



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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JOINT MEETING OF THE BUREAUX OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
AND THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
16 November 2021

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES AND THE BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL
AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

1. A joint meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice was held via MS Teams on 16 November 2021 at 7:00 a.m. EST, to reconsider preparations for the resumed sessions of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, (SBSTTA-24) the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-3) and the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020-3).

2. The teleconference was attended by the following members of the COP Bureau and substitutes:

Presidency: Dr. Guomei Zhou (China, representing H.E. Minister Huang Runqiu, COP 15 President)

Africa: Mr. Eric Okoree (Ghana); Mr. Melesse Maryo (Ethiopia)

Asia and the Pacific: Mr. Vinod Mathur (India);

Latin America and the Caribbean: Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda); Ms. Eugenia Montezuma (Costa Rica, representing H.E. Minister Meza Murillo); Mr. Joaquín Salzberg (Argentina, substitute for Costa Rica for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol);

Central and Eastern Europe: Ms. Teona Karchava (Georgia); Ms. Elvana Ramaj (Albania);

Western Europe and Others: Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria); Ms. Rosemary Paterson (New Zealand); and Mr. Gaute Voigt-Hansen (Norway, substitute for New Zealand for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol);

Ex-officio: Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist (Sweden), Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation; Mr. Hesiquio Benítez (Mexico), Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice; Mr. Basile van Havre (Canada) and Mr. Francis Ogwal (Uganda), Co-chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, COP-14 Presidency;

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Observers: Mr. Liu Ning (China), Deputy Representative of COP 15 President; Mr. Xia Yingxian (China); Mr. Neville Ashe (UNEP); Mr. Niklaus Wagner (Switzerland), host of resumed sessions; Ms. Paula Ximena (Colombia), host of WG2020-3.

3. The teleconference was also attended by the following members of the SBSTTA Bureau and substitutes:

Chair: Mr. Hesiquio Benitez (Mexico);

Africa: Ms. Marie-May Muzungale (Seychelles); Mr. Moustafa Fouda (Egypt, substitute for Morocco on matters related to the Nagoya Protocol);

Asia and the Pacific: Ms. Gwen Sisior (Palau);

Central and Eastern Europe: Dr. Tatsiana Lipinskaya (Belarus), Ms. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Latin America and the Caribbean: Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda, substitute for Saint Lucia on matters related to the Nagoya Protocol); Mr. Adams Toussaint (Saint Lucia);

Western Europe and Others: Ms. Alison McMorrow (Australia); Ms. Marina von Weissenberg (Finland); and Mr. Andreas Schei (Norway, substitute for Australia on matters related to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols);

4. The Secretariat was represented by Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Executive Secretary; Mr. David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary; Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Director of Implementation Support Division; Mr. Markus Lehmann, Officer-in-Charge, Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division; Ms. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi, Head, Biosafety Protocol Unit; Mr. Taukondjo Shikongo, Head, Nagoya Protocol Unit; Mr. Wataru Suzuki, Global Coordinator for the Japan Biodiversity Fund; Mr. Worku Yifru, Senior Legal Officer; Ms. Gudrun Fosse, Head of Administration, Ms. Catalina Santamaria, Senior Programme Officer, Ms. Gu Li, Programme Officer and Mr. David Ainsworth, Information Officer.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The joint teleconference was opened on 16 November at 7:00 a.m. EST by Ms. Guomei Zhou, representative of the President of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Chair welcomed the members of both Bureaux as well as the representative of the Government of Switzerland, Mr. Niklaus Wagner, as host of the meetings in Geneva in January 2022. She thanked the members of the Bureau as well as the Secretariat for the support and cooperation offered during the first part of COP 15 and provided a brief update on the participation of the first part of the Conference and outlined the three major outcomes including the Leaders' Summit, the announcement of the Kunming Biodiversity Fund and the landmark Kunming Declaration.

6. Mr. Hesiquio Diaz, as Chair of the SBSTTA Bureau also welcomed both Bureaux members and informed the participants that he planned on convening a SBSTTA Bureau meeting on 19 November to specifically address in more detail the preparations for the resumed session of SBSTTA-24.

7. The Executive Secretary offered brief welcome remarks. She also welcomed members of both Bureaux and thanked the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies and the Working Group and her team at the Secretariat for the hard work in preparation for the resumed session to take place in Geneva. She also thanked the Government of Switzerland for their support and cooperation with the organization of the meetings and she urged Bureau members to remind their regions to submit nomination letters and register delegations online. In addition, she reminded Parties who are eligible for financial support to make the request to the Secretariat before the 26 November 2021 deadline. She also urged Parties in a position to do so, to respond to the call for pledges to ensure the participation of delegates from developing countries and indigenous peoples and local communities to the meetings.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

8. The Presidency introduced the provisional agenda for the joint Bureaux session, and after no objections to changes from the Bureaux, the provisional agenda was adopted.

ITEM 3. PREPARATIONS FOR THE RESUMED SESSIONS OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE, THE THIRD MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION AND THE THIRD MEETING OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

9. Under this agenda item, the Presidency began by inviting the Secretariat to provide an overview of the status of registration for the meetings.

10. The Deputy Executive Secretary informed the Bureaux that a notification for the meetings had been issued on 3 November which called for early registration in order to give the Secretariat an idea of the numbers of participants expected at the meetings. He informed the participants that a member of the Secretariat had traveled to Geneva the previous week to work with the Swiss Government and venue on the logistical preparations and determine the layout, as well as discuss many other details. He reminded the Bureaux that the requirements to enter Switzerland for the moment were proof of vaccination, proof of immunity, or a negative COVID test, and other than this, there were no restrictions to enter Switzerland. He noted they were currently discussing with the host the possibility of daily or frequent testing during the meetings.

11. Mr. Wagner then complemented the briefing of the Deputy Executive Secretary and confirmed the three conditions to enter Switzerland. He noted, however, that the situation was fragile in the country as the cases of COVID were rising and the current measurements could change. He highlighted they were working closely with the Secretariat to monitor the situation and were committed to making these meetings as safe as possible.

12. The Bureaux congratulated the Government of China and the Secretariat for the successful first part of COP-15 and thanked the Government of Switzerland for their generous support in hosting the meetings in Geneva next year. At the invitation of the Chair for comments or questions, the Bureaux engaged in a brief discussion regarding logistical arrangements for the Geneva meetings. Members of the Bureaux requested clarification regarding the online versus onsite participation of delegates, as well as regarding the number of delegates allowed per Party to the meetings. In response, the Secretariat clarified that, as per the decision of the Bureaux, the meeting was intended to be carried out fully in-person building in two provisions for supplementary participation on line. Firstly, while those represented in Geneva, in person, would be the ones to engage in the direct negotiations in plenary and contact groups, additional experts could follow the sessions in live time as viewers online, offering advice to the onsite delegations as needed. Secondly, for countries who could not travel at all due to COVID restrictions, then full interactive access would be provided. However, emphasis was made on the understanding that the Geneva meetings would as far as possible be fully in person meetings as per the Bureaux guidance.

13. Regarding the number of delegates per country, the Secretariat clarified that at this point it was difficult for it to determine the cap for delegations because of unknown factors: one being the changing nature of the COVID situation, and the other being the number of participants that register. Under the current situation, if the meetings were to receive the normal number of participants for subsidiary bodies, it should be possible to avoid limits. However, as the virtual modality had enabled higher participation of delegations, if a higher number of delegates were expected, then the Secretariat would need to evaluate and determine whether the delegations need to be capped. That is why the Secretariat had asked Parties to send in their nominations early to determine the demand versus the capacity of the venue.

14. Some members of the Bureaux asked if there were contingency plans in case the COVID situation changed in Switzerland. The Secretariat advised that some provisions like providing online access had been built in to a certain extent, but if the meetings could not take place at all in Geneva, the Secretariat would need to look for an alternate location. The situation would be kept under close review.

15. The Secretariat welcomed the pledge from Finland of 45,000 euros for the BZ fund and advised the participants that the intention was to fund at least two delegates per eligible country and IPLCs.

16. After thanking the Secretariat and the Government of Switzerland for the update and the preparations made so far, the Presidency invited the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies and Co-chairs of the

Working Group, as well as the Secretariat, to provide an update on documentation and substantive preparations for the meetings.

17. Members of the Bureaux were provided with a brief overview of the documents that were currently being prepared for each of the subsidiary bodies and the Working Group. For SBI, this included seven documents resulting from intersessional work that was requested from the first part of the meeting including a document on communications, a draft outline of the post-2020 gender plan of action, an updated document on the financial mechanism, and four documents related to monitoring, assessment and review under agenda item 9. For SBSTTA, the Bureaux were advised that a non-paper on health was under review by the co-leads of the contact group and would be posted shortly, and that the updated draft of the monitoring framework was in an advanced stage and under review. In addition, the annotations to the SBSTTA agenda would be ready for review by the SBSTTA Bureau shortly. For the Working Group, the Co-chairs advised that seven documents had been prepared, three of them were already online and four additional ones, including the Co-chairs' reflection document, the glossary and a document on digital sequencing information, were being finalized and would be published on 1 December.

18. The members of the Bureaux thanked the Chairs, Co-chairs and Secretariat for these updates. They noted it would be helpful to clarify which documents would be discussed under which agenda item, such as the case of the communications document. They also noted that it would be useful to know if these documents were formal documents or background documents and to know which ones would be the basis of discussions for the contact groups, for example in the case of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In response, the Co-chairs clarified the document for discussion of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework would be the First Draft that had been issued prior to the first part of the meeting.

19. The SBSTTA and SBI Chairs and the Co-chairs of the Working Group were then invited to provide key updates for each of their respective meetings. The SBSTTA Chair noted that a major part of the preparation in the last few weeks had been the joint scenario note and the proposed joint organization of work. He indicated that an element of ongoing work was the requisite adjustments to the leadership or co-leadership of some of the contact groups of the three meetings, noting that some of them were servicing several groups at the same time. In response to a question, he clarified how marine issues would be addressed. He concluded by indicating that one of the outcomes for SBSTTA would be the draft monitoring framework which would benefit from the discussion taking place in the Working Group.

20. The SBI Chair informed the Bureaux that she had developed a document which supplemented the provisional and annotated agendas of SBI to help Parties and stakeholders prepare for the resumed session of SBI-3 and would be sharing it with the Bureau shortly. She noted that the meeting would benefit from additional contact groups for items 5, 6, 7 and 9 and would hold a first reading of agenda item 8 on Cooperation. A first reading of the updated gender plan of action for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and assessment of funding needs for GEF8 would also take place.

21. The Co-chairs indicated they would be preparing a table summarizing the various pieces of the Working Group discussion keeping in mind the outcomes of the meeting in August. They also noted that the provisional and annotated agendas for the Working Group meeting were being finalized and would be providing a status of each agenda item from the first meeting. They also indicated they would continue with the five contact groups created in August.

22. The Bureaux thanked the Chairs and Co-chairs for the updates and had a few comments. Firstly, one Bureau member requested the venue be accessible one or two days prior to the start of the meetings in order to hold regional meetings, as done so in previous occasions. Another Bureau member noted that regional statements may not be necessary again, as these are resumed sessions and time is limited. A suggestion was made for the DSI discussions to be held close together either at the beginning or end of the meetings, but not spread apart.

ITEM 4. ORGANIZATION OF WORK AND TIME MANAGEMENT

23. Under this agenda item, the Presidency invited the Secretariat to provide an overview of the scenario note and the organization of work for the resumed meetings. The Deputy Executive Secretary noted that

the first part of the document built on earlier meetings and preliminary notes made available in the last Bureaux meeting with regards to modality and would complement the provisional and annotated agendas of each meeting. The scenario note followed the logic that there are many interrelated issues of the three bodies and that these issues were to be discussed concurrently. He also noted that the general principle was to continue working on CRPs but not to re-open L-docs. Although some L-docs were being supplemented by new materials, the intention was to only address the new items. He emphasized that due to the short time available, time management would be key and advised that the time table would have to be followed with flexibility. He informed the Bureaux there was no provision for extending these meetings.

24. The Bureaux thanked the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, the Co-chairs of the Working Group and the Secretariat for the hard work put in developing the scenario note and time table and acknowledged the difficulty of the task. In this regard, the Bureaux raised various issues. The Bureaux suggested exploring ways to adjust the organization of work and group some of the items as much as possible in order to maximize the discussions. The Bureaux emphasized the importance of giving sufficient time to the discussions of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework under the Working Group and related issues under the subsidiary bodies as well as other key issues like mainstreaming. The Bureaux noted the importance of circulating this scenario note as soon as possible with all delegates so that Parties could prepare accordingly.

25. The Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, the Co-chairs of the Working Group and the Executive Secretary reminded the Bureaux that the organization of work had been a product of an extremely long discussion which attempted to properly balance the mandates of each body and respond to the guidance offered by both Bureaux in their last meeting. However, they acknowledged the useful suggestions from the Bureaux and agreed to adjust the scenario note and circulate it with them by the end of the week.

26. The Presidency thanked the subsidiary body Chairs and Co-chairs and informed the Bureaux that once the revised scenario note was circulated electronically, any feedback was to be communicated by email in order to finalize and circulate to Parties by notification as soon as possible.

ITEM 5. SIDE-EVENTS AND OTHER PARALLEL MEETINGS

27. Under this agenda item, the Deputy Executive Secretary advised the Bureaux that, as per the notification, the Parties were invited to submit requests for side-events during the resumed sessions in Geneva, noting that these would be limited to four per day during the lunch period. He noted that, as per past practice, priority would be given to those side-events that were well aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and which were submitted by many organizations, rather than single ones. Regarding associated parallel events, the Deputy Executive Secretary noted the Secretariat would continue working with the COP Presidency for events taking place between the first and second part of COP 15 and would be discussing more on this in the meeting of COP arrangements.

ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS

28. No other matters were raised by the joint meeting.

ITEM 7. CLOSING OF THE JOINT MEETING

29. The Chair thanked the Bureaux and all participants for the discussion and closed the joint meeting on 16 November 2021 at 9:45 a.m. EST.