



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
8 July 2021

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-THIRD TELECONFERENCE OF THE BUREAU OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD**

1. A teleconference session of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties was held via MS Teams on 8 July 2021 at 7:00am EST, to hear from the Co-chairs of the Working Group on the first draft of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and to receive an update on other preparations for the third meeting of the open-ended Working Group of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

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

Presidency: Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (Egypt);

Africa: Mr. Melesse Maryo (Ethiopia)

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

Latin America and the Caribbean: Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda); Ms. Rita Zaghoul (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);

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 (Uganda), Co-chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;

Observers: Mr. Cui Shuhong (China), Mr. Liu Ning (China), Ms. Guan Jing (China), Ms. Zheng Zhao (China) COP 15 host representatives; Ms. Laura Juliana Rojas (Colombia) and Ms. Melissa Laverde (Colombia), WG2020 3 host representatives, and Mr. Neville Ash (UNEP).

3. The Secretariat was represented by Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Executive Secretary; Mr. David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary; Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Director of Implementation Support Division; Ms. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi, Head, Biosafety Protocol Unit; Mr. Taukondjo Shikongo, Head, Nagoya Protocol Unit; Mr. Wataru Suzuki, Global Coordinator for the Japan Biodiversity Fund; Mr. Worku Yifru, Senior Legal Officer; Ms. Gudrun Fosse, Head of Administration, Finance and Commercial Services Division;

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Ms. Catalina Santamaria, Senior Programme Officer; Ms. Gu Li, Liaison Officer for COP 15; and Mr. Patrick Toussaint, Associate Expert.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The teleconference was opened on 8 July at 7:00 a.m. EST by Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, representative of the President of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Chair welcomed the members of the Bureau.

5. The Executive Secretary offered brief welcome remarks and expressed her appreciation to the Co-chairs and the team at the Secretariat for the hard work in finishing the first draft. She also informed the Bureau that the Secretariat had been in consultation with UNFCCC and UNDP regarding the possibility of offering enhanced technical support to the Parties who needed it, ahead of the next meeting of the Working Group. She also mentioned the possibility of providing limited financial support to a number of delegates. The Executive Secretary concluded by informing the Bureau of the useful meetings she held with the Chinese delegation regarding the way forward to COP15.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Chair introduced the provisional agenda for the Bureau session, and after no objections and changes from the Bureau, the provisional agenda was adopted.

ITEM 3. UPDATE ON THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

7. Making reference to the advance version previously circulated by the Co-chairs, the Chair invited the Co-chairs of WG2020 to present the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

8. The Co-chairs, Mr. Basile van Havre (Canada) and Mr. Francis Ogwal (Uganda), began by thanking the Secretariat and the support team that assisted them during the arduous process, noting that a total of 53 hours had been dedicated to the drafting of this document. The Co-chairs then went through the document, delving into each section and informing the Bureau of the rationale behind the structure and the main principle guiding the framework: the theory of change. They noted that the document was written in generic language for it to be applicable to all entities engaged with biodiversity, reserving the more technical CBD language for the complementary decisions. After going through the various sections of the document, the Co-chairs informed the Bureau of the planned release dates of the pending documentation, including the headline indicators addendum by 26 July, component indicators soon after, and supplementary indicators at a later stage. They also noted they would be producing a one pager for each goal and target contained in the document by 26 July.

9. The Bureau expressed their great appreciation to the Co-chairs and Secretariat for the hard work in developing this first draft. They noted that at a first glance, the document read very well, with a clear structure and clear linkages. The Bureau requested the Co-chairs organize regional briefings for the document as done previously, as they considered it was very helpful for the regions.

10. In response to some comments and questions from the Bureau, the Co-chairs clarified that the DSI document would be available quite soon, as well as the glossary of terms which they clarified was their own interpretation of the terms. The Co-chairs agreed to hold the regional consultations as requested by the Bureau.

ITEM 4. UPDATE ON OTHER PREPARATIONS FOR THE THIRD MEETING OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

11. Under this agenda item, the Chair referred to the updated draft elements for the scenario note circulated by the Co-Chairs that reflected some of the Bureau's feedback from the previous meeting. He opened the floor for questions or comments from the members of the Bureau.

12. The Bureau engaged in an active discussion covering several aspects of the organization of WG2020-3. In response to some questions from the Bureau, the Co-chairs clarified that the non-papers referred to in the document would be prepared for the contact group on DSI (item 5) but would not be needed for the global framework (item 4) since discussions in contact groups on that item would take place on the basis of the First Draft. They also highlighted that for the plenary sessions, Parties should come prepared with general comments about the substance of the First Draft, but it would not be efficient to try to get into text negotiations or submit text amendments in plenary, rather, these would be provided in the contact groups. The Co-chairs informed the Bureau they would be preparing a note for the contact groups to ensure clarity, as was done in the previous meeting. Regarding the consideration of the Gender Plan of Action, the Secretariat clarified that it was not going to be considered at the virtual session of the WG2020-3 but most likely at the resumed session. (The SBI chair complemented by noting that the consultation on the plan would take place later in July). Regarding the number of speakers allowed for delegations, the Secretariat clarified that there would be no limit to the number of delegates each country could register to the meeting. However, the number of active speakers at one time would be limited, but delegations would be able to choose and reassign them as needed. Regarding the timing of the sessions, the Secretariat noted that if the Bureau agreed, the timings of the contact groups could be adjusted, with plenaries remaining in the current proposed time slot. The Bureau welcomed this suggestion. The Secretariat noted again that it was exploring modalities to provide limited financial and practical support to delegations. However, regional hubs, such as the one organized for UNFCCC, would not be feasible for WG2020-3 due to the short time left to the start of the meeting and the current travel restrictions; however, this would be explored for future meetings.

Furthermore, members of the Bureau requested more information on the High-Level Event to be hosted by Colombia and noted the importance of dispatching invitations to the High-Level Event as soon as possible, given the short time left for the meeting and the holiday season in many countries. The representative from Colombia indicated the Government was finalizing the details and would be ready to circulate a proposal and concept note the following week. The concept note was circulated to the Bureau on 22 July 2021.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

13. Under this agenda item, the Chair invited the representative of China to present their proposal for COP 15 and in preparation for the discussions to be held by the Bureau at their next meeting. Dr. Cui, representative of China, began by thanking the Bureau for their support and efforts during these challenging times. He noted that the two main concerns the Bureau had would hopefully be addressed so that the Bureau can reach a decision by 14 July. Noting that China supports scenario 3, he emphasized that the first phase of COP 15 needed to happen in October in order to maintain momentum and links with UNFCCC's COP 26. This first phase would take place from 11 to 17 October, where the COP would be opened and a 2-day High-Level Segment would take place, resulting in the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration. For the second phase, tentatively 9 to 22 May 2022, he noted the venue would be Kunming, taking into consideration public health measures that would be in place at the time for international visitors and which may differ (more flexible) from the current ones in place. Dr. Cui also highlighted China's willingness to assist with vaccination assistance to those delegates who would need them. He finally informed the Bureau that China would circulate the proposal (which it did) in the coming days in preparation for the discussions to be held on 14 July.

14. The Chair thanked the Government of China on behalf of the Bureau for the update and presentation of their proposal and urged all Bureau members to consult with their regions in order to come prepared to make a decision on their meeting of 14 July 2021.

ITEM 6. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

15. The Chair thanked the Bureau and all participants for the discussion and closed the meeting on 8 July 2021 at 9:25 a.m. EST.