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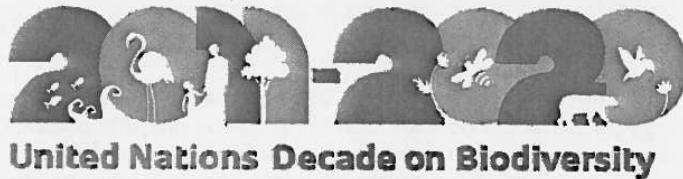
**Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy  
Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services  
Second session**  
Antalya, Turkey, 9–14 December 2013

**Letter from the Executive Secretary of the Convention on  
Biological Diversity to the Chair of the Platform concerning  
relevant matters for consideration by the Plenary at its second  
session**

**Note by the secretariat**

The annex to the present note contains a letter, dated 28 November 2013, from the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the Chair of the Platform. In his letter, the Executive Secretary requested the Chair of the Platform to bring to the attention of the Plenary at its second session matters of great relevance to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention.

## Annex



Ref.: SCBD/SAM/SS/ac/82004

28 November 2013

Dear Prof. Zakri,

I would like to express, once again, my sincere appreciation for your keynote address to the seventeenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) which took place in Montreal, Canada, from 14 to 18 October 2013. It helped delegates to understand the role that the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) can play, among others, in addressing the scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which the Subsidiary Body had convened to identify at this meeting. It also provided a very useful basis for its consideration of the contribution of the Convention to the IPBES intersessional process.

The ongoing collaboration between the Secretariat of the IPBES and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which you also highlighted in your address, was welcomed by the Subsidiary Body in its recommendation XVII/3. The Subsidiary Body requested the Executive Secretary to continue and enhance this collaboration with regard to the further development, scoping and implementation of the work programme of IPBES. It also underscored the importance of the participation of the Chair of SBSTTA in the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) as an observer.

The Subsidiary Body welcomed the draft work programme of the IPBES, which will be considered for adoption at the upcoming second meeting of the IPBES plenary. It expressed its particular appreciation for the proposed regional, global and thematic assessments, the development of tools and capacity-building activities, and the useful and evidence-based information the IPBES will provide for the Convention. In addition, the Subsidiary Body emphasized the important role of indigenous and traditional knowledge systems, intercultural and scientific dialogues and a broad range of approaches, visions and models related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the work of the IPBES to complement scientific and other relevant information, tools and methodologies for policymaking.

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Furthermore, the Subsidiary Body requested the Executive Secretary to transmit to the IPBES its key findings on the scientific and technical needs for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity in line with the request by the Conference of the Parties in decision XI/13 C. The key findings concern social science; data and information; evaluation and assessment; planning and mainstreaming; linking science and policy; maintenance, conservation and restoration of ecosystems; economic instruments; traditional knowledge; scientific and technical cooperation; and different approaches. They are contained in the Annex to this letter, together with the full text of recommendations XVII/2 and XVII/3.

Responding to SBSTTA recommendation XVII/2, I would also like to bring to your attention the potential relevance of the issue of the impacts of neonicotinoid insecticides on biodiversity, and in particular on pollinators, to the proposed fast-track thematic assessment on pollination and food production which may be considered by IPBES as part of its work programme. The Executive Secretary was also requested to inform you about the potential relevance of ongoing work on the impacts of systemic pesticides to this assessment, such as the work of the IUCN Task Force on Systemic Pesticides.

The full report of SBSTTA 17 is available at: [www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=SBSTTA-17](http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=SBSTTA-17).

I also wish to draw your attention to recommendation 8/1 from the eighth meeting of the of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (the Working Group), held from 7 to 11 October 2013, in Montreal, Canada, which invited the IPBES to discuss the potential contributions of Community-Based Monitoring and Information Systems (CBMIS) in meeting the objectives of the Platform when developing work programmes of relevance and/or activities for the MEP.

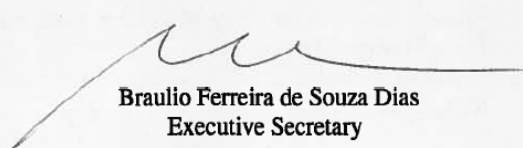
In addition, pursuant to decision XI/14 A, paragraph 7, of the Conference of the Parties, the Working Group held an in-depth dialogue on the issue of *"Connecting traditional knowledge systems and science, such as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, including gender dimensions"*, on 9 October 2013.

The full report of the Working Group, including its recommendations and the summary report of the in-depth dialogue, is available at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=WG8J-08>.

I would like to ask you to kindly bring these matters to the attention of the IPBES at its upcoming second plenary meeting.

I look forward to our continued collaboration.

Yours sincerely,



Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias  
Executive Secretary

Attachment

## ANNEX

**Paragraph 3 of Recommendation XVII/1 - Scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020**

*The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,*

3. *Identifies* key scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including:

(a) *Social science* - The need for better ways to draw on social sciences to motivate choices consistent with the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to develop new approaches through, *inter alia*, better understanding of behavioural change, production and consumption patterns, policy development, and the use of non-market tools. The need for more effective communication, education and public awareness to be spread more widely through school systems and other channels and to devise communication and awareness strategies on biodiversity, complementing communication, education and public awareness efforts with other perspectives including research on intercultural and intracultural communication experiences;

(b) *Data and information* - The need for more accessible, affordable, comprehensive, reliable and comparable data and information streams through, *inter alia*, facilitated access to remote sensing, better collection and use of *in-situ* observations, proxies, citizen science, modelling, biodiversity monitoring networks, better application of data standards and interoperability related to data acquisition and management to produce policy-relevant products, including indicators and scenarios to inform decision-making;

(c) *Evaluation and assessment* - The need for improving and promoting methodologies for assessing the status and trends of species and ecosystems, hotspots and conservation gaps as well as ecosystem functions, ecosystem services and human well-being, at national, regional and global levels;

(d) *Planning and mainstreaming* - The need for improvement and better use of appropriate planning tools, and approaches for mainstreaming, in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 through, *inter alia*: biodiversity safeguards, tools and methods for spatial planning, including integrated land use and coastal and marine planning, valuation of biodiversity, ecosystem functions and ecosystem services; and mainstreaming biodiversity into sustainable development and other relevant policy sectors;

(e) *Linking science and policy* - The need for better integration of science and policymaking and for improved science-policy interfaces, particularly at local and national levels and through the use of IPBES, and the improved and wider use of tools to promote policy coherence and policy evaluation and to produce scenarios and options relevant to policymakers;

(f) *Maintenance, conservation and restoration of ecosystems* - The need for better understanding of ecosystem processes and functions and their implications for ecosystem conservation and restoration, ecological limits, tipping points, socio-ecological resilience and ecosystem services; and improved methodologies and indicators for monitoring ecosystem resilience and recovery, in particular for vulnerable ecosystems;

(g) *Economic instruments* - The need for better understanding of the performance of economic instruments and their wider use in achieving the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, as well as poverty eradication strategies, taking into account national socioeconomic conditions, and the need for improved guidance and tools to develop positive incentives and for the identification, elimination, phasing out or reform of harmful incentives, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, as well as the integration of biodiversity in national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems;

(h) *Traditional knowledge* - The need for better ways to include relevant indigenous and traditional knowledge systems and the collective actions of indigenous and local communities to complement scientific knowledge in support of the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices;

(i) *Scientific and technical cooperation* - The need to foster improved scientific and technical cooperation among Parties, scientific networks and relevant organizations, in order to match capabilities, avoid duplication, identify gaps and achieve efficiencies. The need to enhance the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention to make scientific and technical cooperation more effective;

(j) *Different approaches* - The need to strengthen non-monetary valuation tools and methodologies for the maintenance of ecosystem functions;

#### **Recommendation XVII/2. - New and emerging issues**

##### *The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice*

1. *Noting* that while the issue of the impacts of neonicotinoid insecticides on biodiversity meets the criteria for new and emerging issues set out in paragraph 12 of decision IX/29, *recommends* to the Conference of the Parties that this issue not be considered as a new and emerging issue for the agenda of the Subsidiary Body, but that it could be addressed within the framework of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and its International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators;

2. *Noting* that the issue of the impacts of neonicotinoid insecticides on biodiversity, and in particular on pollinators, may be relevant to the proposed fast-track thematic assessment on pollination and food production being considered by IPBES as a possible part of its work programme, and *also noting* the relevance of ongoing work on the impacts of systemic pesticides, such as the work of the IUCN Task Force on Systemic Pesticides, *requests* the Executive Secretary, and the Chair of the Subsidiary Body as an observer of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, to bring these matters to the attention of the IPBES Secretariat and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting.

#### **Recommendation XVII/3. - Intergovernmental Science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

##### *The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice*

1. *Welcomes* the ongoing collaboration between the Executive Secretary and the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) as well as the participation of the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, *ex officio*, in the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel of IPBES as an observer;

2. *Welcomes* the draft work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in particular the proposed regional, global and thematic assessments, development of tools and capacity-building activities, and *notes* that the draft work programme responds to the invitation of the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 28 of decision XI/2, and that the draft work programme is expected to provide useful and evidence-based information for the Convention;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the role of indigenous and traditional knowledge systems as well as of intercultural and scientific dialogues and of including a broad range of approaches, visions and models related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at multiple scales in the work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in order to complement scientific and other relevant information, tools and methodologies for policymaking;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue and enhance collaboration with IPBES, in line with decision XI/2, with regard to the further development, scoping and implementation of the work programme of IPBES, avoiding duplication of work;

(b) To transmit to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services the key findings on the scientific and technical needs for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (recommendation XVII/1) to provide further explanatory information on the requests contained in paragraph 4 of decision XI/13 C, in line with paragraph 5 of that decision;

5. *Also requests* the Chair of the Subsidiary Body, as an observer in the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel of IPBES, to facilitate the requests to the Executive Secretary in paragraph 4 above;

6. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties request the Subsidiary Body to evaluate the scope and process of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, following the publication of GBO-4, and in light of, and avoiding duplication with, the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on a global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and to report to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to inform its consideration of the modalities of future editions of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

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