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MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Montreal, Canada, 2 to 19 December 2022

**MINUTES OF THE BUREAU MEETINGS HELD DURING THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE
OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY
FRAMEWORK, AND THE SECOND PART OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES, THE TENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF
THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA
PROTOCOL, AND THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL, IN
MONTREAL**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties met a total of 14 times during the fifth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Protocols, collectively referred to as the UN Biodiversity Conference. The meetings took place in the Bureau Room located on the fifth floor of Palais des Congrès, in Montreal, Canada.
2. This note summarizes the proceedings of the Bureau meetings held from 10:30 a.m. to 13:00 p.m. on 2 December 2022; from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 December; from 11:45 a.m. to 13:00 p.m. on 6 December; and from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on 19 December 2022.
3. The meetings were chaired by the representative of the Chinese COP-15 President, Ms. Guomei Zhou, on 2, 4, and 5 December 2022; by His Excellency Mr. Runqiu Huang on 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14 and 15 December 2022; and by the representative of the Chinese COP-15 President, Mr. Ning Liu, on 16, 17, 18 and 19 December 2022. Other representatives of the Chinese Presidency present at the meetings were Mr. Shuhong Cui, Ms. Lei Cai, Mr. Yingxian Xia, Ms. Haijun Chen, Ms. Jing Zhong and Ms. Yulin Fu.
4. The following members of the Bureau attended the above meetings:
Africa: Mr. Melesse Maryo (Ethiopia); Mr. Eric Okoree (Ghana).
Asia and the Pacific: Ms. Leina Al-Awadhi (Kuwait); Ms. Rita Khanna (India) (replacing Mr. Naresh Pal Gangwar).
Central and Eastern Europe: Ms. Elvana Ramaj (Albania); Ms. Teona Karchava (Georgia).
Latin America and the Caribbean: Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda); Ms. Eugenia Montezuma (Costa Rica); Mr. Joaquin Salzberg (Argentina, substitute for Costa Rica for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol).
Western Europe and Others: Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria); Ms. Rosemary Paterson (New Zealand); 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 Benitez (Mexico), Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters;

Ex officio: Ms. Tara Shannon (Canada); Ms. Kelly Torck (Canada); *Ex officio:* Mr. Francis Sabino Ogwal (Uganda) and Mr. Basile van Havre (Canada), Co-chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; and Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (Egypt), Representative of the COP-14 Presidency.

5. The Secretariat was represented by Ms. Elizabeth Mrema (Executive Secretary), together with Mr. David Cooper (Deputy Executive Secretary and Conference Secretary), Ms. Jihyun Lee (Director, Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division and WG1 Secretary), Mr. Neil Pratt (Officer in Charge, Implementation Support Division), Mr. Wataru Suzuki (Global Coordinator, Japan Biodiversity Fund), Mr. Worku Yifru (Senior Legal Officer), Ms. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi (Head, Biosafety Unit and WG2 Secretary), Mr. Taukondjo Shikongo (Senior Programme Management Officer, ABS Unit), Ms. Sakhile Silitshena (Senior Programme Management Officer, Head, Biodiversity Science, Policy and Governance Unit, SSSF Division), Ms. Kathryn Garforth (Programme Management Officer, Legal and Policy Affairs), Mr. David Ainsworth (Information Officer), Ms. Li Gu (Programme Management Officer, Office of the Executive Secretary), Ms. Inonge Mweene (Legal Officer, Legal and Intergovernmental Affairs Unit, Office of the Executive Secretary), Ms. Ailis Rego (Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary), Ms. Laetitia Sieffert (Programme Management Officer, Health and Biodiversity, Gender, Post-2020 GBF), Ms. Simone Schiele (on loan by IPBES to assist the Deputy Executive Secretary); Ms. Christine Estrada (Programme Management Assistant, Office of the Executive Secretary), Ms. Jacqueline Grekin (Programme Assistant, Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division), and Ms. Monique Chiasson (Programme Assistant, Implementation Support Division).

6. Mr. Neville Ash, Director, UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), also attended the meetings.

7. The main purpose of the meetings was to keep the Bureau informed of progress, with a view to enable it to provide guidance to the Secretariat, with regard to preparations for, and, to presiding officers with regard to the conduct of the meetings, including arrangements for the High-level Segment. Members were also informed of logistical matters requiring attention, as well as of any other matters calling for leadership and guidance from the Bureau.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

8. The first Bureau meeting held on 2 December 2022 was opened by the representative of COP-15 President, Ms. Guomei Zhou, at 10:27 a.m. EST. On behalf of His Excellency Mr. Runqiu Huang, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China, Ms. Zhou conveyed her deep appreciation to the Executive Secretary and her team, the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and to Bureau members for their support for the preparation of the meetings, including in regard to the numerous online meetings held to facilitate negotiations of the post-2020 framework. She informed Bureau members that she was aware, through the outcomes of regional meetings, that there was overwhelming support from Parties to use the text of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, resulting from the Meeting of the Informal Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, held in Montreal, from 26 to 30 September 2022, as a basis for negotiations during the fifth meeting of the Working Group.

9. In her opening remarks, the CBD Executive Secretary, Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, thanked the Government of China for its leadership, the Government of Canada for its support in hosting the meetings, and to her team at the Secretariat for their hard work in preparing for the meetings. She also expressed her gratitude to Bureau members for their support and guidance during intensive preparations for the meetings. Being held just days after the conclusion of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt,

Ms. Mrema stressed that the attention of the world would now be particularly focused on the negotiations of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the final outcomes of the meetings.

10. Regarding the fifth meeting of the Working Group, that would begin the next day, Ms. Mrema stressed the need for Bureau members to fully brief their regions on the organization of work so that delegates were well prepared to support the Co-Chairs in delivering the final draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in a form that will allow the Conference of the Parties to finalize and adopt the framework, as well as a recommendation on digital sequence information. It was also important that Parties were prepared to use the text resulting from the Meeting of the Informal Group as a basis for their work.

11. The Executive Secretary added that the regions would also need to be fully briefed on how the organization of work for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Protocols would be handled, including approaches that had been agreed to streamline work. In particular, delegates should understand that issues already dealt with by the subsidiary bodies would not be re-opened for general comments. Instead, the Chairs of the Working Groups would quickly move to prepare, as appropriate, a conference room paper, or establish a contact group or a friends of the Chair group, for agenda items.

12. The Executive Secretary indicated that over 4000 on-site participants from governments (192 countries) were registered for the meetings, and that funding for the participation of developing-country Parties had been provided by the Government of the People's Republic of China to participate in the High-Level Segment. Overall on-site registration had reached 16,800 participants. Ms. Mrema advised that the opening ceremony of the UN Biodiversity Conference would be held on Tuesday, 6 December 2022, at 15:15 p.m., and begin with a ceremonial welcome from the traditional Chief of the Onondaga Nation, Tadodaho Sid Hill. The Prime Minister of Canada, the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Premier of Québec and the Mayor of Montréal would be in attendance and address participants. A reception hosted by the COP-15 Presidency would be held later that evening.

13. On 6 December, on the eve of the opening of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Protocols, the COP-15 President, Minister Mr. Runqiu Huang, addressed the Bureau meeting. The Minister thanked the Secretariat and the Government of Canada for their support and expressed his confidence in the wisdom of the Bureau to move negotiations forward.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

14. The Chair introduced the provisional agendas for each Bureau meeting held during the UN Biodiversity Conference which were adopted by the Bureau as presented.

ITEM 3. PREPARATIONS AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

15. Following the adoption of the agenda for its meeting of 2 December 2022, the Bureau proceeded to hear from the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, on the status of preparations and the plan for the work ahead for the next three days. Accordingly, the Co-Chairs presented an overview of the organization of work for the fifth meeting, particularly as related to the contact groups, clarifying that no changes had been made to the scenario note posted on the Convention website since the last meeting of the Bureau was held on 24 November 2022.

16. In accordance with the request of the fourth meeting of the Working Group, WG2020 Co-Chair van Havre stated that Parties, other Governments and observers had been given an opportunity to provide comments on elements of a draft decision operationalizing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework through a notification issued by the Secretariat on 11 July 2022. A total of 30 Parties and 12 observers had provided written submissions which were posted on the Convention website. However, given the wide range of comments reflected in the

submissions, the Co-Chairs were of the view that the fifth meeting of the Working Group would not be able to reconcile the divergence in views until negotiations had progressed further. It was thus recommended that the matter be sent to the Conference of the Parties for consideration, taking into account the comments received and the progress that would be made during the fifth meeting.

17. WG2020 Co-Chair van Havre further explained that indicators would not be negotiated during the fifth meeting of the Working Group however delegates could refer to the report of the expert workshop on the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, held in Bonn, Germany, from 29 June to 1 July 2022, and Annex I of SBSTTA recommendation 24/2, to inform negotiations on the goals and targets.

18. During the plenary session that would take place the next day, the Co-Chairs advised members that they would request the support of Parties to use the text resulting from the Meeting of the Informal Group as the basis for their work. Opening statements would not be invited in order to optimize the amount of time available for negotiations. The issue of digital sequence information (DSI) would be raised during plenary and Parties involved in the Informal Co-Chairs' Advisory Group on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources would be requested to report on intersessional activities. In addition, a contact group on DSI would be established which could be further assisted by the establishment of a Friends of the Co-Leads group. The contact groups should be encouraged to cover as many goals, targets and details of the draft framework as possible and, what is not covered, would be acknowledged in the report of the meeting.

19. Further to the advice received from the Bureau during previous meetings, the Co-Chairs informed members that they would be meeting with representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities and the CBD Alliance in the afternoon to brief them on preparations for the meeting, including the outcomes of the Meeting of the Informal Group, and seek their cooperation on the proposed organization of work. The Co-Chairs also stated that, if useful, they would make themselves available to attend any regional meetings.

20. The Bureau also agreed that Ms. Eugenia Arguedas Montezuma (Costa Rica) would serve as Rapporteur for the meeting.

21. On 4 December 2022, WG2020 Co-Chair van Havre, highlighted that most Parties had expressed support at opening plenary to use the streamlined text resulting from the Meeting of the Informal Group as a basis for negotiations. For ease of reference, the Informal Group text and the WG2020-4 text were being displayed side-by-side on the screens in the meeting rooms of contact groups to assist negotiators. WG2020 Co-Chair Ogwal, emphasized the importance of being explicit regarding time allocation in the contact group sessions and that Parties should be encouraged to bring in text from the fourth meeting of the Working Group and refrain from bringing in new text. The WG2020 Co-Chairs noted that they were pleased to observe that Parties were working on the text of the Informal Group for the most part.

22. Bureau members heard reports from the Co-leads of the six contact groups on progress made in their respective group, including the outcomes of discussions in Friends of the Co-leads' Groups and Informal Groups. Notable progress was made at an early stage on agreement on clean text for Targets 20, 21 and 22. However, as the meeting progressed, the WG2020 Co-Chairs expressed concern that negotiations were proceeding too slowly. It was brought to the attention of the Bureau that some participants had expressed frustration that discussions seemed to be reverting back to the discussions that had taken place at earlier meetings of the Working Group and that, in some instances, Parties were still introducing new text. Difficult and protracted discussions on the use of terminology and language were also slowing down progress. In addition, some Parties felt it difficult to advance negotiations in their contact group without knowing the outcomes of negotiations on interlinked issues taking place in the other contact groups.

**ITEM 4. 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**

23. Under this item, the Secretariat and the COP-15 Presidency updated Bureau members on preparations for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Protocols.

4.1 Officers

24. Following their roles at the first part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Protocols, held in 2021, the Bureau agreed to elect Ms. Elvana Ramaj (Albania) as Rapporteur to the meetings and designate Mr. Eric Okoree (Ghana) as the representative of the Bureau for the review of credentials.

25. Bureau members were in agreement with the proposal of the COP Presidency to designate Ms. Rosemary Paterson (New Zealand) and Ms. Helena Jefferey Brown (Antigua and Barbuda) as Chairs of Working Groups 1 and 2, respectively. Members also agreed that the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group would chair the contact group that would be established on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework under Working Group 1.

26. A list of proposed chairs for contact groups was circulated by the Secretariat, including information on additional contact groups and Friends of the Chair groups that may be established. Members were also advised that Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (Egypt) had agreed to chair the contact group on budget. Given their central role to the work undertaken by the meetings, the Bureau member from New Zealand proposed that the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework be invited to attend subsequent meetings of the Bureau.

27. The Bureau was updated on the status of nominations for the officers to be elected during the course of the meeting, including members of the Bureau, the Chairs of SBSTTA and SBI, and members of the Compliance Committees of the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, respectively, on 8, 14 and 18 December.

4.2 Opening Ceremony and arrangements for 6 December 2022

28. Further to the information provided by the Executive Secretary in her opening remarks regarding the opening ceremony and dignitaries that would be in attendance, the Secretariat indicated that regional delegations of up to six persons would have an opportunity to schedule a meeting with the United Nations Secretary General on 6 December. Regional delegations should ideally comprise the Bureau members for the region.

29. Major parallel events would be held in the Blue Zone including, among others, the Biodiversity and Science workshop, with updates from the IPBES Secretariat and the science community, the Business and Biodiversity Forum, the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities, and the Nature and Culture Summit. Thematic activities would also take place at Place Québec, the CEPA Fair and the Rio Conventions Pavilion. Further information was available on the Convention website.

4.3 Workload, expected decisions and time planning

30. The Secretariat indicated that the proposed organization of work contained a few changes, such as corrections to the timetable, primarily related to the opening plenary session, additional information related to contact groups and Friends of the Chair groups, and envisaged scenarios for each agenda item. Otherwise, the changes were minor.

31. The Secretariat informed members that the opening statement would be delivered by His Excellency, Mr. Steven Guilbeault, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change of Canada. Regions would be invited to deliver statements and Bureau members were requested to identify which Parties would do so on behalf of their region. Parties would also be able to upload national statements to the website and should be encouraged to do so in advance.

32. Bureau members were reminded that, under organizational matters, the COP-15 President would call for the nominations of new Bureau members, SBSTTA and SBI Chairs, and members of the Compliance Committees

of the Protocols. The Secretariat stressed that, in selecting nominees, it was important to bear in mind information contained in the budget document concerning Parties whose contributions were in arrears.

33. On 6 December, the WG2020 Co-Chairs reported that the draft text of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, resulting from the fifth meeting of the Working Group, contained up to 20 per cent more brackets compared to the text of Meeting of the Informal Group and had also increased in terms of the amount of text it contained. The recommendation on digital sequence information was entirely bracketed although contained building blocks for further discussion at COP. The WG2020 Co-Chairs urged Bureau members to discuss a more strategic negotiating approach with Parties in their regions to ensure that the post-2020 framework could be adopted at the end of the Conference. The representative of UNEP-WCMC commented that negotiations could be assisted by prioritizing issues based on the impact they would have on implementation.

34. Ms. Rosemary Paterson (New Zealand) and Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda), nominated by the Bureau to chair Working Groups 1 and 2, respectively, presented overviews of how they intended to proceed with the organization of work in their Working Group, which was largely consistent with what had been discussed at the first Bureau meeting held on 2 December.

35. Speaking on behalf of all Bureau members, Ms. Paterson expressed her gratitude to the WG2020 Co-Chairs for their tremendous work, stating that, although the results of the fifth meeting were not what was hoped for, this in no way was a reflection on them. Ms. Jeffery Brown also thanked the Co-Chairs for their work and commended them for having led a transparent and inclusive process to develop the post-2020 global biodiversity framework over the last three years.

36. The representatives of the Secretariat informed the Bureau that a contact group on budget would be established at opening plenary. The Working Groups would convene in the afternoon and a lot of agenda items would be opened, particularly under Working Group 1. Contact groups would begin convening in the evening of 7 December, with stocktake plenaries scheduled on 10 and 17 December. Comments would not be invited on reports that have already been considered by intergovernmental processes. As previously discussed by Bureau members, the complex issues that would require multiple contact group sessions included the post-2020 global biodiversity framework itself, monitoring, reporting and review, resource mobilization, capacity-building and scientific and technical cooperation, and digital sequence information, all of which would be taken up under Working Group 1. Regarding indicators, the Secretariat stated that Parties may wish to discuss the headline indicators, in particular, as they work through the draft framework. Additional contact groups on, for example, the financial mechanism, may be created. While it was not anticipated that delegates would have to work on 11 and 12 December, limited groups would be convened on 12 December, as necessary.

37. Members were also reminded that the timetable for the meetings was flexible and would be managed by the Bureau in an adaptive manner. As indicated in the proposed organization of work, slots for sessions after the break on 11 and 12 December remained open and would be fixed after the break. The Secretariat also clarified that a discussion on a process for handling the draft decision operationalizing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework would be taken up after the break.

38. WG2020 Co-Chair van Havre suggested that immediately advancing discussion on monitoring, reporting and review, resource mobilization, and capacity-building could unlock discussion on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and added that he would discuss this plan with the Secretariat.

4.4 High-level Segment

39. On 2 December, the Chair confirmed that 151 Parties and 2 observers would attend the High-level Segment on 15 to 17 December. This included 117 ministers, 27 ambassadors, 69 heads of international organizations, the Premier of Québec and the Mayor of Montréal. The Government of the People's Republic of China had provided funding for the participation of developing countries, especially the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) among them. Ministers would deliver national statements on 15 December.

40. Updates on the High-level Segment would be heard from the Working Group Chairs and possibly also from the regions at the stocktake plenary on 17 December. It was also envisaged that the COP-15 President would provide a summary of the High-level Segment, supported by Ministers, especially in regard to key political issues. The Bureau could identify which Ministers could be called upon in this regard.

41. Planning for the High-level Segment was further considered on 10, 13, 14 and 15 December. Bureau members were informed by the Chinese Presidency that a clear roadmap had been developed for the three-day segment, during which ministers would engage with their delegations to push for compromise solutions on key priority issues, as well as hold bilateral and regional ministerial group consultations, supported by minister-facilitators selected by the COP-15 President.

42. On 17 December, the representative of the COP-15 President, Mr. Ning Liu, informed Bureau members that a President's text would be released the next morning. The text would essentially comprise a package of non-papers, to be converted into L documents later, on key priority issues, each of equal importance, including the global biodiversity framework itself, resource mobilization, digital sequence information on genetic resources, planning, monitoring, reporting and review, with an associated monitoring framework, and capacity building and development and technical and scientific cooperation.

4.5 Update on logistics

43. At the first meeting held on 2 December, the *ex officio* Bureau member from Canada informed participants that the host country agreement had been signed the day before (1 December) and that an amount of \$7.2 million CAD was still under discussion. She also requested Parties experiencing difficulties obtaining visa for their minister to provide her with their application and passport numbers and informed that she would follow up with the Canadian immigration department in this regard. The Secretariat also encouraged Bureau members to request their National Focal Point to provide the Canadian National Focal Point with their minister's flight information at the earliest possible opportunity.

44. The Secretariat clarified that Parties whose participation was funded by China were responsible for making their own hotel arrangements. Delegates were also encouraged to obtain their conference badges as soon as they arrive in Montreal. Passes were distributed to Bureau members by the Secretariat to enable access to the Bureau room located on the fifth floor of Palais des Congrès. Members were also reminded that further logistical details were covered in the Information Note for Participants available on the Convention website.

45. Matters raised with respect to logistics were promptly addressed by the COP-15 Presidency and the Secretariat. On 4 December, the Bureau member from Antigua and Barbuda provided details regarding a very unfortunate situation that had occurred the previous evening involving certain delegates from developing-country Parties who had been asked, upon arriving at their hotels booked outside the downtown core, to pay up front for their accommodations. Unable to do so as their DSA cards had not yet been activated, they had been forced to spend the night looking for other accommodations. Other logistical issues that required attention included improving the security lines and the processing of delegates at the entrance to the Palais, the set-ups in the contact group rooms, including the use of microphones, WIFI connection, and the number of available electrical sockets, the online participation of delegates, information reflected in the daily schedules, timely posting of non-papers, and ensuring that contact group sessions on related issues were not scheduled at the same time. Bureau members were also kept up to date on the number of active covid cases. A Muslim prayer room was also made available.

4.6 Press/media

46. On 2 December, Bureau members were advised by the Secretariat of the status of media accreditation for the meetings which included 371 organizations (totaling 840 individuals, of which 782 were accredited on-site and 58 accredited online). In terms of accreditation by region, the statistics were: North America (37%); Europe (25%); Asia Pacific (17%); Africa (17%); and Latin/South America (2%). It was also explained that many of the

organizations were accredited provisionally, and many others would attend virtually only. The figures clearly demonstrated an unprecedented level of interest in meetings convened under the Convention and its Protocols. In addition, online media articles captured between 1 October to 1 December 2022 totaled 2,700, comprising 17 languages across 55 countries, and 3.6 billion potential impressions.

47. Daily press briefings would be held at 9:15 a.m. and begin the on 3 December. An opening press conference would be held at 9 a.m. on 6 December, with official press conferences also scheduled on 13, 17 and 19 December. Other organizations would also hold press conferences throughout the meetings. As requested by the Bureau member from New Zealand, the Secretariat stated that written ground rules for interacting with the media would be circulated to members.

4.7 Schedule of COP Bureau and regional meetings during the Working Group, the COP and its concurrent meetings

48. The Secretariat clarified that, during the fifth meeting of the Working Group, the next Bureau meeting would be held on Sunday, 4 December, at 8:00 a.m. In preparation for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Protocols, the Bureau would meet again on Tuesday, 6 December, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. and a light lunch would be offered. Subsequently, the Bureau would meet daily at 8:00 a.m. from 8 December onwards, with the exception of 11 and 12 December. Regional meetings were planned from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on 2 December and from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on 4 and 5 December, and regional meeting rooms would be available throughout the day on 6 December. Regional meetings during the Conference would continue from 8 December from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Regional group meeting rooms would also be available, by arrangement, outside the above-mentioned timings, throughout the Conference.

4.8 Side Events and Associated Events

49. The Secretariat updated the Bureau members on the side events and associated events being held at the margins of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Protocols. China would have the honour of hosting a number of side events and exhibitions in the China Pavilion. Numerous events would also take place at the Canadian Pavilion. Off-site events included a Youth Summit that would be held on 5 and 6 December, in addition to a series of host-country events and activities, including the COP-15 Public Action Zone, the Indigenous Village, and the Espace Générations Vivantes event.

50. In parallel to the High-level Segment, high-level dialogues would take place at Place Québec and enable the announcement by non-Party stakeholder organizations of commitments and intended actions towards the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming to Montreal Action Agenda for Nature and People, in support of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

4.9 Credentials

51. Updates on the status of credentials were provided to the Bureau by Mr. Eric Okoree, representative of the Bureau responsible for the review of credentials, supported by the Senior Legal Officer of the Secretariat, on 9, 10 and 18 December. Members were also advised that a report on credentials was provided in information document UNEP/CBD/COP/15/INF/26, available on the Convention website, which would be updated as necessary. The Secretariat also briefed members about a particular situation involving Myanmar which had submitted two sets of credentials, from two different sources. In this regard, the practice of the United Nations General Assembly on competing credentials would be followed, signifying that no credential would be accredited, and Myanmar would not be considered as participating in the meeting.

52. The Bureau member from Georgia indicated that a vote would be necessary within the CEE regional group to select the representatives to the COP Bureau and the chairperson of SBSTTA and requested that the Senior

Legal Officer be present at the regional meeting on 18 December in order to confirm, among other things, the status of credentials of members of the regional group who would be taking part in the voting.

4.10 Day-to-day discussions

53. Updates on progress in the two Working Groups and the respective Contact Groups were provided by the Working Group Chairs, supported by the presiding officers or secretaries of each group, at the daily Bureau meetings. The WG2020 Co-Chairs also reported daily on progress in the Contact Group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, established under Working Group 1 and advised that, in general, Parties were working through the draft text in chronological order.

54. Planning for plenary sessions was considered at the meetings on 6, 10, 17 and 19 December.

55. On 10 December, Co-Chair van Havre informed members that disrespectful comments were being exchanged among participants in sessions of the contact group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. He stated strongly that insults to the integrity of delegates would not be tolerated and requested Bureau members to advise Parties in their regions in this regard.

56. On 13 December, Co-Chair Ogwal indicated with concern that the pace of negotiations was not on track and that issues that could not be resolved at the technical level may have to be deferred to the ministerial level. It was also particularly important that Parties focus on reaching compromise solutions. The Contact Group Co-Chairs indicated that up to 60 extra hours would be required to complete the work in the contact group. The Secretariat assured the Co-Chairs that additional staff would be allocated according to the priorities identified by the Bureau.

57. On 13 December, His Excellency, Mr. Runqiu Huang, provided members with details on the Heads of Delegation (HoD) stocktaking meeting that would be held the next day, in advance of the High-level Segment. The aim of the stocktake was to hear from Parties on priority and unresolved issues, including linkages among them in order to avoid duplication of efforts, requiring attention at the ministerial level.

58. On 14 December, the Chair of Working Group 1 informed members that the atmosphere in the session on resource mobilization that had taken place the previous day had quickly deteriorated when the group began discussing controversial concepts, particularly the proposed Global Biodiversity Fund, which culminated in a walk-out by developing country Parties.

59. The Chair of the contact group on budget, Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (Egypt), updated members on the progress made in the contact group on 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 December. Among the issues discussed in the group were the structure of the Secretariat, organizational risks, updates regarding the United Nations OIOS audit, cost estimates for the meetings of SBSTTA, SBI, COP-16, and the Working Group on Article 8j, in addition to the identification of alternate venues for the meetings as both ICAO and Palais des Congrès were fully booked in 2023 and 2024. Mr. Zedan also informed members that Parties were considering a change to the number of meetings of SBI and SBSTTA held during the biennium 2023-2024. Regarding Secretariat staffing, the Executive Secretary stressed that the demands on staff after the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and other COP-15 decisions will increase enormously and that staff will be unable to function at 2019, 2020 and 2021 levels without additional staff brought on board.

60. At the last Bureau meeting, held on 19 December, participants expressed mixed feelings regarding the plenary held the previous evening to consider the President's text, during which a Party had raised reservations about the procedure that had been used to adopt the package of draft decisions. While the Secretariat advised that a Party needs to have a valid credential to take a stand against the adoption of a decision, , Bureau members nevertheless stressed the importance of consensus and trust among Parties and stated that it would be good if the delegation that expressed dissatisfaction could confirm support for the outcomes at plenary that would be held later in the day.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

61. On 2 December, the Bureau member from Kuwait commented that she was the only Bureau member from the Asia-Pacific region in attendance and inquired about the possibility of nominating another member from the region to assist her during the meetings. The Secretariat indicated that it would follow up with her on this matter. Accordingly, the representative of India joined the Bureau later on as the second member of the Bureau from the Asia and Pacific region.

ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETINGS

62. The first Bureau meeting held on 2 December 2022 was closed at 12:56 p.m. The last meeting held on 19 December 2022 was closed at 11:30 a.m.
