



## Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.  
GENERAL

CBD/COP/Bur/2024/9/2  
27 November 2024

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
Videoconference, 27 November 2024

### MINUTES OF THE NINTH BUREAU MEETING HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE

1. The ninth meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties was held via MS Teams on 27 November 2024 at 7:00 EST.
2. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, H.E. María Susana Muhamad, the COP 16 President.
3. The following members of the Bureau attended the above meetings:  
*African States:* Ms. Khangeziwe Mabuza (Eswatini); Mr. Moustafa Fouda (Egypt, substitute for Algeria for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol)  
*Asia-Pacific States:* Ms. Somaly Chan (Cambodia)  
*Eastern European States:* Ms. Teona Karchava (Georgia); Ms. Angela Lozan (Republic of Moldova)  
*Latin American and the Caribbean States:* Ms. Maria Teresa Becerra Ramirez (Colombia); Ms. Corina Sarli (Argentina, substitute for Colombia for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol); Ms. Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica); Mr. Jesus Guerra Bell (Cuba, substitute for Jamaica for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol).  
*Western Europe and other States:* Mr. Eric Schauls (Luxembourg); Mr. Norbert Bärlocher (Switzerland)  
*Nagoya Protocol COP/MOP-5 President:* Ns. Nneka Nicholas (Antigua and Barbuda)  
*Ex officio:* Ms. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters (SBSTTA); Mr. Chirra Achalender Reddy (India), Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation  
*COP Presidency:* Ms. Ana Maria Hernandez, Ms. Daniela Almario  
*Chair of the Budget Contact Group:* Mr. Charles Gbedemah (Ghana)  
*Observers:* Mr. Neville Ash (UNEP), Ms. Susan Gardner (UNEP)  
*COP17 Bureau-elect Observers:* Mr. Jeremiah Edmund (Saint Lucia); Mr. Gaute Hanssen (Norway); Ms. Ilham Atho Mohamed (Maldives); Ms. Adla Kahrić (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Ms. Ditta Greguss (Hungary), Mr. Jakhongir Talipov (Uzbekistan); Ms. Joséphine Thérèse Babette Beyala Epse Eloundou (Cameroon); Mr. Kumar Mambetaliev (Kyrgyzstan); Mr. Jean Bruno Mikissa (Gabon); Ms. Clarissa Souza Della Nina (Brazil)
4. The Secretariat was represented by Ms. Astrid Schomaker (Executive Secretary), Mr. David Cooper (Deputy Executive Secretary), Mr. Neil Pratt (Acting Director, Implementation Support Division), Ms. Jihyun Lee (Director, Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division), Ms. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi (Head, Biosafety Unit), Ms. Fumiko Nakao (Principal Coordination Officer), Mr. David Ainsworth (Public Information Officer),

Ms. Inonge Mweene (Legal Officer), Ms. Kathryn Garforth (Legal Officer), Mr. Markus Lehmann (Programme Management Officer), Mr. Ide Ahmed (Acting Head of Administration), Nader Ibrahim (Conference Services Assistant) and Ms. Christine Estrada (Senior Programme Management Assistant).

### **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

5. The Bureau meeting was opened on 27 November 2024 at 7:15 EST by the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia as President of COP 16. The President welcomed the Bureau members and invited the Executive Secretary to provide a quick overview of the agenda for the meeting.

6. The Executive Secretary began by highlighting that the meeting's objective was to decide how to move forward with the resumed sessions of COP 16, COP/MOP 11 and COP/MOP 5, which were suspended in Cali due to the lack of quorum in the last plenary session. She noted that the Secretariat had circulated a note on 19 November outlining the proposal from the Presidency containing the two elements to resume the sessions, including adopting the integrated budgets of the Convention and its Protocols by silence procedure, and holding an in-person meeting in the last week of February 2025 to address the pending decisions. The Executive Secretary also noted that a series of consultations had taken place in the last few days, including an informal meeting of the Budget Committee in order to clarify the understanding with the budget document. In this context she confirmed that Secretariat intended to compile information relating to the possible use of reserves, surplus, savings to cover the costs of delegates to meetings.

### **ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

7. The President thanked the Executive Secretary for the introduction and submitted the provisional agenda for approval. After no objection, the agenda was approved.

### **ITEM 3. PROPOSAL FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET OF THE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS**

8. Under this agenda item, the President provided a brief overview of her proposal on adopting the integrated budgets for the Convention and its Protocols by silence procedure and reiterated the importance of moving ahead to formalize the agreement that appeared to have been reached in Cali. She noted that the Secretariat needed to start planning, Parties needed to implement and the need to focus on the important discussions on Resource Mobilization and Planning, Monitoring, Reporting and Review that would be taking place in the in-person meeting in February. The President then invited the Chair of the Budget Committee to address the Bureau.

9. The Chair of the Budget Contact Group highlighted the understanding that most delegates in the Contact Group had indicated their agreement to the budget decisions as a package and that the remaining delegates later indicated to him that they also agreed with it. He noted that this understanding was further clarified in the informal virtual meeting of members of the Budget Contact Group that had been held on the previous day. The Chair indicated that to his view, the proposal of the President was a practical way forward and advised against any substantive changes as they could risk opening the discussions and unravelling the delicate balance of the package.

10. After thanking the Chair of the Budget Committee, the President opened the floor for comments or questions from the Bureau. Members of the Bureau firstly expressed appreciation to the COP 16 President, the Chair of the Budget Committee and the Secretariat for the update and subsequently engaged in a brief discussion. Most members of the Bureau expressed their agreement to go forward with the proposal of the President to adopt the integrated budget of the Convention and its Protocols by a silence procedure. One member of the Bureau highlighted that it would have been preferable to discuss the budget in plenary. Some members clarified that this agreement was in the spirit of not delaying the process and upon clarification of positions that had not been properly communicated to all members of the contact group. Another member of the Bureau highlighted the

importance of ensuring that all views and concerns from Parties be respected. Other members of the Bureau requested that clear instructions be prepared on how the silence procedure would take place and what would happen should the silence be broken. Some members of the Bureau enquired on how any budgetary implications of intersessional work that may be product of the pending decisions would be taken into consideration. The Bureau also requested that the Secretariat prepare a clear outline of the decisions that need to be taken up by each of the Subsidiary Bodies in order to inform consideration at the in-person resumed meetings regarding the number of meetings required for each.

11. In response to several questions and comments from the Bureau, the Legal Officer of the Secretariat briefly explained the process for the silence procedure and indicated that a scenario note would be made available on the website. The silence procedure itself would be initiated by a communication from the President circulated to CBD national focal points and heads of delegation registered to the Meetings. The Legal Officer also clarified the issue of the validity of the credentials, noting that as the Meetings had not officially closed, the credentials already sent to the Secretariat may remain valid and Parties can submit a Note Verbal to reconfirm them. She highlighted that only a Party with credentials could break the silence. The Executive Secretary also provided various clarifications, noted a typographical error in the L.35 document that would be corrected, and highlighted that separate decisions to cover the costs of the in-person meeting were going to be prepared and put forward also in the silence procedure. Regarding a Party's preference for meetings in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal, the Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that ICAO was not available as it would be undergoing renovations and would be closed for some time. Furthermore, she indicated that the Secretariat would always consider the costs and availability of venues for meetings and that for COP16.2 there had been no availability in Nairobi either. On the issue of budgetary provisions of the intersessional work arising from pending decisions, the Deputy Executive Secretary noted that the budget included provisions for various categories of meetings and some provisions are not earmarked for specific activities or events. Therefore, there was some flexibility regarding the number of meetings of SBSTTA versus SBI. He also clarified that while some activities would be funded from the core budget, others would be funded from the voluntary fund. The Deputy Executive Secretary also indicated that the resumed COP could make provisions for any additional cost implications that may arise from decisions to be taken in the in-person meeting in February.

12. The President thanked the Bureau for the fruitful exchange and for the support to move forward with adopting the budgets of the Convention and its Protocols by silence procedure.

#### **ITEM 4. PROPOSALS FOR RESUMING COP 16/CP COP-MOP 11/NP COP-MOP 5 TO ADDRESS PENDING DECISIONS OTHER THAN THE BUDGET**

13. The President, moving on to the second element of the proposal, invited the Secretariat to provide a brief overview of the proposal for the in-person meeting.

14. The Deputy Executive Secretary highlighted that the proposal for the in-person meeting was for it to be held in the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy, from 25 to 27 February 2025, preceded by a day of regional meetings and a bureau meeting. He highlighted that this venue was the most practical in terms of costs and availability. While providing an overview of the pending decisions that were going to be addressed in the in-person session, the Deputy Executive Secretary indicated that there was a mistake in the table of decisions of the note circulated to the Bureau regarding the election of the SB8j Chair, and that this matter would not be included as the President of COP16 would serve as the Chair of SB8j as per past practice. He noted that upon agreement from the Bureau to proceed with this in-person meeting, the Secretariat would prepare the annotated agenda and organization of work for the meeting.

15. The Bureau thanked the Secretariat and President for the overview. Some members of the Bureau indicated that maybe one more day would be needed to ensure sufficient time to discuss the pending issues. Others noted that a clear roadmap of consultations (at a political and/or technical level) and Bureau meetings be prepared by the President to ensure that Parties are well prepared to arrive to Rome and be efficient in their work and to

ensure trust, therefore avoiding the need to extend for an additional day. The Bureau also requested that the travel of funded participants be processed as early as possible and to ensure their departure times are not too close after the closing of the meeting, to avoid the same situation as in Cali. The order of the agenda items for the in-person meeting plenaries was also discussed, with some expressing preference to start with Resource Mobilization and others preferring not to.

16. In response to these comments and questions, the Secretariat clarified that registration would begin soon and adequate travel preparations would be made to ensure that funded delegates would have sufficient time after the closing of the meetings. It was noted that the FAO has a consular service that would facilitate the issuance of visas for the meeting. It was noted that the size of the venue was limited, as there was an expectation that the attendance of delegations would be more modest given the few items that were pending. Regarding the order of the agenda items for the in-person meeting plenaries, the Secretariat clarified that the plan was to continue where things left off in Cali, which would mean that Resource Mobilization would be taken first, noting that many considered that this decision would be part of a package together with PMRR/MF. The Secretariat would work with the President to prepare a roadmap for consultations in advance of the meetings and specify dates for the future meetings of the Bureau.

17. The President emphasized that she would work with Partis to facilitate consultations in preparation for the meetings and would provide an outline on how these would be conducted. She thanked members of the Bureau for the fruitful exchange and for the support to convene the in person resumed sessions of the meetings.

#### **ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS**

18. Under this agenda item, the Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that a short note on the Functional Review would be circulated to them seeking their views on the draft terms of reference.

#### **ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETINGS**

19. Thanking the Bureau for their valuable contributions and discussion, the President closed the Bureau meeting at 9:00am EST on 27 November 2024.

-----