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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Fourteenth session

Bonn, 16-27 July 2001

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

COOPERATION WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Submissions from Parties

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

1. In addition to the submissions already received and included in document FCCC/SBSTA/2001/MISC.3, a further submission has been received.*
2. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, this submission is attached and reproduced in the language in which it was received and without formal editing.

* In order to make this submission available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web, this submission has been electronically imported. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the text as submitted.

FCCC/SBSTA/2001/MISC.3/Add.1

GE.01-70366

SUBMISSION BY BELGIUM ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES: ADDITIONAL VIEWS ON THE RELATIONS BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

The purpose of this submission is to ensure the environmental integrity of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, as already detailed in the EU submission of 28 February 2001, taking into account the overall framework on sustainable development. The proper implementation of the CBD and other related conventions will help both to mitigate and adapt to climate change and equally the proper implementation of the UNFCCC is necessary to reduce stresses on biodiversity. This suggests the need for better and continued dialogue and closer co-operation between UNFCCC and CBD, as well as other fora, such as the United Nations Forest Forum (UNFF) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

The EU therefore, firmly believes that the necessity for climate change mitigation and adaptation gives new urgency for implementing the CBD and related international agreements or recommendations, such as those of the CBD and UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies, the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum of Forests (IFF) and UNFF for sustainable forest management. Stressing their implementation would create synergies and help to underline mutual supportiveness of the major global environmental agreements.

The EU therefore proposes that SBSTA recommend to the COP to:

- Welcome the proposal on potential areas of collaboration and coordinated actions, as recommended by the 6th session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technological and Technical Advice of the CBD (SBSTTA), between the CBD and the UNFCCC for integrating biodiversity concerns into the implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol and in this respect wishes to highlight:
 - (i) The impacts of climate change on biological diversity, and the vulnerability and adaptability of the components of biological diversity and ecosystems to climate change;
 - (ii) The potential impact on biological diversity of mitigation measures and the identification of potential mitigation measures that also contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;
 - (iii) The potential for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity to contribute to adaptation measures taken under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol;
- Recognise the need for the COP of the UNFCCC to respond to the communications from the COP of the CBD and vice versa, further supports the :
 - formation of a joint liaison group for the purpose of enhancing coordination between the two conventions;

- development of a joint work plan; and
 - organisation of a joint workshop to further cooperation and collaborative action.
 - CBD technical experts group on climate change and biodiversity;
- Decide that the implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol should be consistent with and supportive of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
 - Decide that Parties should be asked to include, in their reports to the UNFCCC or the CBD, how LULUCF activities are consistent with the principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity and/or other related international agreements on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to which they are Parties without duplication of reporting requirements;
 - Stress the importance of implementing relevant policy tools such as Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Assessment, when assessing activities undertaken within the framework of the UNFCCC and the CBD;
 - Emphasise that any forest related decisions on definitions, methodologies and accounting rules for LULUCF activities under the Kyoto Protocol should be consistent with sustainable forest management including the conservation of biological diversity;
 - Acknowledge that voluntary forest certification, as a market driven tool, may help ensure that establishment and management of forest carbon sinks meets criteria, indicators and standards of sustainable forest management and thereby help demonstrate that forest products are derived from sustainably managed forests. These standards would include relevant social, economic and environmental aspects and focus on biodiversity;
 - Recognise the importance of the ecosystem approach, as defined in the CBD, in taking into account the ecological and socio-economic aspects and using the ecosystem functions in order to adapt to or mitigate climate change;
 - Recognise the importance of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and access to genetic resources;
 - Recognise that, when carrying out impact assessments, the consequences for biodiversity and the interrelated socio-economic, cultural, and human health aspects relevant to biological diversity should be fully taken into account;
 - Instruct the SBSTA to consider the impact of climate change on forest biological diversity, in collaboration with the SBSTTA of the CBD and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as appropriate and where feasible;

- Encourage the SBSTA to work closely together with the biodiversity bodies with the help of the IPCC to provide scientific information to help to improve positive connections between climate change and biodiversity while avoiding negative impacts;
- Stress the need for coordination of policy development also at the national level;
- Stress the need for a sound scientific basis for LULUCF activities;
- Request the UNFCCC secretariat to undertake the necessary preparations in collaboration with the executive secretary of the CBD to convene a joint workshop subsequent to the 15th Session of SBSTA, which should further explore adequate means for extended cooperation and collaborative action between the two Conventions.

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