



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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

Eight Teleconference  
7:00 to 9:00  
14 September 2020

#### MINUTES OF THE EIGHT TELECONFERENCE OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD

1. The eighth inter-sessional teleconference of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties since the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Protocols in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 2018, was held on 14 September 2020 via GotoMeeting.

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

*Presidency:* Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (Egypt); Mr. Ayman Amin (Egypt);

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

*Asia and the Pacific:* Mr. Vinod Mathur (India); Ms. Leina El-Awadhi (Kuwait);

*Latin America and the Caribbean:* Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda); Ms Eugenia Montezuma (Costa Rica – representing H.E. Minister Meza Murillo); Mr. Joaquín Salzberg (Argentina, substitute for Costa Rica for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol);

*Central and Eastern Europe:* Ms. Teona Karchava (Georgia); and Mr. Dilovarsho Dustov (Tajikistan)

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

*Ex-officio:* Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist (Sweden), Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation; Mr. Hesiquio Benítez (Mexico), Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice; Mr. Basile van Havre (Canada) and Mr. Francis Ogwal, Co-chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;

*Incoming COP 15 Presidency:* Mr. Liu Ning (China); Ms. Yueyu Zou (China)

3. Ms. Elizabeth Maruma-Mrema, Executive Secretary; Mr. David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary; Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Director of Implementation Support Division; Mr. Alexander Shestakov, Director, Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division; Mr. Wataru Suzuki, Global Coordinator of the Japan Biodiversity Fund; Mr. Worku Yifru, Senior Legal Officer; Ms. Gudrun Fosse, Head of Administration, Finance and Conference Services Division; Ms. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi, Head, Biosafety Protocol Unit; Mr. Ide Ahmed, Finance Officer; Ms. Catalina Santamaria, Senior Programme Officer, were also present.

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

4. The teleconference was opened at 7.00 am Montreal time, by the Chair, Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, representative of the President of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Chair welcomed the nomination of the new Bureau member for Costa Rica, Her Excellency, Minister Andrea Meza Murillo.

5. At the invitation of the Chair, the Executive Secretary made brief opening remarks where she noted the media attention on biodiversity in anticipation to the launch of GBO-5, as well as the busy preparations for the SBSTTA and SBI special sessions that would take place during the week.

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

6. The Chair introduced the agenda which was adopted by the Bureau.

### **ITEM 3. PREPARATIONS FOR THE INTERIM BUDGET**

7. The Executive Secretary reported that well over half of the Parties to the Convention, and of each protocols, had indicated their support to convene the extraordinary COP (ExCOP). She thanked the Bureau members for their assistance in securing this support from Parties.

8. The Bureau had before it the draft annotated agenda for the ExCoP and COP MOPs. The Executive Secretary noted that the draft annotated agenda would be finalized and issued in the UN languages in the course of the next seven days, taking into account any discussions at the Bureau. She also drew the Bureau's attention to the note on the process ahead which proposed that the Bureau facilitate the informal consultations by establishing an informal group, and suggested the Bureau consult with their regions with regard to the composition of that group. The Executive Secretary indicated that she would circulate later in the day, for reference, the list of participants in the Budget contact group at COP 14. Finally, she informed the Bureau that the updated "Note by the Executive Secretary" containing the proposal for the interim arrangements on the budget, had now gone for advanced editing and translation and would soon be issued in all UN languages.

9. The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the documents and their timely distribution. Bureau members noted the need to include the adoption of the agenda in the annotated agenda. Comments and questions concerned ensuring transparency in determining the composition of the informal budget committee and, ensuring clarity for all Parties on the process of the silent procedure. In response, the Secretariat noted that as far as possible the process for determining the composition of the budget committee should mimic the that which normally takes place at a COP. To ensure transparency, it agreed to draft a notification informing Parties of the process of establishing an informal budget committee. The Bureau agreed to reach out to their respective regions with the view of identifying possible members and a chair for the budget committee for the informal consultations. The Secretariat would also inform the Bureau of the procedure to be followed in the event the silence is broken.

### **ITEM 4. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

10. At the invitation of the Chair, The Deputy Executive Secretary referred back to the discussions at earlier bureau meetings regarding the possible virtual convening of SBSTTA and SBI with a view to making progress in covering the workload and to keep momentum. He informed the Bureau that the Secretariat had been working very closely with the Chairs of SBSTTA and SBI to explore options and would be providing the Bureau with a document setting out the modalities, which could then be a topic of discussion at the next Bureau teleconference meeting. He noted that the SBSTTA Bureau wished to initiate discussions this year and they would be discussing this matter in their upcoming meeting on September 23. The Deputy Executive Secretary indicated the proposed dates for the virtual sessions would be 9-14 November for SBI-3, and 10 -17 December for SBSTTA-24, and if the pandemic allows, they would reconvene physically in Montreal in March 2021. Consequently WG2020-3 would take place sometime in May or June 2021 in Cali, Colombia. The Deputy Executive Secretary invited the Bureau to decide to hold part of SBI virtually, bearing in mind that the modalities would be finalized in the Bureau's next teleconference meeting, so that

the Secretariat could proceed to make the necessary logistical and interpretation arrangements as soon as possible.

11. Both the SBI and SBSTTA Chairs reminded the Bureau that it would be beneficial to have a first reading of some pre-session documents in order to make progress and keep momentum. The SBSTTA Chair also reminded the Bureau that no final recommendations or decisions would be adopted at these virtual meetings.

12. The Bureau thanked the Deputy Executive Secretary for the information provided. While the Bureau noted the importance of advancing the work and the need to make progress and keeping momentum, it highlighted the importance of deciding how these meetings would proceed before making any formal announcements. After taking into consideration the options and suggestions offered by the Secretariat, the Bureau agreed the Secretariat could proceed to make the logistical arrangements for the virtual meetings of SBI-3 from 9-14 November 2020, and subject to the agreement on the modalities of holding such virtual meetings on 1 October 2020, it would then make the formal announcement to the Parties. The Bureau acknowledged the possibility of financial loss if it did not agree on the modalities of holding the virtual meetings on the above-mentioned dates.

#### **ITEM 5. PREPARATION OF THE UN BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT**

13. The Chair then invited the Executive Secretary to provide a brief update on the preparations for the UN Biodiversity Summit.

14. The Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that to date, 148 Member States had registered to speak at the Summit. She further noted that the President of the General Assembly had announced that the opening segment of the Summit would include an eminent champion of biodiversity and a youth leader, one whom should be a representative of indigenous peoples and local communities. She informed the Bureau that Ms. Archana Soreng, an indigenous youth from India recently appointed to the United Nations Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, and HRH Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, of the Conservation Trust, had been selected to address the General Assembly on this occasion.

15. The Executive Secretary further informed the Bureau that the preliminary list of speakers for the plenary and dialogues had been issued and there had been an over-subscription of the list of speakers, creating a waiting list for those delegations. She agreed to circulate the list of inscribed speakers for the UN Biodiversity Summit.

16. Finally, she noted there were a number of events being organized with and by partners around the Summit, including the "Nature for Life Hub" event organized with UNDP from 24-29 September. She also noted the unveiling of the "Leader's Pledge" on 28 September and for which all Member States had been invited through their missions in New York by a group of like-minded countries to sign this pledge.

17. The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the information.

#### **ITEM 6. FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL VIRTUAL SESSIONS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

18. The Chair invited the SBSTTA and SBI Chair to provide brief updates on the preparations for the special virtual sessions that would be taking place the rest of the week.

19. The SBSTTA and SBI Chairs both provided a brief overview of the structure of the sessions and the themes each would cover, including the official launching of GBO-5, the testing of a Party-led review process, a session on resource mobilization and a joint session on the preparation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The Chairs indicated that the main challenge would be the management of time and the testing of a new platform and technology but expressed confidence that the sessions would unfold well.

20. The Deputy Executive Secretary complemented the briefing of the Chairs by indicating to the Bureau that many trials had been undertaken the previous week, including with Parties. He informed the Bureau that approximately 90 Parties had registered and about 800 participants were expected. He asked the Bureau to remind their regions to register and send their statements in advance.

**ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS**

21. After a brief exchange on the management of time for the virtual sessions, the Chair then asked the members of the Bureau if they had any other business to address.

22. Members of the Bureau indicated they would like to receive a list of key action points coming out of the meeting as soon as possible. The Secretariat agreed to providing the document during the course of the day.

**ITEM 8. CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

23. After no further comments from the Bureau members, the Chair reminded the Bureau that their next meeting would take place on 1 October 2020 and the Executive Secretary informed them that the annotated agenda and proper documentation for this meeting would be circulated later in the course of the day.

24. The Chair thanked the participants for the valuable discussions and closed the meeting at 11:05 a.m. on 14 September 2020.