



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP10/Bur/1/6
7 January 2011

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Ishikawa-Kanazawa, 19 December 2010

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COP-10 BUREAU HELD IN ISHIKAWA-KANAZAWA, JAPAN, 19 DECEMBER 2010

INTRODUCTION

1. The first meeting of the Bureau elected at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-10) to the Convention was held in Ishikawa- Kanazawa, Japan, on 19 December 2010. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Kazuhiko Takemoto, Special Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, representing the President of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, H.E. Mr. Ryu Matsumoto, Minister of Environment of Japan.
2. The following Bureau members attended the meeting: Ms. Snezana Prokic (Serbia); Mr. Ioseb Kartsivadze (Georgia); Ms. Kauna Betty Schroder (Namibia); Mr. Ahmed Skim (Morocco); Ms. Ines Verleye (Belgium); Mr. Andrew Bignell (New Zealand); Mr. Spencer Thomas (Grenada); and Mr. Jose Luis Sutura (Argentina). Mr. Chan-woo Kim (Korea) was replaced by Mr. Seong Suho. Mr. Akram Eissa Darwich (Syria) was unable to attend.
3. The meeting was also attended by the following representatives of the Presidency: Mr. Kazuaki Hoshino (Ministry of the Environment); Mr. Masaru Oshima (Ministry of Foreign Affairs); and Mr. Masamichi Saigo (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries).
4. The meeting was also attended by Mr. M. F. Farooqui (India) representing the host country for COP-11; Ms. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Chair of SBSTTA; Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary and the following members of the Secretariat: Mr. David Cooper (Secretary); Mr. Atsuhiko Yoshinaka (Global Coordinator, Japan Fund); Ms. Noriko Moriwake; and Mr. Charles Gbedemah (Secretary, Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety). Mr. Carlos Martin-Novella, representing the Executive Director of UNEP, also attended the meeting as an observer.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The meeting was opened by Mr. Takemoto, the representative of the President of COP-10. He welcomed Bureau members to the beautiful city of Kanazawa in the prefecture of Ishikawa. Recalling the words of the COP-10 President, he noted the success of COP-10 which had helped to restore confidence in multilateral decision-making.

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6. Mr. Djoghlaif expressed his gratitude to H.E. Mr. Matsumoto and to the entire team of the Presidency for their extraordinary efforts that had contributed to the outcomes of COP-10. He also noted that the results of COP-10 had been very well received at the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. He also thanked the Governor of Ishikawa and the Mayor of Kanazawa for organizing the closing ceremony of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity and for the exceptional hospitality extended by them to the Bureau members and all participants in the event.

7. Each of the Bureau members introduced themselves.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

8. The Bureau adopted the agenda for its meeting as contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP-10/Bur/1/2/Rev1.

ITEM 3. WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COP-10 DECISIONS

9. The Executive Secretary, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, and the Global Coordinator for the Japan Fund of the CBD Secretariat, Mr. Atsuhiko Yoshinaka, introduced a note setting out elements for the work plan for the implementation of the COP-10 and MOP-5 decisions (UNEP/CBD/COP10/Bur/1/2). They emphasized that efforts would be made to ensure a coordinated approach among activities of the work plan. They highlighted the core activity of a series of capacity development workshops to support countries in the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Noting that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) provided a useful framework for all biodiversity-related conventions, as well as for all agencies of the United Nations, they emphasized that the new Plan would be implemented in close cooperation with partner organizations. The Executive Secretary noted that the availability of funds from Japan had enabled the Secretariat to prepare a coordinated approach for implementing the COP-10 and MOP-5 decisions at the outset of the biennium, in contrast to the more piece-meal approach that had to be employed in earlier biennia due to less predictable funding for activities under the voluntary budget.

10. The Bureau congratulated the Secretariat on preparing the document so soon after the meeting of COP-10. Noting that it represented a starting point made possible by available financial resources, in particular the Japan Fund, the Bureau expressed its appreciation to Japan and called upon other donors to support activities and ensure that the budgetary needs set out in the Voluntary Fund (BE) would be met. Bureau members also noted the desirability of including provision for important activities in the core budget, in order to ensure predictable funding and facilitate effective planning and efficient execution of these activities.

11. Mr. Hoshino recalled that the intention of Japan was to support, through the Japan Fund, the implementation of COP-10 decisions by developing countries.

12. Noting the ambitious commitments that Parties had agreed to in decision X/2, as well as in other decisions, the Bureau agreed that a prompt start was needed for capacity-building activities in support of the establishment of national targets aligned with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020), including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as in support of revisions to NBSAPs. In addition, Bureau members emphasized the importance of addressing during the biennium issues related to the development of a reliable assessment of funding gaps and needs, in line with decisions X/2, X/3 and X/26, in preparation for COP-11, as well as issues related to the provision of support for the early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol. While noting the desirability of coordinating activities, particularly those related to the organization of regional and sub-regional capacity-building workshops, members remarked on the need for specialized participation for certain workshops.

13. The representative of India indicated that India was interested in hosting one or more capacity-building workshops for Asia or other regions.

14. The Bureau agreed to consider this item again at its next meeting and requested the CBD Secretariat to update and complete the work plan for that meeting.

15. The Bureau took note of the 2011-2012 Calendar of Meetings (UNEP/CBD/COP10/Bur/1/3). Noting that SBSTTA-15 and the eighth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) would be held back-to-back, it was suggested that it may be preferable to hold the meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) before SBSTTA-15.

16. The Bureau also took note of the preliminary versions of the agendas for SBSTTA-15, SBSTTA-16, the eighth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j), the fourth meeting of the Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention and COP-11, as well as of a preliminary schedule for COP-11 document preparation.

ITEM 4. EARLY ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING

17. The Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that the Secretary-General had issued a notification informing countries that the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, to the Convention on Biological Diversity, would be opened for signature as of 2 February 2011. Members had before them information notes on the rationale for the early ratification of the Protocol and on the follow-up to decision X/1. While noting that Parties would need to follow due process in preparing for ratification of the Protocol, Bureau members highlighted the importance of its early entry into force. In this respect, members welcomed the GEF-supported project, to be implemented by the CBD Secretariat as the main executing agency, to assist early ratification of the Protocol.

18. The Bureau took note of the draft provisional agenda for the first meeting of Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol which would be held in Montreal from 6 to 10 June 2011. In considering preparations for the first meeting, the Bureau noted that the Conference of the Parties had decided that there would be two Co-chairs (Fernando Casas of Colombia and Timothy Hodges of Canada). The Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that he had written to Colombia and Canada in this respect and that Colombia had confirmed that Mr. Casas would represent Colombia at the meeting. It was agreed that the Bureau for the Intergovernmental Committee would comprise ten members (two per UN region), in addition to the Co-Chairs. He encouraged Parties to consult promptly with a view to making nominations for the Bureau at the earliest opportunity. The COP Bureau would serve as the Bureau for the INC until the election of the INC Bureau at the first meeting of the INC in June.

19. Bureau members welcomed the proposal of Japan to establish a pilot fund for Article 10 of the Protocol, managed by the GEF, noting that this was without prejudice to the implementation of Article 10 or to the governance of the fund.

ITEM 5. CELEBRATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF BIODIVERSITY

20. The Bureau welcomed the draft report on the celebration of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/COP10/Bur/1/4) and expressed satisfaction with the success of the year. The final report would be finalized in early 2011 and made available to the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

21. Noting that the United Nations General Assembly, at its 65th session, was expected to declare 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade of Biodiversity¹, the Bureau took note of a draft strategy for the celebration of the decade, as well as a work plan for 2011-2012 (UNEP/CBD/COP10/Bur/1/5). Bureau members noted that the decade would contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020), including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, by the entire UN system and all relevant stakeholders. Mr. Hoshino informed members of Japan's plans to formally launch the decade in May 2011 in Tokyo, jointly with the CBD Secretariat and the United Nations University, in conjunction with celebrations for the International Day for Biological Diversity.

ITEM 6. PREPARATION OF COP-11 AND MOP 6

22. The representative of India briefed Bureau members on the preparations for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. A number of Indian cities had expressed interest in hosting the meetings and a decision on the host city would be taken in due course. Mr Farooqui emphasized the desire of India to build upon the success of Japan and previous hosts. He indicated that India would follow with keen interest inter-sessional activities, such as those on the Strategic Plan and the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, given the strategic importance of these issues to the success of COP-11. Mr. Farooqui also informed Bureau members of plans to promote public awareness of biodiversity and stakeholder involvement in the preparation of COP-11. He also indicated that India hoped that delegates to the meetings would have an opportunity to experience India's biodiversity, as well as the country's diversity of people, cultures and cuisine.

ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

23. The Bureau took note of an update on the credentials of delegates to COP-10 and emphasised that it was important that all delegations submit full credentials.

24. The Bureau expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Canada and Quebec and to the City of Montreal for their support in providing a venue for meetings of the Convention. It also welcomed the provision by Canada of additional office space for the Secretariat.

25. The Bureau agreed that its next meeting would be on 5 June 2011 in Montreal, on the margins of the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Equitable Benefit-sharing Arising from their Utilization.

ITEM 8. CLOSURE OF MEETING

26. The meeting closed at 5.30 p.m.

¹ The UN decade was adopted by UNGA Resolution 65/161.