

Agenda item 14

Mid-term review of, and preparation of any proposals for adjustments to, the Strategic Plan 2009-2015

Action requested: The Standing Committee is invited to comment on, and approve the process for, proposing any adjustments to the Strategic Plan 2009-2015 to COP11.

1. As discussed at the 41st meeting of the Standing Committee (SC41), there are two actions required of the Standing Committee (in Resolution X.1 para. 10) concerning implementation of the Strategic Plan 2009-2015. These are:
 - i) Assess progress and any difficulties in implementing the [Strategic] Plan at each [Standing Committee] meeting; and
 - ii) Conduct a mid-term review of progress and to propose adjustments[to the Strategic Plan], if necessary, to be submitted to COP11.
2. In Decision SC41-25, the Standing Committee determined that assessments of the Strategic Plan will be included in the National Reports Form rather than by using a parallel process of midterm review. The SC requested Parties to provide information at SC42 about their progress in implementing the Strategic Plan and any difficulties encountered, as well as any suggestions for amending the Plan in a midterm review at COP11.
3. Under 1. i) above, it is established practice that such Strategic Plan implementation progress, at global and regional levels and thematically (e.g., CEPA), is reported to COP in the Secretary General's report on global implementation and in regional and thematic assessments provided as COP Information Papers. These assessments are derived from analyses of information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports to the COP.
4. Concerning 1. ii) above, the COP11 National Report Form, disseminated in February 2011 with a deadline for Parties' submission of National Reports by 15 September 2011, includes text fields for Parties to report on their Strategic Plan implementation experiences, with a field specifically to make any proposals for adjusting the Plan.
5. Once COP11 National Reports from Parties have been received from Parties, the Secretariat will compile and assess any proposals concerning Strategic Plan adjustments and prepare advice to the Standing Committee on this matter, including a COP11 Draft Resolution if necessary. However, since the National Report submission deadline is just two weeks before documents must be issued by the Secretariat in advance of SC43, it is highly unlikely that this assessment can be undertaken before SC43 documents are issued.
6. If, in response to the request in Decision SC41-25, any Parties have provided the Standing Committee with information on their Strategic Plan implementation progress and any

difficulties, or any suggestions for Strategic Plan amendments, it would be helpful to identify these under this agenda item, and to pass any specific recommendations to the Secretariat.

7. In addition, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, as part of its priority task on further elaborating the Convention's data and information needs, is presently reviewing and assessing the congruence between the Key Result Areas (KRAs) in the Strategic Plan and the COP11 National Report Form indicators (especially those being used in the STRP's ongoing work on indicators of the effectiveness of the Convention). If significant mismatches are identified through this work, this may lead to recommendations from the STRP to the Standing Committee for adjustments to the KRAs.
8. The Standing Committee may therefore wish to confirm a process whereby the Secretariat is requested to provide further advice to SC43 on any proposals for Strategic Plan adjustments, including from review of COP11 National Reports, and, if the Committee determines that a Draft Resolution on this matter is needed, to prepare such a Draft Resolution for SC approval by electronic circulation.