



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/EM-SSC/1/3
27 November 2008

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

EXPERT MEETING FOR SOUTH-SOUTH
COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR
DEVELOPMENT
Montreal, 6-7 November 2008

REPORT OF THE EXPERT MEETING FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION

1. At its ninth meeting, in May 2008, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity emphasized, in its decision IX/25, that South-South cooperation is important for development in the context of the Millennium Development Goals, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome ^{1/} as a complement to, and supported by, North-South cooperation. The Conference of the Parties noted the report on the brainstorming meeting of experts on South-South cooperation convened by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in November 2006, in Montreal, which developed a framework for South-South cooperation on biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/11). It also:

(a) Noted the initiative of developing countries to prepare, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other partners, a multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development, based on the above-mentioned framework;

(b) Invited Parties and other Governments, regional and international organizations to support the organization of a South-South cooperation forum on biodiversity for development at the margins of its tenth meeting, in October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan; and

(c) Invited the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report on the preparation of the multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. In June 2008, at the twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (IFC-XII) in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, the member States of the Group of 77 launched the Development Platform for the South ^{2/} in the context of the new realities and emerging challenges facing developing countries. The Platform is considered an essential and necessary tool for policy-making and action to promote international cooperation in the South and to support the participation and integration of developing countries into the global economy and the globalization process. Under item 4.II, paragraphs 42-46, the Development Platform recognizes that biodiversity is under threat and that South-South cooperation on biodiversity can

^{1/} See General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

^{2/} G-77/AM(XX)/2008/6. Also available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/ssc/emssc-01/other/emssc-01-platform-en.doc>.

be significant and fruitful. The Platform thus proposes that developing countries should be enabled to place high priority on biodiversity and biosafety in their national agendas (especially regarding the negotiations for an international instrument on access and benefit-sharing, as well as the biosafety protocol). In this spirit, the Platform encourages the Group of 77 to pursue a programme of action for South-South cooperation on biodiversity. In section B of chapter 3, on proposed measures for South-South cooperation, the Development Platform recommends the elaboration of a “multi-year work programme on South-South cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for protection of life on Earth as well as the access and fair equitable sharing of benefit arising from the use of genetic resources.”

3. With financial support from the Global Environment Facility and in partnership with the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity convened an expert meeting in Montreal, on 6-7 November 2008, to:

(a) Review the above-mentioned draft framework for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for full integration into the G-77 Development Platform for the South;

(b) Identify activities for inclusion in the multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development.

4. The meeting was attended by eighteen experts, fifteen of whom had been nominated by their respective countries. The meeting was co-chaired by the current Chair of the G-77, Ambassador John Ashe of Antigua and Barbuda and Professor James Seyani of Malawi and Vice-President of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. Also in attendance were the current President of the United Nations General Assembly High-level Committee for South-South Cooperation, Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser of Qatar, the Secretary General of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, Mr. Francisco Jose Ruiz Marmolejo, and the current Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), Mr. Spencer Linus Thomas.

5. Invited experts had been identified by the Chairman and the Secretariat of the Group of 77, based on their experience, their previous contribution to the theme (including to the brainstorming meeting organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in November 2006) and their involvement in the negotiations that led to the drafting of the text of the Development Platform for the South. The full list of participants is attached as annex III below.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

6. The meeting was opened at 9.30 a.m. on 6 November 2008 by Ambassador John Ashe of Antigua and Barbuda, Chairman of the Group of 77, who also chaired the first half of the meeting. He remarked that the objective of the meeting was to develop a draft framework for a Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development, as a complement to the Development Platform for the South which was adopted in Cote D'Ivoire by the Group of 77 under the chairmanship of Pakistan in 2007. Ambassador Ashe extended his hope that Sudan, as upcoming Chair of the G-77, would continue supporting both initiatives. He noted that this Multi-Year Plan of Action would be an important contribution to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in 2010, and expressed the wish that the Expert Group would contribute towards its adoption that meeting.

7. Mr. Ahmed Djoghlafl, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, followed with welcoming remarks. He noted that the current financial crisis and the recent food shortages threatened global peace and stability, yet offered a unique opportunity for a paradigm shift in the relationship between human beings and nature. He said that the Convention on Biological Diversity provided the tools and guidance to address the key global challenges we are facing with holistic solutions. Having paid tribute to Ambassador John Ashe and Ambassador Conrod Hunte for their leadership and to the Executive Secretary of the Group of 77, Mr. Mourad Ahmia, for his continued support, he thanked delegates for accepting the invitation to attend the meeting and assist the joint secretariats of the Convention and the Group of 77 in preparing the elements of a multi-year plan of action on South-South Cooperation for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, to be submitted to the tenth

meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to held in Nagoya, Japan, in 2010. He noted that Nagoya meeting of the Parties would coincide with the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, as well as with the high-level segment of the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly, to be devoted to biodiversity.

8. Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations and President of the United Nations High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, stated in his opening remarks that he was honoured to participate in the initiative, which was a response to decision IX/25 of the Conference to the Parties to the Convention. In that decision, the Conference of the Parties encouraged developing countries to engage in South-South cooperation on the issue of biodiversity, complemented, and with the full support of, North-South cooperation, and with the call to incorporate biodiversity concerns in regional and subregional cooperation agreements and associated activities. He noted that while celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, in parallel with the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in Japan, Parties would need to evaluate and review the progress in national implementation. For Governments of developing and least developed countries to be able to effectively address challenges facing biological diversity and the achievement of sustainable development, they need to implement long-term policies aimed at protecting their ecosystems, in collaboration with developed countries. One of the key tools to attaining this goal is the deepening of South-South cooperation.

9. Participants adopted the agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/EM-SSC/1/1/Rev.1) and approved the proposed organization of work in annex I below

ITEM 2. PRESENTATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM FOR THE SOUTH

10. At the invitation from the Chair, Mr. Oliver Hillel, of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, made a presentation on the Development Platform for the South. He noted that the platform highlights the particular elements of South-South cooperation of relevance to the Group of 77, with biodiversity being identified amongst the priority areas. Further, the Development Platform for the South constitutes a suitable overall framework for the development of a multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development. He said that, for the purpose of this meeting, the text of the “Development Platform for the South” is accessible at: www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/ssc/emssc-01/other/emssc-01-platform-en.pdf.

ITEM 3. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT FRAMEWORK OF THE MULTI-YEAR PLAN OF ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM FOR THE SOUTH

11. Mr. Oliver Hillel, Programme Officer of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, summarized the evolution and the elements of the draft multi-year plan of action for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development (UNEP/CBD/EM-SSC/1/2), based on the framework contained in the report of the brainstorming meeting on South-South cooperation on Biodiversity circulated as an information document at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/11). The framework served as a coordination mechanism for projects and activities to ensure and facilitate fundraising and implementation, as a source of references and expertise on South-South cooperation and as guidance on activities, resources and timelines countries could follow to attain successful South-South cooperation.

12. Mr. Eric Belvaux, Programme Officer of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, presented the South-South cooperation project being undertaken by the Secretariat’s unit on biodiversity for development and its possible contribution to the multi-year plan of action. Mr. Belvaux briefly introduced the Biodiversity for Development Initiative recently established by the Secretariat with the support of the Governments of France and Germany. He said that the initiative promoted the integration of biodiversity considerations into sectoral policies or cross-sectoral strategies as well as ensuring the development dimension in national biodiversity strategy and action plans (NBSAPs); the facilitation of the exchange of experiences and the dissemination of lessons learned regarding the

integration of biodiversity into development sectors; and efforts to establish and develop contacts between the Secretariat of the Convention and the main organizations and cooperation agencies in charge of development at the international and regional levels. Specific activities aimed at establishing partnerships with economic or economic-sector-related bodies at the regional level, through the signature of memoranda of understanding that would allow the Secretariat to develop and disseminate information material enhancing good practices and lessons learned on the ground and promote South-South cooperation between these various entities. In that regard, the organization of two “South-South cooperation workshops” had been planned to foster South-South cooperation in gathering regional bodies and relevant stakeholders from targeted regions; share challenges and obstacles encountered in implementing the Convention and explore the ways they have been overcome in different contexts; exchange experiences and significant results achieved in biodiversity mainstreaming at the regional and national levels; strengthen the capacity of participants on emerging issues related to the Convention on Biological Diversity; and provide guidance to donors when elaborating their own strategies and budgets. In conclusion, Mr. Belvaux provided the participants with a proposed structure of such workshops and suggests including this activity as part of the upcoming multi year plan of action.

13. Ambassador Raymundo Santos Rocha Magno asserted Brazil’s firm commitment to the environment. Ambassador Magno highlighted that, among other initiatives, Brazil had hosted the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development, in Rio de Janeiro, where the main conventions on environment protection were adopted, including the Convention on Biological Diversity. Brazil subsequently hosted in 2006, in Curitiba, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. He noted that South-South cooperation was very important as it gave tools to the countries involved so that they could manage projects by themselves. Accordingly, Brazil coordinated efforts for South-South cooperation with the objective of transferring knowledge and experience by means of training and execution of pilot projects. That would ideally enhance the conditions of local life to generate technical capacities so countries can internalize those skills. He noted that South-South cooperation should not replace North-South cooperation but serve as a complement to triangular cooperation. Nor should obligations of developed countries to furnish new and additional resources to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity be overshadowed by South-South cooperation.

14. Mr. Spencer Linus Thomas, Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), noted that South-South cooperation was addressed in other conventions, including UNFCCC. He encouraged an enhanced role for the private sector and NGOs in facilitating South-South cooperation as opposed to a sole focus and dependence on Governments.

15. Mr. Jimmy Blas of the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations noted many South-South initiatives his country was engaging in, such as the establishment of the ASEAN Centre, where there was an extensive exchange of knowledge and expertise between biodiversity experts; pharmaceutical research which was being shared between industries; and an exchange of students and research initiated by the University of the Philippines.

16. Ms. Fernande Afiavi HOUNGbedji of the Permanent Mission of Benin to the United Nations promoted the establishment of a common vision for South-South cooperation. She said that such a vision should look at highlighting strengths, identify “win-win” situations and mobilize for more efficient organization and self-financing of small projects instead of relying solely on assistance from the North.

17. Mr. Marcelo Suárez Salvia of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations emphasized that South-South cooperation was to be undertaken on a voluntary basis and stressed the importance of incorporating triangular cooperation into any multi-year plan of action.

18. Ms. Nadia Mohamed Khair Osman of the Permanent Mission of Sudan to the United Nations thanked previous chairmanships of the Group of 77 for initiating and continuing with efforts to foster South-South cooperation among nations. She expressed the hope that Sudan’s role as the next Chair of the Group of 77 would enable further progress on the initiative. Examples of South-South cooperation that Sudan had already engaged in included the establishment of the Dinder National Park and the Nile

Basin Initiative; both were illustrative of how South-South cooperation could be used as a key to establishing the corridors of peace between nations. The focus of the Dinder National Park development project is the preservation of biodiversity by encouraging species conservation and the sustainable use of resources by integrating local communities in the utilization and management of the natural resources of the park. Sudan would be cooperating with its next-door neighbour, Ethiopia, on the matter. The Nile Basin Initiative was a partnership that sought to develop the river in a cooperative manner and share its socioeconomic benefits between the nine countries sharing the Nile. Ms. Osman also noted that the existing structures of South-South cooperation could be utilized and extended to include cooperation on environmental issues such as biodiversity.

19. Mr. Francisco José Ruiz, Acting Secretary-General of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) noted that the organization is engaged in providing a platform for political dialogue between the eight Amazon country members in order to promote sustainable development within the region. In that context, ACTO was working within a regional perspective on a number of issues, including forestry, sustainable tourism, protected areas, biotrade, indigenous affairs and regional cooperation mechanisms to enhance capacity-building and the exchange of knowledge in biodiversity related topics, including traditional knowledge and access and benefit-sharing. All of those regional issues necessitated the practice of South-South cooperation.

20. In response to a query by Mr. Tariq Al-Ansari, Counsellor to the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations, regarding the means by which monitoring of achievements and progress would be ensured, the Secretariat offered to work as a focal point collecting data from countries and establishing benchmarks of success for South-South cooperation. Furthermore, with the assistance of the Group of 77, a clearing-house mechanism could be formulated for countries to report on activities. In addition, the fourth national reports, to be sent to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity by March 2009, would include South-South cooperation activities taking place in Parties to the Convention. Mr. Al-Ansari also reiterated that any additional financial implications of the multi-year plan of action should be clearly presented to the Parties of the Convention in order to help in its support.

21. Ms. Baya Bensmail of the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations noted that Algeria played a key role in the exchange of biodiversity-related knowledge within Africa with students at the postgraduate level.

22. Professor James Seyani of Malawi and member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity noted that Malawi was engaged in many programmes linked to agriculture, fisheries and the conservation of agro-biological resources. Currently, Malawi was cooperating with Zambia on the conservation of cross-border biodiversity of Nyika and Kasungu National Parks and cooperating with Mozambique on sustainable lake fisheries. Malawi also offered postgraduate programmes which brought in students from across the region studying and researching on many biodiversity-related topics.

ITEM 4. PREPARATIONS FOR THE SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION FORUM ON BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

23. Participants discussed ways to improve the framework as an efficient means for consultations among Parties, for the successful validation and adoption of the multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development at the South-South Cooperation forum in Nagoya, at the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

24. Ms Suhayfa Zia, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations in New York thanked the Executive Secretary and the team from the Convention Secretariat, the Secretariat of the G-77 as well as Ambassador Ashe of Antigua and Barbuda for continuing the work on South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development that had been initiated by South Africa during its chairmanship of the G-77 in 2006. Ms Zia indicated that South Africa was pleased that the work of the brainstorming session on the issue in 2006 was noted by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

25. Ms. Fernande Hounghbedji of Benin noted that priorities might vary between countries, and advised that the Plan should avoid limiting itself to specific programme areas.

26. The President of the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation of the General Assembly of the United Nations gave his consent to be included in the Coordination Committee in collaboration with the chairmanship of the G-77 with the supporting role of the Secretariat and the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.

27. South Africa proposed that the multi-year plan of action be used to the benefit of the developing countries by focusing South-South cooperation on political areas towards achieving success for issues that are critical to the developing world e.g. the need to build capacity for negotiators in the run-up to the access and benefit-sharing (ABS) regime and towards a liability and redress regime. This SSC forum which will take place at the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties could be used to forge strong unity on these issues which are pertinent to the developing world for the G-77 to negotiate as a bloc in the upcoming negotiations on access and benefit-sharing and the liability and redress regimes.

28. Participants agreed on the outline of the multi-year plan of action as included in annex II below.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

29. There were no other matters.

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

30. Participants adopted the report of the meeting on Friday, 7 November 2008, on the basis of the draft report presented by the Co-Chair, with proposed changes.

31. It was agreed that once the draft multi-year plan of action is finalized by the Secretariat, taking into account the comments made by participants at the meeting, it will be sent jointly to the Chair of the G-77 and China and the President of the High-level Committee on South South Cooperation, in order to allow its circulation and consideration by the various regional groups at the United Nations.

32. In his closing remarks, the Executive Secretary thanked the Co-Chairs for conducting the meeting and all participants for their valuable contribution to the process of defining the multi-year plan of action. He remarked that the road to Nagoya would be full of excitement and a lot of hard work, and, on behalf of the Secretariat, offered support to all participants.

33. Co-Chair James Seyani thanked the participants for their participation and congratulated them for adopting the content outline for a multi-year plan of action for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development. He also thanked the Secretariat for organizing the meeting.

34. Following customary exchanges of courtesies, the Chair called the meeting to a close at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, 7 November 2008.

35. The closure of the meeting was followed by a visit to the Biodôme of Montréal.

*Annex I***PROGRAMME OF WORK**

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>6 November 2008</i>	
9 to 9.30 a.m.	Registration of delegates.
9.30 to 10.15 a.m.	1. Opening of the meeting and organizational matters.
10.15 to 11 a.m.	2. Presentation of the Development Platform for the South.
11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	3. Review of the draft framework of the multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development. Presentation by SCBD followed by discussions.
2 to 5 p.m.	3 Continuation of discussions under agenda item 3.
<i>7 November 2008</i>	
9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	4. Preparations for the South-South Cooperation Forum on Biodiversity for Development. 5. Other matters. 6. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting.
2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.	Visit to the Biodôme de Montreal (optional).

Annex II

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

(Content outline resulting from discussions of the expert meeting on 6 November 2008)

Background/Justification (summary of sections I, II and II of the current framework, UNEP/CBD/EM-SSC/1/2, referring also to decision IX/25, 2010 target and effectiveness of South-South Cooperation as a complement to other forms of cooperation)

Scope and timeline:

- The multi-year plan of action focuses on links between biodiversity, development and Millennium Development Goals, particularly goals 1 and 7. It should link to other United Nations South-South cooperation processes and related conventions, to optimize visibility and coordinate efforts.
- Two phases: until 2010 (development and reporting on existing SSC) and from 2010 to 2015 (implementation).

Vision:

- The multi-year plan of action to be a simple and general document focusing on thematic programmes and cross-cutting issues as defined by the latest meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and possibly to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting with the support of G-77 Parties and the United Nations High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation.
- South-South cooperation as a complement to trilateral/North-South cooperation – need to involve developed countries in the implementation of the multi-year plan of action.
- The multi-year plan of action supports Parties, other Governments, regional and international organizations by facilitating projects and programmes aimed at joint conservation and sustainable use of cross border ecosystems.
- The multi-year plan of action provides an opportunity to mobilize G-77 members on biodiversity, and to reenergize the Group of 77 to contribute to the Convention on Biological Diversity as a negotiation platform that adds value by facilitating common positions for developing countries.
- The multi-year plan of action supports the programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, no duplication of efforts.
- Capacity-building for negotiations at regional, subregional, national and subnational levels.
- Multi-stakeholder approach to include non-governmental organizations, academic and other institutions and the private sector from developing countries.

Objectives:

The general objective is to strengthen and deepen South-South cooperation and triangular arrangements as a complement to, and supportive of, North-South cooperation in achieving goals 1 and 7 of the

Millennium Development Goals and the 2010 biodiversity target as defined by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. More specifically, and as mentioned in the report of the 2006 South-South brainstorming meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/11), the multi-year programme of work aims to:

- Provide guidance to the international community (parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, development and donor agencies, regional bodies and other stakeholders) in promoting South-South cooperation to implement the three objectives of the Convention (namely, the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources), and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;
- Provide a framework for Parties, development agencies and regional bodies to submit projects and activities on South-South cooperation on biodiversity under a common approach, to facilitate coordination, fundraising and implementation;
- Organize and support a roster of experts and sources of information on South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development.

Framework:

The framework serves as a coordination mechanism for projects and activities to ensure and facilitate fund-raising and implementation, as a source of references and expertise on South-South cooperation and as guidance on activities, resources and timelines countries can follow to attain successful South-South cooperation.

- Flexible to consider all programmes and issues of the Convention on Biological Diversity (the decisions adopted at the eighth and ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties include specific mention to South-South cooperation in 18 different programmes of work), but calling attention to activities as prioritized by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties/Nagoya roadmap:
 - Development of national legislative frameworks for access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing;
 - Protection of traditional knowledge (Article 8(j) of the Convention);
 - Protected areas (concessions, tourism);
 - Sustainable use of the components of biodiversity;
 - Climate change and biodiversity (assessments, adaptation and mitigation) – forests, islands;
 - Desertification/land degradation (under dry- and sub-humid lands);
 - Biosafety/liability and redress.
- Process to include an ongoing review of priorities to accommodate decisions of the Conference of the Parties and individual priorities as they evolve.
- For each programme area above, actions proposed in the plan should include:
 - Related decisions of the Conference of the Parties “verbatim”;
 - Proposed activities (description, guidance, guidelines, indicative and not prescriptive);
 - Proposed targets and measures of level of achievement;
 - Indicative cost, as applicable (only for actions requiring additional fund-raising, with a focus on capacity-building);
 - Examples of existing activities (lead partners);

- Sources of expertise and benchmarks in developing countries.

Operations and evaluation of progress

- The meeting suggested the establishment of a Coordinating Committee composed of the Chair of G-77, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the President of the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation of the United Nations General Assembly. Wider issue-based consultations may involve the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other relevant and interested United Nations agencies, donors, regional economic commissions and other regional agencies as appropriate and by invitation of the Committee. Composition to be defined at the Global South-South Development Expo to be held in New York from 16 to 19 December 2008 in conjunction with the fifth annual United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation (19 December).
- Support from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Group of 77.
- The clearing-house mechanism under the Convention on Biological Diversity can be used as platform for disseminating case-studies and best practices. The fourth national reports to be submitted by Parties under the Convention, which are due by the end of March 2009, will allow the Secretariat to identify needs, best practices and benchmarks.
- Regional and subregional organizations will be contacted to support the implementation of the multi-year plan of action.

Resource mobilization

- The multi-year plan of action will include references and recommendations for sources of funds specific to South-South cooperation, as indicated in the background document for the Expert Meeting for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity and Development (UNEP/CBD/EM-SSC/1/2).

Process for development of the multi-year programme of action)

- First draft by the end of November/early December circulated to participants of expert meeting.
- Final draft circulated by early 2009 to G-77 Parties, to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation and to Parties through a notification from the Executive Secretary.

Process for consultations and validation of multi-year plan of action

Convention on Biological Diversity

- Bureau of the Conference of the Parties on 26 November 2008/regional focal points.
- Notification to all Parties.
- Side-events and information documents:
 - Seventh meeting of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, Paris, 2-8 April 2009;
 - Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
 - Fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) (May/June 2010).
- Second expert meeting as needed.

Group of 77

- Briefing for the Group of 77 by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in New York (16 and/or 17 December).
- Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77.

United Nations High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

- United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation,, 19 December 2008.

Adoption of the multi-year plan of action:

- Decision at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, proposed by G-77 Parties (need to coordinate), statement in the ministerial segment of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- Endorsements by the Group of 77 and the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation.
- To support – High-level Forum on South-South Cooperation as a side-event at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex III

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