



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr. GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/9/3 25 February 2008

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Ninth meeting

Bonn, 19-30 May 2008

Items 2.1, 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 4.1, 4.5, 4.8 and 4.14 of the provisional agenda*

REPORT OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE ON THE WORK OF ITS THIRTEENTH MEETING

CONTENTS

Table with 2 columns: Item description and Page. Includes items 1, 3, and 4 with sub-items A, B, C, D, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3.

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4.4	Climate change: options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions.....	18
4.5	New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity: modus operandi for addressing new and emerging issues.....	19
ITEM 5.	DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDAS AND DATES AND VENUES FOR THE FOURTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH MEETINGS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE	20
ITEM 6.	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING	20
<i>Annex.</i>	RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE AT ITS THIRTEENTH MEETING.....	22

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was held at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) from 18 to 22 February 2008.

2. The meeting was opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 18 February 2008. In opening the meeting, Mr. Asghar Fazel (Islamic Republic of Iran), Chair of the Subsidiary Body, thanked the Government of Italy and FAO for hosting the meeting and in particular the Director-General of FAO, Dr. Jacques Diouf, for his efforts to strengthen cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity. He said that the agenda of the meeting was dominated by in-depth reviews of programmes of work on agricultural and forest biodiversity. While agriculture was one of the most important drivers of biodiversity loss, it was a major challenge to feed an ever-increasing population in a sustainable way. Unsustainable forestry had likewise been a major driver of biodiversity loss, but techniques and approaches were available that offered opportunities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and for the equitable sharing of benefits. The draft in-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work showed that some goals and objectives required more action and more support by the Secretariat and the donor community. It was the task of the meeting to make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties to improve implementation of the two important programmes of work. He thanked those governments whose contributions had enabled the participation of experts in inter-sessional meetings and in particular the European Commission and Sweden for sponsoring participants from developing countries to attend the present meeting, which would ensure regional balance and a high quality of scientific debate.

3. Following the opening statement by the Chair, statements were made by Mr. Alfonso Pecoraro Scanio, Minister for the Environment, Land and Sea of Italy, and Mr. Dario Esposito, Councillor for the Environment, City of Rome, who spoke on behalf of the Mayor of Rome.

4. Mr. Pecoraro Scanio said that biodiversity loss and climate change in the Mediterranean region posed a major threat to ecosystems and could lead to humanitarian crises, mass migration and desertification. The Fourth Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had confirmed the need for urgent and ambitious action to address the adverse impact of climate change on food production, human health, biodiversity and economies. An authoritative “Stern-like” report on biodiversity would serve a useful tool for such a strategy. Italy had recently initiated a pilot project in collaboration with a major national airline in support of forest conservation. For each electronic airline ticket issued, the company set aside 20 cents for forest plantation based on sound biodiversity management principles. He urged participants in the meeting to involve their national airlines in similar initiatives. As a member of the Countdown 2010 project since 2005, Italy strongly believed in involving the private sector in biodiversity matters, since loss of biodiversity was in effect an economic loss. Funds raised from both public and private sources must be invested on the basis of sound scientific advice before disasters occurred.

5. Mr. Esposito said that Rome was not only famous for its ancient monuments, but also for its large area. A master plan for the city had been developed, under which 67 per cent of the land must remain green. A decision had been taken to protect 40,000 hectares in which over 1,300 plants, 5,200 species of insects, 187 species of vertebrates, including 140 species of birds, had been identified. Given the need to protect such a rich biodiversity, the local authorities of Rome would sign the Countdown 2010 Declaration. Existing green areas in Rome would be maintained and the links between them increased. An initiative was under way to plant 500,000 trees, funding for which would be provided jointly by the Government and the private sector. The “Rome for Kyoto” project had also been launched, which included a joint venture with the University of La Sapienza, to construct an energy self-sufficient building. The project aimed to encourage public involvement in local authority efforts to protect

biodiversity, particularly through raising awareness of the disaster that would ensue if action was not taken.

6. The Chair invited the Councillor for the City of Rome, Mr. Esposito, the Head of Countdown 2010, Mr. Sebastian Winkler, the Ambassador of Countdown 2010, Mr. Aldo Cosentino, and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, to take part in a signing ceremony of the Countdown 2010 project by the City of Rome.

7. Statements were then made by Mr. Djoghlaif and by Mr. James G. Butler, Deputy Director-General of FAO. The Subsidiary Body was also addressed by Professor Rosalia Arteaga Serrano, Executive Director of Fundación Natura Regional for Ecuador and Colombia.

8. Mr. Djoghlaif thanked the Director-General of FAO, Dr. Jacques Diouf, for hosting, for the first time in the history of the Convention, a meeting of SBSTTA and for the Organization's continued support, as exemplified by the expected decision to second a full-time staff member to the Secretariat of the Convention as a liaison officer with FAO. The centrality of agriculture to development could not be dissociated from the need to conserve and sustainably use agricultural biodiversity. Threats to biodiversity were also threats to food security. Feeding nine billion people while protecting biodiversity, including forest biodiversity, constituted one of the major challenges facing humankind, a challenge that was compounded by climate change and accelerated urbanization. As the battle for life on Earth would be won or lost in the cities, he congratulated the city of Rome on its "Rome: Capital of Biodiversity" project and on its decision to join the Countdown 2010 initiative and to plant 500,000 trees. . He invited the city of Rome also to join the Curitiba Cities and Biodiversity Initiative. He also commended the host country, Italy, on its commitment to the protection and expansion of its forested areas and on the inclusion of all stakeholders in such initiatives. In conclusion, he drew attention to the banner at front of the FAO building, which read, "Always, everyone's, everywhere, the right for food. Make it happen.", and urged the Subsidiary Body to do its utmost to help, through its work at the current meeting, in the achievement of that right.

9. Mr. Butler said that by hosting the meeting FAO was expressing a desire to strengthen the dialogue between environment and agriculture and cooperation between FAO and the CBD, especially because the meeting was focusing on agricultural and forest biodiversity. For its part, FAO stressed food security, raising nutrition levels and improving agricultural productivity. Vital biodiversity was to be conserved for livelihoods and future generations, while remedial action was needed in order to achieve a sustainable world with global food security. There were fundamental linkages between production sectors and biodiversity that were essential for achieving global food security and sustainable development. He stressed that conservation and sustainable management of our natural capital were also critical elements for achieving international development and environmental objectives. FAO addressed problems of biodiversity conservation and sustainable food security using an interdisciplinary approach, partnerships and synergies through activities related to knowledge management, technical assistance and policy development and implementation. FAO also provided a forum for discussion and negotiation. Climate change was one of the complex challenges for food and agriculture. FAO acknowledged the generous support to the meeting of Italy, in particular its Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea.

10. Professor Arteaga said that the imbalance between agricultural production and environmental conservation had started at the time of the industrial revolution and still prevailed, despite knowledge that traditional agricultural ecosystems were the main reserves of genetic diversity. It had been estimated that the global population would increase by two-thirds over the next 30 years, with concomitant increases in requirements for food, energy, water, health care, sanitation and housing, infringing further on natural habitats. The means for ensuring ecological agriculture were known, but, in many governments, decisions on sustainable development were taken separately by ministries of the environment, agriculture, water and forestry, with little or no communication among them. Furthermore, greater emphasis was being

placed on commercially valuable crops and activities, thus reducing the gene pool. One goal of sustainable development was to combat poverty, by strengthening South-South cooperation, increasing creativity and autonomy, effectively using scarce human resources and infrastructure and exchanging and training new human resources. It was essential that national development policies manage demand, respect the limits of acceptable change in ecosystems, apply the precautionary principle, including recognition and respect for traditional knowledge, and decrease the ecological footprint, by establishing protected areas, conserving traditional agricultural practices and monitoring agricultural production systems. Respect for international conventions on sustainable development was a challenge but was essential.

ITEM 2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Attendance

11. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Parties and other Governments: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, European Community, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

12. Observers from the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, convention secretariats and other bodies also attended: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the Global Environment Facility, World Bank, Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), United Nations University (UNU).

13. The following were also represented by observers: Agenzia per la Protezione dell'Ambiente e per i Servizi Tecnici (APAT); Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands; ASEED Japan (Youth NGO); Asociación ANAI; Asociación de la Juventud Indígena Argentina; Association ANDES; BioNet-International; Bioversity International; BirdLife International; CARE International; CBD Alliance; CBDC Global Network; Center for International Forestry Research; COBASE-ECOSOC; Coecoceiba- FoE Costa Rica; Community Biodiversity Development and Conservation Nan Project, Hug Muang Nan Foundation; Conservation International; Consortium for the Barcode of Life; Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention); Council of Europe;

Council of the Cree Nation of Mistissini; Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association; Development Fund; Ecoagriculture Partners; ECONEXUS; ECOROPA; Ethio Organic Seed Action; European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization; European Bureau for Conservation Development; European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC); European Environment Agency; Federacion de comunidades Nativas Fronterizas del Putumayo; Federation of German Scientists; Fondo Ambiental - Ecuador; Forest Peoples Programme; Forest Trends; Forum Environment & Development; Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development; Friends of the Earth International; Friends of the Siberian Forests; Fundacion Natura Regional (Ecuador & Colombia); Georg-August-Universität Göttingen; Global Biodiversity Information Facility; Global Canopy Programme; Global Forest Coalition; Global Invasive Species Programme; Greenpeace; Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation; Indigenous Information Network; Indonesian Forum for Environment; Institute for Biodiversity; Instituto Comunitario de Biodiversidad y Cultura; Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network; International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology; International Chamber of Commerce; International Collective in Support of Fish Workers; International Council on Mining and Metals; International Federation of Agricultural Producers; International Foundation of Organic Agricultural Movements; International Indian Treaty Council; International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity; International Institute for Environment & Development; International Peasant Movement - Via Campesina; International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association; International Seed Federation; International Tropical Timber Organization; International Water Management Institute (CGIAR Centre); IUCN - The World Conservation Union; Kalinga Mission for Indigenous Children and Youth Development; Kijabe Environment Volunteers (EcoAgriculture Partners); League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development; Letloa Trust; Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT); Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe; NABU - German Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union; National Wildlife Institute - Bern Convention; Nature Kenya/Birdlife International; Netherlands Center for Indigenous Peoples; Oceania Pollinator Initiative; Ole Siosiomaga society (OLSSI); Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association; Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council; Platform for Agro-biodiversity Research - Bioversity International; Practical Action; Pro Wildlife; Progressio - Changing Minds - Changing Lives; Public Research and Regulation Initiative; Regional Agency for Parks (A.R.P. Lazio); Regional Forest Cooperation – Germany; Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON); Safari Club International Foundation; Servicio de Conservación de Especies de la Conselleria de Medio Ambiente; Smithsonian Institution; South East Asia Regional Institute for Community Education; South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE); Tebtebba Foundation; The Nature Conservancy; The Nature Conservancy Society of Japan; Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility (TSBF) Institute of CIAT; Universidad dos Açores; Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina; Universita Partenopae Napoli; University of Reading; University of Rome - La Sapienza; University of Tokyo; USC – Canada; Vetaid Mozambique, Gaza Food Security Project; VIOLA; Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS); World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP); World Ocean Council; World Rainforest Movement; World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

B. Election of officers

14. In accordance with the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, held in Curitiba from 20 to 31 March 2006, and by the Subsidiary Body at its eleventh and twelfth meetings, held, respectively, in Montreal from 28 November to 2 December 2005 and in Paris from 2 to 6 July 2007, the Bureau of the thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice comprised the following members:

Chair: Mr. Asghar Mohammadi Fazel (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Vice-Chairs: Mr. Hesiquio Benitez (Mexico)
 Mr. Habib Gademi (Chad)

Ms. Shirin Karryeva (Turkmenistan)
Mr. Joel E. Miles (Palau)
Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria)
Mr. Linus Spencer Thomas (Grenada)
Mr. Angheluta Vadineanu (Romania)
Mr. Rawson Piniel Yonazi (United Republic of Tanzania)

15. It was agreed that Mr. Angheluta Vadineanu (Romania) Vice-Chair of the Subsidiary Body, would act as Rapporteur for the meeting.

16. At the 1st session of the meeting, on 18 February 2008, the Chair announced that Ms. Annemarie Watt (Australia) had assumed new responsibilities in her country and could no longer serve in the Bureau. He said that the Western Europe and Others Group had proposed that Ms. Tone Solhaug (Norway) replace Ms. Watt in the Bureau from the end of the present meeting. Seeing no dissension from that proposal, he invited Ms. Solhaug to attend Bureau meetings as an observer.

17. The Chair then recalled that, in accordance with paragraph 9 of the consolidated *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body, as contained in annex III to decision VIII/10 of the Conference of the Parties, and to achieve staggered terms of office within the Bureau, the Subsidiary Body was expected to elect four new Bureau members for a two-meeting term, commencing at the end of the present meeting, to replace the outgoing members from Grenada, Palau, Romania and the United Republic of Tanzania. He invited the members of the Bureau to consult with their respective regional groups to nominate the new members.

18. At the 7th session of the meeting, on 22 February 2008, the Subsidiary Body elected the following officers to serve on the Bureau for a two-meeting term, commencing at the end of the current meeting, to replace the Bureau members from Grenada, Palau, Romania and the United Republic of Tanzania: Mr. Nabil Hamada (Tunisia), Mr. Krishna Chandra Paudel (Nepal) and Ms Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina). Mr. Spencer Linus Thomas (Grenada) was elected for a second two-meeting term.

C. Adoption of the agenda

19. At the 1st session of the meeting, on 18 February 2008, the Subsidiary Body adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Bureau (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/1):

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. In-depth review of the implementation of the programmes of work on:
 - 3.1. Agricultural biodiversity;
 - 3.2. Forest biodiversity.
4. Scientific and technical issues of relevance to the implementation of the 2010 target:
 - 4.1. Marine and coastal biodiversity: options for preventing and mitigating the impact of some activities to selected seabed habitats, and ecological criteria and biogeographical classification systems of marine areas in need of protection;

- 4.2. Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems: recent developments on Ramsar site designation criteria, streamlining the work and harmonization of national reporting frameworks between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention;
 - 4.3. Invasive alien species: report on consultations regarding international standards;
 - 4.4. Climate change: options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions;
 - 4.5. New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
5. Draft provisional agendas, dates, and venues the fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
 6. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting.

D. Organization of work

20. In considering the organization of work, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Chair on improving the scientific, technical and technological debate during the present meeting (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/1/Add.2).

21. In response to queries from the representatives of Brazil and Argentina, the Chair explained that the document was intended to summarize past practices, in order to facilitate discussions at the meeting. He would strive to seek consensus on every issue. Only if consensus on different, scientifically correct texts did not appear to be emerging would he transmit options or alternatives for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. Similarly, any issues raised that were not of a strictly scientific, technical or technological nature would be transmitted to the Conference of the Parties. He agreed that the document had been made available only recently, but he had wished to send delegates an agreed version, which had been finalized at a meeting held in Geneva in January 2008, funded by the Government of Austria, to which he expressed his gratitude.

22. In accordance with the recommendation of the Bureau, the Subsidiary Body at the opening plenary session of the meeting decided to meet as a Committee of the Whole, co-chaired by Mr. Asghar Mohammadi Fazel (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Mr. Hesiquio Benitez (Mexico), to discuss agenda items 3.1 and 3.2 (In-depth reviews: agricultural biodiversity and forest biodiversity, respectively) and 4.5 (New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity: modus operandi for addressing new and emerging issues).

23. The Subsidiary Body also decided to set up two open-ended sessional working groups for its thirteenth meeting: Working Group I, chaired by Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria), to consider items 4.1 (Marine and coastal biodiversity: options for preventing and mitigating the impact of some activities to selected seabed habitats, and ecological criteria and biogeographical classification systems of marine areas in need of protection) and 4.2 (Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems: recent developments on Ramsar site designation criteria, streamlining the work and harmonization of national reporting frameworks between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention); and Working Group II, chaired by Mr. Linus Spencer Thomas (Grenada), to consider items 4.3 (Invasive alien species: report on consultations regarding international standards) and 4.4 (Climate change: options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions).

E. Work of the sessional working groups

24. Working Group I met under the chairmanship of Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria), to consider items 4.1 (Marine and coastal biodiversity: options for preventing and mitigating the impact of some activities to selected seabed habitats, and ecological criteria and biogeographical classification systems of marine areas in need of protection) and 4.2 (Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems: recent developments on Ramsar site designation criteria, streamlining the work and harmonization of national reporting frameworks between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention). The Working Group held three meetings, from 19 to 21 February. It adopted its report at its 3rd meeting, on 21 February 2008.

25. As decided by the Subsidiary Body at the 1st plenary session of the meeting, on 18 February 2008, Working Group II met under the chairmanship of Mr. Linus Spencer Thomas (Grenada), to consider items 4.3 (Invasive alien species: report on consultations regarding international standards) and 4.4 (Climate change: options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions). The Working Group held three meetings, from 19 to 21 February. It adopted its report at its 3rd meeting, on 21 February 2008.

ITEM 3. IN-DEPTH REVIEWS

Item 3.1 Agricultural biodiversity

26. Agenda item 3.1 was taken up by the Committee of the Whole at the 2nd session of the meeting, on 18 February 2008. In considering the item, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on the in-depth review of implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/2). The note also contained the results of a study on the applicability of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity to the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity. The Committee of the Whole also had before it, as information documents, a synthesis of information from the third national reports on the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/1), a note by the Executive Secretary on the in-depth review of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/2), a note by the Executive Secretary on input into the in-depth review of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/3 and Corr.1), a note by the Executive Secretary on the applicability of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines on Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity to the sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/4), and a communication on the main issues related to agricultural biodiversity identified by the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/17).

27. The Co-Chair invited Mr. Peter Kenmore, Secretary to the International Plant Protection Convention, to make a presentation on bringing together the agriculture and environment agendas.

28. Mr. Kenmore said that food production would have to be increased by 50 per cent in order to feed a population of 9 billion people by 2050. Moreover, economic growth was associated with dietary shifts to more animal-based food. Increases in production to meet that demand had traditionally involved increased dependence on pesticides and fertilizers and overuse of water. A paradigm shift was required to move from dependency on traditional inputs and from chemical-based intensification to forms of biological intensification that drew on the richness of genetic resources. The fact that the agricultural sector was now more open to environmental advice and pressure provided opportunities for synergy between the environmental and agricultural agendas. The challenges were daunting. As food supply chains lengthened, there was a greater risk of pest invasions from movements of agricultural products throughout the world. Climate change phenomena such as global warming, extreme weather events and drought would all have an impact on the land available for production. However, the move from chemical

to biological dependence in agriculture would afford opportunities for adaptation, also with a view to ensuring the sustainability of biofuel production. As the understanding of agricultural biodiversity improved, sound governmental policies combined with farmer education had proved successful in areas such as rice, legume and cotton production. Farmers should be perceived as managers of biodiversity rather than as managers of food production factories. At the same time, effective action should be taken against forces promoting unsustainable agriculture such as short-term planning, land conversion, and failure to pay attention to ecosystem services.

29. The Co-Chair then invited Mr. François Pythoud (Switzerland), organizer of the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which had been held in Interlaken, Switzerland, in September 2007, to make a presentation on behalf of the Chairperson of the Conference.

30. Mr. Pythoud said that the main outcome of the first International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture had been the adoption of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources. The Plan of Action had been adopted through the Interlaken Declaration, which acknowledged the need to maintain the diversity of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, recognized the contribution of local and indigenous communities to the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources, noted the significant ongoing loss of livestock breeds and called for prompt action to conserve breeds at risk. The Declaration recognized the interdependence of countries, regions and peoples in respect of animal genetic resources, and acknowledged the responsibility of national governments in implementing the Global Plan of Action. The Plan of Action and Declaration constituted a major contribution to achieving the first and seventh Millennium Development Goals, and represented a milestone towards the development of a coherent international framework for the wise management of agricultural biodiversity. The successful implementation of the Global Plan of Action would depend on cooperation between all relevant sectors and the mobilization of adequate human and financial resources.

31. The Co-Chair invited the Committee of the Whole to discuss the item in the light of the presentations of the keynote speakers and the note by the Executive Secretary on the in-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/2).

32. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, the European Community, Fiji, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Japan, Liberia, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Slovenia, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania (speaking on behalf of the African Group), Uruguay and Yemen.

33. Statements were also made by the representatives of the FAO, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and UNEP.

34. Statements were made by the representatives of the Platform for Agricultural Biodiversity Research, the Convention on Biological Diversity Task Force of the International Chamber of Commerce, the Global Diversity Information Facility and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.

35. At the 3rd session of the meeting, on 19 February 2008, the Committee of the Whole resumed its consideration of agenda item 3.1.

36. Statements were made by the representatives of Greenpeace and Via Campesino.

37. At the 4th session of the meeting, on 20 February 2008, the Committee of the Whole took up a draft recommendation on agenda item 3.1, prepared by the Co-Chairs.

38. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, the European Community, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Turkmenistan (speaking also on behalf of the Central and Eastern European Group) and the United Kingdom.

39. A statement was also made by the representative of FAO.

40. Further statements were made by the representatives of the Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (the ETC Group), the Community Biodiversity Development Conservation (CBDC) Network, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, Practical Action, and the South-East Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE).

41. At the end of the 4th meeting, the Committee of the Whole agreed to continue its consideration of the draft recommendation in a contact group with a view to producing a revised version for discussion in formal session.

Action by the Subsidiary Body

42. At the 6th session of the meeting, on 22 February 2008, the Subsidiary Body took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/L.2 submitted by the Co-Chairs, on the review of implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body adopted the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as recommendation XIII/1, the text of which is contained in the annex to the present report.

Item 3.2 Forest biodiversity

43. Agenda item 3.2 was taken up by the Committee of the Whole at the 3rd session of the meeting, on 19 February 2008. In considering the item, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on review of implementation of the programme of work on forest biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/3). It also had before it, as information documents, a background document for the review of implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/5), a note by the Executive Secretary on the potential environmental, cultural and socio-economic impacts of genetically modified trees (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/6), a compilation of views on the potential environmental, cultural and socio-economic impacts of genetically modified trees (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/7 and Add.1), a draft toolkit for cross-sectoral approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/8), and a paper entitled "Conservation and sustainable use of wildlife-based resources: the bushmeat crisis" (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/8)..

44. The Co-Chair invited Mr. José Antonio Prado (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) to make a presentation on behalf of Mr. Jan Heino, Assistant Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Chairperson of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

45. Mr Prado said that forests constituted 30 per cent of the world's total land area and provided habitat to two thirds of all species on earth, livelihood for over 1.6 million people and fruits and herbs for medicine and nutrition for over 80 per cent of people in developing countries. Sixty million indigenous

people were dependent on forests. Global deforestation was occurring at an alarming rate and the forestry sector accounted for 17 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions. Increasing attention was, however, being given to conserving forest biodiversity. Planted forests, which alleviated the pressure on natural forests, had increased, and although the majority were managed to obtain timber and other wood products, 24 per cent were used for protective purposes. The Global Forest Resources Assessment in 2010 would include new data on deforestation rates, guidelines on dissemination of information, and improved quality data on forest carbon stocks. The state of the world's forest genetic resources would be evaluated by 2013. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) aimed to improve forest management and reverse the loss of forest cover, and had recently held a strategic dialogue on ways to accelerate progress and build new alliances. The IUCN/ITTO Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Production Forests constituted a practical tool to help meet the growing demand for forest products while conserving biodiversity. Forests were now more prominent than ever on the international political agenda, and that attention must be translated into practical action to help people manage, conserve and utilize forest resources for their livelihood.

46. The Co-Chair then invited Ms. Frances Seymour, Director General of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), to make a presentation on potential policy responses to the underlying causes of deforestation.

47. Ms. Seymour, drawing attention to the links between deforestation, biodiversity and climate change, said that, according to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, habitat change had a major and growing impact on tropical forest ecosystems. The principal direct causes of deforestation and forest degradation were conversion due to agricultural expansion, unsustainable wood extraction, including poor logging practices and illegal logging, and infrastructure development, especially road-building. Other underlying causes were market failures, reflected in rising food, fuel and fibre prices, while biodiversity and ecosystem services remained largely unpriced, governance failures, including unclear property rights and weak law enforcement, and misguided policies. The main policy options were: removal of perverse subsidies; introduction of positive incentives; strengthening of direct regulation; and enhancement of governance mechanisms and institutions. The profitability of activities leading to deforestation and forest degradation should be decreased and the profitability of sustainable forest management (SFM) increased. The goal of optimization of REDD policies provided an opportunity for collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

48. Following the presentations, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ethiopia, European Community, Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Liberia (speaking on behalf of the African Group), Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Serbia (speaking on behalf of the Central and Eastern European Group), Slovenia, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic (also speaking on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group), Tunisia and Yemen.

49. A statement was also made by the representative of Econexus.

50. At the 5th session of the meeting, on 21 February 2008, the Committee of the Whole took up a draft recommendation on agenda item 3.2, prepared by the Co-Chairs.

51. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Ethiopia, European Community, Federated States of Micronesia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Haiti, Liberia, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Senegal, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkmenistan (speaking for the Central and Eastern European Group), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay.

52. Statements were also made by representatives of the Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (the ETC Group), the Federation of German Scientists, Greenpeace, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, Pro Wildlife, the Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE), the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the World Rainforest Movement (on behalf of many civil society and indigenous groups).

53. At the end of the 5th session of the meeting, the Committee of the Whole decided to meet in a contact group to continue the consideration of the draft recommendation.

Action by the Subsidiary Body

54. At the 6th session of the meeting, on 22 February 2008, the Subsidiary Body took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/L.7 submitted by the Co-Chairs, on the review of implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body adopted the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as recommendation XIII/2, the text of which is contained in the annex to the present report.

ITEM 4. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ISSUES OF RELEVANCE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2010 TARGET

Item 4.1 Marine and coastal biodiversity: options for preventing and mitigating the impact of some activities to selected seabed habitats, and ecological criteria and biogeographical classification systems of marine areas in need of protection

55. Working Group I took up agenda item 4.1 at its 1st meeting, on 19 February 2008. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/4) summarizing the options for preventing and mitigating the impact of some activities to selected seabed habitats from a joint study conducted in collaboration with the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS), the International Seabed Authority and other relevant organizations. It also had before it, as information documents, a synthesis and review of the best available scientific studies on priority areas for biodiversity conservation in marine areas beyond the limits on national jurisdiction (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/11), a note by the Executive Secretary on development of an interactive map (Imap) and review of spatial databases containing information on marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/12), a note by the Executive Secretary on options for preventing and mitigating the impact of some activities on selected seabed habitats (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/13), the report of the Expert Workshop on Ecological Criteria and Biogeographic Classification Systems for Marine Areas in Need of Protection (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/14), and the draft report "Global Open Oceans and Deep-Sea Habitats (GOODS) Bioregional Classification" (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/19).

56. The Chair of the Working Group invited Mr. Ricardo Serrão Santos of the University of Azores, who had chaired the Expert Workshop on ecological criteria and biogeographic classification systems for marine areas in need of protection, held in Azores, Portugal, in October 2007, to present the Workshop's key recommendations.

57. Mr. Serrão Santos said that the Workshop had developed the following scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection in open ocean waters and deep-sea habitats: uniqueness or rarity; special importance for the life-history stages of species; importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats; vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity or slow recovery; biological productivity; biological diversity and naturalness. It had compiled the following criteria for representative networks of marine protected areas, including in open

ocean waters and deep-sea habitats: ecologically or biologically significant areas; representativeness; connectivity; replicated ecological features; and adequate and viable sites. The Workshop had also proposed the following principles for global bioregionalization: to approach benthic and pelagic systems separately; to use the largest set of taxa possible; to use the province level; to reflect processes and not just patterns; and to nest systems hierarchically. Based on the criteria identified, the Workshop had recommended proceeding with scientific identification of an initial set of ecologically or biologically significant areas; developing or choosing a biogeographic habitat and/or community classification system; iteratively using qualitative and/or quantitative techniques to identify sites for inclusion in a network; and assessing the adequacy and viability of the selected sites in terms of size, shape, boundaries, buffering and appropriateness of the site management regime. The Workshop had further recommended that its results should be presented to the thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the next meeting of the United Nations General Assembly Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction.

58. Statements were made and amendments to the suggested recommendations were proposed by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Federated States of Micronesia, Germany, Guinea, Haiti, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya (speaking on behalf of the African Group), Liberia, Madagascar, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Slovenia, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey and Uruguay.

59. The representative of Argentina requested that the report of the meeting reflect its view that the only way to impose restrictions through the establishment of marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction was through the express consent of all States to the mechanisms whereby such restrictions would be imposed.

60. The representative of Brazil requested that the following remarks be reflected in the report of the meeting. There was a pressing need to increase marine scientific research and cooperation in order to promote understanding of marine biodiversity, as recognized by the United Nations General Assembly and by the Conference of the Parties in previous decisions. The present lack of understanding had a major impact on the discussion of document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/4, since criteria based on coastal areas could not be extended and made applicable to the high seas and seabed biodiversity.

61. The representative of Turkey requested that the following statement be included in the report of the meeting:

“With regard to work on marine and coastal biological diversity, Turkey has from the outset acted in conformity with the letter and the spirit of the Convention on Biological Diversity decisions and has joined the consensus on matters such as ‘establishment of marine protected areas’.

“However, as underlined in previous meetings, particularly in semi-enclosed seas, including the Mediterranean and the Aegean Sea, where maritime jurisdiction areas have not been delimited by international agreements, coastal states should cooperate and coordinate also with respect to the protection and preservation of the marine environment. We believe, in accordance with international law, in such sea areas, establishment of marine protected areas should be effected with the consent of all Parties concerned and by respecting their mutual rights.

“As a second point, as has been underlined in previous meetings, Turkey’s position regarding the UNCLOS remains unchanged. Turkey is not a party to the UNCLOS and has objected to the Convention from the outset due to a number of serious shortcomings. Turkey believes that the said Convention does not reflect the customary international law of the sea as a whole. Accordingly, Turkey disassociates itself from the references made in CBD documents to the international instruments that she is not party to. Turkey’s consent to these documents

therefore should not be interpreted as a change in the legal position of Turkey with regard to the said instruments.

“Accordingly, we would like to see the addition of ‘the customary international law of the sea’ to paragraph 2 (g) as follows: ‘... in accordance with international law, including the customary international law of the sea and UNCLOS’.”

62. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS).

63. In addition, statements were made by the representatives of BirdLife International, Greenpeace, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, the Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE), the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

64. At the close of the session, the Chair announced that an open-ended group of friends of the Chair would meet to try resolve some areas of divergence.

65. At its 3rd meeting, on 21 February 2008, the Working Group considered a Chair’s text containing revised suggested recommendations.

66. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Denmark, El Salvador, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

67. A statement was also made by the representative of the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS).

68. The representative of Greenpeace also made a statement.

69. The Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/L.6.

Action by the Subsidiary Body

70. At the 7th plenary session of the meeting, on 22 February 2008, the Subsidiary Body took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/L.6 and, following an exchange of views, adopted it, as orally amended, as recommendation XIII/3, the text of which is contained in the annex to the present report.

71. The representative of New Zealand expressed concern about the adoption by the Subsidiary Body of text on marine and coastal biodiversity, in which the requests to the Executive Secretary were enclosed in square brackets. That was not in keeping with established practice at meetings of the Subsidiary Body and would effectively mean that the Executive Secretary would be unable to act on those requests

Item 4.2 Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems: recent developments on Ramsar site designation criteria, streamlining the work and harmonization of national reporting frameworks between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention

72. The Working Group took up agenda item 4.2 at its 2nd meeting, on 20 February 2008. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/5) prepared in collaboration with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and members of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel and containing: (i) a synthesis of progress in relation to decision VII/4; (ii) the technical requirements under the CBD programme of work on inland water ecosystems and the ongoing and planned activities of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention; (iii) the proposal developed by the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on a

national reporting framework for inland biological diversity; and (iv) on the allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions. The Working Group also had before it, as information documents, a note by the Executive Secretary on matters relating to paragraphs 29 and 30 of decision VII/4 on criteria for the designation of Ramsar sites and guidelines for their application in the context of Annex I to the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/15), and a note by the Executive Secretary on technical requirements under the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and the ongoing and planned activities of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/16).

73. The Chair invited Mr. Nick Davidson, Deputy Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention, to comment on progress concerning cooperation between the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Mr. Davidson stated that the existing arrangement between the two Conventions was an example of how cooperation could work. In light of increased pressure on water resources, especially from irrigation, the Ramsar Secretariat would continue to improve its work on water. All ecosystems depended on water, not just wetlands. Seventy per cent of water use was for irrigated agriculture.

74. The Chair then opened the floor for comments by the Parties. Statements were made and amendments to the suggested recommendations were proposed by the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Haiti, India, Japan, Norway, Senegal, Slovenia, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom, Uruguay and Zambia (speaking on behalf of the African Group).

75. A statement was also made by the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

76. At its third meeting, on 21 February 2008, the Working Group considered a Chair's text containing revised suggested recommendations.

77. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, France, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Norway, Slovenia, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United Republic of Tanzania.

78. A statement was also made by a representative of the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention.

79. The Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/L.3.

Action by the Subsidiary Body

80. At the 7th plenary session of the meeting, on 22 February 2008, the Subsidiary Body took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/L.3 and adopted it as recommendation XIII/4, the text of which is contained in the annex to the present report.

Item 4.3 Invasive alien species - report on consultations regarding international standards

81. Working Group II took up agenda item 4.3 at its 1st meeting, on 19 February 2008. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary containing a report on the consultations on international standards covering invasive alien species, in particular animals, that are not pests of plants under the International Plant Protection Convention, as called for in paragraph 14 of decision VIII/27 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/6).

82. The Chair of the Working Group invited Mr. Peter Kenmore, Secretary to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) to make a presentation.

83. Mr. Kenmore said that IPPC recognized the need for international cooperation to control pests of plants and plant products and their international spread, especially into endangered areas. Invasive species that were directly or indirectly injurious to plants or plant products could be added to a national

quarantine pest list, which would enable border controls, surveillance systems and eradication plans to be used for those invasive alien species that were listed as quarantine pests. IPPC had agreed mechanisms to guard against pests of plants, and increased use of those mechanisms could contribute to the conservation of agricultural biodiversity and biodiversity in general. Cooperation between the secretariats of the IPPC and CBD had resulted in progress in promoting collaboration between national agencies for biodiversity-related issues and national plant protection organizations, addressing gaps in the international regulatory framework for invasive species, and working on issues of mutual interest, such as the development of a supplement to the IPPC glossary of phytosanitary terms to foster understanding of the overlap and differences in use of terms between IPPC and CBD. Two new topics relevant to alien species were being considered for inclusion in the IPPC Standard Setting Work Programme: minimizing pest movement by air containers and aircrafts, and by sea containers and conveyances.

84. Following the presentation, statements were made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda (speaking on behalf of the Small Island Developing States), Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, the European Community, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Saint Lucia, Seychelles, Slovenia, South Africa, Swaziland (speaking on behalf of the African Group), Sweden and Thailand.

85. Statements were also made by the representatives of FAO and the Council of Europe.

86. Further statements were made by the representatives of Community Empowerment, the Global Invasive Species Programme, the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council and the Forest People's Programme.

87. Introducing a draft recommendation under item 4.3, the Chair said that the text was meant to reflect in a balanced way the suggestions made at the previous session. He reminded the Group that the subject of the draft recommendation was gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework, identified by consultation with international organizations in accordance with decision VIII/27, concerning in particular invasive species that were not pests of plants according to the IPPC. When changes had been suggested that constituted requests to other organizations, those organizations had been consulted regarding their feasibility. As horticulture was covered by the IPPC, suggested changes to include that element had not been added. He emphasized that there had been a number of previous decisions on invasive alien species, which covered, *inter alia*, the importance of national and regional actions and capacity-building; new references to those topics had therefore been kept brief. The issue-based modules were referred to in decision VIII/7.

88. At its 3rd meeting, on 21 February 2008, the Working Group considered a Chair's text containing revised suggested recommendations.

89. Statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the European Community, Germany, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, Palau, Portugal, Qatar, Slovenia and Sweden.

90. A statement was also made by the representative of the IPPC.

91. The Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/L.4.

Action by the Subsidiary Body

92. At the 7th plenary session of the meeting, on 22 February 2008, the Subsidiary Body took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/L.4 and adopted it as recommendation XIII/5, the text of which is contained in the annex to the present report.

Item 4.4 *Climate change: options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions*

93. Working Group II took up agenda item 4.4 at its 1st meeting, on 19 February 2008. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/7) containing proposals integrating the views from Parties for mutually supportive activities for secretariats, Parties and other relevant organizations. It also had before it, as an information document, the report of the eighth meeting of the Joint Liaison Group of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/18).

94. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Finland, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia and Thailand.

95. Working Group II resumed consideration of agenda item 4.4 at its 2nd meeting, on 20 February 2008.

96. Statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Bahamas (on behalf of the Small Island Developing States), Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, the European Community, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Madagascar (on behalf of the African Group), Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Qatar, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and Yemen.

97. Statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and FAO.

98. Further statements were made by the representatives of the Tebtebba Foundation (on behalf of the International Forum of Indigenous Peoples in Biodiversity for the Asian region), the International Forum of Indigenous Peoples for Latin America, the ETC Group, Greenpeace, the Community for Biodiversity Development Cooperation (CBDC) and the Southeast Asia Regional Initiative for Community Empowerment (SEARICE).

99. At its 3rd meeting, on 21 February 2008, the Working Group considered a Chair's text containing a revised draft recommendation.

100. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, the European Community, Germany, Ghana, Kuwait, Madagascar (on behalf of the African Group), Malaysia, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Palau, Qatar, Slovenia, South Africa, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

101. Statements were also made by the representatives of the ETC Group, Greenpeace, SEARICE and the Tebtebba Foundation.

102. The Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/L.5.

Action by the Subsidiary Body

103. At the 7th plenary session of the meeting, on 22 February 2008, the Subsidiary Body took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/L.5 and, following an exchange of views, adopted it, as orally amended, as recommendation XIII/6, the text of which is contained in the annex to the present report.

Item 4.5 New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity: modus operandi for addressing new and emerging issues

104. Agenda item 4.5 was taken up by the Committee of the Whole at the 1st session of the meeting, on 18 February 2008. In considering the item, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/8) prepared in consultation with the SBSTTA Bureau, containing suggested elements of the procedure for the identification and consideration of new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

105. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, France, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania (speaking on behalf of the African Group) and Uruguay.

106. A statement was also made by the representative of the International Forum of Indigenous Peoples in Latin America.

107. At the close of the session, the Chair said that a group of friends of the Chair would meet to try to achieve consensus regarding the proposed options for prioritization of emerging issues and mandate for response.

108. At the 2nd session of the meeting, on 18 February 2008, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Ecuador, Haiti, India, Japan, Kiribati, Nepal, Peru, Saint Lucia (speaking on behalf of small island developing States), Thailand, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

109. A statement was also made by the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

110. In addition, statements were made by the representatives of the Community Biodiversity Development and Conservation (CBDC) Network, the Global Forest Coalition, Greenpeace, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Pro Wildlife and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

111. At its 6th meeting, on 22 February 2008, the Committee of the Whole took up a revised version of the draft recommendation under item 3.1.

112. Statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Canada, China, European Community, Ghana, New Zealand, Swaziland and the Syrian Arab Republic.

113. A number of amendments were made to the draft recommendation, which was then approved, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session of the Subsidiary Body as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/L.8.

Action by the Subsidiary Body

114. At its 6th meeting, on 22 February 2008, the Subsidiary Body took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/L.8 on new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and, following an exchange of views, adopted it, as orally amended, as recommendation XIII/7, the text of which is contained in the annex to the present report.

ITEM 5. DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDAS AND DATES AND VENUES FOR THE FOURTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH MEETINGS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

115. At the 7th plenary session of the meeting, on 22 February 2008, the Chair said that the Subsidiary Body had before it a list of topics for its fourteenth and fifteenth meetings (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/9). In view of the diminishing time remaining to achieve the 2010 targets, the Conference of the Parties looked to the Subsidiary Body to provide credible, timely advice on the status of biological diversity, the goals of the Convention beyond 2010 and the efforts required to achieve those goals and to monitor implementation.

116. During the ensuing discussion, in which the representatives of Brazil, the European Community, Germany, Japan, Mali, Mexico, Qatar and Thailand took part, the Subsidiary Body made proposals for distribution of the items between its fourteenth and fifteenth meetings. It suggested that in-depth reviews on protected areas, sustainable use and climate change be conducted at the fourteenth meeting, with consideration also of a draft of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook. At its fifteenth meeting, the Subsidiary Body would conduct in-depth reviews of inland waters, mountain biodiversity and marine and coastal biodiversity, and discuss the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

117. Responding to a proposal by the representative of Mali that the Subsidiary Body also consider the biodiversity of arid and semi-arid areas and desertification, the Chair said that the list of topics had been decided upon by the eighth Conference of the Parties. He added that the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting might decide to add new issues, but no new items could be added to those listed in the document.

118. Document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/9 was adopted.

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

119. The present report was adopted, as orally amended, at the 7th plenary session of the meeting, on 22 February 2008, on the basis of the draft report prepared by the Rapporteur (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/L.1) and the reports of the working groups (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/L.1/Add.1 and 2).

120. At the closing session of the meeting, the representative of Mexico expressed regret at the failure to make significant progress on most of the matters addressed, so that its technical, technological and cultural contributions to the Conference of the Parties would be limited. The discussions had focused on demarcating the boundaries of the Convention, and there had been virtually no scientific debate. Moreover, participants had had to contend with procedural irregularities in the negotiation and adoption of documents. Given the unprecedented rate of loss of biodiversity and the urgent need for immediate action founded on the best technical, technological and scientific evidence available, the Subsidiary Body was failing in its duty to provide the Conference of the Parties with the requisite decision-making tools. If it was unable to deal effectively with thematic programmes and cross-cutting issues, he wondered what was the point of establishing an ambitious range of targets and indicators. The question arose whether the expert or open-ended working groups, and the Subsidiary Body itself, were discharging the mandate assigned to them. Special attention should be given to the recommendations made by the Working Group on Review of Implementation to the Conference of the Parties, and the Subsidiary Body should seek to recover the spirit that had inspired its establishment.

121. The representative of Brazil said that the issue of biofuels had already been considered by SBSTTA at its twelfth meeting and that that issue had been forwarded to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Therefore, consideration of the issue of biofuels during the thirteenth meeting

of SBSTTA was inappropriate. He expressed reservations about the procedure adopted for discussing the issue of biofuels during the meeting and concern that the draft recommendation on the programmes of work for forest biodiversity and agricultural biodiversity were not in line with treatment of those issue in the relevant forums, including FAO and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).

122. The representative of Sweden expressed disappointment that despite the scientific and technical advice mandate of SBSTTA, there had been very little focus on scientific and technical issues during the thirteenth meeting. The world was currently witnessing a human-induced “mega-extinction”, which required a practical response, rather than lengthy politicized quarrels over drafting issues. Given the urgency of the situation of global biodiversity, SBSTTA must refocus its work to deal with scientific, technical and technological issues in order to fulfil its mandate.

123. The representative of Switzerland expressed concern at the unprecedented amount of bracketed text that was being transmitted to the Conference of the Parties. The Subsidiary Body was wasting valuable time in renegotiating texts on which agreement had already been reached. A joint effort must be made, as a matter of urgency, to develop a new approach prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. He trusted that the Bureau would give the matter the attention it deserved. It was essential to focus on ways of surmounting obstacles to the implementation of the various programmes of work under the Convention.

124. The representative of Germany noted that the thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA was the last intergovernmental meeting under the Convention before the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. She reiterated her country’s commitment to ensuring the success of that meeting and called on all the delegations to attend with a spirit of cooperation for addressing successfully the unresolved issues of the Rome meetings.

125. The representatives of Greenpeace and the ETC Group also made statements.

126. In his closing statement, the Executive Secretary paid tribute to FAO for hosting for the first time a meeting of SBSTTA, as well as for the 21 side-events and 16 posters organized. He also referred to the organization of joint meetings of the Bureau of SBSTTA and the Bureau of the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. He congratulated the Chair and the other members of the Bureau for their leadership and noted that the meeting had been the largest ever meeting of the Subsidiary Body in terms of participation. He conveyed his deepest gratitude to the staff for their hard work and dedication.

127. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice was closed at 6.30 p.m. on 22 February 2008.

Annex

**RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE AT ITS THIRTEENTH MEETING
FAO, Rome, 18-22 February 2008**

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Page</i>
XIII/1. Review of implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity	22
XIII/2. Review of implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity	31
XIII/3. Options for preventing and mitigating the impacts of some activities to selected seabed habitats, and scientific and ecological criteria for marine areas in need of protection and biogeographic classification systems	37
XIII/4. Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems	48
XIII/5. Invasive alien species: report on consultations regarding international standards	50
XIII/6. Biodiversity and climate change: options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions	53
XIII/7. New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	60

XIII/1. Review of implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity

The Subsidiary Body *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Having conducted an in-depth review on the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity,
Alarmed by the loss of biological diversity and its negative impacts on the sustainability of agriculture and the world's food security,

Aware that agriculture is dependent on biodiversity, and that cultivated systems provide food, feed, fibre and fuel, but can often affect other ecosystem services,

Convinced that agricultural biodiversity is a vital asset to achieve Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7,

Recognizing the important contributions of scientists, farmers, livestock keepers, breeders, international agencies, Governments and other stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity,

Also recognizing the important contribution of indigenous and local communities, including farmers and livestock keepers, in the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity, in particular at centres of origin of agricultural biodiversity, the value of their traditional knowledge and their important contribution to the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention,

Emphasizing the need for sustained political will at all levels and provision of resources, enhancing exchange of information, access to and transfer of technology, and capacity-building in support of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to reinforce national programmes for the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity,

Recognizing the need for enhanced efforts to further improve the positive impact of agriculture on biodiversity and to mitigate its negative impacts,

Reiterating its recognition, in decision V/5, of the special nature of agricultural biodiversity, its distinctive features, and problems needing distinctive solutions,

1. *Welcomes* the preparations for the 2008 International Day for Biological Diversity; and *emphasizes the importance* of the Day for enhancing awareness of the value of agricultural biodiversity, its current status and rate of loss, the need to support conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and implement actions that will halt its loss for the benefit of food security, human nutrition, poverty eradication and improved rural livelihoods, noting the importance of agricultural biodiversity to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

2. *Notes* the significant contribution of agriculture to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through demonstrated good practice in the management of agricultural biodiversity, innovation and progress in supporting sustainable agriculture, reducing the negative impacts of agriculture and in particular its positive contribution to reducing hunger and poverty, improved food security and improved human well being;

3. *Agrees* that the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity, including its three international initiatives, continues to provide a relevant framework to achieve the objectives of the Convention;

Implementation of activities in the programme of work: assessment

4. *Welcomes* the progress and plans made by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in preparing the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, including in particular the current updating of the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources, the recent launch of the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources, and work towards the preparation of the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources, the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources, and other reviews on the status and trends on micro-organisms and invertebrates for food and agriculture, and *encourages* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to finalize them as planned; and *encourages* Parties and the other governments to provide information that would enable the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to complete, as planned, the preparation or updating of these reports, and support developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to that end;

5. *Invites* Parties and other Governments and relevant organizations to finance and undertake research as appropriate to further develop and apply methods and techniques for assessing and monitoring the status and trends of agricultural biodiversity and other components of biodiversity in agricultural ecosystems, and collect and refine the collated data into a coherent information set on best monitoring practices;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations to identify appropriate methods or means, including provisional goals and targets, and indicators, including existing indicators, to objectively evaluate how the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity contributes to the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention and the Strategic Plan of the Convention, consistent with the framework adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision VII/30 and VIII/15, as a contribution to the achievement of the 2010 target and the Millennium Development Goals, building on ongoing initiatives, and *further requests* the Executive Secretary, to report on progress at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

7. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, taking into account ongoing initiatives, and consistent with activities 1.4 and 1.5 of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity, to compile and disseminate information on:

(a) The positive and negative impacts of agricultural practices and policies on all components of biodiversity related to agriculture;

(b) The impacts of agriculture on the conservation of [landscapes] and ecosystems

(c) The impacts of agriculture on ecosystem services;

(d) Best practices in actively promoting and using ecosystem services to support sustainable agriculture;

[(e) The impacts on sustainable development of perverse agricultural incentives, especially related measures that distort international trade, on the biodiversity of other countries;]

and based on this information, *invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to provide information to Parties on options that promote sustainable agriculture, [reduce the ecological footprint of agriculture,] and contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Convention;

8. *Recognizes* the contribution of indigenous and local communities to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity as a contribution to the 2010 target[s], and in the context of 2008 being the International Year of the Potato, congratulates the indigenous peoples of the Andean region in their creation and maintenance of the natural centre of diversity of the potato;

Implementation of activities in the programme of work: adaptive management and capacity-building

9. *Recognizing the need* for accelerated implementation of policies that promote the positive and mitigate the negative impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, *urges* Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations, to strengthen the capacity needed for implementing the programme of work, including through the application of the ecosystem approach to agriculture, consistent with international obligations;

10. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant international and regional organizations, local and indigenous communities, farmers, pastoralists and plant and animal breeders to promote, support and remove constraints to on-farm and *in situ* conservation of agricultural biodiversity through participatory decision-making processes in order to enhance the conservation of plant and animal genetic resources, related components of biodiversity in agricultural ecosystems, and related ecosystem functions;

11. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, to submit to the Executive Secretary best practices concerning the issue of on-farm and *in situ* conservation of agricultural biodiversity, and *requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to collate this information and to disseminate it through the clearing-house mechanism and other relevant means, and to make it available to SBSTTA;

Implementation of activities in the programme of work: mainstreaming

12. *Urges* Parties and other Governments to ensure that national sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and strategies promote the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity, and to implement agricultural policies that contribute to the maintenance of biodiversity, and discourage those agricultural practices that are causing biodiversity loss;

13. *Notes* the Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture as a significant contribution towards managing the impacts of agriculture on water;

14. *Urges* Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations, to engage indigenous and local communities, farmers, pastoralists, animal breeders and other stakeholders, including those whose livelihoods depend on the sustainable use and conservation of agricultural biodiversity, to apply the ecosystem approach to agriculture consistent with international obligations;

15. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous and local communities to improve the implementation of the programme of work through:

(a) Enhanced collaboration between all relevant actors at all levels in Government including at the local level and involving the private sector, as appropriate;

(b) Incorporating the awareness of the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in agricultural production processes whilst meeting the demands for food and other products; and

(c) Making relevant elements of the programme of work compatible with national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related policies, including appropriate linkages with other programmes of work of the Convention;

16. *Urges* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations:

(a) To strengthen dialogue with farmers, including through international and national farmers' organizations, as appropriate, in the implementation of the programme of work;

(b) To promote opportunities for indigenous and local communities, and local stakeholders to participate in the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies, action plans and programmes for agricultural biodiversity; and

(c) To improve the policy environment to support local-level management of agricultural biodiversity;

17. *Welcomes* the FAO Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources adopted by the first International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources held in Interlaken, Switzerland, in September 2007, as an internationally agreed framework that contains the strategic priorities for the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, and provisions for implementation and financing, and *invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous and local communities, farmers, pastoralists, animal breeders, relevant organizations and other stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action;

18. *Recalling* decision VI/6, *recognizes* the close links between the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Convention, *welcomes* the progress in implementing the Treaty, especially with regard to the Multilateral System and Farmers' Rights; and *urges* Parties to further support its implementation;

International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators

19. *Welcomes* the report on the rapid assessment of the status of pollinators prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

20. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in coordination with the Executive Secretary and in collaboration with Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to continue the implementation of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators and, in particular:

(a) To complete information on pollinator species, populations and their taxonomy, ecology and interactions;

(b) To establish the framework for monitoring declines and identifying their causes;

(c) To assess the agricultural production, ecological, and socio-economic consequences of pollinator declines;

(d) To compile information on good practices and lessons learned;

(e) To develop proposals on how to promote, and prevent the further loss of, pollination services that sustain human livelihoods; and

(f) To disseminate openly the results through the clearing-house mechanism and other relevant means;

and to make available a progress report for consideration by SBSTTA before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

[21. Urges developed country Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, in the implementation of paragraph 20 above;]

International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity

22. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and *requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to support Parties, other Governments, indigenous and local communities, farmers and livestock keepers and other stakeholders, including regional initiatives to implement the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity, including through capacity-building and dissemination of good practices and lessons learned, through the clearing-house mechanism and other relevant means;

23. *Also invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other relevant organizations and initiatives such as the Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility (TSBF) Programme to carry out further work and compile and disseminate information to improve the understanding of soil biodiversity, its interaction with above-ground biodiversity, and other soil functions, the various ecosystem services that it provides, and the agricultural practices that affect it, and to facilitate the integration of soil biodiversity issues into agricultural policies and to make available a report for consideration by the SBSTTA before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

International Initiative on Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition

24. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, Bioversity International and the Executive Secretary to support Parties, other Governments, indigenous and local communities farmers and livestock keepers and other stakeholders in their implementation of the International Initiative on Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition, including through research, capacity development and dissemination of good practices, such as the increased use of under-utilized crops and livestock, and lessons learnt, through the clearing-house mechanism and other relevant means;

Agricultural biodiversity and climate change

25. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to document the observed impacts and consider the projected impacts of climate change, on agricultural biodiversity, to use the information in cross-sector planning in agricultural areas and to make this information available through the clearing-house mechanism and other relevant means;

26. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders, to gather, information on lessons learned about the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity, and integrate these into climate-change adaptation [and mitigation] planning [and cross-sectoral planning in agricultural areas], and to make this information available through the clearing-house mechanism and other relevant means;

27. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue the collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, the organizations involved in follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, indigenous and local communities, and other partners to gather and disseminate information, on:

(a) The links between climate change, agriculture and biodiversity, including, in particular, the impacts of climate change on crops, livestock, food and nutrition, soil biodiversity and pollinators, as well as the availability of water;

(b) Ways and means to build resilience into food and agricultural livelihood systems as part of strategies for climate change adaptation, especially in communities of developing countries that are dependent on rain-fed agriculture for local food supplies;

(c) How vulnerable communities, especially in developing countries, might adapt to the impacts of climate-induced changes in agricultural practice;

(d) The impact of climate change on agricultural ecosystems for maintaining wildlife and habitats;

28. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary, to continue to provide Parties and other Governments with data, tools and information to adapt their agricultural policies and practices and cross-sectoral programmes, to changing climate, and to improve the capacities of farmers, livestock keepers, plant and animal breeders, relevant organizations and other stakeholders to reduce the risks associated with climate change;

29. *Welcomes* the organization by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of a high-level meeting to be held in June 2008 on “World Food Security and the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy” and invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to provide the report of the meeting to SBSTTA;

[Agricultural biodiversity and biofuels

[30. *Recognizes* the need to promote the positive and mitigate the negative impacts of agricultural biofuel production and its consumption on biodiversity, taking into account SBSTTA recommendation XII/7;]

or

[30. *Recognizing* the need to promote the positive and mitigate the negative impacts of agricultural biofuel production and its consumption on biodiversity, and taking into account SBSTTA recommendation XII/7:

(a) *Endorses* the principle that bioenergy production and consumption should be sustainable in relation to biodiversity

(b) *Urges* Parties, other Governments and other relevant organizations to establish and apply sound policy frameworks which ensure the sustainable production and consumption of bioenergy, including in particular, biofuels;

(c) *Urges* Parties, other Governments and other relevant organizations to develop and promote biodiversity-related guidelines to inform existing and emerging criteria, standards and certification schemes for sustainable biofuels, relating to the production and consumption of sustainable

bioenergy, with a view to minimize negative and enhance potential positive impacts on biodiversity of the full life cycle of the bioenergy production and consumption;]

or

[30. *Recognizing* the need to promote the positive and mitigate the negative impacts of biofuel production and consumption on biodiversity, taking into account SBSTTA recommendation XII/7, and the new evidence since the twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body regarding the negative environmental and social impacts of the production of many biofuels:

(a) *Requests* that Parties establish and/or enhance the development of policy frameworks and biodiversity-related guidelines to strengthen ongoing efforts to develop criteria, standards and verification schemes for sustainable biofuels; and

(b) *Encourages* the Executive Secretary in collaboration with other relevant international organizations to develop a tool to accurately assess the indirect conversion or degradation of ecosystems due to policy measures that increase the demand for biofuels;

(c) *Requests* that Parties immediately adopt a precautionary approach by suspending the introductions of any new supportive measures for the consumption of biofuels until (a) and (b) above are effective or completed;

(d) *Integrates* this issue into the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity;]] 1/

Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines on Sustainable Use

31. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations to further elaborate the operational guidelines of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity, taking into account the special nature of agricultural biodiversity, its distinctive features, and problems needing distinctive solutions;

[32. *Urges* developed country Parties to fully implement their commitments regarding provision of financial support, including new and additional financial resources, technology transfer, scientific cooperation and capacity-building, as agreed in the relevant articles of the Convention, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and other major multilateral conferences, in order to ensure the sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in line with the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines on Sustainable Use;]

Research issues

33. *Invites* Parties and other Governments and relevant organizations to finance and undertake research that would contribute to the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity including, for example:

(a) To assess the performance of agricultural policies in achieving the target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss;

1/ Two Parties stated that the text in brackets was not discussed or negotiated by Parties at the thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA.

- (b) To undertake multidisciplinary studies to evaluate the capability of different farming systems to conserve agricultural biodiversity and use it sustainably and to provide economic viability;
- (c) To further investigate the use of agricultural biodiversity to develop sustainable agricultural systems that contribute to improved livelihoods, enhance biodiversity and make use of its benefits, as well as conserving the most vulnerable and potentially useful species;
- (d) To evaluate and characterize germplasm potentially suitable for adaptation to climate change;
- (e) Research to enhance resilience of agricultural systems;

General considerations

34. *Welcomes* the adoption of the multi-year programme of work of the FAO Intergovernmental Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, whose implementation would also contribute to the implementation of the Convention programmes of work, in particular the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity;

35. In response to the request from the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at its eleventh meeting, *requests* the Executive Secretary to work with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Secretariat of the Commission to prepare a joint work plan on biodiversity for food and agriculture that would assist Parties in, *inter alia*, streamlining reporting requirements, and facilitating the dialogue at international, regional and national level between bodies dealing with environment and agriculture, while respecting each other's mandates and intergovernmental authority, and present a report to SBSTTA before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

36. *Emphasizing* the importance of agriculture to the sustainable development of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, particularly in those countries that are centres of origin or diversity *encourages* Parties, in particular developed country Parties, to take actions with a view to promote agricultural practices and policies that are supportive of the three objectives of the Convention and the internationally agreed development goals and are consistent with other relevant international obligations;

37. *Urges* developed country Parties, and *invites* other Governments and relevant organizations:

- (a) To ensure that financial resources, are provided to developing countries, particularly least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, in particular countries that are centres of origin or diversity, in order to enable them to fully implement the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention;
- (b) To facilitate the access to and transfer of technologies that contribute to development of sustainable agriculture practices, in accordance with Article 16 of the Convention.

XIII/2. Review of implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity

The Subsidiary Body *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

[*Welcoming*] [*Bearing in mind*] the findings of the in-depth review of the programme of work on forest biodiversity and the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Review of Implementation of the Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity in preparation of the review,

Alarmed by the loss of forest biodiversity and its impacts, including negative impacts, on sustainable development and human well-being,

Recognizing the urgent need to strengthen implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity to reach the 2010 biodiversity target[s], in particular through sustainable forest management and also applying other tools such as the ecosystem approach, and noting the opportunities of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 and the International Year of Forests in 2011 to promote the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge,

Recognizing also the need to promote full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity at all levels; *also noting* the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

Reiterating the need for increased support towards developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, in the implementation of the programme of work, through [the provision of adequate, predictable, and timely financial resources and new and additional resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention], exchange of information, access to and transfer of technology, and capacity-building,

1. [*Urges*] [*Invites*] Parties to:

(a) Strengthen the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity by addressing, as necessary, the obstacles identified in the report of the review and reports associated with the programme of work on forest biodiversity, and address as a matter of priority major human-induced threats to forest biodiversity, including unsustainable use, climate change, desertification and desert creep, illegal land conversion, habitat fragmentation, environmental degradation, forest fires, and invasive alien species, as well as lack of monitoring systems, and impacts of extreme storms and hurricanes;

(b) Promote sustainable management of forests, including the management of non-timber forest products, and the management of, and valuation of, ecosystem services;

(c) Address obstacles to sustainable forest management, such as market access to value added forest products originating from sustainably managed forests;

(d) Improve forest-biodiversity monitoring, inventorying and reporting [at the national and international levels][, as appropriate];

(e) Strengthen efforts to establish, maintain and develop national or regional forest protected area networks and ecological connectivity, where appropriate, and identify areas of particular importance

to forest biodiversity, taking into account the target of having at least 10% of each of the worlds forest types effectively conserved, as contained in decision VIII/15, as a contribution to the programme of work on protected areas, [and provide for sustainable financing of protected forest areas] [and explore possibilities for sustainable financing and innovative financial mechanisms for the establishment and the effective management of forest protected areas];

(f) Increase cross-sectoral cooperation and initiatives at all levels, to help carry out a coordinated implementation of both the CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity, and decisions set by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), including the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests, for the achievement of the 2010 target and the four Global Objectives on Forests, with the involvement of indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector;

(g) Take into account [, as appropriate,] the goals and objectives of the programme of work, in addressing threats posed by invasive alien species, climate change, unsustainable use of bushmeat and its impacts on non-target species, and environmental degradation, in national² biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), national forest programmes (NFPs) and other forest-related programmes and strategies;

(h) Promote multidisciplinary scientific research to better understand the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on forest biodiversity and ecosystem resilience with a view to integrating forest biodiversity aspects into climate change [mitigation and] adaptation activities and degraded environment rehabilitation, with priority given to vulnerable forest ecosystems such as low-lying forests in small island developing States and other coastal areas, and arid and semi-arid regions, and high mountain forests in least developed countries, and in this context support the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)-led Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) initiative on science and technology, and encourage their work on climate change research;

(i) Strengthen national and/or sub-national forest governance and national and/or sub-national forest law enforcement for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, [and in particular natural forests];

(j) Implement sustainable forest management and [also applying other tools such as the ecosystem approach] [the ecosystem approach] to maintain [natural forests] [all forest types], promote forest restoration and minimize deforestation and forest degradation, as a major contribution to reduce [both] biodiversity loss [and greenhouse gas emissions in the context of the UNFCCC];

(k) [Strengthen forest governance and law enforcement, and further engage to prevent illegal and unauthorized harvesting of timber and other forest products and related trade, in close collaboration with the United Nations Forum on Forests, the World Bank, other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and other relevant initiatives dealing with forest law enforcement, governance and trade; and also recognizing the positive role of/engage in approaches based on voluntary partnership agreements, such as the EU FLEGT Action Plan, and the value of the regional FLEG processes, as well as other additional options;]

OR

(k) [Strengthen forest governance and law enforcement and discourage forest products obtained from illegal and/or unsustainable management and their related trade, including for non-timber

^{2/} The context national includes sub-national.

forest products, in close cooperation with regional forest law enforcement and governance processes, and other relevant regional and global processes, including the United Nations Forum on Forests and the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), and the EU initiative on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT);]

(l) Fully involve and where appropriate, partner with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, including indigenous and local communities, in the implementation of the programme of work, and encourage them to undertake efforts that reduce deforestation and forest degradation, including voluntary commitments [and agreements between private sector and non-governmental organizations,] [and increase afforestation and reforestation;]

(m) Promote national and international research on agro-forestry and use the results to identify and disseminate good practices that promote conservation and sustainable use of both forest and agricultural biodiversity;

(n) Take note of activities under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and [support] [welcome] the plan of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to develop the Report on the State of the Worlds Forest Genetic Resources;

[(o) Initiate and/or further engage into [, where appropriate,] approaches for national and subnational forest governance and national and sub-national law enforcement, in accordance with their specific circumstances, in order to prevent illegal and unauthorized use of forest biological resources, including genetic resources, and related trade, in close collaboration with the United Nations Forum on Forests;]

(p) Recognize the potential role of consistent and appropriate [national] voluntary market based certification schemes and public and private procurement policies, which promote the use of legally and sustainably produced timber and non-timber forest products; and to encourage [, as appropriate,] the development, adoption and promotion of such measures, and enhance public awareness of these schemes and procurement policies;

(q) Increase awareness among consumers in developed and developing countries, and take measure to address the impacts of their unsustainable consumption patterns on forest biodiversity;

[(r) Reaffirm the need to apply the precautionary approach in accordance with principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development to the use of genetically modified trees;]

AND/OR

(r) [Develop, in consultation with relevant organizations, protocols for risk assessment for transgenic trees and guidance addressing socio-economic and cultural aspects of risks and benefits associated with the use of genetically modified trees;]

OR

(r) [Apply the precautionary principle to the use of genetically modified trees [and suspend any release of genetically modified trees pending sufficient and appreciable assessment of their potential impacts on forest biodiversity and on indigenous and local communities, including potential environment, cultural and socio-economic impacts; and until risk assessment criteria have been developed and findings reported to and agreed by the Conference of the Parties. In the interim, the matter should be referred to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for consideration and advice;]]

OR

(r) [Note the results of the Canada-Norway workshop on risk-assessment for emerging applications of living modified organisms, and, given the scientific uncertainty regarding their potential environmental, socio-economic, cultural impacts, apply the precautionary approach [in accordance with principle 15 of the Rio Declaration] [as set out in the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety] to the use of genetically modified trees, [minimize the use of such organisms,] and undertake research to reduce the uncertainties associated with the use of this technology;]

[(s) Continue work on establishing processes and mechanisms for licensing and tracking timber to ensure that only legal timber products enter the markets;]

2. [Invites] [Urges] Parties, other Governments, and relevant international and other organizations to:

(a) Ensure that possible actions for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries do not run counter to the objectives of the CBD and the implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity; but support the implementation of the programme of work, and provide benefits for forest biodiversity, and, where possible, to indigenous and local communities, and involve biodiversity experts including holders of traditional forest-related knowledge, and respect the rights of indigenous and local communities in accordance with national laws and applicable international obligations;

[(b) Address direct and indirect negative impacts that the production and consumption of biomass for energy might have on forest biodiversity, including on peatlands, and develop guidelines and standards, for the production of bioenergy, in particular biofuels, that consider such impacts;]

(c) Recognize the role of non-timber forest products for sustainable forest management and poverty eradication, and highlight their importance in poverty eradication strategies;

(d) Further develop knowledge on forest ecosystems services, and implement, as appropriate, innovative tools for securing such services, such as Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) [that are not trade-distorting];

(e) Exchange information on the impact of pollution such as acidification and eutrophication related to deforestation and forest degradation on forest biodiversity and increase efforts to reduce their negative impacts;

(f) Promote forest restoration, including reforestation and afforestation, in line with sustainable forest management through, *inter alia*, the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration;

(g) Ensure that programmes and measures taken for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity support efforts to eradicate poverty and improve livelihoods;

(h) Strengthen cross-sectoral efforts for integrated approaches in order to increase consistency among the various levels of policies that affect forest biodiversity, taking into account the tool-kit developed by the Secretariat.

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Facilitate, as requested, in close cooperation with existing international, regional and subregional processes, initiatives and organizations, such as the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Tropical Timber Organization, and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional, subregional and/or thematic workshops to support Parties in implementing the programme of work on forest biodiversity;

(b) [Liaise with the relevant institutions and forums to assess the impacts of biofuel production on forest biodiversity and forest-dependent indigenous and local communities and prepare a report on these impacts for consideration by the Conference of the Parties, subject to the decision of the Conference of the Parties on biofuels;]

(c) [Compile information on the impacts of bioenergy production and consumption, in particular biofuels, on forest biodiversity to inform [existing and emerging standards and certification schemes relating to the production and consumption of sustainable bioenergy] possible response measures for consideration by the SBSTTA and the Conference of the Parties;]

(d) Collaborate with the other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in particular the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the World Bank, in order to support Parties efforts to address reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries;

(e) Enhance dissemination and exchange of information, and collaboration between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological, the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant organizations and processes;

(f) Explore, together with the Director of the UNFF Secretariat, possibilities for developing a work plan with targeted joint activities between the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Forum on Forests by identifying commonalities and complementarities of the respective work programmes and submit the results for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

(g) Recognizing that a significant proportion of forests are wetlands, solicit advice from the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands on the relevance of the Ramsar-CBD joint work programme and the relevance of the suite of guidelines adopted by the Ramsar Convention, to the implementation of the CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity, and the role Ramsar Parties can play in contributing to the implementation of this programme, and make this information available to Parties;

(h) Exchange information on the relation between forest ecosystem resistance and resilience, forest biodiversity, and climate change, through the clearing-house mechanism and other relevant means;

(i) Continue the cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations on the monitoring of forest biodiversity, and on clarifying the definitions of forest and forest types that reflect forest biodiversity at the level appropriate for reporting and monitoring the status of forest biodiversity, building on the existing concepts and definitions provided by Parties and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant organizations and regional criteria and indicator processes and report to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(j) [Request the Cartagena Protocol to develop, in consultation with relevant organizations, specific methodologies and specific protocols for generating data necessary to conduct risk assessment for transgenic trees, and guidance, addressing environmental, socio-economic and cultural aspects of risks associated with the use of genetically modified trees;]

The Subsidiary Body *further requests* the Executive Secretary to forward the information note on the potential environmental, cultural and socio-economic impacts of genetically modified trees (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/6) and the compilation of views on the Potential Environmental, Cultural and Socio-economic Impacts of Genetically Modified Trees (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/7), recognizing that it did not assess them in detail at its thirteenth meeting, to ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for information.

XIII/3. *Options for preventing and mitigating the impacts of some activities to selected seabed habitats, and scientific and ecological criteria for marine areas in need of protection and biogeographic classification systems*

Recalling that United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/30 emphasized the universal and unified character of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and reaffirmed that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out, and that its integrity needs to be maintained, as recognized also by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,

Recalling the section of decision VIII/24 on options for cooperation for the establishment of marine protected areas in marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, in particular paragraph 42, in which the Conference of the Parties recognizes that the Convention on Biological Diversity has a key role in supporting the work of the General Assembly with regard to marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction, by focusing on the provision of scientific and, as appropriate, technical information and advice relating to marine biological diversity, the application of the ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach, and in delivering the 2010 target, ^{3/}

Recalling also paragraph 38 of the same decision, which recognizes that application of tools beyond and within national jurisdiction need to be coherent, compatible and complementary and without prejudice to the rights and obligations of coastal States under international law,

In pursuance of the requests contained in paragraph 7 of decision VIII/21 and paragraphs 44 and 46 of decision VIII/24 of the Conference of the Parties,

1. *The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice:*

(a) *Requests* the Executive Secretary to make available [the recommendations on marine and coastal biodiversity of the thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as well as] the results of the Expert Workshop on Ecological Criteria and Biogeographic Classification Systems for Marine Areas in Need of Protection, [and information documents UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/INF/11, 12, and 13] for the purpose of informing the second meeting of the United Nations Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction as well as other relevant international [and regional] organizations;

(b) *Takes note* of the draft report on *Global Open Oceans and Deep Sea-habitats (GOODS) Biogeographic Classification* (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/19) compiled by an expert group drawing mainly from the results of the Scientific Experts Workshop on Biogeographic Classification Systems in Open Ocean and Deep Seabed Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, held in Mexico City, from 22 to 24 January 2007;

(c) *Encourages* Parties to contribute to the peer-review of the above draft report, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to make available the final report for the information of participants in the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and further forward it to the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body;

^{3/} One delegate expressed the view that since the adoption of decision VIII/24, further developments might suggest modifications in the language used with regard to the application of the ecosystem approach, and that the World Summit on Sustainable Development established more than one target related to biodiversity, as contained in paragraph 44 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

(d) *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments, and relevant international [and regional] organizations, in particular the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to [further develop technical guidance for [the application of] the global biogeographic classification of ocean regions, and] compile information on aligning and nesting regional and subregional biogeographic classifications, which are currently available or under development, within a global context, and make this information available to Parties at future meetings of the Subsidiary Body before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

2. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/30 emphasized the universal and unified character of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and reaffirmed that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out, and that its integrity needs to be maintained, as recognized also by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,

Recalling the section of decision VIII/24 on options for cooperation for the establishment of marine protected areas in marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, in particular paragraph 42, in which the Conference of the Parties recognizes that the Convention on Biological Diversity has a key role in supporting the work of the General Assembly with regard to marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction, by focusing on the provision of scientific and, as appropriate, technical information and advice relating to marine biological diversity, the application of the ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach, and in delivering the 2010 target, ^{4/}

Recalling also paragraph 38 of the same decision which recognizes that application of tools beyond and within national jurisdiction need to be coherent, compatible and complementary and without prejudice to the rights and obligations of coastal States under international law;

1. *Takes note of* the synthesis and review of the best available scientific studies on priority areas for biodiversity conservation in marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, which was undertaken in pursuance of paragraph 44 (a) of decision VIII/24;

2. *Taking into account* the role of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *requests* the Executive Secretary in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Parties, other Governments, and relevant international [and regional] organizations, to compile and synthesize available scientific information on the impacts of destructive fishing practices and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing on marine biodiversity and habitats, and make such information available for consideration, as appropriate, of the future meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Taking into account* the role of International Maritime Organization, *requests* the Executive Secretary in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization, Parties, other Governments, and international [and regional] organizations, to compile and synthesize available

^{4/} One delegate expressed the view that since the adoption of decision VIII/24, further developments might suggest modifications in the language used with regard to the application of the ecosystem approach, and that the World Summit on Sustainable Development established more than one target related to biodiversity, as contained in paragraph 44 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

scientific information on potential impacts of direct human-induced ocean fertilization and its impacts on marine biodiversity, and make such information available for the future meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments, and international [and regional] organizations, to compile and synthesize available scientific information on ocean acidification and its impacts on marine biodiversity, which is identified as a potentially serious threat to cold-water corals and other marine biodiversity, and make such information available for consideration of the future meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

5. *Welcomes* the review of spatial databases containing information on marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and the development of an Interactive Map (IMap), which was prepared in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP - WCMC) in pursuance of paragraph 44 (c) of decision VIII/24, and *requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the UNEP – WCMC, to invite the International Maritime Organization and other international [and regional] organizations, to promote wide use of the Interactive Map (IMap), including, where appropriate, its integration into the World Database on Protected Areas, and continue, within the mandates of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to update relevant information, incorporating information on ecosystem functions and connectivity, threats and habitats in the water column, and further linkages with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other relevant international and [regional] organizations, as appropriate;

6. *Takes note* of the various options, which are being applied and/or under development to prevent and mitigate the adverse impacts of human activities to selected seabed habitats, as referred to in paragraph 5 of decision VIII/21;

[7. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and international [and regional] organizations, including in the context of the United Nations Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, to cooperate in further developing guidelines for the implementation of environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments for activities and processes under their jurisdiction and control which have a potential to adversely impact marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, with a view to ensuring such activities are regulated in such a way that they do not compromise ecosystem integrity, and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting on progress made in that regard;]

8. *Also invites* Parties, other Governments and international [and regional] organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea and the International Maritime Organization, to cooperate in further developing and applying effective options for preventing and mitigating the adverse impacts of human activities to selected seabed habitats, and make available information on their experiences and case-studies on and lessons learned from developing and applying options, and *requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with relevant international [and regional] organizations, to compile and disseminate such information through the clearing-house mechanism and other means of communication;

9. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Portugal for hosting and providing financial support for the Expert Workshop on Ecological Criteria and Biogeographic Classification Systems for Marine Areas in Need of Protection, held in the Azores, Portugal, from 2 to 4 October 2007, and to other Governments and organizations for sponsoring the participation of their representatives;

10. *Welcomes* the report of the Expert Workshop on Ecological Criteria and Biogeographic Classification Systems for Marine Areas in Need of Protection;

11. *[Adopts][Takes notes of]* scientific criteria, in annex I to the present recommendation, for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection, [in open ocean waters and deep-sea habitats], [in marine areas beyond the national jurisdiction,] as well as scientific guidance, in annex II to the present recommendation, for designing representative networks of marine protected areas, as recommended by the Expert Workshop on Ecological Criteria and Biogeographic Classification Systems for Marine Areas in Need of Protection;

12. *[Adopts][Takes note of]* of the four initial steps to be taken in annex III to the present recommendation, in the development of such networks, [in open ocean waters and deep-sea habitats], as recommended by the Expert Workshop on Ecological Criteria and Biogeographic Classification Systems for Marine Areas in Need of Protection;

[13. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other international [and regional] organizations, to submit to the Executive Secretary their views on [the use of] the scientific criteria in annex I, the scientific guidance in annex II, and the four initial steps in annex III below, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to compile these views and make them available to Parties as part of the efforts to further improve the criteria, scientific guidance, and steps[, and with a view to eventually being endorsed by the Conference of the Parties]];

[14. *Recognizes* the need to scientifically review these criteria in annex I and scientific guidance in annex II, when new scientific information as well as evidences and results from the practical application are made available, and *decides* to consider the need to establish a mechanism for such a review at a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice after the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;]

15. *[Invites] [Urges]* Parties, other Governments, and relevant international [and regional] organizations to apply [, as appropriate,] the scientific criteria in annex I below, the scientific guidance in annex II, and initial steps in annex III, along with national policies and criteria, to identify ecologically significant and/or vulnerable marine areas in need of protection, [in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats,] for implementation of conservation and management measures including the establishment of representative networks of marine protected areas in accordance with international law, [including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea];

[16. *Acknowledges and welcomes* the work undertaken by regional agreements and conventions in setting up such networks, in accordance with international law, and *encourages* cooperation and collaboration and capacity building amongst existing bodies [and *urges* Parties and other Governments to accelerate their efforts and increase collaboration and capacity-building among existing bodies]];

17. *Recognizes* that overwhelming evidence has been compiled, which emphasizes the need for urgent action to [promote the conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity in marine areas and] protect biodiversity in selected seabed habitats and marine areas in need of protection using the precautionary approach in accordance with the principle 15 of Rio Declaration and the Preamble of the Convention, [and international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea];

18. *Urges* Parties, other Governments and relevant international [and regional] organizations to undertake further research to improve understanding of marine biodiversity, specially in selected seabed habitats and marine areas in need of protection, including, in particular, elaboration of inventories

and baselines to be used for, *inter alia*, assisting in the assessment of the status and trends of biodiversity, paying special attention to those ecosystems and critical habitats that are relatively unknown;

19. *Calls upon* Parties, other Governments and relevant international [and regional] organizations to collaborate on capacity development in developing countries, particularly least developed countries, small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, for the application of the scientific criteria in annex I below and the scientific guidance in annex II, and for the mitigation of the adverse impacts of human activities in marine areas;

20. *Calls upon* Parties, other Governments and relevant international [and regional] organizations to collaborate with developing countries, particularly least developed countries, small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, in enhancing their scientific, technical and technological capacities to engage in activities aimed at conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, including through specialized training, participation in research, and regional and subregional collaborative initiatives;

21. *Invites* Parties to promote full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, in accordance with the national legislation and applicable international obligations, when establishing new marine protected areas, taking into account, as appropriate, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

[Annex I

SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS IN NEED OF PROTECTION [IN OPEN-OCEAN WATERS AND DEEP-SEA HABITATS]

Criteria	Definition	Rationale	Examples	Consideration in application
Uniqueness or rarity	Area contains either (i) unique (“the only one of its kind”), rare (occurs only in few locations) or endemic species, populations or communities, and/or (ii) unique, rare or distinct, habitats or ecosystems; and/or (iii) unique or unusual geomorphological or oceanographic features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irreplaceable • Loss would mean the probable permanent disappearance of diversity or a feature, or reduction of the diversity at any level. 	<p><i>Open ocean waters</i> Sargasso Sea, Taylor column, persistent polynyas.</p> <p><i>Deep-sea habitats</i> endemic communities around submerged atolls; hydrothermal vents; sea mounts; pseudo-abyssal depression</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of biased-view of the perceived uniqueness depending on the information availability • Scale dependency of features such that unique features at one scale may be typical at another, thus a global and regional perspective must be taken
Special importance for life-history stages of species	Areas that are required for a population to survive and thrive.	Various biotic and abiotic conditions coupled with species-specific physiological constraints and preferences tend to make some parts of marine regions more suitable to particular life-stages and functions than other parts.	Area containing (i) breeding grounds, spawning areas, nursery areas, juvenile habitat or other areas important for life history stages of species; or (ii) habitats of migratory species (feeding, wintering or resting areas, breeding, moulting, migratory routes).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectivity between life-history stages and linkages between areas: trophic interactions, physical transport, physical oceanography, life history of species • Sources for information include: e.g. remote sensing, satellite tracking, historical catch and by-catch data, Vessel monitoring system (VMS) data. • Spatial and temporal distribution and/or aggregation of the species.

Criteria	Definition	Rationale	Examples	Consideration in application
Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats	Area containing habitat for the survival and recovery of endangered, threatened, declining species or area with significant assemblages of such species.	To ensure the restoration and recovery of such species and habitats.	Areas critical for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats, containing (i) breeding grounds, spawning areas, nursery areas, juvenile habitat or other areas important for life history stages of species; or (ii) habitats of migratory species (feeding, wintering or resting areas, breeding, moulting, migratory routes).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes species with very large geographic ranges. • In many cases recovery will require reestablishment of the species in areas of its historic range. • Sources for information include: e.g. remote sensing, satellite tracking, historical catch and by-catch data, vessel monitoring system (VMS) data.
Vulnerability, Fragility, Sensitivity, or Slow recovery	Areas that contain a relatively high proportion of sensitive habitats, biotopes or species that are functionally fragile (highly susceptible to degradation or depletion by human activity or by natural events) or with slow recovery.	The criteria indicate the degree of risk that will be incurred if human activities or natural events in the area or component cannot be managed effectively, or are pursued at an unsustainable rate.	<p><i>Vulnerability of species</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inferred from the history of how species or populations in other similar areas responded to perturbations. • Species of low fecundity, slow growth, long time to sexual maturity, longevity (e.g. sharks, etc). • Species with structures providing biogenic habitats, such 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactions between vulnerability to human impacts and natural events • Existing definition emphasizes site specific ideas and requires consideration for highly mobile species • Criteria can be used both in its own right and in conjunction with other criteria.

Criteria	Definition	Rationale	Examples	Consideration in application
			<p>as deepwater corals, sponges and bryozoans; deep-water species.</p> <p><i>Vulnerability of habitats</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ice-covered areas susceptible to ship-based pollution. • Ocean acidification can make deep sea habitats more vulnerable to others, and increase susceptibility to human induced changes. 	
<p>Biological productivity</p>	<p>Area containing species, populations or communities with comparatively higher natural biological productivity.</p>	<p>Important role in fuelling ecosystems and increasing the growth rates of organisms and their capacity for reproduction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frontal areas • Upwellings • Hydrothermal vents • Seamounts polynyas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be measured as the rate of growth of marine organisms and their populations, either through the fixation of inorganic carbon by photosynthesis, chemosynthesis, or through the ingestion of prey, dissolved organic matter or particulate organic matter • Can be inferred from remote-sensed products, e.g., ocean colour or process-based models • Time-series fisheries data can be used, but caution is required

Criteria	Definition	Rationale	Examples	Consideration in application
Biological diversity	Area contains comparatively higher diversity of ecosystems, habitats, communities, or species, or has higher genetic diversity.	Important for evolution and maintaining the resilience of marine species and ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea-mounts • Fronts and convergence zones • Cold coral communities • Deep-water sponge communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity needs to be seen in relation to the surrounding environment • Diversity indices are indifferent to species substitutions • Diversity indices are indifferent to which species may be contributing to the value of the index, and hence would not pick up areas important to species of special concern, such as endangered species • Can be inferred from habitat heterogeneity or diversity as a surrogate for species diversity in areas where biodiversity has not been sampled intensively.
Naturalness	Area with a comparatively higher degree of naturalness as a result of the lack of or low level of human-induced disturbance or degradation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect areas with near natural structure, processes and functions • To maintain these areas as reference sites • To safeguard and enhance ecosystem resilience 	Most ecosystems and habitats have examples with varying levels of naturalness, and the intent is that the more natural examples should be selected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority should be given to areas having a low level of disturbance relative to their surroundings • In areas where no natural areas remain, areas that have successfully recovered, including reestablishment of species, should be considered. • Criteria can be used both in its own right and in conjunction with other criteria.

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[Annex II

SCIENTIFIC GUIDANCE FOR SELECTING AREAS TO ESTABLISH A REPRESENTATIVE NETWORK OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS, INCLUDING IN [OPEN OCEAN WATERS AND DEEP-SEA HABITATS]

Required network properties and components	Definition	Applicable site specific considerations (<i>inter alia</i>)
Ecologically and biologically significant areas	Ecologically and biologically significant areas are geographically or oceanographically discrete areas that provide important services to one or more species/populations of an ecosystem or to the ecosystem as a whole, compared to other surrounding areas or areas of similar ecological characteristics, or otherwise meet the criteria as identified in annex I.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniqueness or rarity • Special importance for life history stages of species • Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats • Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity or slow recovery • Biological productivity • Biological diversity • Naturalness
Representativity	Representativity is captured in a network when it consists of areas representing the different biogeographical subdivisions of the global oceans and regional seas that reasonably reflect the full range of ecosystems, including the biotic and habitat diversity of those marine ecosystems.	A full range of examples across a biogeographic habitat, or community classification; relative health of species and communities; relative intactness of habitat(s); naturalness
Connectivity	Connectivity in the design of a network allows for linkages whereby protected sites benefit from larval and/or species exchanges, and functional linkages from other network sites. In a connected network individual sites benefit one another.	Currents; gyres; physical bottlenecks; migration routes; species dispersal; detritus; functional linkages. Isolated sites, such as isolated seamount communities, may also be included.
Replicated ecological features	Replication of ecological features means that more than one site shall contain examples of a given feature in the given biogeographic area. The term “features” means “species, habitats and ecological processes” that naturally occur in the given biogeographic area.	Accounting for uncertainty, natural variation and the possibility of catastrophic events. Features that exhibit less natural variation or are precisely defined may require less replication than features that are inherently highly variable or are only very generally defined.
Adequate and viable sites	Adequate and viable sites indicate that all sites within a network should have size and protection sufficient to ensure the ecological viability and integrity of the feature(s) for which they were selected.	Adequacy and viability will depend on size; shape; buffers; persistence of features; threats; surrounding environment (context); physical constraints; scale of features / processes; spillover / compactness

]

[Annex III]

FOUR INITIAL STEPS BE TAKEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE NETWORKS OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS:

1. *Scientific identification of an initial set of ecologically or biologically significant areas.* The criteria in annex I above should be used, considering the best scientific information available, and applying the precautionary approach. This identification should focus on developing an initial set of sites already recognised for their ecological values, with the understanding that other sites could be added as more information becomes available.
2. *Develop/choose a biogeographic, habitat, and/or community classification system.* This system should reflect the scale of the application and address the key ecological features within the area. This step will entail a separation of at least two realms—pelagic and benthic.
3. *Drawing upon steps 1 and 2 above, iteratively use qualitative and/or quantitative techniques to identify sites to include in a network.* Their selection for consideration of enhanced management should reflect their recognised ecological importance or vulnerability, and address the requirements of ecological coherence through representativity, connectivity, and replication.
4. *Assess the adequacy and viability of the selected sites.* Consideration should be given to their size, shape, boundaries, buffering, and appropriateness of the site management regime.]

XIII/4. Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

1. *Noting* the need for clear expressions of the roles of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention, and *requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, to:

(a) Update the website of the Convention on Biological Diversity, subject to available resources, so as to provide expanded information on, and explanation of, how the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity collaborate and complement each other in terms of their operations and outputs; and

(b) Collect the views of Parties on ways and means to streamline and make more explicit the roles of the two conventions, and their respective scientific bodies and Secretariats, and present these as part of the in-depth review of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems scheduled to occur at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to provide the new draft joint work programme (2010-2013) between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention for review by the Subsidiary Body and Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting:

(a) *Welcomes with appreciation* the progress of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention in achieving a more comprehensive coverage of wetlands supporting a wider range of inland water biodiversity through the designation of Ramsar sites; *notes* the outcomes in this regard of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention including, *inter alia*, resolutions IX.1, annex A (“A Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character”), IX.1, annex B (“Revised Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance”) and IX.21 (“Taking into account the cultural values of wetlands”); and *extends its gratitude* to the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention for addressing decision VII/4, paragraphs 29 and 30, of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; and *invites* the Ramsar Convention to continue to review the criteria for the designation of Ramsar Sites, as appropriate, in the light of practical experience concerning their application in the light of the features listed in paragraph 29 (a) of decision VII/4 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

[(b) *Welcomes* the ongoing work of the Ramsar Convention on the allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions and international cooperation on water resources management; and *encourages* Parties and other Governments to use the existing guidance, as appropriate, including, *inter alia*, resolutions IX.1 annex C (an integrate framework for the Ramsar Convention’s water-related guidance) and VII.19 (on international cooperation) of the Ramsar Convention;]

[(c) *Notes* the importance of improved international cooperation to the implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, and, *recognizing* decision VIII/27, paragraph 22, *encourages* Parties and other Governments to ratify and implement the 1997 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International

Watercourses ⁵ also as a means to achieve improved international cooperation regarding the implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and to support, as appropriate, other instruments for international cooperation on water resources management operating at the regional, multilateral and bilateral levels;]

(d) *Endorses* the joint work plan (2007–2010) between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/5, annex);

(e) *Invites* the Ramsar Convention, the United Nations Environment Programme and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre to continue their joint work on harmonized reporting between the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the potential role of the Ramsar Information Sheet for Ramsar Sites;

(f) *Invites* the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to report on progress on, and the implications of, harmonized reporting to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and

(g) *Recognizing* the vulnerability of inland water ecosystems to climate change, and the consequent need to improve their management, *welcomes* the ongoing and planned work of the Ramsar Convention on wetlands and climate change and *invites* the Ramsar Convention, at its tenth meeting, to consider appropriate action in relation to wetlands, water, biodiversity and climate change to further improve synergy and collaboration between the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity on their climate change work.

^{5/} General Assembly resolution 51/229 of 21 May 1997, annex.

XIII/5. Invasive alien species: report on consultations regarding international standards

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties adopts, at its ninth meeting, a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision VIII/27, and welcoming the consultations undertaken by the Executive Secretary, as requested in paragraph 14 of that decision,

Reaffirming the need to address the gaps identified by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Gaps and Inconsistencies in the International Regulatory Framework in Relation to Invasive Alien Species (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/4) and considered in decision VIII/27,

1. *Reaffirms* the need for Parties and other Governments to develop and implement national and, as appropriate, regional, policies and/or programmes for addressing invasive alien species and for effective coordination among relevant agencies;

2. *Underlines* the need also for regional and subregional initiatives to support Parties in developing and implementing national strategies, policies and/or programmes for addressing invasive alien species;

3. *Encourages* Parties, where appropriate, to make use of the risk assessment guidance and other procedures and standards developed by the International Plant Protection Convention, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and other relevant organizations, in order to contribute to closing the identified gaps on invasive alien species at national level, and in particular, to consider applying, where appropriate, the procedures and standards for quarantine pests under the International Plant Protection Convention, to all invasive alien species that have adverse impacts on plant biodiversity, consistent with international obligations;

4. *Reaffirms* the need for capacity-building in support of the activities in paragraphs 1 to 3 above and urges Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to provide such support, especially to developing countries, in particular LDCs and SIDS, as well as countries with economies in transition;

5. *Acknowledges* the efforts of farmers and of indigenous and local communities in addressing the threats from invasive alien species;

6. *Invites* the International Plant Protection Convention to continue its efforts to expand, within its mandate, its actual coverage of invasive alien species which impact on biodiversity, including in aquatic environments;

7. *Invites* the International Committee of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) to note the lack of international standards covering invasive alien species, in particular animals, that are not pests of plants under the International Plant Protection Convention, and to consider whether and how it could contribute to addressing this gap, including for example by:

(a) Expanding the OIE list of pathogens to include a wider range of diseases of animals, including diseases that solely affect wildlife; and

(b) Considering whether it may play a role in addressing invasive animals that are not considered as diseases under OIE and whether, for this purpose, it would need to broaden its mandate;

8. *Invites* the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization to note the lack of international standards covering invasive alien species, in particular animals, that are not pests of plants under the International Plant Protection Convention, nor diseases that are listed by the World Organisation for Animal Health, and to consider ways and means so that that the provisions in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement of the World Trade Organization covering animal and plant health can be implemented to address risks from invasive alien species associated with international trade;

9. *Invites* the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to note the lack of international standards covering invasive alien species, in particular animals, that are not pests of plants under the International Plant Protection Convention, and to consider further ways and means to address this gap as it applies to the introduction, for fisheries and aquaculture, of alien species, including the development of clear and practical guidance, for example by considering the formalization of relevant technical guidance developed by the secretariat of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

10. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to raise the above issues formally through their national delegations to the World Organization for Animal Health, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to write to the heads of the secretariats of the bodies mentioned in paragraphs 7 to 9 above, noting the desirability of a timely response to these invitations;

12. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit to the Executive Secretary examples of best practices for addressing the risks associated with the introduction of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food;

13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group (IUCN-ISSG), the International Civil Aviation Organization, the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council and other relevant organizations to continue collating, with the information provided on the basis of paragraph 12, as well as the information gathered at the expert workshop on best practices for pre-import screening of live animals, held in Indiana, United States of America from 9 to 11 April 2008 and organized by the Global Invasive Species Programme, the Invasive Species Specialist Group and the University of Notre Dame, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, best practices for addressing the risks associated with the introduction of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food, and to make this information available through the clearing-house mechanism as well as to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for its consideration at a meeting prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

14. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the collation of best practices prepared by the Executive Secretary referred to in paragraphs 12 and 13 above, and, if necessary and appropriate, to establish an ad hoc technical expert group to suggest means, including practical guidance, for addressing the risks associated with the introduction of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food;

15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to collaborate with the secretariats of the International Plant Protection Convention, the World Organization for Animal Health and the World Trade Organization, as well as other international organizations, such as International Civil Aviation

Organization and the International Maritime Organization, with a view to filling gaps and promoting coherence in the regulatory framework, reducing duplication, promoting other actions to address invasive alien species at the national level and facilitating support to Parties including through capacity-building;

16. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consult with the secretariats of relevant organizations to explore the extent to which existing international instruments recognize and address threats from invasive alien genotypes.

17. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report on implementation of this decision, and decision VIII/27, and, if necessary, present options for further work to address these gaps to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting immediately prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

XIII/6. *Biodiversity and climate change: options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions*

A. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its ninth meeting:

1. *Notes with appreciation* the reports of the seventh and eighth meetings of the Joint Liaison Group and the document prepared jointly by the three Rio conventions (UNEP/CBD/WGRI/1/7/Add.1) containing proposals on mutually supportive activities for the secretariats of the Rio conventions;

2. *Welcomes* the High Level Conference on World Food Security and the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to be held from 3 – 5 June, 2008, that will address issues related to climate change adaptation and mitigation;

3. *Notes* the information notes on forests and adaptation highlighting the links between biodiversity, desertification/land degradation and climate change drafted jointly by the secretariats of the three Rio conventions;

4. *Recognizing* the distinct mandates and independent legal status of each convention and the need to avoid duplication and promote cost savings, *requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the secretariats of the three Rio conventions in order to:

(a) Continue with the activities that are already ongoing or have been called for by Parties in the framework of the three Rio conventions, including those activities listed in annex II below;

(b) Implement the following:

(i) Publish a newsletter on synergies between the three Rio conventions including reports on progress from Parties;

(ii) Create tools to inform Parties about relevant activities on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, on combating environmental degradation, desertification/land degradation and climate change, including through updating existing tools and publications such as the clearing-house mechanism under the Convention and national biodiversity information systems;

(iii) Produce educational materials bearing in mind cultural circumstances and delivery methods based on the needs of the target audiences; and

(iv) Develop web-based communication tools;

(c) Identify further opportunities for mutually supportive activities and continue deliberating on streamlining reporting;

(d) Pursue opportunities to support activities linked to national capacity self assessment projects towards implementation of the three Rio conventions;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to continue discussions within the Joint Liaison Group on the following activities:

(a) Make available relevant notifications to other conventions' focal points through the web;

- (b) Compile, where available, lessons learned and case studies on national mechanisms for coordination among focal points in order to enhance co-operation;
- (c) Share reports and reviews of national planning processes, where available, and highlight lessons learned that may be relevant across conventions in order to improve integrated planning;
- (d) Provide case-studies and lessons learned on the integration of biodiversity and desertification issues within national adaptation plans of action under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- (e) Improve ways to communicate the three Rio conventions' research needs on synergies to the scientific community; and
- (f) Provide the focal points of all three conventions with up-to-date information on relevant assessments, research programmes and monitoring tools;
6. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary, as far as possible in collaboration with the secretariats of the other three Rio conventions, to examine multiple nutrient loading and acidification as a threat to biodiversity and report the findings to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its fourteenth meeting;
7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile case-studies, good-practice examples and lessons learned on activities, tools and methods to promote synergies between activities addressing biodiversity, desertification/land degradation and climate change at the national and local levels; and report on this, during the in-depth review of the ongoing work under the cross-cutting issue of biodiversity and climate change at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to explore, *inter alia*, with the Global Environment Facility, in collaboration with the Joint Liaison Group, ways and means to achieve biodiversity co-benefits and benefits for combating desertification/land degradation in climate change activities, including through capacity building, with a view to presenting a specific proposal to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, recalling the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention, to enhance cooperation with regard to changing risk for biodiversity resulting from climate change effects on plant pests in order to gather relevant scientific information so as to inform policy;
10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to notify focal points of key meetings and invitations for submissions from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation;
11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to explore with the United Nations Environment Programme, and as far as possible in collaboration with the Joint Liaison Group, the nature and scope of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building with a view to identify how it might support the achievement of synergies between the three Rio conventions in national implementation, and report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting;
12. *Invites* the secretariats of the three Rio conventions to build on and strengthen existing tools and synergies with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), including the CPF web platform, for forest-related activities;
13. *Noting* that efforts at the national and local levels are of high importance to the achievement of synergies between activities addressing biodiversity, combating desertification/land

degradation and climate change, [*urges*] [*invites*] Parties and other Governments, where appropriate based on national circumstances, to implement the activities contained in the indicative list in annex I to the present recommendation;

14. *Further invites* Parties and other Governments to support, as appropriate, the implementation of relevant components of existing national climate change adaptation plans in developing countries, particularly least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition;

15. *Requests* SBSTTA to include a consideration of progress in the implementation of mutually supportive activities in the context of the in-depth review of the ongoing work under the cross-cutting issue on biodiversity and climate change prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

16. *Invites* Parties and other Governments, as appropriate, to apply the ecosystem approach, to make use of existing publications such as Convention on Biological Diversity Technical Series 10 and Technical Series 25, and the UNEP/IUCN TEMATEA Issue-Based Module on Climate Change and Biodiversity when planning or implementing mutually supportive activities among the three Rio Conventions with regard to biodiversity, combating desertification/land degradation and climate change at the national and international levels;

17. *Invites* relevant organizations to provide support to Parties, as appropriate and based on national circumstances, in implementing the activities laid out in annex I to the present recommendation in order to enhance cooperation and coordination between the three Rio conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements;

18. *Urges* Parties and other Governments, considering the negative impacts of climate change on biodiversity and related traditional knowledge, to apply, as appropriate, the ecosystem approach in the implementation of climate change [mitigation and] adaptation measures;

[19. *Notes* the Rio Principles when developing synergies;]

20. *Recognizes* the specific needs and concerns of developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition, when developing synergies;

21. *Welcomes* the decision of the twenty-ninth Consultative Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (“the London Convention”) and the second meeting of Contracting Parties to the 1996 Protocol, held from 5 to 9 November 2007, which (i) endorsed the June 2007 “Statement of Concern regarding iron fertilization of the oceans to sequester CO₂” of their Scientific Groups, (ii) urged States to use the utmost caution when considering proposals for large-scale ocean fertilization operations and (iii) took the view that, given the present state of knowledge regarding ocean fertilization, such large-scale operations were currently not justified, and:

(a) *Requests* the Executive Secretary to bring this issue to the attention of the Joint Liaison Group; and

(b) *Urges* Parties and other Governments to act in accordance with the decision of the London Convention;

[(c) *Urges* Parties and other Governments in light of questions about the effectiveness of ocean fertilization for climate change mitigation and its potential adverse impacts on marine biodiversity to adopt a moratorium on all ocean fertilization activities;]

22. *Welcomes* the priority given to the issue of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), *invites* the Framework Convention to take full account of opportunities for its work to provide benefits for biodiversity including through collaboration among [the subsidiary bodies of] the three Rio conventions and *invites* the Framework Convention to work to ensure that traditional knowledge, innovations and practices related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are adequately addressed bearing in mind relevant provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

23. *Recalling* decision 1/CP.13, para 11, on the Bali Action Plan, in which Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change agreed that this process shall be informed by, inter alia, the best available scientific information, experience in implementation of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, and processes there under, outputs from other relevant intergovernmental processes and insights from the business and research communities and civil society:

(a) *Recognizes* the need to provide biodiversity relevant input in a timely manner;

[(b) *Establishes* in this regard a possible Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change with a mandate, to develop advice on biodiversity, relevant to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) decision on the Bali Action Plan (1/CP.13) as well as the UNFCCC Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, drawing, inter alia, from the reports of the previous ad hoc technical expert groups on biodiversity and climate change and the relevant reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;]

[(c) *Requests* the Executive Secretary to convey the report of this Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for appropriate consideration;]

24. *Invites* Parties to support efforts by developing countries to monitor, at the national level, the impacts of climate change on biodiversity.

B. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA):

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to develop a proposal for terms of reference of a possible Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change to develop advice on biodiversity relevant to the decision on the Bali Action Plan by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (1/CP.13), as well as that Convention's Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, in consultation with the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification for consideration at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and

[2. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to summarize information on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and the impacts of climate change and response measures on biodiversity found within the existing documents, including the report of the Viterbo Workshop on "Forests and Forest Ecosystems: Promoting Synergy in the Implementation of the three Rio Conventions" (April 2004), the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and CBD Technical Series Nos. 10 and 25; and provide this information to the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with the intention that it be transmitted to that Convention's Subsidiary Body on

Scientific and Technical Advice at its twentieth-eighth meeting for consideration in discussing the issue of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.]

Annex I

PROPOSALS FOR ACTIVITIES BY PARTIES TO PROMOTE SYNERGIES AMONG THE RIO CONVENTIONS

Collaboration amongst national focal points

1. Schedule periodic meetings between focal points and focal point teams.
2. Establish a national coordinating committee for implementation of the three Rio Conventions including, as appropriate, mainstreaming into sustainable development strategies, the Millennium Development Goals and other relevant sectors and strategies.
3. Build institutional linkages between the ministries responsible for implementation of each convention.
4. Engage, when relevant, focal points from other conventions when forming a position for negotiations.

Cooperation on national – level planning

5. Review existing national plans to identify gaps in synergies.
6. Identify relevant sector plans and policies that could benefit from cooperation on biodiversity, desertification and climate change.
7. Revise relevant plans and policies, as appropriate to enhance cooperation.
8. Build institutional and scientific capacity and raise awareness among different ministries, policy makers and non-governmental organizations dealing with the three Rio conventions and other relevant conventions.

Collaboration at the level of convention bodies and secretariats

9. Provide input, as appropriate, to the Joint Liaison Group.

Technology transfer

10. Provide inputs to the technology transfer databases of the three conventions.
11. Prepare, as appropriate, transparent impact assessments and risk analysis on the transferred technologies taking into consideration economic viability, social acceptability and environmental benefits.
12. Enhance cooperation among national focal points for the implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer under the Convention on Biological Diversity through, for example, the designation of appropriate institutions acting as a central consulting point for technology transfer.
13. Identify technologies of joint interest and relevance at a regional and global scale.

Forests and climate change

14. Integrate biodiversity, climate change and desertification/land degradation issues in forest sector planning.

15. Involve focal points from the United Nations Forum on Forests and relevant forest conventions and other conventions in discussions on relevant issues, such as, reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, including through afforestation and reforestation, and, the in-depth review of implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity and other relevant issues.

Climate-change adaptation

16. Enhance the integration of biodiversity and desertification/land degradation issues within climate change adaptation planning.
17. Enhance consideration of the benefits for climate change adaptation of cross-sector planning in the context of the ecosystem approach.
18. Evaluate, as appropriate, the extent to which biodiversity and desertification/land degradation issues are integrated into existing climate change adaptation plans.
19. Subject to national capacity and the availability of funds, identify areas which are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, contain high levels of biodiversity or biodiversity at risk, and are exposed to desertification/land degradation.

Capacity-building

20. Clearly express capacity-building needs to the secretariats.

Research and monitoring/systematic observation

21. Conduct, as appropriate, national and local assessments of climate-change impacts on biodiversity and desertification/land degradation.
22. Identify, as appropriate, local and indigenous knowledge that can contribute to synergies.
23. Identify research and/or monitoring needs and establish mechanisms or processes by which such needs could be met.
24. Encourage additional research on the impacts of climate change on oceans and marine biodiversity.
25. Encourage additional research and monitoring on the impacts of increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events on biodiversity and associated resources.
26. Identify actions that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of peatlands and other wetlands and enhance their positive contribution to climate change response activities.
27. Identify the impacts of climate change on ecosystem services.
28. Harmonize temporal and spatial scales in data collection and analysis considering climate change and biodiversity status and trends.

Information exchange and outreach

29. Share at regional and global levels, experiences and lessons learned on communicating synergies.
30. Develop a common pool of experts on the interrelated issues of climate change, biodiversity and combating desertification/land degradation to address the information gaps on the status, trends and threats to biodiversity, particularly within dry and sub-humid lands.

Harmonized reporting

31. National focal points share, to the extent possible, databases containing reporting data and information sources.
32. Where relevant, focal points work together on drafting the national reports for each convention.

*Annex II***ACTIVITIES THAT ARE ALREADY ONGOING OR HAVE BEEN CALLED FOR BY PARTIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE RIO CONVENTIONS**

1. Keep staff in other secretariats informed of discussions and decisions on relevant synergistic activities or programmes.
2. Continuing the sharing of experiences by secretariat staff in forums such as the Convention on Biological Diversity Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Expert Group on Technology Transfer or its successor.
3. Continue the provision by the secretariats, of inputs and views on forest issues and adaptation as requested by the subsidiary bodies of the conventions.
4. Share experiences reported by Parties on communication, education and public-awareness events.

XIII/7. New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting consider adopting a decision along the following lines:

Recalling that, according to Article 25, paragraph 3, of the Convention, the functions, terms of reference, organization and operation of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may be further elaborated by the Conference of the Parties,

Also recalling that in accordance with decision VIII/10, annex III, paragraph 1, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will fulfil its mandate under the authority of, and in accordance with, guidance laid down by the Conference of the Parties, and upon its request,

Further recalling that in accordance with VIII/10, annex III, paragraph 5, that the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, in accordance with rule 26, paragraph 5, to the proceedings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Underlining the need to reduce the number of agenda items for consideration by the Subsidiary Body at each meeting in order to improve the effectiveness of its proceedings (VIII/10, annex III, para. 14),

Also recalling that in accordance with decision VIII/10, annex III, appendix A, paragraph (d), one of the specific functions of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice is to identify new and emerging issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,

Emphasizing that this decision is without prejudice to the rules of procedure and to the *modus operandi* contained in annex III to decision VIII/10,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to notify Parties and relevant organizations after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the latest date by which proposals submitted for new and emerging issues based on the information requested in paragraph 4 below and the criteria listed in paragraph 5 will still be included into the compilation mentioned below;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to compile the submissions in the form in which they are received and notify Parties and relevant organizations of the opportunity to contribute relevant information and views related to the proposals taking into account the criteria listed in paragraph 5 below;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a document compiling the original submissions and the information and views received for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

4. *Decides* that proposals for emerging issues should, where possible, be accompanied with information on:

(a) Why the issue needs urgent attention by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (including how it impacts biodiversity);

(b) How it affects the attainment of the objectives of the Convention (citing relevant articles);

(c) Thematic programmes of work and/or cross-cutting issues that could contribute to the resolution of the issue;

(d) Work already under way by relevant organizations addressing the issue; and

(e) Credible sources of information, preferably from peer-reviewed articles;

5. *Further decides* that the following criteria should be used for identifying new and emerging issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity:

(a) Relevance of the issue to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and its existing programmes of work;

[(b) New evidence of unexpected and significant impacts on biodiversity;]

(c) Urgency of addressing the issue/imminence of the risk caused by the issue to the effective implementation of the Convention as well as the magnitude of actual and potential impact on biodiversity;

(d) Actual geographic coverage and potential spread, including rate of spread, of the identified issue relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

(e) Evidence of the absence or limited availability of tools to limit or mitigate the negative impacts of the identified issue on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

(f) Magnitude of actual and potential impact of the identified issue on human well-being;

(g) Magnitude of actual and potential impact of the identified issue on productive sectors and economic well-being as related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

6. *Requests* that

Option 1: [The Executive Secretary [in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice] identifies the emerging issue to be considered by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice]

Option 2: [The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice reviews and discusses the proposals and, as appropriate, identifies the emerging issue[s] to be considered at its next meeting.]

Option 3: [The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice reviews and discusses the proposals and, as appropriate, identifies the emerging issue[s] to be considered by the Conference of the Parties.]
