



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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

Fourth meeting  
Montreal, Canada, 8-13 July 2018

### MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD

1. The fourth 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, in 2016, was held on 8 July 2018, in Montreal, Canada at the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization. The meeting took place prior to the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-2).

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

*Presidency:* Ms. Edda Fernández Luiselli (representing Minister Rafael Pacchiano Alamán, COP President, Mexico), Chair of the meeting, and Mr. Hesiquio Benítez,

*Africa:* Mr. Samuel Ndayiragije (Burundi), Mr. Mohamed Ali Ben Temessek (Tunisia),

*Asia and the Pacific:* Mr. Monyrak Meng (Cambodia), Ms. Gwendalyn Sisor (Palau),

*Central and Eastern Europe:* Ms. Elena Makkeyeva (Belarus),

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

*Western Europe and Others:* Mr. Basile Van Havre (Canada), Mr. Hayo Haanstra (Netherlands), Mr. Gaute Voigt-Hanssen (Norway, substitute for Canada for matters related to the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol),

*Ex-officio:* Mr. Francis Sabino Ogwal (Uganda, Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation), Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (COP-14 host representative), Mr. Ying Xian Xia and Ms. Jing Xin (COP-15 host representatives),

Regrets were sent by Ms. Elvana Ramaj (Albania), Ms. Clarissa Nina (Brazil), and Ms. Theresa Mundita Lim (Philippines).

3. Also present, as observer, was Mr. Neville Ash (UNEP, on 8 July, represented by Mr. Jiri Hlavacek at subsequent meetings).

4. The Secretariat was represented by Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer (Executive Secretary), Mr. David Cooper (Deputy Executive Secretary), Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp (Head of the Implementation Support Division), Ms. Amy Fraenkel (Head of the Mainstreaming, Cooperation and Outreach Division), Mr. Alexander Shestakov (Head of the Science and Policy Support Division), Ms. Gudrun Fosse (Head of the Administration, Finance and Conference Services Division), Ms. Valerie Normand (Senior Programme

Officer, Access and Benefit Sharing) and Mr. Wataru Suzuki (Global Coordinator of the Japan Biodiversity Fund).

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

5. The meeting was opened at 8:30 a.m. by the Chair, Ms. Edda Fernández Luiselli, on behalf of the Government of Mexico and representing the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties. She welcomed the Bureau members and highlighted the work Mexico has carried out to promote the Cancun Declaration and other outcomes of the 2016 UN Biodiversity Conference. The Chair reminded the Bureau of the main objective of the meeting, which was to review and finalize preparations for the start of the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. The Chair then invited the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to make brief opening remarks.

6. The Executive Secretary, Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, made brief introductory remarks, welcoming the Bureau to Montreal and thanking those who were at SBSTTA-22 for their active participation in and contributions to the meeting. She highlighted the importance of the role of the Bureau in ensuring full participation and transparency in the process leading up to COP-14 and COP-15. She invited the Bureau to attend the Seminar on Transformational Change for the Biodiversity Agenda, taking place immediately after the Bureau meeting. She wished the Bureau a successful meeting and fruitful outcomes.

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

7. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/COP/Bur/2018/4/1).

8. The Secretariat reminded the Bureau that the minutes of the third meeting had been made available to them and requested that they be adopted during the week.

### **ITEM 3. UPDATE ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE SECOND MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION**

9. The Chair of SBI-2 provided a brief overview on the preparations for the meeting. He remarked that all official documents were available on the meeting website and that the agenda for the meeting was very heavy. He further remarked that he would appeal to Parties to avoid, as much as possible, bracketing text, and to ensure effective discussions. He advised the Bureau that a rapporteur for the meeting was needed and proposed that Ms. Elena Makeyeva from Belarus fill this role.

10. The Secretariat then provided a brief overview of the documents available for the meeting, noting the likelihood of the need for three contact groups on mainstreaming, national mechanisms, and Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol. The Secretariat further stated that, for the agenda items relating to the Nagoya Protocol and the Cartagena Protocol, priority with regard to interventions during the first reading would be given to Parties to the respective Protocols, and only these Parties would participate in decision-making on these agenda items.

11. Due to the heavy agenda of SBI-2, the Bureau members agreed to request their respective regional groups to avoid making statements at the opening of the meeting.

12. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that, at the invitation of the Chair of SBI, Dr. Roberta Bondar, Canada's first female astronaut and first neurologist in space, would be the keynote speaker during the opening of SBI-2. The Bureau was also informed that a reception would be held Monday evening and would have an indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) theme, and that invited IPLC representatives from Canada would make a special presentation.

13. As agreed at its meeting on 8 July, the Bureau also met at 8:00 a.m. each morning during the meeting (with the exception of Monday) to review progress in achieving the agenda and provide guidance to the Chair and Secretariat, as necessary.

14. On 10 July, the Bureau met with representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities to exchange views and discuss ways and means to facilitate the effective participation of IPLC representatives in the work of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

**ITEM 4. PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES, THE NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL, THE THIRD MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL AND THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT**

15. At the invitation of the Chair, the representative of the Government of Egypt, Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, provided an update on preparations for the 2018 UN Biodiversity Conference. Mr. Zedan noted the timely progress in the construction of a second building on the premises of the conference venue. He also advised the Bureau that the conference website would go live in the coming week<sup>1</sup> and that the information note for participants would be published online<sup>2</sup>.

16. Mr. Zedan recalled that two high-level events, the Africa Ministerial Summit and the High-Level Segment, would take place before the opening of the conference and provided brief overviews of both events. He also informed the Bureau that an international expert workshop on the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, and manufacturing and processing, had recently taken place in Cairo and had produced very rich discussions. He advised the Bureau that the executive summary of the workshop was available as an information document (CBD/SBI/2/INF/35).

17. At the invitation of the Chair, the Secretariat provided further updates on preparations for COP-14 and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Protocols. The Secretariat recalled that the agenda and annotations for the three meetings had been published, following their review and approval by the Bureau at its previous meeting, and stated that the annotations for the COP-14 agenda would be updated in the light of the outcomes of SBSTTA-22 and SBI-2. A compilation of draft decisions and a few additional documents would be prepared for COP-14. Further additional documents would be required for the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols.

18. The Chair reminded the Bureau that two Chairs for the Working Groups of COP would need to be identified during the week to allow these persons to prepare for the meetings in advance. The Bureau would also need to identify Bureau members to serve as rapporteur and to represent the Bureau with respect to the examination of credentials. The Bureau would also need to identify the Chair of the Budget Contact Group.

19. While noting that all Parties to the Convention are eligible to serve on the Bureau, the Secretariat drew attention to the challenges arising from the need to also appoint substitutes, when such Parties are not also Parties to the Protocols. This practice made it more difficult to identify Bureau members from countries that are Parties to all three instruments, limiting the capacity to chair bodies that address all three instruments, as well as leading to an increasingly large Bureau.

20. At its meeting on 13 July, the Chair noted that she would continue consultations with a view to identifying officers for COP-14 and meetings of the Parties to the Protocols. The representative of UNEP noted that the upcoming meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP would provide an opportunity to brief member states on the preparations for the 2018 UN Biodiversity Conference. He also noted that the meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in September 2018 would provide an opportunity for consultations related to the preparation of the African

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<sup>1</sup> <https://cop14-egypt.com/>

<sup>2</sup> The Information Note for Participants is available at <http://www.cbd.int/conferences/2018/>.

Ministerial Summit. Finally, the fourth meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) in 2019 would provide an opportunity to present the outcomes of the 2018 UN Biodiversity Conference.

**ITEM 5. REPORT ON CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE VOLUNTARY FUNDS FOR APPROVED ACTIVITIES (BE) AND FOR FACILITATING PARTICIPATION (BZ)**

21. At the invitation of the Chair, the Secretariat provided an overview of the status of the voluntary funds for approved activities and for facilitating participation in the official meetings. It clarified the purpose of the 13% programme support cost and how a percentage of these costs is to fund administrative costs of the Secretariat. The Secretariat alerted the Bureau of the lack of funding for facilitating participation in COP-14 and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Protocols and advised that a letter would be forthcoming requesting Parties, in a position to do so, to provide for additional contributions.

22. The Bureau reiterated the serious limitations that the lack of appropriate funding can cause and noted that the situation needed to be improved. The Bureau suggested that the Secretariat follow a similar action that CITES did which was to place a funding “thermometer” on their website, and which was quite effective. The Government of Norway stated that they would be pledging USD \$110,000 to this end, and would make this announcement in the coming days. The Bureau commended the Government of Norway for this pledge.

23. The Bureau enquired about the possibility of approaching private entities to facilitate participation of eligible delegates. The Secretariat advised that there was a document presented to SBI-2 addressing this matter.

**ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS**

*Report of the Informal Advisory Group on Synergies among biodiversity-related conventions*

24. At the invitation of the Chair of the Bureau, the Chair of the Informal Advisory Group on Synergies among biodiversity-related conventions, Mr. Hesiquio Benítez, provided a brief update on the work of the group. Mr. Benítez advised the Bureau that an information document presented to SBI-2 (CBD/SBI/2/INF/14) contained a vast set of recommendations made by the group and encouraged the Bureau to review it to ensure coherence with the other biodiversity-related conventions.

*Substitutes for Mauritania and Fiji Bureau Members*

25. Bureau members noted with concern that the appointments of replacements of the substitute Bureau members from Mauritania and Fiji (substituting for Tunisia and Palau, respectively, in matters related to the Nagoya Protocol) were still pending. The Secretariat assured the Bureau it had been following up with the respective Parties and suggested that the matter be followed up through the regional groups for Africa and Asia and the Pacific, with a view to resolving the matter as soon as possible.

**ITEM 7: CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

26. The Chair thanked the participants for the valuable discussions and closed the meeting on 8 July at 9:40 a.m. The final Bureau meeting of the week was closed at 8.40 am on 13 July.

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