



**CONVENTION ON
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**REPORT OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW
OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE WORK OF ITS
SECOND MEETING**

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INTRODUCTION

1. The second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris from 9 to 13 July 2007.
2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Parties and other Governments: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, European Community, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kenya, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
3. Observers from the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, convention secretariats and other bodies also attended: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNEP Division of Environmental Information, Assessment and Early Warning, Mediterranean Action Plan Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (MAP-RAC-SPA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNDP GEF, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).
4. The following organizations were also represented by observers: Association of University Technology Managers, BioNet-International, Biotechnology Industry Organization, BirdLife International, BirdLife International/Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, CAB International, CBD Alliance and Kalpavriksh, Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, Climate and Development Initiatives - Uganda, Commonwealth Secretariat, Conservation International, Countdown 2010, ECOROPA, Fondation Nicolas Hulot, Forest Peoples Programme, Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung, Friends of the Siberian Forests, Global Biodiversity Information Facility, Greenpeace, HATOF Foundation, International Mechanism Of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMOSEB), Institut de recherche pour le développement, Institut du développement durable et des relations internationales (IDDRI), International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests, International Chamber of Commerce, IUCN - The World Conservation Union, IUCN Environmental Law Centre, IUCN French Committee, IUCN Regional Office for Europe, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Petrobras, Public Research and Regulation Initiative, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Sciences-Po Bordeaux, France, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Spring Valley Ecofarms, Tebtebba Foundation, UNDP Equator Initiative, Université Laval, University of Tuscia, Viola, WWF International, WWF United States.

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

5. The meeting was opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 9 July by Mr. Antônio José Rezende de Castro, representative of the President of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, H.E. Marina Silva, Minister of the Environment of Brazil. He said that the meeting was an opportunity to take stock of the progress that had been made within the Convention on Biological Diversity and of how much remained to be done to turn its three objectives into reality. Developed and developing countries alike had responsibilities, albeit differentiated, in that global endeavour. He trusted that the

meeting would give guidance on the further development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and consider ways and means of setting in place a more effective and stronger process of implementation. Attention needed to be focused on the limited number of capacity-building programmes, technology transfer and cooperation under the Convention. It was expected that the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties would adopt a concrete strategy for resource mobilization that would enable continued progress to be made in the new implementation phase of the Convention. The Parties were now far better prepared to tackle the challenges related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, but the third objective—fair and equitable benefit-sharing arrangements—had for too long languished in the background. The meeting should not lose sight of the three objectives of the Convention, and his hope was that it would be inspired with an equivalent spirit of renewal and collective conscience, commitment, political will and ethical responsibility to that which had pervaded the 1992 Rio Summit.

6. At the opening session of the meeting, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, said that human pressures on the natural functions of the planet had reached such a level that the ability of ecosystems to provide for the needs of future generations was now seriously, and perhaps irreversibly, compromised. The enhanced phase of implementation required the active involvement of decision makers and he therefore welcomed the outcomes of the June 2007 summit meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the G-8, which had for the first time in the Group's history considered the issue of biodiversity. The new phase also required the establishment of a new global partnership between the world's nations and a new relationship between the richest countries in financial and technological terms and the richest countries in biodiversity terms. The present meeting was an opportunity for the first time to review and share experiences in developing and implementing national strategies and action plans, as well as integrating the objectives of the Convention into development processes. For that, capacity-building in developing countries was essential. The mobilization of new and additional resources was also essential for the success of the new phase of implementation. The financial mechanism of the Convention had a critical role to play, and he wished to thank the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the GEF, Ms. Monique Barbut, for her support for biodiversity, notably her decision to continue to fund the preparation of fourth national reports, to launch an innovative pilot project to consolidate national reports, and to hold the first-ever informal dialogue with the Bureau on 8 July 2007.

7. Mr. Walter Erdelen, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO, welcoming the Working Group to UNESCO Headquarters, said that UNESCO considered a number of issues to be essential to successful implementation of the Convention. The first was communication, education and public awareness (CEPA), and on that front UNESCO was pleased to see that the Convention Secretariat was increasingly moving from design to implementation. UNESCO was looking forward to working with the Parties and Secretariat towards effectively mainstreaming biological diversity through the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA), which was one of the most important issues to be addressed under the Convention. The second crucial issue was the ecosystem approach, and he strongly encouraged the Parties to use the three intergovernmentally recognized networks of sites for implementing it, namely the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves, the World Heritage Sites, and the List of Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. Thirdly, partnerships were a priority and key tool for synergy and efficiency in the context of the United Nations system as a whole. In light of the Convention's policy-making nature it was logical that it needed to rely on strategic partnerships with sister organizations dealing with substantive issues. UNESCO looked forward to continued and reinforced cooperation with the Convention on scientific, technical and technological matters, focusing on the country level and direct benefits to Parties.

8. The Chairman asked Mr. Erdelen to convey the Working Group's gratitude to the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, for hosting the meeting.

9. Ms Monique Barbut, Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), said that she wished to revitalize the association between her organization and the Convention on Biological Diversity. She said that the revised GEF biodiversity strategy would allow GEF better to serve countries in realizing their commitments to their biodiversity goals. The Convention on Biological Diversity should consider its approach to the financial mechanism to ensure that its priorities and those of GEF were negotiated together. GEF had begun work with all three

conventions for which it served as a financial mechanism to design an approach for systematizing national plans, including better coordinated joint reporting to the relevant conventions. A pilot project had been initiated, which would involve a number of least developed and small island developing countries, to reduce the administrative burden of reporting and also to set up means for common data maintenance and analysis, with the corresponding policy development and enforcement. She said that while public support for action to address climate change had increased globally, there was no concomitant commitment for biological diversity. GEF considered that the Convention on Biological Diversity was as vitally important as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and she assured participants of the willingness of GEF to make the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity as compelling as those on climate change.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. Officers

10. In keeping with established practice, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties served as the Bureau of the Working Group. Accordingly, the meeting was chaired by the representative of the President of the Conference of the Parties. It was agreed that Mrs. Mary Fosi (Cameroon) would act as Rapporteur.

2.2. Adoption of the agenda

11. The provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/1) was adopted as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - 2.1 Officers;
 - 2.2 Adoption of the agenda;
 - 2.3 Organization of work.
3. Status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and their implementation, the provision of resources and the identification of obstacles.
4. Priority areas for capacity-building, access to and transfer of technology and technology cooperation.
5. Guidance for the development, implementation and evaluation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
6. Options and a draft strategy for resource mobilization.
7. Mechanisms for implementation of the Convention.
8. Inputs to the process of revising the Strategic Plan beyond 2010.
9. Status of national reporting and proposals on the scope and format of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.
10. Opportunities for streamlining the guidance provided to the Global Environment Facility.
11. Operations of the Convention: matters arising from decision VIII/10.
12. Other matters.
13. Adoption of the report.
14. Closure of the meeting.

2.3 Organization of work

12. The Working Group decided to work in plenary, with the establishment of informal groups as necessary to facilitate its work.

13. It was also decided that, as items 3 (“Status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and their implementation, the provision of resources and the identification of obstacles”) and 5

(“Guidance for the development, implementation and evaluation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans”) of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/1) were closely linked, item 5 should be discussed before item 4 (“Priority areas for capacity-building, access to and transfer of technology and technology cooperation”).

II. IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF GOALS 2 AND 3 OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

ITEM 3: STATUS OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION, PROVISION OF RESOURCES AND IDENTIFICATION OF OBSTACLES

14. The Working Group took up agenda item 3 at the 1st session of the meeting, on 9 July 2007. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it notes by the Executive Secretary on the status of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan, focusing on implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the availability of financial resources (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2) and a synthesis and analysis of obstacles to implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2/Add.1). It also had before it four information documents: an updated synthesis of information contained in third national reports (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/1); a review of the availability of financial resources (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/4); a compilation of submissions from Parties and others on the status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/7); and a meta-analysis of earlier reviews of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/9).

15. Introducing the item, the Chairman said that the Working Group was invited to take stock of progress towards the implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan. Its discussions would provide a basis for specific recommendations under subsequent items, and he invited the Working Group to use the summary as a basis for any status report that it might wish to transmit to the Conference of the Parties.

16. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chad, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Gabon (on behalf of the Commission des Ministres en charge des Forêts d’Afrique Centrale), Guinea, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Malawi, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mexico, Mozambique, Niger, Norway, Portugal (on behalf of the European Community and its member States), Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen and Zambia.

17. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

18. The representative of Tebtebba Foundation and a speaker representing the Forest People’s Programme, Birdlife International and ECOROPA also made statements.

19. At the 6th session of the meeting, on 11 July 2007, the Working Group took up a draft recommendation on implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan, submitted by the Chair, which was a consolidation of recommendations and proposed amendments in respect also of agenda items 4, 5, 7 and 8.

20. Statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Bhutan (on behalf of the Asia and Pacific region), Burkina Faso, Canada, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gabon, Kiribati, Malawi (on behalf of the African region), Malaysia, the Maldives, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal (on behalf of the European Community and its member States), Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen and Zambia.

21. A statement was made by the representative of ECOROPA.

22. At the suggestion of the Chair, the Working Group decided to establish an open-ended group of friends of the Chair to consider a revised text for paragraph 9 of the draft recommendation* which he would prepare on the basis of proposals made during the session.
23. At the 7th session of the Working Group, on 12 July 2007, the Chair said that the representative of the Bahamas had agreed to chair the open-ended group of friends of the Chair, which would discuss the revised text of paragraph 9 of the draft recommendation and any other part of the draft that had already been discussed in plenary.
24. At its 8th session, on 12 July 2007, the Working Group resumed consideration of the draft recommendation on implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan.
25. Statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Australia, Bhutan (on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group), Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Kiribati, Malawi (on behalf of the African region), Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Portugal (on behalf of the European Community and its member States), South Africa and Ukraine.
26. At the 9th session of the meeting, on 13 July 2007, the Working Group took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/L.5. Following an exchange of views, the Working Group, at its 10th session, adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/L.5 as orally amended, as recommendation 2/1, the text of which is contained in the annex to the present report.
27. During the discussion, the representative of France stated for the record that the electronic forum should be in all the official languages of the United Nations, to enable all participants to take part on an equal basis.

**ITEM 4. PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING,
ACCESS TO AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGY
COOPERATION**

28. The Working Group took up agenda item 4 at the 1st session of the meeting, on 9 July 2007. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on synthesis and analysis of obstacles to implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans: lessons learned from the review, effectiveness of policy instruments and strategic priorities for action (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2/Add.1).
29. Introducing the item, and the document, the Chairman said that the suggested recommendations in the document included the identification by Parties of priority areas for action that would make a significant difference to the effectiveness of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and implementation of the Convention at national level and contribute to the achievement of the 2010 target. In addition, relevant background information was provided in information documents (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/2, UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/3 and UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/11). He said that as the scope of the item included access to and transfer of technology and technology cooperation, the Working Group might wish to note that at its eighth meeting the Conference of the Parties had established an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation with a view to collecting, analysing and identifying ongoing tools, mechanisms, systems and initiatives to promote the implementation of Articles 16 to 19, as well as to propose strategies for practical implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation. The Expert Group was scheduled to meet in September 2007, so the present meeting would not be able to benefit from its work; there was therefore little reference to technology transfer issues in the draft recommendations, and Parties might wish to consider those issues at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the basis of the report that would be made to it by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group.
30. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Gabon (on behalf of the Commission des Ministres en charge des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale), Mexico, New Zealand, Portugal (on behalf of the European Community and its member States), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.
31. The representative of the International Chamber of Commerce also made a statement.

* Paragraph 8 of the final recommendation 2/1.

32. At the 3rd session of the meeting, the Secretariat responded to a request for clarification from the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania regarding the *modus operandi* of the voluntary peer review mechanisms for national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports, to which reference was made in paragraph 35 (c) of document UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2/Add.1. The Secretariat explained that it had been invited by the Working Group, at its first meeting, to explore how other conventions and bodies dealt with the examination of information provided in such forms. As had been set out in document UNEP/CBD/COP/8/15 and information document UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/8, most conventions had no formal mechanisms for the examination of information provided in national reports; a few, however, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, provided for independent reviews of national implementation or national communications by an external group of experts, which were then coordinated by the secretariats. In the case of the Convention on Biological Diversity, it would be for the Conference of the Parties to decide whether to develop a voluntary peer review mechanism, and if so to decide upon its *modus operandi*.

33. In response to a question raised by the representative of Malawi, speaking on behalf of the African region, the Executive Secretary explained that, owing to decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting made on the basis of recommendations from the Budget Committee to convene the present meeting back-to-back with the twelfth, rather than the thirteenth, meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and owing to a lack of extrabudgetary resources, the Secretariat had been unable to convene regional meetings on national biodiversity strategies and action plans as well as a meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation before the present meeting. The meeting of the Expert Group would be held in Geneva in September 2007, and the report of that meeting would be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.

34. The representative of Brazil said that his delegation echoed the concerns expressed on behalf of the African region. The issue had not been addressed as comprehensively as his delegation would have wished, and should be taken up again at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

35. At the 6th-8th sessions of the meeting, the Working Group took up a draft recommendation, submitted by the Chair, which was a consolidation of recommendations and proposed amendments in respect also of agenda items 3, 5, 7 and 8 (see paragraphs 19 to 25 above).

36. At its 9th session, on 13 July 2007, the Working Group took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/L.5. Following an exchange of views, the Working Group at its 10th session adopted the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as recommendation 2/1, the text of which is contained in the annex to the present report.

ITEM 5. GUIDANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, CONSOLIDATION AND UPDATING OF GUIDANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLANS

37. The Working Group took up agenda item 5 at its 1st session, on 9 July 2007. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on guidance for the development, implementation and evaluation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/3).

38. Introducing the item, the Chairman said that in paragraph 1 (b) of its decision VIII/8, the Conference of the Parties had decided to consider, at its ninth meeting, consolidated guidance for the development, implementation and evaluation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the effective integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors, and, in paragraph 10 (b) of the same decision, had requested the Working Group to prepare such guidance.

39. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Gabon (on behalf of the Commission des Ministres en charge des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale), Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Portugal (on behalf of the European Community and its member States), Rwanda, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia and Uganda.

40. A statement was made by the representatives of IUCN, ECOROPA and WWF.

41. The Chairman said that a Chair's text would be prepared which would seek to consolidate the various textual and linguistic amendments proposed during the session.
42. At the 6th-8th sessions of the meeting, the Working Group took up a draft recommendation, submitted by the Chair, which was a consolidation of recommendations and proposed amendments in respect also of agenda items 3, 4, 7 and 8 (see paragraphs 19 to 25 above).
43. At the 9th session of the meeting, on 13 July 2007, the Working Group took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/L.5. Following an exchange of views, the Working Group at its 10th session adopted the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as recommendation 2/1, the text of which is contained in the annex to the present report.

ITEM 6: OPTIONS AND A DRAFT STRATEGY FOR RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

44. The Working Group took up agenda item 6 at the 3rd session of the meeting, on 10 July 2007. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on options and a draft strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the objectives of the Convention, including innovative financial mechanisms (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/4). Additional background information was available in the information documents on review of the availability of financial resources (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/4) and national and regional environmental funds: promotion of new funds, strengthening existing funds, and knowledge exchange (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/5).
45. Introducing the item, the Chairman said that in paragraph 4 of its decision VIII/13, the Conference of the Parties had requested the Executive Secretary, in consultation with Parties, Governments and relevant partners, to explore all options for resource mobilization including innovative financial mechanisms and to develop a draft strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the objectives of the Convention, taking into account the elements of the in-depth review, and to present a report on these options and the draft strategy to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties through the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation.
46. Statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, France, India, Indonesia, Malawi (on behalf of the African region), Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Portugal (on behalf of the European Community and its member States), Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, and the United Republic of Tanzania.
47. Statements were also made by the representatives of IUCN and Birdlife International.
48. In response to questions raised by representatives of the Parties, the Executive Secretary explained that his note circulated under the item (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/4) had been prepared in order to elicit the views and contributions of the Parties, as they should have a strong sense of ownership in the strategy, which was crucial for the future of the Convention. He said that the Secretariat lacked the necessary technical expertise and would rely on that of the Parties and other relevant international organizations. It was for that reason that the Secretariat had suggested an intersessional consultative mechanism before the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
49. Statements were made by the representatives of Algeria and Peru.
50. At the 4th session of the meeting, on 10 July 2007, the Working Group heard a statement from the representative of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on its system for collecting overseas development assistance data and how it was used to measure donor support for the Convention on Biological Diversity.
51. At the 7th session of the meeting, on 12 July 2007, the Working Group took up a draft recommendation on options and a draft strategy for resource mobilization in support of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, submitted by the Chair.
52. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Malawi (on behalf of the African region), Portugal (on behalf of the European Community and its member States) and the United Republic of Tanzania.

53. The Chair said that the draft recommendation would be revised on the basis of the amendments proposed and submitted to the Working Group for consideration at a later session.

54. At the 9th session of the meeting, on 13 July 2007, the Working Group took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/L.3. Following an exchange of views, the Working Group adopted the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as recommendation 2/2, the text of which is contained in the annex to the present report.

ITEM 7: MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

55. The Working Group took up agenda item 7 at the 4th session of the meeting, on 10 July 2007. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it no specific recommendations in the documentation, although previously mentioned documents were relevant, in particular the note by the Executive Secretary on a synthesis and analysis of obstacles to implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2/Add.1).

56. Introducing the item, the Chairman said that at its meeting held in Brasilia in December 2006 the Bureau had considered the need to review delivery systems for assistance to Parties and capacity-building, the roles of national, regional and international organizations, and coordination among those organizations. Accordingly, when considering the agenda for the present meeting the Bureau had decided that an item on “mechanisms for implementation of the Convention” should be included.

57. He said that the Working Group might also wish to consider, in the light of the discussions on items 3 to 6, further actions that might be needed with respect to strengthening mechanisms to facilitate implementation of the three objectives of the Convention. The item was closely linked to its predecessors, especially item 4, so the Working Group might wish to take into account comments already made under those items.

58. The representative of Brazil introduced a draft recommendation, copies of which had been circulated since the previous session.

59. Statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, the Bahamas, Bhutan (on behalf of the Asia and Pacific region), Canada, Chile, China, Ecuador, Malawi (on behalf of the African region), Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Portugal (on behalf of the European Community and its member States), South Africa, Tunisia and Yemen.

60. The Executive Secretary, responding to comments, said that the Convention on Biological Diversity was unique among the many multilateral environmental agreements in that it had three highly complex, challenging objectives, reflecting the fact that it covered all species and all areas of the globe. The Parties had gone a long way to implementing the provisions of the Convention, and he thanked all those which had made substantive suggestions for translating the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties into reality. He said that the processes of the Conference of the Parties differed from those of other bodies in that decisions and the budget were finalized during their meetings, giving the Secretariat little time to fine-tune the decisions or to match them to budget lines. It would be important to adjust the Convention to the new global realities.

61. He emphasized that the Secretariat of the Convention was not and had no desire to be an implementing agency, and he invited those Parties that had received that impression to indicate the relevant sections of the documents. The Convention relied on implementing agencies and had signed memoranda of understanding with several such bodies. The mandate of the unit for Implementation and Technical Support that had been approved at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, comprising three Professionals, was to facilitate activities, such as training workshops, but not to implement them.

62. At the 6th-8th sessions of the meeting, the Working Group took up a draft recommendation, submitted by the Chair, which was a consolidation of recommendations and proposed amendments in respect also of agenda items 3, 4, 5 and 8 (see paragraphs 19 to 25 above).

63. At the 9th session of the meeting, on 13 July 2007, the Working Group took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/L.5. Following an exchange of views, the Working Group at

its 10th session adopted the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as recommendation 2/1, the text of which is contained in the annex to the present report.

ITEM 8: INPUTS TO THE PROCESS OF REVISING THE STRATEGIC PLAN BEYOND 2010

64. The Working Group took up agenda item 8 at the 4th session of the meeting, on 10 July 2007. The Chair said that, in decision VIII/15, the Conference of the Parties had decided to consider at its ninth meeting the process for revising and updating the Strategic Plan with a view to adopting a revised Plan at its tenth meeting. Further, in paragraph 2 of decision VIII/8, the Conference of the Parties had decided that the results of the in-depth review of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan would be used, *inter alia*, as input to the revision of the Strategic Plan beyond 2010. Accordingly, the Working Group was invited to consider possible inputs from the in-depth review, drawing, if it so wished, on its conclusions under preceding agenda items. To assist the Working Group in its work, the Executive Secretary had prepared an information note (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/6) on the process of revising the Strategic Plan beyond 2010, section IV of which contained options for revising the Plan.

65. Statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Canada, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Portugal (on behalf of the European Community and its member States), Thailand, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

66. At the 7th session of the meeting, on 12 July 2007, the Working Group took up a draft recommendation on inputs to the Strategic Plan, submitted by the Chair.

67. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Canada, Ethiopia, Malawi (on behalf of the African Region), Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal (on behalf of the European Community and its member States), Qatar and the United Republic of Tanzania.

68. Following consultations, the Working Group agreed to terminate its consideration of the draft recommendation, and to add a paragraph relating to inputs to the Strategic Plan to the draft recommendation relating to agenda items 3, 4, 5 and 7 (see paragraphs 19 to 27 above).

69. At the 6th-8th sessions of the meeting, the Working Group took up a draft recommendation, submitted by the Chair, which was a consolidation of recommendations and proposed amendments in respect also of agenda items 3, 4, 5 and 7 (see paragraphs 19 to 25 above).

70. At the 9th session of the meeting, on 13 July 2007, the Working Group took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/L.5. Following an exchange of views, the Working Group at its 10th session adopted the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as recommendation 2/1, the text of which is contained in the annex to the present report.

III. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS

ITEM 9: REPORTING PROCESSES: STATUS OF NATIONAL REPORTING AND PROPOSALS ON THE SCOPE AND FORMAT OF THE THIRD EDITION OF THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK

71. The Working Group took up agenda item 9 at the 4th session of the meeting, on 10 July 2007. The Chair recalled that, in decision VIII/14, the Conference of the Parties had requested the Executive Secretary to review the process, outcome and impact of the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and lessons learned from its preparation, and to develop proposals on the scope and format of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and the organization of preparatory work, for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice or the present Working Group, as appropriate, before the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Accordingly, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary containing proposals for the scope and format of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/6) and an information document (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/13) that provided further information on the timeline, communication strategy and advisory bodies. He informed the meeting that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twelfth meeting had considered the technical aspects of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and prepared recommendations, which were available.

72. The Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting had also requested the Executive Secretary to prepare an updated synthesis of information contained in the third national reports and a strategic analysis to identify barriers to implementation and options for overcoming those barriers, and to make the information available through the clearing-house mechanism. The updated synthesis was available as an information document (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/1), which also contained information on the process of preparing national reports. Since the finalization of that document, additional third national reports had been received, and some Parties were preparing their fourth national reports. Those reports would provide critical information for the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and the assessment of progress towards the 2010 target.

73. Statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Ecuador, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal (on behalf of the European Community and its member States) and Thailand.

74. A statement was made by the representative of UNEP.

75. A statement was made by the representative of Birdlife International.

76. The Executive Secretary, responding to the debate, said it had reflected the difficulty the Secretariat was having in addressing various audiences and serving various purposes in the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook. Its publication would coincide with the 2010 target, and it would have to be based on very solid scientific foundations. It would have to be tailored to meet the purpose that was to be achieved, and public awareness would have to be mobilized.

77. He shared the concern expressed by the representative of Thailand regarding the high royalty fee that that country had been required to pay for reproducing pictures from the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook in a Thai version. It was not reasonable to expect Parties to translate a United Nations document and then to pay for using the pictures that were in it; the Secretariat had taken steps to ensure that it would not happen again.

78. As for the requirement that the document be prepared in time for the 14th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, due to be held in May 2009, on the basis of fourth national reports that were due in March 2009, he had hoped that more fourth national reports would have been submitted by the deadline than had been the case with the third national reports; that work could not be done by support staff. More resources would be needed, and he had asked the Executive Director of UNEP for assistance, with the result that the next Global Environment Outlook would include a section on biological diversity.

79. The cost of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook would be met out of the budget for 2009-2010, if it was approved by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting. The second edition had been launched in English and Portuguese, and was now being prepared in the other United Nations languages. The third edition had to be ready in 2009 in all United Nations languages, and so he would welcome resources being made available by donors in order that the Secretariat could make a start, rather than wait for the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting to approve the budget line.

80. At the 7th session of the meeting, on 12 July 2007, the Working Group took up a draft recommendation on lessons learned from the preparation of the second edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook and proposals on the scope and focus of the third edition, submitted by the Chair.

81. Statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Norway, Portugal (on behalf of the European Community and its member States) and Turkmenistan.

82. The Chair said that the draft recommendation would be revised on the basis of the amendments proposed and would be submitted to the Working Group for consideration at a later session.

83. At the 9th session of the meeting, on 13 July 2007, the Working Group took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/L.2.

84. Following an exchange of views, the Working Group adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/L.2, as orally amended, as recommendation 2/4, the text of which is contained in the annex to the present report.

ITEM 10: OPPORTUNITIES FOR STREAMLINING THE GUIDANCE PROVIDED TO THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

85. The Working Group took up agenda item 10 at the 5th session of the meeting, on 11 July 2007. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on opportunities for streamlining the guidance provided to the Global Environment Facility taking into account the framework for targets and indicators of the 2010 target (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/5).

86. Introducing the item, the Chairman said that, in its decision VIII/18, the Conference of the Parties had requested the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Parties, to explore opportunities for streamlining the guidance provided to the Global Environment Facility, taking into account the framework for goals and targets in decision VII/30 and indicators for assessing progress towards achievement of the 2010 target, and to present the results to the Conference of the Parties through the Working Group on Review of the Implementation of the Convention. He said that the Working Group might also wish to consult the compilation of the views of Parties on the review of implementation of Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention contained in an information document before it (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/8).

87. Statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, India, Malawi (on behalf of the African region), Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal (on behalf of the European Community and its member States), Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

88. A statement was made by a speaker representing ECOROPA, the Forest Peoples Programme, the Friends of the Siberian Forests and Greenpeace.

89. At the 8th session of the meeting, on 12 July 2007, the Working Group took up a draft recommendation on streamlining the guidance provided to the Global Environment Facility as the institutional structure operating the financial mechanism of the Convention, submitted by the Chair.

90. Statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Ecuador, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal (on behalf of the European Community and its member States), Tunisia and the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the African region).

91. At the 9th session of the meeting, on 13 July 2007, the Working Group took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/L.4. Following an exchange of views, the Working Group adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/L.4, as orally amended, as recommendation 2/3, the text of which is contained in the annex to the present report.

92. The representative of Switzerland said that his Government would cover the cost of the meeting mentioned in paragraph 4 of the draft recommendation, as his country considered that an inclusive, well-informed dialogue among the Parties was of utmost importance for setting programme priorities and streamlining the guidance provided to the Global Environment Facility.

ITEM 11. OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION

93. The Working Group took up agenda item 11 at the 5th session of the meeting, on 11 July 2007. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on the operations of the Convention: matters arising from decision VIII/10 (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/7) and an information document on the periodicity of meetings and organization of work of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/12).

94. Introducing the item, the Chairman said that, in its decision VIII/10, on operations of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties had requested the Working Group: (a) to develop guidance for the future review and retirement of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties (paragraph 35); and (b) to consider procedures for admission of bodies and agencies, whether governmental or non-governmental (paragraph 39). In addition to those two items, other matters concerning operations of

the Convention, including matters related to the periodicity and structure of meetings, were due to be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.

95. Statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Malawi (on behalf of the African region), Mexico, Nigeria, Portugal (on behalf of the European Community and its member States), Qatar and Thailand.

96. Statements were also made by the representative of the Tebtebba Foundation (also speaking on behalf of the Russian Federation of Small Indigenous Peoples of the North, the Asociación Indígena de Limoncocha and the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests); a speaker representing ECOROPA, the Friends of the Siberian Forests, the Forest Peoples Programme and Birdlife International; a speaker representing Greenpeace and the Friends of the Siberian Forests; and the representative of WWF.

97. The Executive Secretary, introduced Mr. Lyle Glowka, who had just joined the Secretariat as Senior Legal Advisor. He recalled that, at its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties had expressed concerns regarding the rate of vacant posts, which had stood at 27 per cent, and was pleased to announce that all the posts in the Secretariat would be filled before September 2007, for the first time in the history of the Secretariat. With respect to the retirement of decisions, he agreed that a flexible approach should be adopted. Nevertheless, decisions would not have to be retired if the way in which they were taken by the Conference of the Parties were improved, and the present meeting would provide valuable advice in that respect. He agreed with a previous speaker that the historical memory of retired decisions should be retained.

98. He said that the participation of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and indigenous and local communities, as well as the business community, was essential for the success of the implementation phase of the Convention. It was for that reason that focal points for all major stakeholders had been appointed within the Secretariat. The proposal made in the document responded to the decisions of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and would ensure their effective participation in accordance with Article 23 of the Convention and the rules of procedure, as well as with the established procedures prevailing within relevant intergovernmental processes, including the Rio conventions and the host organization of the Convention. The outcome of the discussion on the item would also respond to the 2006 audit observations. He recalled further that, in line with the decisions of the United Nations General Assembly, all documents to be produced by the Secretariat would not exceed 16 pages.

99. At the 7th session of the meeting, on 12 July 2007, the Working Group took up a draft recommendation on operations of the Convention, submitted by the Chair. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Malawi (on behalf of the African region), Mexico, Qatar, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

100. The Chair said that the draft recommendation would be revised on the basis of the amendments proposed and would be submitted to the Working Group for consideration at a later session.

101. At the 8th session of the meeting, on 12 July 2007, the Working Group considered a revised version of the draft recommendation on operations of the Convention, proposed by the Chair. Statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Chile, China, Colombia, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway and Portugal (on behalf of the European Community and its member States).

102. At the Chair's suggestion, the Working Group agreed to establish a small informal group to hold consultations on the revised draft recommendation, taking into account the comments made.

103. At its 9th session, on 13 July 2007, the Working Group took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/L.6. Following an exchange of views, the Working Group adopted the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as recommendation 2/5, the text of which is contained in the annex to the present report.

104. The representative of Colombia said for the record that paragraph 3 of the annex to the draft recommendation did not prejudice the prerogative of the Conference of the Parties to take a decision on the information provided to it by the Executive Secretary.

IV. FINAL MATTERS

ITEM 12: OTHER MATTERS

105. In the course of meeting, UNESCO offered to host the fifteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), to be held in 2010.

ITEM 13: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

106. The present report was adopted at the 10th session of the meeting, on 13 July 2007, on the basis of the draft report prepared by the Rapporteur (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/L.1) and on the understanding that any requests for corrections or amendments would be submitted to the Secretariat after the meeting.

ITEM 14: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

107. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention was closed at 6.35 p.m. on Friday, 13 July 2007.

Annex

**RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AT ITS SECOND MEETING
*UNESCO, Paris, 9-13 July 2007***

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2/1. Implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Having undertaken the in-depth review of the implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan,

1. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting
 - (a) Adopt a decision along the lines provided in the annex to the present recommendation;
 - (b) Consider developing a framework of options to mobilize human and technological resources at national level, drawing on, and taking full consideration of, existing instruments, initiatives, and experiences;
 - (c) Consider the continuation of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention taking into account the importance of making progress in the implementation of the Convention;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, to invite Parties to submit views on the revision of the Strategic Plan beyond 2010, and to prepare a report for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, taking into account also the views expressed by Parties at the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention.

Annex

DRAFT DECISION FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AT ITS NINTH MEETING

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the status of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan provided in paragraphs (a)-(p) of the summary of the note by the Executive Secretary on the status of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2);
2. *Emphasizes* that national biodiversity strategies and action plans and equivalent instruments are key implementation tools of the Convention and therefore play an important role in achieving the 2010 biodiversity target;
3. *Highlights* that practical implementation should be one of the key messages in all aspects of the work of the Convention;
4. *Notes with concern* the insufficient financial, human and technical resources, the inadequate mainstreaming of biodiversity, in particular in sectoral planning processes and in national development and poverty eradication strategies, and the paucity of information in relation to the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
5. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen coordination at the national level for implementation of the multilateral environment agreements, including the Rio conventions, in order to promote a more integrated approach and coherent implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

National biodiversity strategies and action plans

6. *Urges* Parties that have not yet done so to develop a national biodiversity strategy and action plan or adapt existing strategies, plans or programmes, as required by Article 6 of the Convention, as soon as possible and preferably no later than the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
7. *Further emphasizes* the importance of securing high-level government support in the process of developing, updating and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and the need to engage all relevant sectors and stakeholders;
8. *Recalling* the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties concerning national biodiversity strategies and action plans, annexed to this recommendation, and *taking note* of the

lessons learned from the in-depth review, *urges* Parties in developing, implementing and revising their national and, where appropriate, regional, biodiversity strategies and action plans, and equivalent instruments, in implementing the three objectives of the Convention, to:

Meeting the three objectives of the Convention:

(a) Ensure that national biodiversity strategies and action plans are action-driven, practical and prioritized, and provide an effective and up-to-date national framework for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, its relevant provisions and relevant guidance developed under the Convention;

(b) Ensure that national biodiversity strategies and action plans take into account the principles in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(c) Emphasize the integration of the three objectives of the Convention into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies;

(d) Promote the mainstreaming of gender considerations;

(e) Identify priority actions at national or regional level, including strategic actions to achieve the three objectives of the Convention;

(f) Develop a plan to mobilize national, regional and international financial resources in support of priority activities, considering existing and new funding sources;

Components of biodiversity strategies and action plans

(g) Take into account the ecosystem approach;

(h) Highlight the contribution of biodiversity, including, as appropriate, ecosystem services, to poverty eradication, national development and human well-being, as well as the economic, social, cultural, and other values of biodiversity as emphasized in the Convention on Biological Diversity, making use, as appropriate, of the methodologies and conceptual framework of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment;

(i) Identify the main threats to biodiversity, including direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity change, and include actions for addressing the identified threats;

(j) As appropriate, establish national, or where applicable, sub-national, targets, to support the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, consistent with the flexible framework established in decisions VII/30 and VIII/15, taking into account, as appropriate, other relevant strategies and programmes, such as the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and focusing on national priorities;

Support processes

(k) Include and implement national capacity development plans for the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, making use of the outcomes of national capacity self-assessments in this process, as appropriate;

(l) Engage indigenous and local communities, and all relevant sectors and stakeholders including representatives of society and the economy that have a significant impact on, benefit from or use biodiversity and its related ecosystem services. Activities might include:

- (i) Preparing, updating and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans with the participation of a broad set of representatives from all major groups to build ownership and commitment;
- (ii) Identifying relevant stakeholders from all major groups for each of the actions of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (iii) Consulting those responsible for policies in other areas so as to promote policy integration and multidisciplinary, cross-sectoral and horizontal co-operation to ensure coherence;

- (iv) Establishing appropriate mechanisms to improve the participation and involvement of indigenous and local communities and civil society representatives
- (v) Striving for improved action and cooperation to encourage the involvement of the private sector, namely through the development of partnerships at the national level;
- (vi) Strengthening the contribution of the scientific community in order to improve the science/policy interface to support research-based advice on biodiversity;

(m) Respect, preserve and maintain the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities consistent with Article 8(j);

(n) Establish or strengthen national institutional arrangements for the promotion, coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the national biodiversity strategy and action plans,

(o) Develop and implement a communication strategy for the national biodiversity strategy and action plan;

(p) Address existing planning processes in order to mainstream biodiversity concerns in other national strategies, including, in particular, poverty eradication strategies, national strategies for the Millennium Development Goals, sustainable development strategies, and strategies to adapt to climate change and combat desertification, as well as sectoral strategies, and ensure that national biodiversity strategies and action plans are implemented in coordination with these other strategies;

(q) Make use of or develop, as appropriate, regional, subregional or subnational networks to support implementation of the Convention;

(r) Promote and support local action for the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, by integrating biodiversity considerations into sub-national and local level assessments and planning processes, and, as and where appropriate, the development of sub-national and local biodiversity strategies and/or action plans, consistent with national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

Monitoring and review

(s) Establish national mechanisms including indicators, as appropriate, and promote regional cooperation to monitor implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and progress towards national targets, to allow for adaptive management, and provide regular reports on progress, including outcome-oriented information, to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(t) Review national biodiversity strategies and action plans to identify successes, constraints and impediments to implementation, and identify ways and means of addressing such constraints and impediments, including revision of the strategies where necessary;

(u) Make available through the Convention's clearing-house mechanism national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including periodic revisions, and where applicable, reports on implementation, case studies of good practice, and lessons learned;

9. *Invites* the financial mechanism, and *urges* Governments and other donors to provide adequate funding to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, for the implementation and revision of national, and where appropriate, regional biodiversity strategies;

10. *Notes* that, in line with the guidelines for the fourth national reports developed in accordance with decision VIII/14, Parties should report on progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans and on mainstreaming as part of their fourth national reports, and reiterates the importance of submitting their fourth national reports on or before 30 March 2009.

Priority areas for capacity-building, access to and transfer of technology

Recognizing the importance of capacity-building and access to and transfer of technology and that these should address identified national needs and priorities,

Aware that inadequate capacity building, access to and transfer of technology, and technology cooperation are obstacles to the implementation of the Convention, especially in developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition,

Noting the need for a better use of existing mechanisms and an enhanced partnership with international and regional organizations,

Emphasizing the importance of the issue of access to and transfer of technology and technology cooperation, and scientific and technical cooperation in the implementation of the Convention and, in that respect, of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group established in decision VIII/12 (Technology transfer and cooperation),

11. *Recalling* Article 20, of the Convention, *urges* Parties, to fulfil their obligations and commitments in regard to the Convention;

12. *Encourages* relevant implementing agencies to address nationally identified capacity needs for the implementation of the Convention;

13. *Notes* the need to provide Parties with additional information on guidance, initiatives, mechanisms, systems and tools to improve technology transfer and cooperation, including:

(a) Approaches to technology transfer and cooperation which address the prioritized needs of countries based on priorities in the national biodiversity strategies and action plans rather than non-specific and global approaches;

(b) Bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements as means to achieve effective transfer of technology;

(c) Guidance and initiatives to increase private sector engagement and strengthen enabling environment for investments at the national level;

14. *Recommends* that capacity building for national biodiversity strategies and action plans focus on:

(a) Elaboration and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans with broad stakeholder participation and based on nationally-identified needs and obstacles;

(b) Effective delivery and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(c) Monitoring implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(d) Mobilization of financial resources for development, review and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

15. *Encourages* Parties to establish or strengthen national clearing-house mechanisms to promote scientific and technical cooperation with other Parties, in particular with developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition;

16. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with partner organizations to facilitate:

(a) The continued exchange of best practices and lessons learned from the preparation, updating and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, through appropriate forums and mechanisms such as the clearing-house mechanism and, subject to available resources, strengthened cooperation with regional processes, South-South cooperation and voluntary peer-review;

(b) The provision of training and technical support from partner organizations;

(c) Scientific and technical cooperation as well as technology transfer and cooperation to enhance the capacity of developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to support national implementation of the Convention including through a better use of the clearing-house mechanism, the financial mechanism and communication, education and public awareness under the Convention;

17. *Recalling* paragraph 6 of decision VIII/8, *reaffirms* the need for regional and subregional meetings to discuss national experience in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors, including consideration of obstacles and ways and means for overcoming the obstacles;

18. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, to:

(a) Continue to build upon the existing database of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(b) In collaboration with partner organizations continue to compile a range of instruments, including toolkits and documentation of best practices and lessons learned, to support Parties to develop, review and implement their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related implementation activities, including for the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target;

(c) Identify opportunities in the organization of work of the bodies of the Convention, as appropriate, to support development, review and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

19. *Takes note of* the opportunity provided by the ongoing development of “One UN” programmes and *encourages* Parties, including the “One UN” pilot countries, to give due consideration to integrating biodiversity issues as identified in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

20. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in partnership with the Convention, building upon, *inter alia*, the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, to further examine ways and means to support national implementation of the Convention;

21. *Invites* all bilateral and multilateral development cooperation agencies to promote mainstreaming of the environment, including biodiversity, into development cooperation activities;

22. *Also invites* Parties and other Governments and relevant organizations to contribute to initiatives aimed at assessing the benefits of implementing the three objectives of the Convention, and the costs of the loss of biodiversity and the failure to take measures to fulfil the three objectives of the Convention, and *encourages* Parties to take this information into account when elaborating, reviewing and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

Mechanisms for the implementation of the Convention and inputs to the process of revising the Strategic Plan beyond 2010

23. *Agrees* that the recommendations from the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention arising from the in-depth review of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan provide an input to the review of Strategic Plan beyond 2010;

24. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare an updated overview of guidance generated in the framework of the Convention, including, *inter alia*, guidelines, principles, and programmes of work, for the implementation of the Convention, in the context of the Strategic Plan, including an analysis of the relationship of the thematic programmes of work with the cross-cutting issues;

25. *Invites* Parties to provide comments on the effectiveness of the guidance as summarized in the overview prepared by the Executive Secretary, referred to in paragraph 24 above.

Appendix

**DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES PROVIDING GUIDANCE TO
PARTIES ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS ^{1/}**

CBD Article/ programme of work/cross-cutting issue	Decision	Guidance
Articles 6 and 8	II/7 (para. 5)	<i>Encourages</i> Parties, in preparing and implementing their national strategies and action plans, to collaborate with relevant organizations and, if so desired, to take into consideration existing guidelines such as “National Biodiversity Planning” published by the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Resources Institute and the World Conservation Union (IUCN)
Articles 6 and 8	III/9 (para. 2)	<i>Urges</i> Parties to include in their national plans, strategies or legislation measures for (a) <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation; (b) integration of biodiversity objectives in relevant sectoral policies to achieve conservation and sustainable use; and (c) equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources
Targets	III/9 (para. 5)	<i>Invites</i> Parties to set measurable targets to achieve biodiversity conservation and sustainable use objectives
Agricultural biodiversity	III/11 (para. 15)	<i>Encourages</i> Parties to develop national strategies, programmes and plans which identify key components of biodiversity in agricultural production systems, encourage the adoption of repairing practices, and integrate with other plans, programmes and projects relating to the conservation and sustainable use of other terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems
Cooperation	III/21 (para. 8)	<i>Urges</i> the Parties to ensure that the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, and of migratory species and their habitats, are fully incorporated into national strategies, programmes and plans ⁷
Marine and coastal biodiversity	IV/5, annex (para. 10) (retired)	Parties should, in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention, develop national strategies, plans and programmes in order to promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity
Public education and awareness	IV/10 B (para. 1(a))	<i>Urges</i> Parties to place special emphasis on the requirements of Article 13 of the Convention in the development of their national strategies and action plans
Ecosystem approach	V/6, annex, section C (para. 12)	<i>From the operational guidance for application of the ecosystem approach:</i> As the primary framework of action to be taken under the Convention, the ecosystem approach should be fully taken into account in developing and reviewing national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
Education and public awareness	V/17 (para. 6)	<i>Invites</i> Parties, Governments, organizations and institutions to support capacity-building for education and communication in biological diversity as part of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, taking into account the global initiative
Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity	V/23, annex I (para. 2 (f))	<i>From the programme of work:</i> Support the development of national strategies and programmes, and to promote the integration of biological diversity concerns in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies, in furtherance of Article 6 of the Convention, in seeking harmonization and avoiding duplication when undertaking activities relevant to other related conventions...
Access and benefit-sharing	V/26 (para. 3)	<i>Urges</i> Parties to ensure that national biodiversity strategies as well as legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing contribute to conservation and sustainable-use objectives

^{1/} This table does not include short-term purely procedural requests to Parties for information. Please note also that additional guidance is available in relation to invasive alien species (decision VI/23, para 10), island biodiversity (decision VIII/1, annex) and CEPA (decision VIII/6, annexes II and III).

CBD Article/ programme of work/cross-cutting issue	Decision	Guidance
Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity	VI/4 (para. 2)	<i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the secretariats of relevant conventions, to prepare a proposal for the development of a mechanism to coordinate activities in these areas, and for linking and ensuring integration of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the national action programmes under the Convention to Combat Desertification
Global Strategy for Plant Conservation	VI/9 (para. 4)	<i>Invites</i> Parties and Governments to develop national and/or regional targets, and, as appropriate, to incorporate them into relevant plans, programmes and initiatives, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans
Forest biodiversity	VI/22 (para. 28)	<i>Urges</i> Parties and other Governments to incorporate relevant objectives and related activities of the programme of work into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national forest programmes and promote compatibility and complementarity between these plans/programmes and other related initiatives
Invasive alien species	VI/23 (para. 10)	<i>Urges</i> Parties and other Governments, in implementing the Guiding Principles, and when developing, revising and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans to address the threats posed by invasive alien species, to... (<i>Further guidance is provided in VI/23(10) but is not reproduced here</i>)
Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity	VI/26 (annex)	Goal 3: National biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors serve as an effective framework for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention. 3.1 Every Party has effective national strategies, plans and programmes in place to provide a national framework for implementing the three objectives of the Convention and to set clear national priorities. 3.4 The priorities in national biodiversity strategies and action plans are being actively implemented, as a means to achieve national implementation of the Convention, and as a significant contribution towards the global biodiversity agenda.
Implementation of the Convention, in particular, implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans	VI/27 A (para. 2)	<i>Urges</i> Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity: (a) To develop and adopt national biodiversity strategies and action plans, where they have not yet done so; (b) To give priority to the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, as well as benefit-sharing, into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies, in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention; (c) To identify priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and other relevant national strategies; (d) To implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans; and to periodically revise them in the light of the experience of implementation; (e) To establish national mechanisms or consultative processes, with particular regard, where appropriate, to the special needs of indigenous and local communities, for coordinating, implementing, monitoring, evaluating and periodically revising national biodiversity strategies and action plans; (f) To identify constraints and impediments to implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to reflect them in the national reports; (g) To make their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including periodic revisions, available through their national clearing-house mechanism and the Convention website
Regional cooperation	VI/27 A (para. 3)	Parties are encouraged to develop regional, subregional or bioregional mechanisms and networks; and to support implementation of the Convention including, as appropriate, through the development of regional or subregional biodiversity strategies and action plans, the identification of common constraints and impediments to implementation; and promotion of joint measures for addressing these

CBD Article/ programme of work/cross-cutting issue	Decision	Guidance
Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity	VII/2 (para. 5(c) (i))	<i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary ... to integrate activities related to national biodiversity strategies and action plans with national action programmes for the Convention to Combat Desertification, national adaptation programmes of action under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Ramsar wetland policies and other relevant programmes, including national strategies for sustainable development and poverty reduction
Marine and coastal biodiversity	VII/5 (para. 44)	<i>Urges</i> Parties and other Governments to adopt the use of relevant methods and techniques for avoiding the adverse effects of mariculture on marine and coastal biological diversity, and incorporate them into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans
Monitoring and indicators	VII/8 (para. 8)	<i>Urges</i> all Parties that have not done so to develop a set of biodiversity indicators as part of their national strategies and action plans, taking into account, as appropriate, the targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the target to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level, as well as the guidance, lessons learned and list of indicators provided in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/10
Biological diversity and tourism	VII/14 (para. 10)	<i>Invites</i> all Governments to integrate these Guidelines in the development or review of their strategies and plans for tourism development, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and other related sectoral strategies, at appropriate levels in consultation with interested stakeholders including tourism operators and all members of the tourism sector
Global strategy for plant conservation	VII/10 (para. 6 (a))	<i>Encourages</i> Parties ... to promote and facilitate implementation and monitoring of the Strategy at national level, including the identification of national targets and their integration in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and sectoral and cross-sectoral plans programmes and activities
Mountain biodiversity	VII/27 (para. 3)	<i>Invites</i> Parties to identify priority actions among the actions recommended in the programme of work depending on the particular national or local conditions and <i>urges</i> Parties to incorporate them into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as national programmes and activities on the implementation of regional mountain conventions and initiatives, and implement them taking into account the ecosystem approach
Island Biodiversity	VIII/1 (para.3)	<i>Urges</i> Parties ...to implement the programme of work primarily through its incorporation into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and to mainstream it into national sustainable development strategies. (Further guidance provided in the programme of work, annex to VIII/1)
Global Taxonomy Initiative	VIII/3 (para. 9)	<i>Urges</i> Parties and other Governments that have not done so to: [..] Undertake or complete or update, as a matter of priority, national taxonomic needs assessments, including related technical, technological and capacity needs, and establish priorities for taxonomic work that take into account country-specific circumstances. These assessments should take into account ongoing national biodiversity strategies and action plans as well as regional strategies and initiatives under development, with particular regard to user needs and priorities
Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness	VIII/6 (annex II, para. 2)	CEPA strategies should be developed and implemented, wherever possible, as components of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Where countries have yet to develop national biodiversity strategies and action plans, any CEPA strategies should take the potential of this into account. (Further guidance provided in annexes II and III of VIII/6)
Scientific and technical cooperation and the clearing-house mechanism	VIII/11 (programme of work of the CHM)	<i>Actions by national clearing-house mechanisms:</i> 1.1.8. Identify and implement opportunities to facilitate scientific and technical cooperation that will enhance the capacity to implement priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans 1.2.3. Identify and implement opportunities to facilitate the transfer of technology that is needed to implement priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans 3.3.4. Identify work areas where active networking between experts would facilitate implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity

CBD Article/ programme of work/cross-cutting issue	Decision	Guidance
		strategies and action plans, and seek to establish such networks
Financial resources and financial mechanism	VIII/13 (para. 2)	<i>Affirms</i> that Parties and Governments should determine their own funding priorities for national biodiversity activities based on the Strategic Plan, and national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and taking into account relevant elements of the Convention's programmes of work
National reporting	VIII/14 (para. 3)	<i>Decides</i> that the fourth and subsequent national reports should be outcome-oriented and focus on the national status and trends of biodiversity, national actions and outcomes with respect to the achievement of the 2010 target and the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention, and progress in implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans
Framework for monitoring implementation of the achievement of the 2010 target and integration of targets into the thematic programmes of work	VIII/15 (para. 10)	<i>Emphasizes</i> that the targets ... should ... be viewed as a flexible framework within which national and/or regional targets may be developed, relevant to the implementation by Parties of the programmes of work and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, according to national and/or regional priorities and capacities, taking into account differences in biological diversity between countries;
Ibid	VIII/15 (para. 11)	<i>Urges</i> Parties and <i>invites</i> other Governments to develop national and/or regional goals and targets and related national indicators ... and to incorporate them into relevant plans, programmes and initiatives, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans ...
Ibid	VIII/15 (para. 15)	<i>Emphasizes</i> that the elaborated technical rationale and proposed indicators for the outcome oriented targets for the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands provided in the annex to the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/4/Add.2) are intended as guidance to Parties in their implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
Ibid	VIII/15 (para. 23)	<i>Emphasizes</i> that the technical rationale and proposed global indicators for the global outcome-oriented targets for the programme of work on mountain biological diversity contained in the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/10) are intended as guidance to Parties in their implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans
Private-sector engagement	VIII/17 (para. 1)	<i>Urges</i> national focal points, working with relevant government departments, to communicate the importance of biodiversity to companies operating within the jurisdiction of Parties, including state-owned companies and small and medium enterprises, to engage such companies in the development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to encourage such companies to adopt practices that support the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the objectives of the Convention
Agricultural biodiversity	VIII/23 (para. 5)	<i>Urges</i> Parties and other Governments to integrate biodiversity, food and nutrition considerations into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and other national plans and activities, including national plans of action for nutrition and strategies for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

2/2. Options and a draft strategy for resource mobilization in support of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention,

Recalling that, in its decision VIII/13, the Conference of the Parties decided to conduct an in-depth review of the availability of financial resources at its ninth meeting, and requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a draft strategy for resource mobilization,

Recalling also that, in decision VIII/13, the Conference of the Parties recommended to Parties, Governments and funding institutions, as appropriate, the promotion, and fostering of new national and regional environmental funds and strengthening/expanding such existing funds, and further to encourage knowledge transfer and exchange about these mechanisms, through the creation and/or strengthening of national and international learning networks or communities,

Noting the information contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on options for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the objectives of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/4), in particular in its section V, which provides a basis for considering options for resource mobilization and the need for further elaboration of those options,

Noting also the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Management of Environmental Funds for the Financial Sustainability of Biodiversity Conservation, held in Lima from 9 to 11 May 2007 (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/5),

Noting further the recent and upcoming international meetings and initiatives regarding resource mobilization, including: the Conference “Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation” held in September 2006 in Paris; the “Potsdam Initiative – Biological Diversity 2010”, launched during the meeting of G8+5 environment ministers, acknowledged at the G-8 Heiligendamm Summit in June 2007; the meeting on business and biodiversity, hosted by the Government of Portugal in November 2007, in cooperation with of the European Commission and IUCN,

Highlighting the need for a full integration of biodiversity financing at the International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Doha in the second half of 2008,

1. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties adopt a strategy for resource mobilization to support implementation of the Convention at its ninth meeting;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary in preparation for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to:

(a) Seek views and further suggestions from Parties, other Governments, regional economic integration groups, partner organizations, donors and observers on a strategy for resource mobilization, and compile the information received;

(b) Undertake informal consultations on the development of the strategy for resource mobilization in conjunction with the Convention’s inter-sessional meetings;

(c) Submit a draft strategy for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;

3. *Recommends* that, at its ninth meeting, the Conference of the Parties mandate its President to transmit a message on biodiversity and financing for development to the International Conference on Financing for Development, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake informal consultations with Parties to prepare a draft of the message for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties;

4. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to provide inputs to the development of the strategy for resource mobilization.

2/3. Streamlining the guidance provided to the Global Environment Facility as the institutional structure operating the financial mechanism of the convention

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

1. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting:
 - (a) *Welcomes* the dialogue between the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Bureau of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties held in Paris on 8 July 2007;
 - (b) *Encourages* the Executive Secretary to maintain and strengthen the dialogue with the Chief Executive Officer of the GEF with a view to enhancing the implementation of the guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties during the fourth phase of the GEF;
 - (c) *Encourages* collaboration at national level between national focal points for the Convention, for related environmental agreements and for the GEF, including through the projects supported by GEF;
 - (d) *Noting* that the GEF is built on the principles of country-drivenness and country ownership, *highlights* the important role of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP) as a tool in identifying national needs and priorities for GEF financing;
 - (e) *Recognizes* the need to provide coherent and prioritized guidance to the GEF;
 - (f) *Adopts* a four-year (2010-2014) framework for programme priorities related to utilization of GEF resources for biodiversity, coinciding with the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund;
 - (g) *Requests* the President of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to transmit to the Council of the Global Environment Facility, in anticipation of the fifth replenishment of its Trust Fund, the four-year framework for programme priorities;
2. *Invites* Parties and Governments, relevant organizations and the GEF to submit to the Secretariat of the Convention, by 1 December 2007, their views on elements for the four-year (2010-2014) framework for programme priorities related to the utilization of GEF resources for biodiversity, as well as ways and means to enhance the process of formulating and consolidating guidance to the financial mechanism;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, elements for the four-year (2010-2014) framework for programme priorities related to utilization of GEF resources for biodiversity, as well as recommendations to the process of formulating and consolidating guidance to the financial mechanism, taking into account the views expressed by Parties during the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation, and submissions by Parties, Governments and relevant organizations and national priorities identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to organize a dialogue session among the Parties, with participation of the Chief Executive Officer of the GEF, in Bonn on 17 May 2008, prior to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on the four year (2010-2014) framework for programme priorities related to utilization of GEF resources for biodiversity, as well as the procedures for streamlining guidance to the GEF.

2/4. Status of national reporting and proposals on the scope and format of the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recalling recommendation XII/4 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on lessons learned from the preparation of the second edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook,

Taking note of the proposed scope and format of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and organization of preparatory work contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on the subject (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/6) and the considerations for the preparation of the third edition contained in the information document on the subject (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/13),

Emphasizing the importance of an inclusive, transparent and timely process for preparation and peer-review of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, which should be based on scientifically rigorous information and make full use of authoritative and independent scientific sources and the information to be provided by Parties in their fourth national reports, which the Conference of Parties agreed in decision VIII/14 are to be submitted by 30 March 2009,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to revise the proposed scope and format, work plan, communication strategy and financial plan for the development of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, addressing the progress made and the constraints to achieve the 2010 Biodiversity Target, taking into account views expressed at the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, including those summarized in the annex to this recommendation, as well as comments provided by national focal points, the Informal Advisory Committee for Communication, Education and Public Awareness and other relevant organizations and specialists, and to submit a revised proposal for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to continue collaborating with other biodiversity-related conventions, the Rio conventions and other relevant processes and organizations and to engage them in the preparations of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates;

3. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties, at its ninth meeting, *request* the Global Environment Facility, *urge* Parties, and *invite* other Governments and donors, to make timely financial contributions for the preparation and production of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and ancillary products, and of the full set of the provisional 2010 indicators, through the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, in accordance with the work plan and financial plan for the preparation of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook as well as the communication strategy, the scope and format for the third edition of the Outlook. These funds should be provided as early as possible so that the Global Biodiversity Outlook can be finalized in advance of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in all United Nations languages, and, if possible, with a draft available for review at the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

Annex

VIEWS EXPRESSED AT THE SECOND MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION ON THE SCOPE OF THIRD GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK

The third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook should, *inter alia*:

1. Have a clearly defined audience and purpose;
2. Present clear messages that are communicated in a way that is easy to understand by a non-technical audience;

3. Make use of the framework for assessing progress towards the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target provided in decision VIII/15, and especially the provisional headline indicators contained therein;
4. Be strengthened by the inclusion of case-studies, derived from the fourth national reports, bioregional examples, natural-resource sectors, traditional ecological knowledge expertise, innovative collaborative biodiversity initiatives, and other processes aimed at improving scientific expertise on biodiversity;
5. Consider the social, cultural and economic implications of biodiversity loss for various social groups;
6. Pay attention to terrestrial and aquatic environments and invasive alien species;
7. Have a focus on status and trends in relation to the 2010 Biodiversity Target and implementation of the three objectives of the Convention;
8. Employ scenarios beyond 2010 as appropriate;
9. Provide information on implementation of the biodiversity agenda within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals and, more generally, progress made in mainstreaming biodiversity into the development agenda;
10. Include supplementary products, *inter alia*, thematic and bioregional assessments.
11. Draw upon collaborative efforts between UNEP and the scientific community, *inter alia* making optimal use of the Global Environment Outlook.

2/5. Operations of the Convention

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties adopt two decisions along the following lines:

A. Review and retirement of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling paragraph 35 and 36 of its decision VIII/10 and paragraph 3 of its decision VII/33,

1. *Decides* to review and, if appropriate, retire decisions and elements of decisions, taking care to avoid retiring guiding principles and decisions that have not been implemented or reflected in subsequent decisions, at an interval of eight years following their adoption;

2. *Decides* to re-examine the interval for review at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Decides also* that, with regard to criteria for the review and retirement of decisions and elements of decisions, the Executive Secretary shall proceed with the previous format adopted on the basis of the pilot review and subsequent reviews;

4. *Further decides* to retire the decisions and elements of decisions adopted at its fifth meeting listed in the annex to the present decision; ^{2/}

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to make proposals to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting regarding the retirement of decisions and elements of decisions taken at its sixth meeting and to communicate such proposals to Parties, Governments and relevant international organizations at least six months prior to its tenth meeting;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue the practice of maintaining the full text of all decisions on the Secretariat website while indicating those decisions and elements of decisions that have been retired.

B. Admission of bodies and agencies, whether governmental or non-governmental

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 23 of the Convention and rule 7 of the rules of procedure,

Recalling also decision VIII/10, paragraph 39,

Recognizing the desirability of clarifying the formalities for admission as an observer to meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies,

Decides to adopt the steps annexed to the present decision for the admission of any body or agency, whether governmental or non-governmental, to meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity, recognizing that it is without prejudice to Article 23, paragraph 5, of the Convention, and rule 7 of the rules of procedure.

Annex

STEPS FOR ADMITTING QUALIFIED BODIES AND AGENCIES, WHETHER GOVERNMENTAL OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL, AS OBSERVERS TO MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

1. The present steps are without prejudice to Article 23, paragraph 5, of the Convention and rule 7 of the rules of procedure.

2. Any interested body or agency should inform the Executive Secretary of its wish to be represented as an observer to meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, and include its statutes/by-laws/rules or terms of reference, as well as any other relevant information.

^{2/} This annex would be prepared by the Conference of the Parties on the basis of proposals made by the Executive Secretary (see paras. 11-12 of the note by the Executive on the operations of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/7)).

3. The Executive Secretary will prepare a list of bodies and agencies which have informed him of their wish to be represented, and have provided the information referred to in paragraph 2 above. The Executive Secretary will submit that list to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties for its information. The list will also be provided, in advance of the meeting, to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties for information.

4. Once listed, a body or agency need not re-submit the information provided under paragraph 2 above. Bodies and agencies should notify the Secretariat of any relevant change in the information provided under paragraph 2 that may affect their admission as an observer.
