



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

CBD/Bureau/Joint/2023/1/2
4 August 2023

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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

First joint meeting of 2023

Kunming, China, 23-24 May 2023

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST JOINT MEETING OF THE BUREAUX OF THE CONFERENCE OF
THE PARTIES AND THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD**

1. A joint meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was held in-person on 23 May 2023 (morning) and 24 May 2023 (afternoon) in Kunming, China.

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

COP President: H.E. Mr. HUANG Runqiu (China);

SBSTTA Chair: Mr. Hesiquio Benítez (Mexico)

Africa:

- *COP Bureau:* Mr. Melesse Maryo (Ethiopia); Mr. Eric Okoree (Ghana);

- *SBSTTA Bureau:* Mr. Jean Bruno Mikissa (Gabon);

Asia and the Pacific:

- *COP Bureau:* Ms. Leina Al-Awadhi (Kuwait);

- *SBSTTA Bureau:* Mr. Bilal Qtishat (Jordan);

Latin America and the Caribbean:

- *COP Bureau:* Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda); Ms. Corina Sarli (Argentina, substitute for Costa Rica for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol);

- *SBSTTA Bureau:* Mr. Adams Toussaint (Saint Lucia); Ms. Ana T. Lecaros Terry (Peru);

Eastern Europe:

- *COP Bureau:* Ms. Teona Karchava (Georgia); Mr. Dilovarsho Dustzoda (Tajikistan, substitute for Georgia for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol);

- *SBSTTA Bureau:* Mr. Jan Plesnik (Czechia);

Western Europe and Others:

- *COP Bureau:* Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria); Ms. Rosemary Paterson (New Zealand);

- *SBSTTA Bureau*: Mrs. Marina von Weissenberg (Finland); Ms. Tia Stevens (Australia); Mr. Gaute Voigt-Hanssen (Norway, alternate for Australia for matters related to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols);

Ex-officio: Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist (Sweden), Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI);

COP Presidency: Dr. ZHOU Guomei, Mr. WANG Zhibin, Mr. XIA Yingxian, and Mr. LIU Ning;

Observers: Mr. Fehmi Arikan (Representative from Türkiye, the incoming COP Presidency); Mr. Neville Ash (United Nations Environment Programme).

3. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was represented by Mr. David Cooper, Acting Executive Secretary; Ms. Jihyun Lee, Director of the Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division; Mr. Neil Pratt, Officer-in-Charge, Implementation Support Division; Mr. Worku Damena Yifru, Senior Legal Officer; Ms. Li Gu, Programme Officer; and Ms. Kathryn Garforth, Programme Management Officer.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The meeting was opened on 23 May 2023 at 9:00 am by the Minister of Ecology and Environment, Mr. Huang Runqiu, President of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties who chaired the joint meeting of the COP and SBSTTA Bureaux. The Chair welcomed the participants to Kunming and expressed his hope that they had felt the commitment of Yunnan province and China to biodiversity conservation during the celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) held the previous day.

5. The Chair highlighted that the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was a triumph of multilateralism, and the expectation now was for the outcomes to be implemented on the ground. He indicated that since China had assumed the Presidency, it had held numerous high-level meetings including with the President of the General Assembly, the President-designate of the COP of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, ambassadors from different countries as well as international non-governmental organizations. He thanked the CBD Secretariat for its hard work and collaboration and encouraged Bureaux members to seize the opportunity of the in-person Bureaux meetings to share ideas to develop the roadmap for the next two years.

6. The Acting Executive Secretary thanked the Government of China for hosting the Bureaux meetings and congratulated them on their very successful IDB event, which was complemented by other events held around the world. He also thanked the Chair for his leadership in enabling COP-15 to adopt the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. He also expressed his pride in the Convention and its processes that bring together a diversity of people to achieve not just consensus, but to deliver an effective agreement. The Acting Executive Secretary also expressed appreciation for the hard work by his colleagues in the CBD Secretariat which helped to achieve the outcomes from December.

7. The Acting Executive Secretary highlighted the high levels of awareness of, and the tremendous support being exhibited for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. He acknowledged that progress in implementation had already begun while recognizing the challenges ahead and underscored that success in achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework would take great determination, ultimately by leaders. He concluded by thanking the Bureaux members, in particular the members of the COP Bureau and the Chairs of SBSTTA and SBI for their great dedication in light of their terms of office continuing longer than expected.

- (a) Mr. Hesiquio Benítez, Chair of SBSTTA, also made some opening remarks. He emphasized that it would be important for Parties to be empowered with tools to help them achieve the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. He stated that the mandate of SBSTTA provided a compass for meeting the scientific, technical, and technological needs of Parties for effective implementation of the Framework. He outlined the issues to be addressed at each of the two SBSTTA meetings to be held in the inter-sessional period and noted that the draft agendas for the two meetings had been circulated. Mr. Benitez

highlighted his strong commitment, as the chair of SBSTTA, to support the Presidency in steering the effective implementation of the Framework, together with his fellow SBSTTA Bureau members.

8. Members of the Bureaux expressed their deep appreciation to the Government of China for its tremendous hospitality.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9. The Chair introduced the provisional agenda for the meeting. The Acting Executive Secretary recalled that a discussion note and an overview of major intersessional meetings had been circulated to assist with deliberations under item 3.

10. There being no objections, the agenda was adopted.

ITEM 3. OVERVIEW OF THE WORKPLAN OF THE BIENNIUM, WITH A FOCUS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

11. In introducing the item, the Chair suggested focusing on five topics: (a) how to advance implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; (b) developing the monitoring framework and advancing processes for monitoring, reporting and review; (c) the need to ensure a successful process for the further development of the multilateral mechanism for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources; (d) review of the programmes of work in light of the Kunming-Montreal Global Diversity Framework; and (e) enhancing communications, outreach and political support for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Topics (b), (c) and (d) were taken up together.

A. Advancing implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

12. Discussions under this topic included suggestions on how to enhance the role of national focal points (NFPs) to support and advance implementation. Points raised included that:

- The commitment of NFPs is needed and their role could be supported, e.g. through building their capacity and building supportive networks among NFPs, as well as through political oversight by ministers;
- Flexibility is needed regarding the role of NFPs as each Party has its own context in how NFPs operate – it was noted that there are different NFPs under the Convention and the Protocols and they need to work together; cooperation at the national level among NFPs of different conventions is also very important;
- The role of NFPs is important but work is also needed beyond the national level as some drivers of biodiversity loss cannot be addressed nationally, they require broader cooperation.

13. Bureaux members discussed rapid follow-up to COP-15 including the need for countries to develop national targets in line with the framework, and to put in place measures to achieve these, through national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). Points raised included the following:

- That enhancing implementation would benefit from a fully developed monitoring framework, including indicators (see section B, below);
- Review and updating of NBSAPs is key, and efforts to encourage and support Parties in this regard are needed;
- Guidance on how to update targets would be useful including sharing experiences at regional and inter-regional levels;
- the review and updating, as needed, of the programmes of work is also relevant in this regard (see section B)

- That taking a whole of government and whole of society approach will be needed for rapid follow-up;
- That awareness-raising, including at the political level, will be important for rapid follow-up and implementation.
- Cooperation with other United Nations bodies, within the United Nations system and with other organizations and actors would support rapid follow-up and implementation.

14. Bureaux members discussed making effective use of the support provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the implementing agencies through the GEF-7 early action activities as well as GEF-8 support. Points raised included the following:

- That in many countries, GEF operational focal points do not work directly on biodiversity which can create challenges in the development of projects;
- Some countries lack capacity to be able access funds from the GEF;
- Actions should be taken for the early release and availability of funds;
- Coherence is needed in the support being provided by different donors and different sources of funds should be pooled to improve coordination.

15. The Acting Executive Secretary noted the good cooperation between the CBD Secretariat and the Chief Executive Officer of the GEF. He encouraged Bureaux members to work in their countries and regions to support engagement with national GEF representatives.

16. Bureaux members discussed the role of capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation activities in advancing implementation. Points raised included the following:

- In some regions, the scientific and technical gaps are big meaning capacity-building is needed as a priority to support and advance implementation;
- Capacity-building should include strengthening capacity to monitor implementation;
- The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework identifies priorities; accordingly, capacity-building, and technical and scientific cooperation should focus on those priorities.

17. Bureaux members discussed promoting the rapid mobilization of financial resources. Points raised included the following:

- The need to mobilize resources from all sources, including the involvement of the private sector;
- Working with regional development banks will be important.

18. Bureaux members discussed facilitating effective consultations among Parties for the process by the GEF towards establishing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and ensuring its rapid operationalization. Points raised included the importance of having close coordination between CBD and GEF focal points in the consultations on the establishment of the Fund.

19. The Government of China also described how it was interested in joining with other Parties and partners to lead implementation. They highlighted priorities set out in the Action Initiative for Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which aims to create an open platform with voluntary participation demonstrating political will of interested Parties. They stated that the ideas for the Action Initiative are in the early planning stages and are for further discussions. They intended to share a concept paper to facilitate further development of the initiative, and welcome work in synergy with the existing international initiatives, such as NBSAP Accelerator Partnership.

20. The Secretariat drew the attention of the Bureaux members to the quick guides on each of the targets that it had developed and made available online (<https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets/>, see the guidance material available on the web page for each target).

B. Developing the monitoring framework and advancing processes for monitoring, reporting and review; ensuring a successful process on digital sequence information on genetic resources; review of the programmes of work in light of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

21. The Chair of SBSTTA provided an update on activities towards the development of the monitoring framework in the first months of 2023. He noted that the composition of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Indicators had been confirmed and the work of the AHTEG had been launched earlier in May. The AHTEG had agreed on a workplan to be implemented through a series of virtual and in-person meetings which would result in inputs to both SBSTTA-25 and 26.

22. The Chair of SBI noted the importance to use opportunities to discuss review of the GBF, the voluntary country review could be an opportunity. She noted that work was underway on the methodology for the open-ended forum for voluntary country review. It was suggested that guidance is needed on what countries should expect as part of the voluntary country review process.

23. Regarding ensuring a successful process on digital sequence information on genetic resources (DSI), specifically the further development of the multilateral mechanism, including a global fund, for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, it was suggested that more detail around the agenda for the Working Group on DSI would be helpful, including with a view to engaging various sectors in the process. The Acting Executive Secretary underscored that DSI was a key part of the package in the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and that decision 15/9 needed to be the starting point for the deliberations of the Working Group on DSI.

24. On the review of the programmes of work, the Chair of SBSTTA stated that the review should not be a distraction but should focus on ways and means to support implementation. He suggested that the Acting Executive Secretary could conduct a rapid gap analysis of the programmes of work, SBSTTA could note the analysis and they could form addenda to the programmes of work and not to open them for negotiation. Additional suggestions included that there should be an opportunity for Parties to peer review a gap analysis of the programmes of work; review of the programmes of work should focus on alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; and that coordination between SBSTTA and SBI on the review of the programmes of work would be needed.

25. The Acting Executive Secretary acknowledged the suggestion to conduct a gap analysis of the programmes of work vis-à-vis the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and stated that it was important for the revision of the programmes of work to remain focused on what was needed to implement the Framework.

C. Enhancing communications, outreach, and political support for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

26. The Acting Executive Secretary drew the attention of Bureaux members to the progress report on activities of the CBD Secretariat that had been circulated prior to the meeting. He highlighted that the Secretariat was in the process of developing branding for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and would be implementing the communications strategy adopted by COP. He indicated that the Secretariat would like to showcase efforts of Parties to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and he encouraged Bureaux members to share success stories so they could be highlighted on the website. He acknowledged that improvements to the website were needed. He also noted ongoing efforts to create linkages between the Framework and other processes, e.g. recognition of the Framework as follow-up to targets of the Sustainable Development Goals that ended in 2020.

27. In the discussion that followed, Bureaux members raised a number of points including the following:

- The importance of the website and the clearing-house mechanism for sharing information on national activities;
- The need to engage beyond the biodiversity community, e.g. finance ministries and drawing on the experience of the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action;

- Identifying ambassadors for biodiversity to help draw attention;
- Developing the connection between individuals and biodiversity, e.g. through schools, and why biodiversity is important to each of us;
- The need for a plan until 2030 on the theme for each year's International Day for Biological Diversity to avoid information being provided too late for countries to develop communications strategies.

ITEM 4. OTHER MATTERS

28. The Chair of SBSTTA provided a brief summary of the discussions held in the meeting of the SBSTTA Bureau. He indicated that the SBSTTA Bureau approved the provisional agendas for SBSTTA-25 and SBSTTA-26 and discussed the interlinkages and priorities among different agenda items. He explained that the SBSTTA Bureau provided guidance and advice to the Secretariat to assist in finalizing the annotations to the provisional agenda and the organization of work for the two meetings as well as with regard to undertaking various intersessional activities and preparing meeting documents.

29. The Chair of SBSTTA shared four key points from the discussions by the SBSTTA Bureau:

(a) The SBSTTA Bureau was of the view that the priority for the intersessional meetings of SBSTTA needed to be facilitating national implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by providing necessary scientific and technical tools and options that would enable Parties and partners to expedite their implementation activities;

(b) As such, the two SBSTTA meetings would prioritize its focus on finalizing the development of the monitoring framework, as requested by COP-15, and building on the outcomes of the AHTEG established for this purpose;

(c) SBSTTA-25 was to review the findings of assessments from relevant bodies, such as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, so that it could consolidate necessary scientific and technical recommendations relating to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity to support national implementation; and

(d) SBSTTA 25 and 26 was to identify scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the implications of the Framework for the programmes of work of the Convention, through step-by-step approaches, including rapid gap analysis of relevant programmes of work in the context of Framework, sharing the results of such analysis with Parties through webinars or peer-reviews, and identifying priority areas for updating of some programmes of work to effectively support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

30. He also noted that the SBSTTA Bureau identified some challenges, including that SBSTTA 25 may need an additional day for its deliberations to be able to cover all agenda items effectively and that it may be necessary to consider ways to manage the heavy agenda items for SBSTTA-26.

31. He thanked the SBSTTA Bureau members for their active discussions and useful inputs and expressed the full commitment of the entire SBSTTA Bureau to ensure successful preparations for SBSTTA-25 and 26 and deliver meaningful outcomes to COP-16 that would effectively support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

32. On behalf of the Presidency, Mr. XIA Yingxian presented a brief summary of the deliberations and outcomes from the meeting of the COP Bureau. He indicated that the COP Bureau had approved the agendas for the twelfth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and the first meeting of the Working Group on DSI and had also approved the list of items to be considered by inter-sessional meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. He explained that the Bureau had discussed the timing of intersessional meetings of SBI and the second meeting of the Working Group on DSI and that there had been extensive discussions on the resumption of COP-15. He noted that the CBD Secretariat had been requested to develop a scenario

note on the resumption of COP-15, including the legal basis for the remaining options and procedural suggestions for next steps. He recalled that the representative from the Government of Turkiye had made a presentation on preparations for COP-16. Finally, Mr. Xia noted the update from the CBD Secretariat on the status of trust funds and shared the announcement that the Government of Sweden would make a contribution to the BZ and VB trust funds.

33. Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist, SBI Chair, gave a report on the COP Bureau's discussions as they related to SBI. She stated that, in addition to discussing the agendas for SBI-4 and 5, the COP Bureau had heard a progress report from the CBD Secretariat on preparatory work for SBI. She explained that, following an initial round of discussion, additional options on timing for the meetings of SBI-4 and 5 were presented. She concluded that the Bureau will need to return to this matter once members have had chance to consult their regions and may also need to return to the allocation of items to one meeting of SBI or the other.

ITEM 5. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

34. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was closed at 3:15 p.m.
