Council of the European Union

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Preparation of the Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the CBD (Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 6 to 17 October 2014)

Preparation of the Seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 7) (Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 29 September to 3 October 2014)

Preparation of the First meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (COP-MOP 1) (Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 6 to 17 October 2014)

-Council conclusions-

Environment Council meeting
Luxembourg, 12 June 2014

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. CONFIRMS that the EU and its Member States are strongly committed to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its related Protocols as well as of the decisions adopted by their governing bodies, in particular the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets ('the Strategic Plan');

2. RECALLS the commitments made in Hyderabad (India) in 2012 at CBD COP 11 and Cartagena Protocol COP-MOP 6 and the commitment, made in its conclusions of 11 June 2012, to ratify and implement the Nagoya Protocol and UNDERLINES the importance of the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol in time for the first meeting of the Parties to be held concurrently with CBD COP 12;

3. ALSO RECALLS that the UN Conference on Sustainable Development ("Rio+20"), inter alia, reaffirmed the intrinsic value of biological diversity, as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential services, which are critical foundations for sustainable development, human well-being and poverty eradication;

4. CALLS for the objectives of the CBD and those of the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Targets to be reflected, as appropriate, in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets and indicators and STRESSES the need for the post-2015 framework to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and to tackle the causes of loss of biodiversity;

5. WELCOMES the initiative of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host a high-level segment on the theme "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development" in the context of COP 12;

CHAPTER I
Convention on Biological Diversity

Progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

6. WELCOMES the opportunity for CBD COP 12 and subsequent meetings to assess progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, and to decide on further action needed to enhance its implementation and ensure that the Aichi Targets will be met;

7. WELCOMES the progress made by the EU and its Member States in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, including through updates of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and the reinforced implementation of those plans as a contribution towards the achievement of the Aichi Targets; and RECOGNISES the role of local and regional authorities in advancing progress in implementing the Strategic Plan and achieving the Aichi Targets;

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2 Doc. 11189/12.
3 Decision X/22: Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity.
8. NOTES the achievements in the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and the importance of its midterm review in 2015, including the further development of the Natura 2000 network of protected areas both on land and at sea, the incoming legislation on invasive alien species, the development of the EU Strategy on Green infrastructure \(^4\) and the EU Forest Strategy \(^5\) and its forthcoming implementation plan, the initiative for biodiversity in the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories (‘BEST’), and the continued efforts with a view to integration and mainstreaming into other relevant sectoral policies; and STRESSES the need for all CBD Parties to update their NBSAPs, where necessary, and accelerate their implementation to meet the mission, goals and targets of the Strategic Plan by 2020;

9. REAFFIRMING the mission of the Strategic Plan, STRESSES the need for effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient, and continue to provide essential services; HIGHLIGHTS the substantial economic and social benefits to be gained from conserving, sustainably using, restoring in so far as feasible, maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and related ecosystem services; EMPHASISES that incorporating their full values into the decision-making processes, including the promotion of such integration into accounting and reporting systems, will contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and better management of natural capital; and CALLS for further efforts to develop and apply methods for assessing the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services;

10. HIGHLIGHTS the need for effective cooperation at all levels between the biodiversity-related conventions and agreements and TAKES NOTE of the activities of the Biodiversity Liaison Group to enhance coordination, coherence and national-level synergies among them;

Resource mobilisation

11. STRESSES the need for all CBD Parties to mobilise resources, including from the private sector and other stakeholders, and use the available resources efficiently and in an integrated manner; RECOGNISES the need to complement finance by other efforts, including capacity building, enhanced resource management, investment of time and the sharing of approaches to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss; and REITERATES the need for all CBD Parties to increase efforts to mainstream biodiversity across their policy frameworks;

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4 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions 'Green Infrastructure (GI) — Enhancing Europe’s Natural Capital' (doc. 9436/13).

5 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions 'A new EU Forest Strategy: for forests and the forest-based sector' (doc. 13834/13).
12. EMPHASISES the need to substantially increase resources (financial, human, technical and institutional) from all possible sources, including innovative financial mechanisms, for biodiversity globally to achieve the Hyderabad commitments; REAFFIRMS that the EU and its Member States, together, commit to contribute to doubling total biodiversity-related financial resource flows from a variety of sources to developing countries, in particular least developed countries and Small Island Developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, by 2015, using as reference level the average of annual biodiversity funding for the years 2006-2010 as stipulated in Decision XI/4, and at least maintaining this level until 2020 and to include biodiversity in national prioritisation and planning;

13. EMPHASISES the importance of the resource mobilisation preliminary targets agreed in Hyderabad in Decision XI/4 including those related to the inclusion of biodiversity in national priorities and development plans, the reporting of domestic biodiversity expenditure, and the assessment and/or evaluation of the various values of biodiversity and its components and CALLS for the finalisation of resource mobilisation targets at CBD COP 12, including the adoption of the preliminary international target referred to in paragraph 12 above as final, building upon the other targets included in paragraph 7 of Decision XI/4 and keeping the achievement of these targets under review;

14. RECALLS in particular that robust baselines and an effective and coherent reporting framework are needed in line with Decision X/3; and COMMITS to report on biodiversity-related financing flows using the preliminary reporting framework, to identify ways to further improve this framework and to build capacity in developing countries for reporting activities;

15. STRESSES the need to increasingly harmonise the CBD reporting framework and existing and new measurements, definitions and statistics terms used by global and regional accounting and statistical processes driven in particular by the United Nations, World Bank, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and EU;

16. STRESSES the importance of domestic resource mobilisation and, in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action, the need for a country driven prioritisation of biodiversity in development plans and strategies; and HIGHLIGHTS, in that context, the benefits of mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into key sectors;

17. EMPHASISES the importance of using a range of financial mechanisms as part of the toolbox to address resource mobilisation for biodiversity; STRESSES the need to promote and further develop good examples of financial mechanisms in the context of the CBD that countries can draw upon to address their own national circumstances;

18. CALLS for COP 12 to support the implementation of Goal 4 of the Strategy for Resource Mobilisation according to national or locally specific circumstances and the development of appropriate environmental and social safeguards to ensure that the financial mechanisms contribute to positive impacts on biodiversity;

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6 Goal 4: Explore new and innovative financial mechanisms at all levels with a view to increasing funding to support the three objectives of the Convention (Decision IX/11).
19. STRESSES that all the above should be reflected in a coherent and balanced CBD COP 12 decision on resource mobilisation;

20. WELCOMES the focus of the second phase of the High-Level Panel on global assessment of resources for implementing the Strategic Plan on finding cost-effective means of meeting the Aichi Targets and providing bottom up evidence and examples of good practice from different regions around the world and LOOKS FORWARD to its findings and recommendations;

21. MINDFUL of Decision XI/5 and the four year outcome-orientated framework for biodiversity, WELCOMES the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and the continued efforts to support developing countries in tackling loss of biodiversity;

*Marine and coastal biodiversity*

22. STRESSES the need for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ); and EMPHASISES its commitment to make significant progress to meet the Aichi Target 11;

23. RECALLS the commitment of the EU and its Member States to the launching, as soon as possible, of negotiations in the framework of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) of a UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) implementing agreement for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity, in particular addressing the following issues together and as a whole: marine genetic resources including questions on the sharing of benefits, area-based management tools including marine protected areas (MPAs), environmental impact assessments, capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology;

24. NOTES the on-going discussions in the UNGA's Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction ('the BBNJ Working Group') on the "scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument under the Convention" in order to prepare for the decision on an UNCLOS implementing agreement, in line with the commitment taken in 'The Future We Want', to be taken by the UNGA;

25. HIGHLIGHTS the need for the effective and full implementation of relevant existing commitments and on-going processes, in particular the CBD Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity; RECALLS the commitment under the Aichi Target 10, that by 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimised, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning;
26. CONCERNED about major pressures and threats on marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems resulting from marine litter, destructive fishing practices, ocean acidification, anthropogenic underwater noise, and coral bleaching, EMPHASISES the need to reduce these pressures, globally as well as within the EU, also by considering the goals of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive\(^7\) and in this respect WELCOMES the updated synthesis of the impacts of ocean acidification on marine biodiversity with a view to strengthening international cooperation to develop appropriate responses; WELCOMES the adoption by the IMO MEPC 66 \(^8\) of the “Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life” encouraging their full implementation; REAFFIRMS the commitment of the RIO+20 declaration “The Future We Want” to significantly reduce marine debris by 2025, also through the implementation of adequate measures by the Regional Sea Conventions;

27. UNDERLINES the importance of continuing the on-going process in the context of the CBD for the description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) and STRESSES the need for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its eighteenth session (SBSTTA 18) to pursue the process by considering the reports of the regional workshops on EBSAs, and for COP 12 to request the Executive Secretary of the CBD to include areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs in the repository and to submit them to the UNGA and in particular its BBNJ Working Group;

28. EMPHASISES the urgency of all Parties reaching sustainable exploitation levels of marine living resources set out in the Aichi Target 6 and RECALLS that the EU adopted new objectives for its Common Fisheries Policy compatible with the Aichi Target 6;

29. STRESSES the need to support ecosystem-based management of oceans and seas, taking into account the availability of data and information to implement this approach, and to disseminate information and best practices on the experience and use of maritime spatial planning, Integrated Coastal Management and the results achieved including through the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive;

*Invasive alien species*

30. WELCOMES the initial progress made by the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership on the issue of pathways of introduction, REITERATES the request for a study on the most predominant pathways and its commitment to contribute to achieving the Aichi Target 9 on Invasive Alien Species within the EU as well as globally; IS READY to share with other CBD Parties future developments on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species at EU level; and IS CONVINCED that the forthcoming entry into force of the Union legislation on invasive alien species will contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Target 9;


\(^8\) The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), 66th session, London, 31 March to 4 April 2014.
Operation of the Convention and Cooperation

31. STRESSES the need to improve the efficiency of the CBD and its Protocols with a view to achieving their objectives in a more coherent, efficient and cost-effective way, including by increasing synergies between the CBD and its Protocols; and HIGHLIGHTS the importance of completing the functional review of the CBD Secretariat and considering options for pursuing operational efficiencies, including with regard to issues such as the frequency, duration and organisation of the meetings of the COP and COP-MOP and of their subsidiary bodies, better organisation of inter-sessional and intra-sessional work, and improved and more coherent reporting framework, database systems and open access to the data and results;

32. HIGHLIGHTS that greater cooperation and synergy at all levels is needed to address relevant environmental issues in a mutually reinforcing manner, optimising opportunities and resources in on-going global processes within the three Rio Conventions 9, as part of the current development of the "post-2015 agenda" and with regard to all other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and processes and SUPPORTS enhanced cooperation with other organisations such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), and other relevant international processes;

33. WELCOMES the continued cooperation between the CBD and international and regional organisations mandated to regulate activities in ABNJ or to protect the marine environment, e.g. the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Seabed Authority (ISA), Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and Regional Seas Conventions;

34. IS DEEPLY CONCERNED about the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s Working Group II in its contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report ("Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability"), and URGES CBD Parties to take steps to address all biodiversity-related impacts of climate change, strengthen synergies with relevant work under the UNFCCC and apply advice agreed in Hyderabad in 2012 on the application of social and environmental safeguards, including biodiversity, and ENCOURAGES CBD Parties to maximise the biodiversity-related benefits of their REDD+ activities;

35. HIGHLIGHTS the work carried out to date in the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) promoting sustainable forest management worldwide and its interlinkages with the Strategic Plan and RECOGNISES the role played by the CBD Secretariat as a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and of the targeted joint activities under the memorandum of understanding with the UNFF Secretariat; WELCOMES the fact that CBD processes provide input to the on-going review of the effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests;

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9 CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD.
**Indigenous and Local Communities**

36. NOTEs the recommendation from the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) to the CBD to adopt the new terminology “Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities” and the use of the term “indigenous peoples” in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Rio+20 outcome document “The Future We Want”;

37. NOTEs that many Parties expressed a willingness to use this terminology in future decisions and secondary documents under the CBD and its Protocols and that some Parties need further information on, and analysis of, the legal implications of it and in this regard WELCOMES the request for an independent analysis by the CBD Secretariat, including advice from the UN Office of Legal Affairs to facilitate further consideration of the matter; and LOOKS FORWARD to the independent analysis in order to decide on this issue at COP 12;

38. STRESSES that any decision on this issue at COP 12 cannot be interpreted as an intention to reopen or change the text of the CBD and/or its related Protocols;

**Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**

39. WELCOMES the ambitious work programme of the IPBES (2014-2018) adopted at the second Plenary Session in Antalya, Turkey, in December 2013; WELCOMES all current pledges and ENCOURAGES further contributions to the implementation of the work programme; RECOGNISES the important role of IPBES in supporting the implementation and achievement of the Aichi Targets and the need to promote strong and effective synergies between IPBES, the CBD, other MEAs, and other international bodies' programmes and initiatives in order to take full advantage of the activities undertaken by IPBES and to avoid any duplication of efforts;

**CHAPTER II**

**Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**

40. STRESSES the importance of effective implementation of the Protocol by all Parties and WELCOMES the Special Session on Implementation to be held at COP-MOP 7;

41. WELCOMES the progress achieved during the inter-sessional period between COP-MOP 6 and COP-MOP 7 on socio-economic considerations through the online forums and regional online conferences as well as the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Socio-Economic Considerations ('the AHTEG on Socio-economic Considerations');

42. REITERATES the crucial importance of environmental risk assessment when making decisions related to LMOs in order to identify and evaluate their possible effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account risks to human health, and WELCOMES the inter-sessional activities of the open-ended online forums and the AHTEG on Risk Assessment and Risk Management;

43. REITERATES the crucial importance for all Parties to register with the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) all information needed for effective implementation of the Protocol;
44. CONSIDERS that progress needs to be made in preparing for the third assessment and review of the Protocol, taking into account the experiences of the Parties in complying with the Protocol and the input of, i.a., the Compliance Committee, by agreeing on a proportionate and cost-effective methodological approach focusing primarily on the effectiveness of the institutional processes, annexes, procedures and mechanisms of the Protocol;

45. REITERATES its continued commitment to supporting capacity-building activities as one important tool for the effective implementation of the Cartagena Protocol; UNDERLINES in this context the importance of the Framework and Action Plan for capacity-building and ENcourAGES Parties to include biosafety in their NBSAPs and Relevant Sectorial and Cross-Sectorial Policies, Plans and Programmes to meet the mission, goals and targets of the Strategic Plan by 2020 under the Convention;

46. STRESSES the importance of expediting the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress;

47. CALLS for COP-MOP 7 to take the necessary steps and decisions to further strengthen and implement the Cartagena Protocol framework by:

   a) deciding on appropriate further steps, based on the results of the AHTEG on Socio-economic Considerations, towards fulfilling operational objective 1.7 of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2011-2020) and its outcomes;

   b) deciding on targeted, effective and realistic ways forward to support the implementation by all Parties of the risk assessment and risk management provisions under the Cartagena Protocol, based on and acknowledging the outcomes of the open-ended online forums and the AHTEG on Risk Assessment and Risk Management;

   c) making use of the work of the Compliance Committee, in particular of its supporting role to assist Parties in achieving compliance and its contribution to the third evaluation of the effectiveness of the Protocol;

   d) encouraging more and more effective utilisation of the BCH by all stakeholders in order to facilitate access to information on biosafety and to enhance the exchange of experience relevant to the implementation of the Protocol;

   e) considering appropriate follow-up to the compiled information from the Parties on the implementation of the requirements under Article 17 of the Protocol on unintentional transboundary movements of LMOs;

   f) considering appropriate follow-up to the experience gained regarding the implementation of the requirements of Article 18 of the Protocol on handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs;

   g) agreeing on a realistic budget consistent with the agreed strategic priorities, functions and programme of work, for the effective implementation of the Cartagena Protocol;
h) ensuring strategic, efficient and responsive use of the available financial mechanism to support capacity-building projects at national, regional and sub-regional levels;

i) encouraging non-Parties to join the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol; and

j) addressing the effectiveness of the Protocol as part of an overarching approach that includes the CBD and its Protocols, with a view to achieving their objectives in a more coherent, efficient and cost-effective way; and providing input to the discussions at CBD COP 12 on the implementation of the Protocol and the improvement of the efficiency of structures and processes under the CBD and its Protocols;

CHAPTER III
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing

48. HIGHLIGHTS that the EU has put in place legislation on compliance measures for users of genetic resources in accordance with the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol; ANTICIPATES the forthcoming entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol and the achievement of the Aichi Target 16 and ENCOURAGES its full implementation to ensure legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users;

49. NOTES that the EU Regulation on compliance measures for users from the Nagoya Protocol\(^\text{10}\) provides a framework for the actions of users of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources within the Union and is complemented by enforcement measures provided by Member States; further NOTES that effective implementation will require supportive policy measures, secondary legislation and additional guidance for users and UNDERLINES the importance of putting all measures into place as soon as possible;

50. CALLS UPON all Parties to the CBD to speed up the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and URGES Member States to maintain their efforts to ratify it as soon as possible;

51. AFFIRMS THE COMMITMENT of the EU together with the Member States to participate actively in the First meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing;

52. UNDERLINES the readiness of the EU together with its Member States to further contribute to the substantive international work that is essential for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, in particular to have the ABS Clearing-House operational when the Nagoya Protocol enters into force, as well as other essential elements for its functioning such as capacity-building, awareness-raising and the establishment of procedures and mechanisms to promote compliance;

53. ENCOURAGES Parties to continue to actively participate in the pilot phase of the ABS Clearing-House, to upload and publish the information required by the Nagoya Protocol on access, for compliance purposes and information sharing in the ABS Clearing-House; and RECOGNISES that the ABS Clearing-House is an essential element in devising a lean and effective reporting and monitoring system under Article 29 of the Nagoya Protocol, which should minimise the reporting burden on Parties;

54. STRESSES that it is important to ensure that the ABS Clearing-House remains a part of the Convention's Clearing-House Mechanism, as required by Article 14 paragraph 1 of the Nagoya Protocol, and remains inter-connected to other aspects of the CBD and vice versa in order to avoid duplication;

55. EMPHASISES that cooperative procedures and institutional mechanisms to promote compliance with the Protocol are major tools for ensuring the effectiveness and improvement of the compliance of Parties with the Nagoya Protocol and addressing cases of non-compliance and RECOGNISES that Indigenous and Local Communities, as defined under national legislations, are directly addressed by the Nagoya Protocol and that their role should be reflected in a future compliance mechanism;

56. BELIEVES that it is important to determine the areas where Parties need to increase their efforts and where capacity-building might be required; WELCOMES, therefore, the draft strategic framework for capacity-building and development and INVITES all Parties to consider the timeline of the framework for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;

57. STRESSES that the supportive instruments of model contractual clauses, best practices, and codes of conduct, among others, will be very important in the proper implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, and IS OF THE VIEW that such instruments should result from a dialogue between users and providers; ENCOURAGES EU users to develop, update and use these supportive tools; REITERATES that it is crucial to continue to make model contractual clauses available on the ABS Clearing-House; and HIGHLIGHTS the activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to foster the development of such supportive instruments with respect to Article 8 c) of the Nagoya Protocol; further BELIEVES that model contractual clauses should also play an important role in creating favourable conditions to promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;

58. EMPHASISES that the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol should be done in a way that is mutually supportive with other international instruments and that do not run counter to the objectives of the Nagoya Protocol or of the CBD, and in this context ENCOURAGES collaboration and coordination between the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA focal points, as appropriate."