



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
30 September 2021

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES AND THE BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL
AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

1. A joint meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice was held via MS Teams on 30 September 2021 at 7:00 a.m. EST, to receive an update on preparations for the resumed sessions of the Twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, (SBSTTA-24) the Third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-3) and the Third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework(WG2020-3. The joint meeting was followed by a brief meeting of the COP Bureau; the minutes for which are provided separately.

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

Presidency: Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (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); Mr. Dilovarsho Dustov (Tajikistan, substitute for Georgia for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol); Ms. Elvana Ramaj (Albania);

Western Europe and Others: Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria); Ms. Rosemary Paterson (New Zealand); and Mr. Gaute Voigt-Hanssen (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), Mr. Guan Jing (China), Ms. Diyin Lu (China), Ms. Ziyuan Li (China), COP 15 host representatives; Mr. Neville Ash (UNEP); Mr. Norbert Baerlocher (Switzerland) – Host of resumed sessions; Mr. Spencer Thomas (Grenada) -Chair of informal budget committee

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3. The teleconference was also attended by the following members of the SBSTTA Bureau and substitutes:

Chair: Mr. Hesiquio Benitez (Mexico);

Africa: Mr. Larbi Sbai (Morocco), Ms. Marie-May Muzungale (Seychelles);

Asia and the Pacific: Ms. Gwen Sisior (Palau);

Central and Eastern Europe: Dr. Tatsiana Lipinskaya (Belarus), Ms. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Latin America and the Caribbean: Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda, substitute for Saint Lucia on matters related to the Nagoya Protocol); Mr. Adams Toussaint (Haiti);

Western Europe and Others: Ms. Alison McMorrow (Australia); Ms. Marina von Weissenberg (Finland); and Mr. Andreas Schei (Norway, substitute for Australia on matters related to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols);

4. 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; Mr. Markus Lehmann, Officer-in-Charge, Science, Society and Sustainable Futures 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; Mr. Ide Ahmed Mohamed, Finance Officer, Ms. Catalina Santamaria, Senior Programme Officer. Mr. David Ainsworth, Information Officer, and Ms. Gu Li, Programme Officer.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The joint teleconference was opened on 30 September 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 both Bureaux as well as the representative of the Government of Switzerland, Mr. Norbert Baerlocher as host of the meetings in Geneva in January 2022. He also welcomed Mr. Andreas Schei from Norway who is the SBSTTA Bureau member replacing Mr. Gaute Voigt-Hanssen and who is now serving in the COP Bureau replacing Ms. Marie Haraldstad. Mr. Hesiquio Diaz, as Chair of the SBSTTA Bureau also welcomed both Bureaux members.

6. The Executive Secretary offered brief welcome remarks. She also welcomed the representative of Switzerland and the new SBSTTA Bureau member and informed the Bureau that her and her team were busy with the preparations of the first part of COP15 and its High-Level Segment. She urged Bureau members to remind their regions to respond to the invitation from the Minister and indicate the roundtable discussion preferences, as well as to submit pending nomination letters and credentials.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The Chair introduced the provisional agenda for the joint Bureau session, and after no objections to changes from the Bureaux, the provisional agenda was adopted.

ITEM 3. PREPARATIONS FOR THE RESUMED SESSIONS OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE, THE THIRD MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION AND THE THIRD MEETING OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE POST 2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

8. Under this agenda item, the Chair began by thanking the Government of Switzerland for offering to host the meetings of the subsidiary bodies and the WG2020 from 11 to 28 January 2022. He invited one of the Co-chairs from the WG2020, to provide an overview of the preparations carried out jointly with the Chairs of SBSTTA and SBI.

9. Mr. Basile van Havre, Co-chair of the WG2020, providing the report on behalf of the other Chair, began by referring to the two documents prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chairs and

circulated earlier to members of both Bureaux noting one was on logistics and the second was on the general approach to the meetings.

10. The Co-chair noted that the Secretariat had carried out an informal study on the status of vaccination of Parties and requested the Secretariat to provide the relevant information. Members of the Bureaux were informed that the survey, although based on a small sample size, indicated that most regions had a vaccination rate of 90% and above, except for in Africa where was at around 63% of respondents. The Secretariat was consulting with the United Nations Department of Operational Support as well as UNFCCC and the UK Government to explore possibilities to facilitate vaccination for those in need, in light of the experience of a similar exercise for UNFCCC's COP-26.

11. Referring to the Note on logistics, the Co-chair presented the three options regarding the format of the meeting regarding the extent that in-person participation may be complemented by on-line participation. He noted that option A would include a classical full-in person meeting, with all interventions done onsite; option B would allow few delegations who cannot travel due to the pandemic to participate via remote technology; and the third option would entail a fully hybrid modality of allowing any Party to participate online, as well as onsite. He considered that the last option would not be practical and could be unmanageable from the perspective of chairing and logistics.

12. Referring to the note on the general approach, he noted that the agendas of the three meetings (SBSTTA-24, SBI-3 and WG2020-3) would be coordinated with a combined organization of work to facilitate a coordinated approach. He noted that SBSTTA and SBI contact groups would most likely be held in parallel but avoid addressing closely related topics at the same time. WG2020 contact groups to be held in parallel. Furthermore, he noted L docs would be presented for adoption and if any issues remained unresolved, these would need to be sent to COP/MOPs in brackets. The Co-chair noted that the Bureau would need more time to discuss carefully with their regions, welcomed suggestions on how to continue preparations and suggested they present more detailed options after the first part of COP 15.

13. The Chair then invited the Swiss representative to provide an update to the Bureaux. Mr. Baerlocher informed members of the Bureaux that a suitable venue, the International Conference Center Geneva, had been secured for the meetings. It included one large plenary room, which could be sub-divided as needed, and several smaller rooms that could service the regional meetings and contact groups. Regarding the public health measures, Mr. Baerlocher noted that the Government of Switzerland was now operating with COVID certificate which is issued to people who either are fully vaccinated (with a WHO approved vaccine), has recovered from COVID-19, or has a recent negative test. He highlighted that this document would allow for free mobility and no need for quarantine. For those who do not have the vaccine, they would need to test every three days to maintain the certificate. The Swiss Government would facilitate the issuance of the certificate and the provision of testing as necessary.

14. The Deputy Executive Secretary complemented the updates by both representatives by inviting feedback from the Bureaux on both documents. He noted that depending on the number of registrations and on the social distancing rules in the rooms, there may be a need to limit the number of delegates and to ensure there is equity. He also noted that option C would be very complex for the Chairs and the Secretariat to manage and would probably be less conducive to facilitating negotiations amongst Parties.

15. The Chair thanked both the Co-chair and the representative from Switzerland for the clear updates and opened the floor for comments and questions from the Bureaux.

16. Members of both Bureaux thanked the Co-chairs, the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies and the Secretariat for the two documents circulated and noted further feedback would be provided once they fully consulted with their regions. They also expressed their great appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for hosting and making the efforts to facilitate an in-person meeting as much as possible. Generally, the Bureaux supported option B, noting that there may be some Parties that would not be able to travel due to local restrictions or possible global conditions. They highlighted the importance of ensuring adequate funding for those delegates who would need it as well as the need to allow more than one delegate to participate in-person so that the work could be adequately distributed. One Bureau member suggested preparing a document synthesizing the status of each agenda item and where discussions were left after the first parts of the meetings. The Bureaux stressed the importance of early notification to Parties and requested

the Secretariat to issue a notification as soon as possible regarding the pre-registration and expression of interest for vaccination for the meetings. The Bureaux also requested detailed scheduling and timing of the contact groups, as well as indication of the time that would be allocated to each of the meetings. Some Bureau members noted that the priority for time should be on WG2020-3 and on issues under the subsidiary bodies that are strongly linked with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. A Bureau member requested that consideration be given to organizing the agenda and work such that all delegates do not need to stay the length of the entire meeting if not needed (i.e. grouping discussions under the Cartagena Protocol etc.). The Bureaux also requested update on the intersessional work on the monitoring framework and how it was proceeding.

17. The Chairs and Co-chairs took note of these requests and indicated they would prepare accordingly for a meeting after the first part of COP15. The Secretariat clarified that currently there was enough funding for 110 persons from the BZ fund and would soon be requesting further contributions from Parties who would be able to do so.

ITEM 4. OTHER MATTERS

18. No other matters were raised by the Joint meeting.

ITEM 5. CLOSING OF THE JOINT MEETING

19. The Chair thanked the Bureaux and all participants for the discussion and closed the joint meeting on 30 September 2021 at 8:40 a.m. EST.