

Thirteenth meeting of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions

24 September 2014

10:00

UN Plaza 1 (DC 1) 11th floor room 1170

New York, USA

Chair: Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias

I. Welcome and opening

1. Mr. Bráulio Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), opened the meeting and welcomed Ms. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and Ms. Monique Barbut, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

II. Adoption of the agenda

2. Due to the limited time available, and given that updates on recent and upcoming events had been shared prior to the meeting, it was agreed to remove agenda item 3 (round table of recent and upcoming events).

3. The agenda was adopted with the addition of a sub-item on joint indicators under item 4 on the agenda (potential lines of cooperation within the JLG).

III. Potential lines of cooperation within the JLG context for 2014 and 2015

4. It was agreed that the JLG should focus on issues where collective advances can be made while bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of the three Rio conventions.

5. Ms. Barbut proposed a discussion on joint indicator work under the three Conventions. She suggested the adoption of three bio-physical indicators for which data already exist and follow-up would be relatively easy.

6. Ms. Barbut provided a summary of discussions between the UNCCD and the Adaptation Committee of the UNFCCC on including the work on joint indicators in the agenda of the Adaptation Committee. UNCCD has prepared a submission to the Adaptation Committee on the possible joint indicators and will attend the Adaptation Committee meeting from 29 September to 1 October 2014, and report back to the JLG.

7. Mr. Dias highlighted the work on monitoring under the CBD, including through the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4), the mid-term review of progress towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and revised NBSAPs.

8. Mr. Dias pointed to the work on indicators under the CBD and the recommendation of the eighteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-18) to convene an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on indicators, to be considered at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP 12). He proposed to prepare an information

document for COP 12 based on the submission of the UNCCD to the Adaptation Committee, with a view to having the proposed joint indicators included in the terms of reference for the AHTEG.

9. Ms. Figueres noted that with all three Conventions having their COP meetings in succession, there could be an opportunity for Parties to include the consideration of the joint indicators in the agendas of the meetings. However, she cautioned that it would be important to manage expectations, especially since the joint indicators might not be immediately accepted by the Adaptation Committee.

10. The JLG agreed to cooperate to promote the adoption of the joint indicators during the sixth meeting of the Adaptation Committee of the UNFCCC, CBD COP 12, the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UNCCD (UNCCD COP 12) and the twentieth and twenty-first sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (UNFCCC COP 20 and COP 21).

11. Due to time constraints, it was not possible to discuss other items on the agenda.

IV. Closing

12. During his closing remarks Mr. Dias requested the support of the other members of the JLG in ensuring strong outcomes for biodiversity and ecosystem in the proposed sustainable development goals.

13. It was decided that, in accordance to the practice of rotating the chairing of the JLG, the next meeting would be chaired by the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD.