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Item 19 of the provisional agenda*

**COOPERATION WITH OTHER BODIES AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE 10-YEAR
REVIEW OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED SINCE THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present note has been prepared by the Executive Secretary to assist the Conference of the Parties review cooperation with other bodies and the contribution of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the ten-year review of progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

2. Section II of this note briefly recalls previous Conference of the Parties decisions on cooperation. Section III reports on cooperative activities since the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a particular emphasis on the implementation of the various elements contained in decision V/21 on cooperation. Section IV considers the contribution of the Convention to the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio +10), in accordance with decision V/27. Finally, section V provides draft elements of a decision on future cooperation.

II. BACKGROUND

3. The Conference of the Parties has consistently recognized the importance of cooperation and synergy with other conventions and organisations at all levels of the process.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/6/1 and Corr.1/Rev.1.

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4. At its first meeting, by decision I/9 the Conference of the Parties decided to consider as a standing item on its agenda the relationship of the Convention with the Commission on Sustainable Development and biodiversity-related conventions, other international agreements, institutions and processes of relevance. At its second meeting, in decision II/13, the Conference of the Parties stressed the need to make implementation of the Convention and activities of other international and regional conventions mutually supportive, and the need to avoid unnecessary duplication of activities.
5. By decision IV/15, paragraph 4, the Conference of the Parties requested that the Executive Secretary, on behalf of the Conference of the Parties, consider matters of liaison, cooperation and collaboration as a key responsibility. The Conference of the Parties has also consistently requested the Executive Secretary to coordinate with secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions, institutions and processes with a view to, *inter alia*, facilitating exchange of information, exploring harmonization or efficiencies of reporting requirements, exploring the possibility of coordinating work programmes. ^{1/}
6. In the light of this request, the Secretariat has entered into memoranda of cooperation with a number of conventions and institutions. This approach has been endorsed by the Conference of the Parties. ^{2/} A full list of these memoranda is provided in annex I below.
7. In addition to cooperation at the inter-secretariat level, the Conference of the Parties has made inputs to other relevant processes through statements adopted by way of Conference of the Parties decisions and transmitted via the Secretariat to the body concerned. For example, it has provided statements to: the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (decision I/8); the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (decision II/9); the International Technical Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (decision II/16); and the special session of the General Assembly to review implementation of Agenda 21 (decision III/19).
8. By paragraph 5 of decision II/13 and paragraph 9 of decision III/21, the Conference of the Parties has also invited the governing bodies of other conventions related to biological diversity to consider their possible contribution to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention.
9. The Conference of the Parties has repeatedly emphasized the importance of cooperation at the scientific and technical level. ^{3/} To this end, the Executive Secretary and the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) participate in a number of processes designed to further the science of biodiversity, such as the International Biodiversity Observation Year, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.
10. In relation to action at the national level, the Conference of the Parties has also called on national focal points of biodiversity-related conventions to cooperate on implementation and to avoid duplication of effort. ^{4/}
11. Over and above its specific decisions on cooperation the Conference of the Parties has also made frequent references to cooperation with other conventions and organisations in its decisions on specific

^{1/} See decision II/13, paragraph 4; decision III/21, paragraph 3; and decision IV/15, paragraph 5.

^{2/} See decision III/21, paragraph 2 and decision IV/15, paragraph 3.

^{3/} See decision III/21, paragraph 5; decision II/6, paragraph 8; decision IV/16, Annex I, paragraph 14; decision V/20, part II, paragraph 19; and decision V/21, paragraph 2.

^{4/} See decision III/21, paragraph 10.

thematic areas and cross-cutting issues. A comprehensive list of these decisions is provided in annex II below.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES REGARDING COOPERATION WITH OTHER BODIES

A. *General considerations*

12. As with previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties, cooperation with other institutions, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, formed an important subject of the decisions of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and consequently has been central to the effective implementation of these decisions and in turn the Convention on Biological Diversity.

13. The decisions of the Conference of the Parties on: access and benefit-sharing, Article 8 (j), alien invasive species, the Global Taxonomy Initiative, incentive measures, education and awareness, tourism, liability and redress, for example, all involved extensive and ongoing cooperation with a wide range of organizations and stakeholders.

14. For example, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) have continued to lead the implementation of various decisions of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In its work on environmental impact assessments, the Secretariat has interacted closely with the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA). In undertaking the work on alien species mandated by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting, the Secretariat has worked closely with the the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The Executive Secretary signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) whereby the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention will provide relevant thematic information on invasive alien species and develop a pilot imitative on invasive alien species. In developing the Global Taxonomy Initiative the Secretariat has worked closely with the Global Biodiversity Informatics Facility (GBIF). Joint work programmes are being developed with the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA). The secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) organized a liaison group meeting in Bonn, Germany, from 30 April to 2 May, to discuss their joint work programme on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands. Discussions are also under way with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) with regard to collaboration on the Biosafety Clearing-house.

15. The specific details of this cooperation and how it contributed to the implementation of decisions of the Conference of the Parties is outlined in the relevant pre-session documents for these issues. ^{5/}

^{5/} The list of pre-session documents for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties is contained in annex I to the annotations to the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/1/Add.1).

16. Moreover, the role of other organizations in the development of the Convention will only increase as the Convention process focuses more on implementation. An indication of the future in this respect is that one of the objectives of the Strategic Plan for the Convention, as decided by the Conference of the Parties in its decision V/20, is to increase the ability of other organizations to contribute to the Convention process. In particular, it is hoped that the Strategic Plan will support and advance important goals, such as:

- (a) Creating clearer expectations of the Convention process, especially with respect to the agenda, the ongoing work, and (envisaged) products of the Convention, for all involved, including the actors and partners addressed in the decisions of the Conference of the Parties;
- (b) Fostering a better understanding of the Convention process, both with regard to the institutional and substantive aspects of the Convention's development; and
- (c) Securing transparency of, and full participation in, the decision-making process.

17. A draft Strategic Plan was developed by the Open-ended Intersessional Meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reports and the Implementation of the Convention and is contained in the report of that meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/5, annex, recommendation 1, annex).

B. Decision V/21: Cooperation with other bodies

18. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted a decision that specifically focused on cooperation in an overarching manner, namely decision V/21. In this decision, the Conference of the Parties took note of the ongoing cooperation activities and invited the Executive Secretary to strengthen cooperation in four areas:

- (a) Scientific and technical assessments;
- (b) Linkages between climate change and biodiversity;
- (c) Cooperative activities with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; and
- (d) Cooperation with the Convention on Migratory Species.

1. Scientific and technical assessments

19. By paragraph 1 of decision V/21, the Conference of the Parties invited the Executive Secretary to strengthen cooperation, particularly in the area of scientific and technical assessments of biodiversity. Several organizations and processes are contributing to the Secretariat's work on scientific assessments. They include the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA), the Forest Resources Assessment 2000, the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the state of the world's plant and animal resources, the World Water Assessment Programme and the IUCN Red List assessment processes.

20. At its seventh meeting, SBSTTA considered each of these assessments, their status, their relevance to the work of the Convention and the process by which their products can be formally and informally incorporated into the work of the Convention. On the basis of this consideration, SBSTTA adopted recommendation VII/2, 6/ by which it welcomed the work of the Executive Secretary on these

6/ See annex I to the report of the seventh meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/4).

issues, approved the procedure being used to carry out the pilot assessments, and welcomed the contribution that the above named assessment process were making to the work of SBSTTA and invited them to keep SBSTTA informed of their work.

21. In the same recommendation, SBSTTA also requested the Executive Secretary to inform the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting on the progress in implementation of the pilot assessments called for in decision V/20. SBSTTA also recommended that the Conference of the Parties consider the need to provide assistance to developing country Parties so that experts from these Parties can properly participate in the work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

22. The Conference of the Parties is invited to welcome the contribution of these assessments, invite them to keep SBSTTA informed of their progress and consider the need for providing assistance to experts from developing country Parties to participate in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

2. *Cooperation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including its Kyoto Protocol, on relevant issues such as dry and sub-humid lands, forest biological diversity, coral reefs, and incentive measures*

23. In accordance with paragraph 3 of decision V/21, the Executive Secretary has been liaising with the Secretariat of the Convention on Climate Change on the potential impact of afforestation, reforestation, forest degradation and deforestation on forest biological diversity and on other ecosystems, in particular in the context of the Kyoto Protocol. An information note was prepared for the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Climate Change and the thirteenth session of its Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). The Executive Secretary held discussions with the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on these matters and, in particular, on the participation of IPCC in SBSTTA's work on the impacts of climate change on biological diversity and in the preparation of scientific advice on the integration of biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. The IPCC Chair delivered keynote addresses at the sixth and seventh meetings of SBSTTA.

24. In recommendation VI/7, ^{7/} SBSTTA noted the interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change, and decided to promote, on the basis of the ecosystem approach, a wider assessment of these inter-linkages. As a first step in this wider assessment, SBSTTA decided to carry out a pilot assessment to prepare scientific advice to integrate biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol and, for this purpose, established, an ad hoc technical expert group in accordance with its *modus operandi*. The work of the ad hoc technical expert group will build upon, *inter alia*, previous relevant work of IPCC, which is being integrated by the IPCC into a technical paper.

25. Based on the terms of reference adopted by SBSTTA, the proposed outputs of the ad hoc technical expert group will be:

(a) An assessment of the relevant inter-linkages between biological diversity and climate change, in the context of the ecosystem approach, including:

- (i) An analysis of the possible adverse effects on biological diversity of measures that might be taken or are being considered under the United Nations Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol;

^{7/} See UNEP/CBD/COP/6/3, annex I.

- (ii) Identification of factors that influence biodiversity's capacity to mitigate climate change and contribute to adaptation and the likely effects of climate change on that capacity;
- (iii) Identification of options for future work on climate change that also contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity; and

(b) Recommendations based upon a review of possible approaches and tools such as criteria and indicators, to facilitate application of scientific advice for the integration of biodiversity considerations into the implementation of measures that might be taken under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol to mitigate or adapt to climate change.

26. The expert group has been established and is expected to meet in January 2002. The first meeting of the expert group will have before it the technical paper on the linkages between climate change and biodiversity prepared by IPCC. This group is expected to finalize its report at its second meeting, in May 2002. This report will be considered by a joint Convention on Biological Diversity/United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change workshop. It is expected that, at its ninth meeting, SBSTTA will consider a summary for policy makers in time for the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

27. At its fifteenth session, held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 29 October to 6 November 2001, SBSTA considered progress in the implementation of cooperative activities outlined above. SBSTA also welcomed information on the pilot assessment of the interlinkages between climate change and biological diversity that was launched within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity in March 2001, and expressed its interest in learning about how this work is proceeding. SBSTA noted with appreciation the report provided by IPCC on the preparations under way to develop a technical paper, at the request of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on the interlinkages between climate change, biodiversity and desertification. It encouraged IPCC to make the findings of this report available to SBSTA at its next session.

28. The Conference of the Parties is invited to welcome the activities being undertaken with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including its Kyoto Protocol, and request SBSTTA and the Executive Secretary to continue to cooperate with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including its Kyoto Protocol, on relevant issues such as dry and sub-humid lands, forest biological diversity, coral reefs, and incentive measures, with a view to maximizing synergies between the two processes.

3. Cooperation with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

29. In decision V/21, paragraph 5, the Conference of the Parties took note of the second joint work plan (2000-2001) between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, which included a range of cooperative actions in relation to several ecosystem themes and cross-cutting issues, and proposed actions to harmonize institutional processes. The Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to take these actions fully into consideration in furthering the respective programmes of work for these areas.

30. Consistent with decision V/21, the Secretariat continued implementing the second joint work plan with the Ramsar Convention and in particular promoted the implementation of the second phase of the River Basin Initiative (establishment phase). The River Basin Initiative is a key element of the joint work plan between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention, which was endorsed through decision V/2 of the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the Ramsar Bureau, is preparing a progress report on the second joint work plan and a draft third joint work plan for

consideration by the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with recommendation VI/3 of SBSTTA.

31. The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider this matter within the context of the Convention's own work programme on inland water ecosystems. ^{8/}

4. *Cooperation with the Convention on Migratory Species*

32. In decision V/21, paragraph 7, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop a proposal on how migratory species could be integrated into the work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the role that the Convention on Migratory Species could play in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity with regard to, *inter alia*, the ecosystem approach, the Global Taxonomy Initiative, indicators, assessments and monitoring, protected areas, public education and awareness, and sustainable use, including tourism and requested the Executive Secretary and SBSTTA to review the proposal and to provide its advice to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

33. In accordance with decision V/21, the Secretariats of the two conventions developed proposals that were submitted to SBSTTA at its sixth meeting. In recommendation VI/8 on migratory species, SBSTTA requested the further development of a joint work programme based on the elements contained in the proposal. The two secretariats are preparing a joint work programme for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting, which incorporates the relevant thematic programmes and cross-cutting issues of the Convention.

34. SBSTTA also recommended that the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting, examine the need for the necessary financial resources to support capacity-building and specific projects aimed at incorporating the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species and their habitats, in accordance with the work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity and any joint work programme between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Migratory Species. In this context, it is worth recalling that the existing guidance to the financial mechanism does explicitly refer to support for such activities. To the extent that this guidance needs be revised in light of this recommendation of SBSTTA, as a result of paragraph 7 of decision V/20, such a revision will need to be taken up within the context of guidance to the financial mechanism in its entirety, which will be considered under item 18 of the provisional agenda for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. To the extent that it entails additional financial resources, it will be considered under item 18.1 of the provisional agenda on additional financial resources.

35. SBSTTA also recommended that the Conference of the Parties urge Parties to report through their national reports on the extent to which they address migratory species at the national level, and on their cooperation with other range States. The Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reporting and Implementation of the Convention (MSP) considered guidelines for the next round of national reports and within this context also considered the UNEP-WCMC harmonization report mentioned above. ^{9/} MSP recommended that the work of UNEP in this matter be welcomed.

36. Finally, SBSTTA recommended that the Conference of the Parties, with a view to strengthening the role of the Convention on Migratory Species in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity,

^{8/} See paragraphs 71 and 72 of the annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/1/Add.1).

^{9/} See recommendation 2 of the Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reporting and Implementation of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/5, annex).

recognize the Convention on Migratory Species as the lead partner in conserving and sustainably using migratory species over their entire range and also recognize that the Convention on Migratory Species provides an international legal framework through which range States can cooperate on migratory species issues.

37. Under this item of the agenda the Conference of the Parties is invited to: endorse the joint work programme work programme between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Migratory Species; recognize the Convention on Migratory Species as the lead partner in conserving and sustainably using migratory species over their entire range; and also recognize that the Convention on Migratory Species provides an international legal framework through which range States can cooperate on migratory species issues.

C. Harmonization of the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements

38. An issue of increasing importance both within the Convention process and for other institutions, especially in the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, is the attempts to ease the burden of implementing multilateral environmental agreements through harmonization of procedures and capturing of synergies. These efforts have a numerous dimensions. The most relevant for the purposes of this meeting of the Conference of the Parties are: streamlining of national reports, the efforts of Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity (collectively known as “the Rio conventions”) to develop programmes of implementation that capture the synergies between them, and the work of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or their Representatives on International Environmental Governance.

1. Streamlining national reports of biodiversity-related conventions

39. Each of the biodiversity-related conventions (Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES, Ramsar Convention, World Heritage Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species) requires the submission of periodic national reports. There is a significant degree of overlap and repetition in the format, content and periodicity of these various reports. As a result the CBD as well as the other biodiversity related conventions have actively explored ways and means to streamline the national reporting requirements of the biodiversity-related conventions, as well as other multilateral environmental agreements, with a view to easing the reporting burden on national focal points. In 1997, the secretariats of the global biodiversity-related conventions ^{10/} and UNEP commissioned the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) ^{11/} undertook a feasibility study for a harmonized information management infrastructure for biodiversity-related treaties. ^{12/} The feasibility study proposed a series of steps to be taken by the secretariats of these conventions to investigate options for harmonizing reporting procedures under the five conventions. By paragraph 5 of decision IV/15 the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to continue to explore the possibilities for promoting efficiencies between the reporting requirements of the biodiversity related instruments.

^{10/} The Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar) and the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

^{11/} Now UNEP-WCMC

^{12/} Available at <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/convent/treaties.htm>

40. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to proceed with the further development and implementation of the proposals for streamlining national reporting with a view to simplifying reporting procedures and reducing the burden of reporting on Parties, and report on progress to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting (decision V/19, paragraph 9(c)).

41. In October 2000, UNEP convened a workshop to explore ideas for a more harmonized approach to national reporting under international agreements and to develop pilot projects for testing these ideas. The Secretariat took part in the workshop, together with other biodiversity-related convention secretariats, ^{13/} countries ^{14/} and relevant international organizations. The workshop took the “WCMC feasibility study” as its starting point and examined possible methods for streamlining national reporting. It identified four main aspects, namely modular reporting, consolidated reporting, a linkage to state-of-the-environment reporting and a regionally based system for reporting.

42. The workshop recommended that a number of pilot projects be conducted with selected interested countries to test some of the methods, and UNEP is currently implementing these. ^{15/} Results of the pilot projects will be reviewed by the newly established Environmental Management Group (EMG) ^{16/} and subsequently presented to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to the next meetings of the conferences of the parties to the participating agreements.

43. The Executive Secretary is a member of the Environmental Management Group. At its first meeting, held in Geneva on 22 January 2001, the EMG considered a proposal to develop a harmonized system for reporting under multilateral environmental agreements and agreed to establish an Issue Management Group (IMG) dealing with the harmonization of environmental reporting. It was decided that UNEP would serve as the task manager and should develop its proposal on this theme, with a focus on biodiversity-related conventions, while considering the relevance of biodiversity-related aspects of other multilateral environmental agreements. It decided that the IMG should look at this issue comprehensively, taking into account issues such as, the best use of lessons learned, the composition of the group and the number of the countries to be used in a pilot phase, and provide EMG, at its next session, with its recommendations.

44. The Secretariat participated in the preparation by the IMG of a background paper on harmonization of information management and reporting for biodiversity-related treaties for the second meeting of the EMG, held in Geneva on 15 June 2001. ^{17/} The final version of the paper will provide an input to the report of the Secretary General to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

45. Harmonization of reports and the work of UNEP were considered by the MSP. UNEP reported on activities relating to national reporting taking place under the aegis of the EMG in document UNEP/CBD/MSP/INF/3. The MSP welcomed the work of UNEP on this matter and recommended that the Conference of the Parties encourage its continuation, whilst recognising the need to ensure that this

^{13/} As above, plus the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)

^{14/} Australia, Belgium, Ghana, Hungary, Indonesia, Seychelles, Panama, United Kingdom.

^{15/} For further details visit <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/conventions/harmonization.htm>

^{16/} The Environmental Management Group (EMG), established by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, is chaired by the Executive Director of UNEP, who reports directly to the Secretary-General. The EMG focuses on environment and human settlement issues, in the context of the linkages between environment and development. The most important goal of the EMG is to achieve effective coordination and joint action in key areas of environmental and human settlements concern.

^{17/} The report of the second meeting of the EMG is contained in document UNEP/IGM/2/INF/4.

does not effect the ability of the Conference of the Parties to adjust national reporting procedures under the Convention in order to better meet the needs of Parties.

46. The Executive Secretary will also invite UNEP to provide the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties with a report on activities relating to national reporting taking place under the aegis of the EMG. The Conference of the Parties may wish to consider the recommendation of MSP as well as the report of UNEP.

2. *Capturing the synergies between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity*

47. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity (the “Rio conventions”) address a number of common substantive and procedural issues. For example, with respect to the substantive relationships: proper management of forests will conserve biodiversity, halt desertification, and stabilise climate; poverty is a serious barrier for many parties being able to cope with climate change, biodiversity loss, or desertification; and land degradation destroys biodiversity, causes desertification and is a cause of climate change. They also contain similar commitments to capacity-building, exchange of information, transfer of technology, scientific and technical cooperation, development of national action plans and strategies and periodic reporting. They also share the similar institutional architecture, rules of procedure and the GEF provides support for their implementation at the national and regional levels.

48. Promoting implementation and at the same time relieving the burden of the implementation through capturing these synergies has received increasing attention and will likely be a prominent issue at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Conference of the Parties has adopted several decisions calling for enhanced cooperation between the Rio conventions (e.g., decision IV/15 and V/21). The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Climate Change at its seventh meeting (November 2001) recognized that, the problems of poverty, land degradation, access to water and food and human health remain at the centre of global attention; therefore, the synergies between the the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity should continue to be explored through various channels, in order to achieve sustainable development.

49. Given the substantive and procedural commonalities, cooperation to capture potential synergies needs to take place at all levels. Thus, there are gains to be made through cooperation at the international level on the common substantive matters as well as some procedural issues. Similarly, cooperation at the regional and national levels has the same potential. Efforts at all these levels are complementary and deserve equal attention.

50. Additionally, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its fourteenth session, held in September 2001, endorsed the formation of a joint liaison group between the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity to further explore the possibilities of cooperation. At this session, SBSTA also invited Parties to submit their further views on cooperation between the three conventions by 15 October 2001 (FCCC/SBSTA/2001/2, paras. 42 (d)-(f)). In response to this invitation some Parties expressed support for the development of a joint work plan between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity with a view to fostering a more coherent and coordinated implementation at the national level.

51. An area where cooperation has received varying attention and where there is still unrealised potential is at the national level. It is generally agreed that promoting mechanisms that improve co-ordination and communication between national focal points as well as with other institutions involved in the national implementation of the Rio conventions would realise significant benefits.

52. SBSTA considered the matter at its most recent, fifteenth session, in October 2001, and noted that enhancing cooperation between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other global environmental conventions involves actions at the national level, the level of convention bodies and potentially at other levels. SBSTA emphasized the role of Parties at a national level in improving coordination and cooperation in their activities to the implementation of the three conventions. SBSTA requested the joint liaison group referred to above to collect and share information on the work programmes and operations of each convention, including:

- (a) The roles and responsibilities of the secretariats, and any relevant scientific and technical bodies or expert groups;
- (b) The types of activities under each convention;
- (c) Potential areas of cooperation, possible joint activities, and any potential conflicts associated with different mandates.

53. SBSTA also requested the liaison group to examine the possibility of holding a joint workshop before the eighteenth session of SBSTA to explore the issues relating to interlinkages between the three conventions. SBSTA agreed to consider these issues further and requested the secretariat to report, at its sixteenth session. To begin preparations for the liaison group the SBSTA invited Parties to submit further views including suggestions for specific actions towards achieving such cooperation with other relevant intergovernmental bodies, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity, by 15 March 2002. The sixteenth session of SBSTA is due to be held in June 2002. The eighteenth session of SBSTA is due to be held in June 2003.

54. The Conference of the Parties is invited to welcome this initiative of the Convention on Climate Change, to invite Parties to support the work and request the Executive Secretary to continue to collaborate with the that convention and the Convention to Combat Desertification.

3. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or their Representatives on International Environmental Governance

55. The UNEP Governing Council at its twenty-first session adopted decision 21/21, on international environmental governance, by which the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives was established to undertake a comprehensive policy-oriented assessment of existing institutional weaknesses as well as future needs and options for strengthened international environmental governance, including the financing of UNEP, with a view to presenting a report containing analysis and options to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, at its following session in February 2002. In that decision, the Council decided also that the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its following session should undertake an in-depth discussion of that report with a view to providing input on future requirements of international environmental governance in the broader context of multilateral efforts for sustainable development to the preparatory body for the World Summit on Sustainable Development as a contribution to the Summit.

56. The Intergovernmental Group of Ministers has held four meetings in New York on 18 April 2001, in Bonn on 17 July 2001, in Algiers on 9 and 10 September 2001 and in Montreal on 30 November and 1 December 2001. At the third and fourth meetings the suggestions of the President of the Governing Council were presented in the form of “building blocks”.

57. The third meeting generated a number of conclusions that provide an indication of where consensus is emerging. Two important conclusions for the purposes of this item of the agenda were:

(a) The proliferation of institutional arrangements, meetings and agendas is weakening policy coherence and synergy and increasing the negative impact of limited resources; and

(b) The clustering approach to multilateral environmental agreements holds some promise, and issues relating to the location of secretariats, meeting agendas and also programmatic cooperation between such bodies and with UNEP should be addressed.

58. At the fourth meeting, the President made a number of observations of relevance for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. He concluded that the negative impact of the increasing burdens on Governments' ability to participate meaningfully in the proliferating meetings and agendas of multilateral environmental agreements was a major constraint to effective international policy-making. While the benefits of being able to concentrate on issue-specific areas were recognized, the perception of a growing potential for overlap in the international environmental agenda has made it difficult to benefit from potential synergies and linkages between the various agreements. He also recognized that the authority and the autonomy of the governing bodies of the conferences of the parties and the accountability of their secretariats to their respective governing bodies should be taken into account.

59. The President observed that one approach that has emerged from the debate is that of enhancing the synergies and linkages between multilateral environmental agreements with comparable areas of focus or of a regional character. Such synergy could take place either at the functional level (by bringing together the various functions undertaken by secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements such as capacity-building; or at the programme level, (by bringing together multilateral environmental agreements dealing with related issues such as chemicals, the atmosphere, biodiversity, etc.). He concluded that initiation of pilot projects should be further pursued. The President observed that the study on chemicals related convention as well as the convening of a joint liaison group of the Rio conventions was welcomed as a first step in the right direction. The President observed that the IEG agreed that more consideration should be given to the proposed measures suggested by the study. It was also agreed that such synergies and linkages should be promoted in close consultation and with the full agreement of the conferences of the parties. UNEP was encouraged to continue in close cooperation with the secretariat of multilateral environmental agreements enhancing such synergies and linkages including on issues related to scientific assessments and overlap.

60. The President observed that while taking fully into account the autonomous decision-making authority of the conferences of the parties, considerable benefits could accrue from a more coordinated approach to areas such as scheduling and periodicity of meetings of the conferences of the parties; reporting; scientific assessment; capacity-building, transfer of technology; and, to enhance the capacities of developing countries before and after the entry into force of legal agreements to implement and review progress on a collective and regular basis. The President observed that the idea of encouraging biannual meetings as well as short duration of conferences of the parties was agreed upon as well the need to consider as far as possible and practical back to back or side to side meetings of the conferences of the parties. He concluded that the merit of convening meetings at the United Nations headquarters or in other location will be considered on case-by-case basis. It was also felt that in the future careful consideration

should be given to the effectiveness and resource efficiency of establishing additional subsidiary institutions of the conferences of the parties. It was also agreed that enhanced coordination at the convention level will require also enhanced coordination of multilateral environmental agreements at national level as well.

61. These observations will be considered at a fifth meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives to be held in January 2002 in New York. They will then be considered by the Global Ministerial Environment Forum/Seventh Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council. This meeting is scheduled to take place from 13-18 February 2002, in Cartagena, Colombia. The report of the Forum will be transmitted to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

IV. CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

62. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties recognized the importance of the forthcoming 10-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and adopted decision V/27 addressing the contribution of the Convention to that review process. In its decision, the Conference of the Parties:

(a) Welcomed the invitation of the General Assembly in its resolution 54/218 to the secretariat of the Convention to report on how its activities are contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, for the consideration of the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

(b) Welcomed the invitation of the Commission on Sustainable Development extended to secretariats of conventions related to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to support preparatory activities of the 10-year review, and to review and assess their respective programmes of work since the Conference;

(c) Requested the Executive Secretary to support such preparatory activities and, in particular, to report to the Commission on Sustainable Development on progress made in the implementation of the Convention; and

(d) Encouraged parties, Governments and countries to highlight and emphasize biological diversity considerations in their contributions to the 10-year review.

63. Accordingly, the report of the Executive Secretary to the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly (A/55/211) noted how the activities of the Convention contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. It recalled the submissions made by the Conference of the Parties and the Executive Secretary to the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session ('Rio+5') regarding the contribution of the Convention to the implementation of Agenda 21 (decision III/19 and A/S-19/13) and noted that the views expressed at the time of the five-year review continue to hold true for the ten-year review.

64. The report noted that significant progress had been made in respect of some of these issues, as evidenced by:

(a) The successful negotiation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

(b) Greater public awareness of biological diversity and the goods and services it provides;

- (c) The widespread development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (d) Increased emphasis on inter-agency cooperation;
- (e) The contribution of the Global Environment Facility.

65. However, the report noted that, despite the achievements of the Convention, biological diversity is still being destroyed by human activities at unprecedented rates. A key challenge facing the Convention will be to demonstrate not only that it can develop policy but that it can also be an effective vehicle for implementing this.

66. In its resolution, the General Assembly welcomed the decision of the Conference of the Parties to contribute to the ten-year review of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and decided to invite the Executive Secretary and, if appropriate, the President of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to report to it at its relevant session (resolution 55/201, paragraph 10).

67. The report of the Executive Secretary to the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly (A/56/126) considers further the contribution of the Convention to the implementation of Agenda 21. The report notes that the key challenge facing the Summit is how to further implement sustainable development. It recalls that biological diversity underpins society in many important ways and that food security, climatic stability, freshwater security and the health needs of humans all directly depend upon maintaining and using the world's biological diversity. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without the sustainable use of biological diversity and the Convention is therefore an important instrument for the implementation of Agenda 21.

68. In its resolution on the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted at the fifty-sixth session, the Assembly stated that it looked forward to the contribution of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the preparations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, bearing in mind the decisions taken by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its tenth session.

69. In response to General Assembly resolution 54/218 and decision V/27, the Executive Secretary has prepared a report to the Commission on Sustainable Development on progress made in the implementation of the Convention. This report will be considered by the second meeting of the Commission acting as the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in New York from 28 January to 8 February 2002. The report of the Executive Secretary will be made available to this meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

70. The third preparatory meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development will take place in New York from 25 March to 5 April 2002, prior to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. At this session, the Preparatory Committee is expected to agree on the text of a document containing the results of the review and assessment of Agenda 21, as well as conclusions and recommendations for further action. It is expected that this document will be available at this meeting of the Conference of the Parties as well. The Secretary-General of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs will be invited to address this meeting on the outcome of the third preparatory meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

71. The MSP also considered the role of the Convention in the World Summit on Sustainable Development and adopted recommendation 5 on the issue (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/5, annex). In this recommendation, the MSP recommended that the Conference of the Parties develop and adopt a message

for transmission to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Such a message should be short and focused, and should highlight the central role that fulfilling the objectives of the Convention play in the implementation of the commitments on sustainable development undertaken at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in their further development. Elements of such a message could include:

- (a) Information on the state of implementation of the Convention, the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and the clearing-house mechanism, drawn from analysis of national reports and other relevant reports;
- (b) Information on the Strategic Plan for the Convention and the multi-year programme of work;
- (c) The need to renew the commitment to make available the financial resources and support for the capacity development required for the effective implementation of the Convention;
- (d) The leadership role that the Convention can play in the implementation of global and regional biodiversity-related conventions and agreements;
- (e) The Global Biodiversity Outlook and the outlook for biological diversity.

72. In order to assist the Conference of the Parties prepare such a message the Executive Secretary has provided the draft elements of a message in the annex III to the present document. Draft elements of an accompanying decision are provided in section V below.

73. The Conference of the Parties may wish to consider transmitting its views to the fourth and final preparatory session to be held at the ministerial level in Indonesia from 27 May to 7 June 2002 and to the Summit itself.

74. With a view to providing the Commission with further information on the implementation of the Convention, the Executive Secretary will also make available to the Second Preparatory Meeting copies of the first edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

75. The Executive Secretary has established an internal task force on preparation of input to the ten-year review. The Secretariat provided comments and input to the preparation of the task managers' reports on major trends and emerging issues affecting the thematic clusters of Agenda 21 issues considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development during the first preparatory meeting, held in New York from 30 April to 2 May 2001.

76. The Secretariat has also prepared a brochure on the contribution of the Convention to the implementation of Agenda 21, which has been distributed at the regional and subregional preparatory meetings for the Summit.

V. CONCLUSIONS

77. The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider the following draft elements of a decision on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives and contribution to the ten-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21:

*[Cooperation with other bodies]**The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Welcomes* the further contribution that the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA), the Forest Resources Assessment 2000, the FAO report on the State of the World's Plant and Animal Resources, the World Water Assessment Programme and the IUCN Red List assessment have made to the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Convention;

2. *Invites* those conducting these assessments to keep the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice informed of their work, and further invite them to report to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its eighth and ninth meetings;

3. *Welcomes* the activities being undertaken with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including its Kyoto Protocol, and requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Executive Secretary to continue to cooperate with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including its Kyoto Protocol, on relevant issues such as dry and sub-humid lands, forest biological diversity, coral reefs, and incentive measures with a view to maximizing synergies between the two processes;

4. *Welcomes* the conclusions of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change regarding cooperation between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity;

5. *Takes note* of the terms of reference of the joint liaison group of the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the proposed programme of work agreed upon at the fifteenth session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

6. *Invites* Parties to provide views to the Executive Secretary on the need for further enhanced cooperation between the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including suggestions for specific actions by 15 May 2002;

7. *Welcomes and endorses* the third joint work plan (2002-2003) between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; 18/

8. *Notes* that the third joint work plan between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands includes a range of cooperative actions in relation to several ecosystem themes and cross-cutting issues of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as proposing actions to harmonize institutional processes, and requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Executive Secretary to take these actions fully into consideration in furthering the respective programmes of work for these areas;

9. *Welcomes and endorses* the joint work programme between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Migratory Species; 18/

18/ To be submitted as an information document to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

10. *Notes* that the joint work programme between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Migratory Species includes a range of cooperative actions in relation to several ecosystem themes and cross-cutting issues of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as proposing actions to harmonize institutional processes, and requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Executive Secretary to take these actions fully into consideration in furthering the respective programmes of work for these areas;

11. *Recognizes* the Convention on Migratory Species as the lead partner in conserving and sustainably using migratory species over their entire range;

12. *Further recognizes* that the Convention on Migratory Species provides an international legal framework through which range States can cooperate on migratory species issues;

13. *Welcomes* the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on the harmonization of environmental reporting and encourages its continuation, whilst recognizing the need to ensure that this does not affect the ability of the Conference of the Parties to adjust national reporting procedures under the Convention in order to better meet the needs of Parties.

[World Summit on Sustainable Development]

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision V/27 on the contribution of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the ten-year review of progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Noting the outcome of the third meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Convinced that the World Summit on Sustainable Development should be an excellent opportunity to mobilize more political will and resources to promote the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable development

Deeply concerned that, despite many successful and continuing efforts of the international community since the entry into force of the Convention and the fact that some progress has been made, the condition of biodiversity in the world's major ecosystems continues to deteriorate, almost without exception and often at an accelerating rate,

Recalling resolution 55/199 of the General Assembly on the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development which invited, inter alia, conventions related to the conference to participate fully in the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21,

1. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Executive Secretary to the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

2. *Adopts* the annexed statement for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (see annex III below) and *requests* the President of the Conference of the Parties to transmit this statement from the Conference of the Parties to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to participate actively in the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and in the Summit itself, with a view to

ensuring that the objectives of the Convention, particularly those relating to poverty eradication and sustainable development, are duly reflected in its outcome, and to report to the sixth seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties accordingly;

4. *Encourages* Governments to involve national focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity in the World Summit on Sustainable Development process, and non-governmental organizations to participate in that process, and invites developed countries to provide support to that end through appropriate channels.

*Annex I***LIST OF MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION SIGNED BETWEEN THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS****As of 28 November 2001**

	Name of institution/organization	Date signed
1.	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (RAMSAR)	19 January 1996
2.	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	23 March 1996
3.	Convention of the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	13 June 1996
4.	Government of Canada (Host Country Agreement)	25 October 1996
5.	Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (CARTAGENA Convention and the SPAW)	3 March 1997
6.	The World Bank	5 May 1997
7.	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC of UNESCO)	14 Sep 1997
8.	The World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC)	13 July 1997
9.	The World Conservation Union (IUCN)	5 September 1997
10.	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	24 October 1997
11.	Secretariat of DIVERSITAS	29 October 1997
12.	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	11 May 1998
13.	Secretariat of the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS)	3 June 1998
14.	ICI Environment Inc. (Consortium of Universities in Quebec)	18 June 1998
15.	Genetic Resources Communication Systems Inc. – (DIVERSITY)	29 June 1998
16.	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. (UNCCD)	31 July 1998
17.	Joint Council of Europe as Secretariat to the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy	21 March 2000
18.	Council of Europe as Secretariat of the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats	13 March 2001
19.	International Ocean Institute (IOI)	21 June 1999
20.	Center for International Forestry Research For Scientific and Technical Co-operation. (CIFOR)	1 October 1999
21.	The Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan (Barcelona Convention)	18 May 2000
22.	Wetlands International	27 September 2000
23.	The Coordination Office of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)	20 September 2000
24.	African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS)	26 February 2001
25.	FAO - Atlas of the Oceans	22 February 2001
26.	United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agriculture Services	9 March 2001
27.	Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP)	8 June 2001

Annex II

REFERENCES FOR DECISIONS ON COOPERATION WITH OTHER BODIES

Decisions on cooperation with other conventions, organizations and processes

Decision II/13 (Cooperation)

Decision II/14 (Intergovernmental workshop on cooperation)

Decision III/21 (Cooperation)

Decision IV/15 (Cooperation)

Decision V/21 (Cooperation)

Thematic work programmes

Forest biological diversity

Decision II/9, paragraphs 1, 2, 4; annex (Forest statement to the IPF)

Decision III/12, paragraphs 1–7; annex (Forest biological diversity)

Decision IV/7, paragraphs 2, 4, 9, 11, 13; annex, paragraphs 3 (f), 8, 9, 18, 22, 23, 40, 45, 48, 49, 50 (Forest biological diversity)

Decision V/4, paragraphs 3, 6, 7, 11, 13, 15–20 (Forest biological diversity)

Marine and coastal

Decision II/10, paragraphs 4, 5, 10, 12, 13; annex I, paragraphs (vi) (viii) (xi); annex II, paragraphs 2 (c), 3 (b) (Marine and coastal)

Decision IV/5, I, paragraph 4; II, paragraphs 2, 3; annex, B, paragraphs 7, 11, 12, 14; C, operational objectives 1.3, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 5.1, 6.1 (Marine and coastal)

Decision V/3, paragraphs 4, 5, 6 (b), 17, 18; annex, C (Marine and coastal)

Agriculture

Decision II/15 (FAO Global System)

Decision II/16 (Statement to the FAO International Technical Conference)

Decision III/11, paragraphs 1–3, 7, 14, 19, 20, 23, 24 (Agriculture)

Decision IV/6, paragraphs 2 (b), 7–10 (Agriculture)

Decision V/5, paragraphs 2, 4, 6, 10–12, 14, 16, 17, 20–22, 29; annex, A, paragraph 3 (b), (d); B, Activity 1.1 (Agriculture)

Inland water

Decision IV/4, paragraphs 2–4, 8 (b), (c); annex I, paragraphs 1–4, 12, 13 (Inland water)

Decision V/2, paragraphs 2, 7 (Inland water)

Dry and sub-humid lands

Decision V/23, paragraphs 6, 8, 9; annex I, I, paragraph 2 (c); annex I, II, part A, paragraph 7 (a); part B, Activity 7 (l) (m); III, paragraphs 1, 2 (b) (Dry and sub-humid lands)

Decision III/13, paragraph 1 (Terrestrial biological diversity)

Cross-cutting issues

Access and Benefit-sharing

Decision III/15, paragraphs 7–9 (Access to genetic resources)

Decision V/26 A, paragraphs 8, 15 (c), (d), (e) (Access to genetic resources)

Decision II/12, paragraphs (a), (c) (Intellectual property rights)

Decision III/17, paragraphs 1 (f), 2–8; annex (Intellectual property rights)

Decision V/26 B, paragraphs 2–4 (Intellectual property rights)

Article 8 (j)

Decision III/14, paragraph 4; annex, paragraph 2 (a) (Implementation of Article 8 (j))

Decision IV/9, paragraphs 14–17 (Implementation of Article 8 (j))

Decision V/16, paragraph 14; annex, IV (Article 8 (j) and related provisions)

Incentive measures

Decision III/18, paragraph 9 (Incentive measures)

Decision IV/10 A, paragraph 5 (b) (Incentive measures)

Decision V/15, paragraphs 3, 5, 6 (Incentive measures)

Biosafety

Decision III/20, paragraph 2 (a) (Issues related to biosafety)

Alien species

Decision IV/1 C, paragraph 6 (Alien species)

Decision V/8, paragraphs 5, 10–15 (Alien species)

Global Taxonomy Initiative

Decision IV/1 D, paragraph 5; annex, paragraphs 9, 10 (Taxonomy)

Decision V/9, paragraph 5; annex (Global Taxonomy Initiative)

Education and Public Awareness

Decision IV/10 B, paragraph 6; 7 (Public education and awareness)

Decision V/17, paragraphs 2, 4 (Education and public awareness)

Impact assessments

Decision IV/10 C, paragraph 6 (Impact assessment and minimizing adverse effects)

Decision V/18, I, paragraph 4; II, paragraph 6 (Impact assessment, liability and redress)

Other relevant decisions

Decision I/5 (Support to the Secretariat by international organizations)

Decision I/7, paragraph 1 (d) (SBSTTA)

Decision II/17, paragraph 13 (National reports)

Decision V/19, paragraphs 9 (c), 10 (National reporting)

Decision V/20, III, paragraphs 18, 19, 27, 29 (b) (Operations of the Convention)

Decision I/8 (Statement to the CSD)

Decision III/19 (Statement to UNGA Special Session)

Decision V/27 (Contribution to 10 year review of UNCED)

Decision II/3, paragraphs 2, 3, 4 (g) (h), 8 (Clearing-house mechanism)

Decision IV/2, paragraph 10 (g) (Clearing-house mechanism)

Decision V/14, paragraph 7 (e); annex I, paragraph (k); annex II, paragraph (c) (Clearing-house mechanism)

Decision II/6, paragraph 8 (Financial mechanism and resources)

Decision IV/12, paragraph (b) (Additional financial resources)

Decision V/11, paragraphs 2, 5, 7, 8, 15 (Additional financial resources)

Decision II/7, paragraph 5 (Consideration of Articles 6 and 8)

Decision III/9, paragraphs 7, 8 (Implementation of Articles 6 and 8)

Decision IV/1 A, paragraphs 5, 6 (Identification, monitoring and assessment)

Decision V/7, paragraphs 1, 2, 4 (Identification, monitoring and assessment, and indicators)

Decision V/10, paragraphs 2, 5 (Global strategy for plant conservation)

Decision V/24, paragraphs 1, 3 (Sustainable use)

Decision V/25, paragraphs 2–4, 6, 7 (Biological diversity and tourism)

Annex III

**STATEMENT FROM THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY TO THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

A. *Introduction: The Convention on Biological Diversity and Agenda 21*

1. The maintenance of biodiversity is a necessary condition for sustainable development and as such constitutes one of the great challenges of the modern era.
2. The rate of biodiversity loss is increasing at an unprecedented rate, threatening the very existence of life as it is currently understood.
3. Addressing the major threats to biodiversity will require long-term and fundamental changes in the way resources are used and benefits are distributed. Achieving this adjustment will require broad-based action among a wide range of actors.
4. The importance of the biodiversity challenge was universally acknowledged at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which met in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and through the development of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
5. In ratifying the Convention, the Parties have committed themselves to undertaking national and international measures aimed at its achieving three objectives: the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
6. The Conference of the Parties has met six times and, on each occasion, through its decisions has taken steps to translate the general provisions of the Convention into practical action. This process has initiated national action plans in over 100 countries, raised awareness about biodiversity and led to the adoption of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, a treaty that provides an international regulatory framework for the safe transfer handling and use of any living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology.

**B. *Experience gained and lessons learned in implementing the
Convention on Biological Diversity***

7. The last ten years has clearly demonstrated that the Convention is the principal global instrument relevant to achieving the goals set out in chapter 15 of Agenda 21, Conservation of Biological Diversity.
8. The experience and lessons learnt from the work of the Convention also indicate several keys areas where implementation of the Convention and of Agenda 21 can be mutually reinforcing. Such areas include:

<i>Agenda 21</i>	<i>Convention on Biological Diversity</i>
Promoting education, public awareness and training (chapter 36)	Public education and awareness (Article 13)
Environmentally sound management of biotechnology (chapter 16)	Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Recognizing and strengthening the role of indigenous people and their communities (chapter 26)	Traditional biodiversity knowledge (Article 8(j) and related provisions)
Financial resources and mechanisms (chapter 33)	Financial resources and mechanisms (Articles 20 and 21)
Integrating environment and development in decisions making (chapter 8)	National biodiversity planning and integration into plans, programmes and policies (Article 6)
Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development (chapter 14)	Work programme on agricultural biological diversity
Combating deforestation (chapter 11)	Work programme on forest biological diversity
Protection of oceans, all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources (chapter 17)	Work programme on marine and coastal biological diversity

9. The most important lesson of the last ten years is that the objectives of the Convention will be impossible to meet until consideration of biodiversity is fully integrated into other sectors. The need to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources across all sectors of the national economy, the society and the policy-making framework is a complex challenge at the heart of the Convention.

10. While many countries have made some start in this, notably in those sectors most immediately associated with biodiversity such as forestry, fisheries and agriculture, much more needs to be done, particularly in areas that traditionally are economically and politically dominant such as industry, trade and transport. Even in those sectors where a start has been made in incorporating consideration of biodiversity into decision-making, more cross-sectoral integration is needed, for example consideration of the impacts of forestry, agriculture or aquaculture on sustainable use of inland water biodiversity, of fishing on marine and coastal biodiversity, or of land-use change on forest or dryland biodiversity.

11. At the global level, what is needed above all, is for other international regimes to take on board the concerns of this Convention.

12. The experience of integration has been mixed. On some issues there have been encouraging advances, albeit slower than desired. In others no headway has been made.

13. Another key lesson of the last ten years is the need for leadership in setting the international agenda on biodiversity. Leadership is required in order to ensure that wide range of stakeholders involved in achieving the aims of the Convention work in harmony. Leadership is required in order to ensure that other sectors effectively consider the aims of the Convention into their activities. Leadership is required in order to ensure that conflicts over uses are minimised. Leadership is required in order to ensure that in the work of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in addressing the needs of the poor and promoting sustainable development, due account is taken of role of biological diversity.

14. Although the Convention has raised public awareness of biological diversity, of the goods and services it provides, and of the threats that human activities pose to its long-term viability, it is widely recognised that more needs to be done if the aims of the Convention are to be realised. A key need in this

regard is increasing stakeholder involvement in implementation of the activities of the Convention at all international and national levels.

15. The world's poor, particularly the rural poor, are often expected to bear much of the cost of maintaining biodiversity, for example in the form of foregone benefits of land conversion when areas are set aside for the protection of unique or threatened ecosystems or species. Unless they are fully involved in decision-making and benefit sharing, it is unlikely that long-term solutions to the problem of biodiversity loss can be found. In developing mechanisms to ensure such involvement, it is vital that issues of gender and social structure are properly addressed.

16. Biotechnology is a rapidly evolving technology that provides both challenges and opportunities or developing countries. As a knowledge-intensive, rather than a capital-intensive industry, biotechnology provides promising opportunities for developing countries to establish internationally competitive industries and gain market share. The application of this technology and the types of regulatory measures put in place are major policy issues that will receive increasing attention in the coming decade. Chapter 16 of Agenda 21 sets out a basic framework for the sustainable management of this technology. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is the most important legal instrument for implementing this framework and provides an important opportunity for many developing countries to gain access to information and technology. In order for this opportunity to materialize speedy ratification is required to enable the Protocol to enter into force and its institutions and procedures to be effectively established.

17. Completing and adopting national biodiversity strategies and action plans is clearly a priority for all those countries that have not yet done so. For others, implementation of completed strategies and action plans is a high priority. Biodiversity strategies and action plans should be integral parts of national sustainable development strategies and, for those countries eligible for external assistance, they should be central to funding strategies and programming.

18. Donor institutions have made great strides in recognising the importance of incorporating environmental considerations into their plans, programmes and strategies. Nevertheless much more remains to be done, in particular with regard to mainstreaming biodiversity and treating it as an integrating factor, and not a subject to be treated separately from other development concerns. Donor countries could ensure, for example through the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, that their development assistance priorities are supportive of the Convention's objectives. The World Bank's Comprehensive Development Framework and Poverty Reduction Strategies offer the possibility for ensuring that the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and National Strategies for Sustainable Development of its borrowers become central to its overall lending. IMF stabilization and structural adjustment programmes could place more importance on national investments in environmental management and critically examine budget cuts for such measures.

19. Donors of all types should commit to increasing funding for projects that directly address biodiversity. However, there is also a pressing need for donors to review the way in which such projects are funded. Most problems relating to the maintenance and sustainable use of biodiversity are not amenable to the "quick fix", and it is often clearly unrealistic to expect local sustainability of activities at the end of a three- or five-year project. Although there is increasing awareness of this in the international community, many donors still appear to be wedded to short-term project cycles. The long-term impact of this approach may be actively counterproductive and it is probable that longer-term commitments involving smaller annual disbursement may be more effective than spending larger amounts of money over a shorter period. Donors should also ensure that biodiversity planning processes are country-driven and not donor-driven, in order to increase their effectiveness and the prospects for sustainability at the end of the funding period.

20. The proposed strengthening of the role of United Nations resident coordinators, contained in the Secretary-General's reform plan, will create the opportunity to provide harmonized and synergistic support by United Nations agencies to national implementation of the Convention through the country-level United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The current process of decentralisation from headquarters to regional centres offers the United Nations Development Programme the opportunity to ensure that regional and field office staff are familiar with the objectives and programmes of the Convention, and actively seek to identify with Governments opportunities for integrating these into its full range of development activities (from policy to operations) for simultaneous poverty reduction and environmental protection.

21. The Convention has 182 Parties, making it one of the most inclusive multilateral agreements in any field. However membership is not universal. There are a small number of countries that have not yet ratified the Convention. Achieving the objectives of the Convention requires action on a global scale, and it is important that all countries make the commitment to work together for its implementation.

C. Ideas and proposals for the way forward for the further implementation of Agenda 21

22. In light of the above, the Conference of the Parties invites the World Summit on Sustainable Development to take into consideration the following elements to assist the further implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and of Agenda 21:

(a) Reaffirming that the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources are essential to achieving sustainable human development in the twenty-first century and that implementing the objectives of the Convention will require policy coherence between all relevant instruments and processes, renewed political will on the part of Governments, and a renewed commitment to cooperation and to providing the resources and technology required.

(b) Acknowledging the need for new national and international arrangements and policy reforms to develop credible policy settings and coherence in decision-making with regard to biological diversity.

(c) Acknowledging that the Convention on Biological Diversity is the principal global instrument for setting the international agenda and priorities of biological diversity and for achieving the goals of chapter 15 of Agenda 21 (Conservation of biological diversity) and that its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is one of the principal global instruments for achieving the goals of chapter 16 of Agenda 21 (Environmentally sound management of biotechnology);

(d) Acknowledging the need to foster partnerships and linkages with other biodiversity related conventions urges biodiversity related conventions, agreements and programmes to conclude legally binding arrangements with the Convention on Biological Diversity for fostering such partnerships;

(e) Urging Member States who have not yet done so to ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

(f) Urging Member States and all relevant stakeholders to make further efforts to incorporate and mainstream the objectives of the Convention into relevant national sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies;

(g) Urging Member States, international organizations and processes to actively seek ways to ensure harmonization of the provisions of multilateral environmental agreements, and in particular of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with the provisions of international agreements in other areas of the global sustainable development agenda, particularly trade, climate change, forests and agriculture;

(h) Urging Member States to actively promote policy coherence in national positions under different international instruments and processes;

(i) Stressing the importance of investing in programmes of public education and awareness as the principal way of engendering support for the changes in behaviour necessary at all levels of society in all countries if sustainable development is to be achieved, and the inclusion of promotion of the aims of the Convention in such programmes;

(j) Stressing the importance of increasing the active participation by all stakeholders in the implementation of Agenda 21 and of the Convention, in particular, in the elaboration, implementation and evaluation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(k) Urging the United Nations, its programmes, related organizations and specialized agencies to take the opportunities offered by the proposed enhanced role of the United Nations resident coordinator contained in the reform plan of the Secretary-General and by the process of decentralization within the Organization, to provide harmonized and synergistic support at the national level to implementation of the Convention, including through national United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks;

(l) Inviting Member States and international organizations to renew their commitments to cooperation and to providing the resources and technology required for implementation of the Convention.
