



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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### BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

8h00 to 10h00 Montreal

Via teleconference (Microsoft Teams)

29 April 2021

### MINUTES

1. A meeting of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was held via teleconference on Thursday 29 April 2021, from 8:00 to 10:50 (Montreal time).

2. The meeting was attended by the following members of the Bureau: Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz (Mexico), Chair, Ms. Marie-May Muzungaile (Seychelles), Mr. Moustafa Fouda (Egypt), Ms. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Mr. Adams Toussaint (Saint-Lucia), Ms. Helena Brown (Antigua & Barbuda), Ms. Gwen Sisor (Palau), Ms. Marina von Weissenberg (Finland), Ms. Alison McMorrow (Australia) and Mr. Gaute Voigt-Hanssen (Norway). Apologies were received from Ms. Tatsiana Lipinskaya (Belarus), Mr. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine), Mr. Larbi Sbai (Morocco), Ms. Kongchay Phimmakong (Lao People's Democratic Republic).

3. The meeting was supported by the CDB Secretariat including Mr. Alexander Shestakov (Secretary of the SBSTTA Bureau), Mr. David Cooper, Ms. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi, Ms. Jillian Campbell, Ms. Marianela Araya Quesada, Mr. Nader Ibrahim, Mr. Kieran Noonan Mooney, Ms. Véronique Allain, Ms. Jacqueline Grekin and Mr. Joseph Appiott.

#### 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The meeting was opened at 8:00 a.m. (Montreal time) on Thursday 29 April 2021 by the SBSTTA Chair.

#### 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The SBSTTA Chair presented the agenda for the meeting.

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### 3. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE FORMAL ONLINE

#### SBSTTA-24 MEETING

6. The Chair invited the Secretariat to provide an update on the preparations for the online formal meeting of SBSTTA-24. The Secretariat briefly addressed key points as per the annotated agenda to the meeting.

7. The Bureau considered elements of the agenda and provided the questions, comments and made decisions as follows:

(a) **Importance of adherence to established timeline.** The Bureau acknowledged the issue and will further discuss it based on the progress and dynamics of the meeting;

(b) **Election of rapporteur.** The Bureau elected Ms. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia-Herzegovina) as a rapporteur for the entire duration of meeting (from 3 May to the end of the meeting at a physical setting later in a year);

(c) **Elections of new SBSTTA Bureau members.** The Bureau agreed to the Chair bringing this points during agenda item 2, and to invite Parties to consult for nominations and to come back to the decision on elections at a physical meeting later in a year;

(d) **IPLC representatives attending Bureau meeting.** The Bureau identified that the meeting on 4 May will be the one where IPLC representatives will be attending the meeting for its portion to allow communication with IPLC regional representatives. Bureau members also raised the issue of the importance to engage with other major stakeholder groups. Also, the SBSTTA Chair will work together with the SBI Chair to arrange their meetings with other stakeholder groups;

(e) **Regional interventions on individual agenda items.** The Bureau acknowledged the need to reduce the number of regional statements in case of no new elements to add to statements done during the informal session in February. The Chair suggested to consider an option to speak on items 8 and 9 through regional statements, since these were not addressed at the SBSTTA-24 informal session, in order to save time and to reduce the number of individual parties' interventions. The regional statements for CEE are planned for agenda items 8 (presented by Serbia) and item 9 (presented by Georgia), also the EU representative indicated that they do not coordinate for regional statements for SBSTTA. The Secretariat urged Bureau members to provide ASAP information on plans for regional statements for individual agenda items including the name of the country speaking on behalf of the regional group;

(f) **Joint meeting with COP Bureau.** The Secretariat informed the Bureau of preliminary plans to organise this meeting on 20 May. The Bureau welcomed the opportunity for the joint meeting;

(g) **Regional meetings.** The Secretariat received and scheduled regional meetings for - EU, CEE, GRULAC and ASIA-PACIFIC. Africa and JUSCANZ will coordinate their own. Any further requests to the Secretariat to be sent to the usual Secretariat address;

(h) **Pre-session document for item 3.** Some Bureau members expressed their concern with the late delivery of the updated document for agenda item 3 (CBD/SBSTTA/24/add2/Rev1), published 26 April. The Chair and the Secretariat explained that this document is a scientific and technical document that do not contain any draft recommendations. The original document had been made available to all Parties many weeks ago in early February. The updating of the document in light of the more than 1600 individual comments had resulted in further improvements and additional evidence (references) but had not resulted in fundamental changes. After discussions, the Bureau agreed still to proceed with this document being a basis for potential contact group on 5-6 May. However, one Bureau member stated that this may be too early for consideration and suggested to postpone this contact group to a later time. The Chair explained the logic behind the proposed organisation of work for the contact groups on item 3 (see Annex 2) and requested the Secretariat to explain main changes when introducing the document;

(i) **Pre-session document and timing for item 9.** Bureau members expressed their concern with the late delivery of document on agenda item 9 (CBD/SBSTTA/24/9), published 28 April. After discussions the Bureau ***decided*** to postpone the first reading of the document to the third session of SBSTTA-24 in early June to allow for 6 weeks period between the posting of the document and the first reading. The Secretariat was requested to find time slot and suggest new dates to the Bureau. The Bureau acknowledged that this may cause changes for other agenda items and production of CRPs for other agenda items. Consideration of the CRP for this agenda item will be postponed to the time of the SBSTTA-24 physical meeting later in a year. The Bureau reiterated the importance of adhere to the 6 weeks requirement for all pre-session documents and stated that they will have challenge to address those documents at the meeting in such a short notice.

(j) **Number of speakers for the meeting.** The Bureau members requested further clarifications on the number of speakers for each delegation for the meetings. The Secretariat informed that for the duration of the meeting, Parties will have 9 speakers with 4 of them being able to attend the plenary sessions and 9 at sessions of the contact groups. However, the Secretariat urged Parties not to exceed 2 speakers for every given session (plenary or contact group) to allow for the smooth functioning of the on-line platform;

(k) **Communication during the meeting.** The Bureau agreed to continue the practice of using WhatsApp groups to communicate during plenary sessions. The Secretariat also suggested to use Teams for communication between co-chairs and the Secretariat during contact groups.

8. The Secretariat reiterated with the Bureau members the need in their support:

(a) To remind Parties to register for the meeting in accordance with procedures and instructions. The Secretariat also reminded the Bureau members of the need for them to be nominated through their delegations and be registered following the standard procedures and requirements;

(b) To remind Parties to limit their interventions to cases of new and additional points to comments already provided during informal session to allow time flow in accordance with the agreed timeline;

(c) To remind Parties when registering and joining the particular plenary or contact group session to choose between “speaker” and ”viewer” with the choice “speaker” ONLY if this participant is planning to speak at this particular session and where possible to limit the number of speakers at each particular session to two only;

(d) To remind Parties to urgently inform the Secretariat in case they need to use UN facilities in their country. The Bureau member raised the issue of time zones in relation to the potential use of UN offices. The Secretariat will make all efforts to accommodate those requests timely made based on circumstances and rules of each country office. These requests need to come to the Secretariat at least 10 days in advance of the meeting.

#### **4. ORGANISATION AND MODALITIES OF POTENTIAL CONTACT GROUPS**

9. The Secretariat provided an update on the status of preparation for the organisation of potential contact groups (see Annex 1). Draft mandates for those groups were previously presented to the Bureau at its meeting on 19 April. Those mandates will be further adjusted as needed based on the outcomes of plenary sessions. Mandates will be available for Parties after the plenary which establishes the contact groups.

10. The Bureau had an extensive discussion on organisation of the contact group on agenda item 3. The Chair and the Secretariat provided a detailed explanations for each day of the CG work (summary is presented in Annex 2 ***for the Bureau use only***). The Chair and the Secretariat are working with co-chairs nominated for this CG to further refine the mandate and elements of the organisation of the CG work. One Bureau member stressed the issue of time for this agenda item and expressed concern it is not enough. The Chair brought the attention of the Bureau that there are no additional slots during the busy schedule for SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3 meetings.

## 6. OTHER MATTERS

11. The Bureau considered options for its meetings during the SBSTTA-24 period. It was requested to alternate the time of the meetings between before and after the sessions to accommodate interests of Parties in various time zones. The schedule for the Bureau meetings is as follows (pending changes as needed):

- (a) 3 May (Monday) - after the first plenary session (10:15 Montreal time);
- (b) 4 May (Tuesday) - after the first session (10:15 Montreal time). This meeting in part will be attended by the regional representatives of IPLCs;
- (c) 11 May (Tuesday) - after first round of contact groups on items 3 and 6 (10:15 Montreal time);
- (d) 20 May (Thursday) – joint session with COP Bureau (TBC);
- (e) 22 May (Saturday) – before the second session (7:00 Montreal time)
- (f) 26 May (Wednesday) - after the second session – (10:15 Montreal time);
- (g) 6 June (Sunday) - before the final session (7:00 Montreal time);
- (h) 9 June - after the final plenary (10:15 Montreal time).

12. The Bureau discussed backup options for the SBSTTA Chair in case the Chair would be experiencing major connectivity problems. Two Bureau members Ms. Helena Brown (Antigua & Barbuda) and Ms. Marina von Weissenberg (Finland) volunteered to support the SBSTTA Chair in his duties.

## 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

13. The Bureau meeting was closed at 10:50 a.m.

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## Annex 1

**Potential contact groups**

Potential contact group	Name of co-chairs	Party	Day	Time (Montreal time)
Item 3: post-2020	Anne Teller	EU	Wednesday 5 May	12:00-15:00
	Jorge Murillo	Colombia	Thursday 6 May	12:00-15:00
			Friday 7 May	12:00-15:00
			Saturday 8 May	7:00-10:00
Item 4: Synthetic biology	Ntakadzeni Tshidada	South Africa	Tuesday 1 June	12:00-15:00
	Werner Schenkel	Germany	Thursday 3 June	7:00-10:00
Item 5: Risk assessment	Ntakadzeni Tshidada	South Africa	Wednesday 2 June	12:00-15:00
	Werner Schenkel	Germany	Friday 4 June	7:00-10:00
Item 6: Marine biodiversity (EBSA)	Marie-May Muzungaile	Seychelles	Monday 10 May	7:00-10:00
	Matthias Steitz	Germany	Tuesday 11 May	7:00-10:00

## Annex 2

**Organisation of the work of the contact group on agenda item 3****NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION TO PARTIES AT THIS STAGE**

1. Potentially will be established by the SBSTTA Chair at the end of the plenary session on item 3 on Monday 3 May.
2. The contact group will be co-chaired by Anne Teller (European Union) and Jorge Murillo (Colombia).
3. The contact group is open to participation by all Parties, other Governments and representatives of observers based on initial registration for the meeting and identification of speakers for the contact group and usual practice and rules for participation of observers.
4. The mandate of the contact group is designed to address elements of item 3 as a priority issue to provide timely guidance to the co-chairs of the WG2020 and to develop recommendations to COP-15. It may include two main elements:

**Part 1** (Wednesday, 5 May and Thursday, 6 May), work on the scientific and technical review of goals and targets, on the basis of document CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/ADD2/Rev.1. Parties will be invited to provide additional (not repeating those provided through the peer review process) advice. The SCBD will provide a short introduction on main directions of changes in Doc3/Add2 as updated based on comments from the peer review and Co-chairs of the WG2020 will provide short (up to 5 min) introduction with their expectations for the advice from the contact group.

The work will be organised in four sections of Add.2/Rev1 (section II; section III; section IV; section VI) to address the following issues:

- *Scope*: Are linkages between elements of the GBF sufficient and clear? Are there gaps in terms of the scope of draft goals and targets vis-à-vis the scientific and technical advice? How should the scientific and technical advice be translated into clarifying the scope of each goal and target?
- *Numeric aspects of the goals or targets*: What considerations should be taken into account when determining the quantitative elements (thresholds or range or trends) for the goals and targets?

Product from Part 1. *Chair's summary* of the discussion with all advice provided during plenary session on item 3 on 3 May and during this part of the contact group. It will compliment document SBSTTA/24/3/Add2/Rev.1 and will be attached to the report of the meeting and submitted by the meeting Chair to WG2020 Co-chairs to be used in preparation of the first draft of the post-2020 GBF and be available for WG2020-3.

**Part 2** (Friday, 7 May and Saturday, 8 May), the contact group will work on advice on indicators and recommendations to COP-15 related to the monitoring framework, on the basis of CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/ADD1 for initial discussion and a non-paper (key elements of recommendations relevant to the monitoring framework).

The discussion will cover i) purpose of and approach to the category of “Headline indicators”; how representative they are to measure progress; do they enhance comparability in planning and reporting; any additional criteria for selection and ii) elements of draft recommendations relevant to a) approach to baseline, b) use of indicators in national planning processes and NRs.

Products from Part 2. Chair's summary of the discussion on general elements of the discussion with all suggestions provided during plenary session and during this part of the contact group (to be attached to the report of the meeting and submitted by the meeting Chair to Co-chairs of the post-2020 working group to be used in preparation of the first draft of the post-2020 GBF as well as being available for WG2020-3) and elements for the draft CRP with recommendations to COP-15.

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