



Convention on Biological Diversity

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

Second meeting
Nairobi, Kenya, 26 August 2019

REPORT OF THE MEETING

INTRODUCTION

1. The second inter-sessional meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties since the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and concurrent meetings of the Protocols in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt 2018, was held on 26-30 August 2019, in Conference Room 6 at the UN Environment headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The first part of the meeting was held from 10 am to 1 pm on 26 August, and subsequent meetings were held on 28, 29 and 30 August.

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

Presidency: Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (Egypt);

Africa: Mr. Melesse Maryo (Ethiopia), Mr. Eric Okoree (Ghana);

Asia and the Pacific: Ms. Leina El-Awadhi (Kuwait);

Central and Eastern Europe: Mr. Dilovarsho Dustov (Tajikistan), Ms. Elvana Ramaj (Albania);

Latin America and the Caribbean: Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda), Ms. Eugenia Argueda Montezuma (Costa Rica, representing His Excellency Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez) and Mr. Joaquin Salzberg (Argentina, substitute for Costa Rica in matters related to the Nagoya Protocol);

Western Europe and Others: Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria), Ms. Rosemary Paterson (New Zealand), Mr. Gaute Voigt-Hanssen (Norway, representing Ms. Marie Haraldstad, substitute for New Zealand for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol);

Ex-officio: Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist, (Sweden), Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and Mr. Hesiquio Benitez (Mexico), Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters;

Mr. Francis Sabino Ogwal (Uganda) and Mr. Basile van Havre (Canada), Co-chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;

Observers: Mr. Liu Ning (China), COP 15 host representative; and Ambassador Marta Juarez of Costa Rica, accompanying Ms. Eugenia Argueda Montezuma;

Regrets were provided by Ms. Sujata Arora (India), His Excellency Carlos Manuel Rodriguez (Costa Rica), Ms. Teona Karchava (Georgia) and Ms. Marie Haraldstad (Norway).

3. Also present, as observers, were Ms. Elizabeth Maruma-Mrema (UNEP), Ms. Tita Korvenoja (UNEP), Ms. Jing Xin (China) and Ms. Gu Li (China).

4. Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary, attended the meetings, together with Mr. David Cooper (Deputy Executive Secretary), Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp (Director, Implementation Support Division), Mr. Alexander Shestakov (Director, Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division), Mr. Worku Yifru (Senior Legal Officer), Ms. Catalina Santamaria (Special Adviser to the Executive Secretary), Mr. Thomas Deleuil (Legal Officer) and Ms. Ailis Rego (Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary).

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The meeting was opened at 10:00 a.m. on August 26 by Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, representing the President of the Conference of the Parties. He provided information on the main objective of the meeting and an overview of the topics to be discussed. The Executive Secretary, Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, made brief opening remarks, recalling the critical point in time that the Parties and the Secretariat were at and highlighting the significance of the deliberations of the first meeting of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

6. The Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Inger Andersen, also addressed the meeting at its opening session, stressing the need for measurable targets and a baseline while referring to the SDGs and what could be learned from them. Ms. Andersen also highlighted the drivers of biodiversity loss and the necessity to create synergies among sectors, multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) as well as other relevant stakeholders in order to make the development and implementation of the framework a success.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The Deputy Executive Secretary, upon the invitation of the Chair, introduced the provisional agenda and the annotations to the provisional agenda for its meeting prepared by the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the COP President. A member of the Bureau requested to include in the agenda a discussion on the relationship and roles of the COP Bureau, the Co-chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the CBD Secretariat. The Co-Chairs explained that the issue of relationships and roles was part of agenda item 3 on preparations for the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda as presented.

ITEM 3. PREPARATIONS FOR THE MEETINGS OF THE OPEN-ENDED INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

8. The Secretariat introduced the documentation for the first meeting of the Working Group which included the provisional agenda and the annotated provisional agenda, a scenario note by the Co-chairs, an overview of consultations that had been conducted, notes prepared by the Secretariat on potential elements of the structure and scope and the future work programme of the Working Group, and two non-papers by the Co-chairs on reflections and possible structure for the framework.

9. The Secretariat also informed the Bureau of the change made to simplify the acronym used for the Open-ended Working Group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which should be WG-2020 (instead of OEWG).

10. At the invitation of the Chair, Mr. Basile van Havre and Mr. Francis Ogwal, Co-chairs of the Working Group, delivered a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation providing an update on the post-2020 process, including a report on activities completed, the organization of work, upcoming events and some concepts and ideas. The presentation also addressed a definition of roles and responsibilities of the Working Group, the Co-chairs of the Working Group, the COP Bureau and the Secretariat.

11. The Chair of the Bureau invited Mr. Worku Yifru, Senior Legal Advisor at the Secretariat, to provide information on the relationship between the Working Group, the Co-chairs and the COP Bureau. Mr. Yifru noted that, during the COP, the Bureau and the Presidency preside over the COP. During the inter-sessional period, the COP Bureau represents the COP and therefore oversees all processes including subsidiary bodies which included the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

In decision 14/34, the COP had designated two Co-chairs and specified their roles and responsibilities and indicated that they will be ex-officio members of the Bureau. Both the Co-chairs and the Bureau will provide guidance on the post 2020-process. Their roles were neither exclusive nor limited. However, the Bureau is always the body to be consulted for resolving any process-related issues.

12. Members of the Bureau expressed their appreciation for the work of the Co-chairs in facilitating the preparatory process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. They highlighted the importance of ensuring that the process was Party-led. Bureau members also recognized the need for increased efforts to improve the communication between the Co-chairs, the Secretariat and the Bureau. Furthermore, Bureau members stressed the need to receive relevant documents according to agreed deadlines to allow for adequate preparation and consultation within the regions.

13. Responding to requests for clarification on their presentation, the Co-chairs explained that the focus for the first meeting of WG-2020 should be the scope and structure of the framework, as well as the future programme of work that Parties would like to be carried out. They also explained that they intended to discuss the scope and structure of the framework per cluster, as identified in document CBD/WG2020/1/3 on potential elements of the structure and scope.

14. Upon the request from Bureau members, the Secretariat explained that certain COP or COP-MOP decisions refer specific items to be considered by subsidiary bodies.

15. The Bureau agreed that statements during the first meeting of WG-2020 should be limited to three minutes for Parties and stakeholders and six minutes for regional groups. The Bureau also agreed to the Co-chairs' proposal to use the term "discussion group" instead of "contact group" during the meeting to emphasize that the meeting should not focus on negotiation. The Co-chairs expected that two discussion groups would be formed, one to discuss the clusters referred to under item 4 of the provisional agenda of the meeting and one might be established on the future work programme (item 5). The co-chairs for such discussion groups would be agreed upon with the Bureau as per usual practice.

16. Considering the report for the meeting, the Secretariat explained that the usual practice was to have a procedural report to which the outcomes of the meeting would be annexed. For the output under item 4 (scope and elements), the idea would be to avoid adopting any final outcomes. However, it was noted that it would be important to record the status of discussions by annexing a summary to the report. A conference room paper (CRP) is expected for item 5 on the future work programme. It was agreed that it would be important to capture the discussions taking place during the meeting, while maintaining flexibility for the next meetings of the Working Group.

17. Upon the suggestion by the Chair, the Bureau member from Antigua and Barbuda, Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown, was accepted to be the rapporteur of the meeting.

18. Finally, members of the Bureau raised the importance of relationships and synergies with other MEAs and Conventions and the Co-chairs confirmed the need and their support for further engagement with other MEAs. The Co-chairs noted that the Berne meeting, thanks to the Government of Switzerland, was very successful and that a follow-up to that meeting was being planned. The Co-chairs also provided an update on the engagement with other Conventions. It was noted that the information session planned for Friday, 30 August 2019 would address that issue.

19. Further meetings of the Bureau were held on 28, 29 and 30 August, to review progress of the work of the Working Group and to provide further guidance to the Co-chairs and Secretariat. A further additional meeting was held at 6.30 p.m. on 29 August. Among the issues discussed at the meetings on 29 August was the form and scope of thematic workshops and consultations in support of the process for the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The Bureau provided advice with respect to the workplan¹.

¹ ¹ The work plan, as subsequently amended by the Working Group, was annexed to the Conclusions of the first meeting of the Working Group

**ITEM 4. PREPARATIONS AND TESTING OF THE REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION
MECHANISM AT THE THIRD MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON
IMPLEMENTATION**

20. Upon the invitation of the Chair of the Bureau, Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist, the Chairperson of SBI, introduced item 4 on preparations and testing of the review of implementation mechanism at the third meeting of SBI.

21. Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist recalled that at its last meeting, the COP-Bureau highlighted the importance for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to consider mechanisms for review of implementation (under item 9 of the SBI 3 provisional agenda). The Bureau had noted that in addition to preparing recommendations for COP 15 on this matter, SBI 3 would need to test some potential approaches for review mechanisms as requested by the COP. It was agreed that there was a need for further discussion of this matter at a future meeting of the Bureau.

22. Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist also reminded the Bureau of the background to this matter. In decision 14/29, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to develop options to enhance review mechanisms, with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention, and to prepare a Party-led review process to be tested at SBI 3. The COP also requested the Executive Secretary to further consult Parties, stakeholders and the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, on modalities for enhancing the review of implementation and to report on progress to SBI-3.

23. The Secretariat presented the roadmap for enhancing accountability and review under the Convention and a proposal for testing a Party-led review process through an open-ended forum at SBI 3, based on a paper shared with the Bureau.

24. The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the paper. Bureau members stressed the need to avoid overburdening SBI and to be mindful of the distribution of work. To this end, they favoured the option of having 5 Parties (instead of 10) present review reports at SBI 3. The Bureau also highlighted the importance of avoiding duplication of work while being mindful of the burden on Parties, who would already be busy preparing for SBI 3. It was suggested that for this round, rather than requiring the submission of a new report, Parties' presentations could be based on their Sixth National Reports. It was noted that the matter was politically sensitive, and the question of stakeholder participation was raised. The Bureau further noted that it would remain open to consider different options and expressed its preference to see pragmatic approaches.

25. Upon requests from the Bureau, the Secretariat clarified that this was a trial phase of one possible piece of the multidimensional review approach under the Convention, and that there would be opportunity to further discuss options for its implementation and participation of stakeholders if it were to be adopted by Parties.

26. Finally, Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist proposed to revise the proposal based on the discussion and revert back to the Bureau for its consideration. The Bureau agreed that the Secretariat circulate the revised proposal among the Bureau members for comments.

**ITEM 5. UPDATE ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION, TENTH MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CARTAGENA PROTOCOL, AND THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL,
AS WELL AS THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THESE MEETINGS (THE UN
BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE 2020)**

27. At the invitation of the Chair, Mr. Liu Ning, the representative of COP 15 host, China, made a presentation to the Bureau on the progress of China's preparations for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Protocols. He outlined the arrangements made by the Government of China to ensure successful preparations for the meetings, including the establishment of national organizing and executive committees. He also emphasized the

support through the municipal government of the host city, Kunming, Yunnan Province. He presented the theme for COP 15 which would be *Ecological civilization - building a shared future for all life on Earth*, to be announced to the public on 3 September 2019, jointly by China and the Secretariat. He reported that the logo for COP 15 was still under design but should be finalized shortly. He also noted the efforts made by the People's Republic of China in establishing a transparent and inclusive process in the preparation for COP 15 involving Parties of CBD, national and subnational governments, research institutions, civil society and international organizations and entities. He emphasized China's support to the Co-chairs and confirmed that the second meeting of WG-2020 would take place in Kunming from 24 to 28 February 2020. Finally, Mr. Liu Ning raised the question to the Secretariat, if the launch of GBO 5 could be advanced.

28. The Bureau expressed its appreciation to China and its confidence that this will be one of the most important meetings for the Convention.

29. The Executive Secretary thanked China for its progress in the preparation for COP 15 and extended her congratulations on the COP 15 theme. She also informed the Bureau of the Secretariat's mission to China in March 2019 and reported on the political meetings which were held in Beijing and Kunming.

30. As discussed in the previous Bureau meeting, Mr. Liu Ning confirmed that the High-Level Segment of the meetings would take place close to the end of the second week of the meetings to enable ministers to provide high-level political support and to engage in the negotiations as needed.

ITEM 6. UPDATE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

31. In view of establishing a new practice for COP Bureau meetings, the Executive Secretary introduced a written report of activities implemented since the last meeting of the COP Bureau, which was made available to the Bureau members. The Bureau thanked the Executive Secretary and expressed its appreciation on the results and usefulness of the report.

32. Further to the activities report, the Executive Secretary reported on recent discussions with officials in UNEP and UNON to improve the implementation of the administrative arrangements. She also stressed the heavy workload of the Secretariat during this biennium. The Executive Secretary provided an update on the OIOS audit as requested by the Parties and clarified that this was a standard audit that organizations must undergo regularly. The audit report was considering administrative as well as strategic issues. She explained that the report would be completed soon and made public. She confirmed that the Secretariat would share conclusions and remain open to discuss the outcomes.

33. The Secretariat also provided an update on budgetary matters, including the status of the trust funds of the Convention and other matters arising from COP decision 14/36. The Secretariat indicated that it continues to follow-up with Parties on their financial contributions. It was highlighted that many activities, including meetings that were being carried out during the intersessional period, were financed through voluntary funds, e.g. the issue related to DSI and other technical issues. The Secretariat pointed out that there were always decisions mandating activities but where funds were lacking and drew attention to the challenge of completing the work on time while obtaining the funds to carry them out.

34. The Secretariat thanked the donors for providing funds to ensure participation at the core meetings and confirmed that for the current meeting, all valid requests for funding were met. However, bearing in mind the meetings to come, the Secretariat continues to call upon Parties for additional funds to ensure full participation at the intergovernmental meetings. The Secretariat also noted the need for funds to support the participation of representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, especially for the upcoming meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions.

35. Some Bureau members noted with concern that not all Parties had paid their assessed contributions. Some members highlighted the need for clearer invoices to be sent by UNON to the correct entities, noting that there are often changes within Ministries. They requested the Secretariat to ensure that national focal points are copied so that they can follow up the payment of contributions as necessary.

Accordingly, the Secretariat assured the Bureau that it will copy national focal points when invoices are issued to their respective countries.

36. Several Bureau members raised the issue of communication and urged the Secretariat to increase its efforts on raising awareness of the Convention, its Protocols and the current preparation of the post-2020 biodiversity framework among the public. It was recommended that every meeting or workshop should be used as an opportunity to send out the message and make biodiversity as well as the post-2020 process more prominent in the media. The Secretariat would therefore engage with the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies in this regard. The Secretariat was also developing a joint communication strategy with IPBES. It was also suggested that the CBD webpage could be improved and made more accessible and user-friendly.

ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

37. No other matters were raised.

ITEM 8. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

38. The Chair thanked the Bureau members and other participants for their constructive engagement and valuable contributions to the work of the Bureau, and on 30 August morning, closed the meeting.
