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United Nations Environment Programme

Second ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services
Nairobi, 5–9 October 2009

Scenario note

Note by the Secretariat

1. The present scenario note is intended to assist participants in preparing for the second ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services by communicating initial planning and expectations for the meeting.

A. Objectives of the second meeting

2. The essential objective of the second meeting, convened pursuant to decision 25/10 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), is to agree on modalities for strengthening the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services and to decide whether to establish a new mechanism to meet one or more of the five main needs identified through the gap analysis produced in response made at the first meeting.

B. Organization of work

3. The second meeting will involve five days of negotiations from Monday, 5 October, to Friday, 9 October 2009. There will be two three-hour sessions per day, one from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the other from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Simultaneous interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations will be provided during each session.

4. The week is expected to unfold as follows:

(a) The meeting will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 5 October 2009 by Ms. Angela Cropper, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP. A welcoming address will be delivered by a high-level official of the Government of Kenya. This will be followed immediately by the election of the Chair from among the government representatives present. It is expected that the Chair will be elected by acclamation. The Chair will then oversee the election of the four vice-chairs, taking into account the principle of equal geographical distribution from the five United Nations regions. The Chair and the vice-chairs (one of whom will act as a rapporteur) will form the Bureau of the meeting;

(b) As the meeting is convened in accordance with decision 25/10, the rules of procedures of the Governing Council will apply, mutatis mutandis. Arrangements will be made to facilitate the participation in the discussion of relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the scientific community, while observing United Nations practices governing decision-making;

(c) The second meeting will be conducted in plenary meeting throughout the week;

(d) UNEP will present the key findings and the needs and actions highlighted in the gap analysis (UNEP/IPBES/2/INF/1);

(e) The main discussion will revolve around the note by the secretariat on needs and actions (UNEP/IPBES/2/3) using the gap analysis document and its executive summary (UNEP/IPBES/2/2) as references therefor;

(f) Subject to the discussions at the meeting, working or drafting groups may be established to tackle specific issues that require additional discussions. Unless agreed otherwise in plenary meeting, those groups will meet outside the working hours of the plenary meeting;

(g) The meeting report, containing a summary of the proceedings, and the outcome document, containing in its annex the outcomes negotiated at the meeting, will be considered for adoption on Friday, 9 October, as the last item of business prior to the closure of the meeting.

C. Negotiations on the science-policy interface

5. Having completed discussions on needs and ways to meet such needs by the end of Tuesday, 6 October, the secretariat may be requested to prepare a draft outcome document drawing on the needs and action document and on the discussions during the first two days, and to submit it on Wednesday morning for consideration in plenary meeting. Subject to a decision by representatives, that document may serve as a basis for the rest of the week's work, including negotiation on key issues.

6. To facilitate the negotiation of the outcome document, a drafting group may be established with the mandate proposed by the Chair and agreed by government representatives. Pursuant to the rules of procedure of the Governing Council and the prevailing United Nations practice, only government representatives will play a negotiating role at the drafting group by making proposals, entering into debate and deciding on such proposals. The representatives of regional economic integration organizations, when acting in association with the Governments of States Members of the United Nations, may be deemed to be government representatives for the purpose of such a drafting group. Unless decided otherwise by government representatives, the representatives of United Nations bodies and agencies, other intergovernmental bodies and organizations and international non-governmental organizations may be permitted to attend the drafting group as observers.

7. Should agreement be reached on the establishment of a new mechanism, specific details concerning such a mechanism may be considered using the documents submitted at the first meeting as the basis for discussions.

D. Outcomes of the second meeting

8. The essential outcome of the second meeting is an agreement concerning strengthening the science-policy interfaces on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including a decision on whether to establish a new intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Should such a decision be made, it would also be desirable to make significant progress in defining the scope of the new mechanism: its work programme, funding basis, legal basis and governance structure, including the structure and location of its secretariat. Representatives may wish to consider establishing an interim secretariat hosted by UNEP to facilitate the continuation of the process if all issues pertaining to such a new mechanism have not been resolved.
