Meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee
Clearing-house Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Montreal, Canada
11 November 2001

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

The meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-house Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity will be held on 11 November 2001, at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal, Canada.

1. Registration of participants will commence at 13:00.

   Item 1. Opening of the meeting

2. The meeting will be opened by the Executive Secretary at 13:30 on Sunday 11 November 2001.

   Item 2. Organizational Matters

   Item 2.1. Adoption of the agenda

3. The draft provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/CHM) addresses all issues referred to in: Annex II of Decision V/14, the CHM Strategic Plan, recommendations made by the SBSTTA at its sixth meeting of 12-16 March 2001, and recommendations made by the IAC at its meeting of 11 March 2001. It also addresses the participation of the CHM in the development and implementation of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH). The meeting may wish to adopt the agenda with such amendments as may be agreed upon.
**Item 2.2. Organization of Work**

4. The meeting will consider the proposed organization of work contained in Annex I below. The meeting may also wish to decide on the nature of the report of the meeting.

**Item 3. Progress report on implementation of the Activities identified in Annex II, Decision V/14**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COP Decisions V/14, Annex II</th>
<th>Strategic Plan*</th>
<th>Informal Advisory Committee Recommendations (11 March 2001) and SBSTTA6 Recommendations</th>
<th>CHM Activities and Accomplishments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*The Strategic Plan has 3 goals: (1) Cooperation, promotion and facilitation of scientific and technical cooperation; (2) Information exchange; (3) Network development. Each recommendation below is preceded by the goal under which it appears in the Plan.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>3.1 (a)</strong> Develop ways and means to ensure a broader understanding of the role of, and the value added by, the clearing-house mechanism.</td>
<td>Goal 3: Promote use of the CHM. Obj 7.1.4&lt;br&gt;Ensure that information available on the CHM reaches the scientific community. &lt;br&gt;Stress the need for more engagement and interactivity—the CHM should receive as well as disseminate information. &lt;br&gt;Emphasize the need for the CHM to participate in all program areas. &lt;br&gt;Publish more written information on the CHM.</td>
<td>New CHM Brochure is being published..&lt;br&gt;Launch of new web site.&lt;br&gt;Developing automatic news dissemination mechanism. &lt;br&gt;Developing new mechanisms for the public to communicate with the SCBD. &lt;br&gt;Programmes and issues page revised and updated</td>
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<td>Goal 3: promote use of the Clearing-house Mechanism Obj7.1.5</td>
<td>Use non-web, non-electronic tools to reach regions with inequitable access to new information technologies</td>
<td>Developed Toolkit for use with the Biosafety Clearing-House &lt;br&gt;Developing CHM Toolkit from BCH</td>
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<td>3.3 (c) Identify and establish cooperative arrangements with those international thematic focal points that can provide relevant and appropriate thematic information, using the following criteria:</td>
<td>Goal 3: Rely on partnerships and focus on facilitation. Strat 7.2.4</td>
<td>Study joint programs with the GISP and other similar initiatives in the creation of thematic focal points. <strong>SBSTTA6</strong>: VI/4, A.4c, 22. Decides that the clearing-house mechanism will be used to facilitate scientific and technical cooperation on the topics listed under paragraph 21 above, in order to enhance the ability of the clearing-house mechanism to promote and facilitate scientific and technical cooperation, and invites the Executive Secretary to explore further with the Global Invasive Species Programme the potential for the latter to be an international thematic focal point for the clearing-house mechanism, in accordance with annex II (c) of decision V/14;</td>
<td>Finalized an MOU with GISP to act as a thematic focal point. Planning a meeting with the GISP to discuss implementation of a global invasive species network. USGS transferred US$10,000 in support of the meeting. Joined the GISP Information Management Committee as co-Chair Discussing with the GTI the possibility of acting as a thematic focal point. Discussion with the Association for Biodiversity Information (ABI) creation of International thematic focal point</td>
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<td>3.4 (d) Convene regional workshops to support capacity-building for clearing-house mechanism activities, training and awareness, with a focus on cooperation in biodiversity information for the implementation and management of the clearing house</td>
<td>Goal 3: Provide start-up assistance and ongoing capacity. Strat 7.2.1 Goal 3: Address obstacles to growth. Strat 7.2.2</td>
<td>Assist in the promotion of training programs in developing regions. Emphasize capacity building, particularly education and training.</td>
<td>Assisted in the organization and presentation of a joint BCH/CHM regional capacity building workshop in Africa. Organized CHM Latin American/Caribbean workshop</td>
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<td>clearing-house mechanism at the national, subregional, bio-geographic and regional levels, as appropriate.</td>
<td><strong>Goal 1:</strong> Promotion and facilitation of scientific and technical cooperation</td>
<td>Focus on the use of the CHM to promote technical and scientific cooperation, particularly within the work programme of invasive alien species and the ecosystem approach. Seek advice from SBSTTA on the development of new CHM initiatives to promote technical and scientific cooperation. Seek close links with the GISP, and discuss joint work initiatives.</td>
<td>Workshops in Asia and Central and Eastern Europe are planned.</td>
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<td><strong>3.5 (e)</strong> Develop a pilot initiative to assist work on the thematic issues within the work programme of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, including:</td>
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<td>Discussing with the GISP an invasive species project. Initiated work on a global invasive species network Discussing with WCMC a protected areas/marine and coastal protected areas project.</td>
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<td><strong>3.6 (f)</strong> Propose options for improving ways and means by which the clearing-house mechanism can facilitate access to and transfer of technology.</td>
<td><strong>Goal 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;Obj 5.1.5 strat 5.2.3</td>
<td>Contact the UNDP concerning a survey on information access in technologically underprivileged areas.</td>
<td>Discussing with the Belgian CHM focal point mechanisms and training programs for the transfer of expertise to developing areas. Developing MoU with the GEF/UNEP Sustainable Alternatives Network</td>
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<td><strong>3.7 (g)</strong> Develop a list of best practices and identify potential functions to be recommended for implementation by clearing-house mechanism national focal points.</td>
<td><strong>Goal 1:</strong> Track Best Practices, Needs and Priorities for Collaboration. Strat 5.2.1&lt;br&gt;<strong>Goal 2:</strong> Track information needs, priorities and best practices. Strat 6.2.2</td>
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<td>Discussing with the World Bank participation in the Global Development Gateway. Discussing with UNEP-GEF participation in the Alternative Technologies Network initiative.</td>
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<td>Goal 2: Prioritize and promote expansion in content. Strat 6.2.3</td>
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<td>Using the Dublin Core as the metadata standard for the CHM and BCH web pages.</td>
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<td>Goal 3: Concentrate on value added. Strat 7.2.5</td>
<td>Examine the question of interoperability among CHM National Focal Points.</td>
<td>Will constitute a core group to examine the issue of metadata.</td>
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<td>3.8 (h) Identify possible formats, protocols and standards for the improved exchange of biodiversity-related data, information and knowledge, including national reports, biodiversity assessments and Global Biodiversity Outlook reports, and convene an informal meeting on this issue</td>
<td>Goal 2: development of a global mechanism for exchanging and integrating information on biodiversity Strat 6.2.1 6.2.2 6.2.4</td>
<td>Working with experts to develop metadata guidelines.</td>
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<td>Goal 2: Ensure compatibility through standardization and interoperability. Strat 6.2.1 6.2.2</td>
<td>Planning a formats, protocols and standards meeting on the margins of the SBTTA7</td>
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<td>Goal 3: Maintain local ownership of information. Strat 7.2.4</td>
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<td>3.9 (i) Identify options and explore cooperative arrangements to overcome language barriers affecting the use of the clearing-house mechanism, including the development or consolidation of tools and services.</td>
<td>Goal 3: development of the Clearing-house Mechanism focal points and their partners strat 7.2.2 7.2.3</td>
<td>New web page was designed to accommodate all six UN languages.</td>
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<td>Examine the need to produce information in different languages</td>
<td>The Biosafety Clearing-House has been created to accommodate all six UN Languages.</td>
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<td>3.10 (j) Develop a publicly accessible global electronic platform for scientific and technical cooperation in biodiversity on the Internet matching the demands and needs of Parties in accordance</td>
<td>Goal 2: development of a global mechanism for exchanging and integrating information on biodiversity strat 6.2.1 6.2.2 6.2.2</td>
<td>Discussing with the World Bank participation in the Global Development Gateway.</td>
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<td>Review the usability of the EC’s electronic virtual collaborative environment, the Circle.</td>
<td>Discussing with UNEP-GEF participation in the Alternative Technologies Network</td>
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### Item 4. Progress report on the Biosafety Clearing-House

4.1 Summary of CHM responsibilities;
4.2 Summary of work completed on interoperability standards;
4.3 Summary of work completed on BCH Toolkit;
4.4 Summary of work on capacity building initiatives.

### Item 5. The role of the CHM in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

5. The meeting will consider the role of the CHM in the implementation of the Convention and the messages the IAC may wish to deliver to the MSP and to COP-6.

### Item 6. Preparation for the next meeting of the IAC

6. The meeting will consider the organization of its work prior to the next meeting, drafting of the agenda for its next meeting and decide the date and venue, particularly in regard to technical and scientific cooperation.

   6.1 Draft provisional agenda
   6.2 Tentative date and venue

### Item 7. Other matters

7. The meeting may wish to consider other matters agreed upon for consideration.

### Item 8. Closure of the meeting

8. The meeting will be closed on Sunday 11 November 2001 at 17:00.
Annex I
Provisional organization of work for the Meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee
To the Clearing-house Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Montreal, Canada
11 November 2001

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<td>11 November 2001</td>
<td>2. Organizational matters:</td>
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<td>13:00 to 17:00</td>
<td>2.1 Adoption of the agenda</td>
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<td>2.2 Organization of the work</td>
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<td>2.3 Welcome new members</td>
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<td>3. Progress report on implementation of the Activities identified in Annex II,</td>
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<td>3.1 Activity (a);</td>
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<td>3.2 Activity (b);</td>
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<td>3.3 Activity (c);</td>
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<td>3.4 Activity (d);</td>
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<td>3.5 Activity (e);</td>
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<td>3.6 Activity (f);</td>
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<td>3.7 Activity (g);</td>
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<td>3.8 Activity (h);</td>
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<td>3.9 Activity (i);</td>
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<td>3.10 Activity (j);</td>
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<td>3.11 Activity (k).</td>
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<td>4. Progress report on the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)</td>
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<td>5. Role of the CHM in the implementation of the CBD</td>
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<td>6. Preparation for the next meeting</td>
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<td>7. Other matters</td>
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