

Subject: Invitation for views on the preparation, scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

(Ref.: SCBD/OES/DC/RH/KNM/87538)

With regard to Notification 2018-063, Japan would like to submit its view on the preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as follows:

(1) Oversight by the COP Bureau

Based on our experience on the development of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as the COP10 Presidency, in order to ensure transparency and legitimacy of the preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, we believe that close consultations with the COP Bureau throughout the process would be highly important and should be mentioned clearly in the proposed preparatory process¹ which will be updated by the Executive Secretary.

We would like to ask the Executive Secretary to fully consult with the COP Bureau when considering streamlined options including establishment of a group such as an Informal Advisory Group (IAG) pursuant to paragraph 8 (a) of CBD/SBI/REC/2/19, and give clear Terms of Reference to such a group, for consideration by the COP14. Currently, we don't have a strong view on whether an IAG or another type of group needs to be established. Having said that, we are of the view that, if an IAG or another type of group is to be established, such a group should have a clear mandate, avoiding any overlap with the role of the COP Bureau, and its work should be monitored and overseen by the COP Bureau to ensure transparency. A possible key role of such a group could be giving to the Executive Secretary scientific and technological advice, for example, by taking into account the effectiveness and lessons learned from the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Such a group could consist of experts who have due expertise and experiences. Four to five experts should be nominated from each region, following the example of the general structure of an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, taking into account the number of sub-regions within each region.

(2) Global, Regional and Sectoral Consultation Workshop

The effective participation of various stakeholders in the preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework needs to be ensured, since they would be key actors for the implementation of the framework. From this point of view, we believe global, regional and sectoral consultation workshops, including one for business sectors, are quite important and should be organized subject to the availability of resources. If the Executive Secretary could include possible schedules of all these workshops into the indicative chronology of key activities², and prepare their modus operandi including the procedure to select host countries as well as their possible themes and desirable outcomes as an annex to a draft decision, it would be a good reference for consideration by the COP14. With regard to the modus

¹ CBD/SBI/2/17, sect. V.

² CBD/SBI/2/17, annex I.

operandi, we believe that the Secretariat should take care of the substance throughout a series of workshops so that concentrated consultations necessary for identifying the key elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework are conducted in an efficient and effective way.

Regarding regional consultation workshops, we consider it important to have some flexibility on the number of workshops to be held in each region, in light of region-specific needs and the intention of countries within a region to host workshops, subject to the availability of resources. Japan would like to take this opportunity to express our intention to host an Asia-Pacific regional consultation workshop possibly in early 2019.

As mentioned in paragraph 35 of CBD/SBI/REC/2/9, we believe that the collaboration with global initiatives which have been established under the framework of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020, such as the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative, is quite important and that it is necessary to set up opportunities for getting their input to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, for example by holding a workshop with the participation of representatives of those initiatives or by inviting them to a global consultation workshop.

(3) National Voluntary Commitments

We would like to emphasize that the development of biodiversity commitments should be on a voluntary basis, as written in paragraph 8 of draft decision for the COP 14 contained in CBD/SBI/REC/2/19. We believe that it is more important to concentrate our efforts toward the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets until 2020, rather than working on developing a new commitment. Japan plans to revise its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to reflect the contents of the post 2020 biodiversity framework as soon as possible after its adoption at the COP15 and thereby implement the framework. We believe that such an approach is more efficient and effective for the implementation of the framework. Accordingly, we place an emphasis on the voluntary nature of the commitment.