



Concept Note

Joint briefing for Second Committee mandated by UNGA resolution [67/212](#)

- Date: 30th October 2013
- Duration : 10 am – 1 pm
- Venue: Conference Room 2 (CB) United Nations Headquarters, New York

Background

The UN General Assembly, in its resolution [67/212](#) of 21 December 2012, decided that one of the special events of the Second Committee at the 68th session of the UN General Assembly would be devoted to a joint briefing by UNEP, WIPO, UNESCO, UNCTAD and CBD, on the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including actions undertaken to promote access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization and associated traditional knowledge. (The objectives of the Convention are the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use.)

[67/212](#) OP 22:

“Decides to devote one of the special events of the Second Committee during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, as part of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity and to further efforts to improve coherence, to a joint briefing by the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the secretariat of the Convention and the relevant United Nations bodies on the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including actions undertaken to promote access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization and associated traditional knowledge, and to include an executive summary of the event in the note by the Secretary-General on the implementation of United Nations environmental conventions to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, before the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties”.



Convention on
Biological Diversity

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Objective of the briefing

The objective of the joint briefing is for the invited agencies to provide information on their work relevant to implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including actions undertaken to promote access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization and associated traditional knowledge.

The joint briefing will also offer an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with the Member States to respond to their specific interests and queries on these issues.

Format

The joint briefing will be organised by DESA and the Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat, under the auspices of the Chairman of the Second Committee. In accordance with OP 22 of resolution [67/212](#), the following agencies have been invited to take part in the joint briefing: UNEP, WIPO, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD. The Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) has also been invited to take part, given the close links among the Treaty, the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol.

Since this is an event mandated by the UN General Assembly, it is expected that each agency will be represented at a high level, preferably Head of Agency. Representatives of each agency will have 10-15 minutes to present the work of their agency, relevant to the theme “implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including actions undertaken to promote access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization and associated traditional knowledge”. This will be followed by an interactive dialogue with member states, including a question and answer session. Special Events of the second Committee are not guaranteed official interpretation. Presentations would therefore, ideally, be in English.

The **programme for the joint briefing** is as follows:

10.00 - 10.05: Opening by Chairperson Second Committee

10.05 - 10.15: Keynote address Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General UN-DESA

10.15 - 10.30: Presentation by Mr. Braulio Dias, Executive Secretary CBD

10.30 - 10.45: Presentation by Mr. Elliott Harris, Director of UNEP New York Office

10.45 - 11.00: Presentation by Ms. Vibeke Jensen, Director of UNESCO New York Office

11.00 - 11.15: Presentation by Mr. Francis Gurry, Director General WIPO (via video link)

11.15 - 11.45: Interactive discussion

11.45 - 12.00: Presentation by Mr. Santiago Carrizosa, UNDP Senior Technical Adviser on Biodiversity and Ecosystems

12.00 - 12.15: Presentation by Mr. Shakeel Bhatti, Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, (via video link)

12.15 - 12.30: Presentation by Mr. Bonapas Onguglo, Officer-in-Charge, Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, UNCTAD

12.30 - 1.00: Interactive discussion

Issues being addressed by the panelists

The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will provide information on the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including actions undertaken to promote access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization and associated traditional knowledge, including information on the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from their Utilization, which was adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the CBD in 2010. The Protocol elaborates the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the Convention and also addresses traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources. As of 27 June 2013, the Protocol has been ratified by 25 Parties to the CBD. The Protocol requires 50 ratifications to enter into force.

UNEP will address the implementation of the objectives of the Convention including actions undertaken to promote access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization and associated traditional knowledge, including implementation of GEF-funded projects to facilitate ratification and support implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

UNESCO will brief on the status of ongoing work on bio-cultural approaches to the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including actions on ABS in the context of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves.

WIPO will describe its work relevant to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention, including the ongoing negotiations of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore

UNDP will address implementation of the objectives of the Convention including actions undertaken to promote access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization and associated traditional knowledge, particularly UNDP's 2014-2017 Strategic Plan and UNDP's 2012-2020 Biodiversity and Ecosystems Global

Framework, and implementation of GEF-funded projects to facilitate ratification and support implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

The *International Treaty on Plant and Genetic Resources* (ITPGRFA) will address implementation of the objectives of the Convention including actions undertaken to promote access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization and associated traditional knowledge, focusing on implementation of the Treaty's Multilateral System (MLS) of Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS).

UNCTAD will make a presentation on “Biotrade: Putting CBD objectives into Practice”.

Outcome

As specified by resolution [67/212](#) a summary of the event will be included in the note by the Secretary General on the implementation of the United Nations environmental conventions to the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

For additional information, the focal points for the joint briefing can be contacted:

DESA : Federica Pietracci : pietracci@un.org

CBD : Nandhini Krishna : krishna1@un.org

Delegations are requested to limit interventions/questions to 3 minutes so as to maximise the possibility for all interested delegations, groups and other interested stakeholders to participate. Presentations and interventions will be posted on the website at: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=13&nr=511&menu=23>
Electronic versions can be sent to: dsd@un.org