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AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

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Item 9 of the provisional agenda*

MULTI-YEAR PLAN OF ACTION FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

*Note by the Executive Secretary***

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Biodiversity is a key economic, financial, cultural, and strategic asset for developing countries, and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is critical for economic and social development as well as poverty reduction. The 131 developing country Parties that are members of the Group of 77 and China are accumulating knowledge, experience and expertise on all three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. With the increasing influence of emerging economies, South-South cooperation in many ways complements North-South exchanges with efficient resources use. Many agencies, like the Global Environment Facility (GEF), regularly promote triangular cooperation. In terms of financial investment and frequency, however, it is clear that South-South and triangular cooperation are still rather the exception than the rule in the Convention on Biological Diversity. Increasing and enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation is, therefore, a critical element for the success of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

Through its decision X/23, Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity welcomed the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development, as adopted by the Group of 77 and China at the first South-South cooperation forum (UNEP/CBD/COP/10/18/Add.1/Rev1) as an important contribution to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and requested the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its fourth meeting, to examine and further develop the Plan for consideration at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, taking into account synergies with, among others, a Biodiversity Technology Initiative and a Framework for Capacity-Building for the “Integration of Biodiversity into Poverty Eradication and Development”.

* UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/1.

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As foreseen in paragraph 9 of decision X/23, the third expert meeting on South-South cooperation,¹ was held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 18 to 20 May 2011. Participants endorsed the revised version of the Multi-Year Plan of Action incorporating the suggestions reflected in decision X/23, including the invitation for GEF to examine a specific financing mechanism to support South-South cooperation. The present document summarizes these contributions and proposes that the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, at its fourth meeting, recommends the adoption of the revised Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting consider adopting a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision X/23, in which it welcomed the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development as adopted by the Group of 77 and China at the South-South Cooperation Forum held on 17 October 2010,² requested the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation, at its fourth meeting, to examine and further develop the Plan for consideration at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, taking into account synergies with, among others, a Biodiversity Technology Initiative and a Framework for Capacity-building for the Integration of Biodiversity into Poverty Eradication and Development, encouraged Parties, other Governments, regional organizations and their secretariats, international and United Nations organizations, other conventions, and centres of excellence to further contribute to its development, and invited the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to consider establishing a South-South biodiversity cooperation trust fund based on voluntary contributions,

Welcoming the outcomes of the third expert meeting on South-South Cooperation, hosted by the Republic of Korea, through its National Institute of Biological Resources, from 18 to 20 May 2011, which revised the proposed Multi-Year Plan according to the guidance of decision X/23,

Recognizing the urgent need to enhance implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity through South-South and triangular cooperation, in view of the challenges of implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,

1. *Adopts* the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development, annexed to the present note, as an important contribution to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and *encourages* Parties and other Governments to implement it in the context of nationally determined priorities, capacities and needs;

2. *Invites* regional organizations and their secretariats, international organizations, United Nations bodies, donors, indigenous peoples organizations, non-governmental organizations, and centres of excellence to contribute to the implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action, in coordination with their national Governments and the Group of 77 and China;

3. *Urges* donor Parties listed in annex II its decision I/2 to support the implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action and *calls on* regional organizations, United Nations and development agencies, non-governmental organizations and other donors to support the Multi-Year Plan of Action technically and financially, considering the needs of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries

¹ The report of the third expert meeting is available as document UNEP/CBD/EM-SSC/3/3 at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EMSSC-03>.

² UNEP/CBD/COP/10/18/Add.1/Rev1.

and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition;

4. In view of the ongoing discussion within the Council of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on the criteria for establishment of funds,³ *requests* the Facility to consider establishing a South-South biodiversity cooperation trust fund, to be guided by the South-South Steering Committee, for the implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action based on voluntary contributions;

5. *Invites* Parties, donors and relevant international organizations to provide the necessary human and financial resources to allow the Executive Secretary to effectively support the implementation of this Plan of Action, including, *inter alia*, the production of reference publications, specific content in the clearing-house mechanism, capacity-building initiatives, the facilitation of the Steering Committee on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development and the organization of regular forums on South-South cooperation, in partnership with the Group of 77, at the margins of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties to review the implementation of the Plan and exchange experiences and best practices.

³ See GEF/C.41/12/Rev.01, available at:

http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/C.41.12.Rev_01_Criteria_for_the_Establishment_of_Trust_Funds%20CRP%2001,%20November%2009,%202011.pdf.

RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND

1. The costs and risks of unsustainable approaches to the use of biodiversity in development and resulting ecosystem changes are high both in economic and social terms.⁴ According to the latest economic data,⁵ global economic losses due to the biodiversity crisis could represent 7 per cent of the world's consolidated gross domestic product by 2050 – but up to 57 per cent if only the poorest segment of the population is considered, due to their increased dependence on the ecosystem services provided for free by biodiversity. Deforestation alone represents losses between US\$ 2 trillion and US\$ 4.5 trillion per year, every year. Loss of biodiversity undermines the possibilities for sustained growth of developing countries, achieving poverty eradication and improved access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the sustainable use of genetic resources. Biodiversity loss has regional as well as global consequences, and it is in the self-interest of our increasingly globalized society to cooperate on this critical issue.

2. The proposed Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation under the Convention is the result of a consultative process spanning four years, supported by resources from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Government of the Republic of Korea, including:

(a) A brainstorming meeting⁶ on South-South cooperation held in November 2006 at the request of the Group of 77 and China under its then Chairman, South Africa, and organized in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(b) An expert meeting⁷ held in November 2008 in Montreal, convened by the then Chairman of the Group of 77, Antigua and Barbuda, in partnership with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. At this meeting, participants reviewed the draft framework for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for full integration into the G-77 Development Platform for the South,⁸ identified activities for inclusion in the Multi-Year Plan of Action on Biodiversity for Development, and 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 South-South cooperation⁹ under the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Montreal on 29 October 2009, in which participants reviewed the draft Multi-Year Plan of Action prepared by the Secretariat, outlined a roadmap for its further development, and called for another expert meeting to be held back-to-back with a major meeting of the Convention;

⁴ See Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Biodiversity Synthesis of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005).

⁵ The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity, see <http://www.teebweb.org/InformationMaterial/TEEBReports/tabid/1278/language/en-US/Default.aspx>.

⁶ The report of the brainstorming meeting is available as document UNEP/CBD/BM-SSC/1/3 at <http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/SouthSouthcooperation.shtml>.

⁷ The report of the Expert Meeting is available as document UNEP/CBD/EM-SSC/1/3 at <http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/SouthSouthcooperation.shtml>.

⁸ G-77/AM(XX)/2008/6, available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/ssc/emssc-01/other/emssc-01-platform-en.doc>

⁹ The report of the Steering Committee is available as document UNEP/CBD/SSC-SC/1/1/3 at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=SSC-SC-01>.

(d) The second expert meeting on South-South cooperation,¹⁰ held in Nairobi on 29-30 May 2010, at the margins of the third meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, which provided input within a geographically balanced range of Parties members of the Group of 77 and resulted in the present version of the Multi-Year Plan of Action;

(e) The first forum on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development, held in Nagoya, October 17, 2010, at the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention, in which the Group of 77 and China unanimously adopted the Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation (UNEP/CBD/COP/10/18/Add.1/Rev.1)¹¹

(f) The third expert meeting on South-South Cooperation,¹² held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 18 to 20 May 2011, reviewed the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation and its revision incorporating the suggestions reflected in decision X/23, specifically, on synergies with the Biodiversity Technology Initiative, biodiversity for development and poverty eradication, and GEF as a financing mechanism and forwarded to all Parties requesting inputs to be examined at the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention.

3. The 131 developing country Parties that are members of the G-77 and China are accumulating knowledge, experience and expertise on all three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Developing countries stand out in an increasing fashion for their know-how - including in the private sector. With growing multi-polarity, South-South cooperation can in many ways complement North-South exchanges with efficient resources use, often in a culturally appropriate and adequate way in relation to the “ecological specificity” of technology. Many agencies, such as GEF, regularly promote triangular cooperation. In terms of financial investment and frequency, however, it is clear that South-South and triangular cooperation are still rather the exception than the rule in the Convention on Biological Diversity. Increasing and enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation is, therefore, a critical element for the success of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

4. While South-South cooperation has been incorporated into many agreements related to trade, economic, and technological development, general issues relating to environment, and specifically to biodiversity, have yet to be approached in a comprehensive way. The Plan of Action complements the Development Platform for the South, launched by the G-77 in June 2008 at the twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (IFCC-XII) in Yamoussoukro and provides an opportunity to mobilize G-77 members on biodiversity, and to reenergize the G-77 in contributing to the Convention on Biological Diversity as a negotiation platform that adds value by facilitating common positions for developing countries. The Plan builds upon many other United Nations programmes, plans and declarations, as listed in annex II. Cooperation between developing countries is a mainstay of all Rio conventions and those of the Biodiversity Liaison Group. However, the preparation of a Multi-Year Plan of Action on Biodiversity for Development under the Convention on Biological Diversity signifies the first time a South-South cooperation process has specifically addressed biodiversity-related concerns.

5. South-South cooperation is covered in Articles 5 and 18 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which state that Parties shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, cooperate with other contracting parties, directly or, where appropriate, through competent international organizations, to promote international technical and scientific exchanges and capacity-building. As such, South-South cooperation cuts across all thematic programmes and cross-cutting issues of the Convention on Biological

¹⁰ 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>.

¹¹ The report of the First Forum meeting is available as UNEP/CBD/SSC-FOR/1/2 at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=SSC-FOR-01>.

¹² The report of the third expert meeting is available as document UNEP/CBD/EM-SSC/3/3 at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EMSSC-03>.

Diversity. An extensive analysis of past decisions including South-South cooperation is available as annex II of document UNEP/CBD/BM-SSC/1/2/Rev.2, presented in the first brainstorming workshop on South-South cooperation in 2006 (see <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=SSC-01>). More recently, decisions IX/2 (Agricultural biodiversity: biofuels and biodiversity), IX/8 (Review of implementation of Goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan) and IX/14 (Technology transfer and cooperation) refer to South-South cooperation specifically. Decision IX/11 (Review of implementation of Articles 20 and 21) calls for Parties and relevant organizations to identify, engage and increase South-South cooperation as a complement to North-South cooperation to enhance technical, financial, scientific and technological cooperation and innovations, for biological diversity.

6. Additionally, in its decision IX/25, the Conference of the Parties noted the initiative of developing countries to prepare, in collaboration with the Secretariat, a Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development, invited Parties and other Governments and organizations to support the organization of a South-South Cooperation Forum at the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and requested the Executive Secretary to report on the development of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Even more recently, South-South cooperation was considered in the review of the Strategic Plan for the Convention for the post-2010 period, which recalls that activities will be undertaken primarily at the national or subnational level, and that “initiatives and activities of indigenous and local communities, contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan at the local level should be supported and encouraged”. In its recommendation 3/3 (Integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development), the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention also noted the importance of South-South cooperation in efforts to integrate biodiversity into poverty eradication and development processes, and welcomed the initiative of the Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation as a relevant process for the implementation of the framework on capacity-building.

7. In its decision X/23, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development adopted by the Group of 77 and China at the first forum as an important contribution to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and requested Working Group on Review of Implementation, at its fourth meeting, to examine and further develop the Plan for consideration at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, taking into account synergies with, among others, a Biodiversity Technology Initiative and a framework for capacity-building for the “integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development”. The Conference of the Parties encouraged Governments, regional organizations and their secretariats, international organizations, United Nations bodies, other Biological Diversity Liaison Group members and Rio conventions, donors, indigenous peoples organizations, non-governmental organizations, and centres of excellence to contribute to the further development and finalization of the Multi-Year Plan of Action, in coordination with their national Governments and the Group of 77 and China, in the context of nationally determined priorities, capacities and needs, and through the establishment of multi-stakeholder collaborative partnerships.

8. The Conference of the Parties further invited the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to consider establishing a South-South biodiversity cooperation trust fund for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 based on voluntary contributions, and invited Parties, other organizations and United Nations agencies to support the organization of regular meetings of the forum on South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development, in partnership with the G-77 and China, at the margins of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties to exchange experiences and best practices. Deliberations at the fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention will define the upcoming strategy for the Convention on Biological Diversity on South-South and triangular cooperation on biodiversity for development.

Annex

**MULTI-YEAR PLAN OF ACTION ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY
FOR DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY¹³**

A. Vision

1. By 2020, effective South-South and triangular cooperation will be used in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, as a complement to North-South cooperation and in support of the Convention's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Millennium Development Goals, in order to enhance human well-being, promote development and eradicate poverty.

B. Strategy

2. Under this overarching vision, the mission of the plan of action calls for:

(a) Close coordination with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the 2020 strategic goals and targets, in the context of the long-term vision for 2050. The duration of the South-South cooperation Plan will thus coincide with the Strategic Plan of the Convention,

(b) Support and engagement from G-77 members at national and regional levels, also in the mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into regional integration processes, regional and subregional cooperation agreements,¹⁴ development programmes, and interregional South-South programmes;

(c) Close cooperation with forums such as the Group of 15,¹⁵ the Group of Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries (LMMC)¹⁶ and the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum¹⁷ in order to foster cooperation and enhance the solidarity and the interdependence of developing countries;

(d) A multi-stakeholder approach including academic institutions, the private sector, development partners, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, and local community and indigenous peoples organizations.

¹³ This section has been revised to incorporate decision X/23 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

¹⁴ As encouraged by the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 2 of decision IX/25.

¹⁵ The G-15 is comprised of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Nigeria, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

¹⁶ The group of LMMC was formed in 2002 at the initiative of Mexico. It includes 17 countries, namely, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Madagascar, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, and Venezuela.

¹⁷ Information on the IBSA Dialogue Forum can be found at <http://www.indianembassy.org.br/port/relations/ForumForCooperation.htm>.

C. Objectives and indicative activities

3. The Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development has the following objectives, linked to general indicative activities:

Objectives by 2020	Indicative activities
1. Promote, enhance and increase South-South cooperation among Parties in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Millennium Development Goals	Identify optimal matches between available technologies and needs assessed in developing countries and promote and support the exchange of scientific and technical knowledge and expertise
	Promote and strengthen collaborative research and exchange of scientific, technical and technological know-how on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use among centres of excellence in developing countries, including joint gap analysis and strategic assessments, taking into account synergies with, among others, a Biodiversity Technology Initiative and a Framework for Capacity-Building for the “Integration of Biodiversity into Poverty Eradication and Development”
	Revise NBSAPs and regional strategies and actions plans in view of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, considering South-South cooperation, and report on progress through the fifth national reports
	Identify market and trade-oriented mechanisms for innovations in technology to favour biodiversity (public-private partnerships), including the integration of biodiversity considerations into relevant regional trade agreements and mainstreaming biodiversity into productive landscapes, seascapes and sectors
	Facilitate projects and programmes aimed at joint conservation and sustainable use of cross-border ecosystems to further contribute towards halting biodiversity loss, as called for in paragraph 5 of decision IX/25 of the Conference of the Parties
2. Support South-South and triangular cooperation	Further engage United Nations regional economic commissions and treaties and their related agencies in South-South cooperation on biodiversity
	Strengthen the coordination and cooperation of developing countries and regional agencies in engaging other Multilateral Environmental Agreements
	Engage the private sector, regional development banks, NGOs, implementing agencies and centres of excellence and research from developing countries into South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development
3. Mobilize and substantially enhance resources for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in the Convention, including through joint proposal development and fundraising as well as triangular arrangements	Strengthen and expand specific funds dedicated to South-South cooperation, such as the Perez Guerrero Trust Fund administered by the G-77
	Periodically assess the resources required for the implementation of the Convention by the G-77 and all the additional financial resources for the implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development shall be provided by the donor Parties listed in paragraph 2 of Article 20 of the Convention
	Encourage GEF and other donors to further support South-South cooperation and technology transfer among developing countries, allocating specific percentages of funds to South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.

D. Implementation

4. The Plan of Action is envisioned to be implemented by Parties at subregional, regional and global level. Its duration will coincide with the timeline of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, taking into account the Plan’s milestones.

5. Implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development will be supported by the Group of 77 through its Chair and its secretariat, the Special

Unit for South-South Cooperation hosted by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, and activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) being coordinated under the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building.¹⁸ It is hoped that partnering with the initiatives coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and United Nations Environment Programme UNEP will promote enhanced mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations into on-the-ground activities.

6. Over recent years, a number of regional organizations have supported the preparation of regional biodiversity strategies and/or action plans.¹⁹ These strategies and plans support the Multi-Year Plan of Action in that they provide an important and concrete platform for South-South cooperation by generating opportunities for interregional exchanges of information, coordinating transboundary projects, enhancing communication between neighbouring countries on biodiversity-related issues, and galvanizing action on mainstreaming biodiversity into trade and development agendas.

7. The Convention's clearing-house mechanism (CHM) and the Protocol's Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) are particularly suited as tools for facilitating South-South scientific and technical cooperation and information exchange, and therefore central to the successful implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action. Specifically, a web-based portal will be incorporated into the CHM to provide a database of case-studies related to South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development, important references and web links, including a roster of South-South cooperation expertise, cross-tabulating the needs of countries with available expertise and sources of further research. Biodiversity Technology Initiative Links will be made with other relevant clearing-house mechanisms, such as the UNDP Web for Information and Development (WIDE) and the UNEP clearing-house mechanisms for Bali Strategic Plan and South-South Cooperation. Information will also be shared through actual or virtual conferences, seminars, and workshops.

8. The Convention's biodiversity technology initiative (BTI) has potential to contribute to promoting and supporting the effective access to and transfer of relevant technology among Parties to the Convention. Synergies between the Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation and the BTI will be taken into account for their implementation activities, including match-making, catalyzing or facilitating the establishment network of centres of excellence in the South; enhancing and leveraging increased capacity-building and training for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, on pertinent issues related to technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation under the Convention.

9. The capacity-building activities indicated in the Multi-Year Plan of Action aims at enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation and exchanges in synergy with the framework of integrating biodiversity into poverty eradication and development processes under the Convention.

¹⁸ UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1, annex.

¹⁹ Examples include regional biodiversity strategies for: Central America, developed under the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD); the tropical Andean region, developed by the Andean Community (CAN); the Amazon Basin, developed by Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO); the Mercosur region; and the southern African region, developed by the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC);

10. Sources of know-how for South-South cooperation spread well beyond the 23 countries the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) called “pivotal”²⁰ or the megadiverse countries²¹ within the Group of 77. For biodiversity, it is best to benchmark particular areas within the Convention’s programmes of work in which some countries excel, or may have experienced substantive progress. Countries may be more advanced in certain aspects of the Convention (on which they can be benchmarked as references), whereas their chosen exchange partners may have other fields of excellence that can benefit the first. As reported in many publications, lessons learned indicate that successful South-South cooperation requires what some refer to as “an enabling environment”. South-South cooperation has been most successful in countries where collaborating governments have:

(a) Identified optimal matches between available technology (benchmarking of centres of excellence and best practices) and needs assessed in recipient countries (the significance of the technology or experience to be transferred).²² It should be noted that in many cases both partners have technologies to exchange (i.e., South-South cooperation is not necessarily a one-way avenue, and centres of excellence also learn in the process of transferring technology);²³

(b) Put in place explicit policies for South-South cooperation linked with a national development planning process;²⁴

(c) Established strong focal points for South-South cooperation for all parties involved, with managerial capacity to support transfers and/or acquisitions, and with the necessary supporting structure;²⁵

(d) Earmarked national budgetary allocations or devised means for innovative use of external assistance, including triangular cooperation.²⁶

11. Organizing international meetings and conferences for the key partners of the Plan of Action at the margins of meetings of the Conference of the Parties, such as the South-South Cooperation Forum on Biodiversity for Development organized during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties held in Aichi/Nagoya, Japan in October 2010, will build momentum for implementing the Plan of Action and integrating new objectives and priorities. Additionally, regional capacity-development workshops being organized by the Convention on Biological Diversity on specific programmes of work (such as with the regional workshops on protected areas, forests, invasive alien species, climate change, and indigenous tourism) offer concrete opportunities for South-South cooperation and the exchange of best practices and lessons learned.

²⁰ Until the 1990s, the UNDP “pivotal countries” were developing countries that, by virtue of their capacity and experience in promoting South-South cooperation, are positioned to play a leading role in the promotion and application of technical Cooperation between developing countries. Such countries have a track record in promoting and financing South-South cooperation, and they have adopted the policies, mechanisms and guidelines that facilitate such exchanges. For UNDP, they include: China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand, Ghana, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago, Egypt, Malta, Tunisia and Turkey. The category is no longer used regularly, as too many other countries also possess critical experience depending on the issue.

²¹ Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, and Venezuela possess 60-70 per cent of the world’s living species. Developed countries such as the United States and Australia are also considered megadiverse.

²² *Forging a Global South*, United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, UNDP, 2005.

²³ *Windows on the South* newsletter, UNDP, 2006.

²⁴ “Pivotal Countries, an issue paper”, UNDP/Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, 2003

²⁵ Cooperation South newsletter, UNDP 2006 - Juma, C., Gitta, C., DiSenso, A. and Bruce, A., “Forging New Technology Alliances: the Role of South-South Cooperation”.

²⁶ UNDP/Japan Partnership Supporting South-South Cooperation, Innovative Triangular Cooperation towards the Millennium Development Goals, 1999-2004, UNDP, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.

E. Partnerships and coordination mechanism

12. The implementation of the Plan of Action will be coordinated by a Steering Committee which will meet at least twice between meetings of the Conference of the Parties, at the margins of relevant meetings convened under the Convention. The composition of this Committee shall be:

- The current Chair of the G-77 and possible past chairs with significant experience in South-South cooperation;
- The Executive Secretary of the G-77;
- The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- A representative of developing countries represented in the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties;
- Representatives of other relevant developing countries in bodies of the Convention, as appropriate.²⁷

Geographic balance will be considered in identifying representatives, and implementing agencies and partners may be invited to contribute as appropriate. Considering the agenda of its meetings, the Steering Committee may invite key countries and donors under the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), stakeholders and specialists to contribute under specific agenda items. Furthermore, a G-77 coordination meeting may be organized prior to official meetings of the Convention bodies.

13. An Inter-agency Task Force may be convened, including the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), regional economic commissions of the United Nations and other relevant United Nations entities.

14. In order to efficiently coordinate tasks, the Steering Committee may decide to identify focal points who will take charge of issues such as coordination with donor partners, coordination of implementation mechanisms, and monitoring and reporting on progress.

15. The Plan of Action recognizes the need to maintain flexibility in its strategy for implementation in order to accommodate changing national and regional priorities as well as future decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

F. Monitoring and evaluation

16. At each Conference of the Parties, the Steering Committee will be asked to report on implementation of the plan of action. Contributions will be sought from participating regional and United Nations agencies. Additionally, the Steering Committee may report regularly to key G-77 meetings and to the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation.

17. The Steering Committee, in consultation with its key partners, will identify benchmarks for measuring success to guide the evaluations and reporting. Indicators to be used could include:

- (a) Number of events;

²⁷ In its first iteration, the Steering Committee is composed of Yemen as chair of the G-77, South Africa, Sudan and Antigua and Barbuda as past chairs, the executive secretaries of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the G-77, Malawi as the delegate and Grenada as the Chair of SBSTTA at its fourteenth meeting (please see <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EMSSC-02>).

- (b) Number of projects;
- (c) Number of partnerships and networks catalysed and extent of thematic and regional coverage;
- (d) Amount of funds generated and dedicated to supporting South-South cooperation on biodiversity; and
- (e) The number of people trained in the areas mentioned above under modalities;
- (f) Contribution from the implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Target (<http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>).

18. Additionally, this evaluation process should include a periodic review of priorities and objectives in order to integrate new decisions of the Conference of the Parties as well as the emerging priorities of the G-77.

G. Funding

19. As listed under objectives and indicative activities, the following measures can be put in place to expand financial resources in support of the plan of action:

(a) All the additional financial resources for the implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development shall be provided by the Parties listed in paragraph 2 of Article 20 of the Convention;

(b) Establishing a voluntary South-South biodiversity cooperation trust fund through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including covering the costs of G-77 coordination meetings on South-South cooperation organized prior to major meetings of the Convention bodies;

(c) Devising a means for innovative use of external assistance, for instance through partnerships with the private sector and non-governmental organizations;

(d) Drawing on and optimizing traditional forms of funding, including from triangular cooperation with development agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors, and the Implementing Agencies of the Global Environment Facility (GEF);

(e) Earmarking national budgetary allocations; and

(f) Enhancing financing sources such as the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation.

Appendix

OTHER INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES AND EXAMPLES OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

1. An extensive list of proposed South-South cooperation activities mentioned in past decisions is available as annex II to document UNEP/CBD/BM-SSC/1/2/Rev.2, presented in the first brainstorming workshop on South-South cooperation in 2006 (see <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=SSC-01>). During preparatory meetings, Parties and experts suggested the following examples and cases:

(a) Engaging universities, centres of excellence, and NGOs that specialize on the linkages between biodiversity, development, and poverty reduction is crucial to successful implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action. Examples include the centres under CIFOR and CGIAR, as well as the South Centre. Also relevant is the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World, and the Third World Network of Scientific Organizations. Institutions that specialize in biodiversity, such as the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity headquartered in the Philippines, are also important partners. Finally, new centres dedicated to South-South cooperation on science and technology include the UNESCO International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation (ISTIC) in Kuala Lumpur;

(b) The “South-South REDD: A Brazil-Mozambique Initiative Project” in which Brazilian non-governmental organizations provide technical expertise to assist Mozambique with the development of a national REDD strategy. This project is administered and supported by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in partnership with the Mozambique Ministry of the Environment (MICOA) and Agriculture (MINAG) and local NGOs (Centro Terra Viva, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, and the Sustainable Amazon Foundation). More information available at <http://www.iied.org/natural-resources/key-issues/forestry/south-south-redd-brazil-mozambique-initiative>, or contact Mr. Duncan MacQueen at duncan.macqueen@iied.org;

(c) The “Helping Islands Adapt” workshop was held from 11 to 16 April 2010, in Auckland, New Zealand, hosted by the Government of New Zealand with support from the Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA) and a number of partner organizations and countries. The meeting builds on efforts under the Cooperative Islands Initiative, a partnership launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in 2002, and the Pacific Initiative on Invasive Alien Species (PII). During the expert meeting held in Nairobi in May 2010, several participants mentioned the workshop as an example due to its careful articulation with existing and ongoing activities, effectively avoiding duplication of efforts and its selection of participants with maximum capacity for replication and coordination, strategically located in island hubs in the Caribbean, the Pacific, Europe/Macronesia, and the western Indian Ocean. More information at www.helpingislandsadapt.org.nz.

(d) The Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Environment of Indonesia and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico aims at enhancing cooperation in the field of environment and natural resources on the principles of equality and mutual benefit, in areas such as land, biodiversity and forest ecosystems, management of natural protected areas and sustainable tourism. It recognizes the importance of promoting South-South cooperation among the participating countries as a continuous process to face the southern challenges, particularly its role as a tool to stimulate and fortify the sustainable development in the developing countries, and refers to agreements between Indonesian and Mexican Governments concerning technical and scientific cooperation, signed on 2 July 1996 in Jakarta. The Memorandum of Understanding calls for the holding of projects, working meetings, exchange of specialist, personnel development, capacity-building, joint research, and exchange of information, documents and other forms of interrelation of the participating countries, and suggests the development of joint initiatives with third parties or donors for financial, economic and/or technical support, as well as the promotion of mechanisms of trilateral and multilateral cooperation.

2. Many regional cooperation treaties and agencies are already active in South-South cooperation:

(a) The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) brings together member States promoting the sustainable development of the Amazon region in areas such as environment, health, science, technology and communication, tourism, transport and indigenous affairs. A common strategy for biodiversity has been adopted at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. See <http://www.otca.org.br/en/>.

(b) The Centre for Biodiversity of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) facilitates cooperation and coordination among its ten member States and with relevant national governments, regional and international organizations, on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biodiversity in the ASEAN region. Please consult <http://www.aseanbiodiversity.org/>.

(c) The Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) provides political and technical guidance, coordination, harmonization and decision-making for the conservation and sustainable management of forest and savannah ecosystems of its ten member States. Please check its website at <http://www.comifac.org/>.

(d) The Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) promotes South American integration and fostering of regional cooperation between Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Venezuela, including a strategy on biodiversity (see www.mercosur.int in general, <http://www.cdb.gov.br/estrategia-de-biodiversidade-do-mercosul/declaracao.pdf> links to the common strategy).

(e) The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) coordinates triangular cooperation between Pacific Island countries and developed countries such as Australia, New Zealand and the United States. It is a full partner of the Convention on Biological Diversity in implementing activities in many programmes of work. Please see <http://www.sprep.org/> for more information.

(f) Further examples of successful South-South cooperation are mentioned in the report of the expert meeting on South-South cooperation held in Nairobi on 29-30 May 2010, available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EMSSC-02>.
