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UPDATING AND REVISION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 2 of its decision VIII/15, the Conference of the Parties decided to consider at its ninth meeting the process for revising and updating the Strategic Plan with a view to adopting a revised Strategic Plan at its tenth meeting.

2. At its second meeting, held in Paris from 9 to 13 July 2007, the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention considered this issue on the basis of an information note prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/WGRI/2/INF/6). In its recommendation 2/1 (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/4, annex), the Working Group requested the Executive Secretary, to invite Parties to submit views on the revision of the Strategic Plan beyond 2010, and to prepare a report for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, taking into account also the views expressed by Parties at the second meeting of the Working Group.

3. Accordingly, this note has been prepared by the Executive Secretary to assist the Conference of the Parties in its task of establishing an inter-sessional process for the revision and updating of the Strategic Plan beyond 2010. Background information on the existing Strategic Plan and related issues, and on other decisions to be taken into account is provided in section II. Views of Parties and other considerations are summarized in section III. Issues arising from these views and considerations including those emerging from experience in applying the existing Strategic Plan and its associated framework of goals, targets and indicators are reviewed in section IV. Options for the inter-sessional process of revising and updating the Strategic Plan are considered in section V. Matters related to the interrelated issue of the multi-year programme of work beyond 2010 are considered in section VI. Finally a draft decision for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties is presented in section VII.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/9/1.

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II. BACKGROUND

A. The existing Strategic Plan

4. In paragraph 2 of decision VI/26, the Conference of the Parties adopted the Strategic Plan. Through the Plan, Parties committed themselves to more effective and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention in order to achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional, and national levels.

5. The Plan, which is annexed to decision VI/26 comprises two introductory paragraphs, four sections and an appendix, as follows:

(a) *Introductory paragraphs.* The Plan is "to guide further implementation [of the Convention] at the national, regional and global levels"; its purpose is "to effectively halt the loss of biodiversity so as to secure the continuity of its beneficial uses";

(b) *Section A ("The issue")* includes background information noting: that biodiversity loss is accelerating; the threats; the Convention as an essential instrument; achievements; and challenges;

(c) *Section B ('Mission")* states that "Parties commit themselves to a more effective and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth". This has come to be known as the 2010 biodiversity target;

(d) *Section C ("Strategic goals and objectives")* sets out four goals, each with four to six objectives;

(e) *Section D ("Review")* states that the Plan will be implemented through the programmes of work developed under the Convention, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and other activities, and that better methods should be developed to evaluate progress.

(f) The *Appendix* lists obstacles to the implementation of the Convention.

6. In decision VII/30, the Conference of the Parties adopted a framework for the evaluation of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, establishing a set of outcome-oriented goals and targets, and related indicators. These were refined in the light of experience and the advice of SBSTTA and adopted in decision VIII/15 "Framework for monitoring implementation of the achievement of the 2010 target and integration of targets into the thematic programmes of work". In the latter decision, the Conference of the Parties noted that that the framework for monitoring implementation of the Convention and achievement of the 2010 target is comprised of the following five components (decision VIII/15, paragraph 1):

(a) The four goals and 19 objectives of the Strategic Plan adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision VI/26;

(b) A limited number of indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, to be developed on the basis of the proposed indicators in annex I to the decision; 1/

(c) The provisional framework for goals and targets, consisting of seven focal areas, 11 goals and 21 targets, adopted in decision VII/30;

(d) Outcome-oriented indicators to measure progress towards the 2010 target (as adopted by decision VII/30 with amendments recommended by SBSTTA in recommendation X/5, as summarized in annex II to the decision); and

(e) Reporting mechanisms, including the Global Biodiversity Outlook and national reports.

B. The 2010 biodiversity target

7. The 2010 biodiversity target, adopted as the mission of the Strategic Plan (see paragraph 5 (c) above) was supported in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. At the 2005 Summit, Heads of State and Government agreed that "All States will fulfil commitments and significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010". Following requests to the Secretary General from the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting and the high-level segment at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the 2010 biodiversity target has now been incorporated into the framework for the Millennium Development Goals as target 7.B ("Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss") 2/

III. VIEWS OF PARTIES AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

A. Other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties and additional considerations

8. In addition to paragraph 2 of decision VIII/15, other decisions adopted at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties need to be taken into account in the revision and updating the Strategic Plan:

(a) Paragraph 2 of decision VIII/8, which calls for the results of the in-depth review of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan to be used, *inter alia*, to provide inputs to the process of revising the Strategic Plan beyond 2010. The recommendations from the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention are relevant in this regard (recommendation 2/1, annex, paragraph 23). Updated information relating to the in-depth review is found in document the note by the Executive Secretary on the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/14);

1/ A list of possible indicators was included in document UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/2, table 1. This was reviewed by the Working Group on Review of Implementation at its first meeting, and a revised list was annexed to decision VIII/15 (annex I). Through this decision the Secretariat was requested, in consultation with the members of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for Assessing Progress Towards the 2010 Target, and other partners to elaborate, on the basis of the annexed list, a limited number of relevant, robust and measurable indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan. Accordingly, the secretariat organized a discussion forum and invited the AHTEG members to participate. This has been an insufficient basis on which to further refine the indicators. Given that only very limited time is available before 2010, and the major exercise in reviewing the implementation of the Strategic Plan is already underway, it is proposed that further refinement of the set of indicators be coordinated with the revision of the Strategic Plan itself.

2/ http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Host.aspx?Content=Indicators/OfficialList.htm

(b) Paragraph 10 of decision VIII/9, on the implications of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment at its eighth meeting, in which the Conference of the Parties, "[m]indful that the loss of biodiversity is continuing, and recognizing the inertia in ecological systems and in the drivers of biodiversity loss and therefore the need for longer-term targets", decided "to consider, at its ninth meeting, the need to review and update targets as part of the process of revising the Strategic Plan beyond 2010"; and

(c) Paragraph 3 of decision VIII/15, which calls for, as part of the process for revising and updating the Strategic Plan, an in-depth review of the goals, targets, and indicators, contained in that decision for use after 2010.

9. Other factors to take into account in revising and updating the Strategic Plan, as identified in UNEP/CBD/WGRI/2/INF/6:

(a) The analysis in Global Biodiversity Outlook 2

(b) Implications of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

(c) Experience in the use of the 2002 Strategic Plan and its associated framework

(d) Experience in the use of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and its 16 outcome-oriented targets

(e) The results of the in-depth reviews of the Convention's programmes of Work

B. Views of Parties and observers as expressed at the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention or provided in submissions

10. In paragraph 2 of its decision VIII/8, the Conference of the Parties called for the results of the in-depth review of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan to be used, *inter alia*, to provide inputs to the process of revising the Strategic Plan beyond 2010. Accordingly, inputs to the process of revising the strategic plan beyond 2010 were discussed at the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on the basis of an information note prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/WGRI/2/INF/6). At that time, many Parties emphasized that efforts should be focussed on the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target, and that discussion of the post-2010 Plan was premature. Some Parties, however, considered it useful to look ahead, even while the focus of practical work remains on achieving the target of the existing Plan. A number of Parties emphasized that the revision of the Strategic Plan should be based on a thorough assessment of progress made towards acheiving the existing Strategic Plan and the 2010 biodiversity target. Parties also noted the need to make full use of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, the Millenium Ecosystem Assessment, and other relevant information.

11. Most of the Parties that expressed a view on the matter welcomed the analysis in the information note by the Executive Secretary and agreed with many of the conclusions therein. In particular there was much support for the view that the updated and revised Strategic Plan should build upon the exisitng Plan and Framework, the goals, targets and indicators of which will remain relevant. Many Parties suggested the need for longer-term targets. The need for balance between the three objectives of the Convention was highlighted. Parties noted the value of a framework for national targets and the need for more effective monitroing and reporting. Some Parties cautioned against a proliferation of indicators. There

was general support for a focus on mainstreaming of biodiversity into braoder development and poverty eradication strategies, and for greater attention to the costs of biodiversity loss. The implementation of the ecoystem approach was mentioned. A number of Parties also stressed the importance of strengthening synergies among relevant conventions and international processes.

12. In line with recommendation 2/1, the Executive Secretary issued a notification (SCBD/ITS/LC/59514; issued 6 August 2008) inviting parties to submit views on the updating and revision of the Strategic Plan. One notification was received, from Portugal and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union. While broadly agreeing with proposals as referred to in paragraphs 36 and 37 of document UNEP/CBD/WGRI/2/INF/6, the European Union emphasized that the review of the Strategic Plan should be based upon a thorough assessment of the progress made towards achieving the existing Strategic Plan and the 2010 target, as well as a number of scenarios for the future, which would be largely carried out through the third Global Biodiversity Outlook. Highlighting the value of the 2010 biodiversity target and the continued relevance of the Strategic Plan and associated framework, the European Union supported the suggestion that the revised Strategic Plan should provide for Parties to develop national outcome-oriented and if possible quantitative targets, making use of the framework, and to regularly report on progress towards these targets.

13. Full information on the views of Parties and observers as expressed at WGRI-2 or provided in submissions can be found at: http://www.cbd.int/meetings/wgri-02/outcome.shtml.

IV. ISSUES RELATED TO THE UPDATING AND REVISION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

14. The following issues arise from the in-depth review of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan, relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties and additional considerations and the Views of Parties and observers as expressed at the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention or provided in submissions.

The continuing relevance of the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan and associated framework of goals, targets and indicators

15. The time since the development of the Strategic Plan (2002) is relatively short (five years to date; eight years by 2010), and the time since the refinement of the framework of goals, targets and indicators (Decision VIII/15, 2006) shorter still. Few countries have established national targets within this framework, and even fewer have had time to implement them.

16. The Goals and objectives of the Plan itself (Decision VI/26) refer predominantly to aspects of the process of implementation of the Convention at national, regional and global levels (international cooperation, resources for implementation, NBSAPs and the mainstreaming of biodiversity, CEPA and the engagement of actors and stakeholders). On the other hand the goals and targets of the framework for evaluating progress (decisions VII/30 and VIII/15) refer to outcomes – to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the sharing of benefits.3/

17. The second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook 2 provides an overall “Strategic Plan Scorecard” 4/ and “Prospects for achieving the targets of the framework for assessing progress towards

3/ However, there is some overlap between objective 2.2 (decision VI/26) and goal 11 (decisions VII/30 and VIII/15).

4/ see www.biodiv.org/gbo2, table 3.1.

the 2010 biodiversity target (table 3.1). These show that none of the goals, objectives and targets have been fully met. While some progress has been made since then (see UNEP/CBD/COP/9/14), the main conclusions are still valid and therefore the goals, objectives and targets are likely to remain relevant beyond 2010.

18. Most of the existing goals/objectives/targets are expected to remain relevant post-2010. Indeed the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment noted that although the goals and targets of the framework were developed to clarify the 2010 target, they are sufficiently general to be used as a guide to the longer term objectives of the Convention, with the former addressing "means" and the latter "ends". 5/

19. Thus the revised and updated Strategic Plan and framework should build upon the existing Plan and Framework, to allow for continuity with appropriate adjustments to improve clarity and focus.

The need for shorter- and longer-term targets

20. The short-time period of the 2010 target has already been noted above. The agreement on a short-term target reflected the urgency with which Parties considered the crisis of biodiversity loss. Biodiversity continues to be lost and therefore, Parties may again wish to establish a short-term target. At the same time however, the Conference of the Parties has recognized "the inertia in ecological systems and in the drivers of biodiversity loss and therefore the need for longer-term targets". In addition, many Parties have developed both shorter-term targets (or milestones) and longer-term targets (or vision) in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. 6/ The Conference of the Parties may therefore wish to consider establishing both shorter-term and longer-term targets in the next Strategic Plan, for example, for 2020 and 2050 respectively.

The value of providing a framework for national, and, where possible, quantitative, targets

21. Given that implementation of the Convention occurs primarily at national level, the establishment of targets at national level in line with the Framework provided by the Plan is perhaps the most important functions of the Plan. In paragraph 15 of decision VII/30, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and Governments to develop national and/or regional goals and targets, and, as appropriate, to incorporate them into relevant plans, programmes and initiatives, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The consolidated guidance for national biodiversity strategies and action plans, developed by the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention and recommended for adoption by the Conference of the Parties, urges Parties to establish national, or where applicable, subnational, targets in developing, implementing and revising their NBSAP. National targets can be focused on national priorities and important aspects of biodiversity. Being more focused, they can also be quantitative. In fact, it is probably better to focus on a few quantitative targets than to have multiple general ones.

22. Thus, the revised Plan could provide for Parties to develop national outcome-oriented targets, making use of the revised associated Framework, and for Parties to report on progress towards these targets, which, as far as possible, should be quantitative. The updated Strategic Plan and Framework could provide a benchmark and guidance as to what needs to be achieved collectively.

23. Given the multi-faceted nature of biodiversity, and the three objectives of the Convention, any overall target is likely to be broad. So a framework of goals and sub-targets is again likely to be needed

5/ *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment*, volume 2, chapter 14, section 14.2.2.2.

6/ For example, Japan has a 100-year vision.

to clarify the overall target and provide the necessary precision. While it has been possible for some countries to develop quantitative national targets, it has proved difficult to determine quantified goals and targets in the overall 2010 framework at a global level. Quantitative targets were developed however in the more specific context of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. Focusing on a particular—and relatively well documented—subset of biodiversity allowed for such precision. While quantitative global targets may be desirable it may be necessary to develop such quantitative targets through a step-by-step process: to first establish the framework, and then to "populate" the framework with specific quantitative targets for particular subsets of biodiversity, taking into account also any national quantitative targets.

The need to address the drivers of biodiversity loss and to integrate biodiversity considerations into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, programme and strategies and planning processes

24. In considering the implications of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (decision VIII/9), the Conference of the Parties identified the need to address the threats to biodiversity (drivers of biodiversity loss). The Conference of the Parties noted, in particular, the urgent need to address the issues which the Assessment finds most significant at the global level in terms of their impacts on biodiversity and consequences for human well-being, such as:

(a) Land-use change and other habitat transformation;

(b) The consequences of over-fishing;

(c) Desertification and degradation in dry and sub-humid lands;

(d) The multiple drivers of change to inland water ecosystems;

(e) Increasing nutrient loading in ecosystems;

(f) The introduction of invasive alien species; and

(g) The rapidly increasing impacts of climate change.

25. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties and other Governments to promote dialogue among different sectors to mainstream biodiversity and to address linkages between sectors and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in order to contribute to the more effective implementation of the Convention, in particular its Article 6. The Conference of the Parties noted the need to link with the following sectors among others: international trade, finance, agriculture, forestry, tourism, mining, energy and fisheries.

26. Greater attention should be given to addressing the indirect and direct drivers of loss of biodiversity (the threats to biodiversity), and reflecting these in the goals and targets. This would involve the full operationalization of Article 7(c) and 8(l) of the Convention: identifying threats to biodiversity, and managing or regulating them.

27. A corollary of this is that major strategic thrusts of the new Plan should be to promote the integration of biodiversity considerations into sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes (mainstreaming) and to promoting greater awareness among all sectors of society on the role that biodiversity and ecosystem services play in supporting human well-being. In turn this means more effective engagement of all stakeholders. More effective use should be made of the ecosystem approach

in planning processes. Development of appropriate economic incentive measures and of methods for accounting for the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services in national accounts is needed.

28. There is also a need to engage with existing planning processes in order to mainstream biodiversity concerns in other national strategies, including, in particular, poverty reduction strategies, national strategies for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, sustainable development strategies, and strategies to respond to climate change and combat desertification, as well as sectoral strategies.

29. Similarly, it is important that there is harmony and mutual support among international instruments dealing with these issues. In particular, the revised Strategic Plan should be linked with the Millennium Development Goals and with the other Rio conventions.

The need to consider obstacles to implementation of the Convention

30. According to the third national reports, the most widespread constraints to the implementation of the Convention are "lack of financial, human and technical resources" and "lack of economic incentive measures".

31. The Strategic Plan includes, in an appendix, a list of obstacles to the implementation of the Convention. This list has been used in the format for the third national reports and in the analysis/synthesis presented in note by the Executive Secretary on lessons learned from the review, effectiveness of policy instruments and strategic priorities for action submitted to the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/Add.1). However, there are some shortcomings to the list that could be improved in a revision—some of the obstacles listed being dependent on others.

The need for capacity-building and resource mobilization

32. The in-depth review of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan indicate that lack of capacity and human, financial and technical resources continues to be a major constraint to the implementation of the Convention and this lack needs to be addressed in the updated and revised Strategic Plan. This should be done in a manner that builds on the assessments conducted under individual programmes of work such as the analysis of capacity needs for the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target in dry and sub-humid lands. There is also a need for the strategy for resource mobilization, and the four-year framework of priorities for the Global Environment Facility, to be adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, are consistent with the existing and revised Strategic Plan.

The need for effective monitoring and reporting

33. The in-depth review of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan suggests that greater efforts are needed to monitor implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and progress towards national targets, to allow for adaptive management, and provide regular reports on progress. This is reflected the consolidated guidance on national biodiversity strategies and action plans developed by the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention. Parties have also highlighted the importance of monitoring and reporting in their interventions on the Strategic Plan at the Working Group on Review of Implementation.

The need to aim for universal membership of the Convention

34. Ongoing discussions concerning international environmental governance suggest a need for further close collaboration among multilateral environmental agreements and with other international institutions. For the Convention to play its full role in this future institutional framework, universal membership will be critical.

The need to address objectives related to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

35. The 2002 Strategic Plan includes objectives related to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety as an integral part of the overall Plan. However, the Conference of Parties and its subsidiary bodies have generally opted not to include the Protocol when evaluating progress. Thus, in the revised and updated Plan, Parties may wish to consider developing a distinct plan – or distinct section of the Plan – for the Protocol.

The desirability of a short, focused document

36. The 2002 Strategic Plan is a short document (five pages, including the appendix), and the framework for assessing progress adds only a few more pages. This relative brevity has been a strong point of the Plan. Arguably, this is especially important given the extensive length of many of the Convention's programmes of work and other decisions. Thus the Conference of the Parties may wish to aim for a short document for the post-2010 plan (eg: eight to twelve pages including annexes).

V. PROPOSALS FOR THE PROCESS OF REVISING THE STRATEGIC PLAN

37. Given that the Conference of the Parties has decided to consider at its ninth meeting the process for revising and updating the Strategic Plan with a view to adopting a revised Strategic Plan at its tenth meeting (Decision VIII/15 (2)), the revised and updated Plan will need to be developed through an inter-sessional process between the ninth and tenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties. Such a process could comprise:

(a) Submissions from Parties and observers;

(b) A synthesis/analysis of issues prepared by the Secretariat;

(c) Examination of the outcome-oriented goals and targets, and associated indicators by SBSTTA, building upon ongoing work to improve and develop appropriate indicators, in particular the anlaysis and inputs provided by the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership;

(d) A meeting of an expert group, with members drawn predominately from Parties. Such a working group could take into account the experience and process of the UNCCD which established a working group to prepare a revised strategic plan for that Convention;

(e) A third meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI-3), if provision is made for such a meeting, 7/ and

7/ At its second meeting, the Working Group recommended that at its ninth meeting, the Conference of the Parties considers the continuation of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention taking into account the importance of making progress in the implementation of the Convention.

(f) Consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session.

38. An indicative timetable is presented in the following table, although the actual dates will depend on the finally agreed dates of intersessional meetings and availability of the necessary resources:

	Indicative timetable for inter-sessional work to revise and update the Strategic Plan
June – Nov. 2008	Parties and observes submit views on the revised and updated Strategic Plan
January 2009	First draft Secretariat analysis/synthesis available for review
October 2009	SBSTTA-14 considers draft GBO-3
	SBSTTA-14 reviews goals and targets, and associated indicators of annex to decision VIII/15, with a view to recommending adjustments where necessary
March 2010	Expert meeting considers options for revised and updated Strategic Plan, taking into account text of GBO-3 (embargoed), and preliminary version of secretariat analysis/synthesis
May 2010:	Launch of GBO-3 at the International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May)
April 2010	Secretariat finalizes analysis/synthesis
May/June 2010	SBSTTA-15 considers possible adjustment of targets and indicators contained in the annex to decision VIII/15
October 2010	COP-10 Considers draft revised and updated Strategic Plan with a view to adoption

39. In establishing the process, the Conference of the Parties may wish to give attention to the following considerations:

(a) The revision and updating of the Strategic Plan should be informed by relevant issues, including those arising from the in-depth review of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan, such as those identified in section III of this document;

(b) The process should solicit inputs from interested stakeholders, including the biodiversity related conventions, other relevant organizations;

(c) Process that allows parties to ensure “buy-in” from all relevant ministries and national constituencies;

(d) The revision and updating of the Strategic Plan should be informed by the latest science and scientific assessments.

(e) The revision and updating of the Strategic Plan should be coordinated with the preparation of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

VI. THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK BEYOND 2010

40. Parallel to the process for revising and updating the Strategic Plan, the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider the related issue of the multi-year programme of work beyond 2010. The present multi-year programme of work covers the work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010. It was developed in line with decision VI/28 and the recommendations of the Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/5, annex). The Conference had previously established medium-term programmes of work for 1995-1997 (decision I/9, revised in II/18) and 1998–2004 (decision IV/16).

41. 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, taking into account also the periodicity of meetings which is due to be determined at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (see UNEP/CBD/COP/9/22/Add.1). The development of the future multi-year programme of work may also take into account the following analysis of issues addressed by meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

42. 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) Some aspects of Article 7 (Identification and monitoring);

(b) Some 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).

43. In particular, the Conference of the Parties has not provided comprehensive guidance on 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)). In the light of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and its consideration by the Conference of the Parties (decision VIII/9), these articles may warrant greater attention in future. 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. Finally, in light of the finding that Parties identify "lack of economic incentives" as a major obstacle, further attention to Article 11 may be warranted, perhaps together with those aspects of Article 10 that have not been adequately addressed.

44. The foregoing analysis would also suggest the following issues be considered for inclusion in the multi-year programme of work after 2010:

(a) Identification and management of threats to biodiversity (Articles 7(c) and 8(l));

(b) Biodiversity and its contribution to human well-being, including poverty elimination;

(c) Ecosystem restoration and species recovery (Article 8(f) and 9);

(d) Handling of benefits and risks of biotechnology (Article 15 and 8(g));

(e) Further consideration of sustainable use and incentive measures (Articles 10 and 11) including engagement of local communities (10(c)) and the private sector (10(e)).

VII. DRAFT DECISION

45. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines::

The Conference of the Parties

Recalling its paragraph 2 of its decision VIII/15 .by which it decided to consider at its ninth meeting the process for revising and updating the Strategic Plan with a view to adopting a revised Strategic Plan at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as other relevant decisions including paragraph 2 of decisions VIII/8 and paragraph 10 of decision VIII/9 (paragraph 10).

Taking note of the note by the Executive Secretary on updating and revision of the Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/14/Add.1), and *noting* in particular:

(a) The continuing relevance of the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan and associated framework;

(b) The need for short term targets or milestones and a long term target or vision;

(c) The value of providing a framework for national, and, where possible, quantitative, targets;

(d) The need to address the drivers of biodiversity loss and to integrate biodiversity considerations into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, programme and strategies and planning processes;

(e) The need to consider obstacles to implementation of the Convention;

(f) The need for capacity building and resource mobilization

(g) The need for effective monitoring and reporting

(h) The need to aim for universal membership of the Convention;

(i) The need to address objectives related to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

(j) The desirability of a short, focused strategic plan;

1. *Establishes* an inter-sessional process to prepare a draft revised and updated Strategic Plan for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session, comprising:

(a) Further submissions from Parties and observers;

(b) A synthesis/analysis of issues prepared by the Secretariat, prepared in conjunction with the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook;

(c) Examination of the outcome-oriented goals and targets, and associated indicators by the Subsidiary on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

(d) A meeting of an expert group, with members drawn predominately from Parties;

2. *Decides* to adopt at its tenth meeting a multi-year programme of work for the period 2010–2016, consistent with the updated and revised Strategic Plan;

3. *Invites* Parties and observers to submit further views on the revision and updating of the Strategic Plan, and, encourages them, in preparing submissions, to facilitate dialogue among different sectors of government and society;

4. R*equests* the Subsidiary on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to examine, the outcome-oriented goals and targets, and associated indicators contained in the annex to decision VIII/15, with a view to recommending adjustments, if and where necessary, taking into account the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (or the latest draft thereof), the analysis/synthesis prepared by the Secretariat and further work by the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and the scientific community;

5. R*equests* the Executive Secretary, bearing in mind the indicative schedule annexed to this decision*:

(a) To invite Parties and observers to submit views;

(b) To prepare a synthesis/analysis of issues relevant to the revision and updating of the Strategic Plan, drawing upon the note by the Executive Secretary on the subject (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/14/Add.1), submissions of Parties and observers, the fourth national reports, the results of the in-depth reviews of the Convention's programes of work, and other material gathered for the preparation of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, and to submit the final version to the expert group and the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting;

(c) To convene a regionally-balanced meeting of an experts, applying *mutatis mutandis* the procedures for ad hoc technical expert groups, to examine options for the revision and updating of the Strategic Plan, using as a basis a preliminary version;

(d) To prepare options for a multi-year programme of work for the period 2010–2016 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting.

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* See paragraph 38 above.