

**Convention on
Biological Diversity**Distr.
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ENGLISH ONLY

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

Montreal, Canada, 1 May 2016

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**INTRODUCTION***General information*

1. The meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM-IAC) of the Convention on Biological Diversity will be held on Sunday 1 May 2016 in Montreal, Canada, prior to the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 1). The venue will be the main conference room of the CBD Secretariat.
2. The registration of participants to the CHM-IAC meeting 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. Annex II contains the provisional list of meeting documents. These documents are available online at www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=chmiac-2016-01.

Background

3. 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 and, in paragraph 11 of decision XI/2 B, welcomed the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in support of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/31) and agreed to keep this work programme under review. More recently, in section 3 of decision XII/2 B, the Conference of the Parties made a number of requests concerning the clearing-house mechanism.
4. The previous meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM-IAC) was held in Montreal, Canada, on 30-31 October 2015, to review the progress made on the clearing-house mechanism. The report of that meeting (UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2015/1/3) includes recommendations to the Executive Secretary.

5. In preparation for the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, the Executive Secretary has prepared several documents related to the clearing-house mechanism, including a note on capacity building, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and the clearing-house mechanism (UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/6), the web strategy for the Convention and its Protocols (UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/6/Add.2), and an information note providing additional information on this web strategy (UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/INF/3).

Expected outcome

6. The main purpose of the meeting is to follow up on the progress made on the clearing-house mechanism in the light of decision XII/2 B as well as on the guidance of the Committee to the Executive Secretary. The meeting will also be an opportunity to share views on the clearing-house mechanism prior to the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 1).

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

7. The meeting will be opened by a representative of the Executive Secretary at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday, 1 May 2015. All participants will be given the opportunity to introduce themselves.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. Adoption of the agenda

8. A provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2016/1/1) has been prepared by the Executive Secretary. The Committee is expected to review and adopt the agenda for this meeting.

2.2. Organization of work

9. The Committee will be invited to consider the proposed organization of work contained in annex I.

ITEM 3. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION

10. Given the time available for the present meeting, the Committee will be invited to consider the following key issues for an in-depth discussion, while additional relevant issues can be raised and discussed at the end of this agenda item:

- (a) Award for national clearing-house mechanisms;
- (b) Support to national clearing-house mechanisms;
- (c) Technical and scientific cooperation;
- (d) Web strategy;
- (e) Online reporting tool;
- (f) Interoperability.

11. Section IV of document UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/6 contains a summary of the progress made on the above-mentioned topics.

3.1. Award for national clearing-house mechanisms

12. In paragraph 15 of decision XII/2 B, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to propose, in collaboration with the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism, a process to grant, at the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, subject to the availability of resources, an award to the Parties that had made the most significant progress in the establishment or further development of their national clearing-house mechanisms.

13. The Secretariat will summarize progress made in this area. Under, this sub-item, the Committee will be invited to provide advice on how to plan the next steps in this process until the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

3.2. Support to national clearing-house mechanisms

14. In paragraph 15 of decision XII/2 B, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and partners to provide support to developing country Parties that were developing their national clearing-house mechanisms. In paragraph 16 of the same decision, it also invited Parties and donors to continue to provide financial support to establish and strengthen their national clearing-house mechanisms, including for content preparation, and for translation to facilitate the sharing of information and knowledge.

15. The Secretariat will summarize progress made in this area thanks to support from Japan and other Parties. More specifically, the Secretariat will report on the recent regional workshop for Central and Eastern Europe and Western Asia on the clearing-house mechanism held from 4 to 8 April 2016 in Belgrade, Serbia, as well as on the recent developments and use of the new Bioland tool, available at <https://demo.chm-cbd.net>, to assist Parties in the establishment of their national clearing-house mechanisms. The report of this workshop is available in document UNEP/CBD/CHM/WS/2016/2/2.

16. Participants will also be invited to share information on any other relevant initiatives in support of national clearing-house mechanism, such as the capacity-building workshop for francophone partner countries of the Belgian Clearing-House Mechanism, held from 1 to 3 February 2016 in Cotonou, Benin.

17. Under this sub-item, the Committee will be invited to provide advice on how to improve such support for further developing national clearing-house mechanisms.

3.3. Technical and scientific cooperation

18. In paragraph 9 of decision XII/2 B, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to enhance technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer under the Convention, and report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its first meeting. Section III of document UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/6 summarizes progress on this issue, including on the Bio-Bridge Initiative, launched by the Republic of Korea at the twelfth Conference of the Parties, to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

19. The Secretariat will summarize progress made in this area. Under, this sub-item, the Committee will be invited to exchange views and comments on the Bio-Bridge Initiative.

3.4. Web strategy

20. In paragraph 19 of its decision XII/2 B, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop a web strategy to ensure that all information common or relevant to the clearing-house mechanism, the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and the Biosafety Clearing-House, as well as other platforms developed under the Convention, could be accessed centrally to avoid duplication of efforts, and to provide this strategy to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, for its consideration at its first meeting, in preparation for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

21. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary has prepared a web strategy for the Convention and its Protocols (UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/6/Add.2). Under this sub-item, the Committee may wish to exchange views and comments on this document in preparation for its consideration by the the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its first meeting.

3.5. Online reporting tool

22. In paragraph 18(a) of decision XII/2 B, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to establish a fully functional online reporting tool enabling Parties to submit, on a voluntary basis, information on their progress towards national targets and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, directly involving Parties in the development and testing of this tool.

23. The Secretariat will summarize progress made in this area, including the fact that the online reporting tool is now ready for official submission at <https://chm.cbd.int>, as announced through notification 2016-038 issued on 21 March 2016. A test version remains available at <https://dev-chm.cbd.int>.

24. Participants will also be invited to share information on any other relevant initiatives related to synergies in online reporting, such as the Target Cross-linking Tool (TCT) developed by the European Union, and its possible interconnection with the online reporting tool through interoperability.

25. Under this item, the Committee will be invited to provide feedback and advice for further developments in online reporting.

3.6. Interoperability

26. In paragraphs 18(b) and 18(c) of decision XII/2 B, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to continue developing the following interoperability services of the central clearing-house mechanism:

(a) Interoperability with national clearing-house mechanisms, among which is the existing portal toolkit used by many national and regional clearing-house mechanisms, where applicable;

(b) Interoperability with InforMEA to allow relevant information on the Convention on Biological Diversity to be globally searchable on the InforMEA website.

27. The Secretariat will summarize progress made in this area. Under this sub-item, the Committee will be invited to provide advice on how to further develop interoperability within the network of the clearing-house mechanism.

3.7. *Additional issues*

28. 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

29. Under this item, the Committee may wish to consider any other matter, such as matters related to the operations of the Committee.

ITEM 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

30. The Committee will be invited 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

31. The meeting is expected to be closed at 5 p.m. on Sunday, 1 May 2016.

Annex I

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Sunday, 1 May 2016

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 work
3. Issues for in-depth consideration:
 - 3.1. Award for national clearing-house mechanisms

10.30 a.m. - 10.45 a.m.

Coffee break

10.45 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

3. Issues for in-depth consideration: (*continued*)
 - 3.2. Support to national clearing-house mechanisms
 - 3.3. Technical and scientific cooperation
 - 3.4. Web strategy

12.30 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Lunch break

2 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

3. Issues for in-depth consideration: (*continued*)
 - 3.5. Online reporting tool
 - 3.6. Interoperability
 - 3.7. Additional issues

3.30 p.m. - 3.45 p.m.

Coffee break

3.45 p.m. - 5 p.m.

4. Other matters
5. Conclusions and recommendations

5 p.m.

6. Closure of the meeting

*Annex II***PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS*****Meeting documents***

- UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2016/1/1
Provisional agenda
- UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2016/1/1/Add.1
Annotations to the provisional agenda
- UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2016/1/2
Report of the meeting ¹

Relevant documents from the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 1)

- UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/6
Capacity building, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and the clearing-house mechanism
- UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/6/Add.2
Web strategy for the Convention and its Protocols
- UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/INF/3
Additional information on the Web strategy for the Convention and its Protocols

Relevant documents from other meetings

- UNEP/CBD/CHM/WS/2016/2/2
Report of the regional workshop for Central and Eastern Europe and Western Asia on the clearing-house mechanism
(Belgrade, Serbia, 4-8 April 2016)
- UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2015/1/3
Report of the meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism
(Montreal, Canada, 30-31 October 2015)
- 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 (SBI 1)

¹ To be made available after the meeting.