

# Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

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Twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council/  
Global Ministerial Environment Forum  
Nairobi, 21–24 February 2011  
Agenda item 4 (a)

Policy issues: state of the environment

## Promoting South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development

### Draft decision submitted by the Group of 77 and China

*The Governing Council,*

*Recognizing* that biodiversity is a key social, environmental, economic, financial, cultural and strategic asset for developing countries and that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is critical for sustainable development and poverty eradication,

*Recalling* the outcomes of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation held in Nairobi in December 2009,

*Recalling also* resolution 64/1 of 6 October 2009, in which the General Assembly describes South-South cooperation as an important element of international cooperation for development that offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development and emphasizes that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but is complementary to, North-South cooperation,

*Recalling further* the Nusa Dua Declaration adopted by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in February 2010, which acknowledges that biodiversity is at the core of human existence,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* its decisions 24/12 and 25/9 on South-South cooperation in achieving sustainable development,

*Highlighting* that South-South and triangular cooperation with the support and partnership of developed countries leads to increased ownership of projects by developing countries and facilitates cost-effective and culturally and socially appealing solutions,

*Reiterating* the role of regional and interregional initiatives and of the United Nations as a catalyst and facilitator for South-South cooperation,

*Recalling* decision IX/25 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in which developing-country parties are encouraged to engage in South-South cooperation on the issue of biodiversity, complemented and supported by North-South cooperation, and to incorporate biodiversity concerns into regional and subregional cooperation agreements and associated activities, and parties are encouraged to establish, as appropriate, multi-stakeholder collaborative partnerships to address biodiversity concerns at the regional, subregional, national and subnational levels,

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1 UNEP/GCSS.XI/11, decision SS.XI/9.

*Acknowledging* the progress by the Group of 77 and China in preparing a multi-year plan of action for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development as a complement to the Development Platform for the South launched in June 2008 at the twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, held in Yamoussoukro,

*Recalling* decision X/23 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in which the Conference of the Parties welcomes the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development as adopted by the Group of 77 and China at the South-South Cooperation Forum held on 17 October 2010<sup>2</sup> as an important contribution to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020; invites parties, other Governments, regional organizations and their secretariats, international organizations, United Nations bodies, other Biodiversity Liaison Group members, the Rio conventions, donors, indigenous peoples' organizations, non-governmental organizations and centres of excellence to contribute further to the development of a multi-year plan of action; and invites the Global Environment Facility to consider establishing a South-South biodiversity cooperation trust fund, based on voluntary contributions, for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Executive Director on South-South cooperation in achieving sustainable development;<sup>3</sup>

2. *Also welcomes* the finalization of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development;

3. *Further welcomes* the offer of the Republic of Korea, through its National Institute of Biological Resources, to host an expert meeting in early 2011 to discuss further modalities of South-South and triangular cooperation and a road map towards the possible adoption of a plan at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

4. *Encourages* member States and other Governments to contribute further to the development and implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development;

5. *Calls upon* parties, international organizations, regional organizations, United Nations bodies, non-governmental organizations, donors, centres of excellence, Biodiversity Liaison Group members and the Rio conventions to promote South-South cooperation on biodiversity through enhanced coordination and dedicated resources, including by strengthening the capacities of relevant bodies such as the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

6. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to consider establishing a South-South cooperation trust fund, based on voluntary contributions, for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, in cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity, to support fully efforts to implement the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development within the proposed programme of work for the period 2012–2013, and to report to the Governing Council on progress in implementation at its twenty-seventh session.

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2 UNEP/CBD/COP/10/18/Add.1/Rev.1.

3 UNEP/GC.26/9.