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Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Twenty-eighth meeting

Nairobi, 27 July–1 August 2026

Agenda Item 5. Synthetic biology

Thank you, Chair

I am speaking on behalf of the CBD Women's Caucus.

Responsible action with synthetic biology requires the integration of high-quality multidisciplinary scientific evidence. This includes greater transparency and a systematic assessment of both potential benefits and risks, uncertainties and adverse impacts, aligned with the precautionary approach.

To support credible, evidence based implementation under the Convention, it is essential to strengthen national capacities for independent assessments, biosafety, monitoring and informed decision-making. This process must recognize relevant traditional and local knowledge, ensuring meaningful participation from Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women.

In this regard, we propose the following textual adjustments to document CBD/SBSTTA/28/4

In section "III. Recommendations"

Paragraph 29. 2. Adopts the thematic action plan to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with particular emphasis on strengthening capacities for independent multidisciplinary assessment, monitoring, biosafety, governance and informed participatory decision-making prior to implementation activities, consistent with the objectives of the Convention and the precautionary approach, as contained in Annex I to the present decision;

In section "Annex I Current benefits of synthetic biology in relation to the targets..."

Paragraph 2. (a) The following considerations are relevant with respect to the information presented in the table: There is a lack of clear mechanisms or agreed methodology for identifying or quantifying benefits associated with applications of synthetic biology in the context of the Framework, as well as to aligning applications or benefits to targets;

And we propose the following for document CBD/SBSTTA/28/4/Add.1

In section “Annex Draft thematic action plan to support capacity-building and...”

Paragraph 2. (c) Enhanced knowledge-sharing, including traditional knowledge following FPIC, on synthetic biology, including its development, risk assessment, governance and regulation.

Paragraph 19. (b) Adopt a multidisciplinary expertise, science-based approaches es and inclusive of traditional knowledge systems;

Paragraph 2. (c) Consider, on the basis of multidisciplinary evidence, the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology applications on the three objectives of the Convention and the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

**We would like to ask Parties for support.
Thank you.**

Refer to [CBD/SBSTTA/28/4](#), and [CBD/SBSTTA/28/4/Add.1](#) for a full set of textual recommendations.

The CBD Women's Caucus (CBD WC) is the women's constituency within the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It stands as a self-organised global platform, supporting women and girls worldwide to advocate for their rights within biodiversity related decision-making processes across all levels.
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