



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
Videoconference, 20 January 2025

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

1. The tenth meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties was held via MS Teams on 20 January 2025 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:* 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);  
*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); 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)  
*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:* Mr. Jorge Murillo, Ms. Catalina Haydar, Ms. Paula San Miguel  
*Nagoya Protocol COP/MOP-5 President:* Ns. Nneka Nicholas (Antigua and Barbuda)  
*Observers:* Mr. Neville Ash (UNEP),  
*COP17 Bureau-elect Observers:* Mr. Jeremiah Edmund (Saint Lucia); Ms. Ilham Atho Mohamed (Maldives); Ms. Ditta Greguss (Hungary), Mr. Jakhongir Talipov (Uzbekistan); Mr. Jean Bruno Mikissa (Gabon); Ms. Clarissa Souza Della Nina (Brazil); Mr. Bilal Qtishat (Jordan); 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), Mr. Fumiko Nakao (Principal Coordination Officer), Mr. David Ainsworth (Public Information Officer), Ms. Inonge Mweene (Legal Officer), Mr. Kathryn Garforth (Legal Officer), Mr. Markus Lehmann (Head, BETI

Unit), Mr. Ide Ahmed (Acting Head of Administration), and Ms. Christine Estrada (Senior Programme Management Assistant).

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

5. The Bureau meeting was opened on 20 January 2025 at 7:15 EST by the Executive Secretary of the Convention, Ms. Astrid Schomaker, who welcomed Bureau members and expressed good wishes for the new year. She provided a quick overview of the recent activities that the Secretariat had been engaged in, including on recruitment of staff and on work programmes in response to the COP 16 decisions adopted in Cali. The Executive Secretary also informed the Bureau that the agendas for the resumed meetings in Rome were posted and available online, as well as other documents that had now been edited and translated. She noted that in view of ongoing consultations by the President, the document CBD/COP/16/L.34 on Resource mobilization would be made available for the Rome meeting, without any formal editing. The Executive Secretary also noted that the calendar of activities of the intersessional period would only be finalized until after the Rome meetings. She then highlighted the support the Secretariat has offered the Presidency with the informal consultations on Resource Mobilization and concluded by requesting Bureau members to urge their regions to continue registration and accreditation to ensure quorum in Rome.

6. The COP 16 President, H.E. Ms. Susana Muhamad, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, also welcomed the Bureau members and thanked the Executive Secretary for the overview.

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

7. The President submitted the provisional agenda for approval. After no objection, the agenda was approved.

### **ITEM 3. UPDATE ON INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

8. Under this agenda item, the President provided a brief overview of the ongoing consultations she was currently carrying out on Resource Mobilization. She noted that she held a first round of consultations on 12 and 18 December 2024 with regions, followed by an invitation to all Parties to provide written statements. The COP President highlighted that the first round of consultations at a technical level had helped her better understand the respective positions of Parties and the main points of divergence. Noting that the issue would likely need to be resolved at a political level, she informed the Bureau members that she intended to engage with key ministers in bilateral meetings to further explore how convergence and eventual consensus could be reached. The COP President then outlined her plan for the next steps, which included a possible meeting with a group of ministers, straddling different positions, to attempt to further advance discussions. She indicated that she would provide a note to the resumed meeting that would summarize the views and discussions. The President concluded by emphasizing that although there was broad consensus on the need for additional biodiversity finance and for improvement of the financial architecture, Parties needed a well-designed process to get there.

9. The Bureau thanked the President for the overview of the informal consultations and her efforts to advance the discussions on Resource Mobilization. A brief discussion ensued where it was clarified that considering the need for parties to have adequate time for regional coordination the reflection note of the President would be made available as soon as possible, while not 6 weeks ahead of the meetings in Rome, in view of necessary consultations to be undertaken. The COP President also indicated that as this was an informal process, the basis of work in Rome would be document L.34, and that the reflection note would provide the summary of views from regions in an attempt to reach consensus.

#### **ITEM 4. PREPARATIONS FOR THE RESUMED IN-PERSON SESSIONS OF COP 16/CP COP-MOP 11/NP COP-MOP 5**

10. The President, moving on to the next agenda item, invited the Secretariat to provide a brief overview of the preparations for the resumed sessions in Rome, Italy.
11. The COP Secretary for the resumed sessions, Ms. Jihyun Lee, provided a brief overview of the logistical and substantive preparations for the meeting that will resume in Rome. She informed the Bureau that the Secretariat was in the process of issuing funding letters, registering delegations and receiving credentials. She requested the Bureau members to help mobilize their regions in this regard and to ensure quorum. She also indicated the days that the Bureau would meet in Rome, including a meeting of the new incoming COP17 Bureau on 28 February to be held jointly with the SBSTTA Bureau.
12. The Bureau thanked the Secretariat and President for the overview. Some members of the Bureau requested the Secretariat to issue tickets as soon as possible in order to process visa applications and to consider the need for remote visa application in some countries. After some discussion on the possible extension of the meeting, the COP President reiterated that the meeting would end at 6pm of 27 February 2025, with a possibility of going until midnight only. A request was also made to provide a legal assessment, in writing, on the procedural aspect of extending the meetings. An additional request was also made to the Secretariat to provide a list of activities that would be covered by the different subsidiary bodies, in response to the decisions adopted by COP 16 so far.
13. In response to a question on how informal consultations would be handled in Rome, the COP President clarified that the meeting would be re-opened in plenary and, if necessary, could be suspended to carry out informal consultations. Regarding how a standstill on Resource Mobilization could affect other agenda items, the President emphasized that Parties had to think about the political responsibility of enabling the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to be implemented. She noted that Parties would need to work together to prioritize this at a political level and highlighted her on-going efforts to reach out to respective Ministers in this regard.

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

14. Under this agenda item, the Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that the Government of Panama had made an offer to host the intersessional meetings in 2025, in particular SBSTTA 27/SB8j. She also reminded the Bureau to submit any comments they may have on the elements of the Terms of Reference for the Functional Review, in view of the 20 January deadline. She has also mentioned the on-going efforts to engage the external consultants to undertake the functional review.
15. Noting that this meeting was David Cooper's last Bureau meeting, the Executive Secretary and the COP President, on behalf of the Bureau, thanked David for his dedication, remarkable work and contributions to the Convention and expressed good wishes for his retirement. The Deputy Executive Secretary thanked the Bureau for their support and hard work and wished them a successful meeting in Rome.

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

16. Thanking the Bureau for their valuable contributions and discussion, the President closed the Bureau meeting at 8:15am EST on 20 January 2025.

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