



Convention on Biological Diversity

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MEETING OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE TO THE CLEARING-HOUSE
MECHANISM OF THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Hyderabad, India, 7 October 2012

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

General information

1. The meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity will be held on 7 October 2012 in Hyderabad, India, prior to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-11). The Committee will meet in Room G.02 (Contact Group Room II) located on the ground floor of the Hyderabad International Conference Centre (HICC). Access to the conference centre is subject to the on-site registration procedure described in Section 5 of the information note for participants in the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties available at www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-11/other/cop-11-info-note-en.pdf. Registration of participants will commence at 9 a.m. The meeting is expected to start at 9.30 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. as indicated in the proposed organization of work available in annex I.

Background

2. In decision X/15, the Conference of the Parties adopted the mission, goals and objectives of the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2011-2020. In paragraph 5 (b) of this decision, the Executive Secretary was requested to prepare, in consultation with the informal advisory committee and interested Parties, a realistic work programme for the clearing-house mechanism, in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. This work programme is available in document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/31 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

3. In parallel, a number of implementation activities have been undertaken since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Therefore, the Executive Secretary has prepared a progress report on the clearing-house mechanism (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/13/Add.2). This report summarizes the progress made, highlights priorities activities for the next intersessional period, and shares some of the lessons learned so far.

In order to minimize the environmental impacts of the Secretariat's processes, and to contribute to the Secretary-General's initiative for a carbon-neutral UN, this document is printed in limited numbers. Participants are kindly requested to bring their own copy to the meeting.

Expected outcome

4. The main purpose of the meeting is to discuss various aspects of the proposed work programme for the clearing-house mechanisms in order to make recommendations to the Executive Secretary on how to improve its implementation and impact. The meeting will also be an opportunity to brainstorm and share relevant experiences on matters related to the clearing-house mechanism.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The meeting will be opened by a representative of the Executive Secretary at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday 7 October 2012. New members and guests will be welcomed and all participants will be given the opportunity to introduce themselves.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. Adoption of the agenda

6. A provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2012/1/1) has been prepared by the Executive Secretary. This provisional agenda proposes to initiate the substantive part of the meeting by a general presentation from the Secretariat. Throughout the meeting, participants will engage in brainstorming discussions on issues of particular relevance to the clearing-house mechanism with a view to providing guidance to the Executive Secretary. Finally, other matters could be discussed before concluding and closing the meeting. The Committee is expected to review and adopt the agenda for this meeting.

2.2. Organization of work

7. The Committee will be invited to consider the proposed organization of work contained in annex I to the present annotations. The provisional list of relevant documents is available in annex II.

ITEM 3. PRESENTATIONS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION

3.1. Work programme, progress and priorities

8. The first presentation will be made by the Secretariat to provide some general background on the proposed work programme for the clearing-house mechanism. This presentation will include a summary of the progress made since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties as well as the list of priority activities for the next intersessional period until the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. A general discussion will follow during which participants will be encouraged to share their views through questions, comments, and recommendations.

3.2. Other Presentations

9. There will be room for additional presentations by participants willing to share relevant views and experiences with the Committee. Any presentation will be followed by brief questions and answers sessions.

ITEM 4. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION

10. The implementation of the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism involves a wide range of issues which cannot be comprehensively covered through a one-day meeting. Therefore, the Executive Secretary would like to primarily seek the advice from the Committee on the following issues, while remaining open to the consideration of any additional relevant issues:

- (a) Audiences and user experience at global and national levels;
- (b) Ways to support national clearing-house mechanisms;
- (c) Promoting cross-programme coordination and synergies.

4.1. Audiences and user experience at global and national levels

11. In accordance with its mission, the clearing-house mechanism has to provide effective information services which contribute to the implementation of the Convention. Goals 1 and 2 of the clearing-house mechanism further elaborate this mandate at the global and national levels. It is therefore essential to identify target audiences, to understand their expectations, and to get feedback on their experience as users of information services provided by the clearing-house mechanism.

12. Under this item, the Committee is expected to act as a representative of the user community expressing needs and providing feedback for improvements, keeping in mind the complementarity between the global and national levels. The advice from the Committee will be taken into account by the Executive Secretary to improve the information services from the central clearing-house mechanism as well as the guidance for national clearing-house mechanisms.

4.2. Ways to support national clearing-house mechanisms

13. It is a major undertaking for each Party to establish and sustain a national clearing-house mechanism as envisaged under goal 2 of the clearing-house mechanism. This is why the Conference of the Parties has consistently emphasized the need for support to achieve this goal.

14. While the Executive Secretary is willing to provide as much support as possible to Parties, such support is constrained by limited time and resources. Given these constraints, the Executive Secretary would like to consider any advice from the Committee on ways to improve support to national clearing-house mechanisms, preferably in a cost-effective manner and without negatively impacting the development of the central clearing-house mechanism.

4.3. Promoting cross-programme coordination and synergies

15. The clearing-house mechanism has to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 at the global level and the implementation of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) at the national level. Based on this mandate, many programmes include activities related to the clearing-house mechanism, as indicated in the corresponding compilation of draft decisions elements in annex II, Section C of the progress report (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/13/Add.2).

16. However, the high number of decision elements in this annex raises the issue of coordination across various Convention programmes when it comes to information services and other activities related to the clearing-house mechanism. While such coordination can be complex and challenging, it can also bring opportunities for synergies through common services or resource pooling, as described in the lessons learned section of the above-mentioned progress report. The Committee is therefore invited to reflect on these topics and make suggestions on how to increase cross-programme coordination and benefit from further synergies.

4.4. Additional issues

17. Under this sub-item, the Committee will have the opportunity to raise and discuss any relevant issues not covered under the previous sub-items.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

18. Under this item, the Committee may wish to consider any other matters. For instance, the Committee could investigate ways to improve its operations taking into account paragraphs 37 and 38 of the progress report (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/13/Add.2), or discuss the preparation of the COP-11 side-event on the clearing-house mechanism.

ITEM 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

19. The Committee will be kindly requested to formulate general conclusions and recommendations based on the outcomes of the discussions on the various issues considered during the meeting.

ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

20. The meeting is expected to be closed at 5 p.m. on Sunday 7 October 2012.

*Annex I***PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK***Sunday, 7 October 2012*

9 a.m. - 9.30 a.m.

Registration and welcome

9.30 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - 2.1. Adoption of the agenda;
 - 2.2. Organization of the work.
3. Presentations and general discussion:
 - 3.1. Work programme, progress and priorities;
 - 3.2. Other presentations.

10.30 a.m. - 10.45 a.m.

Coffee break

10.45 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

3. Presentations and general discussion (*continued*).
4. Issues for in-depth consideration:
 - 4.1. Audiences and user experience at global and national levels;
 - 4.2. Ways to support national clearing-house mechanisms.

12.30 p.m. - 2.00 p.m.

Lunch break

2.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

4. Issues for in-depth consideration (*continued*):
 - 4.3. Promoting cross-programme coordination and synergies;
 - 4.4. Additional issues.

3.30 p.m. - 3.45 p.m.

Coffee break

3.45 p.m. - 5 p.m.

5. Other matters;
6. Conclusions and recommendations;

5 p.m.

7. Closure of the meeting.

Annex II

PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working documents

- UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2012/1/1
Provisional agenda
- UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2012/1/1/Add.1
Annotations to the provisional agenda

Relevant COP 11 documents

- UNEP/CBD/COP/11/13/Add.2
Progress report on the clearing-house mechanism
- UNEP/CBD/COP/11/31
Proposed work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

Other documents

- Information note for participants (COP 11)
