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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
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**MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES UP TO 2020**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The Conference of the Parties, in decision X/9, adopted the multi-year programme of work for the Conference of the Parties for the period 2011-2020. In this decision, the Conference of the Parties set out key items for its agenda at its eleventh and twelfth meetings and also specified that it would conduct a review of the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 at its meeting in 2020. Otherwise, however, it did not set out the issues it would address at its thirteenth and subsequent meetings, but rather decided to update the multi-year programme of work to 2020 at its twelfth meeting.
2. In decision XI/10, the Conference of the Parties decided to maintain the current periodicity of its meetings until 2020, and that its future meetings would take place in 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2020.
3. Accordingly, the present note presents proposals to update the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties for the period 2015-2020, including proposed issues that the Conference of the Parties could address at its thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth meetings. Section I reviews the past evolution of the multi-year programme of work and considers issues that need to be taken into account in the updating of the multi-year programme of work. Section II provides a draft decision.

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## **I. CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE UPDATING OF THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMMES OF WORK**

### **A. *Evolution of the MYPOW of the Conference of the Parties***

4. The Conference of the Parties has periodically adopted multi-year programmes of work (MYPOW) to guide its consideration of issues at its upcoming meetings, typically looking at three meetings ahead.<sup>1</sup> In the early phase of the Convention, the multi-year programmes of work listed issues (corresponding to articles of the Convention and to biome-based programmes)<sup>2</sup> that were progressively addressed by one meeting of the Conference of the Parties or another. Following the adoption of the first Strategic Plan and the 2010 Biodiversity Target, the MYPOW for 2005-2010 listed strategic issues for evaluating progress or supporting implementation as well as a calendar for the in-depth review of ongoing work under the thematic areas and cross-cutting issues. This evolution of the MYPOW towards a more strategic process was further reinforced with the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

5. Thus, the Conference of the Parties has developed different categories of decisions: decisions that set out policy directions (guidelines, programmes of work, etc), that support mechanisms for implementation or practical toolkits, and that provide for monitoring and review (including indicator frameworks). The Conference of the Parties has progressively ensured that policy development is complemented by measures to improve the means of implementation, and that new policy development is informed by the results of review and assessment, thus moving to complete the policy-implementation-review cycle, and enable the Conference of the Parties to more fully accomplish its primary function under Article 24 to “keep under review the implementation of the Convention.”

### **B. *Considerations to guide the development of the MYPOW to 2020***

#### *Review of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020*

6. The Conference of the Parties, in decision X/2, adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In paragraph 14 of this decision, the Conference of the Parties decided to review progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, share experiences relevant for implementation and provide guidance on means to address obstacles encountered, at its future meetings. In this context, it also foresaw, in paragraph 17 (b) of the same decision, that its meetings will assess the contribution of national and regional targets established in accordance with the Strategic Plan, towards the global targets.

7. A comprehensive mid-term assessment is being undertaken at the twelfth meeting, on the basis primarily of the fifth national reports and the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*. In line with decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties is expected to keep under review, at its thirteenth and fourteenth meetings, the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with a view to providing further guidance, as necessary. Moreover, as part of this, the Conference of the Parties is expected to keep under review the means of implementation (inter alia: technical and scientific cooperation and mobilization of financial resources). Further, given that only a small number of Parties had updated their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in time for its twelfth meeting, and noting the 2015 timeline for Aichi Biodiversity Target 17, the Conference of the Parties may wish to include a further review of progress in updating NBSAPs as part of its interim review at its thirteenth meeting. In undertaking the interim assessments of progress at its thirteenth and fourteenth meetings, the Conference of the Parties may wish to focus on a sub-set of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and/or selected means of implementation, for example on targets for which progress to date is inadequate or on goals and targets of strategic importance.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision I/9 provided the MYPOW for the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> meetings of the COP (originally 1995-1997, but COP-4 was held in early 1998); decision IV/16 provided the MYPOW for the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> meetings of the COP (1999-2004); decision VII/31 provided the MYPOW for the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> meetings of the COP (2005-2010); and decision X/9 provided the MYPOW for 2011-2020, specifying the agendas for the 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> meetings of the COP.

<sup>2</sup> The “multi-year programme of work for the Conference of the Parties” sets out the issues to be addressed at each of a sequence of meetings of the Conference of the Parties over a defined period. This is distinct from the “programmes of work” of the Convention which set out policy guidance and suggested activities by the Parties, the Secretariat and others on particular themes under the Convention.

8. The work of the Conference of the Parties in this respect may be informed by the further analysis by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the main implications of findings of the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, in particular for the targets where there has been insufficient progress, and in the light of the key scientific and technical needs, national reports and other information, and in the use of tools to evaluate the effectiveness of policy instruments.<sup>3</sup>

9. The Conference of the Parties may also wish to consider further strategic actions to enhance national implementation, in particular through the mainstreaming or integration of biodiversity across sectors and cross-sectoral policies. Such key actions might include, for example, the use of legislation, national accounting, spatial planning frameworks, communication, education and public awareness, and the more effective use of biodiversity-related information in support of decision making.

10. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,<sup>4</sup> in its paragraph 17, states that efforts will be needed to: (a) ensure that the Convention, through its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, contributes to sustainable development and the elimination of poverty, and the other Millennium Development Goals; (b) ensure cooperation to achieve implementation of the Plan in different sectors; (c) promote biodiversity-friendly practice by business; and (d) promote synergy and coherence in the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements. Thus the Conference of the Parties may wish to give attention to these matters at its thirteenth and/or fourteenth meetings.

11. At its thirteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties is envisaged to further develop, as necessary, the framework for monitoring progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including indicators, to develop the guidelines for the sixth national reports, ensuring complementarity with the online reporting framework, and to consider the modalities of future editions the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, avoiding duplication with relevant work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems.<sup>5</sup>

*Further development of the programmes of work, further guidance*

12. Notwithstanding an increased strategic approach and cross-cutting treatments of most issues, there will be a continued need to develop and review the implementation of some of the programmes of work and cross-cutting issues under the Convention, as determined by the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties. A list of issues arising from the draft decisions of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties as well as those pending from earlier meetings of the Conference of the Parties will be available in an information note.

*Fostering integration among the Convention and its Protocols, and enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions*

13. Subject to decisions taken at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, meetings of both Protocols will be held concurrently with the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to improving integration across the three instruments and also to promote efficiency in the use of resources. In this case, the Conference of the Parties will wish to evaluate the experience and make decisions regarding future meetings.

14. The Conference of the Parties may also wish to consider, at its thirteenth meeting, ways to further promote integration among the instruments with regard to substantive issues, including between Article 8(g) of the Convention and the provisions of the Cartagena Protocol, and between Article 15 and related articles of the Convention, and the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol.

15. The Conference of the Parties may also wish to consider ways and means to further integrate issues related to indigenous and local communities into the work of the Convention and its Protocols.

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<sup>3</sup> As envisaged in recommendation XVIII/1 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

<sup>4</sup> Decision X/2, annex.

<sup>5</sup> Recommendation XVIII/1 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

16. Subject to decisions taken at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties regarding a process to explore enhanced synergies among the biodiversity related conventions, the Conference of the Parties may also wish to consider, at its fourteenth meeting, ways to further promote synergies and integration among the biodiversity related conventions.

*Guidance to the financial mechanism*

17. The Conference of the Parties will need to consider a determination of funding needs to inform the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (for 2018-2021) at its thirteenth meeting in 2016. This could be done on the basis of a review of gaps and needs identified by Parties, inter alia, in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Assuming that the GEF maintains its four-year replenishment cycle, the Conference of the Parties will similarly need to consider a determination of funding needs to inform the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (for 2021-2025) at its fifteenth meeting in 2020.

*The post-2015 development agenda, the sustainable development goals, and other aspects of the international agenda*

18. Given that the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, including the sustainable development goals, is expected to be finalized in 2015, and that there will be other important global conferences during the 2015-2016 biennium including COP-21 of UNFCCC, the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider, at its thirteenth meeting in 2016, the implications of these broader and complementary agendas for future work under the Convention.

*Final assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for 2011-2020 and updating of the Strategic Plan beyond 2020*

19. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, adopted in decision X/2, includes a long-term Vision for 2050 and a medium-term Mission for 2020, as well as a set of five strategic goals (of unspecified duration) and the twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets mostly for 2020.<sup>6</sup> The current MYPOW (decision X/9) provides for a mid-term review at its twelfth meeting (in 2014) and a final review at its fifteenth meeting in 2020.<sup>7</sup>

20. The final review will be able to take into account not only the sixth national reports and information provided by Parties through the online reporting mechanism, but also the global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which is due to be launched in late 2018.<sup>8</sup> It should also include a review of the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

21. In light of the final assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Conference of the Parties will also need to update the Strategic Plan beyond 2020. Therefore a major item on the agenda of 2020 should be consideration of a draft updated strategic plan for biodiversity 2021-2030.

22. Further, in preparation for this item, the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider issues at its thirteenth and fourteenth meetings. These might include:

(a) Taking into account the context provided by the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, including the sustainable development goals, and other global conferences (see paragraph 18, above);

<sup>6</sup> Except for targets 10, 15 and 17 which are for 2015.

<sup>7</sup> “At its meeting in 2020, the COP will conduct a review of the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the programmes of work of the Convention as identified by the COP, and make an assessment of progress in the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, based, inter alia, on the sixth national reports” (decision X/9, paragraph (f)). As determined by decision XI/10, the fifteenth meeting of the COP will be in 2020.

<sup>8</sup> See the IPBES work programme adopted in decision IPBES-2/5 which provides for a global assessment that is envisaged to contribute to the process for the evaluation and renewal of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The global assessment responds to the request in decision XI/13 C (para. 6) focusing on status and trends, the impact of biodiversity and ecosystem services on human well-being, and the effectiveness of responses, including the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The workplan envisaged the global assessment to be completed in time to be adopted by the IPBES 7<sup>th</sup> Plenary in late 2018 or early 2019. At its eighteenth meeting, The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in recommendation XVIII/9, welcomed the adoption of the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for 2014 – 2018.

(b) Consideration of long-term strategic directions to the 2050 Vision for biodiversity and their implications for possible pathways towards the 2050 Vision for the 2021-2030 period. The vision of this Strategic Plan is a world of “Living in harmony with nature” where “By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people”;

(c) Ensuring the integration of biosafety, as well as access and benefit-sharing in the updated Strategic Plan.

## **II. ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AT ITS THIRTEENTH, FOURTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH MEETINGS: SUGGESTED ELEMENTS FOR A DRAFT DECISION**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Taking into account the priorities defined in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and findings from the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook,*

1. *Reaffirms* that the Conference of the Parties should review progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 at each of its meetings to 2020, and that the development of further guidance for policy development and to support implementation should be based on the review of implementation as well as new information that may become available including through scientific assessments;

2. *Decides* to update the multi-year programme of work for the Conference of the Parties according to the list of issues in the annex to this decision;

3. *Also decides* to address at each of its meetings standing items consistent with earlier decisions as well as other issues arising from decisions of the Conference of the Parties in relation to particular programmes of work and cross-cutting issues, and to maintain sufficient flexibility in the multi-year programme of work in order to accommodate urgent emerging issues and respond to emerging opportunities.

### *Annex*

#### **PROPOSED LIST OF THE MAIN ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES DURING THE 2015 - 2020 PERIOD**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Strategic Issues</b>
COP 13 (2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interim review of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and related means of implementation.</li> <li>Strategic actions to enhance national implementation, in particular through mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity across sectors.</li> <li>Further consideration of the implications of the findings of GBO-4 and the national reports.</li> <li>Integration among the Convention and its Protocols.</li> <li>Guidelines for the sixth national reports and modalities for future editions of GBO.</li> <li>Implications of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and the sustainable development goals and of other relevant international processes for the future work of the Convention.</li> <li>Determination of funding needs to inform the GEF-7 replenishment for the 2018-2021 cycle.</li> </ul>
COP 14 (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interim review of the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the programmes of work of the Convention and assessment of progress in the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.</li> <li>Long-term strategic directions to the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.</li> <li>Synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions.</li> </ul>

COP 15 (2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final assessment of the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.</li> <li>• Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2021-2030.</li> <li>• Determination of funding needs to inform the GEF-8 replenishment for the 2021-2025 cycle.</li> </ul>

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