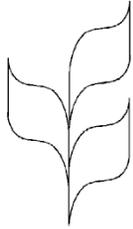




CBD



**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP10/Bur/2012/3/2
25 July 2012

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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

Montreal, 23-24 July 2012

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE COP-10 BUREAU

INTRODUCTION

1. The sixth meeting of the Bureau elected at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties was held on Monday and Tuesday, 23-24 July 2012 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., respectively, at the headquarters of the Secretariat. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Kazuaki Hoshino, Adviser to Minister of Environment of Japan, representing the President of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
2. The following Bureau members attended the meeting: Ms. Snezana Prokic (Serbia); Mr. Ioseb Kartsivadze (Georgia); Ms. Ines Verleye (Belgium); Mr. Andrew Bignell (New Zealand); Mr. Spencer Thomas (Grenada) and Ms. Valeria Gonzalez Posse (Argentina), Ms. Latifa Lakfifi (Morocco) and Dr. Akram Eissa Darwich (Syrian Arab Republic). Mr. Bae Jongin attended on behalf of Mr. Yeon-chul Yoo (Korea). Ms. Kauna Betty Schroder (Namibia) attended via telephone. Ms. Janet Lowe (New Zealand) and Mr. Fernando Casas (Colombia), the Co-chairs of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol (ICNP) also attended, as well as Ms. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), the SBSTTA Chair, and Mr. M. F. Farooqui, Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, India, on behalf of the host country of COP-11 and *ex officio* member.
3. The meeting was also attended by the following representatives of the Presidency: Ms. Noriko Moriwake of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Mr. Masamichi Saigo, Deputy Director General of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council Secretariat, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and Mr. Hiroki Sasaki, Coordinator, Environment and Biomass Policy Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.
4. The Secretariat was represented by Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention; Mr. Olivier Jalbert (Principal Officer), Mr. Ravi Sharma (Principal Officer), Mr. Atsuhiko Yoshinaka (Global Coordinator), Mr. David Cooper (Principal Officer), Ms. Michele Rattray-Huish (Chief, Financial Resources Management Service). The Executive Director of UNEP was represented by Mr. Bakary Kante, Director, Division of Environmental Law and Conventions.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The meeting was opened by Mr. Hoshino, the representative of the President of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. He welcomed Bureau members and expressed his appreciation to the SBSTTA Chair, Co-Chairs of the ICNP, the representative of the host country of COP-11 and UNEP.

6. The Executive Secretary, Mr. de Souza Dias, joined the representative of the President in welcoming members of the Bureau. He emphasized the importance of this meeting to provide guidance to the Secretariat and ensure the smooth running of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda as contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP10/Bur/2012/3/1.

ITEM 3. REPORT ON THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (RIO+20)

8. The representative of the President noted the many references to biodiversity in the final document of the meeting and thanked Bureau members for their support to integrate these references in the final document. He reported that the representative of the President had participated in a press conference organized by the CBD Secretariat, the Rio Conventions Breakfast and an evening reception celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the three Rio conventions, and conveyed the message on the importance of biodiversity for sustainable development for delivery at Rio+20, which had been adopted by WGRI-4, on behalf of Parties.

9. The Executive Secretary drew attention to the outcome document, which included a chapter on biodiversity and captured the challenges ahead for the Convention. Side events throughout the meeting had testified of the engagement of Parties and of civil society and stakeholders. The Rio Conventions Pavilion had been very successful, with a well-attended daily program of events throughout the Conference. Bureau members expressed their appreciation to the President and the Secretariat for their efforts to convey the message of Parties at Rio+20. It was suggested to that an information document be submitted to COP-11 outlining the CBD activities at Rio+20.

10. In response to a query, the Secretariat noted that the “check list” for follow-up of Rio circulated to Bureau members was an informal, preliminary draft developed by UN-DESA intended only to identify UN organizations responsible for follow up with respect to each element of the final document. It was a purely internal and evolving paper. The representative of the President noted that the Strategic Plan and UN Decade on Biodiversity should be followed-up not only by CBD, but by all relevant UN agencies. In this regard, it was also mentioned that in particular the role of the EMG in promoting the integration of biodiversity throughout the UN will have to be better reflected.

ITEM 4. PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

11. Mr. Farooqui (India) reported that preparations for COP-11 and COP/MOP-6 were progressing according to schedule. The host country website [<http://cbdcop11india.in>] provided the required information with respect to most services and was linked to the SCBD website. This constituted a one stop service provider for delegates. The website was very actively consulted. He noted that the meeting would include a youth event, a summit of cities and local authorities, a Globe/Parliamentarians event, as well as a business event.

12. Invitations to the High Level Segment (17-19 October) had already been sent and background papers on panels during the High Level Segment would be circulated within a week. The High Level Segment would result in a Chair's summary. As such, it would not be a document for negotiation.

13. India would provide USD 1 million in support of least developed country participation in the High Level Segment. India looked forward to welcoming delegates in Hyderabad.

14. In response to queries from Bureau members, the representative of India confirmed that space would be provided for "bilaterals" between Ministers and that a "Biodiversity and Business" event would probably be held on 17 October.

15. The President thanked the representative of India for his report and, through him, he thanked the Government of India for its efforts to ensure a successful COP-11.

ITEM 5. ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

(i) Rapporteur

16. The Bureau decided to designate Ms. Kauna Betty Schroder from Namibia as the Rapporteur for COP-11.

(iii) Organization of work

17. Following past practice and given the heavy agenda, the Bureau agreed to recommend that COP-11 establishes two Working Groups. The Bureau further agreed to recommend to the Conference of the Parties the election of Ms. Valeria Gonzalez Posse of Argentina, as Chair of Working Group I, and Mr. Andrew Bignell of New Zealand, as Chair of Working Group II.

18. The Bureau also decided to recommend the election of Mr. Conrod Hunte, Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, as Chair of the contact group on budget.

19. Members of the Bureau noted that several contact groups would need to be established to address certain agenda items and that this was at the discretion of the Chairs of the Working Groups.

ITEM 6. ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES: DISCUSSION ON SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS

20. The discussion on this item focused mainly on the draft revised annotated agenda of COP-11 and in particular on the sequence of items within and between the Working Groups. Some comments were made to the annotated agenda which will be submitted to the Secretariat.

21. It was agreed that the suggested sequence for Working Group II should be modified to start with agenda item 3, followed by 4 and then 2, etc. It was pointed out that New and Emerging Issues needs to be included under Item 6. Item 7 should be moved to Working Group I to maintain a better balance in the workload between the two Working Groups. It was also agreed to include items 13.2 on Forest biodiversity and 13.5 on Agricultural biodiversity to the agenda number 5 on cooperation, outreach and the UNDB in Working Group II.

22. To ensure efficient use of time, it was also suggested that appropriate linkages should be made between items in the annotated agenda and that it should be indicated well in advance how the related issues will be dealt with, in particular when combined statements are expected on certain agenda items. This information as well as the revised agenda will be made available on the website by the Secretariat.

23. The Executive Secretary recalled the commitment made at COP-10 to make a decision on resource mobilization at COP-11. With a view to helping Parties reaching an agreement on this key issue, the Secretariat had prepared a non-paper that provided further background information on baseline and targets based on the inter-sessional work after WGRI-4 and suggested possible realistic outcomes on resource mobilization and sought the views of Bureau members. The intention was to promote discussion of the issue. He added that there is a need to accept that we will not have a 100% robust baseline. If standards of robustness are too high, we will never start.

24. The non-paper was generally welcomed by the Bureau and it was the widely shared view that it could provide a good basis for progress at COP-11 with further elaboration before finalization. The Bureau asked to strengthen the background section of the document and link it directly with the suggested targets. It also asked to reflect the continuing challenge of getting accurate data and information and provide further guidance to Parties using the reporting framework. It further advised to analyze and refine the reporting framework based on the responses received by Parties until the end of July.

25. Regarding the suggested targets, Bureau members asked to build upon the WGRI-4 recommendations, and suggested a more balanced approach to targets without focusing on a single one. It was proposed to take a comprehensive approach to include different elements of resource mobilization such as the effectiveness of biodiversity funding, ODA and domestic budgets. This could also include the potential of mobilising resources through mainstreaming of biodiversity into sustainable development.

26. Some Bureau members suggested that elements of decision in the non-paper should refer to the impact on ODA. It was also suggested that reference should be made to the commitment on resource mobilization agreed at Rio+20. Additionally, the funds needed should be seen not as cost but as an investment. It should also be borne in mind that significant resources are available at the sub-national level.

27. There was general agreement that the non-paper would provide the basis for discussion at COP-11 as document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/14 and it was pointed out that the Secretariat should disseminate the document as soon as possible and certainly in time for the 6 week before COP deadline. Otherwise it would come out too close to the COP to be taken into consideration.

28. With regard to the small, informal meeting on resource mobilization planned for September, the Executive Secretary emphasized that it was in essence a brainstorming meeting, definitely not a meeting to negotiate anything. Participation would be regionally balanced based on nominations by Parties, similar to the Quito meeting. However, this time it would be restricted to government officials. It was agreed that this work on resource mobilization is still a work in progress. The Bureau members agreed that the meeting presents a good opportunity for a useful exchange of views on some of the key elements to be discussed at COP. However, it was stressed that it will be important to have both a regionally balanced and a representative group of participants and to avoid any pre-negotiations of the draft COP recommendation.

ITEM 7. UPDATE ON RATIFICATION OF THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL AND ON THE WORK OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL

29. The Secretariat reported that five countries have ratified (Gabon, Jordan, Mexico, Rwanda and the Seychelles) and that many more had indicated that they had reached an advanced stage in the process leading to ratification.

30. The Co-chairs of the ICNP, Ms. Janet Lowe (New Zealand) and Mr. Fernando Casas (Colombia) recalled the mandate of the ICNP and reported on progress of its work. They pointed out that the recommendations from ICNP to COP-11 are found in the report of the second meeting. The focus was firmly on implementation. Issues for consideration by COP-11 were: what inter-sessional activities are needed, including whether there should be a third meeting of the ICNP to address outstanding issues on the ICNP workplan; guidance to the financial mechanism (GEF); resource mobilization for implementation; capacity-building and awareness-raising as well as the Clearing House to support early entry into force of the Protocol; the budget for next biennium; as well as the development of the pilot phase of the ABS Clearing House.

31. The following inter-sessional activities (between COP-11 and COP-12) were recommended by the ICNP: two expert group meetings, one on the global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism (Art. 10) and the other on capacity-building to support implementation of the Protocol, as well as the establishment of an informal advisory committee to assist the Secretariat in the development of the pilot phase of the ABS Clearing house. In addition, it would be useful for Parties to take advantage of COP-11 to exchange information, views and experiences on ratification and implementation of the Protocol at the national level.

32. Bureau members noted that some ICNP-2 recommendations were directed to COP-11, while others were direct recommendations to the first meeting of the COP-MOP. Issues related to guidance to the financial mechanism, in light of the sixth GEF replenishment (2014-2018) and resource mobilization would need to be considered by COP 11 under agenda item 4. ICNP2 recommendations directed to COP11 related to awareness-raising, capacity building and the clearing house mechanism would need to be considered under agenda item 3. Other issues, including potential inter-sessional work and whether to convene a third meeting of the ICNP would be addressed under agenda item 2 under Working Group II. Finally, an overview of the budget implications of the ICNP recommendations will be submitted to the Budget Contact Group at COP11 for its consideration. It was suggested that COP limit its discussions to the ICNP recommendations and not discuss issues that are within the mandate of COP/MOP-1.

33. The Executive Secretary emphasized the need to be creative, to adopt new approaches such as including an exchange of views and experiences on implementation of the Nagoya Protocol within the COP itself. This could take the form of a dialogue between Parties, chaired by the Executive Secretary, in a support of the discussions in Working Group II so as to integrate this new dimension within the work of the COP.

ITEM 8. STATUS OF THE TRUST FUNDS OF THE CONVENTION

34. The Secretariat reported on the status of the “BZ Trust Fund” for the participation of developing countries in the work of the Convention. The funds available had increased significantly in recent weeks with more than one million US dollars now available. This amount would support the participation of roughly 121 parties in COP-11. An additional US\$ 259, 775 was needed so as to be in a position to support one delegate from all eligible Parties.

35. The representative of Korea pledged an additional US\$ 37,000 from his government and the representative from New Zealand pledged US\$35,000. The representative of the president confirmed the indicative pledge of US\$180,000 from the Government of Japan for participation in COP-11 and called upon bureau members to invite other governments in position to do so to contribute to participation of developing countries.

36. The representatives from Grenada, Morocco and Serbia noted that in order to have appropriate representation at both COP and COP-MOP it was important to fund two delegates per country, one for each meeting. He requested the Secretariat to provide a revised status report showing the amount that would be outstanding if this were done.

37. The problem of securing sufficient funds for the participation of Parties in the activities of the Convention and the Biosafety Protocol was discussed and it was noted that a similar problem would occur once the Nagoya Protocol came into force. The Secretariat recommended that, for the Nagoya Protocol, the same Trust Funds established for voluntary contributions to the Convention (BE and BZ Trust Funds) be used instead of establishing new ones, as this would allow the Secretariat the flexibility to apportion funds as needed for the Nagoya Protocol and avoid the situation where donors need to give formal permission for funds to be transferred from one Trust Fund to another.

38. Regarding the budget documents for COP11, it was stressed that these documents, including the three scenario's as requested by COP10 (X/45 §24), need to be available latest by the 6 week before the COP deadline in order for the regions to prepare properly.

ITEM 9. FUTURE STRATEGY AND ORIENTATIONS OF THE WORK OF THE CONVENTION AND THE SECRETARIAT

39. The Executive Secretary briefed the members of the Bureau on a "concept paper" which had been circulated by the Secretariat and which raised basic questions regarding the work accomplished thus far under the Convention and on the possible way forward. He felt that the increased focus on implementation of the Convention made these issues more relevant than ever before. With the financial support from Switzerland, the Secretariat planned to organize a brainstorming session on these issues in late November 2012. It would be an informal meeting where participants, selected on the basis of regional balance and their expertise on CBD issues and beyond, would be able to exchange freely on these issues. A report of the brainstorming session would be brought to the attention of the Parties for their information.

40. Bureau members welcomed this initiative of the Secretariat which was timely and also reflected part of the discussions that took place during the COP/MOP Bureau regarding the importance to ensure the close relationship and mutual support between the Convention and its Cartagena protocol. They suggested it was important to include the issue of synergies among Conventions among issues discussed as well as between the Convention and its Protocols, with particular attention to the role of various Convention bodies such as SBSTTA. It was also important to ensure that some of the participants would be from other conventions and from other organizations with experience in various sectors.

41. In conclusion, the representative of the President noted the support for this initiative and invited Bureau members, and through them other Parties, to provide any additional views and suggestions to the Secretariat by mid-August.

ITEM 10. OTHER MATTERS

42. Under this item, the representative of the President tabled a draft amendment to the Revised Administrative Arrangements between UNEP and the CBD Secretariat, which had been discussed by the two entities with a view to addressing the issue of the lacuna in the Revised Administrative Arrangements between UNEP and the Secretariat of CBD (decision X/45, Annex I) with regard to the extension of the term of office of the Executive Secretary.

43. Some Bureau members expressed uneasiness with regard to the reopening of the Revised Administrative Arrangements only two years after their endorsement by COP-10. It was suggested that, rather than attempting to amend the Arrangements, a better approach might be for UNEP and SCBD to address this matter through an interpretative statement, which could be concluded through an exchange of letters. It was agreed by the Bureau that the interpretative statement should in substance be as follows:

“With reference to the Revised Administrative Arrangements signed at Nagoya, Japan, on 26 October 2010, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity agree to the following interpretative statement:

- *Paragraphs 2 and 3 with regard to the appointment of the Executive Secretary are to be applied in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations; and*
- *Paragraphs 2 and 3 apply mutatis mutandis to the extension of the term of appointment. The term of the extension shall be determined by the Conference of the Parties through its Bureau.”*

44. With regard to the term of appointment and that of extension of the Executive Secretary, it was noted that COP has not yet decided on a standard term. In order to avoid future confusion and allow COP to assume its authority as specified in §3 of the Administrative Arrangements, it was suggested that the Secretariat will include this point in the draft decision to be tabled at COP11.

45. The Executive Secretary and the representative of UNEP reported that discussions on the Delegation of Authority (DoA) proposed by UNEP as a complement to the Administrative Arrangement had reached an advanced stage and the DoA would be signed shortly. This agreement provided evidence of the spirit of cooperation which prevailed between UNEP and the CBD Secretariat and would constitute a solid basis for continued cooperation.

46. The representative of UNEP affirmed the Executive Director’s commitment to a strong CBD, meaning a strong Secretariat able to deliver to Parties. He was committed to working harmoniously with the Bureau and the ES and his team. The success of the Secretariat would be success for UNEP. Too much energy had been spent on housekeeping matters in recent years. UNEP was determined to work harmoniously with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to achieve the objectives of this Convention.

47. The Bureau welcomed the statement by UNEP.

ITEM 10. CLOSURE OF MEETING

48. It was agreed to hold the next meeting in the morning of 7 October 2012, in Hyderabad, India. Also, it was suggested to hold a COP-SBSTTA joint Bureaux meeting in the form of a lunch on the same day.

49. After the usual exchange of courtesies, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.
