



Convention on Biological Diversity

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Meeting of the Bureau of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

First meeting

FAO Headquarters, 28 February 2025

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

1. A meeting of the Bureau of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties was held at the *Mexico* Room of the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome on 28 February 2025 from 4:00 p.m. to 5.15 p.m. local time (GMT+1).

2. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the COP Bureau with an overview of the work to be conducted during the biennium by the subsidiary bodies that it serves as bureau, including the scheduling of the meetings and the items to be addressed, and to consider the work plan for the COP Bureau.

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

COP President: H.E. Maria Susana Muhamad Gonzalez (Colombia);

Africa:

Joséphine Thérèse B. Eloundou (Cameroon)

Asia and the Pacific:

- Bilal Qtishat (Jordan), Ilham Atho Mohamed (Maldives)

Latin America and the Caribbean:

Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica), Jeremiah Edmund (Saint Lucia, COP-MOP Nagoya Protocol substitute for Jamaica), Corina Sarli (Argentina)

Eastern Europe:

- Adla Kahrić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Ditta Greguss (Hungary, COP-MOP Nagoya Protocol substitute for Bosnia and Herzegovina), Jakhongir Talipov (Uzbekistan), Kumar Mambetaliev (Kyrgyzstan, COP-MOP Nagoya Protocol substitute for Uzbekistan)

Western Europe and Others:

- Eric Schauls (Luxembourg), Gaute Hanssen (Norway)

Ex officio Members

- *SBSTTA Chair:* Jean Bruno Mikissa (Gabon)

- *SBI Chair:* Clarissa Souza Della Nina (Brazil)

Observers: Neville Ash (United Nations Environment Programme)

COP16 Presidency: Maria Teresa Becerra, Paula San Miguel, Catalina Haydar, Daniela Almario.

4. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was represented by Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary; Jihyun Lee, COP16.2 Secretary, SBSTTA Secretary and Director of the Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division; Neil Pratt, SBI Secretary, Officer-in-Charge, Implementation Support Division; Inonge Mweene, Legal Officer; Wadzanayi Mandivenyi, Head, Biosafety Unit; Taukondjo Shikongo, Head, ABS Unit; Olivier Rukundo, Senior Programme Management Officer; Kieran Noonan-Mooney, Programme Management Officer; Jacopo Pasquero, Associate Programme Officer; David Ainsworth, Public Information Officer; Christine Estrada, Senior Programme Management Assistant; Imane Sednaoui, Senior Staff Assistant; and Maria Morgado, Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The meeting was opened at 4:00 p.m. local time (GMT+1) by Her Excellency, Ms. Maria Susana Muhamad Gonzalez, President of the Conference of the Parties.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The COP President introduced the provisional agenda for the meeting.

7. There being no objections, the agenda was adopted.

ITEM 3. MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES SERVED BY THE COP BUREAU DURING THE BIENNIUM

8. Noting the discussion held in the preceding joint meeting of the COP and SBSTTA Bureaux on the biennial work programme, including on the scheduling of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies and matters to be addressed by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to indigenous peoples and local communities (SB8J), the President focused discussion on the work of SBI, in particular on determining the need for either one or two meetings of the SBI.

9. The budget adopted for 2025-2026 makes provision for one meeting of SBI that, because of the timeline for the preparation of the global review of collective progress (whose related decision has now been adopted), will be held back-to-back with SBSTTA-28 in July/August 2026. It had been noted that the intersessional work on resource mobilization arising from the related decision may not require an additional meeting of SBI based on the decision adopted by COP in Rome, and that the potential benefit of convening two meetings would need to be determined on the basis of the overall workload of the SBI. Options for an additional meeting could be back-to-back with SBSTTA-27 and SB8J-1, 1-5 November 2025 in Panama City, or as a stand-alone meeting early in 2026, in Montreal.

10. Bureau members discussed pros and cons of these options, including budgetary implications and the amount of work that could be ready for consideration by SBI at a meeting held earlier than August 2026. Some members also addressed potential logistics challenges for small delegations to attend three subsidiary meetings consecutively.

11. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to provide an analysis and timeline of all the intersessional work that needs to be conducted on the various matters that will be considered by SBI prior to COP 17 in order to determine what matters could be taken up by SBI at an earlier meeting and what

matters would need to be deferred to its meeting in August 2026. Based on that, the Bureau could consider and decide the way forward through online consultations and an online meeting before the end of March.

ITEM 4. CONSIDERATION OF THE WORK AND FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE COP BUREAU

12. The Secretariat presented the following proposal for in-person and videoconference meetings during the intersessional period:

2025

In-Person	Video conference
Stand-alone meeting of COP Bureau in April (Dates TBC)- Montreal, Canada	As needed during the year
SB8J-1 meeting (October 2025) Panama City, (possible SBI) Oct/Nov 2025- back-to-back to SB8J, Panama City	

2026

In-Person	Video conference
SBI (August 2026) venue TBC	As needed during the year
Day before start of COP17, CP COP/MOP-12, NP COP/MOP-6, Yerevan, Armenia	
In-session Daily during COP17, CP COP/MOP-12, NP COP/MOP-6 (except first day and weekend in between)	

13. Bureau members noted that 2025 has a very busy calendar and stressed the need to rationalize resources, especially taking into account those members with responsibilities to multiple conventions. In that regard, an in-person meeting in April/May would be difficult for some members to attend. The next meetings of the COP Bureau should therefore be held online. A suggestion was also made to allow members to attend in-person meetings online if they cannot attend in person.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

14. There were no other matters.

ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

15. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was closed at 5:15 p.m.

