

NON-PAPER ON ITEM 3 - DRAFT

WAYS AND MEANS TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SBSTTA AND OPTIONS FOR COLLABORATION WITH IPBES

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice recommends that the Conference of the Parties

Recalling its decisions VIII/9, IX/15, X/2 and X/11, and in particular, *reaffirming* that regular assessments are needed at all scales to provide decision-makers with the necessary information base for adaptive management and to promote the necessary political will for action in addressing biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems and ecosystem services and the implications for human well-being,

Recalling that the function of the Subsidiary Body, as set out in Article 25 of the Convention, is to provide the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies, with timely advice relating to the implementation of the Convention, including providing scientific and technical assessments of the status of biological diversity and of the effects of the types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention,

Reaffirming the need to strengthen the ability of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to deliver advice in this regard,

Emphasizing that the Intergovernmental Science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is an independent intergovernmental body and the need to respect its functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements,

1. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and other outcomes of the second session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for this platform convened by UNEP Executive Director in Panama City (16-21 April 2012);

2. *Takes note* of the intersessional work to be undertaken by IPBES, including:

(a) Preparation of a catalogue of assessments, and a review of these assessments highlighting the implementation of capacity-building activities, the use of conceptual frameworks, the scope of assessments, the experiences with the integration of knowledge systems, the use of scenarios and other tools, the lessons learned with respect to achievement of the impact of assessments, and the gaps in knowledge and coverage of assessments;

(b) Preparation of a draft conceptual framework;

(c) Further consideration of capacity-building needs and suggestions for the activities and partnerships that might address those needs;

(d) Consideration, based on submissions from Governments, multilateral environmental agreements and other entities, of the process by which requests might be submitted to the Plenary of the Platform, and on the process by which the plenary might prioritize such requests,

(e) Consideration, based on submissions from Governments, multilateral environmental agreements and other entities, of the process that should be followed for scoping potential assessments

In order to minimize the environmental impacts of the Secretariat's processes, and to contribute to the Secretary-General's initiative for a C-Neutral UN, this document is printed in limited numbers. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

and other Platform activities once they have been prioritized by the Plenary of the Platform, and on the expected outputs of such a process.

3. *Decides* that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, within its mandate and under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, and in order to fulfil the functions assigned to it through Article 25 of the Convention:

(a) Should identify information on the scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets so that these needs, and gaps in filling them, can be taken into account in the work of the Subsidiary Body and its consideration of possible requests to the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services;

(b) May submit requests directly to the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services to address relevant issues that require independent scientific advice, provided these requests are of a scientific and technical nature and are part of an existing mandate of the Subsidiary Body, also taking into account the additional considerations listed in the annex to this note;

(c) Shall examine the relevant outputs from the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and provide regular reports to the Conference of the Parties;

(d) Shall support the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the work of the Subsidiary Body;

4. *Decides* that the Subsidiary Body shall provide recommendations on these issues to the Conference of the Parties for further consideration;

5. *Noting* the assessment of the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in meeting its mandate contained in annex II to the note by the Executive Secretary on ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/2), *requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of the necessary resources, to collate information from existing decisions and reviews relating to:

(a) The scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including needs shared by other multilateral environmental agreements and organizations and needs that could be addressed by IPBES;

(b) Existing policy support tools and methodologies developed or used under the Convention and their adequacy, impact and obstacles to their uptake and identify gaps and needs for further development of such tools and methodologies (including intercultural tools and methodologies), including gaps and needs that could be addressed by IPBES;

(c) The adequacy of observations, and of data systems, for monitoring the biodiversity attributes addressed in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, drawing, *inter alia*, upon information in the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/6) and the report on the Adequacy of Biodiversity Observation Systems to Support the CBD 2020 Targets (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/8); and

(d) Options for assessing the effects of the types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, including, as appropriate, the potential role of IPBES in such assessments; and

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to provide a report on progress on the above matters to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

7. *Considers* that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets provide a useful flexible framework for the delivery of the biodiversity agenda at all levels and *invites* the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services to consider how its work plan can contribute to their achievement;

8. *Invites* the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services to consider ways in which the activities of the Platform could build on, contribute to and strengthen the process towards the fourth and fifth editions of Global Biodiversity Outlook, as well as other future assessments of the achievement of the 2020 targets and information on further policy options available to deliver the 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan;

9. *Invites* the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, when establishing processes to receive and prioritize requests in line with paragraph 6 (a) of the Busan outcome,¹ to consider adopting modalities that would allow it to respond to requests from the Convention in a timely and predictable manner;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and the chair of the bureau of the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, in consultation with the Subsidiary Body Bureau, to explore options for formalizing the collaboration with the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and report to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

¹ UNEP/IPBES/3/3, annex.

Annex

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE AND THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice should develop requests addressed to the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services in accordance with its mandate and in order to fulfil the functions assigned to it through Article 25 of the Convention and the consolidated *modus operandi* contained in annex III to decision VIII/10. It should submit requests directly to the Platform on relevant issues that require independent scientific advice if these requests are of a scientific and technical nature and are part of an existing mandate of the Subsidiary Body. The Subsidiary Body should thereby take into account in particular that requests to IPBES should:

- (a) Focus on the scientific and technical aspects of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (decision X/2, annex) and the multi-year programme of work for the Conference of the Parties (decision X/9);
- (b) Be based on the information needs of Parties and support them in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
- (c) Enable the Subsidiary Body to provide timely advice to the Conference of the Parties;
- (d) Enable a scientific and technical assessment of the effects of types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention (Article 25, paragraph 2 (b));
- (e) Not lead to a duplication of efforts and overlaps with other ongoing activities;
- (f) Where possible, be coordinated with those from other partners (e.g., through mechanisms such as the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG), meetings of the chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions and other partnerships);
- (g) Be limited to avoid overburdening IPBES;
- (h) Give due consideration to possible alternative approaches (e.g. activity by the Secretariat, a consultant or a partner organization; in-depth review; expert meeting etc.) prior to being made;

The Subsidiary Body should review the outcomes from activities undertaken by IPBES at the earliest possible opportunity.
