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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
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Agenda item 12B

### Financial mechanism

#### Draft decision submitted by the Chair of Working Group I

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Reaffirming* the importance of the full application of provisions of Article 21 and access to the financial mechanism for all eligible Parties for the full implementation of the Convention, and *welcoming* the valuable role of the Global Environment Facility as the institutional structure operating the financial mechanism of the Convention on an interim and ongoing basis,

*Recalling* Article 21, paragraph 3, of the Convention, providing that the Conference of the Parties shall review the effectiveness of the financial mechanism,

*Reaffirming* the commitment of the Conference of the Parties to periodically review the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in implementing the Convention in the memorandum of understanding with the Council of the Global Environment Facility contained in decision III/8,

*Reaffirming also* decision XI/5, paragraph 7, on the quadrennial arrangement for the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism,

*Recalling* decision 14/23, paragraph 13, regarding the terms of reference for the sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting,

*Reaffirming* the importance of the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, strategies and programmes,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting;
2. *Takes note* of the importance of realistic assessment of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols for the eighth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility, aligned with the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the time of the decision of the eighth replenishment;<sup>1</sup>
3. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to include in its report to the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols an explanation of how the eighth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility<sup>2</sup>, through the elements of its

<sup>1</sup> The executive summary is available in CBD/SBI/3/6/Add.2/Rev.1 and the full report is available in CBD/SBI/3/INF/44.

<sup>2</sup> Replenishment of the Global Environment Facility refers to replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund

programming directions is contributing to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its monitoring framework;

4. *Urges* the Global Environment Facility to support Parties in their effort to enhance policy coherence as part of biodiversity mainstreaming to facilitate the effective and efficient implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

5. *Adopts* the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the eighth replenishment period (July 2022 to June 2026) of the Global Environment Facility, aligned with the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework, contained in annex I to the present decision;

6. *Welcomes* the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and notes that its associated programming directions and strategy, including for the biodiversity focal area, have taken into account the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the time of the decision of the eighth replenishment;

7. *Urges* relevant Parties to make prompt and full use of the programming directions and resource allocation for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Global Environment Facility and related agencies, as appropriate, in:

(a) The fast-tracking of the implementation of the GBF, in particular for the intermediate phase (2023-2024) of the Resource Mobilization Strategy and in the reporting of progress of the mobilization of new and additional resources to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting; and

(b) The development and implementation of the relevant integrated programmes and the country engagement strategy for the eighth replenishment period, promoting the involvement of biodiversity-related conventions and instruments at national level, and to promote synergies and complementarities with other relevant financial instruments, such as the Green Climate Fund, towards the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

9. *Adopts* the consolidated previous guidance to the Global Environment Facility contained in annex II A to the present decision, decides to retire the previous decisions and elements of decisions, as related to the financial mechanism and limited only to those provisions related to the financial mechanism and *also adopts* additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility contained in annex II B to the present decision;

10. *Decides* to adopt, at its sixteenth meeting, a four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to inform the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026-2030);

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare elements of a draft four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in anticipation of the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026-2030), for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting;

12. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting to prepare proposals for a draft four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in anticipation of the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026-2030), for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

13. *Adopts* the terms of reference for a full assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in accordance with the guidance

provided by the Conference of the Parties, in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility, as contained in annex IV to the present decision;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure completion of the assessment according to the terms of reference as contained in annex IV, in time for consideration by the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, and subsequently by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

15. *Invites* developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to identify related national funding priorities, including nationally prioritized funding needs that could be considered as eligible for funding under the financial mechanism specifically for the period July 2026 to June 2030, and submit the results to the Executive Secretary for inclusion in the funding needs assessment;

16. *Invites* the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions, further to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of decision XII/30 and paragraph 10 of decision XIII/21, to repeat the exercise described therein for the development of strategic guidance for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its sixteenth meeting;

17. *Further adopts* the terms of reference for the sixth quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism contained in annex III to the present decision, and requests the Executive Secretary to ensure the report on the sixth quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism to be prepared three months in advance in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

18. *Calls upon* the Global Environment Facility to further reform its operations to ensure adequacy, predictability, and the timely flow of funds by establishing easy and effective access modalities, including by scaling fast-track systems, and by facilitating new contributors.

#### **Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBF Fund)**

19. *Recognizes* the urgency to increase international biodiversity finance, and to establish a dedicated and accessible GBF Fund in 2023 that can quickly mobilize and disburse new and additional resources from all sources, commensurate with the ambition of the global biodiversity framework;

20. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to establish, in 2023, and until 2030 unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, a Special Trust Fund to support the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (“GBF Fund”), to complement existing support and scale up financing to ensure its timely implementation, taking into account the need for adequacy, predictability, and the timely flow of funds;

21. *Requests* the Global Environmental Facility to prepare a decision to be considered by the Council on the approval of a GBF Fund, with its own equitable governing body, to be dedicated exclusively to supporting the implementation of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

22. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to advance the necessary institutional and governance arrangements, to allow for this GBF Fund to receive, in addition to ODA, financing from all sources;

23. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to design and implement a project cycle with a simple and effective application and approval process, providing easy and efficient access to resources of the GBF Fund;

24. *Calls upon* the Global Environment Facility to approve these decisions at the next possible session of the Council and its ratification at the next possible session of the Assembly in 2023;

25. *Calls for* immediate substantive contributions from all sources, in line with target 19.1 of the framework;

26. *Requests* the Global Environmental Facility to engage all Multilateral Development Banks and International Financial Institutions in the design and operationalization action of the GBF Fund, with the view of leveraging additional resources from and for the Fund and channel them through new and existing biodiversity portfolios, which need to be aligned with the goals and targets of the global biodiversity framework;

27. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to report to future meetings of the Conference of the Parties on the progress in establishing, and the operations and performance of, the GBF Fund;

28. *Decides* to assess the progress made in establishing, and the operations and performance of, the GBF Fund, and to consider and adopt further guidance to the Global Environment Facility and to the governing body referred to paragraph 9 above, on the modalities and operation of the GBF Fund, at its future meetings;

29. *Decides* to undertake and act upon, at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a stocktake review on the operations and performance of the GBF Fund regarding its scale, speed, accessibility, and future arrangements.

#### *Annex I*

### **FOUR-YEAR OUTCOME-ORIENTED FRAMEWORK OF PROGRAMME PRIORITIES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY FOR THE EIGHTH REPLENISHMENT PERIOD (2022-2026) OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY TRUST FUND**

#### *Objective*

1. This four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities provides guidance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the eighth replenishment period (GEF-8), 2022-2026, and is within the context of the GEF mandate to provide resources to achieve global environmental benefits and the mandate provided to the GEF by the Conference of the Parties. It utilizes the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Convention's Protocols to set priorities for the financial mechanism. In particular, the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework provide direction for the outcomes of this four-year framework, bearing in mind that GEF-8 and GEF-9 will together cover the expected eight years to the 2030 deadlines of the targets, while recognizing that the three objectives of the Convention should be considered by the GEF when designing and implementing biodiversity strategy and programming directions.

2. In that regard, it is envisaged that following the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the conclusion of the GEF-8 replenishment under their respective processes, the GEF will include in its report to the Conference of the Parties an explanation on how GEF-8, through the elements of its programming directions, is contributing to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, and to each goal and target of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its monitoring framework.

3. This four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities recognizes that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is an overarching framework of high relevance to all biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, and seeks to promote the implementation of complementary measures that may enhance programmatic synergies and efficiencies, among the Convention, its Protocols and other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, relevant to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and mandate of the Global Environment Facility.

#### *Elements*

4. The four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the period 2022–2026 consists of the following elements to which effective implementation support is to be provided:

- (a) The post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including its goals and targets which define the outcomes being sought;
- (b) National biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs);
- (c) National biodiversity finance plans;
- (d) The implementation of the three objectives of the Convention;

(e) The implementation support mechanisms adopted under the Convention associated with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework related to: mobilizing sufficient-resources from all sources towards implementing the framework and achieving its goals and targets; mainstreaming; capacity building and development; generation, management and sharing of knowledge for effective biodiversity planning, policy development and coherence, decision-making and implementation; and technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovation. Examples include:

- (i) The resource mobilization strategy, including the establishment of a global biodiversity framework fund to be established by the GEF;
- (ii) The long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development beyond 2020;
- (iii) The long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity;
- (iv) The updated plan of action on subnational governments, cities and other local authorities for biodiversity, and;
- (v) The gender plan of action for the post-2020 period.

(f) The mechanisms for planning, reporting, monitoring, assessment and review of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(g) The enabling conditions outlined in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework required for its implementation;

(h) The implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2021-2030) and the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2021-2030);

(i) The guidance to the Global Environment Facility on programme priorities to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its fourth meeting, contained in appendix I;

*Additional strategic considerations*

5. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should support the rapid and effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by contributing to resource mobilization from all sources, including through increased GEF funding, which is adequate, predictable, sustainable, timely and accessible and through allocations dedicated to the biodiversity focal area and co-benefits for biodiversity across other focal areas and global programmes, including integrated programmes, recognizing the need for streamlined programming and approval process to enable timely disbursement of resources.<sup>3</sup>

6. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should recognize the contribution of multi-country, regional, transboundary and global projects, to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including to the implementation of global initiatives adopted under the Convention and its Protocols, and multi-country, regional, transboundary and global initiatives that leverage contributions from biodiversity-related conventions and agreements.

7. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should recognize that the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions and agreements in the context of national biodiversity priorities and strategies will contribute to the three objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

8. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should take into account coherence with, and synergies among, country-driven programmes and priorities set out in national biodiversity strategies and action plans to support implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

9. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should be developed in a fully transparent and inclusive manner, with a view to ensuring that projects to be funded by the GEF during its 8th replenishment in recipient Parties are to be developed on a context-specific and country-driven basis, addressing the priority needs of recipient countries.

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<sup>3</sup> Such support under GEF-8 would build upon support being provided under GEF-7.

10. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote agreed global environmental benefits and development pathways that benefit biodiversity and are also, carbon-neutral and pollution-free, including through coherence and synergies among the GEF integrated programmes and focal areas of biodiversity, land degradation, international waters, climate change (both mitigation and adaptation), and chemicals and waste, and within the context of country-driven programmes and priorities.
11. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote and implement, as appropriate, the ecosystem approach<sup>4</sup>, and/or nature-based solutions as defined by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session<sup>5</sup>
12. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote, synergies, cooperation and complementarity in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity with those of the other conventions served by GEF, as well as with other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, recognizing the important contributions that these instruments can make to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and vice versa.
13. During the GEF-8 period, GEF should further interact and cooperate with multilateral development banks and other public and private financial institutions to integrate the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as the contributions of the other biodiversity-related conventions within their activities and report on funding contributing to their implementation.
14. The GEF-8 outcome and impact indicators and associated monitoring processes should be effectively used to assess the contribution of the GEF-8 to the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, the Protocols of the Convention, and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including through measuring the co-benefits for biodiversity across all relevant GEF activities.
15. The GEF in its eighth replenishment period should explore ways to significantly improve the access to funding, for all recipient countries [and remove all barriers and political restriction to access funding for all eligible Parties], [in particular least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), and countries with economies in transition, also taking into consideration the special situation of developing countries, including those that are most environmentally vulnerable, such as those with arid and semi-arid zones, coastal and mountainous areas which may have a particular need for support in the post-pandemic environment] [in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition].
16. The GEF in its eighth replenishment period should explore ways to improve the access to funding for indigenous peoples and local communities.
17. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote engagement with recipient countries to support national resource mobilization and the development and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans.
18. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy, programming directions and policy recommendations should reinforce the GEF's efforts to mobilize and engage with different stakeholders including the private sector.
19. To improve its efficiency and effectiveness in delivering sustainable results during the GEF-8 replenishment period, the GEF should continue to improve its policies regarding governance and the standards its implementing partners are held to.

#### *Appendix I*

Elements for the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the eighth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2022-2026) to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its fourth meeting:

- (a) Specific priorities for continued capacity-building to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Defined in [decision V/6](#)

<sup>5</sup> Resolution UNEP/EA5/L9/REV.1 adopted at UNEA 5.2

<sup>6</sup> Decision NP-4/-- (capacity-building), Annex

(b) Support for the integration and mainstreaming of access and benefit-sharing on genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources in biodiversity and sustainable development-related policies and activities;

(c) Support for the development and sustainment of long-term institutional capacities for managing, monitoring and evaluating national access and benefit-sharing frameworks;

#### *Annex II A*

### **CONSOLIDATED PREVIOUS GUIDANCE TO THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (2022, THIRD EDITION)**

1. Guidance to the Global Environment Facility should be incorporated into a single decision, including the identification of priority issues which will provide support for cross-cutting issues and capacity-building, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in a manner that: (a) is transparent; (b) allows participation; and (c) allows full consideration of its other decisions.<sup>7</sup>

2. Guidance to the Global Environment Facility, for a specific replenishment period, consists of a consolidated list of programme priorities that defines what to be financed, and an outcome-oriented framework, taking into account the strategies and plans under the Convention and its Protocols, and associated indicators. With a view to further streamlining guidance to the Global Environment Facility, proposed new guidance will be reviewed to avoid or reduce repetitiveness, to consolidate previous guidance where appropriate and to prioritize guidance in the context of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.<sup>8</sup>

#### **A. Policy and strategy**

3. Financial resources should be allocated to projects that fulfil the eligibility criteria and are endorsed and promoted by the Parties concerned. Projects should contribute to the extent possible to build cooperation at the subregional, regional and international levels in the implementation of the Convention. Projects should promote the utilization of local and regional expertise. The conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components is one of the key elements in achieving sustainable development and therefore contributing to combating poverty.<sup>9</sup>

#### **B. Programme priorities**

4. The Global Environment Facility should provide financial resources to developing country Parties, taking into account the special needs of the least developed countries and the small island developing States, as well as Parties with economies in transition, for country-driven activities and programmes, consistent with national priorities and objectives and in accordance with the following programme priorities, recognizing that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries, and taking fully into consideration all relevant decisions from the Conference of the Parties.<sup>10</sup>

#### *Article 1. Objectives*

5. Projects that utilize the ecosystem approach, without prejudice to differing national needs and priorities which may require the application of approaches such as single species conservation programmes.<sup>11</sup>

#### **Ecosystem restoration**

6. Ecosystem restoration activities, as well as monitoring processes as appropriate, and integrated where relevant into programmes and initiatives for sustainable development, food, water and energy security, job creation, climate change mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and poverty eradication;<sup>12</sup>

#### **Ecosystem resilience and climate change**

<sup>7</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 52

<sup>8</sup> Adapted from Decisions XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 53, and 14/23, paragraph 2

<sup>9</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 1

<sup>10</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 2

<sup>11</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 3

<sup>12</sup> Decisions XIII/21, paragraph 24, and XIII/5, paragraph 4

7. Ecosystem resilience and climate change:<sup>13</sup>

(a) Capacity-building with the aim of increasing the effectiveness in addressing environmental issues through their commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, inter alia, by applying the ecosystem approach;

(b) Developing synergy-oriented programmes to conserve and sustainably manage all ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands and marine environments, that also contribute to poverty eradication;

(c) Country-driven activities, including pilot projects, aimed at projects related to ecosystem conservation, restoration of degraded lands and marine environments and overall ecosystem integrity that take into account impacts of climate change.

### **Marine and coastal ecosystems**

8. Marine and coastal ecosystems:<sup>14</sup>

(a) Projects that promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity under threat, and implement the elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and the programme of work on island biodiversity;

(b) Country-driven activities aimed at enhancing capabilities to address the impacts of mortality related to coral bleaching and physical degradation and destruction of coral reefs, including developing rapid response capabilities to implement measures to address coral-reef degradation, mortality and subsequent recovery;

(c) Implementation of training and capacity-building and other activities related to ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs);

(d) Support for capacity-building in order to further accelerate existing efforts towards achieving the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in marine and coastal areas.

### **Forest biological diversity**

9. Projects focusing on the identified national priorities, as well as regional and international actions that assist the implementation of the expanded work programme on forest biological diversity considering conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from genetic resources in a balanced way, underscoring the importance of ensuring long-term conservation, sustainable use, and benefit-sharing of native forests, and the use of the clearing-house mechanism to include activities that contribute to halting and addressing deforestation, basic assessments and monitoring of forest biological diversity, including taxonomic studies and inventories, focusing on forest species, other important components of forest biological diversity and ecosystems under threat.<sup>15</sup>

### **Inland water ecosystems**

10. Projects that assist with the implementation of the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, and which help Parties to develop and implement national, sectoral and cross-sectoral plans for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, including comprehensive assessments of the biological diversity of inland waters, and capacity-building programmes for monitoring the implementation of the programme of work and the trends in inland water biological diversity and for information gathering and dissemination among riparian communities.<sup>16</sup>

### **Arid and semi-arid areas**

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<sup>13</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 4.

<sup>14</sup> Updated from Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 5.

<sup>15</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 6.

<sup>16</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 7



11. Projects that promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in arid and semi-arid areas, including the implementation of the Convention's programme of work on biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands.<sup>17</sup>

#### **Mountainous areas**

12. Projects which promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountainous areas.<sup>18</sup>

#### **Agricultural biodiversity**

13. Projects which implement the Convention's programme of work on agricultural biodiversity.<sup>19</sup>

14. National and regional projects that address the implementation of the Plan of Action 2018-2030 for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators;<sup>20</sup>

#### *Article 5. Cooperation*

15. Consideration of establishing a South-South biodiversity cooperation trust fund for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework based on voluntary contributions.<sup>21</sup>

#### *Article 6. General measures for conservation and sustainable use*

#### **National biodiversity strategies and action plans**

16. Review, revision, updating, and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.<sup>22</sup>

17. Development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in line with the strategy and targets for resource mobilization agreed to in decision XII/3.<sup>23</sup>

#### **Mainstreaming and integration**

18. Further development of approaches on the integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development processes.<sup>24</sup>

19. Country-driven projects that address cross-sectoral mainstreaming.<sup>25</sup>

#### *Article 7. Identification and monitoring*

20. Development and implementation of national biodiversity targets, indicator framework, and monitoring programmes.<sup>26</sup>

#### *Article 8. In situ conservation*

#### **Area-based conservation**

21. Community conserved areas, national and regional systems of protected areas, further development of the portfolio on protected areas towards comprehensive, representative and effectively managed protected area systems addressing system wide needs, country driven early action activities of the programme of work on protected areas to enable its full implementation, projects that demonstrate the role-protected areas play in addressing climate change, and address the long-term financial sustainability of protected areas, including through different mechanisms and instruments.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 8

<sup>18</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 9

<sup>19</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 10

<sup>20</sup> Decision 14/6, paragraph 7

<sup>21</sup> Updated from Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 11

<sup>22</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 12

<sup>23</sup> Decision XIII/21, paragraph 25, and XIII/1, paragraph 20

<sup>24</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 13

<sup>25</sup> Decision XIII/21, paragraph 28, and XIII/3, paragraph 112

<sup>26</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 14

<sup>27</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 15; XIII/21, paragraph 26, and XIII/2, paragraph 11

### **Diversity of species and genetic resources**

22. Projects that promote the conservation and/or sustainable use of endemic species;<sup>28</sup>
23. Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020;<sup>29</sup>
24. National and regional taxonomic capacity-building activities for the Global Taxonomy Initiative, and project components that address taxonomic needs in the achievement of the Convention's objectives;<sup>30</sup>

### **Invasive alien species**

25. Projects that assist with the development and implementation, at national and regional levels, of the invasive alien species strategies and action plans, in particular those strategies and actions related to geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems, capacity-building to prevent or minimize the risks of the dispersal and establishment of invasive alien species, improved prevention, rapid response and management measures to address threats of alien invasive species.<sup>31</sup>

### **Article 8(j) and related provisions**

26. Inclusion of perspectives of indigenous peoples and local communities, particularly women, in the financing of biodiversity and ecosystem services;<sup>32</sup>
27. Implementation of programmes and projects that strengthen the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities, advance community conservation, promote customary sustainable use of biological diversity;<sup>33</sup>
28. Raising awareness and building capacity relevant to the implementation of the Rutzolijirisaxik Voluntary Guidelines for the Repatriation of Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Relevant for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity, and developing, as appropriate, community protocols or processes for "prior and informed consent" or "free, prior and informed consent", depending on national circumstances, or "approval and involvement", and fair and equitable benefit-sharing.<sup>34</sup>
29. Raising awareness and to building capacity relevant to the implementation of the guidelines (Mo'otz Kuxtal voluntary guidelines for the development of mechanisms, legislation or other appropriate initiatives to ensure the "prior and informed consent", "free, prior and informed consent" or "approval and involvement", depending on national circumstances, of indigenous peoples and local communities for accessing their knowledge, innovations and practices, for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of their knowledge, innovations and practices relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and for reporting and preventing unlawful appropriation of traditional knowledge), and developing, as appropriate, community protocols or processes for "prior and informed consent", "free, prior and informed consent" or "approval and involvement", depending on national circumstances, for fair and equitable benefit-sharing.<sup>35</sup>

### *Article 9. Ex situ conservation*

### *Article 10. Sustainable use of components of biological diversity*

30. Implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines at the national level to ensure that the use of biological diversity is sustainable.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 16

<sup>29</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 16

<sup>30</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 16

<sup>31</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 16; 14/11, para. 14

<sup>32</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 17

<sup>33</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 17

<sup>34</sup> Decision XIII/21, paragraph 29

<sup>35</sup> Decision XIII/18, paragraph 10

<sup>36</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 18

31. Sustainable tourism that contributes to the objectives of the Convention.<sup>37</sup>

*Article 11. Incentive measures*

32. Development and implementation of innovative measures, including in the field of economic incentives and those which assist developing countries to address situations where opportunity costs are incurred by local communities and to identify ways and means by which these can be compensated.<sup>38</sup>

*Article 12. Research and training*

33. Project components addressing targeted research which contributes to conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components including research for reversing current trends of biodiversity loss and species extinction.<sup>39</sup>

*Article 13. Public education and awareness*

34. Development and implementation of communication, education and public awareness priority activities at the national and regional levels.<sup>40</sup>

*Article 14. Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts*

*Article 15. Access to genetic resources (Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing)*

**National measures**

35. Projects that support the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing, including the establishment of legislative, administrative and policy measures on access and benefit-sharing and related institutional arrangements;<sup>41</sup>

**Capacity-building**

36. Building the capacity to develop, implement and enforce domestic legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing, thereby contributing to the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components<sup>42</sup>, including through:

(a) Identification of relevant actors and existing legal and institutional expertise for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable of Benefits Arising from their Utilization;

(b) Taking stock of domestic measures relevant to access and benefit-sharing in light of the obligations of the Nagoya Protocol;

(c) Development and/or amendment of access and benefit-sharing legislative, administrative or policy measures with a view to implementing their obligations under the Nagoya Protocol;

(d) Establishment of ways to address transboundary issues;

(e) Establishment of institutional arrangements and administrative systems to provide access to genetic resources, ensure benefit-sharing, support compliance with prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms and monitor the utilization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, including support for the establishment of check points;

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<sup>37</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 19

<sup>38</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 20

<sup>39</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 21

<sup>40</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 22

<sup>41</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23, and 14/23, paragraph 11

<sup>42</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23

37. Supporting the implementation of the strategic framework for capacity-building and development in support of the implementation of the Protocol.<sup>43</sup>

#### **Capacity on mutually agreed terms**

38. Building the capacity to negotiate mutually agreed terms to promote equity and fairness in negotiations in the development and implementation of access and benefit-sharing agreements, including through enhanced understanding of business models and intellectual property rights;<sup>44</sup>

#### **Endogenous research capabilities**

39. Building the capacity of Parties to develop their endogenous research capabilities to add value to their own genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources through, inter alia, technology transfer; bioprospecting and associated research and taxonomic studies; and the development and use of valuation methods;<sup>45</sup>

#### **Indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders**

40. Addressing the capacity needs and priorities of indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders; in particular projects that would:<sup>46</sup>

(a) Encourage their participation in legal, policy and decision-making processes;

(b) Assist in building their capacity related to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, such as through the development of community protocols, model contractual clauses and minimum requirements for mutually agreed terms to secure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits;

#### **Clearing-House**

41. Enabling Parties to actively participate in the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and use the best available communication tools and Internet-based systems for access and benefit-sharing;<sup>47</sup>

#### **Awareness raising**

42. Raising-awareness of the importance of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and related access and benefit sharing issues, notably through the development and implementation of national and regional awareness-raising strategies;<sup>48</sup>

#### **National reporting**

43. Making financial resources available to assist Parties in preparing their national report;<sup>49</sup>

#### **Regional cooperation**

44. Issues identified by the Parties to facilitate further implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, including regional cooperation projects, with a view to facilitating the sharing of experiences and lessons learned and harnessing associated synergies;<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23

<sup>44</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23

<sup>45</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23

<sup>46</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23

<sup>47</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23, and 14/23, paragraph 7(b)

<sup>48</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23

<sup>49</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23, and XIII/21, paragraph 38, 14/23, paragraph 10

<sup>50</sup> Decision 14/23, paragraph 7(a)

*Article 16. Access to and transfer of technology*

45. Preparation of national assessments of technology needs for implementation of the Convention, and promotion of access to, transfer of and cooperation for joint development of technology,<sup>51</sup>

*Article 17. Exchange of information*

*Article 18. Technical and scientific cooperation*

46. Strengthening biodiversity information systems such as, inter alia, training, technology and processes related to the collection, organization, maintenance and updating of data and information, and building capacity for the clearing-house mechanism, such as training in information and communication technologies and web content management that enable developing countries and countries with economies in transition to fully benefit from modern communication, including the Internet.<sup>52</sup>

*Article 19. Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits (Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety)*

**National measures**

47. Ratification and implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya–Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress;<sup>53</sup>

48. Development and implementation of national biosafety frameworks, in particular biosafety legislation<sup>54</sup>, including those Parties that have not yet done so in fully putting in place measures to implement the Protocol;<sup>55</sup>

**Detection and identification**

49. Identification of living modified organisms or specific traits that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health;<sup>56</sup>

50. Regional projects to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, including projects aimed at building scientific capacity that could support countries' actions towards detection and identification of living modified organisms, and in particular that could promote North-South and South-South sharing of experiences and lessons;<sup>57</sup>

**Risk assessment and risk management**

51. Building, consolidating and enhancing sustainable human resource capacity in risk assessment and risk management<sup>58</sup> in the context of country-driven projects;<sup>59</sup>

**Socioeconomic considerations**

52. Capacity-building on socioeconomic considerations;<sup>60</sup>

**Unintentional release**

53. Capacity-building to take appropriate measures in cases of unintentional release of living modified organisms;<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 24

<sup>52</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 25

<sup>53</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26

<sup>54</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26

<sup>55</sup> Decision 14/23, paragraph 8(a); XIII/21, paragraphs 33 and 36

<sup>56</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26

<sup>57</sup> Decision 14/23, para. 9

<sup>58</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26, and XIII/21, paragraph 35

<sup>59</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26

<sup>60</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26

<sup>61</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26

**Public awareness**

54. Enhancing capacity for public awareness, education and participation regarding the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms, including for indigenous peoples and local communities;<sup>62</sup>

55. Effective implementation of the programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms, in the context of relevant project activities and within its mandate;<sup>63</sup>

**Clearing-house**

56. Public participation and information sharing, and use of the Biosafety Clearing-House;<sup>64</sup>

**Capacity-building**

57. Further implementation of the Framework and Action Plan for Capacity-Building;<sup>65</sup>

**Reporting**

58. National reports under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.<sup>66</sup>

**Compliance**

59. Implementing compliance action plans regarding the achievement of compliance with the Protocol.<sup>67</sup>

**Regional cooperation**

60. Projects and capacity-building activities on issues identified by the Parties to facilitate further implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, including regional cooperation projects, such as those using regional and subregional networks to build capacity for the detection of living modified organisms, with a view to facilitating the sharing of experiences and lessons learned, and harnessing associated synergies.<sup>68</sup>

*Article 20. Financial resources*

61. Development and implementation of country-specific resource mobilization strategies.<sup>69</sup>

*Article 21. Financial mechanism*

**Access modalities**

62. To consider improving its access modalities, including enabling the participation of a number of additional national agencies from developing countries, based on its own experiences, including the conclusions of this assessment, and taking into account the experience of other international financial instruments with relevant access modalities;<sup>70</sup>

**Gender**

63. To include gender in the financing of biodiversity and ecosystem services;<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26

<sup>63</sup> Decision XIII/21, paragraph 34

<sup>64</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26; XIII/21, paragraphs 30 and 31; 14/23, paragraph 7(b)

<sup>65</sup> Decision XIII/21, paragraph 32

<sup>66</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26; 14/23, para. 8(b)

<sup>67</sup> Decision 14/23, para. 8(c)

<sup>68</sup> Decision XIII/21, paragraph 36(b); 14/23, para. 7(a)

<sup>69</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 27

<sup>70</sup> Decision XIII/21, paragraph 4

<sup>71</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

**Project procedures**

64. To further streamline its project cycle with a view to making project preparation simpler, more transparent and more country-driven;<sup>72</sup>
65. To further simplify and expedite procedures for approval and implementation, including disbursement, for GEF-funded projects, based on a flexible and national demand driven approach, and avoid additional and lengthy processes;<sup>73</sup>
66. To develop policies and procedures that fully comply with the guidance from the Conference of the Parties in a straightforward and timely manner;<sup>74</sup>
67. To increase its flexibility to respond to the thematic longer-term programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in accordance with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties;<sup>75</sup>
68. To improve project information system, including through data sets and web-based data tools, to increase the accessibility of project information and allow for better tracking against the guidance from the Conference of the Parties;<sup>76</sup>
69. To consider the benefits to Parties, particularly small island developing States, of an appropriate balance between national and regional projects in the implementation of decisions of the Conference of the Parties;<sup>77</sup>

**Catalytic role and co-financing**

70. To mobilize co-financing and other modes of financing for its projects related to implementation of the Convention, and apply co-financing arrangements in ways that do not create unnecessary barriers and costs for recipient Parties to access GEF funds;<sup>78</sup>
71. To support diffusion, and facilitate replication and scaling-up, of new and innovative financing mechanism initiatives that have proved to be successful;<sup>79</sup>
72. To consider joint financing, in partnership with other international financial instruments, of projects designed to achieve the objectives of more than one Rio convention<sup>80</sup>;
73. To enhance its catalytic role in mobilizing new and additional financial resources while not compromising project goals;<sup>81</sup>

**Incremental costs**

74. To apply in a more flexible, pragmatic and transparent manner the incremental cost principle;<sup>82</sup>

**Sustainability**

75. To promote exchange of experience and lessons learned in addressing sustainability of funded projects on biological diversity;<sup>83</sup>

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<sup>72</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

<sup>73</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

<sup>74</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

<sup>75</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

<sup>76</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

<sup>77</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

<sup>78</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28; XIII/21, paragraph 21

<sup>79</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

<sup>80</sup> Decision XIII/21, paragraph 17

<sup>81</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

<sup>82</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

<sup>83</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

76. To further improve the sustainability of funded projects and programmes, including sustainable financing of protected areas;<sup>84</sup>

#### **Country ownership**

77. To promote genuine country ownership through greater involvement of participant countries in GEF-funded activities;<sup>85</sup>

78. To promote utilization of regional and local expertise and be flexible to accommodate national priorities and regional needs within the objectives of the Convention;<sup>86</sup>

79. To encourage collaboration at national level between national focal points for the Convention, for related environmental agreements and for the Global Environment Facility, including through the projects supported by the Facility, and including through regional and national workshops for the focal points;<sup>87</sup>

#### **Compliance and collaboration of agencies**

80. To promote efforts to ensure that the implementing agencies fully comply with the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria of the Conference of the Parties in their support for country-driven activities funded by the Global Environment Facility;<sup>88</sup>

81. To undertake efforts to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the process of cooperation and coordination between the implementing agencies with a view to improving the processing and delivery systems of the Global Environment Facility, and to avoid duplication and parallel processes;<sup>89</sup>

#### **Partnership**

82. To continue to improve the efficiency and accountability of the Global Environment Facility partnership;<sup>90</sup>

#### **Monitoring and evaluation**

83. To Consult with the Executive Secretary in relevant review processes undertaken by the Global Environment Facility that affect the financial mechanism of the Convention;<sup>91</sup>

84. To include in its monitoring and evaluation activities the assessment of the compliance with the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria established by the Conference of the Parties;<sup>92</sup>

85. To elaborate and transmit to the Conference of the Parties, well-summarized evaluation products and full evaluation reports relevant to biological diversity and to the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties;<sup>93</sup>

86. To include in its regular report findings, conclusions and recommendations of all relevant evaluations of the GEF Evaluation Office;<sup>94</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> Decision 14/23, para. 12(c)

<sup>85</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28; XIII/21, paragraph 6

<sup>86</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

<sup>87</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

<sup>88</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

<sup>89</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

<sup>90</sup> Decision 14/23, paragraph 12(d)

<sup>91</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

<sup>92</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

<sup>93</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

<sup>94</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28



**Efficiency**

87. To continue support for national implementation activities under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in an efficient manner, with a view to enabling Parties to enhance progress towards the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;<sup>95</sup>

**Small grants programme**

88. To continue expansion of the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environment Facility to other developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States;<sup>96</sup>

**Currency risks**

89. To consider exploring measures to mitigate possible risks, including currency risks, in order to avoid potential negative impacts on future replenishment periods for the provision of financial resources for all Global Environment Facility recipient countries, taking fully into account the provisions of paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 20 of the Convention;<sup>97</sup>

**Integrated approach**

90. To continue and further strengthen integrated programming as a means to harness opportunities for synergy in implementing related multilateral environmental agreements as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15;<sup>98</sup>

**Conflict resolution**

91. To promote awareness to the existing processes under the Conflict Resolution Commissioner to address complaints related to the operations of the financial mechanism;<sup>99</sup>

*Article 22. Relationship with other international conventions*

92. Projects and activities to improve synergies among relevant multilateral environment agreements;<sup>100</sup>

*Article 26. Reports*

93. Preparation of the future national reports,<sup>101</sup> in a timely and expeditious manner;<sup>102</sup>

**C. Eligibility criteria****Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>103</sup>**

94. Only developing countries that are Parties to the Convention are eligible to receive funding upon the entry into force of the Convention for them. In accordance with the provisions of the Convention, projects that seek to meet the objectives of conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components are eligible for financial support from the institutional structure.

95. The Global Environment Facility continues to provide financial resources to Parties with economies in transition for biodiversity-related projects.

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<sup>95</sup> Updated from Decision 14/23, paragraph 6

<sup>96</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

<sup>97</sup> Decision XIII/21, paragraphs 18, 19 and 20

<sup>98</sup> Decision XIII/21, paragraph 3; 14/30, paragraph 14; XIII/24, paragraph 7

<sup>99</sup> Decision 14/23, para. 12(b)

<sup>100</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 29

<sup>101</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 30

<sup>102</sup> Decision XIII/21, paragraph 27; XIII/27, paragraph 4; 14/27, paragraph 3(a)

<sup>103</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 31-32

**Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety<sup>104</sup>**

96. All developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, including countries among these that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, which are Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, are eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility.

97. All developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, including countries among these that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, which are Parties to the Convention and provide a clear political commitment towards becoming Parties to the Protocol, shall also be eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility for the development of national biosafety frameworks and the development of national biosafety clearing-houses and other necessary institutional capabilities to enable a non-Party to become a Party. Evidence of such political commitment shall take the form of a written assurance to the Executive Secretary that the country intends to become a Party to the Protocol on completion of the activities to be funded.

**Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing<sup>105</sup>**

98. All developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, which are Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, are eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility in accordance with its mandate.

99. Developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition that are Parties to the Convention and provide a clear political commitment towards becoming Parties to the Protocol, shall also be eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility for the development of national measures and institutional capabilities in order to enable them to become a Party. Evidence of such political commitment, accompanied by indicative activities and expected milestones, shall take the form of a written assurance to the Executive Secretary that the country intends to become a Party to the Nagoya Protocol on completion of the activities to be funded.

**D. Reporting from the GEF Council to the Conference of the Parties****Timing**

100. The report from the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties should be made available three months prior to an ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties as well as with updates as appropriate, and in accordance with rules 28 and 54 of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary should make it available in all six official languages of the United Nations.<sup>106</sup>

**Preliminary draft**

101. The Global Environment Facility should make available a preliminary draft of its report to the Conference of the Parties, particularly focusing on the response of the Global Environment Facility to previous guidance from the Conference of the Parties, to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation prior to the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which the report will be formally considered, with a view to promoting effective and timely consideration of the information provided in the report.<sup>107</sup>

**Comprehensiveness and conciseness**

102. The Global Environment Facility should explore ways to balance the comprehensiveness and conciseness of the report of the Global Environment Facility, acknowledging the need to demonstrate progress in programming resources towards achievement of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.<sup>108</sup>

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<sup>104</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraphs 33-34

<sup>105</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraphs 35-36

<sup>106</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 37

<sup>107</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 40

<sup>108</sup> Updated from Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 41

**Results-based reporting**

103. The Global Environment Facility should improve results-based reporting on the total contribution of the Global Environment Facility to achieving the objectives of the Convention, including the Facility's contribution to incremental-cost financing and leveraging co-financing.<sup>109</sup>

**Report on four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities**

104. The Global Environment Facility should report on its implementation of the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities and how it responds to the individual elements.<sup>110</sup>

105. The Global Environment Facility should include information regarding the individual elements of the consolidated guidance, in particular the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities, in its future reports to the Conference of the Parties<sup>111</sup>;

**Reporting on needs assessment results**

106. The Global Environment Facility should indicate in its report to the Conference of the Parties, how it plans to respond to the report on the determination of funding requirements, pursuant to paragraph 5.2 of the Memorandum of Understanding.<sup>112</sup>

107. The Global Environment Facility will in its regular report to the Conference of Parties indicate how it has responded during the replenishment cycle to the previous assessment by the Conference of the Parties.<sup>113</sup>

**Transparency**

108. The Global Environment Facility, in response to the concerns of the Parties on transparency of the process of approving Global Environment Facility projects, should include in its report to the Conference of the Parties, information regarding paragraph 3.3(d) of the Memorandum of Understanding<sup>114</sup>;

**Safeguards**

109. The Global Environment Facility should inform the Conference of the Parties about how it is taking into account the Convention's voluntary guidelines on safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms;<sup>115</sup>

**Co-financing**

110. The Global Environment Facility should include the information regarding progress in implementing the new co-financing policy in its report to the Conference of the Parties;<sup>116</sup>

**Agencies**

111. The Global Environment Facility should include the information regarding performance of the Global Environment Facility's network of agencies in its report to the Conference of the Parties<sup>117</sup>

**E. Review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism**

112. The review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism will be conducted every four years and this review should coincide with the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.<sup>118</sup>

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<sup>109</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 38

<sup>110</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 39

<sup>111</sup> Decision XIII/21, paragraph 5

<sup>112</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 42

<sup>113</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 47; XIII/21, paragraph 15

<sup>114</sup> Decision XIII/21, paragraphs 22 and 23

<sup>115</sup> Decision 14/23, paragraph 3; 14/15, paragraph 6

<sup>116</sup> Decision 14/23, para. 12(e)(i)

<sup>117</sup> Decision 14/23, paragraph 12(e)(ii)

<sup>118</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 43

#### **F. Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund**

113. The updated list of developed country Parties and other Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country Parties in accordance with Article 20, paragraph 2 of the Convention, is contained in the annex to decision VIII/18.<sup>119</sup>

114. The developed country Parties and others are invited to increase their financial contributions through the financial mechanism during the replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund.<sup>120</sup>

115. The Global Environment Facility is urged, in the process of replenishment, to give due consideration to all aspects of the needs assessment report on the levels of funding for biodiversity.<sup>121</sup>

#### **G. Inter-Secretariat cooperation**

116. Participation of a representative of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention and of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility is requested in respective meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel on a reciprocal basis.<sup>122</sup>

117. The Executive Secretary should promote, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility, exchange of experience and good practice in financing for biological diversity.<sup>123</sup>

118. The Executive Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility should continue to strengthen inter-secretariat cooperation and collaborate with the Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility and the Global Environment Facility agencies.<sup>124</sup>

119. The Executive Secretary is encouraged to work closely with the Global Environment Facility in the transition to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;<sup>125</sup>

120. The Executive Secretary is encouraged to work closely with agencies associated with the Global Environment Facility in the transition to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, taking into account the need to promote greater synergies between the Global Environment Facility and other financing mechanisms.<sup>126</sup>

#### *Annex II B*

### **ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE TO THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

#### **Planning, monitoring, reporting and review**

1. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility and its agencies to make funds available in a timely and expeditious manner to all eligible countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States to support the updating or revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and to support the preparation of national reports, so that Parties may begin implementation as soon as possible after the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

#### **Biodiversity and agriculture**

2. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, other donors, funding agencies and the private sector to provide financial assistance, including capacity-building and development activities, for national, subnational and regional

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<sup>119</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 44

<sup>120</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 45

<sup>121</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraphs 46, 48; XIII/21, paragraph 16; 14/23, paragraph 1

<sup>122</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 49

<sup>123</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 50

<sup>124</sup> Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 51

<sup>125</sup> Decision 14/23, paragraph 18

<sup>126</sup> Decision 14/23, paragraph 19

projects, for developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, that address the implementation of the plan of action for the conservation and sustainable use of soil biodiversity;

### **Biodiversity and health**

3. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its mandate, as appropriate, to consider providing technical and financial support for mainstreaming biodiversity and health linkages;

### **Gender Plan of Action**

4. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility and relevant bilateral and multilateral funding organizations to provide technical and financial support as well as capacity-building and development, for implementation of the gender plan of action;

### **Engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**

5. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to consider further expanding and strengthening its sustainable cities initiatives in its future replenishments, and piloting land- and seascape level initiatives targeted at subnational and local governance, infrastructure, biodiversity-inclusive spatial and land-use planning, and urban-rural linkages, in accordance with the priorities identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

### **Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework**

6. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to support national, regional and global biodiversity monitoring systems, recognizing the need for enhanced international cooperation and capacity-building especially for developing countries;

### **Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation**

7. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to support eligible activities of the regional and/or subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global coordination entity contributing to technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, and capacity-building and development at global, regional, subregional and national levels, as appropriate;

### **Resource mobilization**

8. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to support the development and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar planning instruments to support efforts by recipient countries to mobilize domestic and international resources to reach their national goals as defined in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and to contribute to the global biodiversity framework;

### **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**

9. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility:

(a) To strengthen its funding programme dedicated to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to support eligible Parties in implementing the Protocol and its implementation plan and capacity-building action plan;

(b) To improve and simplify the modalities for access to its funding for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to support eligible Parties in the implementation of the Protocol, its implementation plan and the capacity-building action plan;

(c) To continue to make funds available in a timely manner to support eligible Parties in preparing and submitting their fifth national reports;

(d) To continue to assist eligible Parties in undertaking activities in the following areas: development and implementation of legal, administrative and other measures to implement the Protocol; risk assessment and risk management; detection and identification of living modified organisms; public awareness, education and participation; socioeconomic considerations; liability and redress; national reporting; information sharing and the Biosafety Clearing-House; and knowledge and technology transfer; and the implementation of compliance action plans regarding the achievement of compliance with the Protocol;

10. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility Council to examine the possibility to create a finance window specifically for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

## **Nagoya Protocol**

11. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue providing and enhancing support for joint projects, at global, regional or national levels, in order to maximize synergies and opportunities for cost-effective sharing of resources, information, experiences and expertise;

12. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to make financial resources available in a timely manner to eligible Parties to assist them in meeting their reporting obligation under the Protocol;

### *Annex III*

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SIXTH REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM**

### **Objectives**

1. In accordance with Article 21, paragraph 3, and building upon the experience of the past five reviews, the Conference of the Parties will undertake its sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism at its sixteenth meeting and take appropriate action to improve the effectiveness of the mechanism as necessary. For this purpose, effectiveness will include:

(a) The conformity of the activities of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as the institutional structure operating the financial mechanism, with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) The effectiveness of the financial mechanism in providing and mobilizing financial resources to enable developing country Parties, [in accordance with Article 20] [in particular least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), and countries with economies in transition, also taking into consideration the special situation of developing countries, including those that are most environmentally vulnerable, such as those with arid and semi-arid zones, coastal and mountainous areas,], [in particular least developed country Parties and small island developing State Parties.] [and Parties with economies in transition] [in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition to meet the agreed full incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols and to benefit from its provisions, taking into account the need for predictability, adequacy and timely flow of funds;

(c) The effectiveness of mobilizing financial resources from all sources to support national implementation, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national biodiversity finance plans, of the Convention and its protocols. The efficiency of the financial mechanism in providing and mobilizing financial resources, as well as, in accordance with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, overseeing, monitoring and evaluating the activities financed by its resources, as appropriate;

(d) The effectiveness of catalysing and enhancing national implementation measures for achieving global biodiversity goals and targets, including those that relate to the Protocols;

(d) bis. The efficiency and effectiveness of the activities funded by the Global Environment Facility on the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of its three objectives, as well as, as applicable, of the Protocols under the Convention, taking into account the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties;

(e) The efficiency and effectiveness of supporting implementation of Sustainable Development Goals that contribute to achieving the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols;

(f) The efficiency and effectiveness of processes and procedures for the deployment of resources for programmes;

(g) The effectiveness and efficiency in supporting the objectives of the Convention and its protocols in synergy with implementation of other pertinent multilateral environmental agreements, in a manner that is consistent with the mandates of respective multilateral environmental agreements.

### **Methodology**

2. The review will cover all the activities of the institutional structure operating as the financial mechanism, in particular for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2022.

3. The review shall draw upon, inter alia, the following sources of information:

- (a) Reports prepared by GEF, including its reports to the Conference of the Parties;
- (b) Reports of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office that relate to GEF biodiversity activities, including its seventh comprehensive study (OPS7), as well as relevant assessments by the GEF agencies and other partners including the most recent audit reports and management responses related to GEF projects;
- (c) Information provided by Parties regarding the financial mechanism, through national reports and other submissions, responses to surveys and interviews;
- (d) Information provided by indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth and relevant stakeholders related to GEF-funded projects.

### Criteria

4. The effectiveness and efficiency of the financial mechanism shall be assessed taking into account, inter alia:
- (a) The actions taken by the GEF in response to the guidance of the Conference of the Parties;
  - (b) The extent to which eligible countries receive timely, adequate and predictable funds to enable countries to meet the agreed full incremental cost to them of implementing measures that fulfil the obligations under the Convention and its protocols, that generate global environmental benefits;<sup>127</sup>
  - (c) Information provided by Parties related to performance in delivering of GEF projects, including effectiveness and efficiency of access modalities and competence and capacity required to use these modalities;
  - (d) Percentage of recipient countries that have received financial support from the financial mechanism to implement global biodiversity goals and targets, including those related to the Protocols of the Convention;
  - (e) Percentage of biodiversity funding through the financial mechanism to support the achievement of the goals and targets;
  - (f) Trend in co-financing and non-grant financing in the biodiversity area enabled by the financial mechanism;
  - (g) Trend in financing global, regional and subregional biodiversity projects under the financial mechanism;
  - (h) Trend in project and programme financing taking into consideration synergies among conventions that have designated the GEF to operate their financial mechanism;
  - (i) Trend in project financing targeted at biodiversity-related conventions and agreements taking into consideration synergies between them;
  - (j) Trend in timeframes for project development and resource disbursement, including time between the approval of the concept notes (PIF) and the first disbursement;
  - (k) Trend in project financing targeted at, and/or led by indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;
  - (l) Trend in the number of capacity-building activities that enable Parties and stakeholders to access to GEF financing, including information events on the financial mechanism organized for the Parties and stakeholders of the Convention and its Protocols;
  - (m) Trend in project financing leading to high sustainability or durability ratings and results achieved from GEF supported biodiversity programming in relation to expected results planned by the GEF through this programming;

### Procedures for implementation

5. Under the authority of the Conference of the Parties and in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary will, subject to the availability of resources, contract an experienced independent evaluator to undertake the review, in accordance with the above objectives, methodology and criteria.

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<sup>127</sup> Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, September 2019. <http://www.thegef.org/publications/instrument-establishment-restructured-gef-2019>.

6. The evaluator will undertake such desk studies, questionnaire survey, interviews, and field visits, as may be required, and collaborate with the GEF and its Independent Evaluation Office, if necessary, for the implementation of the review, and prepare a compilation and synthesis of the information received.
7. The draft synthesis report and recommendations of the evaluator will be made available to GEF for its review and comments. Such comments will be included in the documentation and identified by source.
8. Based on the synthesis report and recommendations of the independent evaluator, the Executive Secretary will prepare, in consultation with GEF, a draft decision on the sixth review of the financial mechanism, including specific suggestions for action to improve the effectiveness of the mechanism if necessary, for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting to provide its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.
9. The Executive Secretary will submit all the relevant documents to Parties at least three months prior to the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

*Annex IV*

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A FULL ASSESSMENT OF THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS NEEDED FOR  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS FOR THE NINTH  
REPLENISHMENT PERIOD OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY TRUST FUND**

**Objective**

1. The objective of the work to be carried out under the present terms of reference is to enable the Conference of the Parties to make an assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention and its Protocols, in particular to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, over the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and determine the amount of resources needed, in accordance with Article 21, paragraph 1 and decision III/8.

**Scope**

2. The assessment of funding needs for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols should be comprehensive and primarily directed towards assessing total funding needs required to meet the agreed full incremental costs of measures that developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition that are eligible for GEF support may implement, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, in order to fulfil their obligations under the Convention and its Protocols, in particular to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, for the period July 2026 to June 2030.

**Methodology**

3. The funding needs assessment should take into account:
  - (a) Article 20, paragraph 2, and Article 21, paragraph 1, of the Convention, as well as the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
  - (b) Guidance to the financial mechanism from the Conference of the Parties which calls for future financial resources;
  - (c) All obligations under the Convention and its Protocols and relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties;
  - (d) The information communicated to the Conference of the Parties in the national reports, information provided by the Parties through the financial reporting framework and information from the advisory committee on resource mobilization;
  - (e) Rules and guidelines agreed by the Council of the Global Environment Facility for determining eligibility for funding of projects;
  - (f) National strategies, plans or programmes developed in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention;
  - (g) Experience to date, including limitations and successes of projects funded by the Global Environment Facility, as well as the performance of the Facility and its implementing and executing agencies;



- (h) Synergies with other biodiversity-related conventions and other GEF-funded Conventions, including those with respect to operations and impacts;
- (i) The strategy for resource mobilization;
- (j) The report of the Panel of Experts on Resource Mobilization concerning estimation of resources needed for implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and other relevant estimations;
- (k) National biodiversity strategies and action plans and national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments, where available;
- (l) Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 17 (strengthen the means of implementation).

#### **Procedures for implementation**

4. Under the authority and with the support of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary shall contract a team of three or five-experts, subject to the availability of resources, with equal representation from developing country Parties and developed country Parties, and one from international non-governmental organizations, to prepare a report on the full assessment of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention for the period July 2026 to June 2030, in accordance with the above objective and methodology.
5. In preparing the assessment report, the expert team should undertake such interviews, surveys, quantitative and qualitative analyses, and consultation, as may be required, including:
  - (a) Compilation and analysis of the needs identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national biodiversity finance plans, including country-specific resource mobilization strategies, prepared by GEF-eligible and other relevant Parties pursuant to Article 6 of the Convention;
  - (b) Review of reports submitted by Parties pursuant to Articles 6 and 26 of the Convention to identify funding needs in fulfilment of their obligations under the Convention and, as appropriate, its Protocols;
  - (c) Estimated financial implications of guidance to the financial mechanism from the Conference of the Parties including support to the establishment of the global biodiversity framework fund;
  - (d) Experience to date in the provision of funds by the financial mechanism for each replenishment period;
  - (e) Compilation and analysis of any supplementary information provided by GEF-eligible and other relevant Parties on their funding needs for the implementation of their obligations under the Convention and its Protocols.
6. The Global Environment Facility and the Executive Secretary shall conduct a review of the draft assessment reports of the expert team to ensure accuracy and consistency of data and approach as specified in these terms of reference.
7. The Executive Secretary shall ensure that the assessment report of the expert team will be distributed to all Parties at least one month before the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.
8. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting should consider the expert team's assessment report as well as information from the advisory committee on resource mobilization and make recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.
9. The Conference of the Parties, at its sixteenth meeting, will take a decision on this assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols for the ninth replenishment period of the GEF Trust Fund, and communicate the results to GEF accordingly.

#### **Consultation process**

10. In preparing the assessment report, the expert team should consult widely with all relevant sources of information deemed useful, particularly in developing country Parties through the CBD National Focal Points.
11. The expert team should design a questionnaire on funding needs for the period July 2026 to June 2030, in consultation with the Secretariat and GEF, and circulate it to all developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, in particular through the CBD National Focal Points and the GEF Operational Focal Points, and include the results in the assessment report.
12. Interviews and consultation meetings should be organized with participation of relevant key stakeholders, including major groups of Parties, the Convention Secretariat, as well as the secretariat, the Independent Evaluation Office and the agencies of GEF.

13. As far as possible, the expert team should endeavour to undertake regional and subregional consultations, in a balanced manner, taking advantage of regional and subregional workshops organized by the secretariats of the Convention and the Global Environment Facility during the study period.

14. The approaches to assessing the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols should be transparent, reliable and replicable, and demonstrate clear incremental cost reasoning in accordance with Article 20, paragraph 2, taking into consideration information gathered from other international funds serving conventions and information submitted by Parties in the application of the concept of incremental costs as well as current rules and guidelines of the Global Environment Facility as approved by the Council of the Global Environment Facility.

15. On the basis of experience with the preparation of the current needs assessment report, the expert team will make recommendations to the Executive Secretary for the elements and modalities of an online system to facilitate submissions by relevant Parties for future needs assessments.

16. The expert team should address additional issues that may be raised by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation during its consideration of the assessment report at its fourth meeting.

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