



Convention on Biological Diversity

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BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES
Paris, France
30 March 2009

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE 9TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY HELD IN PARIS, FRANCE ON 30 MARCH 2009

INTRODUCTION

1. The fourth meeting of the COP-9 Bureau was held on 30 March 2009 at the UNESCO Office in Paris, France. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, Director General, Nature Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Government of Germany, representing the President of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The following Bureau members attended the meeting:

Ms. Somaly Chan (Cambodia)
Ms. Tania Temata (Cook Islands)
Mr. Joseph Ronald Toussaint (Haiti)
Professor James H. Seyani (Malawi)
Mr. Damaso Luna (Mexico)
Ms. Snezana Prokic (Serbia)
Ms. Åsa Norrman (Sweden)
Mr. Robert Lamb (Switzerland)
Dr. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine)

Dr. Abdelbagi Mukhtar Ali, the Bureau member from the Sudan, was unable to attend due to unavoidable circumstances leading to delay in visa issuance.

2. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Kazuaki Hoshino of the Ministry of Environment and Ms. Tokuko Nabeshima of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan in their capacity as ex-officio members of the Bureau as the host of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Mr. Fernando Casas and Mr. Timothy Hodges, Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) also attended the meeting, as did Mr. Spencer Thomas, the Chair of SBSTTA. The Executive Director of UNEP was represented by Mr. Bakary Kante, Director of the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELIC). The Secretariat was represented by the Executive Secretary of the Convention, Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Mr. Olivier Jalbert, Principal Officer, Ms. Valerie Normand, Programme

Officer/ABS, Michele Rattray Huish, Chief Financial Resources Management Service, and Dr. Nandhini Krishna, the SCBD Liaison Officer in New York.

ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. Mr. Flasbarth welcomed participants and thanked the Secretariat for the excellent preparations made in support of the meeting. The Executive Secretary added his voice to that of the President in welcoming the members of the Bureau. He thanked the Presidency for its continued leadership.

ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Bureau adopted the following agenda:
1. Opening of the meeting
 2. Adoption of the agenda
 3. To-do list from the previous meeting of the Bureau (Nairobi 13 February 09)
 4. Seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing:
 - a) Organization of work
 - b) Key messages from Bureau members to the regional groups
 5. Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic resources: selection of participants
 6. Report by the President on the outcome of the high level working group on the 2010 biodiversity target and post 2010 targets (Bonn, 9-10 March)
 7. Report on the availability of financial resources for the implementation of the decisions of the Conference of Parties at its ninth meeting
 8. Provisional agenda of the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity
 9. Preparations for the tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties: discussion of the concept paper prepared by Japan
 10. Preparations for the high level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly at its sixth–fifth session
 11. Other matters
 12. Closure of the meeting
5. It was agreed that, in addition to the minutes, a summary of decisions under each agenda item would be made available to Bureau members after each meeting.

ITEM 3: To-do list from the previous meeting of the Bureau (Nairobi 13-02-09)

6. The President then reviewed the “to-do” list of issues that had been identified for follow up before the fourth meeting of the Bureau:
- The minutes of the previous Bureau meeting (Nairobi, 13 February 2009) were adopted
 - The Bureau took note of the Secretariat “to-do list” and annotations.
 - Items on the “To-do list” of the Presidency were taken up in connection with the relevant agenda items.
 - LOHAFEX experiment (ocean fertilization): The President briefed the Bureau on latest developments, including the preliminary results of this scientific experiment, and informed the Bureau that the letter from the President to ETC had been sent. The letter

to the Governments from Germany and India will be signed by the Bureau member from Malawi and sent immediately.

- Letter on credentials for CoP-9: the President informed the Bureau that the letter had been signed and sent to the concerned Parties by the Minister.

ITEM 4: Seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing:

7. (a) Organization of Work: The Co-chairs of the WGABS briefed the Bureau on their approach to the organization and workflow of the meeting. It was confirmed there is no intention to entertain discussions on the “Nature” of the International Regime at ABS-7.

(b) Key messages from Bureau members to the regional groups: It was decided that the President would address all regional meetings, at the beginning, briefly conveying agreed key messages. He would be accompanied by a Bureau member from outside the region who would also reinforce these key messages. The President would be accompanied by the Executive Secretary and the following Bureau members: Mr. James Seyani (Malawi) for the GRULAC; Mr. Joseph Toussaint (Haiti) for Africa; Ms. Asa Normann (Sweden) for Asia and the Pacific; Mr. Robert Lamb (Switzerland) for the CEE; and Ms. Tania Temata (Cook Islands) for the JUSCANZ. Mr. Damaso Luna (Mexico) and Mr. Robert Lamb (Switzerland) will represent the Bureau for the meeting with the EU. The representatives from Japan were invited to participate in every meeting if they wish to do so.

ITEM 5: Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic resources: selection of participants

8. Mr. Olivier Jalbert, Principal Officer of the Secretariat, briefed the Bureau indicating that a deadline of 26 March had been stipulated for receipt of nominations of experts for the meeting. However, only the following nominations had been received: Africa: three, Asia: six, CEE: two, EU/JUSCANZ: four and two. Two countries had indicated that they were still conducting internal consultations and would submit nominations. GRULAC: 3. Due to the insufficient number of nominations received so far, the deadline had been extended to 6 April. It was agreed that Bureau members would raise the matter within their regional groups and urge their member countries to submit nominations by the new deadline, which would allow the Bureau to approve the list of selected experts before the end of the WGABS-7.

ITEM 6: Report by the President on the outcome of the high level working group on the 2010 biodiversity target and post 2010 targets (Bonn, 9-10 March)

9. The President briefed the Bureau on the Bonn High level workshop on the 2010 target. He stated that the workshop had been very well attended and it had been successful in generating a frank discussion and generating new ideas. The Bureau had been represented by the representatives of Sweden and Malawi who participated as observers, as had the representative of UNEP. The main messages that emerged from the workshop were the need to broaden the focus from biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, to ecosystems and ecosystem services and the need to link the biodiversity agenda to other global international agenda such as Climate Change and Poverty Eradication. The Executive Secretary who attended as an observer, also briefed the Bureau stating that there was greater awareness that biodiversity was integral to life and the economy. The output from the workshop would be useful in the run up to 2010, including the EMG process, working on the post 2010 targets under UNEP’s chairmanship. He indicated the outcome paper from the Bonn meeting should feed into the UNGA process. With the financial support provided by the Government of

Canada, the Secretariat was working on branding the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity and developing key messages.

10. Summing up the discussions, the President stated that the conclusions of the Bonn workshop would be posted on both the Secretariat and UNEP's websites, and should be transmitted with a covering letter from the President of COP-9 to all Parties, regions, important processes (including the G-8), and relevant stakeholders. It was also decided that a notification would be sent to all Parties.

11. It was also agreed that the Bureau would review at its next meeting, the communications strategy for the International Year of Biodiversity, as well as CEPA, with a view to identifying niches where the biodiversity message could be effectively communicated to the broad public.

ITEM 7: Report on the availability of financial resources for the implementation of the decisions of the Conference of Parties at its ninth meeting

12. Ms. Michele Rattray-Huish, Chief Financial Resources Management of the Secretariat, briefed the Bureau on the status of voluntary funding for COP approved activities. A detailed discussion ensued with questions on pledges received, shortfalls and gaps that continued to persist. It was agreed that a presentation would be prepared for the next bureau meeting showing donors and pledges, clearly indicating shortfalls for each item. The Secretariat should explore and indicate possible reallocation of surplus identified for some items.

13. The representative of UNEP indicated that UNEP had already provided 250,000 US \$. By the end of the year UNEP might be in a position to contribute a further 250,000 US \$ from the basket of funding for MEAs. For the ABS process, UNEP had already provided 50,000 US \$ as support for the ABS Co-Chairs and would pledge another 450,000 US \$ for this process before the end of the year. He stressed that the Executive Director was very supportive and wanted to make a success of the CBD.

14. The Executive Secretary indicated that Norway, Spain and Germany had also generously covered the travel costs for participation of developing countries in WGABS 7, but there was still a deficit for WGABS 8. He added that approximately 1.5 million dollars would be needed for the participation of developing countries and economies in transition in COP10 and MOP5.

15. Summing up the discussions under this agenda item, the President indicated that the Bureau had taken note of the briefing on the status of voluntary funding for COP approved activities (BE Trust Fund). It was noted that additional shortfalls also persist in Connection to Trust Fund BZ and Trust Fund BV. It was agreed that the Secretariat would update the Bureau on a continuing basis with regard to the funding situation, including between meetings if required.

16. The Bureau requested the UNEP representative to convey his gratitude to the Executive Director for his substantive financial contribution for hosting SBSTTA-14 in Nairobi. The Bureau also noted with appreciation the announcement made by UNEP that the latter might be in a position to make available additional funding of 450,000 US \$ in support

of CBD activities towards the end of the year. It was agreed that a presentation would be prepared for the next bureau meeting showing donors and pledges.

17. The Bureau welcomed the forthcoming visit of the President to Washington DC to discuss US accession to the CBD and invited him to explore the possibility of US contributions to activities approved by COP-9.

ITEM 8: Provisional agenda of the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the convention on Biological Diversity

18. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda of WGRI-3 incorporating changes made at its meeting in Berlin, on 26 November 2008. Answering to a question from the President, several members of the Bureau pointed out that there are only remote possibilities for successfully addressing “pending issues” regarding the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

ITEM 9: Preparations for the tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties: discussion of the concept paper prepared by Japan

19. The representative of Japan briefed the Bureau on the main contours of the concept paper prepared by them to focus and structure their preparations for COP 10 and which had been circulated to the Bureau.

20. Summing up the discussions under this agenda item, the President indicated that the Bureau had taken note of the concept paper circulated by Japan and expressed its appreciation to Japan for its efforts to prepare COP-10, including their support in preparing substantive issues. It was agreed that the concept paper served to outline the host country’s approach to COP-10 and that it did not have any impact on the agenda of the meeting as decided by the Conference of the Parties or on the substantive issues therein. The Bureau appreciated that Japan had sought to consult and take into account its views in drafting the concept paper. The revised concept paper would include an introductory section clarifying its purpose and objective, the difference between preparations for CoP-10 and its branding theme, as well as the intended linkage between the concept paper and other processes that would contribute to the COP-10. It was further agreed that Japan would update the Bureau on further preparations for COP-10 at the next Bureau meeting. Bureau members were invited to submit in writing their comments on the concept paper to the representative of Japan.

ITEM 10: Preparations for the high level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly at its sixth –fifth session

21. For this agenda item, the Bureau had before it the Note circulated by the secretariat at the Nairobi Bureau meeting outlining ideas on preparations for the high level meeting of the 65th session of the UNGA. The Executive Secretary briefed the Bureau pointing out that these inputs would need to be submitted by July for incorporation in the Secretary-General’s report as required by GA resolution 63/219. The issue would be considered in detail by the UNGA in fall. The objective was to encourage an interactive debate at the highest level and mobilize the political will and momentum necessary. Each panel would have Co-Chairs from a developed and developing country. The summaries of the panels would be forwarded by the High level Session of the UNGA to COP 10.

22. Summing up the discussions, the President stated that the Bureau had taken note of the Note from the Secretariat. The Bureau was of the view that the convening of interactive panels during the high level segment might be a possible way to engage heads of state and

governments on issues related to biodiversity and that any approach to be taken should gear towards obtaining precise outcomes from the meeting and not only to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity. The number of panels should be reconsidered and the theme(s) should be of strategic nature and clearly focussed. It was agreed that members who wished to send comments or specific inputs could do so by end April, bearing in mind that the Secretariat would need to finalize the note in light of comments received by July 2009 for inclusion in the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the CBD, as required by the GA resolution 63/219. The draft Note should be consulted with those responsible for the preparations for UNGA at the UN headquarters in New York before it is formally transmitted. The President would also discuss this issue during his forthcoming visit to New York with relevant officials.

ITEM 11: Other matters

23. The Bureau welcomed the indication that UNEP would like to host a meeting of the Bureau in 2010 in a location outside Nairobi, namely Aberdare.

24. The Bureau called on Parties to submit their fourth national report as soon as possible, including in draft form, so as to allow the Secretariat to prepare the first draft of the Global Biodiversity Outlook-3.

25. It was agreed that the CEPA/ABS/Communications workshop held within the framework of the Africa Capacity-development initiative on ABS, in Nairobi last March, had been very useful and that its report should be circulated for the benefit of other regions. It was further agreed that the report of the workshop will be discussed at the next meeting of the Bureau.

ITEM 12: Closure of the meeting

26. The meeting was closed at 7 p.m. on 30 March 2009.