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BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Montreal, Canada, 13 October 2013

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

INTRODUCTION

1. The meeting of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) took place in Montreal, Canada, at the office of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), on 13 October 2013. The meeting was attended by eight members of the Bureau and eleven members of the Secretariat. The list of participants is available in the Annex.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. The meeting was opened at 10 a.m. on 13 October 2013. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body, Mr. Gemedo Dalle Tussie, welcomed participants to the meeting. In his opening remarks, he highlighted the crucial role the Bureau would play for the seventeenth meeting of SBSTTA, in particular for implementing the new format, and stressed the importance of working together as a team to achieve the desired outcomes.

3. The Executive Secretary of the CBD, Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, welcomed the Bureau members and thanked them for their support in the preparation for the seventeenth meeting of SBSTTA. Mr. Dias gave introductory remarks on the proposed format and goals for SBSTTA-17 and highlighted the new elements.

4. The Bureau adopted the proposed agenda for the meeting.

ITEM 2. NOMINATIONS OF NEW AND REPLACEMENT OF BUREAU MEMBERS

5. Under this agenda item, the members of the Bureau were invited to update the meeting on the status of nominations for new Bureau members in their regions.

6. In order to achieve staggered terms of office within the Bureau, the Subsidiary Body is due to elect four new members to serve on the Bureau for a term commencing at the end of the seventeenth meeting and ending at the end of the nineteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body, to replace the members from Guinea, Kiribati, Trinidad and Tobago and Canada.

7. In addition, in a letter dated 18 September 2013, the Minister of the Environment and Nature Protection of the Republic of Croatia informed the Executive Secretary that Ms. Ivna Vukšić would be unable to continue her term as Bureau member. The Central and Eastern Europe region will therefore present a nominee to replace her at SBSTTA-17 in addition to the above-mentioned members.

8. Moreover, Mr. Floyd Homer informed the Executive Secretary that he would be unable to participate in SBSTTA-17.

9. Therefore, the Chair urged the Bureau members, in particular members from the Central and Eastern Europe and Latin American and Caribbean groups, to consult with their regions with a view to selecting new nominees as soon as possible to enable equal representation of all regions on the Bureau at SBSTTA-17 and facilitate the election of new members.

ITEM 3. ORGANIZATION OF WORK AND ROLES OF BUREAU MEMBERS DURING SBSTTA-17

10. The Secretariat introduced the documents for consideration under this agenda item, in particular the annotations to the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/1/ADD1) and explanatory note on the organization of SBSTTA-17 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/1/ADD2).

11. The Bureau also considered the updated list of speakers and panellists. The Secretariat specified that, although it was not possible to have presentations and interventions by panellists covering all of the Aichi Targets, they were intended to give examples of how scientific and technical information has been, or can be, used by Parties and organizations to inform monitoring and policy and decision-making.

12. At the preceding face-to-face Bureau meeting in May 2013 in Trondheim, Norway, the Bureau discussed the possibility of other Bureau members assisting the Chair in chairing sessions of SBSTTA-17. The Bureau therefore reviewed and agreed on the proposed chairing roles of Bureau members for each session, as well as the proposal for the rapporteur. The Bureau was also invited to consider the draft choreography of the meeting and provide comments and inputs to the Secretariat.

13. The Bureau discussed the process of preparing summaries of sessions and draft conclusions, as well as the proceedings for the informal evening groups foreseen for Tuesday and Wednesday evening.

14. The Bureau highlighted the importance of encouraging discussion by SBSTTA on options for assessing the effects of the types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention (agenda item 4 of the provisional agenda of SBSTTA-17) as this relates to one of the tasks of SBSTTA as established in Article 25 of the Convention and because it is an important issue that requires more efforts. The Bureau agreed that Parties could address this issue under any of the Strategic Goals.

15. The Bureau also discussed ways to conduct the meeting to encourage more discussion and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to speak and share their views, including observers.

ITEM 4. EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF SBSTTA-17

16. The Bureau discussed the form and likely content of the outcome of SBSTTA-17, and the path to arrive at conclusions and, where necessary, recommendations to the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat explained that, for each of the sessions, a team from the Secretariat would be in charge of preparing two outputs: 1) summary notes on the discussions, and 2) capturing the main elements emerging from the discussions in plenary which could be useful input to conclusions. It is expected that informal evening groups will be held to work on these elements and develop a refined list of elements for the conclusions and recommendations to the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat and Chair would then prepare a Conference Room Paper to be considered by the plenary on Thursday morning.

ITEM 5. UPDATE ON THE PREPARATIONS OF GBO-4

17. Mr. Jan Plesnik, from the Nature Conservation Agency, Czech Republic, member of the advisory group for the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4), provided an update on the second meeting of the advisory group, which had just taken place in the morning. He informed the Bureau of the topics discussed during the meeting, such as updated information on status and trends provided by the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership as well as communication and outreach plans for GBO-4. He also expressed his gratitude to Canada, Germany, Japan, Switzerland and the European Union for their generous funding for the preparation of Outlook.*

18. Mr. Paul Leadley, from the University of Paris, France, made a short presentation on the work of the scenarios consortium for GBO-4. He presented the plans for a technical report on status, trends and futures. The technical report would bring together analyses for the near term and distant future as well as for the past and present. He said that the advisory group would be synthesizing a wide variety of scenarios and models as the basis for its work.

19. The Bureau provided comments and suggestions on the preparations of GBO-4.

ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS

20. Under this item, the Secretariat and the Chair provided a brief update on the sixth Meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB), held in Formia, Italy, 7 October 2013.

21. Mr. Yousef Al-Hafedh, who is a member of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP), provided a brief update on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

22. The Secretariat invited the Bureau to a joint meeting of the outgoing, current and incoming members of the SBSTTA Bureau on Friday, 18 October 2013, at lunch time, which will be an opportunity to take stock of SBSTTA-17, for example with regards to the implementation of new format.

ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

23. The meeting of the Bureau closed at 5 p.m. on 13 October 2013.

* A report of the GBO Advisory Group meeting is available as UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/INF/17/REV1 at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=SBSTTA-17>

ANNEX

List of Participants

<i>SBSTTA Bureau[‡]</i>	
Mr. Gemedo Dalle Tussie Ethiopia (Chair)	Ms. Brigitte Baptiste Colombia
Mr. Maadjou Bah Guinea	Mr. Alexander Shestakov Russian Federation
Ms. Nenenteiti Teariki-Ruatu Kiribati	Ms. Risa Smith Canada
Mr. Youself Al-Hafedh Saudi Arabia	Mr. Jean-Patrick Le Duc France

<i>Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity</i>	
Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias Executive Secretary	Ms. Sakhile Koketso Programme Officer
Mr. David Cooper Principal Officer	Ms. Junko Shimura Programme Officer
Mr. Simone Schiele Junior Professional Officer	Ms. Catalina Santamaria Programme Officer
Mr. Robert Hoft Environmental Affairs Officer	Ms. Lisa Janishevski Programme Assistant
Mr. Sarat Babu Gidda Senior Programme Officer	Ms. Annie Cung Programme Assistant
Mr. David Coates Environmental Affairs Officer	

[‡] Mr. Floyd Homer (Trinidad and Tobago) was unable to attend the meeting. In addition, the Executive Secretary was informed by the Minister of the Environment and Nature Protection of the Republic of Croatia that Ms. Ivna Vukšić (Croatia) would be unable to continue her term as Bureau member and therefore did not participate in the meeting.