

;Decision II/1: REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris from 4 to 8 September 1995, contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/2/5;
2. *Endorses* recommendation I/1 on the *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;
3. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to keep under review its *modus operandi* with a view to improving its functioning on the basis of experience gained;
4. *Endorses also* recommendation I/6 on the global biodiversity outlook and decides that the outlook should be financed through voluntary contributions;
5. *Calls upon* the international community to make contributions for the preparation and publication of the first global biodiversity outlook, to be issued in 1997;
6. *Further requests* the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in considering its programme of work for 1996, to ensure that the programme is based on the priorities set in the programme of work of the Conference of the Parties for 1996 and 1997, as contained in decision II/18, and specific requests to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, contained in other decisions of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Decision II/2: PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the importance of scientific and technical work being undertaken by other international and intergovernmental organizations to the medium-term programme of work;

Aware that such inputs have already contributed to advancing the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

Requests the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body, to identify and mobilize, for publication and distribution, scientific and technical information of relevance to the medium-term programme of work, recognizing the limitations of the budget.

Decision II/3: CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISMThe Conference of the Parties,

1. *Takes note* of the document prepared by the Secretariat on the establishment of the clearing-house mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation (document UNEP/CBD/COP/2/6);
2. *Notes* that many information systems and activities relevant to the objectives of the Convention have been and are being established at international, subregional, regional and national levels;
3. *Notes* that the enhanced cooperation between these information systems and activities will contribute to capacity-building, and notes that, in this context, the role of the Secretariat is to promote and facilitate access to this clearing-house mechanism;
4. *Decides*, as a contribution to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention, that the clearing-house mechanism, established by decision I/3 adopted at its first meeting in accordance with Article 18, paragraph 3 of the Convention, should be developed:
 - (a) Starting with a pilot phase for 1996-1997;
 - (b) Through specific and focused areas of activities related to the promotion of international technical and scientific cooperation;
 - (c) By gradually building up its functions in response to clear and identified demand based on experience gained and resources available;
 - (d) In a neutral, transparent, cost-effective, efficient and accessible manner;
 - (e) As a decentralized mechanism using such resources as print and electronic media, including the Internet;
 - (f) By making full use of existing facilities, which will avoid any duplication or overlap of activities and allow for the early implementation of the mechanism;
 - (g) In close cooperation with relevant international organizations and entities as active partners in the clearing-house mechanism to maximize the existing experience and expertise;
 - (h) By enhancing networking between existing national, regional, subregional and international centres of relevant expertise, as well as governmental and non-governmental institutions and the private sector;
5. *Decides also* that, during the pilot phase for 1996-1997, the Secretariat should act as a focal point and should:
 - (a) Encourage the development of a network of active partners, such as those specified in 4(h). These partners should focus initially on:
 - (i) developing national capabilities through exchanging and disseminating information on the experiences and lessons learned by Parties on the implementation of the Convention. This can be done through guidelines, training programmes, seminars, workshops, where appropriate, and upon request, and by using the clearing-house mechanism;

(ii) facilitating access to and dissemination of research relevant to the objectives of the Convention;

(iii) facilitating the transfer of technology through exchanging and disseminating information on experiences and technologies relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;

(b) Provide information on and facilitate access to these operating active partners;

(c) Support the active partners to develop specific training for the effective participation of users in the clearing-house network;

6. (a) *Decides also* to provide funding for the pilot phase through the budget of the Convention;

(b) *Calls also* upon the international community to make additional voluntary contributions for the implementation of the pilot phase;

7. *Takes note* of the designation by Parties of their national focal point for the clearing-house mechanism (document UNEP/CBD/COP/2/Inf.5) and calls upon those who have not designated their focal point to do so, where appropriate, as soon as possible, and no later than February 1996;

8. *Invites* all relevant international, regional, subregional and national organizations and entities willing to offer their cooperation as active partners in the operation of the clearing-house mechanism to communicate the details of their offer and requests the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat to enter into collaborative arrangements and to report to its third meeting on the results of such arrangements;

9. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to explore the modalities of providing support through the financial mechanism to developing country Parties for capacity-building in relation to the operation of the clearing-house mechanism and report to the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting;

10. *Decides* to review the implementation of the pilot phase of the clearing-house mechanism at its third meeting and requests the Executive Secretary to submit a progress report;

11. *Decides also* to review the implementation of the pilot phase at its fourth meeting and requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to provide scientific and technical advice.

Decision II/4: WAYS AND MEANS TO PROMOTE AND FACILITATE ACCESS TO, AND TRANSFER AND DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Takes note* of recommendation I/4 on ways and means to promote and facilitate access to, and transfer and development of technology as envisaged in Articles 16 and 18 of the Convention, adopted by the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held in Paris, at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, from 4 to 8 September 1995;
2. *Endorses* paragraph 1(d) of recommendation I/4, requesting the Executive Secretary to prepare, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its second meeting, a substantive and well-focused background document, taking into account the views expressed by States Parties and observers during the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the first and second meetings of the Conference of the Parties, including those decisions related to the clearing-house mechanism, and the deliberations of the first and second sessions of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Convention on Biological Diversity, and of the open-ended Intergovernmental Meeting of Scientific Experts on Biological Diversity, held in Mexico in April 1994, including its annexed UNEP Expert Panel Reports I to IV. Such a background document should consider the importance of biotechnology to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, especially to developing countries, as well as the enabling roles of capacity-building and the provision of adequate financial resources;
3. *Endorses also* paragraph 1(e) of recommendation I/4, requesting the Executive Secretary to invite relevant submissions by States Parties, observers and relevant international and non-governmental organizations, including, in particular, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the private sector and to take these into account in the preparation of the background document. The document should also take due cognisance of regional and subregional inputs and comments. The background document should identify key priority issues relating to opportunities for and obstacles to the transfer of technology for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;
4. *Requests* the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to submit a detailed report to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

**Decision II/5: CONSIDERATION OF THE NEED FOR AND MODALITIES OF A
PROTOCOL FOR THE SAFE TRANSFER, HANDLING AND USE OF LIVING
MODIFIED ORGANISMS**

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 19, paragraph 3, of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recognizing the link between paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 19,

Recognizing also the link between Articles 8(g) and 19, paragraph 3,

Recalling its decision I/9 made at its first meeting, held in Nassau, Bahamas, from 28 November to 9 December 1994,

Having considered the report and recommendations prepared for its second meeting by the Open-ended Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Biosafety, which met in Madrid from 24-28 July 1995,

Recognizing that modern biotechnology has great potential for human well-being if developed and used with adequate safety measures for the environment and human health,

Recognizing also that, although considerable knowledge has accumulated, significant gaps in knowledge have been identified, specifically in the field of interaction between living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology and the environment, taking into account the relatively short period of experience with releases of such organisms, the relatively small number of species and traits used, and the lack of experience in the range of environments, specifically those in centres of origin and genetic diversity,

Noting that there is a need for further analysis of existing national, regional and international regulations and legally binding instruments of relevance to the impact of LMOs on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity,

Affirming that international action on biosafety should offer an efficient and effective framework for the development of international cooperation aimed at ensuring safety in biotechnology through effective risk assessment and risk management for the transfer, handling and use of any LMO resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse environmental impacts that could affect the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account the risks to human health, and taking also into account Articles 8(g) and 19, paragraph 4, of the Convention,

Considering that, although there are existing international agreements of relevance to the impact of LMOs resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effect on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, none of these specifically address the transboundary movements of such LMOs, and therefore there is an urgent need to give attention to this issue,

Taking into account that the large majority of delegations present at the meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Biosafety favoured the development, within the context of an international framework for safety in biotechnology, of a protocol on biosafety under the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Stressing the importance of the urgent finalization of the United Nations Environment Programme International Technical Guidelines on Safety in Biotechnology and that this could contribute to the

development and implementation of a protocol on biosafety, but noting that this does not prejudice the development and conclusion of such a protocol,

Noting that guidelines on biosafety, including the proposed United Nations Environment Programme International Technical Guidelines on Safety in Biotechnology, may be used as an interim mechanism during the development of the protocol and to complement it after its completion, for the purposes of facilitating the development of national capacities to assess and manage risks, establish adequate information systems and develop expert human resources in biotechnology,

1. *Decides* to seek solution to the above-mentioned concerns through a negotiation process to develop, in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms, a protocol on biosafety, specifically focusing on transboundary movement, of any living modified organism resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effect on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, setting out for consideration, in particular, appropriate procedure for advance informed agreement;

2. *Decides* to establish an Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group under the Conference of the Parties which shall operate in accordance with the terms of reference in the annex to this decision;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention to make the necessary arrangements for the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group to meet as soon as possible, at least once before the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex to decision II/5

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE OPEN-ENDED AD HOC WORKING GROUP

1. The Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group should be composed of representatives, including experts, nominated by Governments and regional economic integration organizations.

2. The Open-ended Ad hoc Working Group shall, in accordance with operative paragraph 1 of the present decision:

(a) elaborate, as a priority, the modalities and elements of a protocol based on appropriate elements from Sections I, II and III, paragraph 18 (a), of Annex I of the report of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Biosafety;

(b) consider the inclusion of the elements from Section III, paragraph 18 (b), and other elements, as appropriate;

3. The development of the draft protocol shall, as a priority:

(a) elaborate the key concepts and terms that are to be addressed in the process;

(b) include consideration of the form and scope of advance informed agreement procedures;

(c) identify relevant categories of LMOs resulting from modern biotechnology.

4. The protocol will have to reflect that its effective functioning requires that Parties establish or maintain national measures, but the absence of such national measures should not prejudice the development, implementation and scope of the protocol.

5. The protocol will take into account the principles enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and, in particular, the precautionary approach contained in Principle 15 and will:
 - (a) not exceed the scope of the Convention;
 - (b) not override or duplicate any other international legal instrument in this area;
 - (c) provide for a review mechanism;
 - (d) be efficient and effective and seek to minimize unnecessary negative impacts on biotechnology research and development and not to hinder unduly access to and transfer of technology.
6. The provisions of the Convention will apply to the protocol.
7. The process will take into full account the gaps in the existing legal framework identified through analysis of existing national and international legislation.
8. The process shall be guided by the need for all Parties to cooperate in good faith and to participate fully, with a view to the largest possible number of Parties to the Convention ratifying the protocol.
9. The process will be carried out on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge and experience, as well as other relevant information.
10. The process of developing a protocol should be conducted as a matter of urgency by an open-ended ad hoc group, which will report on progress to each subsequent meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group should endeavour to complete its work in 1998.

Decision II/6: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMThe Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the information provided by the reports contained in documents UNEP/CBD/COP/2/9 and UNEP/CBD/COP/2/8 and the collaboration between the Secretariat of the Convention and the Secretariat of the restructured Global Environment Facility,

1. *Decides* that the restructured Global Environment Facility shall continue to serve as the institutional structure to operate the financial mechanism under the Convention on an interim basis, in accordance with Article 39 of the Convention, until a decision will be taken on which institutional structure is to be designated in accordance with Article 21 of the Convention. The Conference of the Parties shall endeavour to make such a decision at its third meeting;
2. *Decides* to undertake the first review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism at its fourth meeting in 1997 and a review every three years. The first review will be carried out within the basic approach described in document UNEP/CBD/COP/2/9;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to further develop guidelines of the review for consideration and decision by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting, taking into account comments made by participants at its second meeting and/or provided by Parties in writing to the Secretariat not later than the end of February 1996;
4. *Takes note* of the draft "Memorandum of Understanding Between the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Council of the Global Environment Facility Regarding the Institutional Structure Operating the Financial Mechanism of the Convention", jointly prepared by the Secretariats of the Convention and the restructured Global Environment Facility, and requests the Secretariat of the Convention to continue consultations on the draft Memorandum of Understanding, in order to ensure that comments by Parties are reflected, and to submit a revised draft Memorandum of Understanding for consideration and decision by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting;
5. *Requests* the interim institutional structure operating the financial mechanism to facilitate urgent implementation of Article 6 of the Convention by availing to developing country Parties financial resources for projects in a flexible and expeditious manner;
6. *Requests* the interim institutional structure to incorporate fully, on an ongoing basis, guidance from the Conference of the Parties into the further development of the Operational Strategy and programmes to ensure that the objectives of the Convention are addressed. The Conference of the Parties requests the Global Environment Facility to take the following comments into account when preparing the report to be submitted to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties:
 - (a) Detailed information should be provided on the conformity of the approved work programmes with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties;
 - (b) A list of projects submitted by eligible country Parties and information on their status should be included;
7. *Takes note* of the recently adopted revised project cycle and the Operational Strategy which are anticipated to contribute to more timely approval and implementation of projects, and further requests the Global Environment Facility to take any additional appropriate steps to expedite the project preparation and approval process with a view to implementing fully the guidance of the Conference of the Parties contained

in Annex I to decision I/2 on financial resources and mechanism entitled "Policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria for access to and utilization of financial resources" (UNEP/CBD/COP/1/17);

8. *Requests* participation of a representative of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention and of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility in respective meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel on a reciprocal basis, as provided for in the *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and in the terms of reference of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Further explore possibilities to identify additional financial resources to support the objectives of the Convention;

(b) Continue to monitor the availability of additional financial resources and further identify where and how country Parties might gain access to these resources;

(c) Study characteristics specific to biodiversity activities to allow the Conference of the Parties to make suggestions to funding institutions on how to make their activities in the area of biodiversity more supportive of the Convention;

10. *Recommends*, for more effective implementation of its policies, strategies and programme priorities, that the Global Environment Facility explore the possibility of promoting diverse forms of public involvement and more effective collaboration between all tiers of government and civil society, including the feasibility of a programme of grants for medium-sized projects. Such exploration should take into account the eligibility criteria set out by the Conference of the Parties in Annex I to decision I/2 on financial resources and mechanism, contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/1/17;

11. *Requests* the interim institutional structure to implement the relevant provisions of the following decisions: II/3 on clearing-house mechanism, II/7 on consideration of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention, II/8 on preliminary consideration of components of biological diversity particularly under threat and action which could be taken under the Convention, and II/17 on form and intervals of national reports by Parties;

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to present a report to the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting on the implementation of the present decision.

Decision II/7: CONSIDERATION OF ARTICLES 6 AND 8 OF THE CONVENTIONThe Conference of the Parties,

Mindful of the crucial importance of the provisions of Articles 6 and 8 in the fulfillment of the objectives of the Convention,

1. *Urges* all Parties and Governments and other interested stakeholders to exchange relevant information and share experience on measures taken for the implementation of Articles 6 and 8;
2. *Stresses* the importance of regional and international cooperation for the implementation of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to make available through the clearing-house mechanism such information and lessons drawn from national experience and also to make available relevant information on the implementation of Articles 6 and 8 contained in national reports submitted by Parties in accordance with Article 26 of the Convention as well as decision II/17 adopted at its second meeting;
4. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary:
 - (a) To compile and disseminate that information as widely as possible, including experience of relevant conventions, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations in dealing with the provisions of Articles 6 and 8;
 - (b) To prepare, on the basis of available information, suggestions on how the collection and sharing of relevant information and experience might be enhanced;
5. *Encourages* Parties, in preparing and implementing their national strategies and action plans, to collaborate with relevant organizations and, if so desired, to take into consideration existing guidelines such as "National Biodiversity Planning" published by the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Resources Institute and the World Conservation Union (IUCN);
6. *Emphasizes* the importance of capacity-building as well as the availability of adequate financial resources to assist Parties in the implementation of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention, and in this context requests the interim financial mechanism under the Convention to facilitate urgent implementation of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention by availing to developing country Parties financial resources for projects in a flexible and expeditious manner;
7. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to present to it a report on the implementation of this decision for consideration at its third meeting.

Decision II/8: PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION OF COMPONENTS OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY PARTICULARLY UNDER THREAT AND ACTION WHICH COULD BE TAKEN UNDER THE CONVENTION

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Reaffirms* that the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components should be addressed in a holistic manner, taking into account the three levels of biological diversity and fully considering socio-economic and cultural factors. However, the ecosystem approach should be the primary framework of action to be taken under the Convention;
2. *Endorses* paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 of recommendation I/3 on preliminary consideration of components of biological diversity that are particularly under threat and the action that could be taken under the Convention, adopted by the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held in Paris, at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, from 4 to 8 September 1995;
3. *Stresses* that, as reflected in paragraph 3 of recommendation I/3, it is essential to identify the driving forces determining the status and trends of components of biological diversity, so that appropriate action can be taken to control them;
4. *Stresses* also the importance of making full use of existing knowledge and available expertise;
5. *Emphasizes* the need for capacity-building as well as adequate financial resources for the implementation of the tasks identified in this decision;
- 6.(i) *Encourages* Parties, as part of their first national report which will focus particularly on Article 6, to identify priority issues specifically related to those components of biological diversity under threat, based upon paragraphs 1, 2, 4 and 5 of recommendation I/3 of the report of the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- (ii) *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a paper which identifies issues of common concern in the context of examining the national reports;
- (iii) *Directs* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the findings of the Executive Secretary's paper and to identify possible options for actions to be considered by the Conference of the Parties;
7. *Further requests* the Subsidiary Body at its second meeting to address the issue of the lack of taxonomists, who would be needed for the national implementation of the Convention, and to advise the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting on ways and means to overcome this problem, taking into account existing studies and ongoing initiatives while adopting a more practical direction of taxonomy linked to bio-prospecting and ecological research on conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components.

Decision II/9: FORESTS AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Decides* to invite its President to transmit the Statement contained in the annex to this decision to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests at its second meeting;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:
 - (a) To provide advice and information pertaining to the relationship between indigenous and local communities and forests, as invited by the Inter-Agency Task Force of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests;
 - (b) To commission and carry out work on forests and biological diversity, with a view to producing a background document on the links between forests and biological diversity in order to consider, at its third meeting, whether further input to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests is required, and to transmit this document to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests for information;
 - (c) To invite all Parties, relevant intergovernmental agencies and bodies to contribute to the preparation of the documents on forests and biological diversity to be prepared by the Executive Secretary, and to welcome the input of other Governments, non-governmental organizations and indigenous and local communities;
3. *Invites* all Parties to include expertise on forest biological diversity in their delegations to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests;
4. *Invites* the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests to communicate progress on issues relevant to forests and biological diversity to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex to decision II/9

STATEMENT ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND FORESTS FROM THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON FORESTS

1. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity welcomes the decision by the Commission on Sustainable Development to establish an open-ended Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) to pursue consensus and coordinated proposals for action to support the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests.
2. Wishing to avoid duplication of efforts and coordinate with other relevant organizations on issues of biological diversity, the Conference of the Parties stands ready to contribute to the fulfilment of the mandate of the IPF.
3. Keeping in mind the crucial role of forests in maintaining global biological diversity, the Conference of the Parties wishes to establish a dialogue with the IPF on issues related to forests and biological diversity.
4. Together, tropical, temperate and boreal forests provide the most diverse sets of habitats for plants, animals and micro-organisms, holding the vast majority of the world's terrestrial species. This diversity is the fruit of evolution, but also reflects the combined influence of the physical environment and people.

5. The maintenance of forest ecosystems is crucial to the conservation of biological diversity well beyond their boundaries, and for the key role they play in global climate dynamics and bio-geochemical cycles. Forests provide ecological services and, at the same time, livelihoods or jobs for hundreds of millions of people worldwide.
6. Forest biological diversity results from evolutionary processes over thousands and even millions of years which, in themselves, are driven by ecological forces such as climate, fire, competition and disturbance. Furthermore, the diversity of forest ecosystems (in both physical and biological features) results in high levels of adaptation, a feature of forest ecosystems which is an integral component of their biological diversity. Within specific forest ecosystems, the maintenance of ecological processes is dependent upon the maintenance of their biological diversity. Loss of biological diversity within individual ecosystems can result in lower resilience.
7. Forests are becoming degraded and their biological diversity is being lost. The loss of forest biological diversity is linked to the substantial deforestation, fragmentation and degradation of all types of forests. The reasons for the loss of forest biological diversity are many, both direct and indirect, and the Conference of the Parties takes note of the Terms of Reference of the IPF in this regard. (IPF Agenda item I.2.)
8. Forests and forest biological diversity play important economic, social and cultural roles in the lives of many indigenous and local communities. The Convention on Biological Diversity addresses specifically the need to respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, as well as the need to protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices. It also encourages countries to cooperate in the development and use of indigenous and traditional technologies, and encourages the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices, in pursuance of the objectives of the Convention. Articles 8(j), 10(c) and 18.4 of the Convention provide the general framework for this.
9. In addition, the Convention on Biological Diversity recognizes in Article 15 the sovereign rights of States over their genetic resources and also recognizes that the authority to determine access to these resources rests with the national Governments and is subject to national legislation. It also states that each Contracting Party shall endeavour to create conditions to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Contracting Parties and not to impose restrictions that run counter to the objectives of the Convention. Such access, including forest-based genetic resources, shall be subject to prior informed consent by the Party providing such resources and shall be on mutually agreed terms. Measures shall be taken with the aim of sharing in a fair and equitable way the results of research and development and the benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources with the party providing such resources. Such sharing shall be on mutually agreed terms.
10. The Conference of the Parties emphasizes and requests the IPF to acknowledge the need to integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies (Convention on Biological Diversity Article 6 (b)). The Conference of the Parties requests the IPF to note that it intends to explore how the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity could be assisted by the establishment of specific environmental goals in the forest and other sectors. The Conference of the Parties also requests the IPF to consider appropriate Environmental Impact Assessment of sectoral activities, plans, programmes and policies with expected negative impact on forest ecosystems (Convention on Biological Diversity Article 14). (IPF Agenda item I.2)
11. The Conference of the Parties notes the mandate of the IPF concerning methods for the proper valuing of the multiple benefits derived from forests. In this context, it requests the IPF to consider the

economic (monetized and non-monetized) benefits, the environmental services and non-consumptive values provided by forest biological diversity, including the important cultural, religious and recreational values of forests. (IPF Agenda items III.1 and IV.1.)

12. The Conference of the Parties recognizes the need to develop and implement methods for sustainable forest management which combine production goals, socio-economic goals of forest-dependent local communities, and environmental goals, particularly those related to biological diversity. Sustainable forest management should ensure that components of biological diversity are used in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs of present and future generations (Convention on Biological Diversity Article 2). Sustainable forest management should take an ecosystem approach and aim at securing forest quality as related to the Convention on Biological Diversity, comprising such elements as forest composition, natural regeneration, patterns of ecosystem variation, ecosystem functions and ecosystem processes over time. Special attention should be paid to components of biological diversity under threat. (IPF Agenda items III.2 and I.5.)

13. *In-situ* forest conservation activities in accordance with Article 8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the establishment and management of protected areas, have an important role to play in the achievement of biological diversity goals for sustainable forest management, and should be integrated in national forest and land-use plans. In this context, the conservation of primary/old-growth and ecologically mature secondary forest ecosystems is of particular importance. All stakeholders, in particular managers, should engage in an open, transparent and participatory decision-making process that can explicitly incorporate the multiple functions of forests and involve all interested parties, including indigenous and local communities. (IPF Agenda item I.1.)

14. The issue of public education and awareness has not been explicitly addressed in the Terms of Reference of the IPF. The importance of education and awareness-raising at all levels of society, including local communities, local and national policy makers, forest managers, and users of forests and forest products, related to the importance of biological diversity, especially those components under threat, should have a high priority in both national and international efforts. (Convention on Biological Diversity Article 13.)

15. More effort on biological diversity is needed in research, training and other capacity-building activities (Convention on Biological Diversity Article 12). Important topics include development of policies, criteria and indicators, methodologies and technologies for sustainable forest management, and the impact of utilization of components of biological diversity, particularly those under threat, on ecological processes. (IPF Agenda items III.1 and III.2.)

16. In response to the invitation of the IPF, the Conference of the Parties has requested its Executive Secretary to provide advice and information pertaining to the relationship between indigenous and local communities and forests. The Conference of the Parties has further requested the Executive Secretary to provide advice and information concerning the contents, work and medium-term programme of work of the Convention relevant to the Terms of Reference of the IPF. Such advice and information will be provided in time for the Panel's third session.

17. The IPF may also receive substantive inputs from the Convention following the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties on, *inter alia*, the underlying causes of biological diversity loss in forest ecosystems, components and dynamics of biological diversity, and ways and means for the effective protection and use of traditional forest-related knowledge, innovations and practices of forest dwellers, indigenous and local communities, as well as fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from such knowledge, innovations and practices.

Decision II/10: CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE AND COASTAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that the Conference of the Parties decided to address, at its second meeting, advice from the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on the scientific, technical and technological aspects of the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity,

Being deeply concerned at the serious threats to marine and coastal biological diversity caused by factors including physical alteration, destruction and degradation of habitats, pollution, invasion of alien species, and over-exploitation of living marine and coastal resources,

1. *Takes note* of recommendation I/8 on scientific, technical and technological aspects of the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity, adopted by the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held in Paris at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, from 4 to 8 September 1995, and;

(a) *Affirms* that it represents a solid basis for future elaboration of the issues presented;

(b) *Supports* the recommendations in paragraphs 10-19 of recommendation I/8, subject to Annex I of the present decision and its further elaboration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Conference of the Parties;

(c) *Reaffirms* the importance of future work by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to provide a balanced perspective on the remaining issues presented by the recommendations in I/8 and Annex I of the present decision relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity;

2. *Encourages the use of* integrated marine and coastal area management as the most suitable framework for addressing human impacts on marine and coastal biological diversity and for promoting conservation and sustainable use of this biodiversity;

3. *Encourages* Parties to establish and/or strengthen, where appropriate, institutional, administrative, and legislative arrangements for the development of integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems, plans and strategies for marine and coastal areas, and their integration within national development plans;

4. *Takes note* of the recently finalized Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and the Washington Declaration and Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, and supports their implementation, including that by Parties, in ways that are consistent with, and conform to, the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

5. *Welcomes* the International Coral Reef Initiative as a means to address threats to coral reefs and related ecosystems and encourages participation in International Coral Reef Initiative activities to implement its Framework for Action;

6. *Reaffirms* that under Article 25 the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice is the only scientific, technical and technological authority under the Convention to provide advice to the Conference of the Parties;
7. *Instructs* the Executive Secretary to provide, in accordance with Annex II, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice with scientific, technical, and technological advice and options for recommendations to the Conference of the Parties in further elaborating the recommendations contained in recommendation I/8, with the exception of paragraphs 3 and 4;
8. *Offers* the Executive Secretary the following guidance for conducting the work described in paragraph 6:
 - (a) Solicit input from all Parties and, as appropriate, from other countries and relevant bodies;
 - (b) Establish, on the basis of country input, a roster of experts with specialization appropriate to the work described in paragraph 6;
 - (c) The roster will draw upon expertise from scientific, technical, technological, social, management, economic, policy, legal, and indigenous and traditional knowledge;
 - (d) Convene, as appropriate, meetings of experts, drawn from the roster to support the Secretariat in advancing the work described in paragraph 6. Each meeting shall be for a duration of no longer than five days, and shall be comprised of no more than 15 experts with due regard to geographical representation and to the special conditions of least-developed countries and small island developing States;
9. *Welcomes* the offer from Indonesia to be host country for the first such meeting of Experts on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity;
10. *Decides* to forward this decision and its annexes to the next session of the Commission on Sustainable Development for its information when considering its review of Agenda 21, chapter 17, on oceans;
11. *Decides* to forward this decision and annexes to the Global Environment Facility, other funding agencies and other relevant international bodies, to be taken into account in considering activities related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity;
12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the United Nations Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, to undertake a study of the relationship between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources on the deep seabed, with a view to enabling the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to address at future meetings, as appropriate, the scientific, technical, and technological issues relating to bio-prospecting of genetic resources on the deep seabed;
13. *Invites* international and regional bodies responsible for legal instruments, agreements and programmes which address activities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, including the United Nations General Assembly, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Maritime Organization, the United Nations Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization including its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Commission on Sustainable Development, the International Coral Reef Initiative, regional fisheries bodies, migratory species agreements, secretariats of regional agreements for the conservation of the marine environment and other relevant international and regional organizations and

institutions, to review their programmes with a view to improving existing measures and developing new actions which promote conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity, taking into account the recommendations for action by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting, and provide information on their actions on a regular basis to the Conference of the Parties and, in a first instance, as soon as possible through the Executive Secretary. Furthermore, these various institutions are invited to cooperate with the Conference of the Parties through the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in planning and implementation of programmes affecting marine and coastal biological diversity, so as to reduce any unnecessary duplication or gaps in coverage;

14. *Decides* to request the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to carry out a summary review at its next meeting of the first report from the Executive Secretary and to submit in its report to the Conference of the Parties its recommendation on the work of the Executive Secretary.

Annex I to decision II/10

ADDITIONAL CONCLUSIONS ON RECOMMENDATION I/8 ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE AT ITS FIRST MEETING (UNEP/CBD/COP/2/5)

(i) Some delegations indicated their concern that paragraphs 10-19 were unbalanced in that they over-emphasized fishery issues, rather than some other issues such as pollution. Other delegations had an interest in highlighting the impacts of unsustainable fishing activities on marine and coastal biodiversity.

(ii) In relation to paragraph 10, crucial components of integrated marine and coastal area management are relevant sectoral activities, such as construction and mining in coastal areas, mariculture, mangrove management, tourism, recreation, fishing practices and land-based activities, including watershed management. Parties should, where appropriate and practical, prevent physical alteration, destruction and degradation of vital habitats and pursue restoration of degraded habitats, including spawning areas, nurseries of stocks of living marine resources, bearing in mind the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the need to provide a balanced approach to the use and conservation of marine and coastal biological diversity.

(iii) Parties are encouraged to undertake and exchange information on demonstration projects as practical examples of integrated marine and coastal area management.

(iv) In relation to paragraph 11, critical habitats for living marine resources should be an important criterion for the selection of marine and coastal protected areas, within the framework of integrated marine and coastal area management, taking into consideration the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Conservation measures should emphasize the protection of ecosystem functioning, in addition to protecting specific stocks.

(v) In reference to paragraph 12, the present mono-species approach to modelling and assessment should be augmented by an ecosystem process-oriented approach, based on research of ecosystem processes and functions, with an emphasis on identifying ecologically critical processes that consider the spatial dimension of these processes. Models of ecosystem processes should be developed through trans-disciplinary scientific groups (ecologists, oceanographers, economists, and fisheries experts) and be applied in the development of sustainable land and coastal resource use practices.

(vi) Paragraph 13 refers to the draft Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The Code was adopted by the 28th session of the Conference of

the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in October 1995. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is now undertaking the development of technical guidelines for the implementation of the Code. The Conference of the Parties can offer the technical expertise of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in the elaboration and implementation of these guidelines, in line with the objectives and provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

(vii) In relation to paragraph 14(a), the inclusion of subsidies was contentious. Some delegates stressed that the issue of subsidies was politically sensitive, with potential trade implications. It was noted that these issues address one of the underlying causes of biological diversity loss, *viz*, the result of over-fishing, and this consideration remained an important recommendation from the report of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. It was also noted that there were a variety of other subsidies which had impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity. The Executive Secretary is entitled to evaluate these aspects using a meeting of experts. Some delegations argued that the phrase "subsidies for fisheries" appeared ambiguous. Government subsidies related to fishing activities have a great variety in their modalities. In addition, subsidies should not be evaluated alone. Evaluation of subsidies for fisheries should be conducted in relation to, or in conjunction with, considerations of fisheries management. It would be most appropriate to examine the various existing subsidies in the light of Article 11, which refers to economically and socially sound incentive measures.

(viii) Also, in relation to paragraph 14, cooperation between regional fisheries bodies and regional organizations for protection and conservation of the marine environment should be promoted.

(ix) In relation to paragraph 15, the Parties should enhance and improve the knowledge regarding the genetic structure of the local populations of marine species subjected to stock enhancement and sea-ranching activities. Considering that the captive-bred populations are likely to interact genetically and ecologically with wild populations, this knowledge should be used in the management of breeding stocks according to sound genetic principles that take into account the use of local populations for stock selection, minimum breeding numbers and the renewal frequency of the breeding stock from the wild population.

(x) Mariculture (paragraph 15) is assumed to include culture-based fisheries and is defined here to be aquaculture in marine or brackish water. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, "aquaculture is the farming of aquatic organisms including fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants. Farming implies some form of intervention in the rearing process to enhance production, such as regular stocking, feeding, protection from predators, etc. Farming also implies individual or corporate ownership of the stock being cultivated". Although the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations requires "ownership of the stock being cultivated" in its definition, no such restriction is adopted here for the purpose of this document.

(xi) Some Parties thought paragraph 15(I)(e) would be better expressed as "because of the difficulties of complete containment, introduction of alien species, products of selective breeding, and living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity should be responsibly conducted using the precautionary approach. Therefore, adherence to international codes of practice such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the International Commission for the Exploration of the Sea, and the Organisation Internationale Epizootique should be a minimum requirement. Assessments and an appropriate monitoring programme should be put in place if introduction goes ahead. Preference should be given to the use of local species. Furthermore, development of technology to ensure a more complete containment should be encouraged."

Annex II to decision II/10

**DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR FURTHER WORK ON MARINE
AND COASTAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

1. The Executive Secretary will use as the basis of work recommendation I/8 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/2/5), this decision and further inputs, if any, from the Conference of the Parties.

2. The Executive Secretary should use the roster of experts on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity to address the following topics:

(a) Identify options for a pragmatic but comprehensive approach in addressing marine and coastal biological diversity on the basis of an ecosystems approach, including its components at the levels of species and genetic resources, distinguishing regions at relevant scales. Use the results from this activity in identifying the gaps in knowledge of the distribution and abundance of marine and coastal biodiversity;

(b) Identify the particular needs for conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity in the context of activities which will impact on marine resources;

(c) Review the mandates and activities under international agreements that affect marine and coastal biological diversity, and develop analyses that can be offered by the Conference of the Parties to the relevant institutions as to the implications of the Convention on Biological Diversity for these activities.

3. In addressing these issues, the following approaches should be applied:

(a) The work should not be impeded by the lack of full scientific information and will incorporate explicitly the precautionary approach in addressing conservation and sustainable use issues;

(b) The Executive Secretary may interact with a wide range of agencies and organizations competent in the aspects of marine and coastal biodiversity under deliberation to avoid unnecessary duplication and ensure effectiveness and cost-effectiveness;

(c) Recommendations should be made for scientific, technical and technological needs for capacity-building and technology transfer for the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources at the national, regional, and international levels in the context of the issue being addressed;

(d) The scientific, technical, and technological knowledge of local and indigenous communities should be incorporated, as appropriate, as well as community and user-based approaches, in the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity;

(e) Use should be made, as appropriate, of the clearing-house mechanism and national reports of Parties.

4. The Executive Secretary shall produce, among other relevant documents, the following outputs:

(a) Options for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components in the implementation of marine and coastal management and planning practices, including options for the development of integrated marine and coastal area management at regional and national levels;

(b) Annual reports to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, submitted 90 days prior to each meeting of that body. The first annual report will include a three-year work plan.

Decision II/11: ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES

The Conference of the Parties

Recalling that the charge from its second meeting is to prepare for agenda item 6.6.1 of the programme of work for its third meeting where the Secretariat is asked to compile the views of Parties on possible options for developing national legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate to implement Article 15;

Noting that regional efforts, based in part on the similarity of the genetic resources found in the region, are important to common strategies and therefore should be encouraged;

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Further elaborate the survey of measures taken by Governments to implement Article 15, including any national interpretations of key terms used in that article, with a view to completing the survey in time for circulation at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Compile an annotated list of studies and other relevant information on the social and economic valuation of genetic resources, including the demand by industry for genetic resources;

2. *Reaffirms* that human genetic resources are not included within the framework of the Convention;

3. *Urges* Governments to send information on national measures to the Secretariat at their earliest convenience;

4. *Recommends* that the Secretariat not duplicate work underway in other forums.

Decision II/12: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The Conference of the Parties

Requests the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Liaise with the Secretariat of the World Trade Organization to inform it of the goals and the ongoing work of the Convention on Biological Diversity and to invite the Secretariat of the World Trade Organization to assist in the preparation of a paper for the Conference of the Parties that identifies the synergies and relationship between the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the TRIPs Agreement. This paper could be the basis for consideration by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties in preparing a possible input for negotiations that are taking place in the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization;

(b) Consult with all stakeholders, in particular the private sector and indigenous and local communities, in order to gain understanding of the needs and concerns of those groups whose participation will be required for cooperative arrangements to be meaningful and effective in achieving the Convention's objectives. These consultations may take place in the form of roundtable discussions;

(c) Undertake a preliminary study which analyses the impact of intellectual property rights systems on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the equitable sharing of benefits derived from its use in order to gain a better understanding of the implications of Article 16(5). The study may focus on: (i) exploring the relationship between intellectual property rights and the preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous and local communities and the possible role of intellectual property rights in encouraging the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of such knowledge and practices; and (ii) inviting Governments and other relevant stakeholders to submit case studies that address the role of intellectual property rights in the technology transfer process, in particular the role of intellectual property rights in the transfer of biotechnology.

Decision II/13: COOPERATION WITH OTHER BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONSThe Conference of the Parties,

1. *Takes note* of the information note UNEP/CBD/COP/2/Inf.2 prepared by the Secretariat on cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions;
2. *Stresses* the need to make mutually supportive the implementation of activities undertaken by the Convention on Biological Diversity and by other international and regional conventions and agreements related to biological diversity and its components, building particularly on the consultations which have already taken place with certain key conventions, as outlined in UNEP/CBD/COP/2/Inf.2;
3. *Stresses also* the need to avoid unnecessary duplication of activities and costs on the part of Parties and of the organs of the Convention;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to coordinate with the Secretariats of relevant biodiversity-related conventions with a view to:
 - (a) Facilitating exchange of information and experience;
 - (b) Exploring the possibility of recommending procedures for harmonizing, to the extent desirable and practicable, the reporting requirements of Parties under those instruments and conventions;
 - (c) Exploring the possibility of coordinating their respective programmes of work;
 - (d) Consulting on how such conventions and other international legal instruments can contribute to the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
5. *Invites* also the governing bodies of such conventions and other international legal instruments related to biological diversity to consider at their next meetings their possible contribution to the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Convention;
6. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, for its third meeting, a report on the implementation of this decision, containing concrete recommendations aimed at promoting and strengthening institutional cooperation with other global and regional biodiversity-related conventions;
7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary also to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting on modalities for enhanced cooperation with relevant international biodiversity-related bodies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Commission on Sustainable Development, taking into account the medium-term programme of work on this issue.

Decision II/14: CONVENING OF AN OPEN-ENDED INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKSHOP ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON RELATED ISSUES

The Conference of the Parties,

Having examined Point 8.2 of UNEP/CBD/COP/2/1, related to the cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and other related international conventions on related issues,

Noting that an identification and harmonization of the points in common within these conventions on biological diversity issues would help the Parties, especially the developing countries, to come up with an appropriate and integrated national legislation on biodiversity matters,

Noting also that cooperation among international conventions would help the Parties to exchange information through the clearing-house mechanism in the context of sharing of scientific and technical information,

1. *Invites*, subject to the availability of funds, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in accordance with its mandate established by chapter 38 of Agenda 21, to liaise with the Commission on Sustainable Development to organize an open-ended intergovernmental workshop on the study of the relationships between the Convention on Biological Diversity and other related international conventions on related issues, taking into consideration existing studies and the expertise available in nongovernmental organizations and relevant institutions;
2. *Invites* all international organizations or donor countries to contribute financially to the organization of the workshop.

Decision II/15: FAO GLOBAL SYSTEM FOR THE CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the special nature of agricultural biodiversity, its distinctive features and problems needing distinctive solutions,

Taking note of the Global System for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture developed by member countries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, and the recommendation for strengthening it expressed in chapter 14 of Agenda 21;

Recalling that Resolution 3 of the Nairobi Final Act of the Conference for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity recognized "the need to seek solutions to outstanding matters concerning plant genetic resources within the Global System for the Conservation and Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Sustainable Agriculture, in particular (a) access to *ex-situ* collections not acquired in accordance with this Convention; and (b) the question of farmers' rights",

1. *Considers* that the outstanding matters should be resolved as soon as possible;
2. *Declares* its support for the process engaged in the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources to comply with these recommendations, especially through:
 - (1) The implementation of FAO Conference Resolution 7/93 for the adaptation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, in harmony with the Convention of Biological Diversity;
 - (2) Convening the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture through which two important elements of the Global System, the first State of the World report on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the first Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, are being developed through a country-driven process.

Decision II/16: STATEMENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON THE CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Requests* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to present the outcome of the International Technical Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties and to make the Global Plan of Action and State of the World reports available to that meeting;
2. *Welcomes* the offer of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to link its information mechanisms to the clearing-house mechanism under the Convention;
3. *Decides* to invite its President to transmit the statement contained in the annex to this decision to the International Technical Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Annex to decision II/16

STATEMENT FROM THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY TO THE INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON THE CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

1. The planet's essential goods and services depend on the variety and variability of genes, species, populations and ecosystems. If humanity is to have a future on this Earth, biological diversity must be conserved so that these functions and services are maintained. The current decline in biodiversity is largely the result of human activity and represents a serious threat to human development. Despite efforts to conserve the world's biological diversity, its depletion has continued. The entry into force of the Convention provides an international framework through which to address this depletion which causes threats to ecosystems that are vital for the sustenance of human societies in all countries. By becoming Parties to the Convention, Governments have committed themselves to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
2. The Convention on Biological Diversity advances the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources, while recognizing the important role of other conventions to the objectives of the Convention.
3. The Conference of the Parties guides the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, reviews the further development of matters relating to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and, where appropriate, brings these within the purview of the Convention.
4. Within the overarching framework established by the Convention on Biological Diversity, it is the case that there are many international forums through which the objectives of the Convention can be

progressed. The Conference of the Parties urges all such forums to work together to achieve these objectives.

5. In this regard, the Conference of the Parties recognizes the substantial contribution that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations can make, applying its experience and skills to tackle the very important issues associated with genetic resources for food and agriculture.

6. It is important for us to recognize that there are very many Parties to the Convention that are also members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. This forms a strong basis of common ground from which the Convention and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations could build complementary programmes in the area of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

7. At its second meeting, held in Jakarta from 6 to 17 November 1995, the Conference of the Parties considered advice provided by its Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on the contribution of the Convention to the preparation for the forthcoming International Technical Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

8. As a result of these considerations, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity wishes to draw to the attention of the fourth International Technical Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture the following considerations:

(a) The comprehensive nature and the multidisciplinary character of the Convention on Biological Diversity, aimed at addressing all facets of biological diversity within its threefold objectives: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of its benefits;

(b) The importance attached by the Conference of the Parties to the conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and their use in a sustainable manner;

(c) The recognition that plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are critical components of biological diversity;

(d) In recognition of the need to assess the current situation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and identify gaps and needs for priority action, the Conference of the Parties welcomes the preparation of the Global Plan of Action and the State of the World's Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;

(e) The need to strengthen capacity-building, in particular in developing countries;

(f) The relevance of the issues to be considered by the fourth International Technical Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(g) The Conference of the Parties' support for the recognition by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of the need to make the processes of the fourth International Technical Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Convention on Biological Diversity mutually supportive and complementary, in harmony with the provisions of the Convention.

(h) The sovereign rights of States over their natural resources.

9. Recalling the recommendations of Agenda 21, chapter 14(g) and of Resolution 3 of the Nairobi Final Act, the Conference of the Parties urges the International Technical Conference to make every effort to promote complementarity and consistency between the outcome of the Conference and the provisions of the Convention, making them mutually supportive and enhancing the success of both.

10. The Conference of the Parties compliments the Secretariat of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations responsible for the programme and processes for the fourth International Technical Conference on the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on its exemplary preparatory process based upon national reports, regional and subregional meetings leading to a global assessment of biological diversity of unique ecosystems. The process provides an innovative model.

11. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity hopes that this statement will be helpful to the International Technical Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and plans to consider, at its third meeting, the outcome of the Conference.

Decision II/17: FORM AND INTERVALS OF NATIONAL REPORTS BY PARTIES

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Takes note* of the note prepared by the Secretariat on form and intervals of national reports by Parties, document UNEP/CBD/COP/2/14;
2. *Endorses* recommendation I/5 on "Scientific and Technical Information to be contained in the national reports", adopted by the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;
3. *Decides* that the first national reports by Parties will focus in so far as possible on the measures taken for the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention, "General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use", as well as the information available in national country studies on biological diversity, using as a guide the annex to this decision;
4. *Decides* that the first national reports will be due at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 1997;
5. *Decides* that, at its fourth meeting in 1997, the Conference of the Parties will determine the intervals and form of subsequent national reports. This determination will be based on the experience of Parties in preparing their first national reports and taking into account the state of implementation of the Convention;
6. *Decides* that Parties shall submit their national reports in one of the working languages of the Conference of the Parties and, for the benefit of others, encourages Parties to also make available their reports electronically and, where possible, on the Internet;
7. *Decides* that national reports submitted by Parties will not be distributed as official documents of the Conference of the Parties, but will be made available to Parties, upon request, and in the language of submission;
8. *Requests* that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice instruct any technical panels that it may establish on topical issues to comment on the feasibility and practicalities of developing technical guidelines for national reporting on the subject matter being considered by the panels, and report to the meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 1997;
9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a report based on the synthesis of information contained in national reports and other relevant information and containing also suggested next steps, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;
10. *Requests also* the Executive Secretary to make available to Parties, through the clearing-house mechanism for technical and scientific cooperation, relevant information contained in national reports submitted by Parties in accordance with Article 26 of the Convention;
11. *Urges* all Parties to submit their first national reports to the Secretariat no later than 30 June 1997 to allow consideration of this item by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting;
12. *Urges* the financial mechanism under the Convention to make available financial resources to developing country Parties to assist in the preparation of their national reports;

13. *Commends* the guidance provided in the document "Guidelines for Preparation of Biodiversity Country Studies", prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme, and the document "National Biodiversity Planning: Guidelines Based on Early Country Experiences", prepared by the World Resources Institute, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), and its relevance in assisting Parties to implement Article 6 of the Convention and in the preparation of national reports.

Annex to decision II/17

**SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL REPORTING ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6**

(a) **Executive summary:** a brief summary of the action plan report, stating succinctly the importance of biodiversity, the commitment to the Convention, the mandate, the participants list, the biotic wealth and national capacity, the goals and gaps, strategic recommendations and characteristics of the action (who will do what, when, where, with what means and funding).

(b) **Introduction:** describe why biodiversity is important to the country and its local communities. Explain the Convention and the nation's commitment to its provisions. Present the aim of the national biodiversity action plan and specify to whom it is directed.

(c) **Background:** describe the legal and policy framework that provides the mandate and instructions for preparing the action plan report. Provide a short summary of the nation's biotic assets, capacity (human resources, institutions, facilities, and funding) and ongoing programmes. Explain the institutional arrangements and responsibilities, with a view to informing people of the manner in which the strategic recommendations will be implemented.

(d) **Goals and objectives:** state the vision for biodiversity and its place in the society, focusing on its protection, scientific understanding, sustainable use, and on the equitable sharing of its benefits and costs. The specific targets to meet the local, national, and international goals in terms of protecting, assessing, utilizing, and benefiting from biodiversity and its components need to be determined.

(e) **Strategy:** summarize the gaps between the current situation in the country and the stated vision, goals and objectives. Summarize the strategic recommendations, including the activities, policies, and tasks that have been selected for implementation to cover the gaps. Assign relative priorities to each.

(f) **Partners:** describe the public and private entities, communities and industries that have participated in the process and have agreed to be responsible for particular activities and investments.

(g) **Action:** present the detailed activities, tasks and policies to be implemented. Explain which partner (Ministry, industry, indigenous group, NGO, or university) will implement each item, where, and what measures the partners will employ.

(h) **Schedule:** present a timetable for the implementation of the various tasks, reflecting the priorities that have been assigned. Note signposts to help signal progress or delay.

(i) **Budget:** provide the budget for the plan of action, showing funding requirements for operating expenses, capital purchases, transport, field costs, etc. List the personnel needed by category of skill or background, the facilities and services required, and possible international technical and financial cooperation.

(j) **Monitoring and evaluation:** explain the measures to be used for tracking the results of the action plan and for monitoring changes in the economy, environment and society. Give the indicators that will be used. Present the individuals and organizations who will carry these responsibilities and how they were selected. Note the audience for the reports, along with the document's content and timing of implementation.

(k) **Sharing of national experience:** present information and case studies which reflect the range of experiences of countries encountered in the implementation of Article 6, taking into account local and external factors.

Decision II/18: MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES FOR 1996-1997

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Decides* to adopt the medium-term programme of work for the period 1996 to 1997 contained in the annex to the present decision;
2. *Also decides* to review at its next meeting the medium-term programme of work in light of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Convention;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare the draft provisional agenda of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, pursuant to rules 8 and 9 of the rules of procedure, and include therein all issues arising from its previous meetings and for which actions are required by the Conference of the Parties.

Annex to decision II/18

**MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES 1996-1997**

1. The medium-term programme of work will be constructed on the basis of standing and rolling issues.
2. Standing items will include, *inter alia*:
 - 2.1 Matters relating to the financial mechanism, including a report from the interim institutional structure entrusted with its operation;
 - 2.2 Report from the Secretariat on the administration of the Convention and budget for the Secretariat;
 - 2.3 Report from, instructions to and consideration of recommendations from the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA);
 - 2.4 Reports by Parties on implementation of the Convention;
 - 2.5 Report on assessment and review of the operation of the clearing-house mechanism;
 - 2.6 Relationship of the Convention on Biological Diversity with the Commission on Sustainable Development and biodiversity-related conventions, other international agreements, institutions and processes of relevance.
3. The other issues and derived activities necessary to implement the Convention should be dealt with on a year-by-year agenda, on the understanding that these relevant rotating issues will be developed and continually dealt with in accordance with the decisions of the Conference of the Parties by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and any eventual working groups appointed by the Conference of the Parties. The year-by-year agenda has to be flexible.
4. Treatment of the items on the programme of work should also reflect the importance of capacity-building as one of the elements of successful Convention implementation. The programme of work should always reflect a balance among the Convention's objectives, as set forth in Article 1.

5. In 1996, the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties may continue to consider pending issues of the 1995 programme of work.
6. The third meeting of the Conference of the Parties may consider, *inter alia*, the following items in 1996:
 - 6.1 **General measures for conservation and sustainable use**
 - 6.1.1 Implementation of Articles 6 and 8.
 - 6.2 **Identification, monitoring and assessment**
 - 6.2.1 To consider options for implementing Article 7;
 - 6.2.2 Appraisal of the SBSTTA review of assessment of biological diversity for the implementation of Article 25(2)(a) and advice on methodologies for future assessments.
 - 6.3 **Conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity**
 - 6.3.1 To consider agricultural biological diversity within the context of the Convention's three objectives and its provisions;
 - 6.3.2 To consider a report on progress under the FAO Global System for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
 - 6.4 **Consideration of the future programme of work for terrestrial biological diversity in the light of the outcome of deliberations of the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1995**
 - 6.5 **Knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities**
 - 6.5.1 Implementation of Article 8(j).
 - 6.6 **Access to genetic resources**
 - 6.6.1 To consider the compilation of views of Parties on possible options for developing national legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, to implement Article 15.
 - 6.7 **Issues related to technology**
 - 6.7.1 To consider ways to promote and facilitate access to and transfer and development of technology, as envisaged by Articles 16 and 18 of the Convention.
 - 6.8 **Incentive measures**
 - 6.8.1 To consider the compilation of information and experiences shared on the implementation of Article 11.

6.9 **Special session of the General Assembly to review implementation of Agenda 21**

6.9.1 To provide a report from the perspective of the Convention's three objectives.

6.10 **Issues related to biosafety**

6.10.1 To consider the first report of the ad hoc working group on biosafety.

7. In 1997, the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties may consider, *inter alia*, the following items:

7.1 **Review of medium-term programme of work (1995-1997)**

7.1.1 To review the operations of the Conference of the Parties and subsidiary organs;

7.1.2 To undertake an overall review and consider a longer-term programme of work.

7.2 **Models and mechanisms for linkages between *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation**

7.2.1 To generate options of models and linkage.

7.3 **Measures for implementing the Convention**

7.3.1 To provide information and share experiences on the implementation of Article 13;

7.3.2 To provide information and share experiences on the implementation of Article 14;

7.3.3 Consideration of biodiversity under threat.

7.4 **Consideration of matters related to benefit-sharing**

7.4.1 To consider measures to promote and advance the distribution of benefits from biotechnology in accordance with Article 19;

7.4.2 To be considered in the light of the outcome of item 6.7.1 above.

7.5 **Technical and Scientific Cooperation**

7.6 **Terrestrial biological diversity**

To assess the status and trends of the biodiversity of inland water ecosystems and identify options for conservation and sustainable use.

Decision II/19: LOCATION OF THE SECRETARIAT

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Expresses* its sincere gratitude to the Governments of Canada, Kenya, Spain and Switzerland for their generous offers to host the permanent Secretariat of the Convention;
2. *Decides* to accept the offer of the Government of Canada, contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/2/Rev.1, to host in Montreal the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, established under Article 24 of the Convention;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary without delay to discuss and agree with the Government of Canada the practical arrangements for the transfer and hosting of the Secretariat of the Convention in Montreal;
4. *Stresses* that such a transfer should, to the maximum extent possible, minimize the negative impact on the substantive preparation by the Secretariat of the meetings to be convened in 1996 under the auspices of the Convention, and other related activities;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to negotiate and finalize the headquarters agreement with the Government of Canada;
6. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to its third meeting on the implementation of this decision.

Decision II/20: FINANCING OF AND BUDGET FOR THE CONVENTION

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Decides* that the Trust Fund shall be extended for a period of one year, beginning 1 January 1997 and ending on 31 December 1997;
2. *Adopts* the budget for 1996, which is attached as annex I to this decision;
3. *Urges* all the Parties to pay promptly their contributions to the Trust Fund, based on the scale set forth in Appendix II to the budget (annex I);
4. *Requests* the Parties and States not Parties to the Convention, as well as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other sources, to contribute to the Trust Fund;
5. *Directs* the Executive Secretary to prepare a report for the Conference of the Parties on the amount of contributions received under the voluntary budget and on ways in which that income has been spent;
6. *Takes note* that the indicative budget for 1997, also attached as annex I to the present decision, is based on Geneva costings;
7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary in presenting a draft 1997 budget for consideration by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to also provide the indicative budget for 1997, attached as annex I to this decision, revised so as to be based on Montreal costings;
8. *Directs* the Executive Secretary to prepare an indicative budget for 1998;
9. *Directs* the Executive Secretary to consider carefully all offers of support from other organizations and to cooperate with them with a view to making the most effective use of the competencies and resources;
10. *Adopts* for 1996 the scale of contributions contained in the Appendix II to the budget (annex I), based on the United Nations scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations, adjusted to provide that no one contribution shall exceed 25 per cent of the total and that no contribution from a least developed country Party shall exceed 0.01 per cent of the total;
11. *Decides* to transfer to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, for further consideration, paragraph 4 of the Financial Rules contained in annex II of the present decision;
12. *Also decides* to transmit paragraph 16 of the Financial Rules to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties for further consideration.

Annex I to decision II/20

Appendix I to Annex I to decision II/20

Appendix II to Annex I to decision II/20

Annex II to decision II/20

**FINANCIAL RULES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST FUND
FOR THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

1. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention shall designate an organization (hereinafter referred to as the Trustee) which shall establish and manage the Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereinafter referred to as the Trust Fund) in accordance with these rules.
2. The Trust Fund shall be used for funding the administration of the Convention including the functions of the Secretariat.
3. The Trust Fund shall be financed from:
 - (a) Contributions made by Parties to the Convention based on the scale set forth in the Appendix to the budget;
 - (b) Additional contributions made by such Parties;
 - (c) Contributions from States not Parties to the Convention, as well as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other sources.
4. It is for the Conference of the Parties to determine the scale referred to in paragraph 3 (a) above. The scale is to be based on the United Nations scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations [adjusted to provide that no one contribution shall exceed 25 per cent of the total, [and] no contributions shall be required when the United Nations scale provides for a contribution of less than 0.1 per cent], [and no developing country Party shall be required to pay more than any developed country Party]. [The Conference of the Parties will develop possible methodologies for the principle of common but differentiated responsibility of developed and developing countries to be reflected in the scale of assessment.] [This scale of assessment shall apply unless amended by the Conference of the Parties.] The contributions referred to in paragraph 3 (a) shall be due on 1 January of each calendar year.
5. All contributions shall be paid in United States dollars or its equivalent in a convertible currency and into a bank account to be specified by the Trustee. In conversion of currencies into United States dollars, the United Nations operational rate of exchange shall be used.
6. Accounting records shall be kept in such currency or currencies as the Trustee deems necessary.
7.
 - (a) Budget proposals expressed in United States dollars covering the expenditure and income from contributions referred to in paragraph 3 (a) above shall be prepared by the head of the Secretariat (hereinafter referred to as the Executive Secretary) for periods of two calendar years at the minimum. At least 90 days before the date fixed for the opening of each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, these budget proposals shall be dispatched by the Executive Secretary to all Parties to the Convention.
 - (b) The budget shall, in accordance with Rule 16, be approved by the Conference of the Parties and, if necessary, be revised at an ordinary or extraordinary meeting of the Parties.
8. Contributions referred to in paragraphs 3 (b) and (c) shall be used in accordance with any terms and conditions agreed between the Executive Secretary and the respective contributor. At each ordinary meeting

of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary shall present a report on contributions received and expected as well as their sources, amounts, purposes and conditions.

9. The Executive Secretary may commit resources against the Trust Fund only if such commitments are covered by contributions already received. In the event that the Trustee anticipates that there might be a shortfall in resources over the financial period as a whole, it shall notify the Executive Secretary, who shall adjust the budget so that expenditures are at all times fully covered by contributions received.

10. The Trustee, on the advice of the Executive Secretary, may make transfers from one budget line to another within the budget in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

11. Contributions referred to in paragraph 3 (a) above from States and regional economic integration organizations that become Parties to the Convention after the beginning of a financial period shall be made pro rata temporis for the balance of that financial period. Consequent adjustments shall be made at the end of each financial period for other Parties.

12. Contributions not immediately required for the purposes of the Trust Fund shall be invested, and any interest so earned shall be credited to the Trust Fund.

13. It is for the Conference of the Parties and the Trustee to agree on an administrative support charge to be paid to the Trustee.

14. At the end of each calendar year, the Trustee shall transfer any balance to the following calendar year and submit to the Conference of the Parties, through the Executive Secretary, the certified and audited accounts for that year as soon as practicable. The Trust Fund shall be subjected to the internal and external auditing procedure of the United Nations as laid down in its Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

15. In the event that the Conference of the Parties decides to terminate the Trust Fund, a notification to that effect shall be presented to the Trustee at least six months before the date of termination selected by the Conference of the Parties. The Conference of the Parties shall decide, in consultation with the Trustee, on the distribution on any unspent balance after all liquidation expenses have been met.

[16A. The Parties shall each agreement by consensus on:

(a) The scale and any subsequent revision to it;

(b) The budget.]

[16B. The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on the budget by consensus. If all efforts to reach consensus on the budget have been exhausted and no agreement has been reached, the budget shall, as a last resort, be adopted by a [two-thirds] [four-fifths] majority vote of the Parties present and voting representing a [two-thirds] [four-fifths] majority vote of the developing country Parties present and voting and a [two-thirds] [four-fifths] majority vote of the other Parties present and voting.]

17. Any amendments to these rules shall be adopted by the Conference of the Parties by consensus.

Decision II/21: VENUE AND DATE OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Welcomes* the kind offer of the Government of Argentina to host the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties ;
2. *Decides* that the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties will take place in Buenos Aires , Argentina, from 4 to 15 November 1996, including the Ministerial-level segment on 13 and 14 November 1996 ;
3. *Decides* also that Argentina will be an *ex officio* member of the Bureau of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Decision II/22: CONVENING OF REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL MEETINGS FOR PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

The Conference of the Parties,

Appreciating the assistance of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in convening regional and subregional meetings for the Parties to the Convention, especially developing country Parties, in preparation for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

Having benefited from such regional meetings by adopting decisions on the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties' agenda items,

1. *Requests* the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to convene regional and subregional meetings, especially for developing country Parties, to prepare for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
2. *Urges* the Secretariat of the Convention to seek voluntary contributions for such meetings and to facilitate the participation of developing country Parties and, in particular, the least developed countries.

**Decision II/23: TRIBUTE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

The Conference of the Parties,

Having met in Jakarta from 6 to 17 November 1995, at the gracious invitation of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia,

Deeply appreciative of the special courtesy and the warm hospitality extended by the Government and people of Indonesia to the Ministers, members of the delegations, observers and members of the Secretariat attending the meeting;

Expresses its sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and to its people for the cordial welcome which they accorded to the Conference of the Parties and to those associated with its work and for their contribution to the success of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.