



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/Bur/2018/2
21 April 2018

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Via teleconference
10 April 2018

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

INTRODUCTION

1. A meeting of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was held on Wednesday, 18 April 2018, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time), via teleconference.
2. The meeting was attended by: Ms. Theresa Mundita Lim (Philippines), Chair; Mr. Hendrik Segers (Belgium); Ms. Eugenia Arguedas Montezuma (Costa Rica); Mr. Yousef S. Al-Hafedh (Saudi Arabia); Ms Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Mr. Samuel Dieme (Senegal) and Mr. Sergiy I. Gubar (Ukraine) and Ms. Ilham Atho Mohamed (Maldives. Apologies were received from Mr Adams Toussaint (Saint lusia) Mr Marthin Kaukaha Kasaona(Namibia) and Mr. Sigurdur Thrainsson (Iceland). . Due to technical difficulties with the connection, some members could not participate throughout the meeting.
3. The meeting was supported by Alexander Shestakov, Director Science and Policy support Division. Mr. Sarat Babu Gidda and Ms. Valerie Normand from the CBD Secretariat were also present. Mr. David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary was present for the earlier part of the meeting.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The Chair of SBSTTA, Ms. Theresa Mundita Lim, welcomed the bureau members and Alexander Shestakov, Director Science and Policy support Division. In her opening remarks, she thanked the Secretariat for organizing the meeting and all participants to the meeting attending via teleconference each from different time zones. She noted that that the twenty-second meeting of the SBSTTA is very important, as it pave the way for achieving as many of the Aichi Targets as possible over the next three years but also lay a foundation for discussions regarding the post 2020 global biodiversity framework and the agreement of even more ambitious targets, as required to achieve the 2050 vision for biodiversity.
5. Mr Sasha recalling his past association with the SBSTTA Bureau, thanked the bureau for their cordial welcome. Reiterating that it is a privilege to work with such learned body, he informed that he is looking forward to work closely with the Bureau to make a vibrant SBSTTA to fulfil its mandate . He sought advice for improving the efficiency of SBSTTA.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The agenda for the teleconference of the SBSTTA Bureau is adopted with the understanding to take up the issue of a more in-depth involvement of SBSTTA Bureau members in preparation for the meeting and during the inter-sessional period and in future.

ITEMS 3. SBSTTA 21, DOCUMENT STATUS

7. Mr Sasha recalling the two tables that were shared earlier indicating the status of precession and information documents, updated the status of documents. He informed that all precession documents in all languages will be made available at least 8 weeks before the start of the meeting to facilitate sufficient time for preparation and information documents will be made available on the web at least one month before the meeting.

8. The Bureau member from Saudi Arabia emphasized the need for the timely availability of all precession documents. The member from Bosnia & Herzegovina enquired about (i) repetition of identification of LMOs in the risk assessment document (22/3), and (2) recommendations in the digital sequence (22/2) documents. The secretariat explained both the issues

ITEM 4. POSSIBLE CONTACT GROUPS/FRIENDS OF THE CHAIR FOR SOME AGENDA ITEMS

9. The Chair noted that taking into account the discussion in COP 13 on few potentially complex agenda items of SBSTTA 22, envisaged contact groups / friends of Chair may need to be established for digital sequencing; synthetic biology; risk assessment ;EBSAS; other effective area based conservation measures; climate change and IAS.. The Chair requested the members to work in their respective regions to see as far as possible to avoid too many contact groups / friends of Chairs and .play an important role in this regard. The Chair requested the Secretariat to update on this issue. The Chair invited volunteers from the Bureau to chair the contact groups.

10. The member from Belgium Mr. Hendrik Segers offered to volunteer chairing the contact group for the digital sequencing agenda item. The member from Ukraine Mr. Sergiy Gubar volunteered for the synthetic biology agenda item. Some members suggested that Secretariat prepare a table depicting the possible contact groups and friends of Chairs and potential Chairs and share it with the bureau to take cognisance and arrive upon potential chairs to facilitate discussions to arrive on logical conclusions smoothly. It is suggested that as same participants may deal with both Synthetic biology and digital sequence, it would be prudent not to hold the contact groups in parallel.

11. The secretariat informed that a Table of possible contact groups / friends of chairs including potential chairs and co-chairs and timetable would be prepared and share it with Bureau members through e-mail before the face-to-face meeting prior to the start of SBSTTA 22. ..

ITEM 5. SBSTTA-22, ELECTION OF RAPPOREUR AND ROLES OF THE DIFFERENT BUREAU MEMBERS (SESSION CHAIRING, AGENDA ITEMS LEAD, ETC.)

12. Recalling that Ms. Eugenia Arguedas Montezuma (Costa Rica) volunteered to act as the rapporteur for SBSTTA-21, the Chair requested other Volunteer from among the Bureau. At the request of the Chair, the Secretariat informed Bureau members of who acted as rapoorteur in previous SBSTTA meetings. It is also noted the Rapporteur has to be rotated among various regions. As no bureau member present in the teleconference volunteered, Mr. Hendrik Segers conveyed his willingness. The Chair suggested postponing this issue for wider consultations among all the bureau members.

13. Regarding chairing of various sessions during the first reading of various agenda items starting from the afternoon session of Monday 2 July to the afternoon session of Wednesday 4 July, after discussions the following position emerged:

Day	10 a.m - 1 p.m	3 p.m – 6 p.m
Monday 2 July 2018	1. Opening of the meeting 2. Organizational matters 3. Digital sequence Chair : Ms. Theresa Lim -	4. Risk assessment 5. Synthetic Biology Chair : Mr. Yousef S. Al-Hafedh
Tuesday 3 July 2018	6. Updated scientific assessments 7. PAs and OECMS Chair: Ms. Eugenia Arguedas	8. Marine & Coastal Biodiversity 9. Climate Change Chair: To be decided
Wednesday 4 July 2018	10. IAS 11. Pollinators Chair: To be decided	12. IPBES Chair: Senka Barudanovic

The Chair, informing that as per the usual practice in previous SBSTTA meetings that SBSTTA Chair would steer the sessions dealing with CRPs, requested members to fill the gaps - Tuesday 3 July afternoon and Wednesday 4 July morning sessions.

ITEM 6. NEW BUREAU MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED

14. The Chair noted that, the term of office of some Bureau members would come to an end at SBSTTA 22. They include Ms., Ms. Eugenia Arguedas Montezuma (Costa Rica); Mr. Yousef S. Al-Hafedh (Saudi Arabia); Mr. Hendrik Segers (Belgium); Mr. Sergiy I. Gubar (Ukraine) and Mr. Samuel Dieme (Senegal). She requested those concerned to begin to confer with regional members to discuss a potential successor, so that they can attend bureau meetings during SBSTTA 22 as observers.

ITEM 7: ENHANCING SBSTTA EFFICIENCY (ELEMENTS OF A VISION)

15. The chair invited the Secretariat to inform about ideas to this end. Sasha recalling his informal discussions in Cambridge with some of the Bureau members listed the following items for future discussions, for enhancing the efficiency of SBSTTA as well as for raising its profile in the Convention beyond 2020:

- ✓ Documents for SBSTTA – how can their content be improved and more streamlined ;
- ✓ Streamlining of recommendation with practicable and required actionable items avoiding generic preamble paragraphs of recalling , welcoming , noting etc.;
- ✓ Retirement and consolidation of decisions;
- ✓ How negotiations in SBSTTA not only for arriving a clean recommendation always, but to draw options including bracketed text for facilitating informed decision making by COP based on best available scientific backing;
- ✓ Discussions on efficient document preparations including engagement of bureau members;

- ✓ How to make SBSTTA meet its original mandate included in Article 25 of the Convention rather than preamp ting COP decisions or as mini COP including how the recommendations feed into SBI and COP;
- ✓ Role of SBSTTA Bureau members in the intersessional period, and ways and means to enhance its efficiency and profile.

16. Sasha informed that a discussion paper addressing the above would be prepared soon for seeking views and comments of the Bureau members. Bureau members welcomed the points raised, and informed that they are looking forward to receive the document and would provide comments and concrete ideas for improving the efficiency of the SBSTTA.

ITEM 8. OTHER MATTERS

17. The Chair recalling *the innovative approaches discussed at the Bureau meeting in Mexico last April, , as well as recalling Hendricks's earlier message*, invited Hedrick to appraise the Bureau on this issue.. Hendrik informed that points raised by Sasha to some extant address his concerns and he is looking forward for the note from the Secretariat to provide constructive suggestions. He reiterated that his offer to assist in developing and steering the agenda on Digital sequencing information, is still valid .

18. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the next meeting would be held on 1 July 2018. in the CBD Secretariat office in Montreal and an agenda would be circulated soon. The meeting would take final stock of preparations for SBSTTA2. The secretariat informed that Bureau members will be appraised developments from time till the face to face meeting through e mail including sharing of remaining documents..

ITEM 9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

19. The Chair thanked all participants and the Secretariat for attending the meeting via teleconference noting that minutes would be shared with bureau.

20. The meeting was closed at 10:30 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on 18 April 2018.

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