



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
19 August 2021

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH 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 19 August 2021 at 7:00 a.m. EST, to receive an update on preparations for the third meeting of the open-ended Working Group of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and its concurrent meetings.
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), Mr. Eric Okoree (Ghana)
 - 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. 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); Mr. Dilovarsho Dustov (Tajikistan, substitute for Georgia for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol);
 - 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. Liu Ning (China), Ms. Yeuye Zhou (China), Ms. Lu Diyin (China) COP 15 host representatives; Ms. Laura Juliana Rojas (Colombia) and Ms. Paula Sanmiguel (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; Ms. Gudrun Fosse, Head of

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Administration, Finance and Commercial Services Division; 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 19 August 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. She informed the Bureau that following extensive consultations with the Government of China, the notification announcing that COP would take place in two parts had been dispatched. She also noted that the Secretariat had put in place all the preparations necessary for WG2020-3 and looked forward to supporting the Co-chairs and the Parties with the important task ahead. She briefly updated the Bureau on the status of support offered to Parties which was being done in coordination with UNDP, noting that approximately 74 delegates from 40 countries and 8 representatives from indigenous peoples and local communities would be assisted. She concluded by reminding the Bureau to submit the nomination letters and ensure all are fully registered for the meeting of the Working Group, noting that approximately 114 Parties, 1 non-Party and 189 observer organizations had registered already.

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. PREPARATIONS FOR THE THIRD MEETING OF THE OPEN-ENDED INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK (WG2020-3)

7. Under this agenda item, the Chair invited the Co-chairs of WG2020 to provide an update on the preparations of WG2020-3.

8. The Co-chairs, Mr. Basile van Havre (Canada) and Mr. Francis Ogwal (Uganda), began by noting that they had tried to accommodate the earlier comments of the Bureau in the revised scenario note, but advised to keep the current structure as they felt it would be conducive to a better outcome. They proposed holding daily Bureau meetings at 6:00 a.m. EST during WG2020-3, with the exception of Monday, 23 August and the weekend. They also proposed that the relevant co-chairs of the contact groups be invited to these Bureau meetings so they could provide the appropriate updates. The Co-chairs also requested the Bureau's approval of two additional contact groups to ensure there would be enough time to cover all the sections. Finally, the Co-chairs proposed that Ms. Leina El-Awadhi from Kuwait be the rapporteur of the meeting, serving as such until the report is adopted at the resumed session of the meeting in 2022. The Bureau was reminded that any requests for regional meetings should be communicated to the Secretariat as soon as possible and to indicate, if possible, which representative will speak for the region during the plenary sessions.

9. The Bureau expressed their great appreciation to the Co-chairs and the Secretariat for the documents and update. The Bureau engaged in an active discussion addressing several issues. They agreed with the Co-chair's proposals for the daily meetings during WG2020-3, as well as including the co-chairs of the contact groups in these meetings. They also supported the nomination of Ms. Leina El-Awadhi as rapporteur for the meeting and agreed to the two additional contact group sessions during the second week. A member of the Bureau raised the issue of the timings of the sessions, and after the Secretariat clarified that plenary sessions could not be modified due to the complex logistical arrangements already in place but that there was more flexibility with contact groups, it was agreed that the Secretariat would work with those countries that had proposed changes to prepare a proposal for timings more suitable for the Asia-Pacific region for the contact groups taking place during the second week of the meeting. The Bureau highlighted once again the importance of giving observers sufficient time to participate and were encouraged to remind their regions the importance of keeping their statements within the allotted time. The Bureau also

highlighted the importance of having the non-papers early, ideally 36 hours ahead of the contact group, so that Parties can properly prepare.

10. On the issue of the expected outcomes of WG2020-3, the Bureau emphasized the importance on having clarity on what the expectation was, and the depth of discussion envisioned for this meeting. Regarding what is expected from Parties during the meeting, it was clarified that, it was envisaged that Parties would engage in a detailed text-based discussion of the draft before them during the contact groups, and that the various suggestions made by Parties would be captured in the text which would be appended to the report of this first part of the meeting. However, no text would be finalized at this session of the meeting. Parties would continue and finalize the text-based review of the draft at the resumed in person meeting.

11. In response to some additional comments and questions from the Bureau, the Co-chairs clarified that no opening statements would take place in the first plenary, that there was a non-paper envisioned for DSI, and there was no expectation that a Friends of the Chair group would need to be convened.

ITEM 4. UPDATE ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AND ITS CONCURRENT MEETINGS

12. Under this agenda item, the Chair invited the representative from the Government of China, Mr. Liu Ning, to provide an update to the Bureau.

13. Mr. Ning began by informing the Bureau that the Government of China had formally approved the two-part programme of COP-15 and in coordination with the Secretariat, had made the official announcement to the international community. He provided a brief overview of the organization of work that would take place during the first part of COP and provided further details on the High-Level Segment, including that the invitation letters would be dispatched to the Ministers the following Monday, through the embassies and local mission in China. He also noted that a first draft of the Kunming Declaration would be included in the letter, inviting for comments from Parties. Mr. Ning also highlighted delegates from embassies and missions in China would be invited to Kunming and, pending confirmation, China could consider supporting the local travel of LDC and SIDS countries to the meeting.

14. The Deputy Executive Secretary complemented Mr. Ning's remarks by indicating that the Bureau had been presented with the annotated agendas and organization of work, which would be finalized and posted on the website shortly after the Bureau meeting. As for the registration of onsite delegates going to Kunming, he clarified that Parties remained responsible for registering their delegates to the meeting and encouraged Parties to include these diplomats when registering their delegations.

15. The Bureau thanked the representative of China and the Secretariat for the preparations and the efforts undertaken as they prepared for the new modality of a two-part COP. They welcomed the additional information provided on the High-Level Segment and the draft of the Kunming Declaration and welcomed that the programme for the High-Level Segment and the draft Declaration would be sent to parties within the next days.

16. The Bureau engaged in a brief discussion regarding the budget. It was clarified that the only substantive matter to be addressed in the first part of COP would be the interim budget and that as usual, a budget committee would be established. It was proposed to begin informal consultations on the budget, as had been done for the 2021 interim budget, in advance of the group's formal establishment. It was noted that the interim budget would be adopted following the final draft being made available at least 36 hours in advance. The Bureau underlined the importance of having the documents of the budget posted in a timely manner noting that the financial rules specify that this should be issued 90 days before the COP. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the interim budget document was being prepared and would be posted by 30 August, noting that 90 days had already elapsed at the time the Bureau had determined the dates of the first and second parts of COP-15., A Bureau member also asked for information on the preparation of recommendations on the modernisation of the BZ trust fund as requested by COP 14; the Secretariat noted that this would be done as part of the full budget being prepared for consideration at part II of COP-15.

17. In response to other questions from the Bureau, the Secretariat and the representative of China clarified a number of issues. On the issue of the new Bureau members being able to observe Bureau meetings, it was noted that most likely the new members would only be announced in the second part of COP and would then be invited to observe the meetings taking place then. On the Ecological Civilization Forum, it was clarified that the forum was considered not to be a formal part the COP but as a parallel event organized by the Chinese host government, therefore it was included in the schedule of the first part of COP. On the reports, it was clarified that the COP would be able to have the reports of WG8J-11, SBSTTA-23 and WG2020-1 and WG2020-2, however it would not yet have those for SBSTTA-24, SBI-3 or WG2020-3 as they would not have been completed by then.

18. The representative from the Government of Colombia provided a brief update on the Pre-COP event taking place on 30 August during the WG2020-3 and expressed gratitude to the Bureau, the Secretariat and the Government of China for their support. The Bureau appreciated update, expressed its thanks to the government of Columbia for organising the event and was looking forward to receiving the final programme of the Pre-COP.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

19. Under this agenda item, a Bureau member noted the importance of the January 2022 meetings and encouraged the Bureau to start discussing the preparations for these meetings.

ITEM 6. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

20. The Chair thanked the Bureau and all participants for the discussion and closed the meeting on 19 August 2021 at 9:15 a.m. EST.