



**CONVENTION ON
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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND
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Eighth meeting

Montreal, 10-14 March 2003

Item 3.3 of the provisional agenda*

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE ON THE INTER-SESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE BUREAU**

Note by the Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary is transmitting herewith for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its eighth meeting, the report of the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on the inter-sessional activities of the Bureau.

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice is invited to take note of the report of the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on the inter-sessional activities of its Bureau.

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Annex

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE ON THE INTER-SESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE BUREAU**

1. The present report covers the period from 17 November 2001, the day after the end of the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) up to 1 December 2002.
2. On 17 November 2001, the joint meeting of the bureaux of the Conference of the Parties and the Subsidiary Body was held in Montreal. The Chair briefed the meeting on progress achieved at the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body meeting and presented the views of that meeting on the development of the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity. He also made reference to several recommendations adopted at the seventh meeting of SBSTTA that called for further work before the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.
3. On the margins of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in The Hague from 7 to 19 April 2002, the SBSTTA Bureau met five times. In addition to the operational agenda—namely the presentation to the Conference of the Parties of the outputs of the sixth and seventh meetings of SBSTTA—the Bureau discussed the agenda for the eighth and ninth meetings of the Subsidiary Body, the framework of the Strategic Plan of SBSTTA, collaboration with other conventions and bodies, and the first draft of the SBSTTA manual. The Bureau also addressed ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of SBSTTA work and proposed that SBSTTA meetings run from the middle of one week to the middle of the next to provide more time for both the formal and informal processes of SBSTTA, without having longer meetings in terms of formal working days.
4. On 6 September 2002, the SBSTTA Bureau held a conference call. The main aim was to review the agendas for the eighth and ninth meetings of SBSTTA, which also included new items requested by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting, and to prepare a timetable for the next Bureau meetings.
5. On 18 September 2002, the SBSTTA Bureau held another telephone conference. The agenda included the outcome of the previous conference call and revised agendas of the eighth and ninth meetings. Other items for discussion included the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change and the work of SBSTTA focal points, the Strategic Plan of SBSTTA and SBSTTA matters to be referred to Bureau of the Conference of the Parties.
6. On 21–22 October 2002, the SBSTTA Bureau met in Montreal at the premises of the Secretariat. The Bureau discussed the draft documents for the eighth meeting of SBSTTA, the organizational arrangements for that meeting, and schedule of meetings up to the eighth meeting of SBSTTA. The Strategic Plan of SBSTTA and the SBSTTA manual were finalized. The Bureau also scheduled its meetings and conference calls for 2003.
7. In the inter-sessional period, either the Chair or other Bureau members represented SBSTTA in a total of 15 meetings, eight of which were held under the Convention on Biological Diversity and seven organized by other biodiversity-related conventions or bodies.
