

Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/SSC-SC/1/3
29 October 2009

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STEERING COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

First meeting
Montreal, 29 October 2009

REPORT OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT ON THE WORK OF ITS FIRST MEETING

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its ninth meeting, in May 2008, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary to report on the development of a Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010 (decision IX/25). The preparation of this Multi-Year Plan of Action stems from the work achieved at a brainstorming meeting¹ on South-South cooperation which was held in November 2006 at the request of the Group of 77 (G-77) under the chairmanship of South Africa and organized in partnership with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Participants at the brainstorming meeting discussed, *inter alia*, elements of a Plan of Action to enhance implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and recommendations for the process of developing a Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South cooperation on biodiversity. In November 2008, an Expert Meeting² was convened by the then Chairman of the G-77 Antigua and Barbuda, in partnership with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in which participants reviewed the draft framework for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for full integration into the G-77 Development Platform for the South, and identified activities for inclusion in the Multi-Year Plan of Action on Biodiversity for Development. At this meeting, a Steering Committee was proposed comprising the former and current Chairs of the Group of 77 (South Africa, Antigua and Barbuda, Sudan and Yemen, the incoming chair for 2010) as well as the chair of the 2006 brainstorming session (Malawi) and the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (Grenada), to assist in the preparation and implementation of the multi-year plan of action on South-South cooperation, defined through decision IX/25 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

¹ The report of the Brainstorming Meeting is available as document UNEP/CBD/BM-SSC/1/3 at <http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/SouthSouthcooperation.shtml>.

² The report of the Expert Meeting is available as document UNEP/CBD/EM-SSC/1/3 at <http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/SouthSouthcooperation.shtml>.

/...

2. In partnership with the Chairman of the G-77 and the Executive Secretary of the G-77, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity convened the first meeting of the Steering Committee for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for development, on 29 October 2009, in Montreal. The three main objectives of the meeting were:

(a) To review the draft multi-year plan of action prepared by the Secretariat;

(b) To outline a roadmap for the further development of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for (i) its presentation at the South-South Forum to be organized on 18 October 2010, on the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP-10); and (ii) for its submission as part of the Executive Secretary's report³ to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties under the agenda item on cooperation with other conventions and other organizations;

(c) To prepare the organization of a further consultative expert meeting to be held in Kampala, from 31 May to 2 June 2010, at the invitation of Hon. Jesca Eriyo, Minister of State for Environment of Uganda.

3. The Steering Committee meeting was attended by eight participants representing Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Malawi, Philippines, South Africa, and Yemen, as well as staff of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Participants elected Chairman Elect of the G-77, H.E. Mr. Abdullah M. Alsaidi of Yemen, and Professor James Seyani, a Vice-President of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and Malawi national focal point for the Convention, as Co-Chairs. This meeting, as well as the previous brainstorming and expert meetings, was convened with financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

ITEMS 1 AND 2. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

4. The meeting was opened at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, 29 October 2009 by Mr. Ahmed Djoghlafl, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Mr. Djoghlafl welcomed the participants to this first meeting of the Steering Committee and the four-year process through which the initiative was developed and submitted to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for consideration, resulting in its decision IX/25. He congratulated South Africa for initiating the process under its Chairmanship of the G-77 in 2006, and Antigua and Barbuda for carrying the process forward under their Chairmanship of the G-77 in 2008, including their pivotal role in supporting the issue of South-South cooperation at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. He applauded the commitment of the G-77 and the Steering Committee on the development of the Multi-Year Plan of Action, and emphasized the importance of the Plan in supporting the implementation of the 2011–2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention as well as the 2050 Biodiversity vision and 2020 Biodiversity target, which would be considered for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at their tenth meeting, in Nagoya Japan, in October 2010. He noted that the overwhelming majority of biodiversity was found in developing countries and that South-South cooperation to halt biodiversity loss was not only critical to the sustainability of the Planet, but also to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). For those reasons, the Steering Committee had a crucial role in the further development of the Multi-Year Plan of Action, which would be a model framework for South-South Cooperation. He noted that the ministers of foreign affairs of the G-77, at their annual meeting in New York, on 25 September 2009, had welcomed decision IX/25 of the Conference of the Parties as well as the forthcoming meetings of the Steering Committee to guide the further development of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for submission to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity greatly looked forward to working with the Steering Committee and G-77 on the road to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Nagoya and beyond. He concluded his opening remarks by

³ This submission to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties was requested in paragraph 6 of decision IX/25.

introducing the participants and staff members of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

5. Mr. Mourad Ahmia, Executive Secretary of the G-77 delivered a message from the Chairman of the G-77, H.E. Mr. Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem Mohamad. The Chairman noted that biodiversity was a key economic, financial, cultural, and strategic asset for developing countries, and that the G-77 fully recognized the importance of the Multi-Year Plan of Action as a mechanism to both strengthen South-South cooperation and complement North-South cooperation in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Furthermore, the Multi-Year Plan of Action would not only provide a platform for the exchange of scientific and technical knowledge and best practices, but also would support the mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into regional and subregional cooperation agreements, development programmes, and interregional South-South initiatives. He concluded by stating that the G-77 looked forward to the successful outcome of the meeting as an important element in the preparations for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

6. H.E. Mr. Abdullah M. Alsaïdi, in his capacity as Co-Chair of the meeting, stated in his opening remarks that biodiversity was central to the well-being of people in the developing as well as the developed world. Therefore, it was of central importance to increase cooperation on such an important issue, not only in terms of South-South cooperation, but also in terms of triangular South-South-North cooperation. He emphasized that Yemen would work hard to present a coherent and strong Plan of Action to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties under its Chairmanship of the G-77. He further stressed the importance of information sharing as the Steering Committee moved forward over the next year with the further development of the Plan of Action for its adoption by the G-77 and submission to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. He concluded by saying that in his capacity as facilitator, he would highlight the importance of biodiversity in the outcome document of the upcoming High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in Nairobi from 1 to 3 December 2009.

7. Professor James Seyani, in his capacity as Co-Chair, remarked that what was often lacking in the biodiversity arena was political drive and that the group was looking to the G-77 for that political will and leadership. In that respect, the Multi-Year Plan of Action offered a crucial platform. He noted the link between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Millennium Development Goals as well as the importance of recognizing the links between biodiversity and climate change, not only in terms of impacts, but also in terms of the role biodiversity can play in mitigation and adaptation strategies. Finally, he stressed the importance of linking the Multi-Year Plan of Action to the new Strategic Plan of the Convention for 2011–2020. He concluded by stating that he would report to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties on 1 November, 2009 on the outcome of this Steering Committee meeting and the development of the Multi-Year Plan of Action.

8. Dr. Spencer Thomas, Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), began his opening remarks by delivering greetings from the SBSTTA Bureau members. He noted that biodiversity loss and climate change together presented the greatest threat facing the world. Additionally, he noted that the South held most of the biodiversity in the world, that these resources were critical for livelihoods, but that the South was also the most vulnerable to biodiversity loss. It was important for the South to rely more on its own capacity, technology, and finances, and an example of such cooperation could be found in the work being achieved by the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS) on climate-change-related issues and the cooperation among SIDS within the G-77. Echoing the comments of other participants, he stressed that South-South cooperation should be linked to the new Strategic Plan for the Convention. He emphasized that the Steering Committee should be cognizant of the new governance mechanisms currently under discussion in parallel international arenas, and that this Multi-Year Plan of Action could play a critical role in the path forward. He concluded his opening remarks by thanking Sudan for its leadership of G-77.

9. The Co-Chairs opened the floor for any other participants to make comments. Ms. Suhayfa Zia, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations, reported that South Africa was very pleased to see the progress achieved thus far in this process that was initiated under its chairmanship of the G-77 in 2006. South-South cooperation was a fundamental pillar of South Africa's foreign policy. Recognizing that North-South cooperation continued to be important, it was crucial to recognize that a lot of capacity and resources existed in the South and that these should be harnessed for the benefit of regions in the South. South Africa also viewed this initiative through the prism of poverty eradication and was very pleased to see that the initiative was progressing well and to see it handed over to Yemen to take it forward to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

10. Representing the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations, Mr. Jimmy Blas thanked both the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Executive Secretary of the G-77 for organizing this first meeting of the Steering Committee and for the invitation to participate. Additionally, he thanked the Executive Secretary of the Convention for his support to the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, which was increasing awareness and sharing information on biodiversity-related issues both in the region and internationally. He noted the essential role biodiversity played in the economies of developing countries and in poverty eradication and he stressed the importance of integrating biodiversity concerns into strategic programmes and policies. As coordinator of the G-77 draft resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on the Convention on Biological Diversity, he updated the group on the draft. Furthermore, he discussed the proposal that had been put forward on holding a high-level event in September 2010, at the United Nations in New York as a highlight of the commemoration of the International Year of Biodiversity. The outcome of the high-level event would provide an important input to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. He requested the support of the Steering Committee for the tentative date of 20 September 2010 for the high-level event, taking into account that that day would be the Monday before the opening of the general debate of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. Finally, he noted that the modalities of the high-level event would be the components of the current draft resolution on the Convention on Biological Diversity that would be submitted for adoption by the General Assembly during its sixty-fourth session.

11. The Steering Committee spent some time discussing the proposed high-level event and the best timing. They noted that the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the G-77 and China, at their meeting held in New York in September 2009, had recommended the date of 20 September 2010. They agreed to coordinate with the president of the General Assembly in setting the best date in order to ensure participation at the highest level in the event and minimize any possible conflict or overlap with associated meetings, including some proposed meetings on the review of the MDGs that were tentatively scheduled for the same time. Additionally, they agreed to highlight the South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development initiative during the upcoming High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in Nairobi from 1 to 3 December 2009.

12. Ambassador Conrod Hunte, Deputy Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, thanked the Executive Secretary of the Convention and Secretariat for the invitation to attend the Steering Committee meeting. He echoed earlier statements made on the importance of promoting dialogue on biodiversity concerns within the political arena. He noted that three events stood out in their potential to highlight at a high political level the draft Multi-Year Plan of Action: (i) the High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation in Nairobi from 1 to 3 December 2009; (ii) the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation on 19 December 2009; and (iii) the high-level event on the International Year of Biodiversity tentatively scheduled for 20 September 2010, in New York.

13. Following up on the comments from Ambassador Hunte, Professor Seyani suggested that liaising with the United Nations regional economic commissions would be helpful to the process.

14. The Steering Committee adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SSC-SC/1/1) and approved the proposed organization of work found in annex I of this report.

ITEM 3. PREPARATION OF A MULTI-YEAR PLAN OF ACTION ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

15. Under this agenda item, the Steering Committee reviewed the draft Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development (UNEP/CBD/SSC-SC/1/2) that can be found in annex III of this report. Mr. Oliver Hillel, representing of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity presented an overview of the draft Multi-Year Plan of Action. Following the presentation, the Chair opened the floor to comments and inputs on the elements of the draft Plan of Action.

16. Mr. Djoghlaif stated that the overall goal was to have a Multi-Year Plan of Action that would be fully mainstreamed into the processes of the Convention as a modality under all Programmes of Work and that it would be integrated into the Strategic Plan for 2011 - 2020. This would carry forward to reporting mechanisms across the Convention on Biological Diversity. For instance, the draft new Strategic Plan encourages Parties to revise their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans in the time period between the tenth and eleventh meetings of the Conference of the Parties and invites Parties to submit reports on implementation of the Strategic Plan including how they have implemented and supported South-South cooperation. Additionally, Parties could be requested to report on South-South cooperation in future National Reports. He noted that the Multi-Year Plan of Action also would be integrated into the discussions at a number of up-coming meetings under the Convention in order to build awareness of the initiative and move the process forward. These meetings included: (i) those under the international regime on access and benefit-sharing; (ii) a meeting of the secretariats of the three Rio conventions; (iii) a high-level meeting of the Economic Commissions for the purpose of discussing and signing a MOU to enhance mainstreaming of biodiversity into their agendas and in which South-South cooperation would be a key element; (iv) the Forum on South-South Cooperation scheduled for 18 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan; and (v) a Dialogue for United Nations Agencies and Parties to be convened on 25 October 2010 during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, during which the G-77 could bring attention to the Multi-Year Plan of Action. Additionally, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity would work with key partners with which it had standing agreements directly related to South-South cooperation, such as the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and the three Major Forest Basin treaties, as these partners would be central in implementing the Multi-Year Plan of Action.

17. Mr. Thomas stated that the alignment of the draft Plan of Action was good. Noting lessons learned from the experience of Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) as well as cooperation among major forest basins, he added that the number of partnerships catalyzed could be included as a measure of success under the monitoring and reporting section. He concluded by stating that the International Year of Biodiversity offered an important opportunity to build awareness on the Multi-Year Plan of Action and move the Plan forward.

18. Ms. Zia noted that it was important to make further reference to the specific needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS). Additionally, South Africa would like to highlight the special needs related to South-South cooperation in Africa. She added that within the Climate Change debates, there was a move by developed partners to mainstream the issue. Therefore it was critical to understand how this would impact on biodiversity and to ensure that it was not ignored in this process. She referred to the need to balance international attention on all three Rio conventions. She also stressed that the development of a roster of expertise which would cross tabulate needs of countries with available expertise would be critical to the effective implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action. This roster could be accessed through the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM). She also stated that she was pleased to see the reference to innovative financing, including those being discussed under the Climate Change agenda, Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest

Degradation (REDD), and Payments for Ecosystem Services, and she would like to see further discussion on funding avenues for the implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action. Finally, she drew the group's attention to the Rio +20 resolution being negotiated by the G-77 and the need to contribute to this by inserting some language on the balance of the three Rio conventions.

19. Ambassador Hunte commented that in monitoring implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action, there should be attention placed on tracking any type of measurable South-South cooperation among countries and not just financial exchanges. In this regard, the roster of expertise suggested by South Africa would play an important role in tracking South-South cooperation exchanges.

20. Mr. Blas reiterated that South-South cooperation should be fully integrated across all programmes of work. He noted that the expertise of large NGOs would be important. Finally he stated that the further development of the reporting and benchmarking mechanism was important and should allow the Steering Committee and partnership to make adjustments along the way in order to incorporate lessons learned into the Plan of Action.

21. Mr. Djoghlaif responded to the comments by stressing that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for North-South cooperation. Regarding the interlinkages between the three Rio conventions, he briefed the Steering Committee the current joint work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNCCD and on a proposal to be submitted to Conference of the Parties on UNFCCC in Copenhagen to establish a joint work programme between the three Rio conventions to be adopted by the Conferences of the Parties of each convention. He supported the proposal for developing a roster of expertise to be incorporated under the CHM. He further noted that the Steering Committee will have an important role in serving the implementation of Plan of Action after its adoption. Responding to a request from the participants, Mr. Djoghlaif provided a brief update on the negotiations on the International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) and the upcoming eighth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing that would meet from 9 to 15 November, 2009 in Montreal. He noted that South-South cooperation would be a component under a future international regime on access and benefit-sharing.

22. Ms. Zia further added that the stakeholders based in New York had a critical role to play and invited Mr. Djoghlaif to come to New York and report to delegates at the United Nations on the Multi-Year Plan of Action. Mr. Blas seconded this invitation. Mr. Blas also supported this invitation, noting that it would be most important for delegates in New York to have a better understanding of the ongoing negotiations on access and benefit-sharing.

23. Returning to the issue of the proposed Roster, Professor Seyani stressed that this should be a roster of expertise of countries and not a roster of experts. The other members of the Steering Committee agreed.

24. Mr. Ahmia stressed that the visibility and support of this initiative is very critical at this juncture of the preparations for the United Nations High-level Conference on South-South cooperation to be held from 1 to 3 December 2009, in Nairobi, which should be used as a platform to promote this Multi-Year Plan of Action. He supported the proposal by the Co-Chair that there should be a reference to this initiative in the outcome document of the Conference and that the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity could submit a background paper to the Conference. On the issue of funding, he noted that in addition to innovative financing, the Multi-Year Plan of Action should also target traditional and existing funding mechanisms, including the GEF and the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation. He also stressed that all possibilities should be explored, including a signature of MOUs with various donor agencies, in order to mobilize significant funds.

25. Participants also discussed next steps in the roadmap to the tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Other milestones examined by the Steering Committee included:

- (a) Opportunities to highlight the development of the Plan of Action during the United Nations High-level Conference on South-South cooperation from 1 to 3 December 2009 and during the next United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, which will be held on 19 December 2009;
- (b) The third meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention to be held in Nairobi, from 24 to 28 May 2010;
- (c) A consultative expert meeting to be held in Kampala from 31 May to 2 June 2010;
- (d) The thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (IFCC-XIII);
- (e) A high-level meeting of the G-77 to adopt the Plan in August in Abidjan;
- (f) The Third South Summit of the G-77 to be held in Africa in 2010 prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- (g) The distribution of the draft plan at the meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the G-77 at a high-level special event to mark the International Year of Biodiversity during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly in New York, in September 2010;
- (h) The first South-South Forum on Biodiversity, to be organized by the G-77 and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on 18 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, in conjunction with the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- (i) A draft decision to be introduced by Yemen, as the Chair of the G-77, at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties from 18 to 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.

ITEM 4 AND 5. PREPARATION OF THE KAMPALA EXPERT MEETING AND DATE AND VENUE OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

26. On 11 May 2009, the Minister of State for Environment of Uganda, Hon. Jesca Eryio, offered to host an expert meeting in support of South-South cooperation under the Convention on Biological Diversity. A short presentation of themes that could be discussed at this expert meeting was presented to the Steering Committee for their input.

27. The Steering Committee decided that its next meeting would be in Kampala starting on 31 May. A two–three day meeting was proposed which would also include the participation of selected experts. The objective of this meeting would be to review the Multi-Year Plan of Action ahead of its formal submission to the G-77 for adoption and, subsequently, to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting for adoption. Several options were discussed for the formal submission of the finalized draft to the G-77 for the Group’s adoption. These options included:

- (a) A high-level meeting of the G-77 in August 2010 in Abidjan;
- (b) The high-level special event to mark the International Year of Biodiversity during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly in New York in September 2010; and
- (c) The first South-South Forum on Biodiversity to be held on 18 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.

28. Mr. Djoghlafl followed this discussion with a presentation on plans for the International Year of Biodiversity, updating the participants as well on recent meetings on integrating biodiversity into the agendas of the G-8 and G-20 meetings in 2010 to further promote the International Year.

ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

29. In closing the meeting H.E. Mr. Abdullah M. Alsaidi provided an overview of his conclusions and observations. Specifically, he summarized the discussions on: (i) the importance of triangular cooperation; (ii) the mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into national development planning; (iii) the suggestion by Mr. Ahmia to approach and sign memoranda of understanding with donor agencies for the purpose of mobilizing financial support for the Multi-Year Plan of Action; (iv) the relevance of biodiversity as part of the solution to mitigating and adapting to Climate Change; and (v) the need for the Mr. Djoghlaflaf to brief delegates in New York on the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South cooperation, and on the progress being made on the proposed International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing.

30. Mr. Djoghlaflaf concluded the meeting by expressing gratitude to the members of the Steering Committee for attending this meeting. He emphasized that he was encouraged by the discussions and looked forward to working together with the Steering Committee and G-77 on the road to Nagoya.

31. The meeting ended at 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 29 October 2009.

*Annex I***PROGRAMME**

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
9 to 9.30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration of delegates at the site (Board room of Montreal International, 8th floor of 380 St-Antoine W.)
9.30 to 10.15 a.m.	<p><i>Items 1 and 2 Opening of the meeting and organizational matters</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the CBD ○ Message by the chairman of the G-77 in New York, delivered by Mr. Mourad Ahmia, Executive Secretary of the G-77 ○ Prof. James Seyani, Malawi, member of COP Bureau ○ Dr. Spencer Thomas, Grenada, chair of SBSTTA 14 ○ H.E. Mr. Abdullah M. Alsaidi, Yemen, chairman elect of the G-77 for 2010 ○ Other statements • Election of the Chair(s) of the meeting • Short updates on progress on each organization's South-South cooperation activities
10.15 to 11.15 a.m.	<p><i>Item 3 Preparation of a multi-year plan of action on South-South cooperation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Multi-Year Plan of Action • Participants will be asked to comment • SCBD Staff will present comments sent by Uganda
11.15 a.m. to 12 p.m.	<p><i>Item 4 Preparation of the Kampala expert meeting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short presentation with input from Uganda <p><i>Item 5 Date and venue of the second meeting of the Steering Committee</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the entire roadmap
12.30 p.m.	<p><i>Item 6 Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting</i></p> <p>Lunch will be served at the nearby Intercontinental Hotel/Osco restaurant.</p>

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. **H.E. Mr. Abdullah M. Alsaidi**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic, of Yemen to the United Nations, and Chairman-elect of the Group of 77 for 2010, New York
2. **Mr. Mourad Ahmia**, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Group of 77, New York
3. **Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif**, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal
4. **Ambassador Conrod Hunte**, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, New York
5. **Mr. Spencer Linus Thomas**, CBD National Focal Point, Chair of SBSTTA 14, Biodiversity Coordinator, Ministry of Finance, Grenada
6. **Professor James Seyani**, Member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, CBD National Focal Point, Director-General, National Herbarium and Botanical Gardens, Malawi
7. **Ms. Suhayfa Zia**, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations, New York
8. **Mr. Jimmy Blas**, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations, New York
9. **Mr. Awsan Al-Aud**, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Yemen to the United Nations, New York

Secretariat

10. **Mr. Jo Mulongoy**, Programme Officer, CBD Secretariat
11. **Mr. Oliver Hillel**, Programme Officer, CBD Secretariat
12. **Ms. Linda Ghanime**, Programme Officer, CBD Secretariat
13. **Ms. Chantal Robichaud**, Programme Assistant, CBD Secretariat
14. **Ms. Camellia Ibrahim**, Consultant

*Annex III***DRAFT MULTI-YEAR PLAN OF ACTION FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT****A. Vision**

1. The Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development focuses on links between biodiversity, development, and human wellbeing. The purpose is to strengthen South-South cooperation and triangular arrangements as a complement to, and supportive of, North-South cooperation⁴ in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, in the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (particularly Goals 1 and 7). The Multi-Year Plan of Action will support the implementation of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity which will integrate the 2050 biodiversity vision and 2020 Biodiversity Target to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties at their tenth meeting in Aichi/Nagoya, Japan from 19 to 29 October 2010. Therefore, the Multi-Year Plan of Action includes the following in its overarching vision:

(a) South-South cooperation through this Plan of Action will not replace North-South cooperation but rather complement and support triangular cooperation. Furthermore, investments in South-South cooperation are not a substitute to the necessary North-South investment including through the traditional Official Development Assistance for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(b) The Plan of Action assists with the overarching goal of mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into relevant development sectors and into political, economic, and social decision-making at national as well as regional levels;

(c) The Multi-Year Plan of Action (as a complement to the Development Platform for the South⁵ launched by the G-77 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) provides an opportunity to mobilize G-77 members on biodiversity, and to reenergize the G-77 in contributing to the Convention on Biological Diversity as a negotiation platform that adds value by facilitating common positions for developing countries;

(d) The Plan of Action supports the mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into regional integration processes, regional and subregional cooperation agreements⁶ development programmes, and inter-regional South-South programmes;

(e) It serves the Parties, regional, and international organizations by facilitating projects and programmes aimed at joint conservation and sustainable use of cross border ecosystems, and by avoiding duplication of efforts;

(f) It is recognized that forums such as the Group of 15,⁷ the Group of Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries (LMMC)⁸ or the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum⁹ have been

⁴ Encouraged by the Conference of the Parties, in decision IX/25, paragraph 2.

⁵ The G-77 Development Platform for the South can be found at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/ssc/emssc-01/other/emssc-01-platform-en.doc>.

⁶ As encouraged by the Conference of the Parties, in decision IX/25, paragraph 2.

⁷ The G-15 is comprised of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Nigeria, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

recently established in order to foster cooperation and enhance the solidarity and the interdependence of developing countries. The LMMC has been established in the context of the implementation of the Convention, demonstrating that the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention offers a unique opportunity to enhance South-South cooperation. Therefore the Plan of Action envisions strong cooperation with such relevant forums;

(g) The Multi-Year Plan of Action supports the implementation of the Strategic Plan under the Convention on Biological Diversity, for 2011-2020 and its associated goals, targets, and indicators, using this as a guiding framework for coordinated actions among southern partners to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity and mainstream biodiversity considerations into cross-sectoral policies, programmes, strategies, and planning processes. The duration of the Multi-Year Plan of Action will coincide with the timeline of the Strategic Plan of the Convention for 2011-2020, taking into account the milestones included in the Strategic Plan;

(h) Implementation of the Plan of Action requires a multi-stakeholder approach including with academic institutions, the private sector, development partners, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, and local communities and indigenous peoples organizations;

(i) The Plan of Action is envisioned as facilitating a two-directional information exchange: (i) inputs into the processes of the Convention on Biological Diversity from the G-77 members on their priorities for South-South cooperation as well as ways member countries are implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity at national and regional levels; and (ii) integration of information on the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity into parallel South-South cooperation initiatives, agreements, and process;

(j) The Plan of Action recognizes the specific needs of least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS);

(k) The Multi-Year Plan of Action supports the previous declarations and plans of actions of the G-77 on South-South cooperation, namely the Caracas Programme of Action (1981), the Cairo Declaration on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (1986), San Jose Declaration and Plan of Action (1997), the Bali Declaration and Bali Plan of Action on Regional and Subregional Cooperation of the Developing Countries (1998), the Declaration of the South Summit and the Havana Programme of Action (2000), the Marrakech Declaration on South-South Cooperation and the Marrakech Framework of Implementation of South-South Cooperation (2003), and the Doha Declaration and Doha Plan of Action (2005). Furthermore, it adds additional value by highlighting the importance of biodiversity considerations for South-South cooperation as well as North-South cooperation.

B. Objectives

2. The Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development has the following objectives:

(a) Provide a framework for Parties, development agencies, commissions and banks and regional bodies to develop and implement projects and activities on South-South cooperation on biodiversity under a common approach, to facilitate coordination, fundraising and implementation;

⁸ The group of LMMC was formed in 2002 at the initiative of Mexico. It includes 17 countries, namely, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Madagascar, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, and Venezuela.

⁹ Information on the IBSA Dialogue Forum can be found at <http://www.indianembassy.org.br/port/relations/ForumForCooperation.htm>.

(b) Encourage Parties as well as regional and international organizations to support South-South and triangular cooperation by facilitating projects and programmes aimed at joint conservation and sustainable use of cross-border ecosystems to further contribute towards halting biodiversity loss:¹⁰

(c) Exchange scientific and technical knowledge and expertise (including on low-capital innovative technology transfer), as well as experiences, lessons learned, and best practices on biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into relevant cross-sectoral planning, agreements, strategies, and programmes, identifying optimal matches between available technology and needs assessed in recipient countries;

(d) Engage in and promote collaborative research on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, including joint gap analysis and strategic assessments, the identification of “win-win” opportunities, and the identification of common strengths;

(e) Develop multi-stakeholder collaborative partnerships, including with civil society and decision-makers across development sectors and the private sector, in order to develop human resources and strengthen institutions of the South;

(f) Mobilize and substantially enhance, by 2020, resources for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in the Convention on Biological Diversity, including through joint proposal development and fundraising as well as triangular arrangements;

(g) Identify market and trade-oriented mechanisms for innovations in technology to favour biodiversity (public-private-partnerships), including the integration of biodiversity considerations into relevant regional trade agreements and mainstreaming biodiversity into productive landscapes and sectors; and

(h) Encourage South-South cooperation as an approach to strengthening the exchange of best practices and lessons learned from the preparation, updating, and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) through appropriate forums and mechanisms and as requested by the Conference of the Parties in decision IX/8.

C. Implementation

3. The implementation of the Plan of Action will be led by the Steering Committee in close consultation with the chairmanship of the G-77 and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as key multi-stakeholder partners. This structure is illustrated under the section on Partnerships and Coordination Mechanism. The actions outlined below are considered as being interrelated. Furthermore, the Plan of Action recognizes the need to maintain flexibility in its strategy for implementation in order to accommodate changing national and regional priorities as well as future decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

4. Implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South cooperation on Biodiversity for Development will be in partnership with relevant parallel processes such as the South-South Cooperation Unit of UNDP, the United Nations’ High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, and UNEP’s initiative being coordinated under the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building. It is hoped that partnering with the initiatives coordinated by UNDP and UNEP will promote enhanced mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations into on-the-ground activities, for instance by engaging UNDP country offices.

¹⁰ COP decision IX/25 paragraph 5.

1. Themes

5. South-South cooperation cuts across all programmes of work and issues of the Convention on Biological Diversity. For instance, the decisions adopted at the eighth and ninth meetings of the Conference of the Parties include specific mention to South-South cooperation in 18 different Programmes of Work of the Convention. Additionally, themes prioritized by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the Nagoya Roadmap are important to highlight and will benefit from enhanced South-South cooperation. Taking into account this far-reaching relevance of South-South cooperation, an indicative list of key themes includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Development of national legislative frameworks for access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing;
- (b) Protection of traditional knowledge (Article 8(j) of the Convention);
- (c) Protected areas (including concessions, tourism, and joint conservation and sustainable use of cross border ecosystems);
- (d) Sustainable use of the components of biodiversity;
- (e) Climate change and its impacts on biodiversity, the role biodiversity can play in adaptation and mitigation strategies, the impact of climate change on forests, dry lands, and islands;
- (f) Desertification and land degradation;
- (g) Incorporation of biodiversity concerns into regional and sub-regional cooperation agreements (decision IX/25); and
- (h) Biosafety and liability and redress.

2. Modalities

6. Building on the vision and list of objectives, the following can be considered as indicative modalities for implementing the Plan of Action:

(a) As requested by the Conference of the Parties, in decision IX/25, engaging regional and subregional organizations will be important to the implementation success of the Plan of Action and to promoting mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into regional and subregional cooperation agreements. ACTO, ASEAN, CAMARE of the League of Arab States, CARICOM, CCAD (under the Central American Integration System), COMIFAC, Comunidad Andina, ECOWAS, Mercosur, NEPAD, OAS, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and SPREP have already been involved closely with the Convention on Biological Diversity, in promoting the mainstreaming agenda.¹¹ The Multi-Year Plan of Action aims to engage all relevant regional organizations, Economic Commissions, and regional Development Banks in its efforts to build awareness of the critical role biodiversity plays in sustainable development, the risks and costs associated with biodiversity loss, and the important role South-South cooperation plays in implementing the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity at national, regional, and international scales. This engagement will assist in creating a supportive environment for:

¹¹ Most of these organizations were involved in the global series of capacity development workshops on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans which formed an integral component of the two-year in-depth review of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan of the CBD.

- (i) Transboundary conservation and resource management initiatives (for instance in the case of protected areas, forest basins, and watersheds that cross international borders;¹²)
- (ii) Exchange programmes and institutional partnerships for capacity-building (pooling resources to create networks of research or implementation bodies, centres of excellence;
- (iii) Human resources: joint training programmes, exchanges or secondments of experts and advisors, study visits, attachments, and internships;
- (iv) Joint strategies for implementation of the decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity; and
- (v) Policy frameworks, legal and voluntary tools and incentive mechanisms, including the reduction of barriers (i.e. customs, visas, red tape) for South-South technological and technical cooperation;

(b) Over recent years, a number of regional organizations have supported the preparation of regional biodiversity strategies and/or action plans. These strategies and plans support the Multi-Year Plan of Action in that they provide an important and concrete platform for South-South cooperation by generating opportunities for interregional exchanges of information, coordinating transboundary projects, enhancing communication between neighbouring countries on biodiversity-related issues, and galvanizing action on mainstreaming biodiversity into trade and development agendas;

(c) Parties shall identify and compile existing information on South-South cooperation to better inform the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity of activities taking place and so that it can, in turn, report back to Parties;

(d) Parties will be invited to include in their future National Reports information on how they have implemented or supported South-South cooperation.

(e) Engaging universities, centres of excellence, and NGOs that specialize on the linkages between biodiversity, development, and poverty reduction is crucial to successful implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action. Examples include the Centres under CIFOR and CGIAR, as well as the South Centre. Also relevant is the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World, and the Third World Network of Scientific Organizations. Institutions that specialize in biodiversity, such as the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity headquartered in the Philippines, are also important partners. Finally, the Steering Committee should explore partnerships with new centres dedicated to South-South cooperation on science and technology, such as UNESCO's International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation (ISTIC) in Kuala Lumpur;

(f) The Convention's clearing-house mechanism (CHM) and the Protocol's Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) are particularly suited as tools for facilitating South-South scientific and technical cooperation, and information exchange, and therefore central to the successful implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action. Specifically, a web-based portal can be incorporated into the CHM that would provide a database of case-studies related to South-South cooperation on biodiversity and development, important references and web links, and sources of further research. Links should be made with other relevant CHMs such as UNDP's Web for Information and Development (WIDE) and UNEP's clearing-house mechanisms for Bali Strategic Plan & South-South Cooperation. Coordination between these CHMs is required in order to make the most of these resources. Information also should be shared

¹² COP decision IX/25, paragraph 5.

through actual or virtual conferences, seminars, and workshops. Additionally, the development of a roster of expertise which would cross tabulate needs of countries with available expertise would be critical to the effective implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action. This roster could be accessed through the clearing-house mechanism (CHM);

(g) Developing a communication and public awareness strategy for the Plan of Action is important and will assist in facilitating implementation. Elements of this communication strategy will be discussed by the Steering Committee, including:

- (i) Types of communication materials;
- (ii) Appropriate venues for dissemination;
- (iii) The development of a web-based portal under the CHM and BCH; and
- (iv) The roles and responsibilities of partners in coordinating this task;

(h) Organizing international meetings and conferences for the key partners of the Plan of Action on margins of the Conference of the Parties, such as the Forum on Biodiversity for Development that will be organized during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010, will build momentum for implementing the Plan of Action and integrating new objectives and priorities;

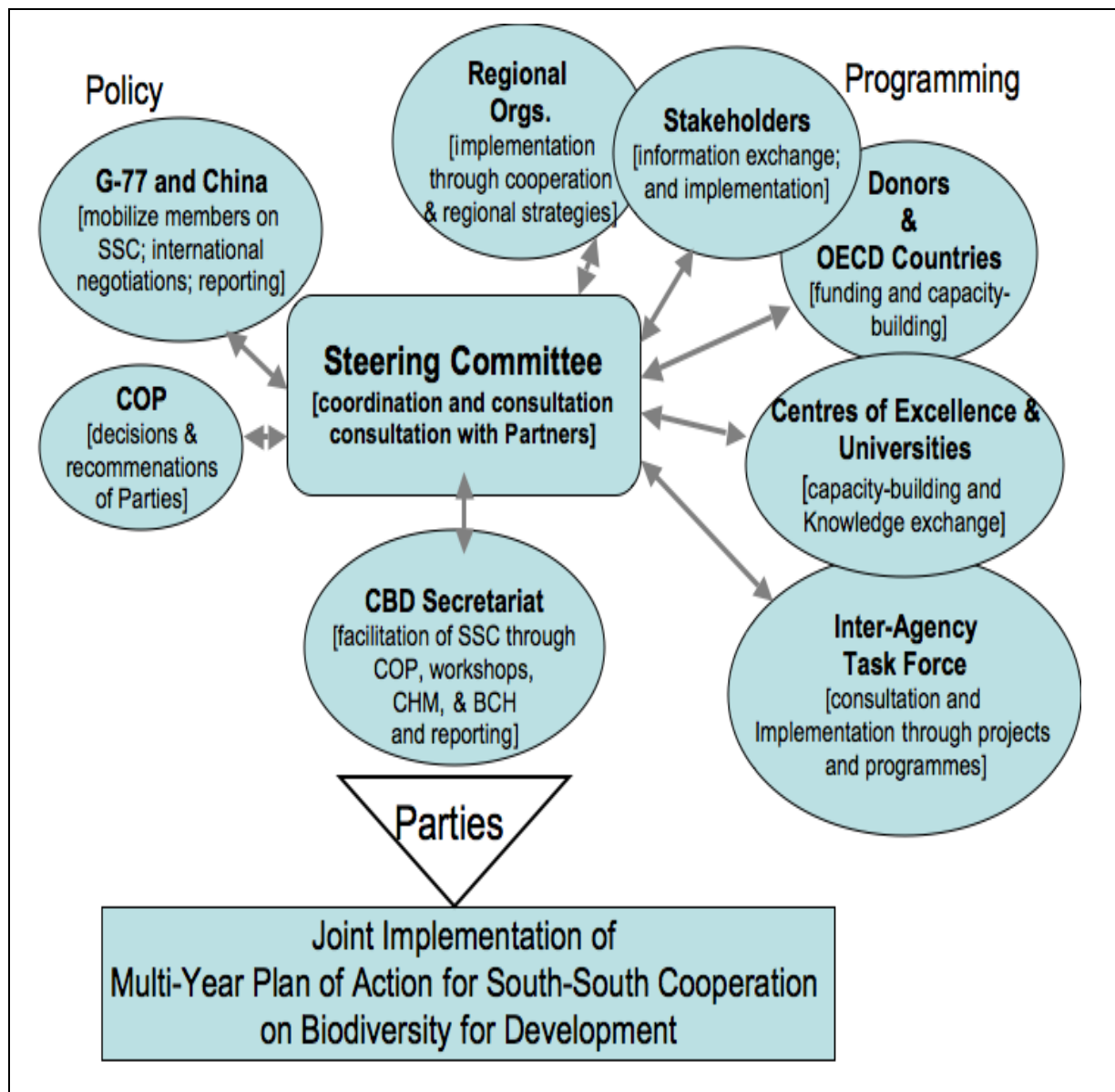
(i) Raising awareness of biodiversity-related issues for negotiators involved in other South-South and South-North negotiations, for instance through organizing consultations and briefings with relevant colleagues across government agencies and ministries ahead of such negotiations, will help incorporate biodiversity considerations into more traditional international cooperation as well as cooperation important regional agendas as infrastructure, trade, and development;

(j) Modalities for implementing the Multi-Year Plan of Action fall under both policy-making as well as programming. The Plan of Action is envisioned to be implemented at the policy level by the G-77, the secretariats of regional organizations, and through the Parties themselves as a result of their decisions negotiated at the Conference of the Parties. At the programming level, the Plan of Action is envisioned to be implemented through engaging, and developing partnerships with a range of key partners that can mobilize concrete avenues of cooperation on the ground at national, regional, and international scales. These are illustrated and further discussed in the following section.

D. Partnerships and coordination mechanism

7. During the 2008 Expert Meeting for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development, a Steering Committee was proposed comprising the former and current Chairs of the Group of 77 (South Africa, Antigua and Barbuda, Sudan and Yemen, the incoming chair for 2010) as well as the chair of the 2006 brainstorming session (Malawi) and the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (Grenada), to assist in the preparation and implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation, defined through decision IX/25 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. An Inter-agency Task Force has been proposed to support the Steering Committee, including the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and other relevant United Nations entities. It has been proposed during the consultations on the preparation for the Multi-Year Plan of Action that the Steering Committee will meet at least once a year on the margins of appropriate meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

8. Implementation also will be coordinated with United Nations bodies and key actors, such as centres of excellence and regional organizations and their secretariats. Wider issue-based consultations as well as implementation on the programming side may involve other relevant and interested stakeholders such as donors, economic commissions, regional development banks, LMMC, representatives of the private sector, NGOs, and indigenous peoples organizations as appropriate and by invitation of the Committee. The Steering Committee may want to consider the role of an advisory board which could include countries and donors under the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), for instance to provide advice on funding opportunities. Additionally, regional capacity-development workshops being organized by the Convention on Biological Diversity on specific programmes of work (such as with the regional workshops on protected areas) as well as over-arching Mechanisms of the Convention (such as NBSAPs and National Reports) offer an concrete opportunities for South-South cooperation and furthermore have been welcomed by Parties. The above-mentioned partnerships and coordination are illustrated in the following diagram.



9. The Steering Committee will ensure the review of the status of implementation of the Plan, through existing review mechanisms of the Convention such as the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI) as well as in-depth reviews of the Convention's programmes of work.

10. In order to efficiently coordinate tasks, the Steering Committee may want to consider identifying focal points within the Committee who will take charge of certain issues such as coordination with donor partners, coordination of implementation mechanisms, and monitoring and reporting on progress.

E. Monitoring and reporting

11. At each Conference of the Parties, the Steering Committee will be asked to report on implementation of the Plan of Action. Contributions will be sought from participating regional and UN agencies. Additionally, the Steering Committee may report regularly to key G-77 meetings, to the UNGA High-Level Commission on South-South Cooperation, and to the Conference of the Parties.

12. The Steering Committee, in consultation with its key partners, will identify benchmarks for measuring success to guide the evaluations and reporting. Indicators to be used could include:

- (a) Number of events;
- (b) Number of projects;
- (c) Number of partnerships catalysed;
- (d) Amount of funds generated and dedicated to supporting South-South cooperation on biodiversity; and
- (e) The number of people trained in the areas mentioned above under modalities.

Additionally, this evaluation process should include a periodic review of priorities and objectives in order to integrate new decisions of the Conference of the Parties as well as new priorities of the G-77.

13. Measuring the success of the Plan of Action would greatly benefit from reporting on South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation within international aid that targets biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. In assisting towards this end, the G-77 may consider suggesting that developing and emerging countries report to the Convention on Biological Diversity on South-South cooperation as part of their national reports, and that donors, including OECD and GEF, tag triangular cooperation so that the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity may be able to assist the Steering Committee in its efforts to monitor funding of South-South cooperation on biodiversity.

F. Funding

14. It is suggested that the G-77 identify a particular funding avenue that would be oriented specifically towards biodiversity for development and to the funding the implementation of this Plan of Action. This should take into account:

- (a) Devising a means for innovative use of external assistance, for instance through partnerships with the private sector and NGOs;
- (b) Engaging and linking with new and innovative financial mechanisms being discussed and formulated in other arenas such as climate change, payments for ecosystem services, and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD), to name a few;

- (c) Exploring opportunities presented by environmental fiscal reforms, including innovative taxation models and fiscal incentives for achieving the three objectives of the Convention;
- (d) Encouraging OECD countries to complement and match South-South cooperation investments through triangular cooperation;
- (e) Drawing on and optimizing traditional forms of funding including from triangular cooperation with development agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors, and Global Environment Facility (GEF) implementing agencies;
- (f) Earmarking national budgetary allocations; and
- (g) Enhancing financing sources such as the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund and the Voluntary Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation.

15. The Steering Committee may want to consider discussing with GEF the possibility of assisting in the efforts to implement the Multi-Year Plan of Action at the concrete project level in order to further expand the opportunities for capacity-development. This could be achieved, for instance, through:

- (a) Allocating specific percentages of funds to SSC and triangular cooperation;
- (b) Continuing to support capacity-building on South-South Cooperation within current projects.

G. Next steps

16. This Plan of Action will be submitted by the President of Group of 77 for consideration and adoption at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, scheduled for October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. It will link to other United Nations South-South cooperation processes and related conventions, to optimize visibility and coordinate efforts. The Steering Committee may consider proposing South-South cooperation as a strategy in the current revision of the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

17. As part of the process leading to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which will be held in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010, the Multi-Year Plan of Action will be discussed, and elements reviewed, at the following up-coming meetings:

- (a) Third meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention to be held in Nairobi, from 24 to 28 May, 2010
- (b) A consultative expert meeting to be held in Kampala, Uganda from 31 May to 2 June 2010;
- (c) A high-level meeting of the G-77 to adopt the Plan in July/August in Abidjan ;
- (d) Third South Summit of the G-77 to be held in Africa in 2010 prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- (e) A high-level special event to be held in September 2010 in New York, in conjunction with the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly to mark the International Year of Biodiversity.

18. Following the request of the Conference of the Parties, a Forum on Biodiversity for Development will be organized on 18 October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan just prior to the opening of the tenth meeting of

the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. This will provide an important opportunity to showcase the Plan of Action.

19. Other important opportunities to highlight the development of the Plan of Action will be during the next United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, which will be held on 19 December 2009, and during the United Nations High-level Conference on South-South cooperation from 1 to 3 December.

20. The roadmap to adoption of the Plan will include three main steps. The G-77 is expected to endorse the Plan of Action at the next High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. As requested by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity will prepare a report on preparation of Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South cooperation for review by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting. At the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Yemen, as future Chair of G-77, will coordinate an official proposal of the Multi-Year Plan of Action to the Conference of the Parties in conjunction with a statement to be presented at the Ministerial segment of the Conference. Support is expected from Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Malawi, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda, and Yemen.
