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Agenda item 6

Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation

Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation

Draft recommendation submitted by the Chair

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation

Recommends that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt elements of a decision¹ along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

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

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

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation on its fifth meeting,² noting the limitations encountered by the Group in identifying suitable options to further address the technological, technical and institutional capability gaps, owing to the limited data available for the analysis of such gaps;

2. *Reiterates* its request to the Informal Advisory Group, in collaboration with the Secretariat and the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres, to identify options to further address the technical, technological and institutional capability gaps identified by Parties, on the basis of the analysis of information contained in: (a) the national biodiversity strategies and action plans; (b) the seventh national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity;³ (c) the fifth national reports under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;⁴ (d) the first national reports under the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization;⁵ (e) the global report of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-

¹ Additional elements pertaining to the decision on capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation will be submitted for consideration at the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body.

² [CBD/TSC/IAG/2025/2/2](#).

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 2226, No. 30619

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;⁶ and (f) the capacity assessments undertaken by the support centres and relevant organizations, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its eighth meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

3. *Encourages* Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth representatives, subnational governments and relevant organizations, including research and educational institutions, to collaborate with the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and relevant partners in the assessment and analysis of capacity needs and gaps at the national and subregional levels and to validate the assessment results;

4. *Encourages* Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth representatives, and relevant organizations to provide, as part of the assessments by the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and relevant partners specific information on their technological, technical and institutional capacity needs and gaps related to the implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and of the Framework;

5. *Requests* the Informal Advisory Group, in collaboration with the Secretariat and the global coordination entity, to develop an assessment framework and methodology, including a typology of capacity gaps, to enable the technical and scientific cooperation support centres to design and conduct future capacity needs assessments in a structured and harmonized manner;

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

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

(a) To support the Informal Advisory Group in conducting an analysis of the capacity needs and gaps identified by Parties to facilitate its work in identifying options to further address the technical, technological and institutional capability gaps referred to in paragraph 2 above, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its eighth meeting and by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

(b) To support the Informal Advisory Group, in collaboration with relevant organizations, in developing the assessment framework and methodology referred to in paragraph 5 above;

(c) To use the terms of reference for the independent evaluations referred to in paragraph 6 above in commissioning those evaluations, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting to be held before the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and by the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth meeting;

(d) To further support the technical and scientific cooperation support centres in identifying and gaining access to predictable funding sources, including through the financial mechanism of the Convention and relevant partners, to enable them to deliver effective, context-specific and demand-driven capacity development support to Parties.

⁶ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

Annex

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

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

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

A. Objectives and scope of the evaluation

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

3. The evaluation will consist of an examination of how Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth representatives and relevant stakeholders have used the long-term strategic framework, whether it has supported the institutionalization of capacity-building and development within the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and the extent to which it has promoted capacity-building and development efforts that are more effective, impactful and sustainable.

B. Methodology and sources of information

4. Subject to the availability of resources, the Secretariat will commission an independent evaluation in 2029, in conjunction with the second global review of the Framework. Three main data collection methods will be used: (a) a review of relevant documentation, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national reports and existing case studies and project reports; (b) an online survey; and (c) interviews with Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth representatives and relevant stakeholders engaged in work on capacity-building and development, including both capacity providers and recipients. The global information gathered will be analysed and disaggregated by region or subregion, as relevant.

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

(a) Extent of the awareness among Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth representatives, and relevant stakeholders of the role of the long-term strategic framework in guiding capacity-building and development efforts;

(b) Extent to which the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework has been used by Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth representatives, and relevant stakeholders in their capacity-building and development interventions;

⁷ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

(c) Identification of effective strategies, approaches and mechanisms for the implementation of the long-term strategic framework;

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

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

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

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

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

(i) Relevance and appropriateness of the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework for responding to the needs and priorities of Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth representatives and relevant stakeholders for capacity-building and development;

(j) Components and aspects of the long-term strategic framework that Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth representatives and relevant stakeholders have found relevant and helpful in guiding their capacity-building and development efforts;

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

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

(m) What has worked well, including good practices and lessons learned, and what has not, what barriers have persisted and what gaps remain;

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

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

6. In addition to the elements listed above, and subject to the availability of data, the evaluation may, alongside relevant indicators under the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, draw on the following indicators proposed by the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation during its third meeting, in 2024:⁸

⁸ See [CBD/TSC/IAG/2024/1/2](#), in particular para. 26.

- (a) Number of national organizations implementing elements of the long-term strategic framework;
 - (b) Number of countries that have developed national capacity development plans;
 - (c) Number of thematic capacity development actions plans to support the implementation of the Framework;
 - (d) Number of long-term capacity-building and development initiatives established to support the implementation of the Framework;
 - (e) Amount of financial resources mobilized and dedicated to capacity-building and development, in relation to implementation of the Framework, by funding source.
7. Information for the review will be drawn from various sources, including:
- (a) National reports;
 - (b) National biodiversity strategies and action plans;
 - (c) Information published through the online reporting tool;
 - (d) Reports on the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework prepared by the Secretariat;
 - (e) Reports and submissions from the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies and other relevant funding mechanisms, including the Kunming Biodiversity Fund, as well as relevant organizations, stakeholders, initiatives and partnerships involved in or supporting capacity-building and development;
 - (f) Reports of the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres;
 - (g) Reports developed by and specific to indigenous peoples and local communities and stakeholders, including women, youth and relevant organizations;
 - (h) Report of the review of the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030);⁹
 - (i) Information gathered through an online survey and targeted interviews with a regionally balanced set of Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth representatives, donors and other relevant stakeholders, to ensure that contextual challenges are identified.

II. Evaluation of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism

A. Objectives and scope of the evaluation

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

- (a) To review the effectiveness of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism as a means of supporting the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁰ and its Protocols and the Framework;
- (b) To take stock of the main achievements of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global coordination entity and of the challenges encountered;

⁹ Decision [15/11](#), annex.

¹⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

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

B. Methodology and sources of information

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

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

(a) Extent to which the mechanism has succeeded in fostering technical and scientific cooperation among Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth representatives and other relevant stakeholders in support of the Framework and the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

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

(c) Identification of effective strategies implemented to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and the development, transfer and use of technology on voluntary and mutually agreed terms;

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

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

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

(g) What has worked well, including good practices and lessons learned, and what has not worked well in operationalizing the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global coordination entity;

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

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

(j) Extent to which the technical and scientific cooperation support centres have been able to coordinate effectively with one another and other relevant initiatives, platforms, centres or networks, including those involving indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth in their respective region or subregions;

(k) Level of satisfaction of Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant stakeholders with the support that they have received from the technical and scientific cooperation support centres;

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

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

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

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

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

(c) Proportion of financial resources mobilized against estimated budgets for the implementation of the biennial workplans of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres;

(d) Number of technical and scientific cooperation opportunities made available and used by Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth representatives, and relevant stakeholders;

(e) Number of successful matchmaking efforts;

(f) Number of technological applications adopted across countries;

(g) Number of expert exchange programmes implemented;

(h) Number of joint research programmes implemented;

(i) Number of joint technological development ventures implemented.

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

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

(b) Biennial activity reports;

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

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

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

¹¹ See [CBD/TSC/IAG/2024/1/2](#), in particular para. 26.