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Agenda item 8

COOPERATION WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

Cooperation with other conventions

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) welcomed the outcome of the workshops¹ on “Possible synergy and joint action with the other multilateral environmental conventions and agreements, and on enhancing cooperation with other conventions”, held in Espoo, Finland, from 2 to 4 July 2003, and took note of the report of the workshops contained in document FCCC/SB/2003/1, and the useful information it contains, including on several approaches discussed at the workshop, such as the ecosystem approach. The SBSTA expressed its appreciation to the Government of Finland for hosting the workshops and to the Governments of Italy, Norway and Switzerland for their financial support for the workshops.
2. The SBSTA noted with appreciation statements by a representative of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and by the co-chair of its Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on biological diversity and climate change, as well as the statement made by the representative of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The SBSTA also took note of a written statement from the secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971), hereinafter called the Ramsar Convention.
3. The SBSTA welcomed the AHTEG report on interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change and encouraged Parties to make use of it as a relevant source of useful information for their national purposes.
4. The SBSTA noted the distinct mandates and independent status of each convention, reiterated the importance of promoting synergy at the national and local levels where implementation of the various conventions occurs, recognizing that this can lead to increased efficiency and can help avoid duplication, and encouraged Parties to strive for coherence in the implementation of the conventions. The SBSTA urged UNFCCC national focal points to cooperate with their counterparts for the other conventions and to actively share information with them and, where appropriate, with stakeholders. The SBSTA

¹ The workshop mandated by the SBSTA at its seventeenth session was held in combination with a workshop held in response to a mandate of the SBI at its seventeenth session (see decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 36).

recognized that enhanced cooperation between UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD can help Parties attain objectives of sustainable development at the national level, drawing on, inter alia, any lessons learned from relevant experience.

5. The SBSTA expressed its appreciation for the work undertaken by the Joint Liaison Group (JLG). It requested the secretariat, in its periodic reporting to the SBSTA on the outcome of the activities of the JLG, to also include information on options for further cooperation between conventions, in line with the conclusions of the SBSTA at its fourteenth and subsequent sessions.

Cooperation with scientific organizations and United Nations bodies

6. The SBSTA noted with appreciation the statement by the representative of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the ongoing preparatory work on its Fourth Assessment Report, the preliminary information on resulting technical papers, and the ongoing work on the other special reports *Safeguarding the Ozone Layer and the Global Climate System: Issues Related to Hydrofluorocarbons and Perfluorocarbons*, and *Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage*, as well as work relating to the IPCC National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Programme.

7. The SBSTA also noted with appreciation the statements made on behalf of the Inter-Agency Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and IUCN – the World Conservation Union on their activities relevant to the UNFCCC.
