



## Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.  
LIMITED

UNEP/CBD/COP/12/L.25  
16 October 2014

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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### CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Twelfth meeting  
Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 6-17 October 2014  
Agenda item 29

#### **BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT**

##### *Draft decision submitted by the Chair of Working Group II*

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Acknowledging* the development of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity and acknowledging the pioneering work done by some Parties in engaging with business towards the implementation of the Convention, as evidenced by the increasing numbers of national and regional initiatives on business and biodiversity,

*Taking note* of the results and recommendations stemming from the Third and Fourth Meetings of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity,<sup>1</sup> *welcoming* the business forum held in parallel to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and acknowledging that it supports the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols both by raising awareness and by demonstrating the private sector's commitments to these objectives,

*Acknowledging* that many companies around the world are not aware of the importance or the benefits of biodiversity to their affairs or of the positive effects of mainstreaming the values of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services into their business models and into supply chains,

*Understanding* the importance of engaging small and medium enterprises with respect to biodiversity and their need for capacity-building and support,

*Recognizing* that businesses, play a role in the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development,

*Welcoming* the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization as an important instrument for involving business in contributing to the achievement of all the objectives of the Convention;

*Recognizing* the key role of Governments in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and of living in harmony with nature, and in providing an enabling environment to promote sustainability,

*Noting* that gaps exist with regard to reporting on business activities that contribute to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,

*Understanding* that sustainable procurement, both public and private, can be a major driver of change across many business sectors and should thus be encouraged,

1. *Invites* Parties, taking into account their national policies, needs and priorities:

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/business/gpbb-03/official/gpbb-03-report-en.pdf>.

(a) To work, in conjunction with stakeholders and relevant organizations, to develop innovative mechanisms to support the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity and its associated national and regional initiatives;

(b) To cooperate with the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity and its associated national and regional initiatives in order to assist reporting by businesses regarding their efforts to mainstream the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols, as well as the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and to provide this information through the clearing-house mechanism;

(c) To seek to foster public and private partnerships, in consultation with civil society, to promote the development and implementation of biodiversity strategies within the business sector, including on resource mobilization, and to strengthen capacity-building;

(d) To continue work to create an enabling environment, taking into account existing decisions, such that businesses including publicly funded and local community businesses, which could include different actors, can effectively implement the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols, as well as the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, taking into account the needs of small and medium enterprises, and designing appropriate frameworks to address these needs with respect to social and environmental responsibility;

(e) To promote the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services related to business in other relevant multilateral forums, with a view to integrating these issues into the agendas of these forums;

2. *Encourages* businesses:

(a) To analyse the impacts of business decisions and operations on biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, and prepare action plans for integrating biodiversity into their operations;

(b) To include in their reporting frameworks considerations related to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, and ensure that the actions taken by companies, including the activities of their supply chains, are captured, taking into account the objectives of the Convention, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

(c) To enhance the capacity of senior levels of management, line staff and supply chains with regard to information on the benefits of, and impacts on, biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services;

(d) To integrate biodiversity considerations into procurement policies;

(e) To actively contribute to the resource mobilization strategy of the Convention to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

(f) To increase, as appropriate, participation and cooperation with the BioTrade initiative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and those of other organizations involved in biotrade, at the national, regional and global levels, that are committed to the sustainable use of biodiversity, sustainable harvesting practices, and access and benefit-sharing under the framework of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, and in addition to the work specified in previous decisions:

(a) To support Parties, in particular developing countries, in their efforts to promote the integration of biodiversity considerations into the business sector;

(b) To support, and collaborate with, the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity and its associated national and regional initiatives, as appropriate and in conjunction with other

programmes, in developing reports on the progress of biodiversity mainstreaming by businesses, including by establishing a typology of possible actions, for consideration by a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on the Implementation of the Convention prior to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, through, among other means, the convening of a technical workshop on reporting frameworks in this area;

(c) To collaborate with the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity and its associated national and regional initiatives in order to support capacity-building for businesses with a view to mainstreaming biodiversity into business decisions;

(d) To enhance, in collaboration with the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity and its associated national and regional initiatives, the contribution of the business sector to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, for example, through the identification of key milestones and the development of guidance for business to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

(e) To promote cooperation and synergies with other forums regarding issues that are relevant for biodiversity and business engagement with respect to, *inter alia*, commodity indicators and sustainable production and consumption;

(f) To compile information, and analyse best practices, standards and research about biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, and the valuation of those services, to facilitate assessments of the contributions by business to achieving the objectives of the Convention and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and to assist in the dissemination of this information to various relevant forums;

(g) To provide a report on the information referred to in paragraph 1 (b) above, and make it available to a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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