



**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

26 January 2022

**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 26 January 2022 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), as well as the preparations for the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP-15), the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol (COP-MOP 10) and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (COP-MOP 4).

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

Representative of the COP President: Ms. Guomei Zhou (China);

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

Asia and the Pacific: Mr. Vinod Mathur (India); Leina Al-Awadhi (Kuwait);

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

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of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, representative of COP 14 Presidency;

Observers: Mr. Liu Ning (China), COP 15 host representatives; Mr. Neville Ashe (UNEP); Ambassador Franz Perrez (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 Muzungaila (Seychelles); Mr. Larbi Sbai (Morocco);

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

Central and Eastern Europe: 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 (St. 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; 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 26 January 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 COP Presidency welcomed the members of both Bureaux, as well as the representative of the Government of Switzerland, Ambassador Franz Perrez, as host of the meetings in Geneva in March 2022. Wishing all the participants a good start of the year, she invited the Chair of SBSTTA, Mr. Hesiquio Diaz, to offer welcome remarks. Mr. Diaz also welcomed both Bureaux members and expressed his best wishes in what he hoped would be a decisive year for biodiversity. The COP Presidency then invited the Executive Secretary, Ms. Elizabeth Mrema to offer welcome remarks.

6. The Executive Secretary began by wishing everyone a good start to yet another busy year. She noted that the deteriorating pandemic situation had already impacted their planning and activities, especially with regards to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies and the WG2020, but also had a ripple effect for the dates of the second part of COP 15. She informed the Bureaux that she and her team had been in constant communication with the Swiss Government monitoring the global situation and thanked them for their unrelenting commitment and support to the Convention and the post-2020 process. She also noted that they remain in close communication with the COP Presidency regarding the planning and organization of the second part of COP 15. She concluded by wishing the Bureaux courage, health and success in the continuing leadership of the Convention and the critical post-2020 process.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. 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.

8. Before moving with the agenda, the COP Presidency reminded the participants that, as communicated to the elected COP Bureau members last week, there would be a brief meeting of the elected COP Bureau immediately after the joint meeting to consider the contract extension of the Executive Secretary.

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 COP Presidency began by inviting the Secretariat to provide an overview of the preparations for the meetings.

10. The Deputy Executive Secretary, Mr. David Cooper, confirmed that the resumed meetings of the subsidiary bodies and the WG2020 would go ahead from 13 to 29 March 2022, with regional and Bureaux meetings taking place on 13 March, opening the sessions the following day, 14 March 2022. He noted that registration was well advanced, and that the Secretariat had received requests for funding from 105 countries. The Secretariat would be contacting them and urging all delegates to make the necessary arrangements for travel and visas, as well as get all the necessary vaccination documentation in order in good time for the meetings. The Deputy Executive Secretary emphasized that the scenario note and organization of work had been updated to align the allocation of plenaries and contact groups with some adjustments made to avoid clashes with Intergovernmental Conference on marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction that will take place in New York around the same time. He noted the document had been circulated earlier to the Bureaux.

11. Ambassador Perrez, representative of the Swiss Government, complemented the briefing of the Deputy Executive Secretary and informed the Bureaux that the preparation was well underway, and that Switzerland was confident it would be possible to organize a successful and safe meeting in Geneva in March. He noted that although the infection rate was currently high, they expected it to come down soon. He encouraged delegates to download and use the vaccine certificate, which, although is not needed to enter Switzerland or the venue, will be needed to access restaurants, including the venue's restaurant. He noted they would follow the model of UNFCCC's COP 26 with daily testing and other useful approaches to control any potential spread. The Ambassador reaffirmed Switzerland's commitment to support the process and hoped to welcome all delegates in Geneva in March.

12. Members of the Bureaux thanked the Secretariat and the Government of Switzerland for their important update. A brief discussion followed. In response to their questions, it was clarified to the Bureaux that delegates could enter Switzerland either with proof of vaccination, proof of immunity or a negative PCR test, however proof of vaccination would be needed to access the venue, therefore delegates were advised to obtain the vaccination certificate. It was also noted that some exemptions would be made for vaccines that were not yet approved by the World Health Organization, upon the request of delegates. Regarding the number of participants allowed in the venue from observer organizations and stakeholders, it was clarified that observer delegations would be allowed two participants at any one time in the venue but could also rotate amongst themselves, in the same way Parties were able to. This followed the principle being used in other international meetings such as UNEA-5 to avoid overcrowding.

13. With regards to the organization of work, the Bureaux generally agreed with the adjustments made and requested adding more days off where possible and urging the dates of the meetings be fixed in order to allow delegates to begin their travel arrangements. As to the two outstanding resource mobilization documents, the Secretariat indicated these would be available in the coming days.

14. After thanking everyone for the fruitful discussion, the COP 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.

15. Mr. Hesiquio Benitez, Chair of SBSTTA-24, began by informing the members of the Bureaux that the same elected officers of the meeting would be expected to continue, including Ms. Senka Barudanovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina as rapporteur. The SBSTTA Chair noted that the detailed plan of work had been

discussed with the SBSTTA Bureau and that all documents were ready and published on the website. Referring to the ongoing series of webinars, he acknowledged their importance to keep momentum and thanked the support of colleagues and Secretariat in order to make them happen in a very short notice. He also informed the participants that he was planning a series of online meetings with the leads of the SBSTTA contact groups in order to prepare for Geneva, as well as SBSTTA Bureau meeting next week.

16. Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist, Chair of SBI-3, also provided the Bureaux with a brief update on the organization of work for the resumed session of SBI-3. She noted that they would start where they left off during the first session in June 2021 and she would not re-open the L documents that were already agreed on, except to request that brackets be lifted where possible. The SBI Chair also highlighted that they would continue to go through the CRPs that were prepared at the first reading and would introduce new documents that had been prepared in light of those CRPs. She also noted that contact groups would start where they had left off in the first session. She also planned to convene a contact group to discuss the revised Gender Plan of Action. Regarding intersessional work, the SBI Chair listed the series of new documents that had been prepared in line with the annex on intersessional work appended to the report of the first part of the meeting. She also noted some new information documents that were now posted on the SBI-3 meeting webpage. Additionally, the SBI Chair listed the webinars she had co-organized with the Secretariat on agenda items 6 and 9, as well as the Draft Post-2020 Gender Plan of Action under item 5. She also informed the Bureaux that together with the Chair of SBSTTA and the Co-chairs of WG2020, they would organize a webinar to provide an update on the organization of work and the Scenario Note on 8 February. She further indicated that she has been and will be holding meetings in the coming weeks with the co-leads of each of the SBI-3 contact groups and would be meeting with all of them closer to Geneva to finalize the approach.

17. The SBI Chair further noted that she had launched a process to invite advanced comments from Parties and observers on four annexes to the CRP on monitoring, reporting and review (agenda item 9) so that comments received could be considered in finalizing the CRP in Geneva, hoping this process would advance those discussions. She encouraged Parties to agree as much as possible in Geneva and to leave brackets only in major areas of diversion to send to COP for further discussion. Finally, she noted that it was expected that the Bureau member already elected as the rapporteur (Mr. Eric Amaning Okoree, Ghana) would continue in that role.

18. The COP Presidency then invited the Co-chairs of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to address the meeting. The Co-chairs highlighted key elements from the update provided to the Bureau on 23 December 2021 and began with a brief reflection on the first part of the third meeting of the WG2020. They noted that WG2020-3.1 had met its objective and prepared them well in terms of content and spirit for the next part of the post-2020 negotiation process. The Co-chairs also outlined the formal and informal intersessional work completed, including the Co-chairs Reflection document, the updated Glossary and the updated document on DSI. Regarding the preparations for the resumed meeting of WG2020-3, the Co-chairs noted they had met jointly and individually with each pair of Co-leads and were preparing an *Addendum to the Scenario Note* that would provide specific details on the input, focus of discussion and expected output for each contact group. They also noted that they had worked with the Chairs of SBSTTA and SBI, as well as the Secretariat, to adjust the schedule for the concurrent meetings in Geneva and would hold two briefing webinars on 1 and 7 February to present the Reflections document. As had been noted by the SBI Chair, they would organize a webinar together with the SBI and SBSTTA Chairs, to explain the agenda and organization of work of the resumed meetings and how the linkages among the various agenda items would be coordinated and scheduled in sequence to reinforce each other. Finally, they informed the participants of the meeting that it was expected that the Bureau member already elected as the rapporteur (Ms. Leina Al-Awadhi, Kuwait) would continue in that role.

19. The COP Presidency, as well as the Bureaux members, thanked the Chairs of SBSTTA, SBI and the Co-chairs of WG2020 for their comprehensive updates. Regarding a query on the virtual aspect of the meetings, the Bureaux were reminded that the nature of the meetings was to be full in-person meetings, and that any negotiations would be done by delegates present in the meeting. However, noting the high interest in the process, facilities for registered delegates to follow the proceedings virtually would be made available, in addition to the traditional webcasting of sessions. For those Parties that for exceptional reasons

could not travel to Geneva, special arrangements for virtual participation could be made as previously agreed and as noted in the Scenario Note.

ITEM 4. PREPARATIONS FOR PART TWO OF THE UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE: CBD COP 15 AND CONCURRENT MEETINGS OF THE PROTOCOLS

20. Under this agenda item, the COP Presidency invited the representative of China, Mr. Liu Ning, to provide the Bureaux with a brief update on the preparations for the second part of COP 15.

21. Mr. Liu began by wishing all the participants a good start to the year. He began by noting that China was very pleased that the resumed sessions of the subsidiary bodies and the working group would go ahead and take place in March in Geneva, leaving enough time for the preparation of the second part of COP 15. He noted China would keep in close contact with the Secretariat and the Bureau to jointly discuss new dates for the second part of COP. As for the modality, he highlighted that they would learn from the experience of the Beijing Winter Olympics as well as UNEA and Geneva. Regarding the public measures for the pandemic and the ongoing Omicron outbreak, China has begun working on special pandemic measure for the second part of COP in order to ensure the health and safety of all delegates, noting these would be shared as soon as they were ready.

22. The Deputy Executive Secretary complemented the representative of China and making reference to the list of international meetings for 2022 circulated earlier, he emphasized that due to the extremely busy calendar, dates during the third quarter of the year were being explored for COP 15. He noted as soon as dates were agreed with China, they would be shared with the Bureau. Regarding the documentation and substantive preparation, the Deputy Executive Secretary highlighted they were well underway, and that the Bureau would need to work on the organization of work at a future meeting, once the Geneva meetings had been completed. Following the Geneva meetings, he noted that a compilation of recommendations would be made. He also noted that some documents were already available. He further noted that the budget documents would be made available three months before the meeting took place.

23. The members of the Bureaux thanked China and the Secretariat for the updates and highlighted the importance of setting a date as soon as possible in order to secure key participation, especially of Ministers for the High-Level Segment. The Bureaux emphasized the importance of the participation of representatives of civil society, stakeholders and observers and requested they be equally supported in terms of visa facilitation, etc. They expressed appreciation for the efforts made in order to ensure a healthy and safe meeting, looked forward to reviewing the measures that China is preparing on this matter. A member of the COP Bureau indicated that they would appreciate being informed of when the COP Presidency intends to share information with the Bureau on the aforementioned matters and also suggested that alternate scenarios be made by the Secretariat and China in case the second part of COP 15 cannot go ahead as planned during these alternate dates.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

24. Under this agenda item, one Bureau member noted the importance of knowing the date of the next Bureau meeting. The COP Presidency and the Secretariat assured the Bureau they would look into dates and communicate them to the Bureau as soon as possible.

25. The Executive Secretary recalled the untimely passing of Mr. Orestes Plasencia, Chief Editor of the Secretariat, and Bureau members took a minute of silence in his honor.

26. No other matters were raised by the Joint meeting.

ITEM 6. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

27. The COP Presidency thanked the Bureaux and all participants for the discussion and noted that the SBSTTA Bureau would meet on 2 February 2022. She invited the elected members of the COP Bureau

only to remain for consideration of the issue of the extension of the contract of the Executive Secretary and closed the joint meeting on 26 January 2022 at 8:54 a.m. EST.