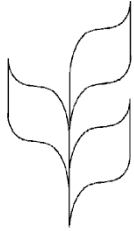




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**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

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

Trondheim, 1 June 2013

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COP-11 BUREAU

INTRODUCTION

1. The first meeting of the Bureau elected at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties was held on Saturday, 1 June 2013, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the premises of the Ministry of the Environment of Norway, in Trondheim, Norway. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Hem Pande, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests of India, representing the President of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The following Bureau members attended the meeting:

1. Ms. Valeria González Posse (Argentina) - Member
2. Mr. Spencer Thomas (Grenada) – Member
3. Mr. Ioseb Kartsivadze (Georgia) – Member
4. Ms. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) - Member
5. Mr. Francis Ogwal (Uganda) – Member
6. Ms. Chaweewan Hutacharern (Thailand) - Member
7. Ms. Eleni Marama Tokaduadua (Fiji) - Member
8. Mr. Jeremy Eppel (United Kingdom) – Member
9. Ms. Tone Solhaug (Norway) – Member

Absent with apologies: Mr. Boukar Attari (Niger) – Member

2. The meeting was also attended by the following representative of the Presidency: Ms. Sujata Arora, Director, Ministry of Environment and Forests. Representatives of the host country of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Mr. Yeon Chul Yoo, Ms. Koo Meehyun and Ms. Lee Jung-Lock, attended as *ex officio* members of the Bureau. Ms. Maria Luisa del Rio Mispireta of Peru also attended as an observer.

3. The Secretariat was represented by Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention, Mr. Olivier Jalbert, Principal Officer, and Mr. Ravi Sharma, Principal Officer. Mr. Carlos

Martin-Novella, Senior Advisor, Division for Environmental Law and Conventions (DELIC) represented the Executive Director of UNEP.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The representative of the President of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Mr. Hem Pande, opened the meeting. He welcomed Bureau members and recalled the commitment of the Presidency to implement the work programme, as agreed by the Conference of the Parties in Hyderabad. It was with this intention that India had just confirmed that it will host seven CBD meetings during the inter-sessional period.

5. The Executive Secretary, Mr. Dias, joined the representative of the President in welcoming members of the Bureau. He expressed his deep appreciation to Norway for its financial and technical support which had made it possible to hold this first meeting of the Bureau during the inter-sessional period. He highlighted recent developments of special significance, including the new structure for the Secretariat. With respect to the Nagoya Protocol, he pointed out that progress is being made with respect to ratification and that the Secretariat was working on assumption that the Protocol would enter into force in good time to hold the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in conjunction with COP 12. With regard to the availability of resources, funding from voluntary sources remained a challenge.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda, as contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP11/Bur/2013/1/1.

ITEM 3. NAGOYA PROTOCOL: UPDATE ON RATIFICATION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

7. The Secretariat briefed Bureau members on the status of ratifications to the Nagoya Protocol: 18 Parties to the Convention had ratified or acceded to the Protocol thus far. Based on information available to the Secretariat, at least 36 other States Party to the Convention, as well as the European Union countries, had undertaken internal procedures for ratification. The Executive Secretary indicated that the Secretariat was working on the assumption that the first meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol would be held in conjunction with the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. He further informed the Bureau that the Secretary-General of the United Nations had written to Heads of States to highlight the significance of the Nagoya Protocol for sustainable development and to encourage ratification.

8. Several Bureau members reported on progress in their country or region: in Norway ratification would be submitted to approval by Parliament in the next week; in the EU a draft regulation was under discussion; in the Republic of Korea, the Protocol was the subject of internal consultations and it was hoped that ratification would take place before COP 12; this issue was also under discussion within the GRULAC.

9. The Executive Secretary recalled that UNGA Resolution 67/212 had requested that a special event be organized on the margins of the General Assembly. The Secretariat was in contact with DESA and a letter had been sent to partner organizations. While no firm date had been set as yet, the Secretariat was already initiating preparations for the event. With regard to financial support to developing countries for ratification, UNEP reported that, following a submission to the GEF, an amount of 1 million USD had been approved to support 30 countries.

10. The representative of the President concluded, with regard to ratification, that while the numbers were quite encouraging it was important to maintain efforts as this was the third pillar of the CBD. India was supportive of planned activities. The representative of India informed the Bureau about hosting of a

capacity building workshop for African countries on ABS, TK and biosafety in Bangalore on 11-13 February 2013 towards *inter alia* facilitating ratifications of Nagoya Protocol. He also informed that Permanent Missions of India are being approached through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take up the matter relating to ratification of Nagoya Protocol bilaterally with countries which have initiated the procedures for ratification.

ITEM 4. WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COP-11 DECISIONS AND CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2013-2014

11. With reference to the schedule of meetings, Norway considered that the dates for SBSTTA 18 and WGRI 5 would be too late for any meaningful work to be done by the Secretariat between these meetings and COP 12. Furthermore, the UNEP representative informed the Bureau that the meetings conflicted with the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), which was now scheduled for the same dates. The Secretariat agreed to explore options to advance SBSTTA 18 and WGRI 5 to May¹.

12. The Bureau member from Bosnia and Herzegovina thanked the Secretariat for the very successful meeting on cities and biodiversity recently held in her country. The Bureau member from Georgia said that his country would be pleased to host a regional meeting on the revision of NBSAPs. The Bureau member from Fiji expressed the hope that a preparatory meeting for SBSTTA 17 could be organized back-to-back with the July meeting on the fifth national report.

ITEM 5. STRATEGY FOR RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

13. The Secretariat made a presentation on developments since COP 11. The Executive Secretary pointed out that putting together the data was a challenge for many Parties. More is needed to improve such collection so as to be able to measure and assess resource mobilization. The representative of the President said that, by now, Parties should be able to provide the relevant figures.

14. Following the presentation by the Secretariat, the Bureau member from Argentina emphasized that the World Trade Organization should be included in this work. They had done much work notably on subsidies. The Bureau agreed that all relevant organizations should be involved.

15. With regard to the High Level Panel, the Bureau member from the UK pointed out that advancing the date of the WGRI-5 to April/May meant that the Panel's draft report might not be ready when WGRI meets, and the Panel were keen to ensure that Parties had the opportunity to see their report in good time. It was suggested that the timetable for the production of the report should be adjusted in order to be available before WGRI-5. The Secretariat suggested that a first draft could be presented to the WGRI 5 and then finalized following comments from Parties.

16. In response to a query, the Secretariat clarified that the target for the preliminary reporting framework was 2015. However, the Secretariat had requested Parties to provide relevant information prior to COP 12.

17. The Executive Secretary recalled that the Bureau had agreed, prior to COP 11, not to discuss targets at WGRI. However, parties should make best use of the next WGRI meeting so as to present to COP 12 an agreed agenda on the way forward for the whole set of resource mobilisation commitments agreed at COP 11 .

¹ Following further exploration of this matter by the Secretariat, no other suitable dates for the meetings could be identified. Thus, it was decided in consultation with the Bureau to maintain the dates but swap the meetings. Hence, the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working on the Review of Implementation will be held on 16-20 June 2014 and the eighteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will be held on 23-27 June 2014.

18. In response to a query from the Presidency, the Executive Secretary said that there had been no further developments on pledges following the launch of the “Hyderabad Pledge”. He informed the Bureau that, together with the President, he had sent a letter to all Parties inviting pledges. After that, a pledge was received from the Maldives and from a consortium of partners – Friends of Target 12. He further indicated that target 15 (ecosystem restoration) was an area where he would like to see much more concrete actions. During a recent visit to the Secretariat by a Bolivian delegation, the Executive Secretary had encouraged Bolivia to be more proactive. He invited the Bureau to engage with Parties to arrive at COP 12 with a stronger set of commitments to support the Aichi targets. The Executive Secretary and the President were hoping for more “Biodiversity Champions” in preparation for COP 12.

ITEM 6. ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

19. Under this item, the Secretariat explained, with supporting documentation, how the Nagoya Protocol COP MOP 1 could be held in conjunction with COP 12 through integration of its sessions within the organization of work of COP 12 based on the model provided by UNFCCC. Bureau members generally supported this approach as a good basis for further work, noting that it was in line with the COP decisions and the text of the Protocol.

20. The Bureau member from Grenada noted, however, that the feasibility of the approach depended on adequate representation of Parties, which in turn required adequate financial resources in support of participation. It was noted that the High Level Segment (HLS) should also be factored in. In this connection, the Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that the Secretariat had had initial discussions with the host country. Ministers might be invited to address the COP 12 theme of “biodiversity for sustainable development”. The President proposed exploring options for having the HLS at the beginning, in the middle or at the end of COP. There was broad support among Bureau members to continue to hold the HLS towards the end of COP. It would be the role of the Bureau to identify issues which could require ministerial input. There was a need to ensure transparency of ministerial discussions. It was generally agreed that the agenda of the HLS should be structured around the Strategic Plan. There was also general agreement on the limited value of plenary sessions in which Ministers simply read out prepared statements, and on the need to organize different settings, such as multi-stakeholder panels and press briefings, to provide the necessary visibility for ministers.

ITEM 7. MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY IN THE POST-2015 UN DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS PROCESSES

21. The Executive Secretary briefed the Bureau on recent developments and efforts by the Secretariat to promote integration of biodiversity in the UN sustainable development agenda, as requested by the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat had provided input in the drafting of documents to support discussions in New York on the post-2015 sustainable development goals and was preparing briefing notes on how biodiversity is relevant to the various agenda items. It was most helpful that the Republic of Korea had decided to adopt the topic of biodiversity for sustainable development for the theme for COP 12.

22. In response to a query, the Executive Secretary pointed out that the process is led by the Parties and the Secretariat could only provide information. The Secretary General’s High Level Panel report was helpful but it was not clear how things will come together. The representative of UNEP indicated that some progress had been made in the SG’s High Level Panel and that environment/natural resources were addressed in the report. UNEP was preparing a paper for inter-Agency consideration within the UN system.

23. The Executive Secretary said that what was needed was for some countries to champion the biodiversity agenda in this process. The Bureau member from the UK agreed that this was important and suggested that the UNGA event on biodiversity could be used to further this goal. It was agreed that documents/arguments should be communicated to the national focal points by the Secretariat. The desired outcome was an integrated approach rather than a list of distinct elements.

ITEM 8. SECRETARIAT RESTRUCTURING: REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

24. The Executive Secretary recalled the review process that he had undertaken following his assumption of duties with a view to providing a more efficient support to Parties. The restructuring had been completed and resulted especially on the establishment of a new division within the Secretariat on *Mainstreaming, Partnerships and Outreach (MPO)* and a new distinct division for the Nagoya Protocol. In addition, horizontal (cross-cutting) teams had been established to deal with issues common to all divisions, such as capacity-building and information technology. He had also appointed a focal point and task force for each Aichi target and a task force on the post-2015 sustainable development goals.

25. The functional review of the Secretariat called for by COP 11 was now starting. The Executive Secretary had also established a joint staff-management committee to improve the working environment, and had supported the establishment of a staff-spouses association for Montreal-based international organizations.

26. In response to a query on the large number of vacancies, the Executive Secretary explained that there had been significant movement among staff (departures) following COP 11 and that recruitment to fill the vacant posts was well under way.

ITEM 9. REPORT ON CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE VOLUNTARY FUNDS FOR APPROVED ACTIVITIES (BE) AND PARTICIPATION (BZ)

27. The Executive Secretary briefed the Bureau on current contributions to the voluntary funds for approved activities (BE Trust Fund) and for support to the participation of developing countries (BZ Trust Fund) in meetings of the Convention. With regard to approved activities for voluntary funding, the Secretariat noted that the support from the Japan Biodiversity Fund was not allocated to the various activities as yet because a mid-term review is under consideration in Tokyo. This would significantly and favourably impact the level of support for the activities listed for voluntary funding.

28. The Executive Secretary highlighted the considerable shortfall that remains, emphasizing the lack of predictability caused by the increasing trend to move activities and meetings from the core budget (BY Trust Fund) to the voluntary trust fund (BE Trust Fund), including the meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions. He called on Bureau members to take appropriate action to address the shortfall in both the BE and BZ Trust Funds.

ITEM 10. REPORT OF CREDENTIALS FOR COP-11

29. The Secretariat recalled that those delegations that had not presented credentials in good order at COP 11 had undertaken to do so before 19 November 2012. Following further communications with the Parties concerned, of the 169 Parties registered at COP 11, the credentials of 149 were found to be in full

compliance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure. Thus, 20 Parties² had not complied fully with rule 18. The Bureau members generally felt the need to be stricter with the defaulters.

ITEM 11. PREPARATIONS FOR COP 12 AND COP MOP 7

30. The representative of the Republic of Korea confirmed that the city of PyeongChang, located in Gangwon-Do Province, had been selected as the venue for the meetings. This region was famous for its biodiversity. As for the dates, they had been determined in close consultation with the Secretariat.

31. A Bureau member highlighted the need to take appropriate measures to facilitate the timely issuance of visas. The Executive Secretary indicated that discussions had already been initiated on this matter with Korean authorities to ensure close cooperation as had been the case for COP 11.

32. Similarly, the need to facilitate the booking of hotels for those delegates who are financially assisted was raised. The representative of the Republic of Korea noted the concern and indicated that reservations would be expedited once delegates are duly registered for the meetings.

ITEM 12. DATE AND VENUE OF FUTURE BUREAU MEETINGS

33. It was agreed that the next meeting of the COP Bureau would be held in Montreal, on 6 October 2013, the day prior to the opening of the eighth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions.

ITEM 13. OTHER MATTERS

34. Under this item, the Executive Secretary drew attention to the need to facilitate the rotation of meetings of the Conference of the Parties between the various regions. The organization of COP meetings had become a very costly initiative with the result that few countries could afford to undertake such a commitment. He suggested that new, innovative approaches could help resolve this challenge, such as two Parties or more co-hosting the meeting in a developing country. Yet another approach could be to increase the funding within the core budget to assist developing countries in hosting the meeting.

35. Reacting to the remarks by the Executive Secretary, the observer from Peru noted that Latin America would like to host COP 13. The Bureau member from Norway noted that there is a need to explore how COP and COP MOP could be best organized to achieve some savings.

36. A Bureau member proposed that the Secretariat do a “one-page brief” to outline this issue as a basis for further discussion.

37. Under this item, the representative of UNEP also presented the UNEP proposal for allocation of funds on improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies, which was to be submitted to consideration by the European Union. He emphasized that UNEP was prepared to review the proposal in light of comments from MEAs and to simplify, to the extent possible, the institutional structure. The Bureau member from Norway expressed agreement with the Secretariat’s comment on the need to support improvement of synergies particularly at national level. The Bureau member from Argentina wished to have more information on the proposal and wished to reserve her position at this stage. She noted that there are differences for example between UNFCCC and CBD which should be maintained.

² The Republic of Korea has since presented credentials in good order. Thus, 19 countries remain not to be in compliance with rule 18.

38. The representative of UNEP noted that the project was the result of a mandate from the Governing Council of UNEP and that the European Union was willing to cover the costs. The Bureau member from the UK emphasized that the project was consistent with the desire for further integration among MEAs as expressed by the CBD COP, but echoed other Bureau members in wanting to see it conducted as cost-effectively as possible.

39. Upon request by the Bureau member from Fiji on the need for clarification over financial support towards COP Bureau members, the Secretariat confirmed that the COP Bureau members are supported independently from party representatives to attend COP Bureau and Open-ended meetings upon invitation.

ITEM 14. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

39. After the usual exchange of courtesies, the meeting was adjourned at 5.30 p.m.
