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OPEN-ENDED INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON THE STRATEGIC PLAN, NATIONAL REPORTS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Montreal, 19-21 November 2001
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

NATIONAL REPORTS

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties requested the Open-ended Inter-sessional Meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reports and Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (MSP) to consider and, to the extent possible, develop draft elements of a decision on the second national reports (decision V/20, para. 38).
2. The Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting also adopted decision V/19 on national reporting, in which it:
 - (a) Endorsed a format for future national reports;
 - (b) Requested Parties to submit their second national reports by 15 May 2001, and thereafter every four years; ^{1/}
 - (c) Recommended that national reports be prepared through a consultative process;
 - (d) Invited Parties to prepare thematic reports on the items for in-depth consideration at its ordinary meetings; and
 - (e) Established the themes and deadlines for submission for the three thematic reports ^{2/} to be submitted prior to its sixth meeting.
3. Decision V/19 was adopted in light of the consideration by the Conference of the Parties of the experience of the first round of national reporting. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties had requested that the first national reports called for under Article 26 focus, in so far as possible, on the

* UNEP/CBD/MSP/1.

^{1/} Paragraph 5 of decision V/19 states 'and thereafter for consideration at alternate ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties'. At the same meeting, the Conference of the Parties decided that its ordinary meetings will be held every two years (decision V/20, paragraph 1).

^{2/} These are: alien species (30 September 2000); benefit-sharing (30 December 2000); and forest ecosystems (15 May 2001).

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measures taken for the implementation of Article 6. ^{3/} At its third meeting, the Conference of the Parties decided that the first national reports should be submitted no later than 1 January 1998 and urged Parties to submit them on time. ^{4/}

4. At the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary reported ^{5/} that 16 national reports had been received by the deadline and that a further 70 had been received by 31 March 1998. Analysis of those 86 reports revealed that many Parties had experienced difficulties in interpreting or following the guidelines contained in the annex to decision II/17. As a result, although the individual reports contained a wealth of useful information on implementation of the Convention in the countries concerned, there were difficulties in using the reports to develop an overall assessment of the state of implementation of the Convention.

5. At its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to provide the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting with advice on the intervals and forms of national reports, including the nature of the information needed from Parties, in order to assess the state of implementation of the Convention, and recommendations on improving the reporting process through guidelines on format, style, length and treatment, with a view to ensuring comparability between reports. ^{6/}

6. With the assistance of a number of Parties, the Secretariat developed and pilot tested a standard format for national reporting. The format is based on an identification of all the actions to be undertaken by Parties for the implementation of the Convention that derive from the provisions of the Convention and from the decisions of the Conference of the Parties. This format was submitted to the fifth meeting of SBSTTA for its consideration. ^{7/} SBSTTA recommended that the Conference of the Parties adopt the format. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties considered the recommendation of SBSTTA ^{8/} and the note from the Executive Secretary ^{9/} and, as noted in paragraph 2 above, adopted decision V/19.

II. SECOND NATIONAL REPORTS

7. By the end of July 2001, the Secretariat had received a second national report from 48 countries. Prior to the deadline established by the Conference of the Parties (15 May 2001), a number of Parties indicated to the Secretariat that they did not expect to submit their second national report by the deadline. Further countries subsequently advised the Secretariat of this, with the result that some reports are not expected until the last quarter of 2001.

8. By the end of July 2001, the Secretariat had also received 53 thematic reports on alien species, 14 thematic reports on benefit-sharing and 28 thematic reports on forest ecosystems.

9. All the national reports and thematic reports received are posted on the Convention's website, and the Executive Secretary will make available at the meeting an updated status report on national and thematic reports.

10. On the evidence of the reports so far received, the majority of Parties have used the format recommended by the Conference of the Parties in decision V/19. The number of countries that did not make use of the format, that adapted the format by altering questions or that submitted only a partially

^{3/} Decision II/17
^{4/} Decision III/9
^{5/} UNEP/CBD/COP/4/11/Rev.1
^{6/} Decision IV/14
^{7/} UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/14
^{8/} Recommendation V/13
^{9/} UNEP/CBD/COP/5/13/Add.2

completed report, is small (eight countries by the end of July 2001). The Secretariat has requested these countries to provide the reports in the recommended format, and a number have already done so.

11. The Secretariat is in the process of developing a searchable database of national reports that will offer the ability to extract information on the status of implementation by fields of enquiry (for example, by regional group, bio-geographical region, Article of the Convention, decision, or programme of work). It is the Secretariat's intention to make this database publicly available on the Convention's website.

12. The Secretariat is also concluding the preparation of the first edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO), a periodic report on biological diversity requested under decision II/1. ^{10/} The GBO consists of a summary of the status and trends of global biological diversity, drawing upon existing assessments; an overview of the history, objectives and operations of the Convention; reviews of national and global implementation of the Convention; and an assessment of the key issues for implementation of which the Convention, Parties, and other bodies and processes need to take account.

13. The GBO will constitute a contribution from the Convention to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, ^{11/} which will review progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. In decision V/27, the Executive Secretary was requested to report to the Commission on Sustainable Development on progress made in the implementation of the Convention. The GBO will be made available to the meeting of the Commission acting as the Second Preparatory Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. ^{12/}

14. The review of national implementation in the GBO is based upon information drawn from the first national reports. As noted above, there are difficulties in using those reports to develop an overall assessment of the state of implementation of the Convention. The new format for national reporting offers future editions of the GBO a considerably better framework for analysis of the experiences of national implementation.

III. NATIONAL REPORTING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

15. The initial conclusion that can be drawn from the second round of national reporting is that the format appears to be working – Parties are using it, and it provides the framework for effective analysis of information on the status of implementation. The various organs of the Convention will thus be able to develop reliable pictures of implementation according to criteria relevant to the policy issue under consideration.

16. The analysis of national and thematic reports can thus be used to inform and guide policy development and decision-making over the life of the Strategic Plan, as well as to provide the information needed to verify outcomes. In the current inter-sessional period, the uses made of the information contained in the three thematic reports illustrate this potential.

17. Information contained in the thematic reports on alien species, submitted in late 2000, formed part of the progress report on invasive alien species prepared by the Executive Secretary for the sixth meeting of SBSTTA. ^{13/} Information contained in the thematic reports on benefit-sharing, particularly information on intellectual property rights, has been included in the documents prepared by the Secretariat for the meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, to be held in Bonn from 22 to 26 October 2001. ^{14/} Similarly, the information contained in the thematic reports on forest ecosystems is being examined with a view to providing the seventh meeting of SBSTTA, which has

^{10/} Copies of the GBO will be available at the MSP.

^{11/} Scheduled to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 2 to 11 September 2002.

^{12/} The Second Preparatory Meeting will be held in New York from 28 January to 8 February 2002.

^{13/} UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/6.

^{14/} In particular, document UNEP/CBD/WG-ABS/1/4.

forest biological diversity as its main theme, with an analysis of the implementation of the programme of work on forest biological diversity.

18. Analysis of the status of implementation of other issues to be considered by the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties is being developed on the basis of the information provided by Parties in their second national reports and will be included in the documentation to be prepared for that meeting. ^{15/}

19. The MSP is to consider the operational goals, and the action plans to achieve the operational goals, of a Strategic Plan for the Convention for the period 2002 to 2010. As a component of the operational goals, it may wish to consider the recommendation of the Workshop on the Strategic Plan, held in Seychelles from 28 to 30 May 2001, regarding development of a format for reporting on targets that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART). ^{16/}

20. In this context, the current meeting may wish to bear in mind the reporting schedule for the period 2002 to 2010 in accordance with the framework established by decision V/19, which results in the following:

(a) Thematic reports on the items for in-depth consideration at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2004), to be submitted in time for the information to be available to the eighth and ninth meetings of SBSTTA. These are:

- (i) Mountain ecosystems;
- (ii) Protected areas;
- (iii) Transfer of technology and technology cooperation;

(b) The third national reports, to be submitted in 2005 for consideration by the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2006);

(c) The fourth national reports, to be submitted in 2009 for consideration by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2010).

21. The sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2002), in considering and adopting a Strategic Plan for the Convention, will establish the items for in-depth consideration at its ordinary meetings during the period up to 2010. ^{17/} In doing so, it will identify the subjects for the thematic reports to be submitted by Parties during this period. If the Conference of the Parties retains the practice established in annex II to decision IV/16 of identifying three items for in-depth consideration at each ordinary meeting, this will offer the opportunity for in-depth thematic reports on up to 12 issues during the period of the Strategic Plan.

22. From the point of view of implementation of the Strategic Plan, the third full national report (2005) will offer the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2006) the opportunity to evaluate implementation of the Strategic Plan mid-way through its execution, and make such adjustments as may be required.

23. The fourth full national report (2009) will be considered by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2010, at the end of the first strategic planning period. Analysis of the fourth national reports can thus provide an assessment of the status of implementation of the Convention at the end of the first Strategic Plan and, given the likelihood that that meeting will consider and adopt a second Strategic Plan for the period after 2010, can assist with the development of the next Strategic Plan.

^{15/} For example, information contained in the reports on implementation of Articles 20 and 21 is being prepared with a view to assisting consideration of the agenda item on additional financial resources.

^{16/} UNEP/CBD/MSP/2, part IV, section (E).

^{17/} These will be: COP-7 (2004), COP-8 (2006), COP-9 (2008) and COP-10 (2010).

24. In light of the above, the MSP will wish to consider the relationship between the current reporting schedules and themes deriving from decision V/19, and the recommendation of the Workshop on the Strategic Plan that the Conference of the Parties set a format for reporting on SMART targets that is linked to national reporting and enables periodic assessment and review of the Strategic Plan every four years in a way that is linked to the national reporting cycle. ^{18/}
25. The Workshop recommended that this periodic assessment take place two years after the year in which each national reporting cycle ends. If the reporting cycle is deemed to end in the year in which full national reports are due, this means that the years 2001, 2005 and 2009 are the years in question. Accordingly, assessment of the Strategic Plan should take place in 2003, 2007 and 2011. The last will occur beyond the lifespan of the Strategic Plan under consideration and, as noted above, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2010 is likely to assess the outcome of the Strategic Plan and adopt a second plan.
26. As the Conference of the Parties is not scheduled to hold ordinary meetings in the years 2003 and 2007, the question arises as to whether assessment of the Strategic Plan could best be undertaken inter-sessionally in these years, with the conclusions to be considered by the seventh and ninth meetings of the Conference of the Parties in 2004 and 2008.
27. In this case, the assessment to be undertaken in 2003 would be made on the basis of the second national reports currently being submitted. The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2004), having received an assessment of the Strategic Plan carried out inter-sessionally in 2003, will be well placed to adjust the format for the third national reports (2005) to include specific questions relevant to the assessment of the Strategic Plan, to be carried out in 2007.
28. In a similar fashion, the assessment of the Strategic Plan to be undertaken in 2007 on the basis of the third national reports will feed into the consideration by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2008) of the format for the fourth national reports (2009).
29. In this way, by adjusting the existing national reporting format to include questions relating to implementation of the Strategic Plan and by reviewing implementation of the Strategic Plan inter-sessionally, a reporting schedule can be adopted that builds on the schedule established by decision V/19, avoids unnecessary additional reporting burdens on Parties and allows for effective review of the Strategic Plan at key points in its period of operation. Such a schedule is laid out in tabular form in the annex to the present note.

IV. FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL REPORTING

30. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to:
- “Proceed with the further development and implementation of the proposals for streamlining national reporting contained in section 5.2 of the "Feasibility study for a harmonized information management infrastructure for biodiversity-related treaties", in collaboration with the secretariats of the other biodiversity-related conventions, with a view to simplifying reporting procedures and reducing the burden of reporting on Parties, and report on progress to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting” (decision V/19, para. 9(c)).
31. In October 2000, UNEP convened a workshop to explore ideas for a more harmonized approach to national reporting under international agreements and to develop pilot projects for testing these ideas. The Secretariat took part in the workshop, together with other biodiversity-related convention secretariats, ^{19/} countries ^{20/} and relevant international organizations. The workshop took the Feasibility

^{18/} UNEP/CBD/MSP/2, part IV, sections E and F.

^{19/} The Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar) and the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, plus the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP).

^{20/} Australia, Belgium, Ghana, Hungary, Indonesia, Seychelles, Panama, United Kingdom.

Study 21/ as its starting point and examined possible methods for streamlining national reporting. It identified four main aspects, namely: modular reporting; consolidated reporting; a linkage to state-of-the-environment reporting; and a regionally based system for reporting.

32. The workshop recommended that a number of pilot projects be conducted with selected interested countries to test some of the methods, and UNEP is currently implementing these projects. 22/ Results of the pilot projects will be reviewed by the Environmental Management Group (EMG) 23/ and subsequently presented to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 2 to 11 September 2002, and to the next meetings of the governing bodies of the participating agreements. The Executive Secretary will invite UNEP to provide the MSP with a report on progress.

33. The Executive Secretary is a member of the newly established EMG. At its first meeting, held in Geneva on 22 January 2001, the EMG considered a proposal to develop a harmonized system for reporting under multilateral environmental agreements and agreed to establish an Issue Management Group (IMG) dealing with the harmonization of environmental reporting. It was decided that UNEP would serve as the task manager and should develop its proposal on that theme, with a focus on biodiversity-related conventions while considering the relevance of biodiversity-related aspects of other multilateral environmental agreements. The EMG decided that the IMG should look at this issue comprehensively, taking into account issues such as, the best use of lessons learned, the composition of the group and the number of the countries to be used in a pilot phase, and provide the EMG, at its next session, with its recommendations.

34. The Secretariat participated in the preparation by the IMG of a background paper on Harmonization of information management and reporting for biodiversity-related treaties for the second meeting of the EMG, held in Geneva on 15 June 2001. 24/ The issue will be further considered at the third meeting of the EMG, to be held in September 2001. The Executive Secretary will invite UNEP to provide the MSP with a report on activities relating to national reporting taking place under the aegis of the EMG.

35. In its decisions on cooperation with other conventions and processes, the Conference of the Parties has identified the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa as a key partner for implementation. The Executive Secretary has been requested to collaborate with UNCCD, with a view to making implementation activities and institutional arrangements mutually supportive 25/ and supporting harmonization in the development of national strategies and programmes. 26/

36. Accordingly, the MSP is invited to take note of relevant developments under the UNCCD. The third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD established an ad hoc working group to review and analyse in-depth, at the fourth session, reports submitted at its third session and reports which will be submitted at its fourth session in order to draw conclusions and propose concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the Convention. 27/

21/ Available at <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/convent/treaties.htm>

22/ For further details visit <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/conventions/harmonization.htm>

23/ The Environmental Management Group (EMG), established by the UN General Assembly at its fifty-third session, is chaired by the Executive Director of UNEP, who reports directly to the UN Secretary-General. The EMG focuses on environment and human settlement issues, in the context of the linkages between environment and development. The most important goal of the EMG is to achieve effective coordination and joint action in key areas of environmental and human settlements concern.

24/ The report of the second meeting of the EMG is contained in document UNEP/IGM/2/INF/4.

25/ Decision IV/15.

26/ Decision V/23.

27/ Decision 6/COP.3.

37. The fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD decided that:
- (a) “All national reports submitted at its third and fourth sessions shall be reviewed individually by the Ad Hoc Working Group before the beginning of its fifth session”;
 - (b) “The Ad Hoc Working Group shall conclude the process of reviewing all remaining reports submitted at the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties, during the period between the fourth and fifth sessions, by convening an inter-sessional meeting of up to 15 working days.” ^{28/}
38. At its first session, held during the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD, held in Bonn, from 11 to 22 December 2000, the Ad Hoc Working Group held nine meetings at which it reviewed the national reports of 10 African, six Asian and four Latin American and Caribbean country Parties, in addition to two Northern Mediterranean countries and one report from Central and Eastern European countries. Regional activities for all annexes ^{29/} were discussed, as well as subregional reports for Africa.
39. At its second session, held from 19 March to 6 April 2001, the Ad Hoc Working Group held 29 meetings and reviewed the national reports of 32 African, 30 Asian and 26 Latin American and Caribbean country Parties, in addition to those of four Northern Mediterranean and other affected countries and three reports from Central and Eastern European countries. Subregional activities for annexes II and III were likewise presented.
40. Affected country Parties were invited to make individual presentations of their national reports to the ad hoc working group, making use of multimedia equipment. Developed country Parties were invited to provide specific feedback on the conclusions they reached and the steps they intended to take in light of the submission of reports from affected country Parties. They were encouraged to actively incorporate their response to the reports into their bilateral and multilateral aid efforts to assist developing country Parties. Relevant international organizations were requested to contribute more actively to the review process through a presentation of measures they are taking in response to the issues and concerns expressed in the national reports. ^{30/}
41. In the report of the second session of the ad hoc working group, the Co-Chairmen reiterated the value of the implementation review and stressed the importance for the Convention of fostering an improved flow of information, an interactive and coordinated analysis and assessment, and agreed standards against which to evaluate the effectiveness of measures taken and their contribution to a lessons-based learning process. ^{31/}
42. The report of the Ad Hoc Working Group highlights the following key thematic topics:
- (a) Identification of best practices and successes;
 - (b) Identification of main difficulties, obstacles and challenges;
 - (c) Level of participation of all actors, including financial and technical support from developed countries;
 - (d) Linkages and synergies with other conventions on the environment and development; and

^{28/} Decision 1/COP.4.

^{29/} Under the UNCCD, guidelines for the preparation of action programmes and their exact focus and content for particular subregions and regions are set out in the regional implementation annexes – Annex I (Africa), Annex II (Asia), Annex III (Latin America and the Caribbean), and Annex IV (Northern Mediterranean).

^{30/} Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group to the Fifth Session of the Conference of the Parties (document ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/6 - 15 June 2001), Annex II ‘Recommendations from the Co-Chairmen on the Basis of the First Session of the Ad Hoc Working Group’.

^{31/} Ibid, paragraph 27

(e) Strategies established within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or strategies.

43. The “Conclusions and concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the Convention” comprise 37 elements grouped under eight headings:

- (a) Strategies and policy frameworks;
- (b) Institutional aspects, including the implementation review process;
- (c) Participatory process and outreach at the local level;
- (d) Consultative mechanism for partnership arrangements;
- (e) Measures taken within the National Action Programme framework;
- (f) Subregional and regional cooperation;
- (g) Financing of the Convention; and
- (h) Issues related to the Committee on Science and Technology, including benchmarks and indicators. ^{32/}

44. The MSP is invited to note the experience of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the UNCCD when considering the issues addressed in paragraphs 24 and 26 above, namely the recommendation of the Seychelles Workshop that periodic assessment and review of the Strategic Plan occur every four years in a way linked to the national reporting cycle, and that such assessment might take place inter-sessionally in 2003 and 2007.

45. Lastly, the Executive Secretary wishes to emphasize the wide dissemination of national reports – the first and second reports, and the thematic reports – that has occurred as a result of the request by the Conference of the Parties that countries submit their reports in electronic, as well as hard copy, thereby allowing posting of all reports on the Convention’s website. This has enabled individual Parties, regional and intergovernmental organizations, and others to compile and analyse national reports by region or theme and to develop assessments of regional implementation of the Convention appropriate to their interests and needs. ^{33/}

46. As was intended by the Conference of the Parties when it requested each Party to make its national reports available through its national clearing-house mechanism, such dissemination dramatically increases the capability for assessment of implementation at levels or on topics that are central to the activities of Parties, regional and intergovernmental organizations, international agencies and funding agencies, and relevant non-governmental organizations in support of implementation of the Convention at various levels – regional, national or sub-national, as the case may be.

47. The compilation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans recently made available through the Convention’s website, and the development and posting of the database of national reports and its attendant search facilities referred to in paragraph 11 above, will further increase this capability. In the view of the Executive Secretary, the information contained in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and in national reports – full reports and thematic reports – is the key resource available to the Convention for assessment of implementation at the regional, national and sub-regional levels.

^{32/} Ibid, paragraphs 118 to 154.

^{33/} See, for example: Integrating Biodiversity in Europe – A Review of the Convention on Biological Diversity: General Measures and Sectoral Policies Tilburg (Netherlands), European Centre for Nature Conservation, 2000

The CD-ROM *Biodiversity in Central and Eastern Europe: A sampler with national biodiversity information from 22 CEE and NIS countries* Arendal (Norway), UNEP-GRID, 2000 (<http://www.grida.no/enrin/biodiv/index.htm>), or

The compilation of reports on implementation of national biodiversity strategies for North East and East Central Asian countries at <http://www.bpsp-neca.brim.ac.cn/nbsap/NBSAP%20Websites.html>.

V. DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

48. The MSP is invited to consider the following elements of a draft recommendation.

The Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reports and Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties, at its sixth meeting consider the following elements of a draft decision on national reports with a view to their adoption:

“The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the second national reports and the thematic reports submitted by Parties in accordance with decision V/19;
2. *Urges* Parties that have not submitted a second national report to do so without further delay;
3. *Identifies* the items for in-depth consideration at its eighth, ninth and tenth meetings in order that arrangements can be made for the submission of thematic reports on these items;
4. *Welcomes* the publication of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and decide that the Global Biodiversity Outlook should continue to be prepared as a periodic report on biological diversity and implementation of the Convention;
5. *Decides* that the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook should be prepared for publication in 2004, drawing upon information contained in the second national reports, the thematic reports on the items for in-depth consideration at its sixth and seventh meetings, and on the review of progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan to be undertaken in 2003;
6. *Welcomes* the work of the Environmental Management Group on the harmonization of environmental reporting;
7. *Decides* to include questions on targets established under the Strategic Plan in the format for reporting national reporting approved by decision V/19, noting that:
 - (a) In respect of the third national reports it will, at its seventh meeting, consider revisions to the format to take account of:
 - (i) The actions required by Parties as a result of decisions adopted at its sixth and seventh meetings;
 - (ii) Information needed from Parties in the third national reports in order to review progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan; and
 - (iii) Any other adjustments to the format that may be appropriate in light of the experience of reporting; and
 - (b) In respect of the fourth national reports it will, at its ninth meeting consider revisions to the format to take account of:
 - (i) The actions required by Parties as a result of decisions adopted at its eighth and ninth meetings;
 - (ii) Information needed from Parties in the fourth national reports in order to review progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan; and
 - (iii) Any other adjustments to the format that may be appropriate in light of the experience of reporting;
8. *Decides* on the appropriate inter-sessional process for assessing and reviewing progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan in 2003 and 2007 on the basis, respectively, of the second and third national reports;

9. *Decides* that at its tenth meeting it will review implementation of the Strategic Plan, on the basis of the fourth national reports, with a view to considering and adopting a new Strategic Plan for the period beginning in 2011.”

Annex

REPORTING SCHEDULE AND REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLAN 2001-2010

Year	Meeting	National reports	Thematic reports	Strategic Plan
2001		2 nd national report due	3 thematic reports due on the in-depth items at COP-6	
2002	COP-6	COP considers report on 2 nd national reports	Thematic reports assist COP consideration of its in-depth items (alien species, benefit-sharing, forest ecosystems)	COP adopts decision on Strategic Plan and format/timetable for its periodic assessment and review
2003			3 thematic reports due on the in-depth items at COP-7	First inter-sessional review of Strategic Plan – based on 2 nd national reports
2004	COP-7	COP (a) approves format for 3 rd national reports, to include information of implementation of Strategic Plan and (b) approves format for thematic reports on the in-depth items at COP-8	Thematic reports assist COP consideration of its in-depth items (mountain ecosystems, protected areas, transfer of technology and technology co-operation)	COP considers report on implementation of Strategic Plan
2005		3 rd national report due	3 thematic reports due on the in-depth items at COP-8	
2006	COP-8	COP (a) considers report on 3 rd national reports and (b) approves format for thematic reports on the in-depth items at COP-9	Thematic reports assist COP consideration of its in-depth items	COP adopts terms of reference for second inter-sessional review of Strategic Plan
2007			3 thematic reports due on the in-depth items at COP-9	Second inter-sessional review of Strategic Plan – based on 3 rd national reports
2008	COP-9	COP (a) approves format for 4 th national reports, to include information of implementation of Strategic Plan and (b) approves format for thematic reports on the in-depth items at COP-10	Thematic reports assist COP consideration of its in-depth items	COP considers report on implementation of Strategic Plan
2009		4 th national report due	3 thematic reports due on the in-depth items at COP-10	
2010	COP-10	COP considers report on 4 th national reports	Thematic reports assist COP consideration of its in-depth items	COP considers outcome of Strategic Plan and adopts next Strategic Plan for 2011-2020