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AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

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THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONVENTION FOR THE PERIOD 2011-2022

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The current multi-year programme of work (MYPOW) of the Conference of the Parties, covering the period up to 2010, was adopted in decision VII/31. It was developed in the light of the adoption of the first Strategic Plan of the Convention of the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting. The Conference of the Parties had previously established medium-term programmes of work for the period 1995-1997 (decision I/9, revised in decision II/18) and for the period 1998-2004 (decision IV/16).

2. In paragraph 1 of decision IX/9, the Conference of the Parties requested the third meeting of the Working Group on the Review of Implementation to prepare, for consideration and adoption at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a revised and updated Strategic Plan, including a revised biodiversity target, as well as a multi-year programme of work for the period 2011-2022, and proposals for the periodicity of meetings after 2010.

3. The future multi-year programme of work should clearly follow the strategic direction established in the revised and updated Strategic Plan and therefore it should be developed in the light of that Plan. Accordingly, the proposals below are based on the draft Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/3/3). The development of the future multi-year programme of work should also take into account the extent to which the various issues covered by the Convention have already been addressed by meetings of the Conference of the Parties, as well as any likely new emerging issues. Such an analysis was provided in section VI of the note by the Executive Secretary on updating and revision of the Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/14/Add.1), the main points of which are summarized in paragraphs 9-13 below. Clearly, the multi-year programme of work and the periodicity of meetings – which is due to be determined at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties¹ as well as plans for the fifth national report,² must be mutually coherent.

* UNEP/CBD/WGRI/3/1.

¹ See UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/3/11.

² See UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/3/6.

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II. MATTERS TO CONSIDER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK

A. *Implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention 2011-2020*

4. This Strategic Plan implies that the Conference of the Parties and other Convention bodies, in particular the Working Group on Review of Implementation, should strengthen their focus on supporting effective implementation by Parties, through review of implementation, and by fostering the development and effectiveness of the necessary supporting mechanisms. Considering the draft Strategic Plan, and the proposals for the development of national targets and revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) by Parties contained therein, the Conference of Parties would need to address the following issues in particular:

(a) By 2012 (or by the date of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties), Parties would need to report on the national targets or commitments they have adopted to deliver the implementation of the Strategic Plan, and the main elements of their revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The Conference of the Parties would review the contributions to the global targets as set out in the Strategic Plan and make recommendations to overcome any obstacles in meeting those targets, including measures to strengthen the mechanisms to support implementation, monitoring and review;

(b) By the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in 2014 or 2015, Parties would be expected to have completed a comprehensive review of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including ways to mainstream biodiversity into national and sectoral plans, programmes and strategies, as well as be expected to report on their updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans and implementation of the Strategic Plan through their fifth national reports, to be submitted in 2014. The Conference of the Parties would undertake a mid-term assessment of progress towards the 2020 targets as well as to the 2015 targets of the Millennium Development Goals, based on the fifth national reports;

(c) Parties are expected to provide a report on progress towards the 2020 targets through their sixth national reports. On this basis, the Conference of the Parties would undertake a final assessment of the achievement of the 2020 targets based on the sixth national reports, and other relevant information, and consider proposals for the Strategic Plan beyond 2020.

5. These milestones should be reflected in the multi-year programme of work for 2011-2020. Given that comprehensive reviews of implementation, including of the programmes of work under the Convention and how they contribute to the overall Strategic Plan, are envisaged in 2014 or 2015 and in 2020, it is not expected that the Conference of the Parties would need to continue with separate scheduled in-depth reviews of each programme of work (with the exception of the programme of work on island biodiversity, which is already scheduled for 2012). However, the Conference of the Parties would respond to recommendations from the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and the open-ended working groups to address any new technical issues arising from the implementation of the programmes of work.

6. In addition, at each of its meetings, the Conference of the Parties would be expected to consider progress in providing support to assist Parties in implementing the Strategic Plan of the Convention for the period 2011-2020, including capacity development and the strengthening of the clearing-house mechanism, as well as to review implementation of its strategy for resource mobilization. As part of these discussions, it is envisaged that the Conference of the Parties would address communication, education and public awareness as well as cooperation with other bodies that support implementation of the Convention and the engagement of stakeholders, including cities and local authorities, parliamentarians, the private sector and civil-society organizations. Given the importance attached to cooperation among

international organizations and instruments and the need for mainstreaming biodiversity, the Conference of the Parties may also wish to consider this matter, in particular the possible development of a joint work programme with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

7. The Conference of the Parties should also consider the possible development of further tools and guidance for monitoring implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention 2011-2020, including the use of indicators, as well as the possible development of further tools and guidance to assist implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention for the period 2011-2020.

8. It is proposed in the draft Strategic Plan of the Convention beyond 2010 (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/3/3) that the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider the need for, and possible development of, additional mechanisms to enable Parties to meet their commitments under the Convention, including such options as a Subsidiary Body on Implementation and an instrument on implementation and compliance. In addition, if an international platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services is established,³ the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider the need to adjust the *modus operandi* of SBSTTA to, for example, request that assessments be carried out and their outcomes considered.

B. Consideration of possible new issues to be addressed by the Conference of the Parties

9. Most articles of the Convention have been addressed in the agendas of meetings of the Conference of the Parties held to date – either in their own right, and/or within the context of the thematic programmes of work. Exceptions include:

(a) The identification of processes and activities that are likely to have significant adverse effects on biodiversity (Article 7(c)) and on regulating or managing such processes and activities (Article 8(l)).

(b) Some other paragraphs of Article 8: 8(f) - ecosystem restoration and species recovery; 8(g) - living modified organisms (at national level, i.e. outside the scope of the Biosafety Protocol); 8(k) - protection of threatened species and populations; and 8(l) - regulation or management of threats;

(c) Article 9 (*Ex situ* conservation);

(d) Some aspects of Article 10 (Sustainable use), in particular subparagraphs (c), (d) and (e);

(e) Some aspects of Article 19 (Biotechnology).

10. In addition, given the integration of the 2010 biodiversity target into the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Framework, the Conference of the Parties may also wish to focus more work on biodiversity and its contribution to human well-being, including poverty elimination.⁴

11. Most of these issues can be addressed in the context of the existing programmes of work and cross-cutting issues of the Convention. However, two issues may warrant consideration in the new multi-year programme of work as discrete items:

(a) Ecosystem restoration and related issues (Article 8(f)). This article of the Convention has not yet been addressed by the Convention on Biological Diversity and is expected to be an important issue in the context of the new Strategic Plan, including in relation to the contribution of biodiversity to climate change mitigation and adaptation; and

³ See UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/3/4.

⁴ See the note by the Executive Secretary on integration of biodiversity into poverty reduction and development (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/3/2/Add.1).

(b) The linkages between the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and human well-being, especially in relation to human health and the elimination of poverty. These linkages are expected to be prominent in the new Strategic Plan, and are important in understanding the contribution of the Convention to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals the progress in which will be reviewed in 2015.

12. Depending upon the outcome of the current negotiations on an international regime on access and benefit-sharing, the Conference of the Parties may need to continue to consider the issue of access and benefit-sharing and/or assign this to another body.

C. *Periodicity of meetings of the Conference of the Parties*

13. At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties is expected to consider the future periodicity of its meetings. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary has prepared a note on the subject for the consideration of the Working Group (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/3/11). The Working Group is expected to make a recommendation on both the multi-year programme of work and the periodicity of meetings. The following draft recommendation therefore includes options for the periodicity of the meetings.

III. SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION

1. The third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Adopts the following multi-year programme of work for the Conference of the Parties:

(a) The eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties will take place in 2012 and address, *inter alia* the following issues:

- (i) A review of the national targets established by Parties in line with the Strategic Plan of the Convention for the period 2011-2020, as adopted by decision X/-, and of the progress in the updating and revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (ii) A review of progress in providing support to assist Parties in implementing the Strategic Plan of the Convention for the period 2011-2020, including capacity development and strengthening of the clearing-house mechanism;
- (iii) The possible development of further tools and guidance for monitoring implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention for the period 2011-2020, including the use of indicators;
- (iv) A review of the implementation of its strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention (decision IX/11 B, annex), focusing on goals 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8;
- (v) Cooperation among international organizations and agreements, including preparation of a possible joint work programme for the Rio conventions;
- (vi) Consider the need for, and possible development of, additional mechanisms to enable Parties to meet their commitments under the Convention, including such options as a Subsidiary Body on Implementation and an instrument on implementation and compliance;

- (vii) Consider the implications of the possible establishment of an international platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services on the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;
 - (viii) The in-depth review of the programme of work on island biodiversity;
 - (ix) The possible development of practical guidance on ecosystem restoration and related issues;
 - (x) Other matters arising from the recommendations of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the open-ended working groups,⁵ including technical issues arising from the implementation of the programmes of work and cross-cutting issues.
- (b) The twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will take place in [2014][2015] and address, *inter alia*, the following issues:
- (i) A review of the updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
 - (ii) A mid-term review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention for 2011-2020, including the programmes of work, and progress towards the 2020 targets, as well as contributions to the achievement of the 2015 targets of the Millennium Development Goals, based, *inter alia* on the fifth national reports;
 - (iii) A review of progress in providing support to assist Parties in implementing the Strategic Plan of the Convention for the period 2011-2020, including capacity development and strengthening of the clearing-house mechanism;
 - (iv) A comprehensive review of implementation of its strategy for resource mobilization (decision IX/11 B, annex);
 - (v) The possible development of further tools and guidance to assist implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention for the period 2011-2020;
 - (vi) Further consideration of the technical basis for the links between biodiversity and human well-being, in particular human health and poverty elimination;
 - (vii) Other matters arising from the recommendations of SBSTTA and the open-ended working groups,⁵ including technical issues arising from the implementation of the programmes of work and cross-cutting issues;
 - (viii) Update of this multi-year programme of work to 2020.

⁵ The Working Group on the Review of Implementation, the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, and the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (or another body that might be established at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in light of the negotiations on an international regime on access and benefit sharing).

(c) The thirteenth and fourteenth meetings of the Conference of Parties will take place in the years [....] and [....],⁶ respectively;

(d) At a meeting in 2020, the Conference of the Parties will conduct a review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention 2011-2020, including the programmes of work of the Convention, and make an assessment of progress in the achievement of the 2020 targets, based, *inter alia*, on the sixth national reports;

(e) The meetings of the Conference of the Parties will continue to address standing items consistent with earlier decisions. In addition, some flexibility in the multi-year programme of work is retained in order to accommodate urgent emerging issues.

⁶ Dates to be inserted consistent with the agreed periodicity of meetings.