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SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Sixteenth session

Bonn, 5–14 June 2002

Agenda item 8

**COOPERATION WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair**

**Cooperation with other conventions**

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) noted with appreciation statements made by the representatives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Ramsar Convention.
2. The SBSTA also welcomed the technical paper of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the inter-linkages between biological diversity and climate change, and the ongoing work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biological Diversity and Climate Change under the CBD. The SBSTA noted the potential relevance of this work to ongoing activities under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, with a view to addressing the impacts of climate change in a synergetic manner, particularly with regard to coral reefs, forests, wetlands, dry ecosystems and degraded land. The SBSTA further noted that this also applies to areas of mutual interest identified by Working Group II of the IPCC Third Assessment Report, "Impacts, adaptation and vulnerability".
3. The SBSTA took note of information provided by the secretariat in document FCCC/SBSTA/2002/MISC.9 and Add.1 on the collaboration between UNFCCC and other intergovernmental bodies, in particular UNCCD and CBD. It also took note of a progress report of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) of the three conventions as contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2002/3.
4. Recognizing that the task of the JLG is to enhance practical cooperation and that it is the role of the convention Parties to take decisions on matters relating to collaboration with other conventions, the SBSTA reconfirmed the mandate of the JLG (FCCC/SBSTA/2001/2, para. 42 (d)).
5. The SBSTA welcomed the activities of the JLG, including developing a joint calendar of events relevant to the three conventions and the exchange of experts. The SBSTA, noting potential synergies with the Ramsar Convention, encouraged the JLG to invite the secretariat of the Ramsar Convention to share information and to participate in the meetings of the JLG, as appropriate.

6. The SBSTA welcomed the ongoing cooperation between UNFCCC and other conventions and agreements, in particular UNCCD and CBD, and reaffirmed previous SBSTA conclusions on this matter. The SBSTA noted that collaboration should recognize the different mandates of the three conventions and should facilitate synergies in the implementation of the three conventions, in particular at the national level, especially taking into account needs of developing countries.
7. The SBSTA requested the secretariat, through the JLG, to prepare a scoping paper to identify cross-cutting thematic areas and activities under the UNFCCC, the CBD and the UNCCD, such as technology development and transfer, education, systematic observation, research, impacts and adaptation, capacity-building, terrestrial, aquatic and marine ecosystems and reporting, taking into consideration both the request of the SBSTA contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2001/8, paragraph 41 (n), and the priority areas already identified in national workshops on synergies implemented under a UNCCD initiative for consideration by the SBSTA at its seventeenth session.
8. The SBSTA noted the relationship of work under this agenda item to the workshop mandated by the Conference of the Parties in decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 36. In order to make efficient use of available resources, the SBSTA proposed that the workshop identified in decision 5/CP.7 and that proposed in document FCCC/SBSTA/2001/8, paragraph 41 (o), be combined. The SBSTA agreed to consider, at its seventeenth session, thematic areas identified in the scoping paper and in submissions from Parties as contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2001/MISC.9 and Add.1, with a view to providing recommendations to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) on the terms of reference for the workshop.
9. In order to facilitate consideration of these matters at its eighteenth session, the SBSTA invited the SBI to consider holding the above-mentioned workshop prior to that session.
10. The SBSTA noted the interest indicated by CBD in pursuing issues related to forests. The SBSTA agreed to further consider possible cooperation with CBD and other organizations on issues related to forests and forest ecosystem, at its seventeenth session.
11. The SBSTA agreed to further consider these matters at its seventeenth session, with the aim of forwarding a decision to the Conference of the Parties for adoption at its eighth session.

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