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## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From: General Secretariat of the Council

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To: Delegations

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Subject: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

- a) Preparation of the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to the CBD (Cancun, Mexico, 4-17 December 2016)
  - b) Preparation of the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 8) (Cancun, Mexico, 4-17 December 2016)
  - c) Preparation of the 2nd Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (COP-MOP 2) (Cancun, Mexico, 4-17 December 2016)
- Council conclusions
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Delegations will find in the [Annex](#) the Council conclusions on the abovementioned CBD meetings, adopted by the Council at its 3491st meeting held on 17 October 2016.

**Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):**

**Preparation of the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to the CBD  
(Cancun, Mexico, 4 to 17 December 2016)**

**Preparation of the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD serving as the  
Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 8)  
(Cancun, Mexico, 4 to 17 December 2016)**

**Preparation of the 2nd Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD serving as the  
Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (COP-MOP 2)  
(Cancun, Mexico, 4 to 17 December 2016)**

**- Council 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 Protocols as well as of the decisions adopted by their governing bodies, in particular the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 ('the Strategic Plan') and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020;
2. WELCOMES the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) it contains; RECOGNISES that its implementation, and in particular that of Goals 14 and 15, should contribute to achieving the objectives of the CBD and the goals and targets of its Strategic Plan; and STRESSES the importance of the objectives of the CBD and the Strategic Plan for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

3. WELCOMES the concurrent organisation of COP 13, COP-MOP 2 and COP-MOP 8 as a way of enhancing integration and synergies among the CBD and its Protocols, and CALLS for further improvement of the efficiency of structures and processes under the CBD and its Protocols in order to increase awareness, facilitate implementation and improve cost-effectiveness;
4. WELCOMES the adoption of the Paris Agreement, which notes the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems and the conservation of biodiversity when taking action to address climate change, and STRESSES that the implementation of the Paris Agreement can also contribute to achieving the objectives of the CBD and vice versa;
5. STRESSES the importance of the mutually supportive implementation of the objectives of the CBD and its Strategic Plan and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and its ten-year strategic plan and framework (2008-2018);
6. WELCOMES the initiative of the Government of the United Mexican States to host a high-level segment, in the context of COP 13 in order to discuss ways to mainstream the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources into other sectors and into the implementation of the SDGs;

## **CHAPTER I**

### **Convention on Biological Diversity**

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

7. While welcoming the efforts and achievements already made and recognised in the fourth Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4), IS DEEPLY CONCERNED about the insufficient progress in implementing the Strategic Plan to achieve most of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and therefore CONSIDERS that actions should be intensified by all CBD Parties and stakeholders and that concrete decisions should be taken by COP 13;
8. EXPRESSES the need for COP 13 to request that the subsidiary bodies of the Convention take the steps needed for the follow-up to the current Strategic Plan, taking into account the broadest range of relevant sources of information and knowledge, including assessments by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES);
9. HIGHLIGHTS that COP 13 will be an important milestone in the review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan and an opportunity to raise the level of ambition in its implementation as well as to define actions supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; in this respect, URGES the Commission and the Member States to work towards effective and efficient coherence and complementarity in the implementation of these processes in the EU and globally;

10. **UNDERLINES** the importance of cooperation among biodiversity-related MEAs, the Rio Conventions, UNEP and other UN bodies; **EMPHASISES** that in order to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan, it is important that COP 13 continue work on enhancing synergies, coherence and effective cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements through relevant tools and means; and **STRESSES** the need to further develop and to prioritise options for action at global level, including through a road map;

*Mainstreaming of biodiversity*

11. With a view to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020, **HIGHLIGHTS** the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity within and across all sectors and policies, into urban and regional planning, including maritime and coastal planning, and into the health sector as cross-sector activities; **RECOGNISES** that agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry and tourism are key sectors with significant impacts on biodiversity and on the ecosystem services it provides; **ACKNOWLEDGES** that other sectors, including extractive industries such as oil and gas and mining, energy, infrastructure, manufacturing, and commercial and residential construction, also impact on biodiversity and on the ecosystem services it provides, and therefore also need to be addressed;
12. **CALLS** on the CBD and its Parties to promote more integrated policies, adequate incentives and practical approaches such as sustainable and ecological intensification and diversification of agriculture, agro-ecology and organic farming, so as to effectively contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides, sustainable food production and food security, and limit pressure on vulnerable ecosystems, and **ENCOURAGES** the EU and its Member States to implement the relevant international multilateral agreements, including the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;

13. CONSIDERS that mainstreaming biodiversity provides new opportunities for all economic sectors, including the private sector; STRESSES the need for businesses to improve their understanding of the benefits for their operations of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides; RECOGNISES the importance of legal instruments, good governance, including gender equality, and voluntary approaches for the mainstreaming of biodiversity into relevant sectors in order to ensure accountability and transparency in progress; and CALLS ON the business sector to increase its involvement in and contribution to achieving both the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the biodiversity-related SDGs, and to analyse and invest in improvements and report on their impacts, actions and investments related to biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides, sharing experiences and best practices, e.g. in the framework of Business and Biodiversity Platforms as well as other initiatives, such as the Natural Capital Protocol;
14. RECOGNISES the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and relevant funding mechanisms from all sources as key instruments for the mainstreaming of biodiversity into and across all relevant sectors;
15. STRESSES the importance of traditional knowledge, citizen science and knowledge-based tools, such as the mapping and assessment of ecosystem services and natural capital accounting, where appropriate, in the mainstreaming of biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides in sectors and in decision-making;
16. URGES the Commission and the Member States to further mainstream biodiversity considerations into the development and implementation of sectoral policies at all levels, including through incentives and other funding mechanisms and decision processes in line with CBD COP Decision XII/3 on resource mobilisation, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and Financing for Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; and URGES the Member States to continue working to achieve Aichi Target 3 on phasing out incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity and developing positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by 2020 in all relevant sectoral policies;

17. BELIEVES that mainstreaming biodiversity into key economic and development sectors can help mobilise resources to conserve biodiversity whilst also tackling drivers of biodiversity loss and therefore decreasing resource needs in the longer term; and RECALLS the importance of resource efficiency and the circular economy in reducing biodiversity loss and fostering progress towards biodiversity targets;
18. UNDERLINES the important role of sub-national and local governments and of regional and sub-regional instruments and initiatives, such as the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions in promoting sustainable development and mainstreaming of biodiversity in mountain regions, as well as in polar and marine areas through OSPAR, HELCOM, the Barcelona and Bucharest Conventions, the Arctic Council as well as regional fisheries management organisations for enhancing cooperation between biodiversity and marine policies; and WELCOMES their activities as good practice in terms of mainstreaming biodiversity across various sectors and policies, while enhancing international and cross-border cooperation in their respective regions and increasing the involvement of a broad range of stakeholders;

#### *Pollinators*

19. IS DEEPLY CONCERNED about the current and future state of pollination and pollinators, in particular wild pollinators, which are fundamental for the conservation of biological diversity and the maintenance of natural terrestrial ecosystems and key ecosystem services, such as food production; and WELCOMES the recommendations derived from the IPBES thematic assessment on pollinators, pollination and food production;
20. URGES all CBD Parties, relevant organisations and stakeholders at all levels to take action to protect pollinators and their habitats in order to mitigate and stop their decline, including in order to avoid related financial losses and including through strategies to avoid or reduce the use of pesticides harmful to pollinators;

## *Climate change*

21. **UNDERLINES** the strong interlinkages between policies and instruments for achieving the objectives for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, the objectives of the Paris Agreement for climate change adaptation and mitigation, and objectives for ecosystem restoration, sustainable food security and disaster risk reduction; and **SUPPORTS** the development of voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches for mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction that can be adapted to national circumstances and serve multiple purposes for climate change and biodiversity;
22. **HIGHLIGHTS** the fundamental role and functions of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, green infrastructure and ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation, such as mitigation and adaptation approaches for the sustainable management of forests, and disaster risk reduction at all levels of governance; **RECOGNISES** the multiple benefits delivered through these approaches and **ENCOURAGES** the Member States and the Commission to continue increasing the information base and integrating conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in particular ecosystems, in their strategic planning and implementation of relevant climate and energy policies, especially for the full implementation of the Paris Agreement;

## *Protected areas and ecosystem restoration*

23. **NOTES** the contribution to achieving Aichi Target 11 made through the full implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, in particular the Natura 2000 network of protected areas both on land and at sea;
24. **STRESSES** that priority needs to be given to the conservation, maintenance and sustainable use of existing terrestrial, marine and inland water ecosystems and natural and semi-natural habitats, with restoration being a complementary activity, not an alternative to the conservation of existing habitats in a favourable status;

25. EMPHASISES the urgent need to accelerate and upscale ecosystem restoration activities to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 15, in particular in forests, mangroves, coral reefs and wetlands; and RECOGNISES the potential and importance of ecosystem restoration as a key activity that can help to reverse the degradation of ecosystems and related services and bring multiple benefits; SUPPORTS in this respect the short-term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration recommended by SBSTTA 20 as a flexible framework adaptable to national circumstances;

*Resource mobilisation and financial mechanism*

26. UNDERSCORES the need to strengthen implementation of all elements of the CBD Resource Mobilisation strategy and targets, including through mobilisation of resources (financial, human, technical and institutional) from a variety of sources, including the private sector, and to use the available resources efficiently and in an integrated manner;
27. STRESSES the importance, in terms of transparency and accountability, of enhancing the quality and quantity of reporting on domestic resource mobilisation, funding gaps and needs, national priority setting and finance plans, which provide baseline information for future investments, and that such domestic reporting should not be disconnected from reporting on international biodiversity-related financial resource flows; and CALLS ON the Member States and the Commission to contribute to delivering, together, on the international commitment for resource mobilisation, recalling that this does not imply any specific burden-sharing agreement between Member States and/or the EU;
28. CALLS for synergies with other relevant processes beyond the CBD to be effectively used for resource mobilisation, including through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and for coherence with relevant approaches under other international bodies and instruments including the Paris Agreement and other relevant agreements;

29. CALLS for COP 13 to provide key guidance to the Financial Mechanism, in the form of a four-year framework of programme priorities, that will orient the support from the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund during its seventh replenishment period (2018-2022) and in this regard to give due consideration to the advice that may come from other biodiversity-related conventions;

### *Reporting*

30. EMPHASISES the importance of facilitating access to biodiversity data and further use of CBD reporting results, developing tools for monitoring biodiversity and timely reporting under the CBD; RECOGNISES the need for fit-for-purpose guidelines for the sixth national report as the primary basis for assessing Parties' progress on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; and STRESSES the importance of the regional and global assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services by IPBES as a significant contribution to GBO-5 and as a basis for the assessment of progress on the Strategic Plan;
31. CALLS FOR a balanced harmonisation of reporting processes and consistency of indicators among the biodiversity-related conventions, international organisations and processes and the biodiversity-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and ENCOURAGES the EU and its Member States to provide information based on CBD reporting for relevant SDG indicators; in this regard, WELCOMES Resolution 2/17 adopted by the second meeting of the United Nations Environmental Assembly in 2016;
32. UNDERSCORES the need to avoid an additional reporting burden and SUPPORTS the alignment of national reporting under the CBD and its Protocols, including through the synchronisation of reporting cycles, a common approach to the format of the national reports and the gradual integration of the reporting facilities available in the central Clearing-House Mechanism;

33. ENCOURAGES Parties to regularly review progress on their contribution to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, using the most appropriate tools; ACKNOWLEDGES the ongoing consideration of the development of new review and reporting structures and STRESSES that there has to be a clear identification and evaluation of their effectiveness and added value;

*Marine and coastal biodiversity*

34. SUPPORTS the technical and scientific process of describing Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), under and beyond national jurisdiction, as it provides Parties with a useful tool for contributing to achieving the Aichi Targets; and RECOGNISES the importance of finalising the ongoing processes, improving the procedures to modify the description of existing EBSAs and to facilitate the process of describing new EBSAs;
35. CONSIDERS the process of describing areas that meet the agreed scientific criteria for EBSAs as an open and evolving process which should include the participation of all relevant stakeholders, and that the description of EBSAs under national jurisdiction should fully involve the concerned States;
36. UNDERSCORES the importance of COP 13 requesting that the Executive Secretary of the CBD include additional areas that were described as meeting the criteria for EBSAs in the repository and submit this information to all relevant entities;
37. SUPPORTS the adoption of further specifications on: (a) a voluntary specific work-plan on biodiversity in cold-water areas within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention; (b) addressing impacts of marine debris and anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity; and (c) marine spatial planning for sustainable development and training initiatives, as well as the ongoing work to combat marine litter and micro-plastics; and CALLS for urgent actions to achieve a sustained reduction in the consumption of single-use plastic bags;

38. WELCOMES the ongoing UN process to negotiate a new legally binding implementing agreement under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction; and RECOGNISES the significance of the information collected through the EBSAs process for this ongoing UN process;

*Invasive alien species (IAS)*

39. LOOKS FORWARD to the development of mechanisms for the identification and prioritisation of potential new pathways of IAS introduction, and the development of preventive measures for IAS and potentially IAS in trade, including reducing the risk associated with e-commerce, as well as mechanisms for the exchange of information, and STRESSES the need, to adapt, improve or further develop tools for better development and application of management programmes, including safe and effective biological controls against IAS based on an appropriate risk assessment;
40. WELCOMES the entry into force on 8 September 2017 of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention), which aims to limit the spread of invasive alien species from ships;

*Indigenous peoples and local communities*

41. NOTES that the concept of *free, prior and informed consent* is used in other international fora under legally as well as non-legally binding instruments; SUPPORTS that the voluntary guidelines, applied in accordance with domestic law, use the terminology "*Free, prior and informed consent*" for the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making procedures;
42. SUPPORTS the recommendations to COP-MOP 8 of the Cartagena Protocol and to COP-MOP 2 of the Nagoya Protocol to apply, *mutatis mutandis*, Decision XII/12 F of the Conference of the Parties on the use of the terminology 'indigenous peoples and local communities';

43. NOTES that the use of the terminology 'indigenous peoples and local communities' according to point 2 (a), (b) and (c) of Decision XII/12 F applies *mutatis mutandis* to the two Protocols;

*Horizontal issues related to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols*

*Synthetic biology*

44. ACKNOWLEDGES the operational definition as developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Synthetic Biology; CALLS FOR the use of this definition as a non-binding starting point to facilitate further work in the context of the CBD; and SUPPORTS the continuation of the AHTEG with new terms of reference based on the relevant SBSTTA recommendation;
45. WELCOMES the inter-sessional activities of the open-ended online forum and the conclusion of the AHTEG on Synthetic Biology that living organisms developed through current and near-future applications of synthetic biology are similar to living modified organisms (LMOs) as defined in the Cartagena Protocol; SUPPORTS the recommendation by the AHTEG on Risk Assessment and Risk Management under the Cartagena Protocol to establish a process for the development of guidance on risk assessment of LMOs developed through synthetic biology if such gaps are identified;
46. UNDERLINES the importance of taking into account socio-economic, cultural and ethical considerations when conducting research into possible effects of synthetic biology;
47. With regard to the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources and its relation to access and benefit sharing and any deliberations on access and benefit sharing (ABS) related issues, UNDERSCORES that any consideration or decision on these issues should be dealt with by the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol;

### *Capacity building*

48. REITERATES the importance of capacity building for Parties to be able to implement the Strategic Plan; INVITES Parties and partners to express their needs and opportunities as well as report on capacity-building best practices, on a voluntary basis, through the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM); SUPPORTS the continuation of the work of the Informal Advisory Committee to the CHM; also WELCOMES the Bio-Bridge Initiative as a match-making facility for the CBD;
49. REITERATES its continued commitment to supporting targeted capacity-building activities with a view to facilitating further development and implementation of the CBD and its Protocols;

### *Functional review and administrative matters*

50. UNDERSCORES the importance of completing the functional review of the Secretariat in line with Decision XII/32 and draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/L.6 and of adopting realistic budgets for the Convention and its Protocols consistent with the agreed strategic priorities, functions and programme of work for the effective implementation of the CBD and its Protocols.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**

51. STRESSES the importance of an effective implementation of the Protocol by all Parties as well as the need for progress towards the realisation of its Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2020, to continue and strengthen work to enhance synergies, coherence and effective cooperation at all levels, and ENCOURAGES Parties and invites other governments to include biosafety in their NBSAPs and Relevant Sectorial and Cross-Sectorial Policies, Plans and Programmes;

52. CONSIDERS that progress needs to be made in relation to national reports, NOTES WITH CONCERN the lower rate of submission of the third national reports, and URGES Parties to the Cartagena Protocol that have not yet submitted their national report to do so as soon as possible, in particular those Parties that have not submitted any national report since they became Parties;
53. NOTES the analysis of the third national reports and the recommendation of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) regarding the third assessment and review of the Protocol and the mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan, and CALLS UPON Parties, for the remaining period of the Strategic Plan, to consider prioritising the operational objectives relating to the development of biosafety legislation, risk assessment, detection and identification of living modified organisms, and public awareness, education and training, in order to facilitate the implementation of the Protocol;
54. REITERATES the importance of all Parties registering with the Biosafety Clearing-House all information needed for the effective implementation of the Protocol in order to facilitate access to information on biosafety and enhance the exchange of experience;
55. REITERATES the crucial importance of environmental risk assessment in decisions related to living modified organisms (LMOs) and WELCOMES the inter-sessional activities of the open-ended online forums and the AHTEG on Risk Assessment and Risk Management;
56. WELCOMES the activities on socio-economic considerations during the inter-sessional period through the online forums and the work of the AHTEG on Socio-Economic Considerations;
57. REITERATES the need for capacity-building activities for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and, in this context, the importance of reviewing and improving the Framework and Action Plan for capacity-building at COP-MOP 8;

58. WELCOMES the recent ratifications of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress, and HIGHLIGHTS the importance of expediting its entry into force;
59. CALLS on COP-MOP 8 to take the necessary steps and decisions to further strengthen and implement the Cartagena Protocol framework by:
- a) urging the Parties that have not yet submitted their third national report or a complete report to do so as soon as possible while recalling that GEF funding is available for the preparation of national reports;
  - b) endorsing the revised Guidance on Risk Assessment of LMOs, which incorporates improvements that emerged during the testing of the Guidance, and deciding on the way forward in terms of supporting the implementation of the risk assessment and risk management provisions under the Cartagena Protocol by all Parties;
  - c) considering appropriate further steps towards fulfilling operational objective 1.7 of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2011-2020) regarding socio-economic considerations;
  - d) considering appropriate follow-up to the compiled information in the area of unintentional transboundary movements of LMOs and emergency measures and detection and identification of LMOs, as well as in the area of transit and contained use of LMOs.

### **CHAPTER III**

#### **Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing**

60. CALLS UPON Parties to the CBD that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Nagoya Protocol and URGES Member States that have not yet ratified or acceded to it to continue their efforts to do so as soon as possible; and UNDERSCORES that effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol contributes directly to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 15 and indirectly to the achievement of many others by contributing to poverty alleviation, equity, social justice and sound environmental management;
61. CALLS UPON all Parties to the Protocol to strengthen their efforts to make the Nagoya Protocol operational by establishing relevant institutional structures and by adopting and implementing legislative, administrative or policy measures, while recalling that GEF funding is available for establishing legal and regulatory frameworks and administrative procedures that enable access to genetic resources and benefit sharing in accordance with the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol;
62. UNDERSCORES that the effective use of the ABS Clearing-House (ABS CH) is essential to the effective functioning of the Nagoya Protocol, and hence URGES all Parties to publish and update the information required by the Nagoya Protocol on the ABS CH, and ENCOURAGES Parties and non-Parties to make all ABS-relevant information, including best practices and experiences, available on the ABS CH; and SUPPORTS the continuation of the work of the Informal Advisory Committee on the ABS CH;
63. Acknowledging that the compliance mechanism established under the Nagoya Protocol is a major tool for promoting compliance of Parties with the Protocol and for addressing cases of non-compliance, RECOGNISES that experience with the implementation of the Protocol gained so far does not allow for the drawing of general conclusions on compliance challenges or specific support needs by Parties, and hence WELCOMES the recommendations of the Compliance Committee in this regard;

64. **HIGHLIGHTS** the need to create conditions to promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and **RECOMMENDS** that the Parties to the Protocol consider simplified measures for access to genetic resources for non-commercial purposes when developing and implementing their access and benefit-sharing legislation or regulatory requirements;
65. **WELCOMES** the WHO initiative to carry out a study on how the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol might affect the sharing of pathogens and the potential public health implications thereof;
66. **WELCOMES** the conclusions of the expert group on Article 10 of the Protocol, in particular regarding the importance of the bilateral approach between users and providers, and **ENDORSES** the view that the bilateral approach should be followed wherever possible;
67. **IS READY** to further contribute to the substantive international work on measures that are essential for the implementation of the Protocol, such as further improvement of the ABS CH, capacity building and awareness raising; and **STRESSES** that the supportive instruments of model contractual clauses, best practices and codes of conduct, among others, are crucial for the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;
68. **WELCOMES** the recommendation of the SBI on the Review of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Target 16 on the Nagoya Protocol; **REITERATES** the importance of capacity building at all levels both for non-Parties to be able to ratify the Nagoya Protocol and for Parties to be able to fully implement it; **RECALLS** that capacity building should be based on needs expressed by potential beneficiary Parties and should be in line with the Strategic Framework for Capacity-building and Development to Support the Effective Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol; and therefore **CALLS UPON** Parties, non-Parties and other stakeholders to express their needs, experiences and opportunities through the ABS CH and support capacity development through activities such as the ABS Capacity Development Initiative;

69. CALLS upon Parties to submit the national reports called for under Article 29 of the Protocol in a timely manner and RECOGNISES that timely submission of national reports will be one of the instruments allowing for evaluation of the effectiveness of the Protocol;
70. UNDERSCORES the importance of mutually supportive implementation, at all levels, of the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as well as other international instruments relevant to the Protocol.
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