



Convention on Biological Diversity

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Fourteenth meeting
Nairobi, 10–21 May 2010
Agenda item 5

WAYS AND MEANS TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Draft recommendation submitted by the Chair

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the consolidated *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice contained in annex III to decision VIII/10 and, in particular, paragraph 4, which states that the Subsidiary Body shall endeavour to constantly improve the quality of its scientific, technical and technological advice by improving scientific, technical and technological input into, debate at, and work of, meetings of the Subsidiary Body,

Bearing in mind the future adoption of an updated and revised Strategic Plan and Multi-Year Program of Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and noting other global developments in the field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, including ecosystem services, in particular the proposals to establish synergies among the three Rio conventions.,

SBSTTA focal points

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to encourage Parties to designate focal points for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, taking into account the need to enhance the role of such focal points during the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention and for liaising with their counterparts in other biodiversity-related conventions and mechanisms to improve coherence between processes related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, in particular the proposals to enhance synergies among the three Rio conventions;

2. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure that information on updated national SBSTTA focal points is immediately considered by the Secretariat so that communications are sent to appropriate contacts at the national level;

3. [*Further requests* the Executive Secretary to elaborate a format where national focal points for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice can submit voluntary

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reports on the scientific and technical issues arising from the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention in a manner that is in harmony with national reports so as to avoid increasing the reporting burden and to avoid duplication in reporting so as to allow for a meaningful review of its implementation which will serve as solid bases for action to be taken at the national, regional and global levels;]

4. [Urges the mobilization of human and financial resources for the submission of voluntary reports in particular in support of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, as well as countries with economies in transition including for strengthening the clearing-house mechanism;]

5. Noting the importance of the role of the focal points for the Subsidiary Body in the integration of scientific and technical dimensions in decision-making processes and the implementation of the Convention and in line with their terms of reference described in paragraph 21 of decision VIII/10, further requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with relevant partnerships, subject to availability of funds, to organize training workshops at regular intervals and based on an assessment of the training needs of participants, so as to promote free and open access to data and information relevant to assisting Parties in implementing the Convention and participating in international, regional and national scientific, technical and technological processes in the sphere of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and increase the capacity of the focal points in discharging their terms of reference in effectively communicating the main findings and outcomes of their work and in establishing and using national clearing-house mechanisms;

Preparations for SBSTTA meetings

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to ensure that notifications and invitations for SBSTTA meetings are issued well in advance to allow sufficient time for preparation and visa processing;

7. Further requests the Executive Secretary to convene pre-SBSTTA regional meetings at least six months prior to SBSTTA meetings. In cases in which financial support becomes a limiting factor, a two-day preparatory meeting may be organized at the same venue prior to the opening of the SBSTTA meeting;

8. Further requests, the Executive Secretary in collaboration with SBSTTA Bureau members and interested partners such as the Consortium of Scientific Partners (CSP), to prepare a Manual for SBSTTA to enhance the duties of national focal points, SBSTTA Bureau members and delegates. This manual should include elements such as: updated *modus operandi* (including new and emerging issues procedure), functions of SBSTTA national focal points and Bureau members, peer-review process for preparation of SBSTTA working documents, dynamics of SBSTTA meetings and products, etc., and to make it available through the clearing-house mechanism;

9. Invites Parties and other Governments to encourage and support SBSTTA Bureau members and national focal points to organize and coordinate online consultations to facilitate regional consultation on matters to be discussed at upcoming SBSTTA meetings;

10. Invites Parties and other Governments to encourage and support participation in SBSTTA meetings, of developing countries especially the least developed countries, and small island developing States as well as countries with economies in transition;

11. [Encourages the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body, subject to the availability of funds, to convene joint meetings with the bureaus of the subsidiary bodies of the Rio conventions as well as with relevant biodiversity related conventions meetings to promote synergies and collaboration as per the relevant decisions of the Rio conventions¹;

¹ UNFCCC decision 13/CP.8, paragraph 2; UNCCD decision 7/COP.5, paragraph 5 and decision 15/COP.6, annex 2.

12. [Decides that requests addressed to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will be submitted with the provision of adequate financial resources and *decides* to allocate the amount of US\$ XXXXX to the Subsidiary Body for the convening of two expert meetings during the biennium;]

SBSTTA documentation

13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to streamline and shorten the texts of draft SBSTTA suggested recommendations so that the actions required are clear, and evident;

14. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to distribute documents such as Technical Series, newsletters and other information documents of the Convention on Biological Diversity in all United Nations languages in order to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge on the status of biodiversity and conservation measures, as well as ensure a wide scientific review of these documents;

15. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare executive summaries for information notes introduced under SBSTTA agenda items;

16. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to actively participate in the peer review process for SBSTTA documents;

Mandate of SBSTTA

17. [*Requests* the Subsidiary Body to keep the status of biodiversity under constant review according to its mandate and to provide technical and scientific recommendations in particular regarding the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2020, including the drivers of loss of biodiversity [*inter alia*, climate change and invasive alien species,] so as to provide a solid scientific and technical basis for the implementation of the updated Strategic Plan;]

18. *Also requests* the Subsidiary Body, in considering the issues before it, notwithstanding the cross-cutting nature of some of the issues, to ensure that the Convention on Biological Diversity keeps within its mandate;

19. *Further requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to take into account the need to align its work with the Strategic Plan of the Convention;

20. [*Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau to submit to the Conference of the Parties, at its eleventh meeting, the draft *modus operandi* on the relation between the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES) when and if established to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication;]

Links between the Conference of the Parties and SBSTTA

21. *Decides* to try to reduce the number of agenda items to be considered by SBSTTA, or, if the agenda of SBSTTA is to expand, to ensure the provision of adequate resources within the budget of the Convention;

22. [*Encourages* the Subsidiary Body to submit, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties, key messages on the status and trends of, and threats to biodiversity and its services, and in cases where different options are recommended for measures to be taken, provide the technical and scientific rationale behind the options, including a summary of the background and the individually assessed expected outcomes and implications of the suggested actions in the wider land and seascapes and sectors, and *requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, to include such information in documents prepared for meetings of the Subsidiary Body;]

23. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to take into account the need to align its work with the multi-year plan of action of Strategic Plan of the Convention;

24. In order to ensure a timely and adequate advice from SBSTTA for the Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2020, *also decides* to take the necessary provisions to organize two regular meetings of SBSTTA between meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
