



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/Bur/2022/4/2
11 August 2022

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
21 July 2022

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD TELECONFERENCE OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD**

1. A teleconference session of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties was held via MS Teams on 21 July 2022 at 7:00 a.m. EST to discuss the intersessional work from Nairobi to the fifth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020-5), as well as preparations for Part Two of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the tenth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (COP 15.2).

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

COP President: Minister Huang Runqiu (China)

Africa: Mr. Melesse Maryo (Ethiopia);

Asia and the Pacific: Ms. Leina Al-Awadhi (Kuwait); Mr. Vinod Mathur for Mr. Shri Naresh Pal Gangwar (India);

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

Central and Eastern Europe: Ms. Teona Karchava (Georgia); Mr. Dilovarsho Dustzoda (Tajikistan, substitute for Georgia for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol);

Western Europe and Others: Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria); Ms. Rosemary Paterson (New Zealand); and Ms. Marie Haraldstad (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 (connected virtually on 19 June); 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 (Egypt), Representative of COP 14 Presidency;

COP Presidency: Dr. ZHOU Guomei, Dr. CUI Shuhong, Mr. LIU Ning;

Observer: Mr. Neville Ash (UNEP); Ms. Tara Shannon (Canada), Ms. Kelly Torck (Canada);

3. The Secretariat was represented by Mrs. Elizabeth Mrema, Executive Secretary; Mr. David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary; Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Director of Implementation Support Division; Ms. Jihyun Lee, Director of Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division; Mr. Wataru Suzuki, Global Coordinator, Japan Biodiversity Fund, Mr. Taukondjo Shikongo, Head, Nagoya Protocol Unit; Ms. Catalina Santamaria, Senior Programme Officer; Ms. Li Gu, Programme Officer; Mr. David Ainsworth, Information Officer, Ms. Kathryn Garforth, Programme Officer; Mr. Lijie Cai, Programme Officer; and Ms. Inonge Mweene, Legal Officer.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The teleconference was opened on 21 July 2022 at 7:00 a.m. EST by the Minister of Ecology and Environment, Mr. Huang Runqiu, President of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Chair thanked the Bureau, Co-Chairs and Secretariat for their hard work that led to the success of the Nairobi meeting, and which advanced the basic framework. He informed the Bureau that as COP 15 President, he had attended the ministerial roundtable in the 2022 High-Level Political Forum in New York, and met with several key leaders to promote the successful convening of COP 15, as well as agreeing on the framework. The Chair noted world leaders are willing to work with the Presidency to reach a balanced and ambitious framework.

5. At the invitation of the Chair, the Executive Secretary offered a warm welcome to all Bureau members and expressed appreciation of the participation of Minister Huang. She noted that the Secretariat had immediately begun preparations for WG2020-5, as well as for COP 15.2, in close coordination with Canada, China and others. She reiterated the call for financial resources, urging all Parties in a position to do so, to contribute towards the convening of these two meetings, as well as for the participation of funded delegates. The Executive Secretary noted these funds were needed well in advance to proceed with the planning in good time. She also informed the Bureau that Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Director of Implementation Support Division of the Secretariat, would be leaving to take a new position by the end of the month. She thanked Ms. Mathur-Filipp for her hard work and commitment in her role as lead of the post-2020 team and head of division. The Executive Secretary informed that she had assigned Ms. Jihyun Lee, Director of Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division, to support the Co-Chairs with the work remaining on the post-2020 and noted that the Secretariat continued to look forward to support the Bureau in the time left to December to ensure the success of the two meetings ahead.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Chair introduced the provisional agenda for the meeting and after no objections, the agenda was adopted.

ITEM 3. FOLLOW-UP FROM THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK, AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIFTH MEETING

7. Under this agenda item, the Chair invited the Co-Chairs of the Post-2020 process to provide an update since the fourth meeting of the Working Group.

8. The Co-Chairs, making reference to a document circulated earlier to the Bureau, made a presentation that addressed three main issues for the intersessional period between Nairobi and December: the composition of an informal group; preparations for the WG2020-5; and an overview of the high-level engagement.

9. Regarding the informal group, the Co-Chairs outlined the mandate which was to review the text, and to make proposals to refine it, remove duplication and redundancies, and ensure consistency. The group would not negotiate and it would not discuss text that has already been agreed on. In addition, the group would aim to provide solutions for agreement, including options. The composition would include five representatives per region, nominated by the respective Bureau members. It would include the COP Presidency and the SBSTTA and SBI Chairs as ex-officio members and would be led by the Co-Chairs. It

was noted that in the relevant discussions, representatives of IPLCs would be invited to contribute virtually, as well as any technical expert to respond to specific questions. The Co-Chairs indicated that the informal group would prepare briefs and hold consultations via video-conferences until mid-September, then would meet in person for five days in Montreal from 26 to 30 September 2022. The group would prepare a set of recommendations and guidance documents to be issued 6 weeks ahead of WG2020-5, and would socialize these outputs through a set of briefing webinars.

10. Regarding the preparations of WG2020-5, the Co-Chairs noted the main purpose of the meeting was to prepare for negotiation at COP-15. The meeting would be held 3 days prior to COP in the same venue and in terms of organization of work, they planned to keep plenaries as short as possible in order to allow a maximum number of negotiating sessions in contact groups. As per normal practice, there would be regional and bureau meetings the day before and the input documents would be the outcome of the fourth meeting in Nairobi, as well as the guidance document issued by the informal group. The Co-Chairs provided the Bureau with a draft provisional agenda and indicated they would prepare the annotated agenda soon.

11. For the high-level engagement, the Co-Chairs noted that there was a need to engage more ministers and to make them aware of the plan. They noted they would like to work with the Bureau and the Executive Secretary to engage ministers in three levels: global events such as UNGA, UNFCCC COP, etc.; a number of regional and subregional assemblies, such as AMCEN, CARICOM, etc.; and engagement at an individual level at different events.

12. The Co-Chairs then took the opportunity to express their deep appreciation to Ms. Mathur-Filipp for the support she offered to them during the past years on the post-2020 process and welcomed working with Ms. Jihyun Lee in the remaining months.

13. The Chair thanked the Co-Chairs for their presentation and invited the Bureau for comments and questions. The Bureau thanked the Co-Chairs for the detailed presentation and for their hard work and generally supported the way forward with some additional questions and suggestions for the Co-Chairs. Overall, the Bureau agreed with the approach that the group should focus on redundancies and inconsistencies, and that it should not negotiate. They were pleased with the participation of IPLC representatives and asked if there were other ways to engage other stakeholders. Some Bureau members suggested that the outcome of the informal group should include the proposed headline indicators, alongside proposed targets and goals. They requested clarification on the exact mandate of the group in order to facilitate the nomination process, given that only five regional representatives were invited to be part of the group, and some members requested the last day of July as deadline for nominations, while others requested an additional week (5 August 2022) as deadline to submit nominations. They noted it was extremely important to select the right people for the group. The Bureau also emphasized the importance of all Parties understanding what exactly the informal group is mandated to do, to ensure the outcomes of the group will be accepted by all Parties.

14. Regarding the organization of WG2020-5, the Bureau agreed with keeping the plenaries short in order to focus on as many negotiating sessions as possible.

15. On the high-level political engagement, the Bureau agreed that high political engagement was needed and noted that the COP Presidency played a strong role on this issue.

16. The Co-Chairs responded to a series of questions from the Bureau on methodology, logistics, outcomes and composition of the group. Based on the new suggestions and requests for clarification, the Co-Chairs agreed to update the document of intersessional work, aligning it with the presentation and discussions at the bureau meeting, and to recirculate it to the Bureau members as soon as possible.

17. The Chair summarized the rich discussion held and thanked the Co-Chairs for their presentation, and looked forward to their revised document.

ITEM 4. PREPARATIONS FOR PART TWO OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES, THE TENTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL AND THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL

18. Under this agenda item, the Chair invited the representative of Canada to provide the Bureau with an update on the preparations for COP15.2.
19. Ms. Tara Shannon, the Canadian representative, informed the Bureau that since Nairobi, they had been working very closely with the Secretariat on the preparations for COP. She noted that Mr. Vincent Ngan had been appointed to manage the logistics of COP 15, and they were in the process of mobilizing fifteen government offices for the various aspects of organization of the COP, compressing what would normally be a 24-month preparatory timeline into four months. Ms. Shannon noted they were working closely with the Province of Quebec, the City of Montreal and Montreal Tourism to ensure all preparations are well on their way for December.
20. At the invitation of the Chair, the Deputy Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that a change in dates for the COP would be required to accommodate WG2020-5 beforehand, taking into account the availability of the venue and the need for time for set-up in the days prior to the COP. This meant the start of the COP would be on 7 December, ending on 19 December. The High-Level Segment would then take place on 15-17 December. He noted the Secretariat would issue a notification after the meeting to alert Parties on the dates for WG2020-5 and the adjustment of the dates for COP. Another notification would be issued about registration. The Deputy Executive Secretary encouraged members of the Bureau to ensure Parties of their region did early registration, especially funded delegates.
21. The Deputy Executive Secretary reminded the Bureau that they were still seeking funds to pay the outstanding USD 450,000 for the organization of WG2020-4 in Nairobi. He clarified this was not for the funding of participants but for the actual costs of the meeting. For the COP and the WG2020-5, he noted that funds were still insufficient for these meetings, and additional funds of approximately USD 3.5 million would be required for the participation of at least three delegates from each LDCs and SIDs through the BZ fund. Regarding the agendas, the Deputy Executive Secretary reminded the Bureau that draft annotations had been circulated to them and they still needed to be discussed. He invited the Bureau to provide comments in writing so that they could be finalized. He also advised that in line with usual practice the Secretariat would be preparing a compilation of draft decisions, coming predominantly from the recommendations of the subsidiary bodies. He noted all documents would be ready at least 6 weeks before and the budget document at least 3 months before COP. On associated events, the Deputy Executive Secretary provided a brief overview indicating that the usual number of events organized with different constituencies would take place, such as youth, IPLCs, business, cities, etc. The timing of these events would be coordinated in order to avoid or limit overlap with the main COP sessions.
22. Dr. Cui, representative of the Chinese organizing team, also provided the Bureau with a brief update on the preparations of the High-Level Segment. He noted that after the adjustments of the date and venue, China had further refined the concept note and invitation for ministers, and was currently updating the plan for the HLS to be held in the second week of the COP. He reiterated that China would fund participation of ministers from LDCs and SIDs and will be soon sending the first round of invitations.
23. The Chair thanked the Canadian representative, the Deputy Executive Secretary and the Chinese representative for their update and invited the Bureau for comments. The Bureau thanked the Government of Canada, the Province of Quebec, the City of Montreal, the Secretariat and the Government of China for the work and rapid action regarding the preparations for COP given such a short timeline. They agreed with the change of dates for the COP and noted the need for an in-depth discussion on several COP matters. Therefore, the Bureau requested a separate meeting soon to address this specific issue, especially to look into innovative ideas on how to prioritize some issues given the extremely heavy agenda for only a two week period.
24. The Bureau expressed their gratitude to Ms. Mathur-Filipp for her contributions and hard work during her time at the Secretariat and conveyed their best wishes in her new post.
25. The Executive Secretary thanked the Bureau for the constructive discussions and their valuable contributions. She assured the Secretariat would continue to work hard with the Governments of Canada and China to ensure all preparations were in place for December.

ITEM 5. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

26. The Chair thanked the Bureau and all participants for the successful discussion. The meeting was closed on 21 July 2022 at 9:40 a.m. EST.