



Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Twelfth meeting
Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 6-17 October 2014
Agenda item 30

DECISION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

XII/29. Improving the efficiency of structures and processes under the Convention: other matters

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Notes* the process to improve the operations of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to enable it to fulfil its mandate more efficiently, and *requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body, to continue to explore and implement ways to improve its efficiency, drawing on views of Parties and lessons learned from the seventeenth and eighteenth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to explore ways to increase the efficiency of meetings, including convening meetings through virtual means, and to liaise with appropriate entities, such as the United Nations Development Programme, to identify the necessary facilities for delegates, including national focal points, in developing countries to participate effectively in these meetings and report to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, for its consideration prior to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Takes note* of the documents¹ prepared by the Executive Secretary on a proposed pilot voluntary peer-review process for the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and *requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to develop a methodology for a voluntary peer-review process and to report to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, for its consideration;

4. With a view to enabling the Conference of the Parties, at each of its meetings through 2020, to review progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and in line with paragraph 3 (e) of decision X/2, *requests* the Executive Secretary to make the online reporting tool of the clearing-house mechanism fully operational as soon as possible, *invites* Parties and other Governments, on a voluntary basis, to make available information on progress towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and related national targets and on indicators and approaches towards assessing progress, including through use of

¹ UNEP/CBD/COP/12/25/Add.3 and UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/24.

the online reporting tool of the clearing-house mechanism, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to report on progress on the use of the online reporting tool by Parties and other Governments, and the information submitted therein, to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, on the basis of the experiences and lessons learned from the preparation of the fifth national report and the use of the voluntary online reporting tool, proposals for the sixth national report to facilitate streamlined reporting on issues covered by the Convention and its Protocols, as well as for any further improvement that may be needed to the online reporting tool, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to explore the potential for a more coherent reporting framework with other biodiversity-related conventions to improve access to relevant data for the implementation of the Convention and to reduce the reporting burden on Parties, and make use of the experiences from this work when preparing proposals for the sixth national report;

7. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to explore options, including costs involved and potential of partnerships and synergies with other organizations, for holding regional preparatory meetings prior to the concurrent meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols, and to submit a report to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation;

8. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to consider strengthening the involvement of the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme to support the efforts of Parties to implement their commitments under the Convention and its Protocols;

9. *Encourages* Parties to integrate biosafety and access and benefit-sharing into national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national development plans and other relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes, as appropriate, taking into account national circumstances, legislation and priorities;

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

(a) To undertake an assessment of the capacity needs and skill gaps of Parties with regard to the integration of biosafety and access and benefit-sharing issues into national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national development plans in order to tailor capacity-building interventions to the needs of Parties;

(b) To organize regional workshops for national focal points for the Cartagena Protocol, the Nagoya Protocol and the Convention, as well as indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders to share experiences and lessons learned in the integration of biosafety and access and benefit-sharing into national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

11. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments, as appropriate, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities, to strengthen national coordination mechanisms to facilitate a coordinated approach to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols as well as other biodiversity-related conventions and the other Rio conventions.
