



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
First joint hybrid meeting
FAO Headquarters, 28 February 2025**

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE BUREAUX OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AND THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

1. A joint hybrid meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was held in the Mexico Room at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome on 28 February 2025 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:26 p.m. local time (GMT+1).

2. The meeting was attended in person and online by the following members of the COP and SBSTTA Bureaux and substitutes:

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

SBSTTA Chair: Jean Bruno Mikissa (Gabon)

SBI Chair (ex-officio member of COP Bureau): Clarissa Souza Della Nina (Brazil)

Africa:

COP Bureau: Joséphine Thérèse Babette Beyala Epse Eloundou (Cameroon)

SBSTTA Bureau: Mostafa Madbouhi (Morocco), Kenneth Uiseb (Namibia)

Asia and the Pacific:

COP Bureau: Bilal Qteshat (Jordan), Illam Atho Mohamed (Maldives)

SBSTTA Bureau: Jahidul Kabir (Bangladesh, online)

Latin America and the Caribbean:

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

SBSTTA Bureau: Paulina Stowhas Salinas (Chile), Francis O. Reyes Polanco (Dominican Republic, online), Aria St. Louis (Grenada, online), Ana Laura Mello Villamarin, (Uruguay, substitute for the Nagoya and Cartagena Protocols)

Eastern Europe:

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

SBSTTA Bureau: Jan Plesnik (Czechia)

Western Europe and Others:

COP Bureau: Eric Schauls (Luxembourg), Gaute Hanssen (Norway)

SBSTTA Bureau: Sanne Kruid (The Netherlands), Mr. Scott Wilson (online), Jane Stratford (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, substitute for Nagoya and Cartagena Protocols)

Observers: Neville Ash (United Nations Environment Programme), Davit Knyazyan and Davit Manukyan (Armenia, COP17 incoming host)

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

3. 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; Jillian Campbell, 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; Jacqueline Grekin, Programme Management Assistant; Imane Sednaoui, Senior Staff Assistant; and Maria Morgado, Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The meeting was opened at 1:30 p.m. local time (GMT+1) by Her Excellency, Ms. Maria Susana Muhamad Gonzalez, President of the Conference of the Parties, who welcomed the new Bureau members for the next intersessional period and introduced the co-chair of the meeting, Mr. Jean Bruno Mikissa from Gabon, Chair of SBSTTA.

5. The Executive Secretary, Ms. Astrid Schomaker, provided opening remarks referring to the role of Bureau members to act as links between the Secretariat, the Parties and the regional groups. She stressed the Secretariat's wish to work closely and transparently with each Bureau and highlighted the importance of building an atmosphere of trust, enabling the bureaux to support the President in steering the discussions during the subsidiary body meetings and COPs. She also encouraged Bureau members to lead by example and to urge Parties to expedite their national implementation towards agreed milestones to be considered at COP17. She then informed Bureau members of the upcoming mission to Armenia to support preparations for the organization of COP 17.

6. Ms. Schomaker also stressed the opportunities to build on the remarkable achievements of the successful COP 16 negotiations in Cali and Rome, including on resource mobilization and the Cali Fund, highlighting the importance of facilitating regional discussions on how to encourage companies to invest in the Cali Fund and how it can be incentivized. She also highlighted the importance of finding synergies with the upcoming UNFCCC COP30.

7. Mr. Jean Bruno Mikissa, Chair of SBSTTA, also provided opening remarks, congratulating all on reaching consensus on the main issues in the negotiations and expressing his desire to continue the same level of efforts towards consensus for upcoming meetings. He outlined some issues to be addressed in the future, including biodiversity and climate change, risk assessment and management, invasive alien species, sustainable wildlife management, biodiversity and health, among others. He emphasized the need to use a

science-based approach to address many challenges before us in facilitating the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. He concluded his intervention by emphasising his commitment, as the chair of SBSTTA, to support the Presidency in steering the effective implementation of the Framework, together with his fellow SBSTTA Bureau members.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

8. The COP President introduced the provisional agenda for the meeting. The Secretariat recalled that meeting documents to assist deliberations under Items 3 and 4 had been circulated to the Bureau members.

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

ITEM 3. BRIEFING AND PRESENTATION OF THE COP AND SBSTTA BUREAU, PROCESSES, RULES AND PROCEDURES

10. Ms. Inonge Mweene, on behalf of the Secretariat, provided the Bureaux with a presentation on the mandate and functions of each Bureau, as well as the processes, rules and procedures of the meetings of the governing bodies and subsidiary bodies under the Convention and its Protocols.

11. Following the presentation by the Secretariat, Bureau members stressed their commitment to further strengthen trust among Parties.

12. The Executive Secretary informed Bureau members that the Secretariat would work with the Centre for Multilateral Negotiations (CEMUNE) to explore possibilities for providing training opportunities to assist designated chairs to carry out their functions effectively. She also informed the Bureau members that the Secretariat continued to closely collaborate with other MEAs, including through the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions to strengthen synergies.

13. It was also noted that formal and informal channels of communication had been used for effective communication among the Bureau members and between the Bureau members with the respective regional groups. It was also clarified that the COP President and SBSTTA Chair each preside over their respective Bureau, with the COP Bureau also serving as the Bureau of SBI. It was further clarified that the COP President invites the SBI Chair (who is an ex officio member of the COP Bureau) to preside over the sessions of the Bureau on matters related to SBI. Additionally, in order to promote coherence and synergies, the next COP Presidency is invited to meeting of the COP Bureau as an observer, and the SBSTTA Chair is also invited to attend the meetings of the COP Bureau in an ex officio capacity. It was also clarified that the Secretariat facilitated regular coordination between SBSTTA Chair and SBI Chair.

ITEM 4. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE BIENNIUM

14. Ms. Jihyun Lee, on behalf of the Secretariat, provided Bureau members with an overview of major intersessional activities envisaged to take place throughout the biennium.

15. The Secretariat informed the Bureaux that the overview of the major intersessional meetings and activities for the biennium 2025-2026 had been prepared, considering the global calendar of meetings, offers to host CBD meetings and availability of conference facilities, intersessional work activities that contribute to the meetings of subsidiary bodies, as well as the expected timing of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) in the last quarter of 2026. The schedule will be updated building on the outcomes of the resumed session of COP 16, as concluded this week.

16. Bureau members were informed of the two confirmed meetings in 2025 to be hosted by the Government of Panama in Panama City: (i) the twenty-seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-27), to be held 20-24 October 2025, and (ii) the first

meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, to be held 27-30 October 2025.

17. The Secretariat informed the Bureaux that the schedules for the meetings of SBSTTA and SBI to take place in 2026 would be guided by the indicative timeline of the global review on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at COP 17, as contained in decision 16/32 adopted in Rome, and therefore the twenty-eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-28) and the sixth or seventh (pending further confirmation) meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) would be held in July/August 2026. The schedule of these subsidiary body meetings will also affect the dates for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 17), the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol (CP COP-MOP 12), and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (NP COP-MOP 6), to be held in the last quarter of 2026 in Yerevan.

18. An overview of the various intersessional activities that would contribute to the meetings of SBSTTA 27 and 28 and of SB8j, and the list of matters to be addressed by SBI, were presented, noting that the respective Bureaux would discuss the details of the agenda for the meetings of each body.

19. SBSTTA Chair stated that the SBSTTA Bureau would meet in person in Montreal, from 1 to 3 April 2025, to discuss the agenda for the meetings of SBSTTA 27 and 28, as well as relevant intersessional activities.

20. Bureau Members discussed possible ways to improve efficiency and efficacy in view of the heavy agendas and workload.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

21. There were no other matters.

ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

22. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was closed at 3:26 p.m.
