



# General Assembly

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## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2010

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/65/436/Add.6)]

### 65/161. Convention on Biological Diversity

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000 and 64/203 of 21 December 2009 and all other previous resolutions relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling also* the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling further* that in its resolution 61/203 of 20 December 2006 it declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity,

*Reiterating* that the Convention is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to those technologies, and by appropriate funding,

*Recognizing* the potential contribution of other multilateral environmental agreements, including the biodiversity-related conventions, and of international organizations in support of the three objectives of the Convention,

*Reaffirming* that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

*Noting* that one hundred and ninety-two States and one regional economic integration organization are parties to the Convention and that one hundred and

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution I, annexes I and II.



fifty-nine States and one regional economic integration organization are parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>3</sup>

*Recognizing* that the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention is crucial for sustainable development, poverty eradication and the improvement of human well-being and a major factor underpinning the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

*Recalling* the commitments of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, to pursue a balanced, efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention,

*Recognizing* the continuing need for greater progress in the implementation by parties of obligations and commitments under the Convention in order to achieve its objectives, and in this regard emphasizing the need to comprehensively address the challenges to the full implementation of the Convention at the national, regional and global levels,

*Recalling* the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on biodiversity, held on 22 September 2010 as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity,

*Recalling also* the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,<sup>4</sup>

*Expressing deep appreciation* to the Government of Japan for hosting the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, and welcoming the decision by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting to endorse the offer of the Government of India to host the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held from 8 to 19 October 2012, and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, to be held from 1 to 5 October 2012,<sup>5</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;<sup>6</sup>

2. *Recognizes* the important outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>1</sup> and the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,<sup>3</sup> held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010 and from 11 to 15 October 2010, which represent a significant contribution to the comprehensive implementation of the three objectives of the Convention;

3. *Notes* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>7</sup> and acknowledges the potential role of access and benefit-sharing in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of

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<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

<sup>4</sup> See resolution 65/1.

<sup>5</sup> See UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/46.

<sup>6</sup> A/65/294, sect. III.

<sup>7</sup> See UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/1.

biological diversity, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability and, thereby, to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting of the updated and revised Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;<sup>8</sup>

5. *Notes* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting of a decision on the strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention,<sup>9</sup> and looks forward to the adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting, as mandated, of targets to ensure the effectiveness of the strategy, provided robust baselines have been identified and endorsed and an effective reporting framework has been adopted, with a view to fully meeting the commitment to substantially increase human, financial and technical resources from all sources;

6. *Also notes* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its fifth meeting serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,<sup>10</sup> which provides international rules and procedures in the field of liability and redress for damage resulting from transboundary movements of living modified organisms;

7. *Further notes* the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change, and encourages parties, Governments, relevant organizations and the Executive Secretary of the Convention to take the findings of the Group into consideration, where appropriate, when carrying out work on biodiversity and climate change;

8. *Notes* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting of a decision on mechanisms to promote the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the work of the Convention;<sup>11</sup>

9. *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility to continue supporting the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, especially its work on assisting the early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol;

10. *Welcomes* the significant progress made in developing a multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development based on the framework for South-South cooperation, and encourages parties and Governments to further contribute to its development;

11. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,<sup>12</sup> and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>13</sup> (“the Rio Conventions”) and of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions,

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., decision X/2.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., decision X/3.

<sup>10</sup> See UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/5/17, annex, decision BS-V/11.

<sup>11</sup> See UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/40.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., vol. 1771, No. 30822.

acknowledges the importance of improving coherence in the implementation of the Rio Conventions, recognizes the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives, and encourages the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to consider strengthening efforts in this regard, taking into account relevant experiences and bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of these instruments;

12. *Reaffirms* 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 components, taking into account their importance for sustainable development;

13. *Notes* the consideration of aspects related to the economic valuation of ecosystems and biodiversity in the context of the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity* reports, as referred to in relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting;

14. *Also notes* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting of a decision on the administration of the Convention and budget for the programme of work for the biennium 2011–2012,<sup>14</sup> which included the revised administrative arrangements between the secretariat of the Convention and the United Nations Environment Programme and through which the Conference of the Parties looked forward to the rapid completion of the service-level agreement provided for in those arrangements, requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention to report to the Conference of the Parties through its Bureau on the implementation of those arrangements and invited the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to report on those arrangements to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-sixth session;

15. *Invites* countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention;

16. *Invites* parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Protocol to consider doing so;

17. *Invites* parties to the Convention to sign, ratify or accede to the Nagoya Protocol at the earliest opportunity;

18. *Invites* parties to the Cartagena Protocol to sign, ratify or accede to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol at the earliest opportunity;

19. *Decides*, following the invitation by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting,<sup>15</sup> to declare 2011–2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to lead the coordination of the activities of the Decade on behalf of the United Nations system, with the support of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions and relevant United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, and invites Member States in a position to do so to contribute, on a voluntary basis, to the funding of the activities of the Decade;

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<sup>14</sup> See UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/45.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, decision X/8.

20. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Convention on Biological Diversity”.

*69th plenary meeting  
20 December 2010*