



**CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY**

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Ninth meeting

Bonn, Germany, 19-30 May 2008

Item 2.1 of the provisional agenda\*

**REPORTS OF THE REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETINGS**

*Report of the Asia and Pacific regional preparatory meeting for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity*

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the report of the Asia and Pacific regional preparatory meeting for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was held in Bonn on 17 May 2008.
2. The report is being circulated in the form and the language in which it was received by the Secretariat.

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\* UNEP/CBD/COP/9/1.

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**REPORT OF THE ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR  
THE NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION  
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. In paragraph 33 of decision V/20, the Conference of the Parties recognized that activities at the subregional and regional levels have an important role to play in preparing for Convention meetings and enhancing the implementation of the Convention, called on Parties to participate actively in suitable subregional and regional activities, as well as on the Executive Secretary, subject to necessary voluntary contributions, to facilitate the involvement in such subregional and regional activities of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, and other Parties with economies in transition. The Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 3 of decision VI/27, adopted at its sixth meeting, encouraged Parties to develop regional, subregional or bioregional mechanisms and networks to support implementation of the Convention. In addition, in paragraph 11 of decision VI/27 B, the Conference of the Parties acknowledges the important role that regional and sub regional mechanisms and networks play in promoting the implementation of the Convention, by, *inter alia*, providing forums for the preparation of regional inputs to meetings of the Convention

2. The Executive Secretary convened a regional preparatory meeting for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for the Asia and Pacific Region in Bonn, Germany, on 17 May 2008.

***Participation***

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries in the Asia and the Pacific region: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Jordan, Indonesia, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Marshal Islands, Myanmar, Nepal, Niue islands, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Syria, Timor-Leste and Thailand.

**ITEMS 1& 2. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

4. The meeting was opened at 9 a.m. on Saturday, 17 May 2008 by Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Dr Djoghlaif welcomed the participants and underscored the importance of the meeting. Reiterating the importance of biodiversity and the need for concerted efforts towards achieving the 2010 target, he referred to some of the important issues that are being considered by the COP at its ninth meeting. He thanked the Government of Spain for its financial assistance for the convening of the meeting and the Government of Germany for its excellent arrangements and support .

5. Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, Director General, Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear safety, Germany also addressed the meeting. Emphasizing the importance of the 9th UN Conference on Biodiversity, he informed the meeting that under its presidency Germany will play a constructive role in furthering the objectives of the Convention in active collaboration with the Secretariat. He mentioned that they would like to see progress in ABS issues as well achieving the 2010 biodiversity target. He thanked bureau members and the secretariat for their cooperation.

6. The Bureau members from Asia and Pacific region, Mr. Karma C. Nyedrup of Bhutan and Mr Abdul Hakim Aulalah of Yemen, served as Co-Chairs of the meeting. The Co-Chairs thanked the Executive Secretary for convening the meeting, the Government of Spain for financial assistance, the Government of Germany for the arrangements and the secretariat for the support.

7. The Group observed one minute silence to express condolences to recent calamities of Hurricane Nargis in Myanmar and the devastating earth quake in China.

8. The meeting adopted the agenda annexed to the present report.

**ITEM 3. REPORT ON ANY PREPARATORY MEETINGS AT SUB-REGIONAL LEVEL**

9. The delegate from Saudi Arabia informed the meeting about the Arab countries sub-regional COP 9 preparatory meeting and the policy paper on ABS developed in the sub-regional meeting.

10. The delegate from Marshal Islands informed the meeting about the Pacific islands sub regional COP 9 preparatory meeting held from 13-16 April in Marshal Islands. This sub-regional meeting discussed the COP 9 agenda especially, impact of climate change and the role of biodiversity in climate adaptation and mitigation, integration of biodiversity considerations into Bali action plan, capacity building and technical assistance, and implementing the convention in Pacific region.

**ITEM 4. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION AT THE NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES**

**ITEM 5. DIVISION OF AGENDA ITEMS AMONG REPRESENTATIVES AND IDENTIFICATION OF LEAD COUNTRIES THAT COORDINATE POSITIONS AND ACT AS SPOKESPERSONS DURING THE COP-9 DELIBERATIONS.**

**ITEM 6. STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR EVALUATING PROGRESS OR SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION, INCLUDING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET.**

10. Under these agenda items the group considered and identified lead countries to prepare draft statements to be discussed further in the group meetings during COP 9 meeting. The agenda items and identified lead countries are as follows:

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| Item 3.1. | Agricultural biodiversity ( <b>Syria</b> , assisted by <b>Nepal</b> and <b>Saudi Arabia</b> )  |
| Item 3.2. | Global strategy for plant conservation ( <b>Singapore</b> and <b>Thailand</b> )  |
| Item 3.3. | Invasive alien species ( <b>Kiribati</b> , <b>Sri Lanka</b> and <b>Pakistan</b> )  |
| Item 3.4. | Forest biodiversity ( <b>Thailand</b> , <b>Jordan</b> and <b>Pakistan</b> )  |
| Item 3.5  | Incentive measures   |
| Item 3.6. | Ecosystem approach ( <b>Saudi Arabia</b> )   |
| Item 3.7. | Progress in the implementation of the strategic plan and progress towards the 2010 target and relevant millennium development goals ( <b>Japan</b> ) |
| Item 3.8  | Financial resources and the financial mechanism  |
| Item 4.1. | Access and benefit-sharing ( <b>Kiribati</b> , <b>Syria</b> , <b>Japan</b> , <b>Bangladesh</b> , and <b>Saudi Arabia</b> )                           |
| Item 4.2. | Article 8 (j) and related provisions ( <b>Kiribati</b> and <b>Bangladesh</b> )   |
| Item 4.3. | Technology transfer and cooperation ( <b>Syria</b> )   |
| Item 4.4  | Monitoring, assessments and indicators   |
| Item 4.5. | Biodiversity and climate change ( <b>Thailand</b> , <b>Kiribati</b> , and <b>Bangladesh</b> )  |
| Item 4.6. | Biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands  |
| Item 4.7. | Protected areas ( <b>Kiribati</b> and <b>Bangladesh</b> )  |
| Item 4.8. | Biodiversity of inland waters ( <b>Bangladesh</b> )  |
| Item 4.9. | Marine and coastal biodiversity ( <b>Kiribati</b> , <b>Syria</b> and <b>Thailand</b> )   |

- Item 4.10. Island biodiversity (**Kiribati**)
- Item 4.11. Global taxonomy initiative (**Thailand**)
- Item 4.12. Liability and redress (**Cambodia and Bangladesh**)
- Item 4.13. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and Initiatives, and engagement of stakeholders (Syria)
- Item 4.14. Operations of the convention
- Item 4.15. Scientific and technical cooperation and the clearing-house mechanism (**Thailand**)
- Item 4.16. Guidance to the financial mechanism
- Item 4.17. Communication, education and public awareness

**ITEM 7. COMPOSITION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES: NOMINATION OF TWO REPRESENTATIVES FOR ELECTION TO THE BUREAU**

11. Following the agreement arrived at Curitiba on the election of COP and SBSTTA Bureau members, the group agreed that the new bureau members for COP 9, be elected from sub-group3 (ASEAN countries) and sub-group 4 ( Pacific islands). The Co chairs requested the representatives of these groups to discuss among them selves and identify the possible members. After initial round of discussions, the sub groups identified the following potential candidates:

- Sub - group 3: Cambodia and Singapore
- Sub –group 4: Marshal Islands and Cook Islands

12. It was agreed that the sub-groups will continue discussions and designate their respective representative during the group meeting on Monday morning, so as to announce the COP 9 bureau members from the region in the first plenary meeting of COP 9 on 19 May.

**ITEM 8. COORDINATION AND SCHEDULE OF REGIONAL GROUP MEETING DURING COP 9**

13. It was agreed that the group will meet everyday at 9 am during COP 9.

**ITEM 9: OTHER MATTERS**

14. There were no other matters.

**ITEM 10. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

15. The meeting was officially closed at 12.30 p.m., on 17 May 2008.

*Annex*

**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Report on any preparatory meetings held at sub-regional level
4. Issues for in-depth consideration at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and formulating regional consensual positions.
5. Division of agenda items among representatives and identification of lead countries that coordinate positions and act as spokespersons during the COP-9 deliberations.
6. Strategic issues for evaluating progress or supporting implementation, including progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target.
7. Composition of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties: nomination of two representatives for election to the Bureau.
8. Nomination of the Chair of the thirteenth and fourteenth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).
9. Other matters.
10. Closure of the meeting.

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