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29 January 2019

NOTIFICATION

Request for nominations for the establishment of an Informal Advisory Group on Mainstreaming of Biodiversity

Dear Madam/Sir,

In paragraph 18 of its decision 14/3, on “Mainstreaming of Biodiversity in the Energy and Mining, Infrastructure, Manufacturing and Processing Sectors”, the Conference of the Parties decided to establish an Informal Advisory Group (IAG) on the Mainstreaming of Biodiversity, to advise the Executive Secretary and the Bureau on further development of the proposal for a long-term approach to mainstreaming biodiversity, including on ways to integrate mainstreaming adequately into the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, to be submitted to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for consideration at its third meeting. Further details of the task are provided in Annex I of decision XIV/3 attached herewith.

I am thus pleased to invite Parties, relevant stakeholders, organizations and initiatives to nominate an expert with practical experience and expertise on the mainstreaming of biodiversity in economic sectors. Nominations should be submitted in the form of an official signed letter addressed to the Executive Secretary and should clearly identify the name and full contact information, including the e-mail address of the nominee. The nominations should also include a Curriculum Vitae (CV) indicating pertinent expertise, including specific sectors, and an indication of the national experiences to be shared. The nomination letter and CV can either be scanned and sent to the Secretariat at secretariat@cbd.int or faxed to + 1 514 288 6588, as soon as possible and no later than **11 March 2019**.

Please note that the experts will be selected among nominees, with the advice of the COP Bureau, on the basis of relevant expertise and experiences, taking into account geographical and gender balance. I look forward to receiving your nominations as soon as possible, and I thank you for your cooperation and continued support to the Convention.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD
Executive Secretary

To: CBD, CPB and ABS National Focal Points, relevant stakeholders, organizations and initiatives

PROPOSAL FOR A LONG-TERM STRATEGIC APPROACH TO MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY

(Extract of Decision [14/3](#))

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Mainstreaming of biodiversity is one of the key approaches for achieving the objectives of the Convention. While numerous actions and decisions have been taken to mainstream biodiversity in key sectors, in particular those considered at the thirteenth and fourteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and in cross-cutting policies, a long-term strategic approach is needed within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in order to undertake actions for mainstreaming more effectively within and across sectors and facilitating coordination among sectors.

2. The goal of such an approach should be to establish priorities for action, based on scientific evidence of likely impacts and benefits in accordance with the national capacities and circumstances of Parties, as well as identify key actors that need to be engaged in implementing such actions and appropriate mechanisms to do so, focusing in the first instance on implementation of previous decisions of the Conference of the Parties relevant to mainstreaming. It should furthermore facilitate assessment and monitoring of gaps and progress. The long-term approach should be kept under review by the Conference of the Parties and be flexible enough to respond to relevant changes.

3. In order to develop such a strategic approach, the Executive Secretary, with the support of the Informal Advisory Group and the advice of the bureau, will support both technical and policy discussions, as well as inputs from various stakeholders and partners.

I. AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A LONG-TERM STRATEGIC APPROACH TO MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY

4. A number of actions will be important for developing a long-term approach to mainstreaming biodiversity, including actions by Governments, businesses, indigenous peoples and local communities, and other partners and stakeholders. Activities at the international, national, local and subnational levels are also needed, as are actions germane to specific sectors or subsectors, reflecting national conditions and circumstances.

5. The Executive Secretary should:

(a) Identify existing practices, guidelines, methodologies, experiences and tools related to biodiversity mainstreaming, and other strategic actions, in particular within the provisions and decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in planning and decision making in these sectors;

(b) Consider how the existing programmes of the Convention on Biological Diversity, those of relevant partner organizations and initiatives, might better contribute to such a long-term strategic approach with respect to capacity-building, among other things, and identification of existing gaps in areas of work that are important for mainstreaming of biodiversity;

(c) Continue to engage in key international processes, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

6. The Executive Secretary, taking into account paragraph 5 above, advised by the Informal Advisory Group on mainstreaming of biodiversity, and the Bureau, should also shape such long term strategic approach to mainstreaming on biodiversity, as a key element of the post-2020 biodiversity framework, which would include the following areas and actions, among others:

(a) Review the effectiveness of different mainstreaming practices that have been used, as well as the steps necessary to scale up their use, including in health education, national legislation and policies, among other strategic tools;

(b) Undertake research and analysis on the extent to which mainstreaming approaches are being used by Parties, and identification of major gaps, obstacles and challenges;

(c) Contribute to efforts with respect to the internalization of the importance and the values of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, in accordance with decision X/3, paragraph 9(b)(ii);

(d) Contribute to the efforts to develop and apply science-based indicators with respect to mainstreaming approaches;

(e) Identifying capacity-building and training needs for mainstreaming biodiversity at the regional, subregional, national, subnational and local levels, as well as related to specific economic sectors or subsectors;

(f) Identify opportunities to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation on mainstreaming, financial support and technology transfer;

(g) Identify opportunities to develop new partnerships and strengthening of existing partnerships, including with cities and subnational governments, to achieve further progress in mainstreaming of biodiversity;

(h) Identify possible mechanisms to monitor the implementation of actions to advance the mainstreaming of biodiversity at the national, subnational and local levels, such as, for the local level, the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity;

(i) Design a strategy to foster the engagement of the business and finance sectors on mainstreaming of biodiversity;

(j) Identifying cost-effective practices, guidelines, methodologies, experiences and tools related to biodiversity mainstreaming, and other strategic actions, in order to enhance the implementation of the Convention;

(k) Identifying obstacles that hinder mainstreaming of biodiversity in regulations, processes, policies and programmes at the national, subnational and local levels;

(l) Identifying options and solutions to overcome these obstacles to mainstreaming of biodiversity;

(m) Identifying key tasks as well as challenges and gaps in addressing these actions;

(n) Suggesting priority actions, timeframes and relevant actors;

(o) Identifying areas where additional work might be desirable in order to achieve further progress on mainstreaming under the Convention;

(p) Providing any other relevant advice, including on other initiatives or developments, meetings and other opportunities, to help further this work.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INFORMAL ADVISORY GROUP ON MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY

1. The Informal Advisory Group on Mainstreaming of Biodiversity will be composed of experts competent in fields relevant to the mainstreaming of biodiversity, nominated by Parties, with due regard to regional representation, gender balance and the special conditions of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition, as well as experts from public and private sectors, including cities and subnational governments, civil society, academia, and business leaders, as well as indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations, including relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and industry associations. The number of experts from organizations shall not exceed the number of experts nominated by Parties.

2. Taking into account decisions of the Conference of the Parties on sectoral and cross-sectoral mainstreaming of biodiversity, as well as the work of other relevant international processes and organizations, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme, the United

Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Trade Organization, the World Bank, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Labour Organization, among others, and making use of available information, including that of the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, the Informal Advisory Group shall provide the Executive Secretary and the Bureau with advice in the development of a long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming of biodiversity. The Informal Advisory Group and the Bureau will provide advice on all aspects of the long-term strategic approach.

3. The Executive Secretary will support the work of the Informal Advisory Group.

Modus operandi

4. The Informal Advisory Group will meet, to the extent practicable, through virtual means, including videoconferencing. Physical meetings will take place at least once a year, subject to the availability of resources.

Initiation and review of work

5. The work of the Informal Advisory Group should be initiated immediately after approval of the terms of reference by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.

6. The mandate and composition of the Informal Advisory Group will be reviewed by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting after consideration of a progress report submitted by the Executive Secretary.
