



Convention on Biological Diversity

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SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

First Forum

Nagoya, Japan, 17 October 2010

REPORT OF THE FIRST FORUM ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The meeting was opened at 10 am on Sunday, 17 October 2010, by its chair, H.E. Ambassador Abdullah M. Alsaidi, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Yemen to the United Nations and Chairman of the Group of 77 and China. Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, welcomed participants and shared introductory remarks, in which he paid tribute to the past and current chairs and the Secretariat of the Group of 77 for their leadership and guidance in developing the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development. He also thanked the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for providing financial support to the Secretariat to pursue the development of the Plan, and commended South Korea for supporting the Secretariat with a two-year secondment staff and establishing a partnership between its National Institute of Biological Resources and the Secretariat through a Memorandum of Understanding. He encouraged participants to disseminate the results of the development of the Plan and to negotiate fairly and openly for its adoption at the Conference of the Parties.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2. The Group approved the proposed provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/SSC-FOR/1/1) and the organization of work for the meeting as contained in annex I of the annotations to the provisional agenda.
3. The meeting was held in English. The documentation listed in annex II below was made available for the participants in the meeting.

ITEM 3. PRESENTATION OF THE MULTI-YEAR PLAN OF ACTION FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

4. Mr. Oliver Hillel, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, presented the updated draft Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development, which had been prepared on the basis of the previous meetings and compiled comments from the G-77 Parties.

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ITEM 4. PRESENTATIONS OF CASES OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

5. Mr. Francis Ogwal, the National Environmental Management Authority of Uganda, in his presentation, highlighted some possible areas for South-South cooperation within the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular, on the important linkages between climate change and biodiversity and through effective knowledge sharing.

6. Mr Shonisani Munzhedzi, Chief Director of Biodiversity Management in South Africa, made a presentation on South-South cooperation, focusing on the importance of regional cooperation and the experience of South-Africa on the issue of sustainable water resource management.

ITEM 5. STRATEGIES FOR SUBMISSION AND THE ROADMAP

7. Following the presentation, participants discussed the strategies for the submission of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, examined the scope for potential negotiation, and defined next steps for the implementation of the Plan, including the roadmap leading towards the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

8. Mr. Spencer Thomas from Grenada suggested the Secretariat send a survey to all Parties to collect pertinent information on South-South cooperation. Mr. James Seyani from Malawi proposed that a map of Transboundary Conservation Areas in Africa and elsewhere should be produced. Mr. Lena Chen from Singapore encouraged Parties to practice South-South exchange at local level, involve subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, and use the City Biodiversity Index. She mentioned the possible adoption of the Plan of Action on this issue, proposed under agenda item 4.9, adopted later on.

9. Participants from Yemen and St. Lucia proposed that South-South cooperation focusing on joint solutions to issues addressed by all three Rio conventions should be prioritized. There were also proposals from participants for developing methodologies to evaluate and measure the benefits and value of biodiversity, taking into account economic, social and cultural aspects.

10. Mr. Melchiade Bukuru from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) underlined the need for recognizing the link between biodiversity and land issues, as the roots of land degradation started with biodiversity loss. Instead of creating new ones, Parties should make best utilization of existing indicators, for example, the “land loss indicator”. A participant from Nigeria also stressed that the issue of land ownership by local and indigenous communities needed to be considered within the South-South cooperation on biodiversity.

11. Mr. Cosmas Gitta from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Special Unit for South-South Cooperation congratulated the CBD for the achievement of the long-term effort, which led to developing countries speaking in one voice. He commended the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for having identified one very important area, i.e. biodiversity in South-South cooperation, and committed the UNDP SSC Unit’s support to the further development of the Plan and its activities.

ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS

12. Many participants underscored the importance of bringing the G-77 and China back as a relevant negotiating body at the Conference of the Parties, and recognized the need to identify common issues as well as the need for funding to assemble pre-COP and other CBD meetings. One suggestion of holding regular G-77 coordination meetings throughout the COP-10 was actually adopted and implemented – the group met daily during COP-10, under the leadership of Yemen.

ITEM 7. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE MULTI-YEAR PLAN OF ACTION FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

13. After consideration, and with a few minor edits, participants from all G-77 and China adopted the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development, and mandated Yemen as the chair of G-77 and China to submit it under agenda item 4.9 (d), to the tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

14. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity announced that the resulting final version of the Multi-Year Plan of Action was posted as UNEP/CBD/COP/10/18/Add.1/Rev.1 (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=COP-10>), and a Notification was sent to all Parties on October 18, 2010, in preparation for the negotiations by the Conference of the Parties of agenda item 4.9.

15. The Secretariat further announced the Second Forum on South-South Cooperation to be held back to back with the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-11) in India, in 2012, and the next Steering Committee meeting to be held in early 2011.

16. The Chair commended the main achievement of the First Forum on South-South Cooperation, which was the unanimous adoption of the Multi-Year Plan of Action by all Parties of the Group of 77 and China. He further indicated that the Groups intention was not to politicize South-South cooperation, as developed Parties were important partners to the South. He reiterated that the key to the success of the negotiation would be getting common positions among the G-77 and China, and building support among other Parties.

ITEM 8. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

17. Following the customary exchanges of appreciation and the Chair's final remarks, the First Forum on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development Meeting was closed at 1 p.m. on Sunday, 17 October 2010.

**PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE FIRST FORUM ON SOUTH-SOUTH
COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT**

| SATURDAY, 17 OCTOBER | |
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| 10:00 – 10:15 | <p><i>Item 1: Opening of the meeting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks by H.E. Mr. Abdullah Muhammad Alsaidi, Chair of the G-77 and China • Opening remarks by Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the CBD |
| 10:15 – 10:20 | <p><i>Item 2: Organizational matters</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the agenda and organization of work |
| 10:20 – 10:30 | <p><i>Item 3: Presentation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the CBD |
| 10:30 – 11:15 | <p><i>Item 4: Presentation of cases of South-South Cooperation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uganda, South Africa and other parties |
| 11:15 – 11:45 | <p><i>Item 5: Strategies for submission and the roadmap</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion |
| 11:45 – 11:50 | <p><i>Item 6: Other matters</i></p> |
| 11:50 – 12:30 | <p><i>Item 7: Consideration and adoption of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development</i></p> |
| 12:30 – 13:00 | <p><i>Item 8: Closure of the meeting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcements • Closing remarks by H.E. Mr. Abdullah Muhammad Alsaidi, Chairman of the G-77 and China |

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

| Document Number | Document Title |
|----------------------------|--|
| UNEP/CBD/SSC-FOR/1/1 | Provisional agenda |
| UNEP/CBD/SSC-FOR/1/1/Add.1 | Annotations to the provisional agenda |
| UNEP/CBD/COP/10/18/Add.1 | Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development (updated version, including draft decision for COP-10) |
