



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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### CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Tenth meeting

Nagoya, Japan, 18-29 October 2010

Agenda item 4.9

### ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS AND MAJOR GROUPS AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. Effective implementation of the Convention depends on the participation and engagement of stakeholders and indigenous and local communities. This is recognized by the fact that most decisions taken at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties invite the participation of relevant stakeholders and indigenous and local communities and progress in the engagement of stakeholders is described in the document relevant to specific programme areas and cross-cutting issues considered under the Convention.

2. This document therefore focuses more specifically on the follow up to decisions IX/25 on South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development (section II of this note); IX/26 on promoting business engagement (section III); IX/28 on promoting engagement of cities and local authorities (section IV); and IX/24 on the Gender Plan of Action (section V). In addition various activities of the Convention related to Children and Youth, carried under the Global Initiative on Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA), are described in this document, in particular those related to the Green Wave campaign (section VI). Engagement of civil society in the processes of the Convention and its implementation are presented in section VII. Section VIII contains a draft decision for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties.

#### II. SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

3. Decision IX/25 on South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development took note of the initiative of developing countries to prepare, in collaboration with the Secretariat and other relevant organizations, programmes and agencies, a multi-year plan of action on South-South Cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for protection of life on Earth as well as the access and equitable sharing of benefit arising from the use of genetic resources. It also invites Parties and other Governments, regional and international organizations to support the organization of a South-South cooperation forum on biodiversity for development at the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and requests the Executive Secretary to report on the preparation of the multi-year plan of action.

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4. The plan presented as UNEP/CBD/COP/10/18/add.1 is a result of extensive consultations from 2006 to 2010, as follows:

(a) A brainstorming meeting<sup>1</sup> on South-South cooperation held in November 2006 at the request of the Group of 77 and China (G-77) under the chairmanship of South Africa and organized in partnership with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(b) An Expert Meeting<sup>2</sup> held in November 2008 in Montreal, convened by the then Chairman of the G-77 Antigua and Barbuda, in partnership with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. At this meeting, a Steering Committee was proposed comprising the former and current Chairs of the Group of 77 (South Africa, Antigua and Barbuda, Sudan, and Yemen), as well as the chair of the 2006 brainstorming session (Malawi) and the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (Grenada), to assist in the preparation and implementation of the multi-year plan of action on South-South cooperation as defined through decision IX/25 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

(c) The first meeting of the Steering Committee on SSC under the Convention on Biological Diversity held on 29 October 2009, also in Montreal, in which participants reviewed the draft framework for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for full integration into the G-77 Development Platform for the South, identified activities for inclusion in the Multi-Year Plan of Action on Biodiversity for Development, and called for another expert meeting to be held back-to-back with a major meeting under the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(d) The second Expert meeting on SSC<sup>3</sup> held in Nairobi, on 29 and 30 May, 2010, at the margins of the third meeting of the Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI-3), which provided input within a geographically balanced range of G-77 Parties, resulting in the present version of the multi-year plan of action on South-South cooperation.

5. A first South-South Cooperation Forum on Biodiversity for Development, to be held on 17 October 2010, with the support of the Group of 77, will contribute to the deliberations of the Parties.

### III. BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY

6. In decision IX/26 the Conference of the Parties welcomed the framework for priority actions on the promotion of business engagement for biodiversity and requested the Executive Secretary, where possible and appropriate, to take into account relevant initiatives by Parties and organizations.

7. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties recognized the potential impact of business operations on biodiversity and the role that the business community and civil society need to play for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, at all levels, and identified two priority areas:

- (a) Build and promote the business case for biodiversity; and
- (b) Dissemination of tools and best practice.

This section complements and updates the document on the Engagement of Business (UNEP/CBD/WG-I/3/2/Add.2) prepared for the third meeting of the Working Group on the Review of the Implementation and is linked to its recommendation 3/2 (Business engagement).

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<sup>1</sup> The report of the Brainstorming Meeting is available as document UNEP/CBD/BM-SSC/1/3 at <http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/SouthSouthcooperation.shtml>.

<sup>2</sup> The report of the Expert Meeting is available as document UNEP/CBD/EM-SSC/1/3 at <http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/SouthSouthcooperation.shtml>.

<sup>3</sup> The report of the second Expert meeting is available as UNEP/CBD/EM-SSC/2/4 at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EMSSC-02>.

**A. Priority Area 1: Build and promote the business case for biodiversity**

*Business for the Environment Summit (B4E)*

8. At the fourth annual Business for Environment Global Summit (“B4E”), corporate executives and entrepreneurs joined leaders from Governments, international agencies, and civil society to forge a new sustainability pact that advances solutions and approaches in numerous areas, including energy efficiency; green-growth strategies; water stewardship; and clean-tech innovations. The summit was hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Global Compact, and the World Wildlife Fund. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity was represented by the Principal Officer at the summit, which was attended by nearly 1000 participants from more than 35 countries. The event coincided with Earth Day 2010 and the following agendas were analysed in special detail: (i) embracing new models of water management that include broader considerations of economic, environmental and social impacts at the watershed level; (ii) expanding sustainable procurement and green supply chains by requiring vendors and partners to embrace sustainability criteria and standards; (iii) adopting corporate biodiversity strategies that recognize the value of ecosystems to economies and societies.

*International Conference on Sustainable Business and Consumption (SusCon)*

9. In June 2010 the second International Conference on Sustainable Business and Consumption (SusCon) took place at the Nuremberg Trade Fair, Germany. Businesses, NGOs and policy-makers exchanged information on biodiversity in particular. The focus was on new business models such as social business, certifications, as well as concrete activities to preserve biodiversity. The Executive Secretary of the Convention gave the opening address at the conference which was attended by approximately 270 participants from 26 nations. For two days, experts and decision-makers from business, science, politics and civil society dealt with the topic of ‘business & biodiversity’ in constructive dialogues. According to a survey conducted with the marketing research institute IPSOS, which was presented at SusCon 2010, the worldwide awareness of biodiversity has increased on both the consumer and business sides, in particular in Germany in the last twelve months. With the exception of Brazil as the ‘biodiversity champion’, companies worldwide have assessed the topic in the same way we were assessing climate change five years ago. Biodiversity in Good Company in cooperation with Dr. Schaltegger from the Centre for Sustainability Management (CSM) at Leuphana University launched the new “Corporate Biodiversity Management Manual”. The Manual gives companies suggestions on how to integrate biodiversity into corporate procedures.

*First Global Business of Biodiversity Symposium (GBOB)*

10. Supported by the Government of the United Kingdom and in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 700 participants from around the world gathered in London on 13 July 2010, for the first Global Business of Biodiversity Symposium (GBOB). The purpose of the conference was to garner response from businesses and biodiversity experts from across all industry sectors around the world to deliver industry, business and stakeholder outcomes for COP-10 at Nagoya. This unique private-sector focused business and biodiversity conference was attended by a number of government representatives, including Ms. Caroline Spelmen, Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr. Issei Tajima, Senior Vice-Minister of the Environment from the Government of Japan, Mr. Ladislav Miko, Director of the Nature Directorate, European Commission and Ambassador Mauricio Rodriguez, Embassy of Colombia in London.

*TEEB Report on Business*

11. The TEEB report on business was released on 13 July 2010 at the above mentioned conference (GBOB) in London. The report is aimed at the business sector and provides practical guidance on the issues and the opportunities created by the inclusion in mainstream business practices of ecosystem- and biodiversity-related considerations. The report is for a wide array of enterprises, including those with direct impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity, such as mining, oil and gas and infrastructure; for those

businesses that depend on healthy ecosystems and biodiversity for production, such as agriculture and fisheries; for industry sectors that finance and undergird economic activity and growth, like banks and asset managers, as well as insurance and business services; and for businesses that are selling ecosystem services or biodiversity-related products such as eco-tourism, eco-agriculture and bio-carbon. The Secretariat of the Convention contributed to the report.

#### **B. Priority Area 2: Disseminate tools and best practices**

12. The decision for promoting business engagement adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties prioritized the dissemination of tools and best practices. The following sections report on developments regarding some initiatives that were mentioned specifically.

##### *Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs)*

13. The Secretariat in collaboration with the Canadian Business and Biodiversity Council, HEC Montreal and Institute INSPIRE launched preparation of a guide for Small and Medium Sized enterprises on meeting the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The purpose of the guide is to spread awareness about the Convention on Biological Diversity by highlighting best practices and provide guidance to SMEs and is funded by the Government of Netherlands.

#### **IV. COOPERATION WITH CITIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

14. Decision IX/28 encourages Parties to recognize the role of cities and local authorities in their NBSAPs and to support the development of local biodiversity strategies and action plans consistent with national biodiversity strategies and action plans. It also invites Parties, other Governments, regional and international development agencies and banks to integrate biodiversity considerations into infrastructure development, build the capacity of cities and local authorities in the application of relevant tools and guidelines developed under the Convention, and include information on local biodiversity status and trends in their national reports. Considering that decision IX/28 can be complemented with a broader Plan of Action on Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity to realize the full potential of subnational implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (as noted in article 13 of the Strategic Plan), several Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, working with networks of cities and local authorities such as ICLEI, and with UN-HABITAT, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and scientific networks such as URBIO, propose the Plan included in UNEP/CBD/COP/10/18/Add2.

15. While national Governments hold the primary responsibility of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, cities, subnational governments and other local authorities<sup>4</sup> also play a particularly important role. Since 2007, more than half of the world's population is urban, with an estimated 70 per cent of the world's population living in cities by 2030. Urbanization has been, and still is, one of the defining trends in human development and its ecological footprint over the last 150 years, and the process is particularly significant today in most of Asia and Africa. Furthermore, decision-makers in all sectors live and operate increasingly in cities, the innovative technologies and processes that can facilitate sustainable consumption and production are mostly developed in urban offices, and the concentration of media, resources and people in cities allow for uniquely effective activities in communication, education and public awareness raising on biodiversity. At the same time, as evidenced by the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, biodiversity is threatened as never before with serious consequences for human quality of life. Without the support of local authorities, Parties will not be able to stop the current trends of continuing and accelerating loss of biodiversity of our planet and threats to our existence. On the other hand, efforts towards integrating conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at the local level need to consider the wider footprint of urbanization and the urban way of

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<sup>4</sup> For the purposes of this document, "local authorities" (as used in CSD processes) include all levels of government below national or federal level (states or provinces, prefectures, districts, counties, municipalities, cities, towns, etc), while "sub-national governments" applies only to the first immediate level of government below the national.

life. Decisions on urban consumption and production modes affect ecosystems thousands of miles away – in fact, given the significance of urbanization, they influence the entire biosphere.

16. There is significant diversity and complexity in local governance processes related to environment within Parties to the Convention and other Governments. Nevertheless, most cities and local authorities hold critical mandates on land-use planning and zoning, business and trade regulation and licensing, investment promotion, development and poverty eradication, watershed protection, waste management, urban infrastructure, public procurement, urban protected areas and transportation corridors, awareness raising on consumption modes and environmental education – all of which are of direct influence on biodiversity. Answers to these and other challenges in the urban context can be integrated within policies and strategies at all levels, reflecting tools proposed by the Convention on Biological Diversity such as the ecosystem approach, Addis Ababa Principles on sustainable use, and the broader concept of Satoyama, a Japanese traditional sustainable management practice. Ultimately, national Governments are in the best position to coordinate these different levels of governance, from local to national to regional and global, in order to optimize synergies and increase effectiveness.

17. During the last four years, several initiatives have enhanced the supportive role of cities and local authorities in the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity, launched at the World Conservation Congress in 2008 by IUCN, ICLEI (by itself a network of over 1,200 cities and local authorities), UN-HABITAT and others; and facilitated by the Secretariat of the Convention, has been coordinating efforts to avoid duplication and strengthen cooperation. Commitments such as the Curitiba Declaration,<sup>5</sup> The Bonn Call for Action,<sup>6</sup> the Erfurt Declaration,<sup>7</sup> the Durban Commitment<sup>8</sup> and the second URBIO Declaration (<http://www.cbd.int/authorities/doc/NagoyaDeclaration-URBIO-2010.pdf>) have demonstrated that local authorities and the Parties to the CBD alike are engaged towards cooperation and action.

18. Decision IX/28 on Cities and Local Authorities was the first expression, within multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), of such growing cooperation, as it noted that, while responsibilities for implementation of the Convention rest primarily with the Parties, there are multiple reasons for promoting the engagement of cities and local authorities in the implementation of the Convention. This trend is reflected in synergies with many other MEAs. The Ramsar Convention has acknowledged this through its decision X/27 on Wetlands and Urbanization; the URBIS project considers the role of local authorities and subnational governments in UNESCO biosphere reserves, and through ICLEI; and cities and subnational governments are active players at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

19. In May 2008 at the ninth Conference of the Parties, held in Bonn, Mr. Mah Bow Tan, Minister of National Development of Singapore, proposed the CBD-led development of a city biodiversity index to measure progress, through self-evaluation, on biodiversity at the local level of governance. To follow-up on this, the Secretariat of the Convention and the National Parks Board of Singapore jointly organized two technical expert workshops in Singapore from 10 to 12 February 2009, and from July 1 to 3, 2010. In parallel, a network of over 28 cities is testing the application of the index (re-named the Singapore Index after the second Curitiba Declaration in January 2010<sup>9</sup>), and will propose its inclusion in the indicator framework for post-2010 targets, and in the current Plan of Action.

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<sup>5</sup> Curitiba Declaration on Cities and Biodiversity (online): <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/biodiv/mayors-01/mayors-01-declaration-en.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Cities and Biodiversity Bonn Call for Action (online): [http://www.iclei.org/fileadmin/template/project\\_templates/LAB-bonn2008/user\\_upload/Press/BonnCall\\_FINAL\\_29May08.pdf](http://www.iclei.org/fileadmin/template/project_templates/LAB-bonn2008/user_upload/Press/BonnCall_FINAL_29May08.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Erfurt Declaration, URBIO 2008 (online): [http://www.fh-erfurt.de/urbio/httpdocs/content/ErfurtDeclaration\\_Eng.php](http://www.fh-erfurt.de/urbio/httpdocs/content/ErfurtDeclaration_Eng.php)

<sup>8</sup> Durban Commitment (online): [http://www.iclei.org/fileadmin/template/project\\_templates/localactionbiodiversity/user\\_upload/LAB\\_Files/Durban\\_Commitment\\_14\\_Aug2008.pdf](http://www.iclei.org/fileadmin/template/project_templates/localactionbiodiversity/user_upload/LAB_Files/Durban_Commitment_14_Aug2008.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Towards AICHI/NAGOYA: Second Curitiba Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity (online): <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/city/mayors-02/mayors-02-declaration-en.pdf>

20. More recently, several references to the contribution of cities and local authorities have come up in the contributions to the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention from the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-14) and third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI-3). The Strategic Plan 2011-2020, under item VI (“Support Mechanisms”, paragraph 23 on partnerships and initiatives to enhance cooperation), mentions that initiatives such as promoting engagement of cities and local authorities will contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan. Under item V of the Strategic Plan (Implementation, Monitoring, Review and Evaluation), WGRI-3 states that it will be implemented primarily through activities at the national and subnational level, with supporting action at the regional and global levels. One of the targets for the Strategic Plan set by SBSTTA-14 (as strategic goal A, address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society) was that by 2020, the values of biodiversity should be integrated by all countries in their national and local strategies and planning processes, applying the ecosystem approach. SBSTTA-14 also recommended, under the topic of examination of outcome-oriented goals for the Strategic Plan, that the Conference of the Parties recognize the need to contribute to the development and refinement of indicators suitable for monitoring biodiversity at local level.

21. A draft decision is provided in the compilation of draft decisions (UNEP/CBD/COP/10/1/Add.2) under agenda item 4.9.

## V. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENDER PLAN OF ACTION

22. Pursuant to paragraph 8 (d) of decision IX/8 of the Conference of the Parties: review of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan and decision IX/24 on the CBD Gender Plan of Action, and through the generous financial contribution from the Government of Finland, the Secretariat has established the position of a Gender Programme Officer. In terms of implementation of the Gender Plan of Action, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the IUCN Office of Senior Global Gender Advisor, has developed CBD Technical Series No: 49 Guidelines for mainstreaming Gender into the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.<sup>10</sup> The draft updated and revised Strategic Plan of the Convention highlights the importance of gender mainstreaming for the implementation of the Convention (see also recommendation WGRI 3/5, paragraph 7), and accordingly, the Gender Plan of Action is envisaged to contribute to the achievement of the new goals and targets of the updated Strategic Plan.

23. To commemorate and contribute to the International Year of Biodiversity as outlined in United Nations General Assembly resolution 63/219 and in support to the United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/64/289 on the creation of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women - UN Women, in line with the United Nations reform agenda, which will aim to bring together resources and mandates for greater impact to accelerate progress in meeting the needs of women and girls worldwide which aims to help the United Nations system to be accountable for its own commitments on gender equality, the Secretariat in partnership with the Secretariat of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) held a high-level lunch time panel discussion on “harnessing the gender dimensions of biodiversity, sustainable land management and climate change to achieve environment protection and sustainable development” on 2 July 2010.<sup>11</sup> The discussions clearly demonstrated the inter-linkages between climate change, biodiversity and sustainable land management, as well as how

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<sup>10</sup> The document is available in English <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-49-en.pdf>, French <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-49-fr.pdf> and Spanish <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-49-es.pdf> and was presented at the Third Meeting of the Working Group on the Review of the Implementation.

<sup>11</sup> Participants in the discussion held at the margins of the Annual Ministerial Review to assess the state of implementation of the gender-related goals and the UN Development Agenda included Deputy Secretary-General [Asha-Rose Mtengeti Migiro](#); Her Excellency Ms. Ritva Koukko-Ronde, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland; Her Excellency Ms. Elza Pais, Secretary of State for Equality, Portugal; Her Excellency Ms. Melanne Vermeer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues, U.S. Department of State – via video message; Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary; Mr. Narinder Kakar, UN Permanent Observer, IUCN Mr. Nikil Seth, Director, Office of ECOSOC Support and Coordination and Mr. Melchiade Bukuru, Chief, UNCCD Liaison Office.

gender-sensitive approaches to these issues contribute to sustainable livelihoods, environment protection and sustainable development.

24. The Gender Programme Officer of the Convention on Biological Diversity represents the Convention on the Global Gender Climate Alliance and has received training on climate change negotiations and is now a member of the GGCA advocacy group which trains delegates on the issues before UNFCCC and is putting the synergies between the three Rio conventions especially the interlinkages between biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management on the GGCA agenda.

## VI. ENGAGEMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

25. To support the objectives of Parties to raise awareness and involve young people in actions to achieve the objectives of the Convention during the biennium, the Secretariat has undertaken and supported the development of educational resources for children and youth. Financial contributions from the Governments of Canada and Spain have contributed to this and work has been undertaken through partnership with relevant organizations and networks including UNESCO and FAO.

26. In 2008, 2009 and in 2010, children and youth contributed to the celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity through participation in *The Green Wave* for biodiversity. In 2010, *Green Wave* events were held by over 2500 groups in 63 countries. Entities in a number of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have promoted participation at national or subnational level, including, though not limited to, Japan, Nicaragua, Canada, Singapore, Brazil, Tunisia and Algeria. *The Green Wave* contributes to implementation of the programme of work for Communication, Education and Public Awareness and is outlined in document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/16.

27. In partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girls Scouts (WAGGGS), the Secretariat of the Convention has supported development of a youth education initiative to provide children and young people with useful biodiversity information, and to help them participate in protecting, preserving and improving biodiversity in their communities. The initiative that will be promoted through *The Green Wave* as well as through other relevant networks comprises a Biodiversity Challenge Badge and a Youth Quick Guide to Biodiversity. Over 1500 children and youth from over 60 countries submitted entries for an Art Contest held as part of this initiative in 2010. The Biodiversity Challenge Badge and the Youth Quick Guide to Biodiversity will be made available in October 2010.

28. Among international initiatives held with the support of Parties to the Convention, the Secretariat of the Convention participated in the UNEP Tunza International Conference on the Environment for Children and Youth, held in Daejeon, Republic of Korea from 17 to 23 August 2009, delivering a keynote speech on climate change and biodiversity and side-events to participants on the International Year of Biodiversity and *The Green Wave* initiative. The Government of Japan organized an International Youth Conference on Biodiversity in Aichi in August 2010, the Canadian NGO Biodiversity Matters with support from the Government of Canada hosted an international symposium for youth in July 2009 and coordinated development of an international Youth Accord on biodiversity, and the youth initiative Go4BioDiv supported by the Government of Germany and IUCN supported the involvement of youth at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

29. The Secretariat of the Convention contributed to United Nations system-wide efforts related to youth development, including the establishment of the terms of reference for the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, identification of avenues for collaboration and joint initiatives in 2010-2011 and development of a United Nations system approach to the International Year of Youth. In respect of these issues, the Secretariat participated at a meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development held at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, on 18-19 February 2010.

## VII. ENGAGEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY

30. During the biennium, the Secretariat took part in and supported consultative activities and initiatives undertaken by civil society and worked to ensure the active participation of civil society in the processes and meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

31. Non-governmental organizations participated as observers at the seventh, eighth and ninth meetings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing; the sixth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions; the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice; and at the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention.

32. During the biennium, non-governmental organizations participated also as observers in expert meetings convened under the Convention, including the meetings of the expert groups established in accordance with paragraph 11 of decision IX/12, including the meeting of the Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Compliance in the Context of the International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing and the meeting of the Group of Technical and Legal Experts on Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources in the Context of the International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing.

33. To support the participation of non-governmental organizations in the processes of the Convention, the Secretariat provided liaison with the CBD Alliance which serves as a network of representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community based organizations (CBOs), social movements and Indigenous Peoples' organizations (IPOs) advocating for improved and informed participation in processes of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

34. In collaboration with the CBD Alliance, three issues of a newsletter for civil society were published and distributed. The newsletter is meant to facilitate timely dialogue among civil society stakeholders on current biodiversity issues, from both policy (advocacy and decision-making) and practical (implementation) perspectives. The first issue was distributed in the margins of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the second issue was published in November 2009 and the third issue was issued in May 2010. The fourth issue of the Convention's newsletter for civil society will be released at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

35. To strengthen the contribution of civil society in the implementation of the Convention, and towards implementation of the post-2010 strategic plan, during the biennium the Executive Secretary has established agreements of cooperation with a number of civil society organizations and networks. These include the Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE), the Canadian Environmental Network (RCEN), Conservation International (CI), the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network - Latin America & Caribbean, the Programme régional de Conservation de la zone Côtière et Marine en Afrique de l'Ouest (PRCM), the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

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