



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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JOINT MEETING OF THE BUREAUX OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
AND THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

13 – 29 March 2022

**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 in person in Geneva, Switzerland, on 13 March 2022 to consider 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). Further sessions were held daily until 29 March with the exception of 20 March.

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

Representative of the COP President: Ms. Guomei Zhou (China);

Africa: Mr. Eric Okoree (Ghana);

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

Latin America and the Caribbean: Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda); Ms. Eugenia Arguedas Montezuma (Costa Rica, replacing 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); Ms. Elvana Ramaj (Albania); Mr. Mr. Dilovarsho Dustzoda (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 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 (joined virtually, and in-person on 18 March onwards); 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

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Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, representative of COP 14 Presidency;

Observers: Mr. Ning Liu (China), Mr. Yingxian Xia (China), Ms. Jing Zhong (China), COP 15 host representatives; Mr. Neville Ashe (UNEP); Ambassador Franz Perrez (Switzerland), Host of resumed sessions.

3. At its session on 25 March, the representative of the COP Presidency informed the members that Ms. Arguedas Montezuma had been nominated by the Government of Costa Rica to replace H.E. Minister Meza Murillo in the COP Bureau.

4. The meeting was also attended by the following members of the SBSTTA Bureau and substitutes:

Chair: Mr. Hesiquio Benitez (Mexico);

Africa: Mr. Moustafa Fouda (Egypt); Ms. Marie-May Muzungaile (Seychelles); Mr. Larbi Sbai (Morocco);

Central and Eastern Europe: Ms. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Mr. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine) (Mr. Domashlinets was represented by Mr. Oleksandra Kapustin on 13 March and then joined virtually on 15 March onwards);

Latin America and the Caribbean: Mr. Adams Toussaint (Saint Lucia); Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda, substitute for Saint Lucia on matters related to the Nagoya Protocol); Ms. Gwen Sisior (Palau) (joined virtually during last week)

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

5. 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; Ms. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi, Head, Biosafety Protocol Unit; Mr. Taukondjo Shikongo, Head, Nagoya Protocol Unit; Ms. Gu Li, Programme Officer; and Mr. David Ainsworth, Information Officer supported by their teams as appropriate.

6. The following delegates attended some sessions of the meeting in their capacity as co-chairs or co-leads of contact groups: Ms. Ines Verleye (Belgium), Mr. Rigobert Ntep (Cameroon), Mr. Scott Wilson (Canada), Ms. Laura Bermudez (Colombia), Ms. Melissa Laverde (Colombia), Mr. Jorge Murillo (Colombia), Ms. Anne Teller (European Union), Mr. Alfred Oteng-Yeboah (Ghana), Ms. Rita Andorko (Hungary), Ms. Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica), Mr. Hayo Haanstra (Netherlands), Mr. Adam van Opzeeland (New Zealand), Ms. Lactitia Tshitwamulomoni (South Africa), Mr. Shonisani Munzhedzi (South Africa), Mr. Norbert Barlocher (Switzerland), and Mr. Andrew Stott (United Kingdom).

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

7. The joint meeting was opened on 13 March at 10:00 a.m. Geneva time by Ms. Guomei Zhou, representative of the President of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Chair welcomed both Bureaux as well as the representative of the Government of Switzerland, Ambassador Franz Perrez, as host of the meetings. She expressed her appreciation for the efforts and leadership provided by members of both Bureaux and extended a warm welcome to all for the second part of COP 15 later in the year in Kunming, China.

8. Mr. Hesiquio Benitez, Chair of SBSTTA, also offered welcome remarks. He welcomed both Bureaux and expressed his best wishes for good progress on the work to be done with the limited time in the weeks to come. The Chair then invited the Executive Secretary, Mrs. Elizabeth Mrema to offer welcome remarks.

9. The Executive Secretary began by warmly welcoming a presential bureau meeting after two years. She highlighted that the hardship endured by the entire CBD community during past two years, translated into resilience and perseverance in the face of adversity and would finally bear fruit with the meetings ahead. She thanked the SBSTTA and SBI chairs, as well as the Co-chairs of the Working Group, for their hard work in keeping momentum of the processes. She thanked the Chinese government as COP President for

its leadership and support and the Government of Switzerland for generously hosting the meetings of the next few weeks. The Executive Secretary also thanked the staff at the Secretariat for their hard work and took the opportunity to introduce the new Director of the Division of Science, Society and Sustainable Futures, Ms. Jihyun Lee. The Executive Secretary also paid tribute to Mr. Markus Lehmann who had stepped into the position temporarily. She concluded by encouraging a spirit of cooperation, multilateralism and dialogue for the meetings that would facilitate completing the work of the subsidiary bodies and of WG2020 in a timely manner.

10. As it was the first in person Bureaux meeting after two years, the Chair suggested a tour-de-table of the participants.

11. Ambassador Perrez, representative of the Swiss Government, welcomed all the members and wished both Bureaux productive work in the weeks ahead.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

12. The Chair introduced the provisional agenda for the joint Bureaux session, and after no objections from the members, the 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

13. Under this agenda item, the Chair began by inviting the Secretariat to provide a brief overview of the general preparations for the meetings.

14. The Deputy Executive Secretary, Mr. David Cooper, began by informing the Bureaux that the resumed sessions had a high level of participation based on the registration. He noted that thanks to the generous financial support from developed countries, each of the eligible developing countries sent at least two delegates to the meetings, which was unprecedented. He also introduced the strict pandemic prevention measures, including daily antigen self-testing, mask wearing at all times in the venue, limited number of participants at the venue at one time, among others, to better protect all participants. The Deputy Executive Secretary then went over the allocation of meeting rooms for plenaries, contact groups and regional meetings, Parties requests for on-line access, the UN notification on code of conduct, and the scenario for conducting the three meetings in parallel.

15. Following the agenda item, the Chair invited the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies and Co-chairs of the Working Group, as well as the Secretariat, to provide an update on documentation and substantive preparations for the meetings.

16. Mr. Hesiquio Benitez, Chair of SBSTTA, began by informing members of the Bureaux that all items on the agenda were addressed, and six L documents, three CRPs and two non-papers were prepared. He noted the detailed arrangement and time table for all agenda items, with the item on marine issue delayed until the second week of the meeting due to the start of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) meeting in New York next Monday. The Chair also encouraged informal consultations due to the high volume of agenda items that were to be addressed and the limited time to work. He noted that Ms. Senka Barudanovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who was elected rapporteur at the first part of the meeting, would continue in that role.

17. Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist, Chair of SBI, also provided the Bureaux with a brief update on the organization of work for the resumed session of SBI-3. She noted that all agenda items, except agenda item 8, had a first reading, and L documents or CRPs were prepared for the 10 agenda items. She also noted that as a result of intersessional work requested by the first part of SBI3 some new documents will be considered. For the first plenary session on 14 March, she would outline the status of the 10 agenda items: five L documents would need to be adopted formally; 11 CRPs would need further work to be developed into L documents and then for formal adoption; Agenda item 8 as well as new elements of items 5 and 6 arising from the

intersessional work would need first readings. The Chair shared with the Bureau the detailed organization of work and plan for each agenda item to help better understanding. Ms. Sörqvist also briefed the Bureaux on the establishment of the contact groups with respective co-leads. She noted that Mr. Eric Amaning Okoree of Ghana, who was elected as rapporteur at the first part of the meeting, would continue in that role.

18. The Chair then invited the Co-chairs of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to address the meeting. The Co-chairs briefed the joint Bureaux on the established contact groups and co-leads identified. They noted that Ms. Leina Al-Awadhi of Kuwait, who was elected rapporteur at the first part of the meeting, would continue in that role.

19. The Chair, as well as the Bureaux members, thanked the Chairs of SBSTTA, SBI and the Co-chairs of WG2020 for their comprehensive updates. A number of issues were raised by the Bureaux, including request for general guidance on the conduct of business for contact groups, updating documentation right after contact groups, how ideas would be dealt with either at the plenaries or at contact groups, time management to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. The Co-chairs gave feedback and shared opinions.

20. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat also provided an update on the side events schedule and arrangements made for any parallel events/meetings. The Deputy Executive Secretary, Mr. David Cooper, briefed the Bureaux that there were five side events at lunch break everyday during the meeting period, and rooms were arranged for all regions each day from 8 am to 10 am.

21. The Bureaux also decided to meet in-session each day at 8 am starting from Tuesday, 15 March unless otherwise decided.

22. At their request, the Bureaux held a brief exchange with representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities. Representatives of IPLCs addressed the meeting requesting effective participation in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and seeking clarification on the mandate of the issue on the Digital Sequence Information. The members of the Bureaux welcomed the engagement of IPLCs in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and addressed the requests by suggesting participation in the development of monitoring framework and indicators, and non-paper submissions.

23. In its daily sessions on 15-19 and 21-29 March, the joint meeting received progress reports from the respective chairs and co-chairs of the three bodies, as well as from the co-chairs and co-leads of the various contact groups, and the Bureaux provided advice on the further steps in the work of the three bodies.

24. In its session on 19 March, the COP Chair shared with the Bureaux her reflections on the meeting progress. She appreciated all the efforts made by the respective chairs, co-chairs, co-leads and the Secretariat, considering that the meeting was on the right track. She encouraged greater focus in the discussions, with more open and direct consultations and exchanges of views, and further strengthened coordination among the three bodies. She encouraged members of the Bureaux to bring these points to the attention of their respective regions.

25. In its session on 21 March, the Bureaux decided to postpone the discussion on the draft COP decision for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, given that several contact groups were still far from completion of their work. Considering the importance of the interlinkages among the work of the three bodies, the Bureau agreed that a stocktake be made in a joint plenary later in the week. It was also suggested that the coordination meeting that evening among the Chairs and Co-Chairs bodies would develop proposals for how the joint stocktake could proceed for consideration by the Bureaux. At its session on 22 March, after an exchange of views, the joint Bureaux approved a revised Organization of Work for the remainder of the meeting.

26. Following a request from members of the Bureaux, the Secretariat adjusted the website of the meetings in order to facilitate access to the most relevant documents for each agenda item.

27. Following discussions at its meetings on 17, 18 and 21 March, the Bureaux discussed criteria for the granting of full interactive online access to delegates who tested positive for COVID-19 in Geneva, noting that any such delegates would still count for the purpose of the limit of six persons on site. On 21 March, the Bureaux considered extending access to single person delegations in order to cover parallel contact

groups. The Bureaux asked the Secretariat to prepare rules in writing on this specific issue to be agreed upon. Following an exchange via email the same day, it was agreed as follows:

The resumed sessions are in-person meetings, supplemented by online access, available to all registered participants, in viewer mode only. Full interactive on-line access with speaker rights will be provided only as an exception in the following circumstances:

(a) In the case of Party delegations that are not able to participate physically in Geneva due to travel restrictions. In these cases, online speaker access has be arranged, by special request to the Secretariat.

(b) In the case where a Party representative is required to self-isolate due to testing positive to COVID-19. Such a delegate would have speaker access for the period they would be in quarantine, noting that such delegates would still count for the purpose of the six-person limit on site. Upon testing negative after a 5-day isolation period, the speaker access would be removed.

(c) In the case where a Party is represented by only one delegate in Geneva, and sessions are held in parallel - Online speaker access should be used only when contact groups are held in parallel and only one delegate will exercise speaker rights at any one time. ;

28. For COVID-19 prevention, the Secretariat updated the meeting daily on the situation for all participants, and emphasized the importance of following mask-wearing rules by all participants. Over the course of the meetings, a total of 42 participants in the meetings reported a positive COVID test result. The number of active cases at any one time did not exceed twenty.

29. In its session on 18 March, the issue of delayed cash account of DSA was brought to the attention of the meeting. Following efforts of the Secretariat, the issue was addressed and, the following day, Bureaux members expressed their appreciation to the Secretariat.

30. At its session on 24 March, the members of the Bureaux requested the Secretariat to arrange for PCR testing for delegates who require it for travel to their home countries. The arrangements were made and confirmed by the Secretariat at a later meeting.

ITEM 4. OTHER MATTERS

31. Under this agenda item, the Ukrainian representative of the SBSTTA Bureau requested the opportunity to provide a two-minute statement at the opening plenary on 14 March. The Bureau agreed to this respect, while noting that although Parties have the right to make statements, due to time constraints, Parties were strongly encouraged to refrain from making further national statements in addition to the regional statements. At the request of some Bureaux members, the Executive Secretary indicated that she would include in her opening remarks a relevant message referring to the statement by the Secretary General of the United Nations in the General Assembly's Emergency Special Session on Ukraine.

32. The Ukrainian representative also requested full on-line participation access for the remaining sessions since the delegation could not be present physically for those sessions. With the agreement of the Bureaux, the Secretariat indicated that it would make the necessary arrangements.

33. The Deputy Executive Secretary informed the Bureaux that the Secretariat had received a note verbale from the Embassy of Ukraine in Ottawa, Canada, forwarding a letter from the Acting Minister in the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine on "Suspension of the operation of the international environmental treaties in regard to the Russian Federation". The Deputy Executive Secretary noted that the note verbale and letter would be shared with the Bureaux shortly, as well as all Parties, as requested in the letter. The Deputy Executive Secretary informed the Bureaux that similar letters had been received by other MEAs and the other Rio Conventions secretariats, and that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change had in fact brought it to the attention of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations for any guidance. The Deputy Executive Secretary further explained that the subject of Ukraine's letter is a matter addressed to the Parties to the Convention, that means to the COP, and not to the subsidiary bodies. Therefore, the Secretariat will, in the meantime, continue to liaise with all appropriate entities and authorities and update the Bureau of any developments, as necessary.

Follow up to the Geneva meetings

34. On 27 March, the Bureaux discussed work in follow up to the Geneva meetings, including inter-sessional work required prior to the second part of COP 15. During this discussion, the possibility of a fourth meeting of the Working Group was raised. The Secretariat explained the financial implications that a fourth meeting would entail. The dates proposed were 6-11 June 2022, subject to confirmation of the venue, and other arrangements. Some Bureaux members noted the unfortunate clash of dates with the meetings of the UNFCCC and the Chemicals Convention. Some Bureaux members underlined the importance of facilitating rapid issuance of visas. On 28 March, the Secretariat confirmed a change in dates for WG2020-4 to avoid overlap with the subsidiary bodies of UNFCCC and announced 21-26 June 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya at the headquarters of UNEP. The new dates would also overlap with the GEF Council meeting, but with global pressure for meeting dates for all meetings delayed as a results of the COVID-19 pandemic, such overlaps would be difficult to avoid.

35. A table¹ was circulated highlighting the requests for inter-sessional work arising from the three bodies. A second meeting was held on 28 March, over the lunch hour to further discuss this work.

Preparations for COP-15

36. Following a request by Bureau members at earlier sessions, at the briefing held on 26 March, representatives of the COP 15 Presidency provided a briefing on the preparations for the second part of COP 15. Ms. Zhou began by noting that the success of the first part of COP 15 had laid a good basis for the second part of the Conference. Commitments made by ministers and stakeholders during the first part built good momentum for global joint efforts on biodiversity and sustainable development. She highlighted that the Chinese government attaches great importance to the preparations for the second part of COP, which were well under way in coordination with the Secretariat. She conveyed a message from the COP 15 President, Minister Huang Runqiu, extending a warm welcome to all delegates and stakeholders to Kunming, the City of Eternal Spring.

37. Ms. Zhou then invited Mr. Ning Liu to provide further details on the preparations. He began by highlighting that, after consultation with the Secretariat and the COP Bureau members through email, the proposed dates for COP15.2 were 29 August to 10 September 2022. He noted China had been proactively pushing forward internal procedures for final approval, so as to make a public announcement as soon as possible. He indicated that the High Level Segment was planned for the second week of the Conference, with the aim to engage ministers in the final negotiations and provide political support for the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

38. Mr. Liu noted that potential COVID prevention measures for the second part of the Conference would follow the model of the Beijing Olympic Games with “a closed loop” management system and learn from the experience of the Geneva meetings. He highlighted that the Government of China, the Yunnan Province and the city of Kunming had invested heavily in human, financial and material resources for the adequate preparation of the Conference.

39. The Deputy Executive Secretary, Mr. David Cooper, further complemented the briefing. He noted that from the experience of the first part of COP 15, the Secretariat considers that the venue is impressive and fully suitable for the second part of the Conference. He indicated that articles in the Host Government Agreement signed by the Secretariat and the Chinese government prior to the first part of COP 15 would remain valid for the second part of COP 15, such as articles on attendance at the meeting, privileges and immunities, among others.

40. The Bureaux members welcomed the briefing made by the representatives of the COP Presidency and the Secretariat. In their discussion, they raised a number of key issues including vaccination requirements, travel costs, possible clashes with other international processes, among others. The Bureaux also emphasized the importance of ensuring the full and effective participation of Parties, ministers and Heads of State to provide high political momentum. They also requested that the briefing on these preparations be provided to them in writing.

¹ Please refer to Annex I.

41. After addressing a few key points raised by the Bureaux, the representatives of the COP 15 Presidency and the Secretariat took note of the comments and suggestions made by members of the Bureaux and confirmed a briefing in writing would be provided.

Further matters

42. At its briefing on 17 March, the SBSTTA Bureau member for Saint Lucia informed the members that his country had ratified the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing and the SBSTTA Bureau member from Antigua and Barbuda would continue as an alternate Bureau member until June 2022.

43. In its session on 18 March, the Asia Pacific region reported to the meeting that Dr. Vinod Mathur had been nominated as a candidate for the next SBI Chair.

44. At its meeting on 28 March, the regional representatives on the SBSTTA Bureau announced their nominations for new Bureau members.

ITEM 5. CLOSING OF THE JOINT MEETING

45. At its final session on 29 March, the COP Chair and all Bureau members expressed appreciation to the chairs, co-chairs as well as co-leads of various contact groups, for their contribution to the Geneva meetings, and thanked the Secretariat for its hard work.

46. The Chair also thanked the Bureaux and all participants for the discussions. The joint meeting was closed on 29 March 2022 at 9 a.m. CET.

Annex I

Table of Post-Geneva Inter-sessional work for the three Subsidiary Bodies of the CBD

Mandate	Agenda item	Elements of inter-sessional work
GENEVA OUTCOMES OR INTERSESSIONAL WORK TO BE AVAILABLE FOR WG2020-4		
WG2020 3/2	(5) DSI	Co-Chairs' Informal Advisory Group on DSI Study commissioned by Co-Chairs (preliminary findings to be provided to IAG)
SBI 3/6	(6) Resource mobilization	Informal virtual consultative process on resource mobilization (SRM and "additional elements") SBI-3/6 and outcomes of informal consultations to be available for consideration by WG2020-4.
SBI 3/8	(7) Capacity Building	SBI-3/8 to be available for consideration by WG2020-4. Commission the review of technical and scientific cooperation programmes and to submit a report, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting;
SBI 3/10	(7) Knowledge Management	SBI-3/10 to be available for consideration by WG2020-4.
SBI 3/11	(9) Review mechanisms	Extended peer review of Annexes Workshop SBI-3/11 to be available for consideration by WG2020-4.
SBSTTA 24/2	(3) Monitoring Framework	Scientific & Technical review including Workshop: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compilation of submitted comments 2. Organization of technical workshop 3. Relay concerns on headline indicators to responsible organizations developing indicators (Secretariat) Outcomes to be available for WG2020-4
OTHER INTERSESSIONAL WORK		
SBSTTA 24/9	(6) Marine	In person and online consultations to advance discussions on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity;
SBSTTA 24/10	(6) EBSA	In person and online consultations to advance discussions on EBSAs;
SBI 3/7	(6) Financial Mechanism	Prepare the draft consolidated guidance to the Global Environment Facility;.
SBI3/15	(11) Mainstreaming	To complete the work under decision 14/3: to invite Parties and observers, to review the LTAM and to submit their views, to prepare a compilation of submissions received and to make it available for consideration by COP-15