



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/Bur/2022/2/2
18 June 2022
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
19 May and 13 June 2022

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

1. Two teleconference sessions of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties were held via MS Teams on 19 May 2022 (a) at 7:00am EST and 13 June 2022 (b) at 8:00am EST to discuss the preparations for Part Two of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the tenth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (COP 15.2).

2. The meeting was attended by the following members of the COP Bureau and substitutes (in case that a person did not attend all the sessions, attendance is indicated by a or b respectively):

Representative of the COP President: Vice-Minister Zhao Yingmin (China) (a,b).

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

Asia and the Pacific: Ms. Leina Al-Awadhi (Kuwait) (a,b); Mr. Shri Naresh Pal Gangwar (India) (b);

Latin America and the Caribbean: Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda)(a,b); Ms. Eugenia Arguedas Montezuma (Costa Rica)(a,b); Mr. Joaquín Salzberg (Argentina, substitute for Costa Rica for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol)(a,b);

Central and Eastern Europe: Ms. Teona Karchava (Georgia)(a,b); Ms. Elvana Ramaj (Albania)(a,b); Mr. Mr. Dilovarsho Dustzoda (Tajikistan, substitute for Georgia for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol)(a, b);

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

Ex-officio: Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist (Sweden), Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (a,b); Mr. Hesiquio Benítez (Mexico), Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice(a,b); Mr. Basile van Havre (Canada)(a,b) and Mr. Francis Sabino Ogwal (Uganda)(a,b) Co-chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, representative of COP 14 Presidency(a);

COP Presidency: Mr. CUI Shuhong (a,b), Ms. ZHOU Guomei (a,b), Mr. QI Dahai (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) (a,b), Mr. XIA Yingxian (b), Ms. CAI Lei (a,b), Mr. LIU Ning (a,b), Ms. ZHONG Jing (MFA) (a,b), and Ms. LIU Han (MFA) (a);

Observer: Mr. Neville Ash (UNEP)(a, b).

/...

3. The Secretariat was represented by Mrs. Elizabeth Mrema, Executive Secretary; Mr. David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary; Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Director of Implementation Support Division; Ms. Jihyun Lee, Director of Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division; Mr. Wataru Suzuki, Global Coordinator for the Japan Biodiversity Fund; Mr. Worku Yifru, Senior Legal Officer; Ms. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi, Head, Biosafety Protocol Unit; Mr. Taukondjo Shikongo, Head, Nagoya Protocol Unit; Ms. Gudrun Fosse, Head of Administration; Ms. Gu Li, Programme Officer; Mr. Lijie Cai, Programme Officer; Mr. David Ainsworth, Information Officer.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The first teleconference was opened on 19 May 2022 at 7:05 a.m. EST by the Vice-Minister of Ecology and Environment of China, Mr. Zhao Yingmin, representative of the President of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Chair introduced himself and congratulated the Bureau on the success of the Geneva meetings which laid the foundations for the finalization of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework negotiations, as well as for a successful second part of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties. He thanked the Executive Secretary for her leadership and noting that a heavy task lied ahead for the negotiations, appealed for the Bureau's support to achieve consensus on the draft document. Highlighting that the day's meeting would focus on the preparations for COP 15.2, he invited the Executive Secretary to provide opening remarks.

5. The Executive Secretary offered a warm welcome to all Bureau members and expressed appreciation of the participation of Vice-Minister Zhao, which demonstrated China's continued commitment for the preparations of COP 15.2. She reiterated the appreciation of the Secretariat for the work of Ms. Zhou Guomei in leading the work of the Bureau and the recent Geneva meetings. Expressing sympathy and understanding for the situation of the host Government, the Executive Secretary underlined that the world was waiting for confirmation of the dates of Cop 15.2 to finalize and adopt the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. She noted that it was critical to keep the momentum so that the Working Group can complete its task in June in Nairobi, and therefore it was of vital importance to confirm the dates to the international community as soon as possible. She indicated the Secretariat would continue with the logistical and substantive preparations and referred to the documents circulated to the Bureau on the overall programme of the Conference as well as annotations for the COP and COP-MOP agendas, acknowledging the Bureau would need more time to review them.

6. On 13 June, the Bureau met once again to continue discussions on the preparations and options for COP15.2.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The Chair introduced the provisional agenda for the meeting and after a suggestion from a Bureau member to address the issue of the timing of the Conference with priority, the agenda was adopted.

ITEM 3. PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONCURRENT MEETINGS: PART TWO OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES, THE TENTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL AND THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL

8. Under this agenda item, on 19 May, the Chair invited Mr. David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary, to provide updates to the Bureau on several issues regarding the preparations of COP 15.2. He also invited Mr. Cui, representative of the organizing committee from the Government of China, to provide an update on the arrangements for COP 15.2, including on the High-Level Segment (HLS) and on the timing of and logistical arrangements for the Conference.

9. Mr. Cooper provided a brief overview of the programme for the Part II of COP 15 and the concurrent meetings of the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, as well as the High-Level Segment and associated events. He introduced the supporting documents that had been circulated to the Bureau acknowledging that detailed

discussion of these documents would be deferred to a later stage to allow the Bureau members time to review them.

10. Mr. Cui provided the Bureau with an overview of the High-Level Segment, noting that many logistical preparations were underway for the HLS and the preliminary plan had been drafted pending approval from the Central Government. He described the structure of the HLS, noting this would inject political momentum to the negotiations. He highlighted that China would be ready to offer travel support to Ministers from eligible countries to facilitate their participation in the HLS. In response to a comment from a Bureau member, Mr. Cui confirmed China would follow the standard procedure of inviting ministers from developing countries to the meeting, and would be preparing the necessary documentation and guidance to help focal points prepare the national statements of their ministers.

11. Mr. Cooper recalled that the agenda of COP 15, the tenth meeting of the Parties of the Cartagena Protocol and the fourth meeting of the Parties of the Nagoya Protocol, had been adopted at part I of the meetings in October, 2021. He introduced the draft annotations to the agendas of each meeting, inviting Bureau members to review them in consultation with their respective regions. He noted that it would be necessary to prepare an organization of work for the three concurrent meetings at a later stage.

12. Mr. Cooper also provided an overview of the planned associated events, including side-events and a number of major events organized by the major groups in close coordination with the Secretariat and the host Government. These include events on indigenous peoples and local communities, science, business, subnational governments, etc. He also noted that sessions of the Rio Conventions Pavilion and the CEPA Fair were planned to take place. He noted that these events might need to be slimmed down to accommodate conditions of the meeting during the pandemic.

13. Regarding the timing of COP15.2, Mr Cui noted that China had been working very hard for the preparations of the second part of COP and lots of efforts have been done to evaluate the logistical requirements of the Conference. With hundreds of millions of yuan invested for the preparation of COP 15, China was committed to the international community to host the COP in full. Noting the ongoing situation of the pandemic and the omicron variant in China, combined with insufficient medical resources and a large aging population that were not fully vaccinated against Covid, together with the the challenging demands of hosting a COP through a closed-loop system and the risk of leakage through one or more of the many “bubbles” that would be needed in Kunming, he informed the Bureau that it was not realistic to hold COP 15.2 in August/September, as originally planned, and therefore the dates could not be confirmed at the current time.

14. The Bureau thanked the Government of China and the Secretariat for the updates. The Bureau expressed its great appreciation to the Government of China for its commitment and leadership, and for all the achievements accomplished despite the challenging times, including the successful hosting of the first part of COP 15, the adoption of the Kunming Declaration and the establishment of the Kunming Biodiversity Fund. The Bureau also acknowledged the great efforts made to date by the Chinese authorities at national level, in the Yunnan province, and also in the City of Kunming, to prepare for Part II of COP 15 and expressed its sympathy and understanding for the very challenging situation facing China.

15. Noting the importance of addressing the ongoing biodiversity crisis and the urgency of adopting the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and begin its implementation, the Bureau emphasized the need to ensure that Part II of COP 15 would be held in 2022 and not be postponed to 2023. In this context the Bureau also noted that many other international meetings were being held in 2022 including the COPs of the other Rio Conventions.

16. A number of Bureau members requested that the Secretariat prepare information, in close consultation with the COP Presidency, setting out options for holding the second part of COP 15 and its concurrent meetings and the High Level Segment in 2022, including: potential time slots available in 2022, taking into account the calendar of international meetings and the desire to hold the meeting as close as possible to the dates previously planned; availability of facilities, including at UN venues and, in liaison with the host government, at the seat of the Secretariat; budgetary requirements; and any other considerations necessary to ensure that the meetings could be held in 2022, including conditions for participation for Parties’ delegates and for civil society. Further, the members of the Bureau requested the Secretariat to circulate

this information to the Bureau by end of May and for the Bureau to meet again in the first days of June to consider the options available with a view to making a firm decision on the dates and venue before the fourth meeting of the Working Group on the post 2020 global biodiversity framework in Nairobi.

17. The Chair thanked the Bureau for the candid discussion and acknowledging the comments and requests of the Bureau, he indicated that China would work closely and in an accelerated manner with the Secretariat to develop the proposal as soon as possible, taking into account the views expressed by Bureau members. The Executive Secretary indicated that the Secretariat would compile the information as requested.

18. On 13 June, after welcoming the participants back, the Chair invited the Deputy Executive Secretary, Mr. David Cooper, to provide an overview of the progress report on the preparations and options for COP15.2 that had been circulated to the Bureau on 31 May by the Secretariat and the COP Presidency.

19. Mr. Cooper informed the Bureau that the Secretariat and the team in China had met several times since the meeting on 19 May to advance the compilation of information, as requested by them. He noted that the options being explored were Kunming, Montreal as the seat of the Secretariat and the UN center in Bonn. He indicated that the Secretariat had made a request to Canada to explore the possibility of hosting the meetings in Montreal and he informed the Bureau that Canada had replied that it was open to providing the location as long as a formal request was made from the Presidency and the Bureau. Mr. Cooper provided a brief overview of the possible window of dates, including the second half of October or the first half of December. He highlighted that regardless of the venue, China would remain President and lead on all substantive and political matters. He also emphasized that should the COP take place outside of China, funds would need to be provided by Parties as the Secretariat has a limited budget which is not enough to cover the cost of a COP.

20. The Chair thanked Mr. Cooper for the overview and invited Mr. Cui, representative of the organizing committee from the Government of China, to take the floor and provide the Bureau with further information. Mr. Cui also noted that several meetings had been held between his team and the Secretariat. He provided the Bureau with an overview of the pandemic control measures that the Chinese team had been working on, which included the closed-loop management system, ensuring all delegates had the full vaccination protocol at least 14 days before traveling, making Kunming the only point of arrival for delegates (participants would need to take temporary flights, or organize charter flights if no commercial airline is available to them), participants would need to depart 48 hours after the meeting has concluded. Mr. Cui further noted that anyone with a positive test and mild symptoms could isolate in their hotel, but anyone with more serious symptoms, would need to be taken to a hospital and would be provided with wifi, meals, service in English and other services to ensure their comfort. He indicated that China aimed to have 90% of the Kunming population vaccinated by October.

21. The Chair thanked Mr. Cui and opened the floor for questions. The Bureau thanked the Government of China and the Secretariat for the efforts done and the overview provided on the preparations and options for holding COP15.2 in 2022. The Bureau once again congratulated China for its leadership and achievements made thus far and recognizing the challenges that the pandemic has imposed on them, reassured China that they would remain President regardless of the venue of COP15.2. The Bureau reiterated the importance of not losing momentum and to respond to the overwhelming pressure from the international community, and emphasized the importance of holding the second part of COP15 in 2022. The Bureau noted that the information provided in the progress report was not yet sufficient to make a decision. To this end, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to finalize the document by including more detailed information on the venue, dates, budget implications and any other conditions for each of the options proposed, and to circulate this information before their next meeting on 19 June 2022 with a view to making a decision before the start of the Nairobi meeting.

22. The COP Presidency and the Secretariat acknowledged the request and indicated they would try to circulate the information as soon as they could, but were dependant on the Governments of each option to receive this information. The Chair noted that by 19 June a comprehensive plan would be submitted to the Bureau in order to reach a decision.

ITEM 4. OTHER MATTERS

23. There were no other issues raised under this agenda item on the teleconference of 19 May.
24. On 13 June, a number of Bureau members noted that many funded delegates had not yet received their itineraries and tickets to travel to Nairobi, and this posed a problem for the request for visas and travels. It was also noted that some countries needed additional support with visa letters. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to look into the matter and support the delegates as much as it could
25. The Executive Secretary thanked the Bureau and reconfirmed the commitment and support of the Secretariat during this crucial time to ensure a successful COP. She noted that as the Secretariat was preparing to service the WG2020-4 meeting, there was still an outstanding amount of funds needed to cover the meeting, approximately an additional USD 800,000. Therefore, she made a call to Parties to make pledges and contributions in order to adequately cover the costs of the meeting.

ITEM 5. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

26. On 19 May 2022, the Chair thanked the Bureau and all participants for the successful discussion. The meeting was closed at 9:10 a.m. EST.
27. The Chair thanked the Bureau for the deliberations and noting the WG2020-4 meeting in Nairobi the following week, made a call to the regions to make the best efforts to reach consensus on many issues such as Resource Mobilization and DSI etc. He closed the meeting at 9:25am on 13 June 2022.