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BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON  
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND  
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE  
Geneva, 26 January 2008

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON  
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE HELD IN GENEVA  
ON SATURDAY, 26 JANUARY 2008**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) met on 26 January 2008 at the International Environment House in Geneva. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Ashgar Mohammadi Fazel (Iran). The following Bureau members attended the meeting:

Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria)  
Mr. Habib Gademi (Chad)  
Mr. Spencer Linus Thomas (Grenada)  
Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Dias (Mexico)  
Mr. Joel Miles (Palau)  
Mr. Rawson Piniel Yonazi (Tanzania)  
Prof. Angheluta Vadineanu (Romania)

Ms. Annemarie Watt (Australia) and Dr. Shirin Karryeva (Turkmenistan) were unable to attend. A submission of written contributions was made by Ms. Annemarie Watt (Australia).

2. The meeting was also attended by the Executive Secretary of the Convention, Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif and Mr. Jo Mulongoy, Principal Officer of the Division for Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters of the Secretariat.

**ITEM 1 OPENING OF THE MEETING**

3. The meeting was opened by the Chair, who then invited the Executive Secretary to say a few words. With reference to the upcoming ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9), the Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that the Government of Germany was working to make COP 9 a landmark event. In the lead up to COP 9, he called for greater interaction between the COP Bureau and SBSTTA Bureau in order to encourage dialogue between the scientific and global policy aspects of the CBD. In reference to the upcoming 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 13) that will be held at FAO offices in Rome from 18 to 22 February, he welcomed the planned meeting between the SBSTTA Bureau and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

4. The Chair thanked the Executive Secretary and the Secretariat for the ongoing support lent to SBSTTA regarding its organisation of work and preparation of documents during the inter-sessional period. He also offered special thanks to the Government of Austria, and SBSTTA Bureau member

Gabriele Obermayr in particular, for the fund-raising efforts that had allowed for the meeting to take place.

## **ITEM 2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

5. The Bureau then adopted the following agenda, as proposed by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair:

1. Organization of Work
  - (i) Chairs of the Working Groups
  - (ii) Keynote speakers for the meeting
  - (iii) Introductory topics and speakers
  - (iv) Consideration of biofuel under agricultural biodiversity and forest biodiversity
  - (v) Consideration of agendas for SBSTTA-14 and SBSTTA-15
  - (vi) Consideration of need for contact groups/Friends of the Chair during SBSTTA 13
2. Finalization of the Chair's Note (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/1/Add.2).
3. Status of preparation for:
  - (i) Poster session;
  - (ii) Training workshops;
  - (iii) Side events.
4. Other matters.

## **ITEM 3 ORGANISATION OF WORK**

### **ITEM 3 (i) Chairs of the Working Groups**

6. The Chair proposed Gabriele Obermayr (Austria) to chair of WG I; and Spencer Linus Thomas (Grenada) to chair WG II. Both MS Obermayr and Mr. Thomas accepted. Prof. Angheluta Vadineanu (Romania) also accepted to be the Rapporteur of the meeting. Ms Annemarie Watt (Australia) informed the Bureau through the Secretariat that she agreed to co-chair the Committee of the Whole with the Chair of SBSTTA .

7. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that David Coates will be the Secretary of WG I and will be assisted by Ms. Jihyun Lee; and that Jaime Webb will be the Secretary of WG II, and will be assisted by Junko Shimura.

8. The Bureau sought clarification as to the functioning of the Plenary and the Committee of the Whole. It was agreed that the issue would be taken again at the meeting on 17 February in Rome.

### **ITEM 3 (ii) Keynote speaker for meeting**

9. Further to an invitation extended following consultation with the SBSTTA Bureau, the Secretariat advised Bureau members that Professor Rosalia Arteaga Serrano, Executive Director of Fundacio Natura Regional (Ecuador y Colombia), Member of the Board of Directors of the Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE) and former Secretary General of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), has accepted to deliver the keynote presentation on how to reconcile forestry, agriculture and environment in the context of the 2010 biodiversity target. The Bureau expressed the wish to see a draft of the presentation.

### **ITEM 3 (iii) Introductory presentations and speakers**

10. The Bureau was advised that brief introductory presentations would be made as follows: FAO will introduce agenda Item 3.1 – In-depth review of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity. That presentation will be followed by an intervention by the Chair of the International Technical Conference of Animal Genetic Resources held in Interlaken in September 2007 to introduce

the Global Plan of Action. To introduce item 3.2 on forest biodiversity, FAO will make a statement on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The statement will be followed by a presentation by Francis Seymour, the DG of CIFOR. Professor Ricardo Serrao Santos will introduce, in his capacity as Chair, the report of the Expert Working Group on Ecological Criteria and Biogeographic Classification Systems that met in the Azores in October 2007 (agenda item 4.1). A representative of the Ramsar Convention will introduce agenda item 4.2 on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.

### **ITEM 3 (iv) Consideration of biofuel under agricultural biodiversity and forest biodiversity**

11. The Bureau was informed that the COP Bureau approved the annotated agenda for COP9, which has biofuel under agricultural biodiversity. The Bureau agreed that, biofuel was a cross-cutting issue and, therefore, could be discussed under both agricultural biodiversity and forest biodiversity.

12. Stemming from these, discussions, the Bureau noted that it could be useful if the Chair of SBSTTA could attend COP Bureau meetings to ensure coordination between scientific and policy matters. The SBSTTA Bureau agreed to request that a formal mechanism be put in place to allow for joint COP Bureau/SBSTTA Bureau meetings, as necessary.

### **ITEM 3.(v) Consideration of agendas for SBSTTA 14 and SBSTTA 15**

13. The Bureau noted the six items for in depth consideration by COP 10 (protected areas; inland waters; mountain biodiversity; marine and coastal biodiversity; sustainable use; and climate change). and recommended that marine and coastal biodiversity as well as inland waters could be considered by the same meeting of SBSTTA, bearing in mind that those components of biodiversity can be considered by the same experts.

14. The Bureau also noted COP request that SBSTTA 14 should consider a draft GBO-3 and stressed that enough time must be allocated on SBSTTA 14 agenda to allow for in-depth discussion on GBO 3. .

### **ITEM 4 FINALIZATION OF THE CHAIR'S NOTE (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/1/Add.2).**

15. The Add.2 document was finalised and posted on the CBD website shortly after the meeting of the Bureau.

### **ITEM 5 STATUS OF PREPARATIONS FOR: a) POSTER SESSIONS; b) TRAINING WORKSHOPS; and, c) SIDE EVENTS.**

16. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that over 50 posters had been received to date, that there were more than 55 side events requested for the 5 days of SBSTTA, and that 2 training workshops would be held in the margins of WGPA-2 and SBSTTA.

17. The Bureau encouraged the Secretariat to ensure that a consistent objective be maintained with relation to all organisation of training workshops.

18. With regard to the too large number of side events, the Bureau put forward some possible criteria for the selection of side events: a) the physical capacity of the venue; b) links with the subject matter and the issues on the meeting agenda; c) submission of a detailed and succinct description of the event and its relevance to the agenda of the meeting; and d) assessment of the submissions where consideration is first given to issues related to the subjects under in-depth review. The Secretariat could use these criteria to review the requests and propose a list to the Bureau for approval. Lastly, the Bureau decided that side events should not be organised in the evenings.

### **ITEM 6 OTHER MATTERS**

19. The SBSTTA Bureau received a short briefing from the Co-Chairs of ABS 6, who advised the Bureau that the basis for continuing negotiation on the establishment of an International Regime on Access and benefit-sharing had been established. They advised the SBSTTA Bureau that there would

be budgetary implications in maintaining momentum during the COP 9 and COP 10 inter-sessional period. They underscored the need to better engage scientific and research communities.

20. The Bureau also received a brief update from the Executive Secretary regarding the results of the Donors Meeting that had been held that same morning, where a recommendation for 0% increase in budget was being proposed. He further advised the Bureau that a request for assessment of what impact adoption of such a budget at COP 9 would have on the Secretariat's activities in support of the CBD.

21. The Bureau also discussed with the Executive Secretary the issue of aligning the tenure of chairmanship of SBSTTA with the COP chairmanship cycle, and this issue was taken up in further detail by the Bureau members themselves. It was decided to discuss the issue amongst the members of the various regions and return to it at the SBSTTA Bureau's next meeting in Rome on 17 February.

22. And lastly, with respect to the next SBSTTA Bureau meeting to be held in Rome, the Bureau agreed to include on its agenda discussion on how to enhance the peer review process which to date, the Secretariat informed had been weak.

#### **ITEM 7 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

23. The Chair closed the meeting at 17:20.

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