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BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES
Montreal, Canada
15 November 2009

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

INTRODUCTION

1. The eighth meeting of the COP-9 Bureau was held on 15 November 2009 in Montreal, Canada, on the last day of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing (WGABS-8). The meeting was chaired by Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, who represented the President of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

2. 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. Snežana Prokic (Serbia)
Dr. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine)
Dr. Abdelbagi Mukhtar (Sudan)
Mr. Robert Lamb (Switzerland)

3. Ms. Asa Norrman, the representative of Sweden could not attend and was substituted by Mr. Johan Bodegard of Sweden. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Masayoshi Mizuno of the Ministry of Environment of Japan, and Ms. Tokuko Nabeshima, as ex-officio members of the Bureau, as the host of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. UNEP was represented Mr. Balakrishna Pisupati. Mr. Tim Hodges and Mr. Fernando Casas, the Co-Chairs of the ABS Working Group also attended. The Secretariat was represented by the Executive Secretary of the Convention, Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaf, Mr. Olivier Jalbert, (Principal Officer), Mr. David Cooper (Senior Programme Officer) and Ms. Nandhini Iyer Krishna (CBD liaison officer in New York).

ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The President extended a warm welcome to all participants of the Bureau meeting.

ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Bureau then turned its attention to adoption of the agenda, as outlined below:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Venue of the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing (WGABS9)
4. Revised Strategic Plan and post 2010 targets
5. Co Chairs Proposals for inter sessional process post Montreal
6. Other matters
7. Closure of the meeting

ITEM 3: VENUE OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING (WGABS9)

6. The President stated the Bureau had welcomed and very much appreciated the offer of Colombia to host WGABS(9). At the same time, after discussions in the Bureau, it was also agreed that there was an urgent need to finalise the Host Country Agreement with a clear indication of availability of financial resources for the smooth conduct of WGABS(9). A revised Draft Host Country Agreement aimed at including ABS-8 decisions should be signed transmitted by the Executive Secretary for signature to the Colombian authorities as soon as possible. The Bureau had therefore requested the Executive Secretary to finalize the arrangements with Colombia as soon as possible and no later than 1 December 2009. In case the Host Country Agreement could not be finalised on time, the Bureau requested the Executive Secretary to make alternative arrangements with the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic in consultations with FAO for the hosting of WGABS(9).

7. The Executive Secretary then briefed the Bureau that the costs reflected in the Host Country Agreement had to be recalculated since the DSA was calculated on a monthly basis by the UN. The original Host Country Agreement had been sent to Colombia in August. Therefore a revised Host Country Agreement, reflecting the new costs, would need to be sent to Colombia. He stressed that the Secretariat attached the highest importance to the holding of WGABS(9) in a developing country and very much appreciated and welcomed the offer of Colombia to host WGABS(9). However, the Secretariat was also bound by UN rules and regulations adopted by the United Nations General Assembly regarding the convening of meetings outside UN facilities, which provided little scope for flexibility in discharging the Secretariat's responsibility to ensure

that logistic and other constraints, including security issues, did not interfere or act as a constraint in the smooth conduct of WGABS(9).

8. The Bureau expressed appreciation for the statement of the Executive Secretary.

ITEM 4: REVISED STRATEGIC PLAN AND POST 2010 TARGETS

9. The President indicated that, as agreed at the last meeting of the COP Bureau, a small group – “Friends of the Chair” had been working with the Secretariat and representative of UNEP to work further on possible formulations of a draft Mission Statement / Target for 2020. He presented a proposal that combined the concepts of halting biodiversity loss, equitable sharing of benefits and integrating the “means of implementation” in a manner that would be attractive to the media and Heads of State/Government.

10. A discussion ensued in which the following points were made: the integration of “means of implementation” in the post 2010 targets was appreciated; it would be risky for the Bureau to take any decision on a Mission Statement that would prejudge the work on the post 2010 target that would take place in the coming months; other proposals were being developed; some groups could not agree on any particular proposal at this time.

11. The President summarised the discussions by stating that the revised document will be prepared by secretariat, under its own authority, taking into account the comments made by members of the Bureau.

ITEM 5: CO-CHAIRS PROPOSAL FOR INTER SESSIONAL POST MONTREAL PROCESS

12. Tim Hedges, ABS Co-Chair, briefed the Bureau on documentation resulting from WGABS-8, which would include the report of the meeting together with the following two separate annexes to go forward to WGABS-9: Annex I, the “Montreal Annex” (i.e., the international regime components); Annex II (i.e., operative text related to institutional issues, implementing provisions, final clauses and other text relevant to consolidation of the regime).

The inter-sessional process had been envisaged as a two-step process. The support expressed by the Working Group for the two-step inter-sessional process, as outlined by the Co-Chairs, was most welcome. The offer of Canada to host the first meeting, the Friends of the Co-Chairs’ (FOCC) meeting (FOC), was most welcomed. The Co-Chairs were still reflecting on the comments and concerns made by various groups on the second proposed meeting, the Co-Chairs Informal Interregional Consultation (CIIC), particularly the need for enhanced participation, with a balance in overall numbers.

13. The members of the Bureau raised a number of issues related to the inter-sessional processes and additional clarification was sought from the Co-Chairs. The Co-Chairs thanked the Bureau members for the on-going support, valuable advice and views.

14. Fernando Casas, ABS Co-Chair, stated that the points made by the Bureau would be taken into account in developing the communication to be sent by the Secretariat on behalf of the Co-Chairs to all Parties on the modalities of the inter-sessional process.

ITEM 6: OTHER MATTERS

15. The President thanked all Bureau members for their participation, the Co-Chairs for their timely inputs and the Secretariat. He urged Bureau members to send their comments on the minutes of the last Bureau meeting so that these could be finalised and adopted.

ITEM 7: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

16. The meeting was closed at 1100 on Sunday, 15 November.