



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE  
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

First meeting

Mexico City, Mexico, 26 April 2017

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE  
PARTIES IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD**

1. The first inter-sessional meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties since the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Protocols in Cancun, Mexico, 2016, was held on 26 April 2017, in Mexico City, Mexico, at the offices of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (SEMARNAT). The meeting followed a joint meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, which was held on 25 April 2017.

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

*Presidency:* Mr. Enrique Lendo (representing Minister Rafael Pacchiano Alamán, COP President, Government of Mexico),

*Africa:* Mr. Samuel Ndayiragije (Burundi), Mr. Cheikh Mohammed El Abd (Mauritania, substitute for Tunisia for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol),

*Asia and Pacific:* Ms. Gwendalyn Sisor (Palau),

*Central and Eastern Europe:* Mr. Sergei Melnov (Belarus), Ms. Elvana Ramaj (Albania),

*Latin America and Caribbean:* Mr. Luciano Donadio Linares (Argentina, substitute for Brazil in matters related to the Nagoya Protocol; at this meeting, also representing Brazil for the Convention and the Cartagena Protocol), Ms. Marina Hernández (Dominican Republic, substitute for Saint Kitts and Nevis for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol),

*Western Europe and Others:* Mr. Hayo Haanstra (Netherlands), Mr. Basil van Havre (Canada), Ms. Tone Solhaug (Norway, substitute for Canada for matters related to the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol), and

*Ex-officio:* Mr. Francis Sabino Ogwal (Uganda, Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation).

3. Also present, as observers, were Mr. Juan Antonio Mateos (Mexico, COP Presidency), Mr. Jing Xu (COP 15 host representative), and Ms. Elizabeth Mrema (UNEP).

<sup>1</sup> To be formally adopted at the next COP Bureau meeting in December 2017.

4. The Secretariat was represented by Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer (Executive Secretary), Mr. David Cooper (Deputy Executive Secretary), and Mr. Worku Damena Yifru (Senior Legal Officer).

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

5. The meeting was opened at 9:45 a.m. by Mr. Enrique Lendo, on behalf of the Government of Mexico and representing the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties. He noted that the Bureau's deliberations would be informed by the discussions in the joint meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, which was held the previous day. The Executive Secretary, Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, also made brief introductory remarks.

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

6. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/COP/Bur/2017/1/1).

#### **ITEM 3. PREPARATIONS FOR THE TENTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON ARTICLE 8(j) AND RELATED PROVISIONS**

7. The Secretariat presented the draft provisional agenda for the tenth meeting of the Working Group (draft of CBD/WG8J/10/1) as well as the annotations to the provisional agenda, including the proposed organization of work (draft of CBD/WG8J/10/1/Add.1). The Secretariat provided further information on the background to each of the agenda items and the related preparatory work.

8. The Secretariat noted the decision of the Conference of the Parties to hold this meeting during three days, back-to-back with the twenty-first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, that will also take place for three days. The Secretariat also noted that the work of Article 8(j) has been guided by the programme of work developed by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting held in 2000. Although there are a high number of issues to address in such a short time, the overall goal is to achieve greater integration between the work of Article 8(j) and the Convention and its Protocols.

9. With a view to reducing the number of items, Bureau members suggested the merging of items 7 and 10 of the draft provisional agenda. After an exchange of views and clarification from the Secretariat, the provisional agenda for the meeting was adopted with some amendments (see Annex 1).

#### **ITEM 4. PREPARATIONS FOR THE SECOND MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION**

10. Mr. Francis Ogwal, the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation introduced the provisional agenda for the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (draft of CBD/SBI/2/1) as well as the annotations to the provisional agenda, including the proposed organization of work (draft of CBD/SBI/2/1/Add.1). The Secretariat then provided further information on the agenda items and their preparation.

11. While expressing concern with the long list of agenda items, the Bureau acknowledged that the agenda was well prepared and probably could not be further consolidated.

12. With regard to agenda item 5 on the mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors and other strategic actions, it was suggested that the focus should be on the national level. In order to prepare for the review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols at COP 14, as envisaged in the multi-year programme of work for the Conference of the Parties up to 2020 (decision XII/31), it was agreed that agenda item 15 be broadened beyond the review of the concurrent meetings. The Secretariat clarified the scope of agenda item 17 and it was agreed that the title be adjusted accordingly.

13. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda for the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation with the amendments referred to above (see Annex 1).

**ITEM 5: PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2018 UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE (THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES, THE CONCURRENT MEETINGS OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA AND NAGOYA PROTOCOLS AND THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT)**

14. The Executive Secretary introduced this item, inviting the Bureau to consider the following points:

(a) The UN Biodiversity Conference in Egypt in 2018 represents a strategic opportunity to pave the roadmap for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in China, which will mark the end of the UN Decade for Biodiversity and the beginning of the post-2020 framework for biodiversity.

(b) The fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will continue discussing the theme of mainstreaming in the sectors of energy and mining, manufacturing, health and infrastructure, and represents an opportunity to offer continuity to the achievements of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Political engagement with Ministers of these sectors will be of fundamental importance.

(c) Preparations and work must take into consideration the long-term perspective, and taking into account the “vision” for 2050 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

15. Recalling the discussions in the joint meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, which was held the previous day, the Secretariat presented an overview of the issues to be addressed at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the concurrent meetings of the Protocols.

16. The Bureau discussed the challenges in securing the meaningful participation of ministers in the High-Level Segment, in particular for sectors beyond environment. In this respect, the Bureau members emphasized the need to avoid scheduling of the High-Level Segment and the concurrent meetings close to the 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Secretariat informed the Bureau of its intention to consult with Egypt on the possibility of bringing forward the dates of the 2018 UN Biodiversity Conference (fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Protocols) to start soon after the Ramsar Conference of the Parties (October 25-31).

17. In considering the theme of the High-Level Segment, Bureau members emphasized the importance of focussing on the need for accelerated implementation. They also noted the opportunities for focussing on a topic of particular resonance for Africa and the Middle East and, in this regard, suggested ecosystem restoration as a means of addressing not only biodiversity loss, but also land degradation and climate change. The Secretariat agreed to transmit these ideas to the host country, Egypt.

18. The Secretariat reported that it had undertaken a first technical mission to the venue of the 2018 UN Biodiversity Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh earlier in April 2017. According to the report of this first mission, the host country was well advanced in the preparations for the Conference. Based on the assessment of the mission, the Secretariat and the host country have agreed on the need to supplement the existing excellent Conference Facilities by an additional building in order to ensure the availability of facilities that accommodate all planned events and respond to essential requirements.

**ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS**

19. The Secretariat provided an update on the status of credentials for the Convention and its Protocols, noting the improvement, compared to previous meetings, in the degree of compliance.

20. The Secretariat provided an update on the status of the trust funds of the Convention. A Bureau member noted that the reliance on voluntary funding for much of the Convention’s work programme could challenge collective decision making on setting the Convention’s priorities.

21. The Bureau discussed the modalities for the preparation of documents and draft decisions for the Conference of the Parties, noting that most of the draft decisions are prepared through the subsidiary bodies, and that the modus operandi of these bodies required the Secretariat to prepare draft

recommendations. It was suggested however that ways of involving Parties in the development of draft decisions should be explored. While some Bureau members expressed the need for caution in this regard, it was agreed that the Secretariat should explore options for creating space for such an approach, perhaps on a pilot basis, for further consideration by the Bureau at a future meeting.

22. Some members of the Bureau, noting the long delays in the final work of the budget committee at the Cancun Biodiversity Conference, raised the issue of the rules of procedure on voting, which still remain in brackets, and expressed their support to revisit this matter, with a view to allowing expeditious decision-taking.

#### **ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

23. The representative of the COP Presidency thanked the participants for the valuable discussions and closed the meeting at 1:00 p.m. on 26 April 2017.

## ANNEX 1

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TENTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED INTER-SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON ARTICLE 8(j) AND RELATED PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
3. Rutzolijirisaxik Voluntary Guidelines for the Repatriation of Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Relevant for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity (Task 15 of the Multi-Year Programme of Work).
4. Glossary of relevant key terms and concepts to be used within the context of Article 8(j) and related provisions.
5. Finalisation of Tasks 7, 10 and 12 of the Multi-Year Programme of Work.
6. Resource Mobilization: assessing the contribution of collective actions of IPLCs and Safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms.
7. Progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 18, implementation of the plan of action on customary sustainable use, and integration of Article 8(j) and provisions related to indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Convention and its Protocols.
8. Recommendations of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.
9. In-depth dialogue on thematic areas and other cross-cutting issues.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report.
12. Closure of the meeting.

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON  
IMPLEMENTATION**

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
4. Assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Nagoya Protocol.
5. Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors and other strategic actions to enhance implementation at the national level.
6. Global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism (Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol).
7. Specialized international access and benefit sharing instruments (Article 4 of the Nagoya Protocol).
8. Resource mobilization.
9. Financial Mechanism.
10. Capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer.
11. Cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives.
12. Mechanisms for review of implementation.
13. National reporting, and assessment and review, under the Convention and its Protocols.
14. Enhancing integration under the Convention and its Protocols with respect to provisions related to access and benefit sharing, biosafety-related provisions, and Article 8(j) and related provisions.
15. Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols.
16. Preparation for the follow up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
17. Trust fund for facilitating participation of Parties in the Convention processes: allocation of resources and possibilities of engaging the private sector.
18. Other matters.
19. Adoption of the report.
20. Closure of the meeting.