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BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES
Cali, Colombia
21 March 2010

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

INTRODUCTION

1. The tenth meeting of the COP-9 Bureau was held on 21 March 2010 in Cali, Colombia, on the eve of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing (WGABS-9). The meeting was chaired by Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, who represented the President of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. Participants :

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. Abdelbagi Mukhtar (Sudan)
Ms. Åsa Norrman (Sweden)
Mr. Robert Lamb (Switzerland)

Dr. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine) could not attend the meeting.

Others present at the meeting included; Mr. Yo Osumi (COP 10 representative, Japan), Mr. Kazuaki Hoshino (Ministry of Environment of Japan), Ms. Tokuko Nabeshima (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan), Mr. Spencer Thomas (Chair of SBSTTA), Mr. Timothy Hodges and Mr. Fernando Casas (ABS Co-Chairs).

The Secretariat was represented by the Executive Secretary, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf, Mr. Olivier Jalbert, Ms. Valerie Normand and Ms. Nandhini Iyer Krishna. UNEP was represented by Mr. Carlos Martin-Novella and Mr. Balakrishna Pisupati.

ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The President extended a warm welcome to all participants of the Bureau meeting. He also welcomed the representatives of the Government of Japan, the SBSTTA Chair, the ABS Co-Chairs, Representatives from UNEP and all members of the Secretariat team. He expressed his appreciation for the excellent facilities and hospitality of the Government of Colombia for organizing the WG-ABS 9 in Cali.

ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Bureau then adopted the agenda indicated below.

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Preparations for the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit- Sharing (WGABS-9)
4. Update on the preparations of the High Level Segment of the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly
5. Implementation by CBD of the results of COP -15 of UNFCCC 15
6. Preparations for the tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties
7. Other matters
8. Closure of the meeting

ITEM 3: PREPARATIONS FOR THE NINTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING (WGABS-9)

5. The President indicated that he proposed to follow the work schedule he had used in Montreal and to have meetings of the Bureau every two days to follow the process. He requested the Co-Chairs to propose dates when they could brief and interact with the Bureau.

6. Mr. Timothy Hodges, ABS Co-Chair, indicated that the Bureau had played an invaluable role thus far in support of the Co-Chairs and the Working Group. He also expressed his appreciation for the support received from the Executive Director of UNEP for the process. The regional consultations had proved extremely useful and he highlighted the leadership role played by the Bureau members in their respective regions in ensuring successful consultations. Co-Chair Hodges noted that the regional consultations had paved the way for a very helpful Friends of the Co-Chairs meeting (FOCC) in Montreal and the very fruitful Co-Chairs Informal Inter-regional Consultations in Cali.

7. Mr. Fernando Casas, ABS Co-Chair indicated that WG-ABS 9 was crucial. All regions were now well prepared for the negotiations. The expectation was, therefore, for a productive meeting in terms of the mandate given by COP 9 – i.e., to consolidate the text and finalise the draft Protocol. The Co-Chairs had prepared a guidance note with the objective of sharing their understanding based on their extensive consultations, the regional meetings etc. The Co-chairs were confident that a draft Protocol and an accompanying draft decision to COP 10 could be finalised at Cali.

8. A scenario note prepared by the Co-Chairs was circulated to the Bureau. Mr. Fernando Casas, explained that the Co-Chairs had responded to requests from some Parties, to go beyond their guidance note and assist in streamlining the text. The intention was to work initially in plenary, to ensure transparency where key issues of concern could be flagged by delegations, while maintaining a holistic view of the document. Some contact groups would be set up as required and tasked with resolving issues and returning with text that reflected possible solutions. The preference would be to avoid brackets and addition of new text.

9. There were also some pending issues for the Cali meeting to take up including ABS indicators for inclusion in the Strategic Plan and the need to ensure balance between the three objectives of the CBD in all its programmes of work.

10. In the discussions that ensued the following points were made. There was broad support for the approach outlined by the Co-Chairs; some regional groups were identifying crucial -issues which still needed to be addressed; the preference would be to have substantive discussions and evolve common understandings and the Co-Chairs could then be tasked with coming up with text; there were also some pending issues which were being identified.

11. The President summarised the discussions by stating that there appeared to be broad support in the Bureau for the Co-Chairs' approach and the preliminary feedback was that Parties appeared to be comfortable with the proposed Cali text as a basis for negotiations.

ITEM 4: UPDATE ON THE PREPARATIONS OF THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

12. The Executive Secretary indicated that there was no decision yet on the date of the biodiversity High level Event. The Group of 77 had strongly supported the holding of the biodiversity HLE on 22 September. The announcement on the next round of informals was expected shortly. So far, the feedback was that the facilitator had proposed the convening of the biodiversity high level event on 22 September. The opening plenary would be held from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Thereafter the biodiversity event would be in parallel with the MDG event with a separate closing plenary. He indicated that the feedback from New York was that one regional group had some reservation on the convening of the biodiversity event in parallel with the MDG summit as also on the possible PBI implications, and appealed to all groups to support the scheduling of the biodiversity event on 22 September.

13. The representative of Japan, Mr. Kazuaki Hoshino, indicated that as the incoming President of COP 10, Japan attached the highest importance to the high level event being held on 22 September, before the general debate, so that a strong political message could be transmitted to COP 10. He also expressed the hope that the outcome of the HLE would be an official document of the General Assembly.

14. The President summarised the discussions and indicated that he would do his utmost to help and that he had also written to the President of the General Assembly underlining the importance of the biodiversity HLE and the strong interest of the COP bureau in the event.

15. The President raised the issue of the appointment by the UN Secretary General of an Honorary Ambassador for the International Year of Biodiversity. The Executive Secretary indicated that he had written to the Secretary General's office again and conveyed to the DPI his strong concerns regarding the delay in the appointment of the IYB ambassador. He has urged DPI to assist expediting the process of the selection of the IYB ambassador. While a response was expected soon, the UNSG had announced the appointment of MISIA - a popular

Japanese singer –as his Honorary Ambassador for COP 10. This would be good precedent for future COP.

16. The President summarised the discussions by indicating that the pressure on the Secretary General's office should be kept up so that an honorary Ambassador for the IYB was appointed as soon as possible.

17. The issue of the status of the background note for the biodiversity High Level Event was raised. The ABS Co-Chairs expressed some concerns about the manner in which ABS issues had been reflected in the theme for Round table two. These concerns were noted and it was agreed that the reference would be brought in line with standard references to the issue.

18. The Executive Secretary clarified that after consideration of the note, which had been submitted to the Bureau as early as February last year; the Bureau had discussed the note at its meeting of 1 November 2009. The revised note which includes the latest development and the findings of GBO3 will be submitted to the Secretary General for his consideration as soon as the decision on the date will be adopted.

19. In the discussions that ensued it was suggested that paragraph 3 of the note be amended to state that the Bureau had discussed and taken note of the paper. This was agreed.

20. The representative of Japan, Mr. Kazuaki Hoshino, briefed the Bureau on the preparations in Japan for the International Year of Biodiversity. This included the establishment of a national committee with the participation of a broad range of stakeholders to oversee events. He indicated that the Secretary General's honorary Ambassador for COP 10 had an exemplary track record of activism on social issues e.g. promotion of education for children in Africa and had considerable influence among youth in Japan. She would serve to effectively enhance awareness of biodiversity among Japanese youth. The President expressed appreciation on behalf of the Bureau for this information.

ITEM 5: IMPLEMENTATION BY CBD OF RESULTS OF COP-15 OF UNFCCC 15

21. The Executive Secretary indicated that in response to a request from the Bureau at its meeting in Dessau, the Secretariat had prepared a note on implications on CBD of the outcome of UNFCCC COP15.

22. The main proposal related to a joint Work Programme among the three Rio Conventions, which would be considered by SBSTTA 14. The views of the other Conventions would also be solicited. He also referred to the proposal to have a joint Rio Conventions Ecosystems Pavilion, in collaboration with several partners including UNEP, UNDP, World Bank etc, which would presented in Nagoya, Cancun and Seoul as well as Rio plus 20.

23. The SBSTTA Chair indicated that the proposal for a joint work programme had been considered by the SBSTTA bureau where it had received support. He pointed out that the UNFCCC process would reconvene in April and that it would be important to have a strategy on the REDD discussions to ensure that the Convention was present as these discussions unfold.

24. The representative of Japan, Mr. Kazuaki Hoshino, indicated that while the proposal for a Joint Work Programme was receiving consideration, there were some reservations regarding the convening of a joint Bureau meeting of the three Rio Conventions at Nagoya.

25. The President summarised the discussions and stated that UNFCCC was undergoing considerable change. Therefore for the moment, the proposal for a Joint Work Programme could be considered as emanating from CBD alone and be considered on its merits.

ITEM 6: PREPARATIONS FOR THE TENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES

26. The representative of Japan, Mr. Kazuaki Hoshino, briefed the Bureau on the preparations Japan had undertaken for COP 10. A detailed information package was circulated to the bureau, including subway maps, hotel lists with rates, flight routes etc. He indicated that an information note for participants would be issued by SCBD in April and posted on the web. During COP 10, participants would be provided free passes for the subways after registration. Detailed information on hotel accommodation would be available on the COP 10 website from April and there would be possibilities to secure reservations for bigger groups through the website. There was also provision to accept individual reservations on the website from June. A biodiversity Fair would also be organised in the park next to the Convention centre. Information would be made available on the COP 10 website, including the application forms. Acceptance of applications would be closed on 30 June 2010.

ITEM 7: OTHER MATTERS

27. The Chair of SBSTTA suggested that in the COP Bureau meetings, provision be made for the Chair of SBSTTA to brief the COP Bureau on relevant developments with regard to SBSTTA. He briefed the COP Bureau on the last meeting of the SBSTTA bureau, which had met on the margins of the Trondheim meeting. The primary focus of the discussions had been on preparations for SBSTTA 14 and the strategic plan and the role of the SBSTTA vis a vis the meeting of WGRI, particularly how the inputs of SBSTTA would be addressed by WGRI. Other issues discussed included the strengthening of SBSTTA, streamlining the agenda and documentation, how to conduct the assessments, inter sessional role of bureau, role of SBSTTA focal points, TEEB and IPBES. Support was expressed for IPBES and TEEB and the need for collaboration emphasized.

28. The Executive Secretary clarified that SBSTTA has a distinct role to play in providing advice and inputs from the scientific point of view on issues such as the Strategic Plan. WGRI would examine these issues from the policy perspective. In the event of any contradiction, which was unlikely, the COP Bureau would meet to resolve this. Moreover a joint SBSTTA COP Bureau meeting was envisaged in Nairobi.

29. At the request of some members, the note prepared by the Secretariat on the issue of the PSC as a follow up of the Bureau discussion held on this issue at its sixth meeting held in Montreal on 1 November 2009 was discussed under other matters. Bureau members pointed out the fact that resource availability for the Convention and its operations should be maximised, particularly to facilitate the participation of developing countries. The exemptions granted to the other Rio Conventions were also mentioned. The exemption for CITES extended at the request of the standing committee was also raised. It was agreed that this issue will need to be addressed before COP10. The President stressed the need to address the issue of the CBD budget as a whole.

30. The Executive Secretary indicated that the issue of the 13% support costs and the revised administrative arrangements had been put forward to the Bureau since the status quo was unsustainable. Staff and capacity had reached their limit. At COP 10 two additional legal instruments would be adopted, which would further stretch the capacity of the secretariat to fulfil its mandate. He indicated that he has requested a meeting with Executive Director of

UNEP to discuss the administrative arrangements pursuant to COP decisions and audit recommendation, and this will include a clarification on the administrative situation of the Executive Secretary. He indicated that he hoped to report back to the Bureau at its meeting in May on the progress made on these issues.

31. The representative of Japan, Mr. Kazuaki Hoshino, indicated support for early resolution of this issue.

32. The President summarised the discussions by stating that on substance, this issue had been pending for years. This was not acceptable and had to be solved. Otherwise there was a risk that this issue will be addressed in other fora where it would be inappropriate. The German Presidency had made considerable efforts to provide funding for a number of activities, since it had a special responsibility, but this cannot be sustained in the long term. The Presidency noted the rationale behind the three options proposed by the Secretariat and if UNEP had any alternative views they could present this also. The message from the Bureau was that they were expecting a solution, including on the administrative arrangements, ideally at their next meeting in Nairobi, otherwise before Nagoya.

ITEM 8: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

33. The meeting was closed at 1800 on Sunday 21 March 2010.
