independent evaluation of the long-term strategic framework in 2029 and submit a report to facilitate its review by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Conference of the Parties in conjunction with the review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

## **B. Technical and scientific cooperation**

*Recalling* decisions 14/24 B, XIII/23, XIII/31, XII/2 B, X/16, IX/14, VIII/12 and VII/29 regarding technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer,

*Reaffirming* that technical and scientific cooperation is essential to the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

*Acknowledging* the close interlinkages between technical and scientific cooperation and the other means of implementation (capacity development, knowledge management, communication and others), and the need to consider them as a package and not in isolation,

*Welcoming* the progress report on technical and scientific cooperation, including the achievements made under the Bio-Bridge Initiative, presented in document CBD/SBI/3/INF/18,

19. *Adopts* the proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework contained in the note by the Executive Secretary;<sup>46</sup>

20. *Takes note* of the proposals for an inclusive process to review and renew technical and scientific cooperation programmes contained in annex II below,<sup>47</sup> and *requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to commission the review process and submit a report for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting;

21. *Reminds* Parties, pursuant to decision XIII/23, paragraph 6, to identify and communicate their biodiversity-related technical and scientific needs and requests for assistance, and *invites* Parties, other

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<sup>46</sup> CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.2.

<sup>47</sup> The proposals are elaborated in document CBD/SBI/3/INF/15.

Governments and relevant organizations in a position to do so to register as providers of technical assistance and offer support to address the needs identified by Parties through the matchmaking platform of the clearing-house mechanism;

22. *Urges* Parties and other Governments to put in place enabling environments (including relevant policies, laws and incentives) to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, joint research, and joint ventures for the development of appropriate biodiversity-related technologies and innovative solutions;

23. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments, in collaboration with relevant partners and financial institutions, to support the establishment or strengthening of incubator programmes and accelerator mechanisms to promote and facilitate the development of appropriate biodiversity-related technologies and innovations, including indigenous technologies and locally designed solutions;

24. *Further encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to take practical steps to promote and strengthen relevant networks of institutions and communities of practice to facilitate the exchange of biodiversity-related information, experiences, skills and technical know-how;

25. *Decides* to establish an Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation to provide strategic advice on practical measures, tools and opportunities to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex III below;

26. *Also decides*, in the light of the advantages, disadvantages and costs presented in document CBD/SBI/3/INF/16, to pursue a hybrid of options A and B of the institutional mechanisms to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation proposed in section V of the note by the Executive Secretary,<sup>48</sup> whereby a global technical and scientific cooperation support centre would work together with a network of regional support centres and other relevant organizations;

27. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to establish, in collaboration with relevant organizations, the global technical and scientific cooperation support centre for biodiversity to catalyse, facilitate and enhance technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer to support achievement of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>49</sup> drawing on the lessons learned from, and maximizing synergies with, the Climate Technology Centre and Network;

28. *Decides* that the core functions of the global support centre and the regional support centres and organizations will be:

(a) To promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer among Parties to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(b) To provide a “one-stop service centre” for Parties to biodiversity-related conventions, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders to access technical and scientific knowledge, expertise, tools and other resources;

(c) To provide access to information on opportunities for technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovations;

(d) To mobilize resources to provide punctual and targeted support for small-scale projects and activities to address specific identified technical and scientific needs;

(e) To facilitate matchmaking between Parties with specific needs and Parties or organizations in a position to provide assistance in response to the priority needs identified;

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<sup>48</sup> CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.2.

<sup>49</sup> See General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

(f) To catalyse and support the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of technical and scientific cooperation projects and programmes that:

- (i) Promote and incubate international and regional cooperation and partnerships using a programmatic approach;
  - (ii) Facilitate the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies and innovative local solutions, including through scalable initiatives;
  - (iii) Facilitate access to and utilization of available scientific knowledge, information and data, as well as indigenous and traditional knowledge, subject to prior informed consent;
- (g) To strengthen capacities of regional and national centres to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation;
- (h) To facilitate knowledge sharing and organizational learning;
- (i) To identify, collate and disseminate good practices and lessons learned regarding biodiversity-related technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovation;
- (j) To perform such other activities as may be necessary;

29. *Also decides* that the global support centre shall begin its operations as soon as possible;

30. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to support eligible activities of the global technical and scientific cooperation support centre for biodiversity and, as appropriate, of the regional support centres and organizations referred to in paragraph 26 above;

31. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations in a position to do so to provide financial, technical and human resources to support the global technical and scientific cooperation support centre for biodiversity and, as appropriate, activities of the regional support centres and organizations referred to in paragraph 26 above;

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

(a) To further promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in collaboration with relevant partners, including the global support centre and regional support centres and other organizations;

(b) To maintain synergy and collaboration with biodiversity-related conventions and relevant organizations, initiatives and networks, including the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, and others with technical and scientific expertise, technologies and information, and/or that are involved in biodiversity-related technical and scientific cooperation;

(c) To maintain active communication with Parties and relevant stakeholders with a view to keeping them and the public informed of the achievements of the technical and scientific cooperation support activities;

(d) To organize, in collaboration with partners, biodiversity science forums, technology and innovation expos, round tables and other events to showcase cooperation initiatives, technologies and opportunities;

(e) To compile relevant information related to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer in the field of biological diversity and make it available to Parties through the clearing-house mechanism, in line with the knowledge management component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(f) To perform such other activities as may be necessary to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(g) To prepare relevant documents and reports on technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer for consideration by the Conference of Parties and its subsidiary bodies.



CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.1.<sup>54</sup> The theory of change outlines the intended pathways of change in capacity, the underlying assumptions and the anticipated high-level changes/outcomes. The purpose of the theory of change is to ensure that relevant actors are conscious of the causal relationships, the change pathways, the expected changes/capacity results, and the important contextual factors and underlying assumptions.

### **B. Capacity results**

7. The strategic framework establishes indicative high-level and long-term capacity development results relevant to the achievement of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework goals and targets and the Sustainable Development Goals (see Box 1). Government and relevant non-government actors are also encouraged to set capacity development targets at various levels and clearly include them in relevant documents, such as national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), programme strategies and plans. Capacities can be categorized as “functional” capacities (cross-cutting skills needed to get things done and not associated with any one particular sector or theme); and “technical” capacities (associated with specific areas of expertise, sectors or themes).

#### **Box 1. Examples of expected capacity results**

Long-term, high-level outcomes

- Successful implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs)
- Achievement of 2030 action targets
- Biodiversity mainstreamed throughout sectors and society

Medium-term outcomes

- Sound enabling frameworks and institutional arrangements support achievement of NBSAPs
- Strategic partnerships and learning networks enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable use efforts along with the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources
- High-quality programmes and projects that are technically sound, have realistic and achievable plans, address gender considerations, and embed monitoring
- Effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and learning processes embedded into projects and programmes from the start, to support evidence-based decision-making at all levels
- Reinforcing mechanisms, incentive structures and investments ensure utilization and retention of capacity of all types at all levels

### **III. GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

8. Governments and non-governmental actors are encouraged to apply the following overarching guiding principles, which, if applied, would contribute to more effective and sustainable capacities to support the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

- (a) Inclusive analysis of existing capacities and needs is essential to ensure effective interventions;
- (b) Country ownership and commitment should be cornerstones for capacity development actions;
- (c) Strategic and integrated system-wide approaches to capacity development should be promoted;

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<sup>54</sup> The development of this theory of change took into account the technical guidance provided as part of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process: <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/theory-change-undaf-companion-guidance>.

- (d) Interventions should be designed and implemented according to recognized good practice and lessons learned;
- (e) Gender perspectives should be fully integrated into biodiversity capacity development efforts;
- (f) Monitoring, evaluation and learning frameworks should be incorporated into capacity development strategies, plans and programmes from the start.

#### IV. KEY STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

9. Government and non-government actors are encouraged to adopt, as appropriate, the strategies below to enhance capacity development initiatives in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and ensure alignment and synergy with the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant national and global processes. Each country should decide which strategies to apply, taking into account its needs, circumstances and local contexts:

(a) *Institutionalize capacity development:* Ensure that capacity development interventions are planned and delivered as an integral part of the institutions' broader corporate strategic plans, ongoing human resources and organizational development and knowledge management, organizational learning, mentorship and peer-to-peer support, nurturing of communities of practice, and systematic sharing of experiences, best practices and lessons learned;

(b) *Integrate long-term capacity development into national strategies and action plans:* Integrate capacity development components into NBSAPs and similar strategic documents or develop dedicated national capacity development action plans, as appropriate,<sup>55</sup> to identify the core capacity development needs, goals, targets and milestones and foster their alignment with the strategic framework, alongside initiatives on related Sustainable Development Goals. This would help ensure that capacity development for biodiversity is planned strategically and streamlined into national development investments and budgeting processes;

(c) *Align biodiversity capacity development with broader cross-sectoral plans and programmes:* Apply the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to national implementation proposed in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to galvanize capacity development for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the biodiversity goals and targets. Focal points of the Rio conventions, biodiversity-related conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals, and representatives of line ministries and sectors should adopt a road map for alignment and coordinated action. The United Nations country teams should also play a key role in promoting integrated programming and coordination of capacity development as part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework;<sup>56</sup>

(d) *Undertake measures to fully utilize and retain existing capacity:* Undertake context-specific assessments and stocktaking processes to identify existing capacity, and the obstacles preventing its utilization and retention. Likewise, identify and promote incentives that will help retain and fully utilize existing capacity and minimize not only loss of expertise and institutional memory, but discontinuity of partnerships/relationships built;<sup>57</sup>

(e) *Develop thematic and regional capacity development action plans and programmes:* It is recommended that, following the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, thematic capacity development strategies or action plans be developed to support the achievement of the respective targets or groups of related targets. Stakeholders in a position to do so should, as appropriate, consider

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<sup>55</sup> At least 19 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have prepared biodiversity capacity development strategies or plans, either as a chapter or section within their NBSAP or as stand-alone documents: <https://www.cbd.int/cb/plans/>.

<sup>56</sup> Capacity development is one of the core outcome areas of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), renamed United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework by General Assembly resolution 72/279, in a number of countries, as demonstrated by the example of Bhutan ([https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/index\\_70552.html](https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/index_70552.html)).

<sup>57</sup> As cited in the UNDP publication [Incentive Systems: Incentives, motivation and development performance](#).

developing dedicated regional, subregional, national and subnational capacity development action plans and programmes across multiple thematic sectors, with specific capacity targets and indicators;

(f) *Promote partnerships and networks for implementation and learning:* Establish and strengthen partnerships for effective mobilization of capacities and resources; the sharing of existing knowledge, expertise and technologies; and implementation of medium to long-term capacity development programmes on specific issues related to the post-2020 targets, in line with national priorities;

(g) *Enhance synergies between capacity development efforts of relevant processes:* Enhance synergies with the capacity development initiatives of biodiversity-related conventions, the Rio conventions and the Sustainable Development Goal implementation processes at the global, regional and national levels. At the national level, the focal points of relevant conventions and processes, and of funding mechanisms, such as the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, should consider establishing a mechanism to foster integrated and/or coordinated planning, programming, monitoring and evaluation;

(h) *Promote South-South and triangular cooperation* to support capacity development of developing countries that have common challenges and share similar characteristics (e.g. economic and social conditions and language). This could include sharing of knowledge, expertise, technologies and resources and establishment of regional nodes, networks or centres of excellence;

(i) *Engage the private sector:* Engage the private sector, proactively and as appropriate, in the development of national capacities, as many technical and financial resources and relevant expertise and technologies lie in the hands of private entities. In doing so, ensure transparency and accountability. Also strengthen the capacity of small and medium enterprises to address biodiversity-related issues;

(j) *Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of capacity development interventions:* Develop and implement adaptive management systems for monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity capacity development efforts, to assess whether the intended capacity results are achieved in an impactful and sustainable manner, to identify and correct mistakes, and to capture and share good practices and lessons.

## V. MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

### A. Governance and coordination mechanisms

10. There is a need for mechanisms that could provide strategic leadership and foster coordinated capacity development action for biodiversity at the global, regional and national levels. Specifically, the roles of such mechanisms may include: (a) enhancing synergy, by facilitating inter-agency coordination and cooperation among relevant organizations, initiatives, and funding agencies; (b) providing strategic guidance, advice and support to government and non-government actors; (c) promoting strategic and coherent approaches to capacity development; (d) fostering partnerships and multi-stakeholder initiatives; (e) identifying opportunities to mobilize additional resources for biodiversity capacity development efforts; and (f) proposing innovative ideas to improve and advance the implementation of the strategic framework.

11. At the global level, the above roles could be accomplished through:

(a) The establishment of a new high-level biodiversity capacity development committee or a broader inter-agency implementation support committee;<sup>58</sup>

(b) The designation of a biodiversity capacity development task team under existing mechanisms such as the United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG) or the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG).<sup>59</sup>

<sup>58</sup> The implementation support committee would provide advice and strategic guidance on all the means of implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including capacity development, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge management, resource mobilization and others.

<sup>59</sup> The EMG (<https://unemg.org/>) or BLG ([www.cbd.int/blg/](http://www.cbd.int/blg/)) could include on the task team senior representatives of relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society organizations, the private sector, donors and academia.

12. At the regional level, biodiversity capacity development coordination and coherence could be achieved with the support of the United Nations regional economic commissions and the regional teams of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG);

13. At the country level, coordination of biodiversity capacity development could be done through the national biodiversity committees or similar mechanisms and facilitated through the United Nations country teams, within the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the country.

14. In addition, an informal biodiversity capacity development forum could be established and convened periodically on a rotational basis by different biodiversity-related conventions to bring together government and non-government actors to network and share experiences, good practices and lessons learned.

#### **B. Mutual supportiveness between various implementation strategies and processes**

15. This long-term strategic framework should be synergized with the other means of implementation and enabling conditions for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (including technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge management and resource mobilization), the long-term approach to mainstreaming biodiversity and with the mechanisms for reporting, assessment and review of implementation.

#### **C. Domestic resource mobilization for capacity development**

16. There is a need to mobilize domestic financial resources to support national capacity development and help create an enabling environment. The Biodiversity Finance Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (BIOFIN) could support countries to include options to mobilize resources for capacity development in their national resource mobilization strategies.

#### **D. Regional and global support networks**

17. Regional and global support networks should be strengthened, or established to provide, upon request, capacity development support to national government institutions, subnational governments, local authorities and non-government actors within the respective geographic regions or subregions.

#### **E. Enhanced review mechanisms**

18. The enhanced planning, reporting and review mechanism should consider the capacity development dimension. The guidelines for national reporting by governments should also include provisions for reporting on capacity development and provide opportunities for countries to share experiences and lessons learned. The NBSAP review and revision process and the voluntary peer review of NBSAP implementation should also include a review of the capacity development strategies and approaches.

#### **F. Outreach and dissemination of the framework**

19. A campaign targeting various stakeholders and actors will be undertaken to raise awareness of, and support for, the long-term strategic framework. Key partners and stakeholders will be invited to support the implementation, including through alignment of their capacity development actions with the framework, elaboration of thematic action plans, and establishment of coalitions and communities of practice. A dedicated web portal will be created and linked to the websites of biodiversity-related conventions and organizations to share information about the framework and the activities and experiences of various actors.

#### **G. Reporting and review of the framework**

20. The long-term strategic framework is intended to be a living document. It will be reviewed periodically and, if necessary, updated to ensure its continued relevance, effectiveness and use by government and non-government actors. A first review will be carried out in 2025 and an independent evaluation will be undertaken in 2030, to coincide with the review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Reporting on its application and the lessons learned by governments will be done through national reports, and reporting by non-government actors will be through voluntary submission of reports and case studies to the Secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions and processes.

21. A set of headline indicators for capacity development will be included in the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. A complementary set of indicators and a methodology for measuring progress towards the achievement of the strategic directions proposed in the long-term strategic framework for capacity development could be prepared with the support of experts and made available immediately following the adoption of the strategic framework. Government and non-government actors could also adapt and use the complementary indicators to monitor, assess and report on their capacity development efforts at the subnational, national and regional levels. The information generated from the monitoring and capacity development assessments processes at the national and regional levels should inform the periodic review and update of the framework.

*Annex II*

**PROPOSALS FOR AN INCLUSIVE PROCESS TO REVIEW AND RENEW TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION PROGRAMMES**

1. In decision [14/24 B](#), paragraph 9, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare proposals for an inclusive process to review and renew technical and scientific cooperation programmes in order to support the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and to submit these proposals for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at their meetings prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In response, the Executive Secretary developed the present proposals; further details are provided in CBD/SBI/3/INF/15.
2. The following three options are proposed:
  - (a) Option 1: An independent expert review team would provide a comprehensive and inclusive review of relevant technical and scientific cooperation initiatives and programmes and present recommendations for the renewal process for the consideration of Parties. The review process would include a desk review as well as interviews and surveys. Engaging an expert review team would allow for a detailed, focused and relatively quick and unbiased assessment. However, this option would come with a high cost and could limit country engagement and the integration of local experiences;
  - (b) Option 2: A technical workshop or series of technical workshops<sup>60</sup> would review and assess the efficiency and effectiveness of relevant technical and scientific cooperation programmes and initiatives, on the basis of inputs prepared by the Secretariat, and prepare recommendations for the renewal process. The workshop agenda and approach would be flexible, inclusive, and highly participatory, as well as country-driven. However, costs could be very high if a series of in-person workshops is held, the achievement of neutrality in the review process may be challenging;
  - (c) Option 3: A review by the Secretariat, with support from a consultant, would examine and assess relevant technical and scientific cooperation programmes and initiatives and produce a report on strengths and weaknesses for consideration by the Parties with recommendations for the renewal process. This may be the lowest-cost option; however, the approach may be limited in the extent to which it engages with Parties and other stakeholders, and may not be fully objective.
3. The review and renewal process will be aligned with relevant targets and indicators under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and will be implemented with due consideration for gender and indigenous and traditional knowledge.
4. The outcome of the process for the review and renewal of technical and scientific cooperation programmes may include the following elements:
  - (a) A summary of the main findings, including the lessons learned drawn from the review;
  - (a) Proposals for possible renewal of the programmes and initiatives (including a theory of change aligned with the theory of change for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework), and a description of the renewal process;
  - (b) A proposed monitoring, review and reporting framework for the programmes and initiatives, including possible key performance indicators associated with the relevant goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
  - (c) Estimates of resource requirements, and an associated resource mobilization strategy, for the programmes and initiatives.

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<sup>60</sup> A series would include five regional workshops and one global workshop.

*Annex III*

**DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY GROUP ON  
TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION**

**A. Background**

1. Article 18 of the Convention on Biological Diversity requires Parties to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, where necessary, through appropriate international and national institutions, including by promoting cooperation in human resources development and institution-building, encouraging and developing methods of cooperation for the development and use of relevant technologies (including indigenous and traditional technologies), promoting cooperation in the training of personnel and exchange of experts, and promoting the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for development of relevant technologies. Article 18 also stresses the importance of the clearing-house mechanism for fostering technical and scientific cooperation.
2. In decisions, VII/29, VIII/12, IX/14, X/15, X/16, XII/2 B, XIII/23 and XIII/31, the Conference of the Parties adopted a number of measures and provided guidance on various aspects relating to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer.
3. In decision 14/24 B, the Conference of the Parties decided to consider establishing, at its fifteenth meeting, an informal advisory group on technical and scientific cooperation, to be operational at the end of the mandate of the current Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-house Mechanism in 2020, to provide the Executive Secretary with advice on practical measures, tools and opportunities to promote technical and scientific cooperation for the effective implementation of the Convention.

**B. Purpose**

4. The Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation will provide advice and guidance to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant bodies and stakeholders on ways and means to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, capacity development, knowledge management, and the clearing-house mechanism in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In particular, the Informal Advisory Group will provide advice, guidance and recommendations on:
  - (a) Practical measures and approaches to promote technical and scientific cooperation for the effective implementation of the Convention;
  - (b) Measures to enhance collaboration with other relevant international agreements, processes and organizations with respect to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer initiatives;
  - (c) Strategic approaches to addressing the needs and priorities of Parties through programmatic implementation of relevant technical and scientific cooperation initiatives established under the Convention;
  - (d) Monitoring the implementation of the strategies on technical and scientific cooperation, capacity development and knowledge management in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to ensure coherence and consistency;
  - (e) Development and implementation of tools and mechanisms for promoting and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation, capacity development and knowledge management, including science and traditional knowledge systems;
  - (f) Matters relating to the clearing-house mechanism and, in particular, on how to improve its effectiveness as a mechanism for promoting and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation and exchange of information;
  - (g) Potential opportunities for mobilizing technical and financial resources to promote and sustain technical and scientific cooperation activities;
  - (h) Identification and mapping of existing collaboration activities.

5. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will support the work of the Informal Advisory Group, including through the provision of necessary logistical and secretarial support for its work.

### **C. Membership**

6. The Informal Advisory Group will be composed of experts nominated by Parties, with due regard to equitable regional representation and gender balance, as well as experts from indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations. The number of experts from organizations will not exceed the number of experts nominated by Parties. Members will be selected on the basis of the following criteria, as evidenced in their curriculum vitae:

(a) At least five years of working experience on technical and scientific issues related to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and/or other relevant international agreements and processes;

(b) Expertise relevant to technical and scientific cooperation, capacity development, and knowledge management and the clearing-house mechanism or similar online information-sharing platforms;

(c) Demonstrated experience with regional or international cooperation processes and programmes related to biodiversity and/or the environment.

7. The co-chairs of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity will be invited as ex officio members.

8. Members of the Informal Advisory Group will be selected through a formal nomination process based on the above criteria. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the co-chairs of the Informal Advisory Group, may invite additional experts knowledgeable in specific issues or thematic areas to be discussed at relevant meetings of the Informal Advisory Group, ensuring a balance of experts on matters related to the Convention. The members will serve in their personal capacity and not as representatives of a government, organization or other entity.

9. Members of the Informal Advisory Group will serve for a term of two years, with a possibility of renewal for one additional two-year term.

### **D. Modus operandi**

10. The Advisory Group will meet face-to-face at least once per year, subject to the availability of resources, wherever possible in the margins of other meetings. The frequency of meetings may be adjusted by the members as the need arises. Between the face-to-face sessions, the Advisory Group may work remotely via electronic means, as appropriate.

11. The Advisory Group may, as appropriate, establish subcommittees to support it in addressing specific issues or thematic areas and co-opt relevant experts to assist.

12. The Advisory Group members shall not receive any honorarium, fee or other remuneration from the United Nations. However, costs for the participation of Advisory Group members nominated by developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition will be covered, in line with the rules and regulations of the United Nations.

13. The Informal Advisory Group will elect two co-chairs and a rapporteur to serve for a two-year period.

14. The working language of the Advisory Group will be English.

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