



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
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Agenda item 6.2

### DECISION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AT ITS ELEVENTH MEETING

#### *XI/11. New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity*

##### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Takes note* of the proposals for new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on new and emerging issues relating to the conservation of biodiversity prepared for the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/13);

2. *Noting* the effects of tropospheric ozone as a greenhouse gas and the potential contribution of reducing it to mitigating climate change; *noting also* its impacts on human health and on biodiversity; and *noting further* relevant work on this issue undertaken under the auspices of regional processes, *decides* to include consideration of the impacts of tropospheric ozone in the programme of work on the links between biodiversity and climate change, and *requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to availability of resources, to report on progress to a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at which biodiversity and climate change is on the agenda;

3. *Noting*, based on the precautionary approach, the need to consider the potential positive and negative impacts of components, organisms and products resulting from synthetic biology techniques on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, *requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to availability of resources, to:

(a) Invite Parties, other Governments, relevant international organizations, indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders to submit, in accordance with paragraphs 11 and 12 of decision IX/29, additional relevant information on components, organisms and products resulting from synthetic biology techniques that may have impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and associated social, economic and cultural considerations;

(b) Compile and synthesize relevant available information, together with the accompanying information;

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(c) Consider possible gaps and overlaps with the applicable provisions of the Convention, its Protocols and other relevant agreements related to components, organisms and products resulting from synthetic biology techniques;

(d) Make a synthesis of the above information, including an analysis of how the criteria set out in paragraph 12 of decision IX/29 apply to this issue, available for peer review and subsequent consideration by a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with paragraph 13 of decision IX/29;

4. *Recognizing* the development of technologies associated with synthetic life, cells or genomes, and the scientific uncertainties of their potential impact on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, *urges* Parties and *invites* other Governments to take a precautionary approach, in accordance with the preamble of the Convention and with Article 14, when addressing threats of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity posed by organisms, components and products resulting from synthetic biology, in accordance with domestic legislation and other relevant international obligations;

5. In line with decision IX/29, *requests* the Executive Secretary to include, with the compilation of original submissions and the information and views on each proposed new and emerging issue relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, a review of information applying the criteria contained in paragraph 12 of decision IX/29, where this has not otherwise been provided, with a view to enabling the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the proposals.

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