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6 January 2020

NOTIFICATION

Preparations for the trial phase of an Open-ended Forum for review of implementation to be held during the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation 27 May 2020 – Montreal, Canada

Dear Madam/Sir,

In decision 14/29, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to further develop options to enhance review mechanisms, with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention, and to prepare a Party-led review process to be tested at the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI).

A trial phase of an open-ended forum on review of implementation will be organized during SBI-3, on 27 May 2020, in Montreal, Canada. The main objectives of the forum are to undertake country-by-country review of the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, to increase transparency regarding action undertaken by Parties, to facilitate peer learning among Parties, and to identify strategic actions to overcome obstacles in national implementation.

Accordingly, I am pleased to invite Parties to express their interest in participating in this trial phase of the open-ended forum which will consist of a half-day moderated plenary session during SBI-3. Five Parties, one from each region, will make presentations on their efforts to implement the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Selected questions, submitted by other Parties in advance of the meeting, will be answered by the five Parties, followed by a short question-and-answer session. The annex to this notification provides brief guidance for the preparation of the review reports to be submitted by Parties selected to present at the trial phase of the Open-ended Forum.

Feedback and insights on the trial phase of the Open-ended Forum will be presented to SBI during the agenda item on review mechanisms, which is also expected to consider other options and elements to enhance review mechanisms as requested in the above-mentioned decision.

Parties who are interested in presenting at the trial phase of the Open-ended Forum should send an official letter, addressed to the Executive Secretary and signed by the CBD National Focal Point, expressing their interest, via e-mail to secretariat@cbd.int or via fax to +1 514 288-6588 by **31 January 2020**. The five Parties to present will be selected on a first-come-first-served basis respecting regional balance.

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

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Acting Executive Secretary

To: CBD National Focal Points
cc: ABS Focal Points, Cartagena Protocol Focal Points



Annex

Guidance for the preparation of “review reports” to be submitted on a voluntary basis by Parties wishing to present at the trial phase of an Open-ended Forum on review of implementation

Each Party presenting their review report will be granted a 30-minute slot during the plenary of SBI-3. In this time, the Party representative will make a 15-minute presentation after which the Party would respond to selected questions submitted by other Parties in advance of the meeting.

The review reports and presentations should have five broad sections:

- i. Actions that have been taken to implement the Convention and Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including legislative action
- ii. Outcomes of these actions and progress made
- iii. Technical and financial resources provided or received from multiple sources for implementation
- iv. Any need for adjustments of the current NBSAP (implementation mechanisms in place, targets and action plan, etc.)
- v. Unresolved challenges in implementation

In most cases, the review reports will be derived from the national reports but will be presented in a concise manner to facilitate review and discussions. Information could also be derived from other sources of information including, but not limited to, the following:

- a) Financial reports to the Convention and Protocols
- b) NBSAP and other national implementation plan(s)
- c) Results of national reviews/assessments of implementation (if applicable)
- d) Results of the Voluntary Peer Review process undertaken in the country (if applicable)
- e) National ecosystem assessment, or other assessment (if applicable)
- f) Results of national biodiversity (or environmental) audits (if applicable)
- g) Voluntary national reviews on implementation of the SDGs
- h) National reports prepared for the Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Rio Conventions
- i) Information on policy and institutional frameworks

Review reports should be submitted to the Secretariat via email to secretariat@cbd.int no later than 20 March 2020.