



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20
2 December 2003

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Seventh meeting

Kuala Lumpur, 9-20 and 27 February 2004

Item 26 of the provisional agenda*

FOLLOW-UP TO WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES UP TO 2010, THE STRATEGIC PLAN AND OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION

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 at its seventh meeting review the range of activities undertaken by the Executive Secretary with respect to the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010, the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Operations of the Convention since the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. Section II of the note provides an overview of the analysis carried out by the Executive Secretary on the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development as it relates to the Convention process and the actions taken within the Convention process as a direct follow-up to the World Summit. The overview also addresses the outcome of the ninth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in its consideration of the conclusions of the Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 as it relates to the outcome of the World Summit, including the linkages between biodiversity and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

3. The section also provides an overview of the evaluation of the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan and the recommendation of the Inter-Sessional Meeting in its consideration of this issue. In particular, the overview highlights specific follow-up actions concerning national reporting, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, an indicator framework for the review and evaluation of the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan, reporting and additional targets and timeframes for assessing progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target. A summary of the outcome of the

* UNEP/CBD/COP/7/1 and Corr.1.

/...

ninth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in its consideration of this issue is also included in this overview.

4. The section further provides highlights of the proposed multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010, legal and social aspects of technology transfer and cooperation, international regime on access and benefit-sharing as well as the operations of the Convention since the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

5. Section III outlines some conclusions and proposes a number of recommendations for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting.

II. OVERVIEW

6. At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision VI/26 on the Strategic Plan for the Convention, which commits Parties to a more effective and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, and to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth. This target was endorsed by The Hague Ministerial Declaration on the occasion of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and also by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in its Plan of Implementation. The Plan of Implementation also reconfirmed the role of the Convention as the key instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from its use. In addition to the 2010 biodiversity target, the Plan of Implementation also incorporated a number of relevant goals and targets that have emerged from a range of other international meetings and initiatives, including the Millennium Development Goals.

7. In paragraph 4 of decision VI/26 and paragraph 13 of decision VI/27 A, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to provide appropriate information to Parties at an inter-sessional meeting for consideration of the future evaluation of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary prepared and submitted a report for the consideration of the Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010, held in Montreal from 17 to 20 March 2003.

8. By paragraph 6 of decision VI/21, the Conference of the Parties requested its President, in close cooperation with the Bureau and the Executive Secretary, to analyse the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development as it relates to the Convention process and to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting. In response to this, the Executive Secretary prepared a report to assist the Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 in its consideration of the outcome of the Summit.

9. The Inter-Sessional Meeting considered the two reports in paragraph 7 and 8 above and made a number of recommendations for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting. These recommendations are particularly significant in guiding future actions related to the outcome of World Summit and their potential inputs for a comprehensive assessment of the status of the overall implementation and evaluation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan. A summary of these recommendations is outlined in the paragraphs below.

Analysis of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

10. The World Summit was of great significance for the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Secretary-General's WEHAB initiative and the intergovernmental negotiating process raised the profile of biodiversity and cemented the conceptual link between the objectives of the Convention and the attainment of sustainable development and poverty alleviation. In its consideration of biodiversity issues,

the Plan of Implementation of the Summit incorporated and reinforced major elements of the decisions taken at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In particular, the World Summit reaffirmed that the Convention on Biological Diversity is the key instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. It underlined the need for new and additional financial and technical resources to facilitate effective implementation of the Convention. It also endorsed the commitment of Parties adopted at the sixth meeting to a more effective and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and to achieving by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of life on Earth. The World Summit thus represented an acknowledgement at the highest political level of the significance of the Convention as a central tool in efforts to achieve the commitments to action made in Johannesburg and before.

11. The World Summit also highlighted the need to integrate the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity into global, regional and national sectoral and cross-sectoral programmes and policies; addressed a number of thematic and cross-cutting issues within the Convention process; the need to enhance synergies with relevant multilateral agreements and international trade agreements; the need for regional and sub-regional implementation approaches, paying particular attention to the particular situation of small island developing States (SIDS) and Africa; and the promotion of concrete international support and partnership for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. It also introduced two significant new items one of which concerns negotiating an international regime on access and benefit sharing, and the other on actions to promote the development of national and ecological networks and corridors.

12. The Inter-Sessional Meeting recommended that, as a follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit, the issue of hotspots, ecological networks and corridors as well as other areas essential for biodiversity be considered by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Protected Areas, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice at its ninth meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting. The Inter-Sessional Meeting further recommended that consideration of this issue should focus on biodiversity loss in the context of the work on protected areas, taking into account other relevant thematic programmes and cross-cutting issues, within the overall framework of national strategies and action plans.

13. In its consideration of this recommendation, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice recommended to the Conference of the Parties that it should consider options to further develop the concept of ecological networks, and other related concepts in order to follow-up on the Plan of Implementation and the conclusions of the Inter-Sessional Meeting. The outcome of the discussions by SBSTTA on protected areas are reflected in its recommendation IX/4 (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/4, annex I) and in the note by the Executive Secretary on protected areas prepared for the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/15), which includes an annex containing a proposed programme of work on the subject, and will be taken up by the Conference of the Parties under item 24 of the provisional agenda.

14. In its consideration of the outcome of the World Summit, the Inter-Sessional Meeting further recommended that the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties should request the Executive Secretary to develop a global partnership on biodiversity comprising the major biodiversity-related organizations, with the Secretariat of the Convention facilitating the process in order to enhance synergies, avoid duplication of efforts and improve implementation of biodiversity-related agreements. In response to this recommendation, the Executive Secretary has articulated some preliminary suggestions for the development of the global partnership for the consideration of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties under item 21 of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/19).

The Millennium Development Goals

15. In recognition of the Convention as the key instrument for the integration of the biodiversity-related issues into the millennium development agenda, the Inter-Sessional Meeting requested that, in preparation for the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and in consultation with the Bureau, the Executive Secretary should:

(a) Prepare a report on the relevance of the Millennium Development Goals for the programme of work under the Convention and to explore and articulate in each of the programmes of work the links between biodiversity and the Millennium Development Goals in order to identify and highlight ways that biodiversity conservation and sustainable use can facilitate their achievement; and

(b) Identify modalities to ensure the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is consistent with the objectives of the Convention.

16. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary has prepared a note (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20/Add.1), which received substantial inputs from the United Nations Development Programme, in its capacity as the coordinator of the Millennium Development Goals within the United Nations system. The report provides a review of the implications of the linkages between the Convention and the Millennium Development Goals for the programmes of work in the thematic areas and cross-cutting issues and identifies some activities required to strengthen these linkages, including maximizing cooperation to overcome potential conflicts whilst enhancing synergies; better communication and awareness raising; reporting frameworks that incorporate the identified linkages, particularly the linkages between poverty eradication and biodiversity; compromises and trade offs; and increased donor support for the identified activities. The note concludes with some suggestions for follow-up action by the Parties, the Executive Secretary and other partners for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties.

17. The significance of the linkages between biodiversity and the Millennium Development Goals received considerable attention in the various agenda items of the ninth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice and the numerous references of this issue in the recommendations of SBSTTA is a reflection of the importance of the contribution of biodiversity to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Evaluation of the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan

18. As indicated in paragraph 7 above, the report of the Executive Secretary on future evaluation of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan was duly submitted for the consideration of the Inter-Sessional Meeting. This report provided a review of the challenges inherent in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan, the weaknesses of existing implementation mechanisms, ongoing efforts at harmonization of reporting mechanisms, evaluation processes under other biodiversity-related conventions and parallels for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In addition, the report articulated a number of options for the future evaluation of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan and also outlined some recommendations for the consideration of the Inter-Sessional Meeting with respect to the further review and follow-up of the proposed evaluation options

19. Having considered this report, the Inter-Sessional Meeting made a number of recommendations for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/5, annex). Some of these recommendations include specific follow-up actions by the Executive Secretary, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advise and the Parties. In particular, the recommendations address actions concerning national reporting processes as essential feedback mechanisms for assessing the status of implementation of the Convention; national biodiversity strategies and action plans as the primary mechanisms for the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic

Plan; the development of an appropriate framework for the review and evaluation of the Convention implementation including making optimal use of relevant global assessments, indicators and reporting processes as well as the establishment of additional targets and timeframes leading up to 2010 to enhance better evaluation of achievements and progress towards the 2010 target.

20. The Inter-Sessional Meeting welcomed efforts by the Executive Secretary with support from the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre to organize a meeting on the 2010 biodiversity target specifically to identify ways and means including priority measures for:

- (a) Achieving the target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010;
- (b) Measuring achievements, and
- (c) Reporting on progress.

21. The meeting, “2010 – *The Global Biodiversity Challenge*” was subsequently convened in London in May 2003 by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in partnership with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and UNDP. The report of the meeting, which was reviewed by the ninth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technologic Advice, highlighted a number of key issues and concerns and also articulated a set of recommendations for further consideration by the Convention, the Parties and other partners. These recommendations address, *inter alia*, definitions of biodiversity and loss of biodiversity; improved communication of the impacts of biodiversity loss and the 2010 target; development of appropriate indicators and other targets to monitor and assess progress; the need for increased cross-sectoral collaboration at national and global levels; building on existing assessments and monitoring programmes; provision of capacity development support and appropriated funding; and the development of the necessary strategic alliances and partnerships.

22. In its consideration of the content of this report, as well as the relevant recommendations of the Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technologic Advice made some recommendations for the consideration of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Some of the recommendations concern collaboration with a number of United Nations organizations and others to develop appropriate mechanisms for effective communication of the importance of biodiversity in achieving the Millennium Development Goals; establishment of the 2010 target as an interim milestone in achieving Millennium Development Goal 7 of ensuring environmental sustainability by 2015; and using the 2010 targets and indicators to help achieve target 9 (to reverse loss of environmental resources) of Millennium Development Goal 7.

23. With regard to assessing progress towards the 2010 target, SBSTTA recommended, *inter alia*, the establishment of a small number of small goals, each with one or two targets, which should complement the existing goals of the Strategic Plan. The focus of these goals and related targets should be on reducing the rate of loss of components of biodiversity; addressing major threats to biodiversity; maintaining and enhancing goods and services; and ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources.

24. Additional recommendations from the meeting concern the development and testing of a limited number of trial indicators for further use at regional, national and local levels; the need for capacity development and provision of timely and adequate financial support; the development of an appropriate reporting framework using existing processes as building blocks for reporting on the 2010 target; and the integration of outcome-oriented targets into the programmes of work of the Convention, with the initial focus on biodiversity of inland waters and biodiversity of marine and coastal areas.

Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010

25. Several of the recommendations made by the Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 are addressed directly to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties and merit special mention here. Details of these recommendations (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/5).

26. Within the overall framework of the proposed multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010, the Inter-Sessional Meeting recommended that when undertaking in-depth reviews of the existing thematic areas and cross-cutting issues, items identified as priorities by the World Summit, such as poverty alleviation, human health, sustainable communities and livelihoods, and hotspots, ecological networks and corridors, should be considered in the context of existing programmes of work. In addition, the meeting recommended that the Conference of the Parties should identify, for each upcoming meeting including within the Ministerial Segment, appropriate ways to address issues of overarching importance, particularly the relevant socio-economic issues identified by the World Summit. In this regard, the issue of island biodiversity, which received considerable attention in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit, has been duly incorporated as a proposed item for in-depth review at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

27. In preparation for the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Inter-Sessional Meeting requested the Executive Secretary to seek the views of Parties and other Governments and relevant bodies and to present recommendations on other ways and means to use the work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity to collaborate with the Secretary General's WEHAB ("water, energy, health, agriculture, and biodiversity") initiative, as well as in supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other relevant objectives identified by the World Summit on Sustainable Development. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary has incorporated elements of the WEHAB initiative in the report on the significance of the Millennium Development Goals for the programmes of work of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20/Add.1).

28. The Inter-Sessional Meeting further recommended that at each of its meetings until 2010, the Conference of the Parties, possibly including its Ministerial Segment, should address, as an explicit agenda item, the state of progress, including obstacles, in achieving the goals of the Strategic Plan and progress towards the achievement of the Convention's 2010 targets and the Millennium Development Goals.

29. With the exception of island biodiversity, the Inter-Sessional Meeting further recommended that no new issues would be taken up for in-depth consideration. Instead, the focus of the proposed activities within the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010, would be:

(a) First, on reviewing ongoing programmes of work to assess progress and to introduce the necessary adjustments and refinements as appropriate; and

(b) Second, on considering progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, achievement of the 2010 target, and in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. In order to support the overall implementation process, the Conference of the Parties would also, at each of its meetings, seek ways of refining relevant support measures such as financial mechanisms, the clearing-house mechanism, and capacity-building activities.

30. In order to achieve this focused approach, the meeting recommended that, to the extent feasible, a maximum of six items for in-depth review should be considered at any meeting of the Conference of the Parties and that cross-cutting issues are dealt with in a coherent manner taking into account the different requirements and characteristics of the issues under consideration. However, the meeting further recommended that some flexibility in the multi-year programme of work should be retained in order to

accommodate urgent emerging issues. The proposed multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 is summarized in the annex to recommendation 3 of the Inter-Sessional Meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/5, annex).

31. If approved by the Conference of the Parties, the proposed multi-year programme of work would mark the final stage in the transition from policy-making to implementation, a distinct shift in approach that has been evident in recent meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

Technology transfer and cooperation

32. In considering the issue of technology transfer and cooperation, the Inter-Sessional Meeting recalled paragraphs 105 and 106 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit, which call upon States to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of environmental sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The Inter-Sessional meeting requested the Executive Secretary to submit, for the consideration of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, an analysis of the status of technology transfer and cooperation including information related to, *inter alia*, use of knowledge and practices of indigenous and local communities, national needs, linkages to and impacts of intellectual property rights, case studies, best practices, use of incentive measures, legislation, financial and policy measures, as well as south-south cooperation. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary prepared a report (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/INF/9) based on a detailed analysis of the information contained in the thematic reports on technology transfer submitted by Parties in accordance with paragraph 4 of decision VI/25.

33. The Inter-Sessional Meeting further requested the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with other relevant organizations and in the context of the multi-year programme of work and the Strategic Plan of the Convention, to develop systems for international information exchange, proposals for mechanisms to facilitate access to technologies in the public domain, and to make available a compendium of relevant technologies and their ownership status.

34. In addition, the Meeting called on Parties and Governments exchange information on cooperate in scientific research, foster innovative partnerships, wider participation of indigenous and local communities, take measures that would provide appropriate incentives to private sector actors, encourage joint patents and research programmes, promote technology transfer through type-2 partnerships, provide appropriate legal, policy and administrative enabling environment, and provide financial support to developing country Parties and countries with economies in transition.

35. At its ninth meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice considered the question of technology transfer and technology cooperation, taking into account the recommendations of the Inter-Sessional Meeting and the relevant provisions of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit concerning the provision of appropriate financial and technical support to enhance indigenous and community-based biodiversity conservation efforts. This consideration also took account of SBSTTA recommendation II/3 to conduct work on technology transfer within the sectoral themes related to priority issues under the programme of work. In its recommendation IX/5, SBSTTA articulated a number of recommendations for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties, focusing on the first phase of the proposed programme of work up to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; the role of the clearing-house mechanism; the establishment of an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Technology Cooperation; the provision of appropriate financial and technical support including the involvement of multilateral financial institutions, regional banks and other relevant funding bodies particularly with respect to capacity development and technology transfer.

International regime on access and benefit sharing

36. In response to the decision by the World Summit calling for the negotiation of an international regime on access and benefit sharing, the Inter-Sessional Meeting underlined the need to incorporate this decision into the Convention process taking into consideration the on-going work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing as well as related work being carried out in other international forums. The Meeting requested the Executive Secretary to compile information regarding the views of Parties, other Governments, indigenous and local communities and relevant organizations on the process, nature, scope, elements and modalities of an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing for the consideration of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing. The Meeting recommended that the Ad Hoc Working Group should thereafter; provide advice to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting on how it may wish to address the issue. The recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing on this subject may be found in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/6) and will be considered by the Conference of the Parties under item 19.1 of the provisional agenda.

Operations of the Convention

37. In paragraph 13 of decision VI/27 A, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to provide appropriate information to Parties at an inter-sessional meeting for consideration of the future evaluation of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary prepared and submitted a report for the consideration of the Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010. A summary of the focus of the report including proposals and recommendations for the future evaluation of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan is provided in paragraph 19 above.

38. In paragraph 2 of decision VI/27 B, the Conference of the Parties decided to review, on the basis of proposals by the Executive Secretary, the status of implementation of all its decisions at its next meeting with a view to adopting a consolidated body of decisions and to inform decision-making on the long-term work plan of the Convention. In this regard, the Conference of the Parties, by paragraph 4 of the same decision, requested the Executive Secretary to make proposals to its seventh meeting regarding, *inter alia*, the retirement of decisions and elements of decisions taken at the third and fourth meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the consolidation of its decisions and to communicate such proposals to Parties, Governments and relevant international organizations.

39. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary has prepared a note (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20/Add.2) highlighting proposals relating to the review and retirement of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties adopted at its third and fourth meetings. The note also addresses the issue of the consolidation of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and provides recommendations for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting.

40. In paragraphs 7 and 8 of decision VI/27 B, the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting requested:

(a) The Executive Secretary to undertake, in consultation with the bureaux of the SBSTTA and the Conference of the Parties, a review of the recommendations of the Subsidiary Body with a view to improving its inputs and to report thereon to the Subsidiary Body at its ninth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting; and

(b) SBSTTA, on the basis of the review mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) above, to prepare proposals for the improvement of the quality of its advice and submit a report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting.

41. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary carried out a review of all SBSTTA recommendations made to the Conference of the Parties from its first to seventh meetings specifically to identify those recommendations that:

(a) Were adopted by the Conference of the Parties in full (ie. the wording in the decision of the Conference of the Parties is substantively the same as in the SBSTTA recommendation)

(b) Were adopted partially or with modifications; and

(c) Were not adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

42. In the course of conducting this review, each action recommended by SBSTTA to the Conference of the Parties was treated as a distinct recommendation. In addition, recommendations addressed directly to the Executive Secretary, Parties or relevant organizations that were taken up in decisions by the Conference of the Parties were also considered in the analysis as recommendations addressed to the Conference of the Parties.

43. On the basis of this review, the Executive Secretary prepared a note, in consultation with the bureaux of the Conference of the Parties and SBSTTA for consideration by SBSTTA at its eight meeting, in March 2003. The note reviewed the proportion of SBSTTA recommendations using the 3 categories outlined in subparagraphs 41 (a), (b), and (c) above, and also provided an explanation for the non-adoption or only partial adoption of some recommendations. The note also reviewed the implementation status of SBSTTA recommendations adopted by the Conference of the Parties, which require actions by the Executive Secretary, the Parties, other Governments, other conventions and organizations. It also provided justification for those recommendations that became decisions of the Conference of the Parties but which were not implemented by the relevant actors. The note concluded with some suggestions for improving SBSTTA inputs to the Conference of the Parties to facilitate their adoption and subsequent implementation.

44. The review generated a 100-page table listing the full text of recommendations that were consulted for the purpose of this review. The table is available on the website of the Convention on Biological Diversity at <http://www.biodiv.org/>. It should, however, be noted that although recommendations related to Article 8(j) and access and benefit-sharing were included in the total number of recommendations, they were not subjected to any further analysis as the two work programmes concerned were being addressed in separate subsidiary bodies at the time of the review. Therefore, they were included as cross-cutting issues in the review.

45. At its eight meeting, SBSTTA considered the note prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the bureaux of the Conference of the Parties and SBSTTA and took note of the review of the recommendations of the Subsidiary Body carried out by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the bureaux of the Subsidiary Body and the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/7/3, annex I, recommendation VIII/6)

46. In paragraph 9 of decision VI/27 B, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to make full use of the roster of experts identified by Parties through national nodes of the clearing-house mechanism, including for peer review and for Internet-based discussion groups. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary developed updates, with inputs from the national nodes of the clearing-house mechanism and also from some of the national focal points of the Convention, to the roster of experts on the basis of specific needs identified in the thematic areas and cross-cutting issues of

the programmes of work of the Convention. The roster currently has a total of 3,164 registered experts and is used as the need arises in the activities of the thematic areas and cross cutting issues of the programmes of work of the Convention. In addition, pursuant to decision VI/24 B, the Executive Secretary established a roster of experts on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing. The development of the roster took into consideration the call by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting, to the Parties, other Governments and relevant bodies when nominating their experts for inclusion in the roster to consider gender balance, involvement of representatives of indigenous and local communities, and a range of relevant disciplines and expertise. The roster of experts on access and benefit-sharing currently has 32 registered experts.

47. In response to the request to the Executive Secretary to retire the roster of experts nominated by Parties for specific tasks or activities once those tasks or activities have been completed as specified in paragraph 10 of decision VI/27 B, the roster established for the Panel of Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing was retired. The other rosters are currently in use and are providing a valuable service to the ongoing thematic areas and cross-cutting issues of the programmes of work of the Convention. However, the rosters will be retired as and when the specific tasks for which they were established are no longer operational.

48. By paragraph 11 (a) of decision VI/27 B, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, with the assistance of the United Nations Environment Programme and in consultation with Parties, to identify, assess and report on the potential of existing regional and subregional instruments, institutions, networks and mechanisms in various regions as a basis for enhancing the implementation of the Convention, including as partners for capacity-building, taking into account:

(a) The benefits to be gained through the utilization of regional and subregional institutions, mechanisms or networks;

(b) The views from regions as to the types of assistance required to respond to difficulties in implementing the Convention and their level of priority;

(c) The requirements necessary to strengthen such mechanisms and networks for the purposes of the implementation of the Convention

49. Pursuant to this request, the Executive Secretary, held discussions with the UNEP-led Africa Environment Information Network initiative and continues to participate in the on-going consultative process with stakeholders of the initiative, specifically focusing on identification of potential inputs and of the regional initiative in support of the Convention. In particular, the stakeholder consultative process acknowledges the relevant paragraph of decision VI/27 B as the authority and framework within which the Africa Environment Information Network, as the umbrella regional mechanism could draw upon the extensive network resources of its sub-regional institutions and networks to support the implementation of various provisions of the Convention in the Africa region. On the basis of this acknowledgement, further consultations were recommended with the aim of developing appropriate guidelines for the harmonization of national reporting processes of the Convention and the integrated assessment and reporting activities of the Africa Environment Information Network initiative. As a start, the clearing-house mechanism Africa regional workshop, which was held at UNEP headquarters in March 2003, was a direct follow-up to these recommendations and identified modalities for more practical collaboration between the Convention and the Africa Environmental Information Network regional mechanism.

50. At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, as a matter of priority, to identify potential sources of financial support for facilitating the participation of non-governmental organizations from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in meetings organized under the Convention (paragraph 18, decision VI/27 B). In response to this request, the Executive Secretary has been compiling a comprehensive *Guide to Sources of International*

Assistance to Biological Diversity, which will contain potential sources of assistance that could be made available to non-governmental organizations for purposes of participating in international meetings. This type of information has also been made available regularly on the *Interactive Info-Bulletin on Financing for Biological Diversity*, which is available on the following website: <http://www.biodiv.org/financial/forums.aspx>. The Conference of the Parties may wish to further consider how to facilitate available financial resources to non-governmental organizations from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

51. Pursuant to paragraph 19 of decision VI/27 B, which requested the Executive Secretary to establish a focal point within the Secretariat for non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate interaction with non-governmental organizations and to support, *inter alia*, dissemination of information on the Convention, awareness-raising and improved coordination amongst stakeholders, the Executive Secretary designated a key staff member of the Secretariat to assume day-to-day responsibility for liaison, coordination and consultation with non-governmental organizations in the context of the provisions of this decision. The focal point has been particularly active in providing regular updates on major meetings of the Convention and in the dissemination of a range of publications and promotional materials produced by the Secretariat.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

52. The Strategic Plan of the Convention and Plan of Implementation of the World Summit represent a significant shift in emphasis from a policy-setting perspective to a more effective, action-oriented implementation approach. The consolidation of this approach poses a serious challenge to the Parties, the Convention and its subsidiary bodies. Addressing this challenge will require adjustments in existing procedures in order to overcome a number of underlying obstacles; increased political support and commitment; the strengthening of ongoing implementation measures complemented by innovative assessment and evaluation tools; increased collaboration with key partners; and the provision of additional financial resources to ensure that progress towards the 2010 target is on course and that this, in turn, will provide valuable inputs in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

53. The preceding paragraphs on the outcomes and in particular, the recommendations of the Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Multi-Year Programme of Work up to 2010 and the ninth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technologic Advice provide concrete proposals to strengthen the overall implementation process of the Convention and the Strategic Plan. In particular, the reports prepared by the Executive Secretary on various aspects of the implementation process for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties represent the collective thinking of the Parties (through the Inter-Sessional Meeting, the ninth meeting of SBSTTA, the ad hoc technical expert group meetings and other relevant international forums, including the London meeting on the 2010 target and the Millennium Development Goals) on the most appropriate approaches for addressing the challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention, and the relevant outcomes of the World Summit and the Millennium Development Goals.

54. In consideration of the foregoing, the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting may wish to consider, under item 26 of the provisional agenda, the relevant recommendations contained in the reports of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/5), the ninth meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/4) and the notes of the Executive Secretary on the following matters:

(a) The relevance of the Millennium Development Goals for the programmes of work of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20/Add.1);

(b) Review of the status of implementation of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20/Add.2);

(c) The Implementation of the Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20/Add.3).

55. The following notes by the Executive Secretary are also of relevance to the follow-up of the World Summit but will be taken up substantively under other items of the agenda:

(a) Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/19);

(b) Report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/6);

(c) Protected areas (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/15);

(d) Transfer of technology and technology cooperation (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/16).
