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BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES
Barcelona, Spain
4 October 2008

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY HELD IN
BARCELONA, SPAIN ON 4 OCTOBER 2008**

INTRODUCTION

1. The first meeting of the COP-9 Bureau was held on 4 October 2008 in the Centre de Convencions Internacional Barcelona (CCIB), in Barcelona, Spain, back to back with the 4th World Conservation Congress of IUCN. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, Director General, Nature Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Government of Germany, representing the President of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The following Bureau members attended the meeting:

Ms. Somaly Chan (Cambodia)
Ms. Tania Temata (Cook Islands)
Mr. Joseph Ronald Toussaint (Haiti)
Professor James H. Seyani (Malawi)
Mr. Damaso Luna (Mexico)
Ms. Snezana Prokic (Serbia)
Ms. Åsa Norrman (Sweden)
Dr. Abdelbagi Mukhtar Ali (Sudan)
Mr. Robert Lamb (Switzerland)
Dr. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine)

2. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Kazuaki Hoshino and Mr. Hiroshi Horiuchi of the Ministry of Environment of Japan, as well as Mr. Masayoshi Mizuno and Ms. Tokuko Nabeshima of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan as ex-officio members as the host of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Mr Fernando Casas and Mr. Timothy Hodges, Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) also attended the meeting as well as Mr Spencer Thomas, the Chair of SBSTTA. The Executive Director of UNEP was represented by Mr Bakary Kante, Director of DELC. The secretariat was represented by the Executive Secretary of the Convention, Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Mr. Oliver Jalbert, Principal Officer of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ms Dominique Kayser, the Secretary of the Governing Bodies and Ms Nandhini Krishna, the SCBD Liaison officer in New York.

ITEM 1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The meeting was opened by Mr. Flasbarth, on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Sigmar Gabriel, Minister of Environment of Germany. He welcomed the members and informed them that Minister Gabriel had officially nominated him as President of the Bureau, a role he welcomed, and stated that

the German Government takes its role as President of the COP-9 Bureau very seriously. He stressed that the Bureau would face an intense work schedule in the lead up to COP-10 and expressed the hope that the Bureau would engage as much as possible in the process. He stated that it was the wish of the Presidency to work closely with the Bureau, and through them the regions, during the inter-sessional period as teamwork would be crucial in order to meet the clear agenda delivered by the Conference of the Parties. As a first step, he expressed the hope that the Bureau would agree to a second meeting in 2008 in order to move the agenda as far as possible.

4. The President also expressed appreciation for the participation of the ex-officio members from Japan, and welcomed Japan's input to the Bureau's deliberations in the process leading up to COP-10. He then welcomed, as standing guests to the COP-9 Bureau, the ABS Co-chairs whose ongoing reports and advice would be welcomed by the Bureau. Lastly, the President welcomed the SBSTTA Chair and the representative of UNEP.

5. The President expressed thanks to the Executive Secretary and the staff of the Secretariat for the excellent COP-9 preparations and on-site efforts, as well as the work that had been conducted since. He informed the Bureau that the Presidency had held a first meeting with the Executive Secretary and Secretariat staff in Montreal on 13-14 August 2008. He informed the Bureau that the Presidency found the Secretariat ready and prepared to fully implement the decisions taken at COP-9. He commended the Executive Secretary and the CEO of the GEF for the establishment of a strong working relationship between the two institutions as evidenced by the high level dialogue held with the COP-8 Bureau in Paris in July 2007.

6. Speaking with regard to COP-9, the President informed the Bureau that the Presidency considers COP-9 to have achieved important steps, particularly with respect to ABS, the biodiversity-climate change nexus, bio-fuels and linking protected areas to funding mechanisms. In light of the fact that the COP had not approved all additional human resource requirements, he underlined that the Presidency recognizes the challenge facing the Secretariat in addressing all decisions with limited resources. On a related theme, he stressed that the funding necessary for activities called for in COP decisions must be addressed by the Bureau. He further stressed that resource mobilisation to allow for decisions to be acted upon would be a crucial role for the Bureau to play.

7. The Executive Secretary welcomed Bureau members and expressed the view that the meeting was unique for a number of reasons. He commended its composition, involving as ex-officio representatives the COP-10 Presidency, the standing involvement of the ABS co-chairs, as well as the invitation extended to the SBSTTA Chair and the Executive Director of UNEP to join in the deliberations. In addition, the decision to organise the first Bureau meeting on the margins of the important IUCN World Conservation Congress was a testament to the wisdom of the Presidency, as it allowed the Nagoya Roadmap to be finalised in a very timely manner. He thanked the Presidency for COP-9 and for the leadership being shown.

8. The Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that the documents before the Bureau had been agreed upon through consultation with the Presidency. He underlined the readiness of the Secretariat to assist the Bureau whenever necessary, in working to meet the challenges of inter-sessional period. With respect to preparations already underway for the inter-sessional period, he drew the attention of Bureau members to agenda Item 5 on the Calendar of inter-sessional meetings where, he indicated, a detailed documents preparation schedule for those inter-sessional meetings, as well as COP-10, with funding secured in COP-9 Decision on the Budget, could be found. In follow-up to comments made by the Presidency regarding the limited resources within the Secretariat, the Executive Secretary indicated that the Secretariat will not be in a position to fulfill all the 274 decision requests addressed to the Executive Secretary without the leadership of the Bureau.

9. The Executive Secretary advised the Bureau that, at the kind invitation of the government of Japan, two missions to Japan had been organised for him in the wake of COP-9. The first, in June, to participate in kick-off preparations for COP-10, and again in September on the margins of the EcoAsia 2008 Conference held in Nagoya. He stated how impressed he was with the full commitment of the Japanese authorities and people for the success of the Nagoya meetings.

10. The President then moved to the agenda items for consideration.

ITEM 2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

11. Under this agenda item, the Bureau adopted the agenda outlined below:
1. Opening of the meeting
 2. Adoption of the agenda
 3. Briefing of the COP-9 President on inter-sessional activities
 4. Briefing of the Co-chairs on the Implementation of the Bonn mandate on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS)
 5. Calendar of inter-sessional meetings
 6. Draft agenda of the inter-sessional meetings
 7. Preparation of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on biodiversity and climate change, including adoption of the list of experts
 8. Report on the availability of financial resources for the implementation of COP-9 decisions
 9. Revision of the strategic plan of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity//International Year on Biodiversity
 10. Briefing on the preparation of COP-10
 11. Date and venue of the second and third meetings of the COP-9 Bureau
 12. Other matters
 13. Closure of the meeting

ITEM 3 BRIEFING OF THE COP-9 PRESIDENT ON INTER-SESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

12. The President made a brief presentation highlighting the focus of the Presidency's planned activities during the inter-sessional period. He underlined Minister Gabriel's commitment to involve Ministerial level participation through a Friends of the Presidency modality, where and when necessary, during the inter-sessional period.

13. He then outlined the Presidency's Bonn Agenda which included the following elements: ABS; the LifeWeb Initiative; Mobilizing financial resources; The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB); the science-policy interface (IPBES), "Beyond 2010"; and, Global Biodiversity Governance. He then spoke briefly about each of the key activities in the Bonn Agenda.

14. Access and benefit-sharing is considered by the Presidency to be key to the Convention process. The President extended to the ABS Co-chairs any help necessary and indicated the Presidency's willingness to react when necessary. He outlined the possibility of organising a high level Ministers Meeting, for example, on the margins of the UNEP Governing Council in order to assess progress since COP-9 and encourage continued constructive advancement or, if necessary, broker compromise on issues.

15. With respect to the LifeWeb Initiative, the tool proposed by the German Government and decided by the COP to assist in implementing the programme of work on protected areas, the President expressed the willingness of the Government of Germany to fund a staff position to enhance the human resources of the Secretariat in relation to the work under the LifeWeb Initiative. He advised the Bureau that a German government's initial budget of the Initiative stood at €40 million and that €30 million in projects had already been allocated. For the period until 2012, in addition to this budget line, another € 500 million will be provided by the German government. He advised members that interest and involvement was high, citing inter alia, participation of NGOs and the scientific sector. The President informed the Bureau that a report on preliminary project results would be presented at the November meeting of the Bureau.

16. The third prong of the Presidency's Bonn Agenda focuses on mobilizing appropriate financing for all three pillars of the CBD. The President informed the Bureau of the Presidency's interest in enhancing cooperation between the CBD and the GEF, as well as in exploring new avenues of innovative funding. He stressed that the Presidency does not see the value of promoting a new international funding institution and encourages continued cooperation with the GEF.

17. The President then raised the issue of the study on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), launched by the G8 + 5 meeting at Potsdam in 2007 and whose interim report was released during the high level segment of COP-9, and that is setting out a comprehensive and compelling economic case for the conservation of biodiversity. He advised Bureau members that UNEP had agreed to establish a Secretariat to support the work of Pavan Sukhdev and his team. He further advised the Bureau that it was the wish of the Presidency to link TEEB to the official UNEP agenda, as well as to see a complete report released just prior to COP-10 that would demonstrate the economic impacts of non-action.

18. In briefing the Bureau on the issue of 'beyond 2010', the President candidly shared the view that the 2010 target will unfortunately, not be met globally and at every geographical scale. He impressed upon the Bureau the need to include all players and share ideas on how to arrive at a new, inspiring target, and to use examples drawn from countries that have reached targets.

19. In closing his briefing, the President then spoke to the issue of global biodiversity governance and the need to assess whether the approach remains efficient and appropriate. He stressed the need for effective science/policy interface which could be established by the proposed International platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES), and raised the possibility that some changes in the governance structure of the Convention may be required.

20. The representative of Haiti expressed thanks to the President for informing the Bureau of the goals it seeks to achieve and what legacy it wishes to leave to the Presidency of COP-10. With respect to the goals 'beyond 2010', he requested that consideration be given to countries that face post conflict situations, extreme poverty and natural disasters, as these factors can seriously jeopardize achievement of both the 2010 and Millennium Development Goal targets. The representative from Malawi supported the call for special ministerial level meetings in supporting the work of the inter-sessional period and expressed the hope that opportunities for high-level dialogue not be restricted to the margins of the UNEP Governing Council and the next COP.

ITEM 4 BRIEFING OF THE CO-CHAIRS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BONN MANDATE ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING (ABS)

21. The ABS Co-chairs presented the detailed report they had submitted for the consideration of the Bureau. They advised Bureau members that the report outlined the strategic work plan for the inter-sessional period. They underlined their view that the mandate received at COP-9 required difficult and demanding action during the inter-sessional period and that they counted on the Bureau in moving the process forward fruitfully. They highlighted the importance of WGABS-7, which will be informed by significant input, including studies and the results of two expert group meetings, in setting the tone for negotiations. They underlined their need to be actively involved and engaged in consultations at the regional and inter-regional levels and view their participation in Bureau meetings as vital.

22. In outlining their interim inter-sessional strategic and operational approach to ABS, the Co-chairs highlighted their views regarding the role of the Bureau and of Ministers, the need for resources to complete the task at hand, and the status of stakeholder engagement in the process.

23. With respect to the role of the Bureau, the Co-chairs emphasized their view that the Bureau should consider itself a 'dedicated Bureau', as its guidance would be essential for the effective management of negotiations during the meetings of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on ABS. They advised members that they counted on the Bureau to play a significant role in communication flows with and between regions, and expected their leadership intra- and inter-regionally to enhance awareness of ABS and the issues under negotiation.

24. In support of the role for Ministers expressed by the Presidency and the representative from Malawi earlier in the meeting, the Co-chairs underlined the view that Ministers can play a leadership role in building awareness of ABS, both domestically and internationally, as well as in finding compromise on certain difficult political issues, where appropriate.

25. With regard to the financial support required to support the work of the Co-chairs, they expressed gratitude to Parties who had to date provided financial support and to the Executive

Secretary who has been championing provision of such support on their behalf. They stressed however, that given the mandate allocated to them by COP-9, to be active and to hold regional and inter-regional consultations, additional support would be required. They appealed to Bureau members to solicit adequate support to allow them to fulfill their role as mandated by the COP.

26. The Co-chairs expressed satisfaction with the fact that stakeholder participation in the ABS process had improved and advised the Bureau that they had held informal consultations with business, academics, NGOs and various representatives of indigenous and local communities. They did signal however, that the engagement of other stakeholders was still missing. One example they cited, was with respect to the scientific community, but expressed encouragement at the upcoming meeting scheduled in November this year in Bonn that will bring together the scientific community. The Co-chairs strongly encouraged Bureau members to liaise with members in their respective regions, stressing that the support of Bureau members with respect to stakeholder engagement would be crucial to achieve a positive outcome in Nagoya. They also stressed the fact that they counted on the Bureau's ex-officio member, representing the COP-10 Presidency, in supporting advancement of the ABS roadmap.

27. The Co-chairs advised the Bureau that they intend to participate as observers in the three expert group meetings scheduled, as this would enhance their learning and understanding of the process as it moves forward. They also pointed out that the ABS process is not solely CBD exclusive but rather, associates the CBD with the work of other bodies including, the International Treaty on Plant and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). For this reason, the Co-chairs advised the Bureau that they have, and will continue - assuming funding availability, to observe such related meetings.

28. In response to the last point, the representative from Malawi queried the Co-chairs regarding involvement of the private sector in the ABS process. He indicated that in the African region, they may wish to consider meeting with Chambers of Commerce or perhaps even the African Union. The Co-chairs acknowledged the suggestion and responded that to date, the private sector involvement in the ABS process had been strong but principally limited to the developed country industrial base. That said, they indicated that commercialization of genetic resources was not the exclusive domain of industry and that commercial interests in the process were diverse, hence the need to continue to engage all relevant stakeholders.

29. The Bureau member from Haiti congratulated the Co-chairs on their comprehensive report and, further to suggestions from the Bureau members from Malawi and Mexico, agreed that in order for the Bureau to be helpful on ABS issues that the Co-chairs would have to report regularly to the Bureau on the nature and results of their external discussions. He further asked the Co-chairs to build on lessons learned in similar negotiation processes, citing negotiation of the Biosafety Protocol as an example, and also asked that they consider carefully the relationship of the instrument to be developed with other multilateral instruments, stressing the need for logical synergies to be encouraged.

30. The representative from the Cook Islands also expressed thanks to the Co-chairs for their report. She indicated that the Asia Pacific region was a large and diverse region, composed of 5 sub-regions, making the work of its Bureau representatives daunting. She therefore, requested the assistance of the Secretariat to create a listserv that would facilitate communication of the ASP Bureau members with the members of their regional group. The Secretariat indicated that this was indeed possible and would be done.

31. The Bureau member from Cambodia raised the issue of the need for targeted capacity building support on ABS for the regions and asked the Secretariat for support in this regard. The President expressed strong support for provision of a capacity building initiative for ABS for the regions, citing the success of support provided to the African region through funding generously provided by the Governments of the Netherlands and Germany. The representative from UNEP shared with the Bureau his organization's extensive global experience in provision of capacity building activities on climate change and indicated that UNEP would be pleased to share this experience in support of ABS capacity building. The Bureau member from Mexico reported that the sixteenth Forum of Ministers for Latin America had identified capacity building on ABS as a priority for the region. In acknowledging that capacity building was key, the representative from the Ukraine indicated that assistance from the

Secretariat would also be appreciated for the CEE region. The representative from Haiti added his voice to that of the other members but also proposed that capacity building efforts should target enhancing negotiation skills in support of all multilateral environmental agreements.

32. In support of these suggestions, the Executive Secretary proposed replication of the Dutch/German capacity building support for the African region through the development of a UNEP GEF medium size project (MSP), for which he indicated the GEF CEO had indicated support. In response to this suggestion, the Bureau member from Switzerland indicated that Switzerland and Germany had provided funding for a related GEF project in Africa and Asia and the Pacific in 2004, but that the matter remained pending. He therefore, asked UNEP to report on the status of the project at the next meeting of the Bureau.

33. The Co-chairs proposed that immediate capacity building needs were twofold: enhanced capacity to negotiate the international regime; and, enhanced national and sub-national capacity to implement the Bonn guidelines and a future international regime.

34. In closing the discussion on this issue, the President stated that it was obvious that capacity building was a key concern and therefore, called for consultation between the Secretariat, UNEP, the GEF, the Co-chairs and the Presidency to discuss the needs, and to arrive at a proposal through which to address these needs by the next Bureau meeting.

35. The last issue for discussion under this agenda item concerned the nominations to the Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Concepts, Terms, Working Definitions and Sectoral Approaches being held in Namibia from 2-5 December. The Executive Secretary presented the list of nominees to the Bureau, highlighting the fact that the list was in some places incomplete and that the Secretariat was therefore proposing to send a final updated list of nominations to the Bureau during the week of 6 October. In response to a question put forth by the Bureau member from Sweden regarding extension of the submission period, the Executive Secretary clarified that the submission period was not being extended but that incomplete submissions were associated with those that had not been accompanied by a CV, thereby rendering the assessment process difficult. CVs would therefore be solicited and the process completed.

36. With respect to the nominations received, the President noted that representation for the CEE region appeared weak. The Secretariat indicated that 6 nomination slots were available per region but that even considering nominations from Georgia and Tajikistan, representation for the CEE region was weak. The President therefore suggested that the CEE Bureau members discuss the issue with the Co-chairs and the Secretariat prior to conducting immediate outreach to the members of the region to solicit greater participation. He then concluded by suggesting that the Secretariat circulate a full and updated list of nominations to the Bureau by 17 October following which, the Secretariat would issue a notification and invitations to participants. This was agreed upon by the Bureau.

ITEM 5 CALENDAR OF INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS

37. The Executive Secretary introduced the proposed calendar of inter-sessional meetings, outlining that it had been designed taking into consideration the core budget, availability of funds, decisions of the COP, as well as requests to the Executive Secretary set out by the COP. With regard to planning for WGABS-9, he explained that the Secretariat had received official correspondence from the Government of Colombia indicating that, given financial considerations, the government was not in a position to commit to hosting the meeting at present. He further indicated that no confirmation had been received from the Government of Malaysia regarding their offer to host WGABS-8 and WGA8(j)-6. As a result, he informed the Bureau that the Secretariat was exploring the possibility of hosting the meetings in Montreal, as well as pursuing the possibility of working with UNEP and the ITPGRFA to have the meetings hosted in either Nairobi or Rome.

38. The President then drew the attention of the Bureau to the dates for WGABS-7. The Bureau member from Switzerland informed the Bureau that a concern had been raised by one member of his region as to what had come of the offer from the ITPGRFA to host the meeting in Rome, with support from the governments of Spain and Sweden? If it was not possible to host the meeting in Rome, he expressed the view that the member felt the meeting should be held in Montreal. In response, the Executive Secretary explained that due to the timing needs of the ABS agenda and scheduling

conflicts at FAO, it was impossible to find a suitable suite of dates at FAO. He explained that with the support of the host country, consultations are being held with ICAO to have it play its role as the lead UN agency in Canada, which would provide the opportunity for the Secretariat to convene meetings in Montreal at reasonable conference services costs as it is the case at all other UN premises.

39. The President then asked the Bureau if there were any comments regarding the inter-sessional calendar as a whole. The Bureau member from Switzerland indicated that the dates proposed for SBSTTA-14 in 2010 were considered to be late and asked whether it would be possible to advance the dates of the meeting.

40. The Chair of SBSTTA, on behalf of the SBSTTA Bureau, expressed the gratitude to the COP Bureau for inviting him to participate in its meeting. He informed the Bureau that the SBSTTA Bureau had met electronically since COP-9 and the SBSTTA Bureau was concerned about the over 2 year lag that would occur between SBSTTA-13 and SBSTTA-14, particularly given the role of SBSTTA with respect to preparation of GBO 3. The President responded that the unfortunate reality of the COP budget decisions was that provision had been made for one SBSTTA meeting during the 2008-2010 period. The Bureau member from Mexico indicated, for the record, that the members of his region had expressed great concern that only one SBSTTA meeting would be organised, and that the constituency felt that the quality of scientific input could be compromised by there being only one meeting.

41. The discussion then turned to the issue of the dates for SBSTTA and the rationale for holding the SBSTTA meeting back to back with the WGRI-3 meeting. It was stressed that since WGRI-3 will address the strategic plan of the CBD post-2010, holding the meetings too early in 2010 would not leave the Secretariat enough time for effective preparation of documents. The SBSTTA Chair indicated that in determining a suitable date for SBSTTA, consideration must be given to the launch of GBO 3. The President then asked the Secretariat to determine whether scheduling SBSTTA earlier would be feasible?

42. There then followed expressions of support for meetings, led by the Bureau member from Sweden who indicated that if the Government of Malaysia was unable to host the WGA8(j)-6 meeting that the Government of Sweden would be prepared to host the meeting. When asked for clarification, the representative of Sweden indicated that the offer covered the WGA8(j)-6 meeting only, not both WGABS-8 and WGA8(j)-6. As it is important that WGABS-8 and WGA8(j)-6 be held back-to-back, it was agreed that the offer would not be explored further.

43. The representative from UNEP advised the Bureau that UNEP was ready to host either an ABS or the SBSTTA meeting, should it be the wish of the Bureau. Clarification was requested by the representative from Haiti who asked whether UNEP would also be prepared to host the WGA8(j)-6 meeting? UNEP responded in the affirmative, noting that WGABS-8 and WGA8(j) could be held back-to-back in Nairobi. Noting the appreciation of the Bureau, the President indicated that this offer could be very helpful in addressing the uncertainties that remained in planning the inter-sessional calendar. He thanked UNEP for its flexibility and indicated that the Bureau must ensure that the other offers received during COP-9 were no longer possible. On this note, he indicated that the Presidency would raise the issue with the Government of Malaysia during an upcoming mission to Kuala Lumpur on the occasion of the IPBES negotiations, and that he would report back to the Bureau on this issue at its November meeting.

44. The SBSTTA Chair then advised Bureau members that the SBSTTA Bureau had discussed the possibility of organising an 8 day SBSTTA as opposed to a 5 day meeting, a format that may allow for consideration of all the issues to be addressed. The President indicated that he found the proposal interesting, but that the financial implications involved would require donors to fund the additional days identified. The Executive Secretary welcomed the offer made by UNEP, indicating that no SBSTTA meeting had ever been held in Nairobi.

45. Further to a comment from the President indicating that all decisions to be addressed within the context of the inter-sessional period suffered from under-funding, the Bureau member from Switzerland indicated that this fact was recognized within his region. He expressed the view that, if possible, additional time for SBSTTA would be valuable. He requested that the Secretariat send a letter to the Bureau explaining the critical value of allocating additional days for the SBSTTA meeting so that within the region it could be promoted as a priority.

46. The representative from UNEP followed up on this request by indicating that UNEP was in the process of considering budget allocations and therefore, requesting that the Secretariat provide UNEP with the cost analysis for the SBSTTA, 8J and ABS meetings.

47. The President indicated to the Bureau that efforts should be made to identify the funds necessary to allow for an 8 day SBSTTA meeting. With that, the Bureau adopted the dates of 2-8 April for the WGABS-7, as well as the inter-sessional agenda, with a request to the Secretariat to liaise with the SBSTTA Bureau and the Presidency to determine whether earlier dates may be identified for the SBSTTA-14 and WGRI-3 meetings, where the SBSTTA meeting would preferably be held for 8 days and where the meetings would be preferably be held in Nairobi.

ITEM 6 DRAFT AGENDA OF THE INTER-SESSIONAL MEETINGS

48. Due to the time constraints, the President proposed that the Bureau consider only the agenda for WGABS-7 at this meeting and that the remainder of the inter-sessional meeting agendas be considered at its next meeting. He further indicated that any comments on the remaining agendas that Bureau members may wish to make during the inter-Bureau period would be welcome. One of the ABS Co-chairs then introduced the draft agenda for WGABS-7, stating that the document reflects the decision adopted at COP9.

49. The Chair of SBSTTA conveyed the concerns of the SBSTTA Bureau regarding the feasibility of accommodating the draft agenda of SBSTTA-14 and 15, as adopted by SBSTTA-13, in one single meeting. The President proposed the SBSTTA-14 agenda be discussed at the next Bureau meeting. He further proposed that the representatives from Malawi, Mexico and Serbia liaise with the Secretariat and the SBSTTA Bureau to finalise a draft agenda for that subsidiary body's 14th meeting for the consideration of the COP Bureau at its next meeting.

50. The proposal to postpone the consideration of the draft agenda of the other inter-sessional meetings to the next meeting of the Bureau was agreed upon and the agenda for WGABS-7 was accepted.

ITEM 7 PREPARATION OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP (AHTEG) ON BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE, INCLUDING ADOPTION OF THE LIST OF EXPERTS

51. The Executive Secretary introduced the list of nominated participants to the AHTEG on biodiversity and climate change and informed the Bureau that the list has been adopted by the Bureau of SBSTTA. Chair of SBSTTA provided further clarification, informing the Bureau members that the SBSTTA Bureau had cleared the list but the comments from EU were still awaited. He also provided explanation regarding the criteria used for the selection of experts.

52. The Bureau endorsed the suggested list and agreed that the representative of Japan will be invited to attend the meeting as an observer in his capacity as incoming COP-10 President. The Bureau also agreed that the representative from Serbia would represent the Bureau at the AHTEG as an observer.

ITEM 8 REPORT ON THE AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COP-9 DECISIONS

53. The Executive Secretary introduced this agenda item indicating that the COP Presidency had requested that all COP decisions for which no resources had been earmarked, either in the core budget or in the voluntary trust funds, be highlighted. He indicated that a shortfall of 1.8 million US\$ arose. In response to a query raised by the Bureau members from Malawi regarding FAO support, the Executive Secretary confirmed that the FAO has decided to resume its past practice of seconding a staff member to the Secretariat. He also informed the Bureau that the seconded staff of Bioversity (former IPGRI) had already taken up his assignment and a seconded staff from Japan would soon join the secretariat. He also advised the Bureau that the post of liaison officer of UNDP to the CBD has been advertised.

54. The President stated that many COP decisions were unfunded. He stated that as the Presidency of the COP, Germany would be seeking enhanced support from donors as there is a need to enlarge the

donors' base in support to the agreed activities of the Convention. He sought the support of the members of the Bureau in working to secure additional funds. The UNEP representative indicated that UNEP was willing to support the Executive Secretary and the Presidency in their efforts.

55. The President requested the Secretariat to issue a notification to all donors, attaching the list of underfunded activities. In order to proceed, should any unfunded activity remain after such notification, he invited the representatives of Cook Islands and Switzerland to assist him in preparing, for the consideration of the next meeting of the Bureau, a short list of priorities to be then forwarded to donors through a personal letter of the President of COP-9.

ITEM 10 REVISION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

56. In introducing this agenda item the President stressed that an honest assessment would have to be made in reviewing the implementation of the 2010 biodiversity target, which was unlikely to be reached at every geographical level. He stressed that the main challenge would be how to devise post-2010 targets in an honest, credible and positive manner. He indicated that it would be desirable to have this endorsed at the UNGA High Level Segment to be held in September 2010. The Secretariat as the focal point for this exercise should liaise with UNEP, which was invited to establish an interagency process. He also indicated that the Presidency would like to convene an Eminent/Wise Persons workshop in the winter of 2008/2009 to brainstorm on the post-2010 biodiversity target, similar to the Potsdam workshop that was held in December 2006. In parallel to the UN interagency process, a bottom up consultative process should be launched involving stakeholders, the scientific community and the general public.

57. The representative of UNEP stated that UNEP strongly supported an open post-2010 process and that his organisation would wait for the Executive Secretary to provide guidance and direction. He also stated that UNEP would be prepared to contribute funding for the interagency consultation process.

58. The Executive Secretary indicated that he had had a meeting with the Director of the Environmental Management Group of UNEP to discuss the possibility of establishing an issues management for the 2010 target, with a view to preparing a Secretary General's report to the high level segment of the 65th session of UNGA. He expressed appreciation for the offer of the representative of UNEP and indicated that his office would liaise with UNEP.

59. The President summed up discussions on this item by indicating that a proposal on the "Wise Persons" group would be prepared for discussion at the next bureau meeting. He invited the Executive Secretary to liaise with UNEP regarding convening an interagency meeting on the 2010 target. He recommended that discussion on agenda item 9 on the Strategic Plan of the Convention be postponed to the next meeting. He requested the representatives of Sweden, Haiti, Mexico, Switzerland and the SBSTTA Chair to assist him in preparing this agenda item. The Bureau agreed to postpone consideration of this agenda item 9, as well as that on preparation of the international year on biodiversity.

ITEM 11 BRIEFING ON THE PREPARATION OF COP-10

60. The representative of Japan indicated that his Government had initiated national level and regional preparations. The city of Nagoya had established preparatory committees with the participation of inter alia, industry and the municipality. A coordination committee has also already been established at the Centre where COP-10 will take place. He distributed a conference venue flyer highlighting the facilities available. Since there is no hotel attached to facility, he indicated that the Government would make all transport arrangements necessary. He requested the Presidency's and Secretariat's estimates for the expenditure involved since they would soon be making the financial assessments so as to catch the budgetary process beginning March next year.

61. The President indicated that during his recent visit to Japan, it was clear that preparations were well advanced. The Executive Secretary also briefed the members on his two visits to Japan since COP-9, outlining the extent of preparations. He indicated that the draft Host Government Agreement would be sent by the end of the month.

62. The SBSTTA Chair flagged the issue of entry visas for Japan. The representative of Malawi queried what arrangements were being made for accommodation and flagging the budgetary difficulties of many developing country participants, suggested that the host country should facilitate special rates for COP-10 delegates.

**ITEM 12 DATE AND VENUE OF THE SECOND AND THIRD MEETINGS OF
THE COP-9 BUREAU**

63. The Bureau agreed to convene its second meeting on 26-27 November 2008 in Berlin, Germany and its third meeting in Nairobi on 13 February 2009, in conjunction with UNEP's Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environmental Forum.

ITEM 13 OTHER MATTERS

64. The SBSTTA Chair raised the issue of the election of the next SBSTTA chair. It was agreed that this would be addressed at the next Bureau meeting. The representative of Malawi, speaking on behalf of the African group, indicated concern at the dilution of SBSTTA. The President agreed to take up this issue at the next Bureau meeting and invited the representative of Malawi to join the representatives of Mexico and Serbia in preparing for this agenda item.

65. The Bureau members expressed their deep appreciation for the skilful stewardship of the Secretariat by the Executive Secretary, Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaf, as reflected in the outstanding success of the ninth meeting of the Conference of Parties, and strongly underscored the need for continuity in the preparations for tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties, the high level segment of the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly and the commemoration of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010.
