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Third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

Busan, Republic of Korea, 7–11 June 2010

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

Consideration of whether to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

Options and criteria for selecting the secretariat

Note by the secretariat¹

Introduction

1. At the second ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, held in Nairobi from 5 to 9 October 2009, participants discussed the need to strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services. There was a general agreement in favour of a new intergovernmental mechanism in that regard. Such a mechanism would have scientific independence and could, among other things, generate knowledge, undertake knowledge assessments and support for policy development and implementation and capacity-building. There was also general agreement on the need for a small secretariat, should the new platform be established.

2. To facilitate further discussions, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was requested to assess various types of secretariat arrangements and the criteria to be used to select the secretariat's location. The present note has been prepared in response to that request.

I. Likely functions of a secretariat

3. Judging from the duties of secretariats of other similar intergovernmental mechanisms, the main functions of a secretariat are likely to include the following:

(a) To support the platform's work by organizing meetings and providing administrative and substantive support for meetings and other work;

* UNEP/IPBES/3/1.

¹ The present note has been prepared with assistance of a consultant who undertook an independent review of the relevant information. Comments provided by relevant organizations have been incorporated as appropriate.

- (b) To identify, acquire, coordinate and manage information to assist the platform in its work and to manage data, resources and documents to support its work;
- (c) To assist in preparing documents for, and reports to, the governing body of the platform and others as needed;
- (d) To facilitate coordination between working groups;
- (e) To liaise with member Governments, civil society organizations and all other relevant stakeholder organizations;
- (f) To organize and coordinate public information and outreach activities, including editorial work and the release of reports and other products;
- (g) To serve as a focal point to promote and facilitate achievement of the platform's objectives;
- (h) To develop the platform's programme and budget and manage and report on related funds and trust funds;
- (i) To help to mobilize financial resources in accordance with the governing body's directions.

II. Various options for the secretariat of a platform

A. Types of arrangements

4. Many existing United Nations bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations and entities are relevant to the proposed new platform. These include:
- (a) Convention on Biological Diversity;
 - (b) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora;
 - (c) Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals;
 - (d) Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat;
 - (e) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);
 - (f) Global Environment Facility;
 - (g) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission;
 - (h) International Plant Protection Convention;
 - (i) International Treaty on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
 - (j) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);
 - (k) UNEP;
 - (l) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;
 - (m) United Nations Development Programme;
 - (n) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
 - (o) United Nations Forum on Forests;
 - (p) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
 - (q) United Nations University;
 - (r) World Bank.
5. Many academic organizations, including the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Sciences Council (ISSC) and the InterAcademy Panel on International Issues, have expertise in the relevant issues and their assistance can be taken on board whatever the eventual nature

of any mechanism adopted. Many universities, research institutions and other organizations worldwide are undertaking valuable work at the local level relevant to the proposed new platform.

6. When deciding on the arrangements for the secretariat, representatives may wish to take into account that there are many stakeholders. Some options in this regard are set out below.

1. **Hosting by one or more existing intergovernmental organizations within the United Nations**

Option 1: The secretariat would be hosted by one or more existing intergovernmental organizations within the United Nations. It might be established by a resolution of the General Assembly upon recommendation of an intergovernmental conference or by a decision of an existing intergovernmental organization or concurrent decisions of two or more intergovernmental organizations.

7. Many examples of this kind of arrangement exist. UNEP is designated as the secretariat or performs secretariat functions for numerous conventions, such as the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the regional seas conventions.²

8. The United Nations performs secretariat functions for the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

9. FAO performs secretariat functions for the International Plant Protection Convention and the International Treaty on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture guides the preparation of global assessments of genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Codex Alimentarius Commission is a joint arrangement between FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) pertaining to the implementation of the joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

10. UNESCO performs secretariat functions for the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention) and manages the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. It also performs secretariat functions for a number of other conventions and intergovernmental scientific programmes. Among these, those most directly relevant to biodiversity and ecosystem services are the Man and the Biosphere Programme and the International Hydrological Programme.

11. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) provides administrative and financial services to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change but both UNEP and WMO contribute staff to its secretariat.

12. The functions of the secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade are performed jointly by UNEP and FAO in Geneva (UNEP) and Rome (FAO). The secretariat for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management has been established by UNEP. UNEP and WHO take the lead role in the secretariat within their respective areas of expertise and coordinate closely with the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and UNDP.

13. Through association with the secretariat of a United Nations body or specialized agency, the existing institutional arrangements of such organizations could be used to perform the secretariat functions for the new platform, provided that its mandate and legislative authority allow it to make such arrangements. Normally, the governing body must authorize the entity in question to perform the secretariat functions.

² A full list of such conventions can be found at <http://www.unep.ch/regionalseas/legal/conlist.htm>.

14. The examples cited above operate either under the United Nations administrative rules, procedures and arrangements, or those of the specialized agencies, for the management of financial or human resources or other administrative matters. Such rules, procedures and arrangements could be applied to the performance of the secretariat functions for the new platform. Where a United Nations body or specialized agency has relevant experience of operating those administrative rules, procedures and arrangements in the provision of similar functions and services, such experiences might be beneficial in the provision of functions and services expected from the secretariat of the platform.

15. The status of the secretariat of the platform and the secretariat of the respective organizations might be made legally distinct. To the extent, however, that the secretariat of the new platform remains part of the existing United Nations body or specialized agency, standards and practices for each United Nations body or specialized agency, including the privileges and immunities of the organizations and officials, would be applicable to the offices and staff performing the platform's secretariat functions. Since the membership of the United Nations and specialized agencies includes most existing States, the established channels of communications with Governments or modalities of international cooperation within the respective organizations are likely to be beneficial when it comes to performing secretariat functions for the platform.

2. **Hosting by one or more existing intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system**

Option 2: The secretariat would be hosted by one or more existing intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, with or without the support of intergovernmental organizations inside the system. It might be established by a decision of an existing intergovernmental organization or concurrent decisions of two or more intergovernmental organizations upon recommendation of an intergovernmental conference.

16. Some intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system also serve as the secretariat or perform secretariat functions for existing intergovernmental entities. These are few in number, however. IUCN is one such organization, with a membership comprising government participants and non-governmental stakeholders. It performs secretariat functions for the Ramsar Convention. Most intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system are regional or subregional in nature, or are established for groups of selected member Governments that share a common interest (e.g., level of economic development, shared historical, cultural or religious background). Examples of such organizations include the African Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Organization of American States and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which perform secretariat functions for the international treaties concluded under their respective auspices. In addition, several regional and subregional organizations perform secretariat functions for regional or subregional intergovernmental environmental programmes.

17. It should be noted that the way in which the secretariat functions for the existing intergovernmental entities are performed by the relevant non-United Nations intergovernmental organizations might be similar to the way in which they are performed by the relevant United Nations bodies or specialized agencies, except for the application of privileges and immunities based on the relevant conventions. Government participation in non-United Nations intergovernmental organizations is limited in numbers in the cases of regional or subregional organizations, and even in the cases of the membership of global non-United Nations intergovernmental organizations (e.g., the IUCN membership includes 83 member States). Accordingly, if non-United Nations intergovernmental organizations are to perform the secretariat functions for the new platform, it will be necessary to create new channels of communication and establish a modality of international cooperation with many Governments that are currently not members of those organizations.

3. **Hosting wholly or partly by an existing intergovernmental organization**

Option 3: The secretariat would be hosted wholly or partly by an existing intergovernmental organization whose secretariat is hosted by another organization. It might be established by a decision of the governing body of an existing intergovernmental organization upon recommendation of an intergovernmental conference.

18. One example of this kind of arrangement is the Global Marine Assessment.³ This assessment provided a thorough, expert review of work undertaken nationally, regionally and globally to assess the marine environment and related aspects of human societies and economies. For the start-up phase, the General Assembly requested UNEP and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO to jointly undertake the role of lead agencies. Those lead agencies would provide secretariat services to the ad hoc steering group set up as part of the process to evaluate the potential for the establishment of a regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects.

19. If a convention whose secretariat services are performed by a United Nations body or specialized agency or other intergovernmental organization is to host the secretariat of the new platform, arrangements similar to those for the Assessment will have to be made.

4. **Hosting by one or more international non-governmental organizations, together with one or more intergovernmental organizations**

Option 4: The secretariat would be hosted by one or more international non governmental organizations, together with one or more intergovernmental organizations. It might be established by a decision of the governing body of an existing intergovernmental and international organization upon recommendation of an intergovernmental conference.

20. Some international non-governmental scientific organizations have expertise in the issues related to biodiversity and ecosystem services that the new platform might tackle. These include ICSU, ISSC and the InterAcademy Panel on International Issues. For example, ICSU has been active in coordinating global scientific programmes in the field of the environment, coordinating components of activities under the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment follow-up initiative in conjunction with other partners. By providing direct access to scientific community, associating the platform's secretariat with these non-governmental scientific organizations might be of benefit to the platform's work. On the other hand, since these organizations' interaction with Governments is limited, they will need to create cooperative arrangements and effective and direct communication channels if they perform secretariat functions for the platform.

B. Advantage of the association of all key stakeholders

21. Some examples exist of mechanisms that have involved all key stakeholders as a mode of functioning, such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Although not an intergovernmental process, the Assessment was endorsed by intergovernmental organizations and was the result of work by expert bodies. The specific proposal for the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment arose during a brainstorming meeting held at the World Resources Institute in 1998. The Institute, UNEP, the World Bank and UNDP approved that proposal and the conferences of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification formally endorsed the Assessment as a mechanism to meet some of their assessment needs. The Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention later gave a similar endorsement and many foundations and organizations also joined the effort.

³ As part of what is known as the "Assessment of Assessments": A start-up phase toward a regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, initiated by General Assembly resolution 60/30 of 29 November 2005.

22. UNEP provided overall coordination for the Assessment, specifically through the administration of more than half of the core financial support and by employing the Director. The Director's office was based in Malaysia at the World Fish Centre, as was the technical support unit for the Sub-Global Working Group. The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre hosted the technical support unit for the Condition and Trends Working Group, and the ICSU Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment supported the Scenarios Working Group. The Institute of Economic Growth in Delhi, India, supported the Responses Working Group. The World Resources Institute, in partnership with the Meridian Institute, supported the Assessment's outreach and engagement activities, and coordinated the publications process. A number of Assessment-related follow-up activities are being undertaken by partners, in line with the global follow-up strategy, spearheaded by UNEP and developed by a consortium of partners, which aims to provide a road map for operationalizing the Assessment.

23. Another example is the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development. Its secretariat was distributed, with the major component located in Washington D.C., and others in Rome (FAO), Nairobi (UNEP) and Paris (UNESCO). The secretariat managed and oversaw the project and liaised with Governments, civil society organizations and the Bureau to ensure project implementation. Other members of the distributed secretariat included staff located at the subglobal management entities.

III. Possible criteria for selecting the host institution or institutions of the secretariat

24. The criteria for selecting the host institution or institutions for the platform and its secretariat might include the following:

- (a) Relevance of the mandate, objectives and functions of the host institution or institutions to the mandate, objectives and functions of the new platform;
- (b) Legal basis for the institutional arrangements of the host institution or institutions to provide the secretariat and carry out secretariat functions;
- (c) Existing organizational structures of the host institution or institutions capable of providing administrative or programmatic support for the platform's functions;
- (d) Established administrative and financial procedures for the provision of the secretariat;
- (e) Ability of the host institution or institutions to operate at all levels of governance;
- (f) Ability of the host institution or institutions to enter into collaborative and working relationships with Governments, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders;
- (g) Existence of channels of communication with Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;
- (h) Existence of infrastructures within the host institution or institutions concerning public information and communications;
- (i) Experience in establishing and servicing intergovernmental bodies or arrangements;
- (j) Experience in convening intergovernmental meetings and providing services for such meetings;
- (k) Experience in the provision of a secretariat or secretariat functions for intergovernmental bodies, programmes and arrangements that are legally distinct from the host institution or institutions;
- (l) Experience in matters relating to the platform's possible functions;
- (m) Past or current involvement in the platform's development;
- (n) Political support for the platform expressed by members of the governing bodies of the host institution or institutions;
- (o) Extent to which the host institution or institutions could provide technical support for the platform's functions;

- (p) Extent to which the host institution or institutions could provide support for the operation of the secretariat (recruitment, training and management of staff, meeting logistics, etc.);
- (q) Readiness of the host institution or institutions to provide financial and human support when required.

IV. Possible host institutions

A. United Nations Environment Programme

25. The mission of UNEP is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by enabling nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. The assessment of various facets of the environment has been an integral part of UNEP since its establishment. It has been proactive in facilitating the scientific, technological and policy-relevant assessment, among other things, of the ozone layer, climate, marine and international waters, ecosystems and biodiversity. It, along with WMO, established in 1990 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the mechanism for articulating the science-policy interface for climate change. It is also mandated to serve as an effective link between the scientific community and policymakers at the national and international levels.

26. UNEP is designated as the secretariat or performs secretariat functions for various conventions, including the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol (in Nairobi), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (in Geneva), the Convention on Biological Diversity (in Montreal), the Convention on Migratory Species (in Bonn, Germany), the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (in Geneva), the Stockholm Convention (in Geneva), the Rotterdam Convention (with FAO in Geneva and Rome) and the various regional seas conventions and action plans.

27. As the environment programme of the United Nations, UNEP has a central role in the United Nations system in dealing with the environment and achieving coherence through its membership of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its chairship of the Environment Management Group and hosting of its secretariat. It also performs secretariat functions for the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, an advisory body to GEF, and is a GEF implementing agency.

28. One of the six thematic priorities of UNEP, as identified in its medium-term strategy for the period 2010–2013, is ecosystem management. UNEP has been implementing activities in the field of ecosystem management as part of the programme of work that it has developed.

29. Within the framework of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, UNEP facilitates and responds to national policy, law and institutional needs by supporting policy formulation and implementation, identifying policy-relevant tools and building capacity to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being, among other environmental thematic priorities. Under this framework, UNEP is implementing various capacity-development activities relevant to the work of the proposed new platform, such as those relating to assessments, indicators and information management and use.

30. UNEP is playing a pivotal role in the global Millennium Ecosystem Assessment follow-up initiative by performing secretariat functions jointly with UNDP. It is also engaged in work related to biodiversity indicators. Under the global follow-up initiative, UNEP has been providing technical support to countries in carrying out subglobal assessments, with strong focus on policy planning processes. Furthermore, since 2008, UNEP has been facilitating the process on strengthening the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

31. UNEP provides access to specialized capacities such as those at the UNEP Global Resource Information Database at Arendal, Norway, the UNEP Collaborating Centre on Water and Environment and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre. The latter provides objective, scientifically rigorous products and services that include ecosystem assessments, support for the implementation of environmental agreements, regional and global biodiversity information, research on environmental threats and impacts and the development of future scenarios for the living world, in this way putting authoritative biodiversity knowledge at the centre of decision-making.

B. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

32. Fighting hunger and achieving food security for all is at the heart of FAO efforts. Biological diversity and the related ecosystem services are of pivotal importance in attaining this goal. Objective information on and thorough analysis of the state of the world's biodiversity are key requirements for the development of effective policies aiming at the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture. FAO, through its bodies, treaties, conventions and agreements, is involved in various country-driven assessments of (components of) biodiversity.

33. The FAO intergovernmental Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture has overseen the preparation of two global assessments: *The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (1996) and *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (2007). In response to and based on these assessments, the Commission has developed policies, action plans, codes of conduct and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Commission has adopted a rolling 10-year multi-year programme of work that foresees global assessments of the state of the world's plant, animal, forest and aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture leading to a global assessment of the state of the world's biodiversity for food and agriculture.

34. FAO is responsible for the collection, compilation and analysis of data and information relevant to food and agriculture, in particular for forestry and fisheries. Relevant also are a number of FAO global databases, including, for example, the Global Terrestrial Observing System, FishStat Plus and the Global Land Degradation Assessment. FAO publications, such as the Global Forest Resources Assessment, the State of the World's Forests and the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture, regularly analyse issues relevant to biodiversity and ecosystem services.

35. The Global Crop Diversity Trust was founded by FAO and Bioversity International, acting on behalf of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, the foremost international research organizations in this field. The Trust is currently hosted in Rome by FAO. Its mission is to ensure the conservation and availability of crop diversity for food security worldwide. The Trust is raising an endowment, the interest from which is sufficient to guarantee the conservation and ready availability of the biological basis of all agriculture. The endowment will ensure that the conservation of this most critical resource is placed forever on a firm foundation.

36. FAO has been fully involved in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, its follow-up and the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development.

C. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

37. As a specialized agency of the United Nations system, UNESCO contributes to the building of peace, the alleviation of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information. It administers the World Heritage Convention, which covers many sites of great biodiversity, and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. The Commission's mission is to promote international cooperation and to coordinate programmes in research, services and capacity-building, to learn more about the nature and resources of the ocean and coastal areas and to apply that knowledge for the improvement, management, sustainable development and protection of the marine environment and the decision-making process of its member States. UNESCO has been associated with the Global Marine Assessment and has experience of providing services to secretariats.

38. UNESCO performs secretariat functions for, and coordinates, the World Water Assessment Programme on behalf of 24 United Nations agencies. It is also responsible for the implementation of the Man and the Biosphere Programme, which encompasses expert activities in relation to marine and coastal, island, wetland, mountain, arid, savannah, tropical forest and urban and peri-urban ecosystems. Field-based research, multi-stakeholder dialogues and capacity-building are implemented in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, which comprises 553 sites in 107 countries. Another relevant intergovernmental scientific programme of UNESCO is the International Hydrological Programme. One of the main means of implementation of science activities in UNESCO is the provision of assistance to and capacity-building in member States in formulating national science policies and related action plans.

39. Other UNESCO endeavours contributing to biodiversity and ecosystem services include those on the Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems Programme; biotechnology and biosafety-related work under the International Basic Sciences Programme; the development of indicators of cultural diversity to measure progress in trends of reversing biodiversity loss; co-sponsorship of the Global Ocean Observing System and of the Global Terrestrial Observing System; co-sponsorship of Diversitas and the ICSU Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society; co-sponsorship of the Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics Programme (through the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission); with UNEP, co-sponsorship and co-implementation of the Great Apes Survival Partnership; and the social science dimension of biodiversity.

40. In the area of education about biodiversity and ecosystem services, one element of the plan of implementation for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (the Decade is led by UNESCO) focuses solely on biodiversity. UNESCO implements jointly with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity the Global Initiative on Biodiversity Communication, Education and Public Awareness.

41. In the area of capacity-building, UNESCO runs the Man and the Biosphere Young Scientists Awards scheme, which encompasses biodiversity as a priority area, in addition to fellowships and several capacity-development activities for World Heritage Site managers. UNESCO has established many chairs in the biodiversity and ecosystem services area worldwide. Since 1999, the UNESCO postgraduate training school on integrated management of tropical forests and lands has been operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. UNESCO and the Third World Academy of Sciences jointly implement an associateship scheme at centres of excellence in the South.

42. UNESCO possesses more than 50 field offices worldwide, including regional offices for science and technology in all continents.

D. United Nations University

43. The United Nations University comprises a centre in Tokyo and a worldwide network of research and training centres and programmes assisted by numerous associated and cooperating institutions. These are clustered into two broad programme areas – peace and governance, and environment and development – and further focused within five thematic areas: peace and security; good governance; development and poverty reduction; environment and sustainability; and science, technology and society.

44. The Institute for Sustainability and Peace is contributing to globally important agricultural heritage systems and aims to establish the basis for the recognition, conservation and management of these systems. The University also plays an active role in the global Millennium Ecosystem Assessment follow-up initiative, with its Institute for Advanced Studies performing secretariat functions for the subglobal assessments programme.

45. The international human dimensions programme on global environmental change is a joint programme of ISSC, ICSU and the University. The programme's secretariat is located within the University's Vice-Rectorate in Bonn. The programme is one of four global environmental change programmes and is mandated to use social sciences to tackle the human dimensions of global environmental change. Its aim is to provide leadership in framing, developing and integrating policy-relevant social science research on global change and to promote the application of key findings of this research to help to tackle environmental challenges. Over the past 15 years, the programme has also provided capacity-building activities to strengthen social scientists in developing countries to undertake policy-relevant integrative research. It works with UNEP on the process for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

46. The University is building on its past and current contributions to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and aims to play a greater role in developing a long-term strategy for the Convention on Biological Diversity. It hosts the global initiative on people, land management and environmental change and is also committed to developing and advancing the Satoyama initiative (to rebuild a sound relationship between humans and nature in Asia) in cooperation with the Government of Japan. This initiative will be fed into the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in 2010.

E. United Nations Development Programme

47. UNDP specializes in global development issues and operates through its worldwide network and offices in 166 countries. Through its close networks with Governments and local communities, it provides technical advice, undertakes various capacity-building activities and provides grant support to developing countries, assisting them to attain the Millennium Development Goals, one of which focuses specifically on environmental sustainability.

48. Every year UNDP publishes a human development report that focuses on the measurement and analysis of progress on various issues relating to human development. Featuring a human development index, every report presents data on and analysis of various developmental challenges, including economic, social, political and cultural aspects, calling for attention to be paid by the international community to issues and policy options that are required in tackling those challenges. In addition to a global report, regional, national, and local human development reports are published.

49. The Administrator of UNDP chairs the United Nations Development Group, which was established by the Secretary-General in 1997 to improve the coordination and effectiveness of operations by United Nations agencies at the country level. UNDP also performs secretariat functions for the Group. The Resident Coordinator system, which aims to coordinate the operations of all United Nations system organizations in the field, is led by UNDP. Resident coordinators are funded, appointed and managed by UNDP and lead United Nations country teams in more than 130 countries.

50. One UNDP focal area is environment and energy, based on the understanding that environmental degradation and the lack of access to clean, affordable water, sanitation and energy services disproportionately affect the poor. UNDP works closely with Governments and other key stakeholders at the national level to strengthen their capacity to tackle global environmental issues by providing policy advice and implementing development projects that help the poor to build sustainable livelihoods while ensuring environmental sustainability. One example of such projects is the Poverty-Environment Initiative, a joint UNDP and UNEP programme that aims to assist countries to integrate poverty-environment linkages into national and subnational development planning processes. The Initiative was formally launched in 2005. Projects are being implemented in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

51. Furthermore, UNDP, particularly through the Poverty-Environment Initiative, has proved an important stakeholder in the global Millennium Ecosystem Assessment follow-up initiative by providing support to the secretariat in collaboration with UNEP. Under the follow-up initiative, subglobal assessments with strong policy focus have been implemented in selected countries with active facilitation by the Poverty-Environment Initiative team.

F. Secretariats of conventions relating to biodiversity and ecosystem services

52. Most major global conventions relating to biodiversity and ecosystem services have been associated actively with key assessment processes such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the Global Biodiversity Assessment. The secretariats of many of these conventions depend on their host organizations (e.g., UNEP, FAO, UNESCO, IUCN) for some administrative services. They also have bodies for scientific and technical advice assisted by many scientists.

53. The Convention on Biological Diversity has a subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice that comprises government representatives with expertise in relevant fields, in addition to observers from non-party Governments, the scientific community and other relevant organizations. Secretariat services are provided by UNEP.

54. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora has animal and plant committees of experts to fill gaps in biological and other specialized knowledge regarding species of animals and plants that are (or might become) subject to trade controls under the Convention. Secretariat services are provided by UNEP.

55. The Convention on Migratory Species receives advice from a scientific council on scientific matters and priorities for research and conservation. It consists of experts appointed by parties to the Convention. In addition, in accordance with the Convention, it has eight appointed councillors whose

expertise covers aquatic mammals, African fauna, Asian fauna, birds, bycatch, fish, marine turtles and neotropical fauna. Secretariat services are provided by UNEP.

56. The objectives of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture are the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use. Secretariat services are provided by FAO.

57. The Convention to Combat Desertification has a committee on science and technology established as a subsidiary body to provide it with information and advice. The committee comprises expert government representatives. Secretariat services are provided by the United Nations.

58. The World Heritage Convention receives advice on scientific issues by the International Council on Monuments and Sites. The Council provides the World Heritage Committee with evaluations of cultural and mixed properties proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List. The advisory body to the World Heritage Committee on natural and mixed heritage is IUCN. Secretariat services are provided by UNESCO.

59. The Ramsar Convention has a scientific and technical review panel that was established by resolution 5.5 (Kushiro, Japan, 1993) as a subsidiary body of the Convention to provide scientific and technical guidance to the Conference of the Parties, the Standing Committee and the secretariat. Resolutions VII.2 (San José, 1999) and VIII.28 (Valencia, Spain, 2002) modified the panel's composition and modus operandi. The present modus operandi was determined by resolution X.9 (Changwon, Republic of Korea, 2008). Secretariat services are provided by IUCN.

G. International Union for Conservation of Nature

60. IUCN is an intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder organization working at the interface of science and policy on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Founded in 1948 as the world's first global environmental organization, it is the largest professional global environment network with more than 1,000 government and non-governmental member organizations in 140 countries. It has intergovernmental status in the United Nations and permanent observer status in the General Assembly – the only environmental organization to enjoy this latter status. Its membership includes more than 200 Governments and government agencies, and over 800 national and international non-governmental organizations. It also has six expert multidisciplinary commissions (species, protected areas, ecosystem management, environmental law, education and communication, and environmental economics and social policy) which together have in excess of 10,000 individual members.

61. IUCN works from the global to local scales, with a secretariat of over 1,000 full-time staff in more than 60 countries. The secretariat has a decentralized structure with regional, outpost, country and project offices worldwide. Its headquarters are in Gland, Switzerland. It is governed by the World Conservation Congress, held every four years, along with a members' assembly that brings Governments and non-governments together in a decision-making body.

62. It works with and provides advice to the various biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and their subsidiary bodies, and has a formal arrangement providing scientific advice to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and the World Heritage Convention as the advisory authority for natural sites nominated for inclusion on the World Heritage List. IUCN has hosted the Ramsar Convention for many years, previously co-convened the multi-stakeholder World Commission on Dams and performed the secretariat functions for the Dams and Development Project. IUCN works closely and has memorandums of understanding with several United Nations agencies, including FAO, UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP and WHO, and with the scientific community on biodiversity and ecosystem services internationally.

63. IUCN has been centrally involved in promoting a stronger relationship between science and policy on biodiversity and ecosystem services, most recently through its active participation in supporting negotiations on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services. It has also been actively involved with most environmental assessments and other initiatives to link science and policy, including contributing to or being part of the governance of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity and Global Environment Outlook assessments and the International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management. In addition, IUCN provides the world's most authoritative

information on the status of and trends in biodiversity at the level of the species, through its Red List assessments.

64. Its core activities include knowledge generation through its network of experts, knowledge assessments in various areas on biodiversity and ecosystem services, knowledge use through supporting policy development and implementation at multiple scales, and capacity-building on biodiversity and ecosystem services science, policy, practice and communications.

H. Academic organizations or programmes

65. The InterAcademy Panel on International Issues is a global network of the world's science academies, launched in 1993. Its primary goal is to help member academies to work together to advise citizens and public officials on the scientific aspects of critical global issues. The Panel works closely with other scientific organizations, including ICSU, and regional academies. Its secretariat, located in Trieste, Italy, operates under the administrative umbrella of the Third World Academy of Sciences. Italy provides a secure funding base for the Panel, while many of the Panel's member academies contribute both financially and in kind to its programmatic activities.

66. ICSU is a non-governmental organization with a global membership of national scientific bodies (119 members) and international scientific unions (30 members). Global environmental change has been a key area of study for ICSU for more than 40 years. Currently, there are four global environmental change programmes co-sponsored by ICSU: World Climate Research Programme, International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, International Human Dimensions Programme and Diversitas (an international programme on biodiversity science). Together, these programmes promote, coordinate and integrate research worth over 2 billion euros and provide the scientific basis for major international assessments and conventions, including the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The programme on ecosystem change and society was established in 2008 to fill the scientific knowledge gaps identified in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. ICSU is working with UNEP and other stakeholders on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services. ICSU has now regional offices in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. Its administration and daily operations are carried out by the secretariat located in Paris.

67. ISSC was founded in 1952, following a resolution by UNESCO. It is a non-profit-making scientific organization headquartered at UNESCO in Paris, representing the social and behavioural sciences at a global level.

68. Diversitas was established in 1991 with the goal of developing an international, non-governmental umbrella programme that would respond to the complex scientific questions posed by the loss of and change in global biodiversity. Its sponsors are the UNESCO, the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment, the International Union of Biological Science and ICSU. Its secretariat is hosted by the National History Museum in Paris. Apart from funding from sponsors and grants, the programme receives most of its funds from national committees, based on a scale of contributions. Diversitas has a memorandum of understanding with the Convention on Biological Diversity and is a contributor to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technological and Technical Advice and to the Global Biodiversity Outlook of that Convention. It is working with UNEP on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

V. Possible criteria for selecting the secretariat's physical location

A. Possible criteria

69. A range of criteria may be considered in selecting the secretariat's physical location. These criteria include:

- (a) Privileges and immunities that would be conferred on the permanent secretariat and its staff members;
- (b) Rules, including any restrictions, applicable to the employment of dependants of staff members;
- (c) Availability of international conference facilities and their cost;

- (d) Access to qualified conference servicing staff (interpreters, translators, editors, etc.);
- (e) Ease of arranging the printing of documents;
- (f) Ease of communication, including modern information communication technology infrastructure;
- (g) Ease of arranging international travel, including the time needed for processing entry requirements and flight connections;
- (h) Ease of recruitment, training and management of staff, including the availability of local trained staff with language and other skills;
- (i) Availability of health facilities;
- (j) Local transportation facilities;
- (k) Availability of suitable housing;
- (l) Availability of schools providing education in languages other than the local language;
- (m) Availability of facilities for the transfer of funds to and from foreign countries for the secretariat and its staff members;
- (n) Security;
- (o) Costs of premises (i.e., rental, use free of charge, utilities, services, security for the premises, etc.) and in-kind contributions by the host Government to cover some of those costs;
- (p) Effect of location on staff costs (i.e., post adjustment allowances);
- (q) Salaries of national staff (e.g., non-professional staff);
- (r) Diplomatic representation in the host city;
- (s) Presence of international organizations;
- (t) Any additional contributions to be made by the host Government to meet operating costs.

70. The options for the secretariat's physical location might include cities in which the relevant organizations are located or other cities if there are offers made by Governments.

B. Examples of offers

71. Provided below are examples of various offers made in the process of deciding the physical locations and host institutions of various convention secretariats.

1. Convention on Biological Diversity

72. Immediately after the Convention on Biological Diversity was opened for signature in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992, an interim secretariat was established by UNEP in Geneva and financed by Switzerland (\$500,000 per year). FAO and UNESCO subsequently seconded staff. UNEP, UNDP, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO, FAO and IUCN offered to host the permanent secretariat.

73. When making its offer, UNEP stressed its many strengths and explained that ever since its inception in 1973 it had accorded importance to biodiversity. It had taken the lead in drafting the World Conservation Strategy in 1980 with IUCN and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Global Biodiversity Strategy in 1992 with the World Resources Institute, IUCN, World Bank and WWF. It enjoyed partnerships with many United Nations and non-United Nations to achieve its objectives. Under the United Nations system, it was the chief environmental organization. It was successfully hosting secretariats and had harmonious relationship with them, delegating the necessary autonomy. Both FAO and UNESCO offered to host the secretariat jointly with UNEP.

74. IUCN outlined its strengths and experience in biodiversity issues. UNDP stressed its presence in every country and its experience in sustainable development issues.

75. In accordance with article 24 of the Convention, at its first ordinary meeting, the Conference of the Parties was to designate the secretariat from among those existing competent international organizations that had signified their willingness to carry out the secretariat functions under the Convention. Countries were invited to make offers to host the secretariat. Offers were received from Canada (Montreal), Kenya, Spain and Switzerland (Geneva). All except Kenya offered rent-free offices (Canada's offer was for five years and renewable) and \$1 million support for activities. The offers were made based on requirements drawn up by the secretariat.

76. A vote took place at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in Jakarta in 1994, through an arrangement agreed by the four candidates and the secretariat (the country receiving the fewest votes would withdraw without announcing the results). Montreal was selected in the fourth round and UNEP was confirmed as the host institution.

2. Ozone Secretariat

77. At the Conference of Plenipotentiaries that finalized the Vienna Convention, in 1985, a negotiating group discussed institutional and financial arrangements and noted the cost of a secretariat for the convention for the first two years. Both the Executive Director of UNEP and the Secretary-General of WMO expressed their willingness to host the secretariat. The Executive Director of UNEP also expressed his willingness to contribute towards the costs during the initial two or three years, while WMO offered to serve as the permanent secretariat if the parties met all the costs.

78. The Conference decided that the secretariat functions would be carried out on an interim basis by UNEP until the completion of the first ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties held pursuant to article 6 of the Convention and that, at its first ordinary meeting, the Conference of the Parties would designate the secretariat from among those existing competent international organizations that had signified their willingness to carry out the secretariat functions under the Convention. In 1987, the Montreal Protocol to the Convention was arrived at. Both agreements entered into force on 1 January 1989. At the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in 1989, UNEP was chosen as the host institution and Nairobi as the location of the secretariat. The parties also gave an important role to WMO as the convener of the annual meeting of the world's ozone research managers. There were no other offers from any other United Nations organization or from any other country.

79. When the Multilateral Fund was established in 1990, however, Canada offered to host a separate secretariat in Montreal. It also offered to host meetings of the Executive Committee of the Fund, to support the participation of developing countries in the meetings and to assume the administrative costs of these initiatives. This offer was accepted by the Second Meeting of the Parties.

3. Stockholm Convention

80. UNEP was chosen as the host of the secretariat, while Bonn, Geneva and Rome vied for the location. Italy offered a contribution of 600,000 euros per year to meet the secretariat's operational costs or to defray conference-servicing expenses. Switzerland offered an initial payment of CHF 150,000 to consolidate its infrastructure. Germany offered, in addition to its contribution as a party, to provide 1.5 million euros in the year of locating to Bonn, followed by 1 million euros per year. Geneva was selected as the host at the first meeting of the Conferences of the Parties of the Convention.

81. In 2006, the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting decided to co-finance the position of joint head of the secretariats of both the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions.

4. Basel Convention

82. Pursuant to the provisions of article 16 of the Convention, UNEP was confirmed as the host and Geneva as the location of the secretariat. Switzerland had offered free premises and some \$200,000 for the first three years. An interim secretariat had already been established in Geneva by the time of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at which there were no offers from any other intergovernmental organization. The secretariat remains in Geneva in the free premises provided by Switzerland.

5. Framework Convention on Climate Change

83. Through a decision by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its first session, the secretariat is institutionally linked to the United Nations, while not being fully integrated into the work programme and management structure of any particular department or programme. The Conference of the Parties also decided that the secretariat should be located in Bonn after studying offers from Canada, Germany, Switzerland and Uruguay. Germany offered rent-free accommodation, major maintenance by the Government, installation grants for the staff, paid language courses, some \$2.5 million in contributions for events organized by the Convention in Germany and an annual contribution of about \$1 million to the secretariat.

6. Convention to Combat Desertification

84. Both the United Nations and UNEP offered to host the secretariat. Through a decision at the first session of the Conference of the Parties, the Convention secretariat is institutionally linked to the United Nations, while not being fully integrated into the work programme and management structure of any particular department or programme. After months of bilateral work performed at the national level by representatives of candidate cities, Bonn was selected as the host at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Other candidates were Montreal and Murcia, Spain. As Bonn and Montreal already hosted the other Rio conventions, both cities were seen as good candidates and Bonn won out.
