



Convention on Biological Diversity

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

First meeting

Nairobi, Kenya, 16 March 2019

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 Saturday 16 March 2019, from 9:30 to 17:30, at the United Nations Environment Headquarters. The meeting was preceded by a joint meeting of the Bureaux of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and of SBSTTA on Friday 15 March 2019. Short presentation of outcomes of the meeting was delivered by the SBSTTA Chair a joint meeting of the Bureaux of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and of SBSTTA on Sunday 17 March 2019.
2. The meeting was attended by the following members of the Bureau: Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz (Mexico), Chair, Mrs. Marina von Weissenberg (Finland), Mr. Sigurdur Thrainsson (Iceland), Mr. Norbert Bärlocher (Switzerland), Mr. Larbi Sbai (Morocco), Mr. Martin Kaukaha Kasaona (Namibia), Mrs. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Mr. Sergiy I. Gubar (Ukraine), Mr. Oleg Borodin (Belarus), Mr. Adams Toussaint (Saint-Lucia), Mrs. Ilham Atho Mohamed (Maldives). Mrs. Helena Brown (Antigua & Barbuda) as also a member of the COP Bureau joint SBSTTA Bureau meetgin at the end of the last session. Apologies were received from Mr. Moustafa Fouda (Egypt), Mrs. Kongchay Phimmakong (Lao People's Democratic Republic) and Mr. Byoung Yoon Lee (Republic of Korea).
3. The meeting was supported by Mr. Alexander Shestakov, Director of the Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division. Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary was present for the introductory part of the meeting.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The Chair of SBSTTA, Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz, welcomed participants to the meeting. The Executive Secretary, Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, in her opening remarks, welcomed the participants and expressed gratitude to the Bureau members for making themselves available at this time and actively contributing to the CBD agenda and preparations to the COP-15.
5. The Executive Secretary stressed the importance of SBSTTA23 and SBSTTA24 as milestones towards COP15 and organisation of work of both meetings the way which will address the needs of post2020 global biodiversity framework agenda and, in particular at the second intercessional meeting of

the subsidiary body. She further supported the Bureau initiative for more active engagement of the Bureau members into preparations of meetings and documents working with the SCBD staff. This may help to improve SBSTTA documents and consequently draft COP decisions making them more action oriented, shorter and clearer, including for audiences outside biodiversity specialists, to support mainstreaming.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The agenda for the first meeting of the SBSTTA Bureau (contained in the document CBD/SBSTTA/Bur/2019/1/1) was adopted as presented.

ITEM 3 and 4. AGENDA AND PREPARATIONS FOR SBSTTA MEETINGS

General points

7. SBSTTA Chair made a general introduction to the organisation of agenda and work at SBSTTA at upcoming meetings.
8. Bureau Members proposed to divide tasks between members in leading on specific agenda items as well as for chairing the corresponding sessions during the meeting. Bureau Members reiterated importance of timely contributions to the process in support of the Secretariat and avoid potential delay with the document process.
9. The Bureau further agreed on dates for both meetings as proposed by the ES.
10. The Bureau Members requested that all members will see all draft documents for the meeting.

SBSTTA 23

11. Secretariat introduced proposed organisation of agenda and work for SBSTTA23 to be held in Montreal during 25-29 November 2020. The Bureau considered each element of the draft provisional agenda.

12. The Bureau agreed on the following elements of the provisional agenda for SBSTTA23 (Annex D):

(a) Biodiversity and health. Secretariat informed Bureau about staff and funding situation (absence of both) for this area of work. The Bureau decided to open the reading for this agenda item with the presentation from WHO. The Bureau requested the Executive Secretary to contact WHO to thank WHO for support and providing professional expertise for previous years; remind elements of the decision 14/4; invite WHO leadership to give key note speech at the opening of the agenda item (linking to science-based indicators); invite to further provide professional capacity to the programme. Decision 14/4 also requested SBI3 to consider biodiversity and health (particularly mainstreaming element; para 13 of 14/4). Pending availability of resources to address requests to the ES, this agenda item can be considered in its entirety by SBI3 only. The Secretariat should report on the situation with the capacity for this agenda item to the next Bureau meeting (call scheduled as per Item 6).

(b) Evidence base for post 2020 global biodiversity framework. This agenda item has the following elements:

(i) IPBES. Opening of this element of the agenda item will include presentation on outcomes of the IPBES global assessment. The Bureau decided to include under this item consideration of all requests related to IPBES coming from COP-14 decisions: 1) analysis of the review of scientific information and the outcomes of all products of IPBES to inform post2020 process, 2) proposals for a further request to be considered for inclusion in the IPBES work programme towards 2030 and 3) modalities for the systematic consideration of all deliverables of the IPBES. The Bureau requested the ES to cooperate with IPBES Secretariat to organize side-event on outcomes of the IPBES global assessment. The Bureau

requested the ES to provide draft outline of the analysis of IPBES products (element 1) for consideration by the Bureau including sources planned to be used.

(ii) GBO-5. The Bureau requested to supplement pre-session document on GBO-5 with draft key messages coming out of the report as well as recommendations for the post2020 process. Opening of the agenda item will include presentation on draft key findings from GBO-5. The Bureau requested the ES to organize side-event on GBO-5.

(iii) Post2020 process. Opening of the agenda item will include presentation by co-chairs of the open-ended working group on post2020 on progress and key outcomes of the first meeting of the open-ended working group. This element of the agenda will be further informed by the request from the open-ended working group on post2020. The Bureau requested the ES to cooperate with the Government of Norway to organize a side-event on outcomes of the 9th Trondheim Conference and provide the report of the conference as an Information Document for the meeting.

(c) Options for Rapprochement of Nature and culture. Opening of the agenda item will include presentation on outcomes of the meeting of and discussion at the working group on article 8j help in Montreal prior to SBSTTA23.

(d) Sustainable wildlife management. The Bureau proposed to make this agenda item the key theme of SBSTTA23. The Bureau decided to open the reading for this agenda item with the key note presentations (potentially from IPBES sustainable use assessment Chair, CITES, government or wildlife management programme/project (Marla Temple EUA-CAN; John Donaldson SANBI; Jean Luc Fromantin FRA). The Bureau proposed to organize a side event on wildlife management and a poster session during the meeting.

(e) Biodiversity and Climate change. The Bureau decided to open this agenda item with key note presentations and will further consider a candidate for a presenter (among other options IPCC, youth representative).

(f) Technical and Scientific Cooperation.

(g) New and Emerging Issues. In line with decision IX/29, the Executive Secretary is issuing a notification inviting Parties and relevant organizations to submit proposals, if any, for new and emerging issues. The Bureau will further consider this item in view of SBSTTA recommendation XXI/7 which recommended to COP to decide not to add to the agenda of the SBSTTA in the biennium 2019-2020 any of the proposed new and emerging issues listed in the note by the Executive Secretary (CBD/SBSTTA/21/8) on new and emerging issues.

SBSTTA 24

13. The Secretariat introduced a proposed organisation of agenda and work for SBSTTA24 to be held in Montreal during 18-23 May 2020. The Bureau considered each element of the draft provisional agenda.

14. The Bureau agreed on the following elements of the provisional agenda for SBSTTA24 (Annex I):

(a) Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Details of this agenda item are pending results of and requests from the open ended intersessional working group on post2020 global biodiversity framework. The Bureau discussed the potential need to establish contact group on this item and concluded that taking into account the importance of the topic (including the need for discussions in all Convention's languages) to have all discussions on this item at plenary.

(b) Risk assessment and risk management.

(c) Synthetic biology. Bureau will consider composition of AHTEG.

(d) Marine biodiversity.

- (e) Invasive alien species. The Bureau will consider the composition of an AHTEG.
 - (f) Biodiversity and agriculture. The Bureau decided to make this issue (with the focus on soil biodiversity) a key topic of SBSTTA24. This agenda item will be opened by an introductory presentation from an expert organisation. The Secretariat was requested to contact FAO on this matter.
15. The Bureau decided to move agenda item on IPBES programme of work for consideration by SBSTTA23.
16. The Bureau discussed expectations for organisation of contact groups during the meeting. Provisional contacts groups are listed in Annex II.
17. The Bureau agreed on elements of the provisional agenda for SBSTTA24 and decided to further review and, if necessary, update agenda for SBSTTA24 based on results and outcomes of the SBSTTA23 meeting as well as meetings of the open ended intersessional working group on post2020 global biodiversity framework.

ITEM 5. SBSTTA ROLE IN POST2020 PROCESS

18. The Bureau took note of the presentation by the co-chairs of the open ended intersessional working group on post2020 global biodiversity framework done at the joint meeting on March 15. The Co-chairs foresee the role of SBSTTA in scientific validation/verification of the draft framework as well as potentially consider additional specific topics in more details, such as digital sequence information. The Bureau delegated to the SBSTTA chair to further continue consultations with the co-chairs on the issue of SBSTTA's role in post2020 process and inform the Bureau accordingly.
19. The Bureau requested being informed and engaged (review and advise) into decision on organisation of any thematic consultations within the framework of the post2020 process.

ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS

20. Members of the Bureau discussed and agreed on distribution of responsibilities (lead and support) on all agenda items for SBSTTA 23 and 24 (Annex II). The Bureau agreed to communicate it to members absent at the meeting and invite them to identify areas where they would like to provide their support.
21. Modus operandi and conflict of interest.
22. The Secretariat presented the overview of response rate to SCBD notifications with the request for various contribution, including peer review, based on decisions from COP12 and COP13 for the period 2014-2018. The Bureau expressed concern about average low response rate. The Bureau requested further more detailed information on notifications specifically requesting peer review. The Bureau also proposed to consider introducing coding (potentially colour coding) system for notifications to better inform Parties on type of the request (e.g. peer review, nomination of experts, information, etc.).
23. The Bureau agreed to schedule a teleconference to discuss progress in preparation for SBSTTA23, on Tuesday April 23, 2019.

ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

24. The meeting of the Bureau was closed at 17:00 on 16 March 2019.

ANNEX I

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR SBSTTA-23

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters: election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Biodiversity and Health
4. Informing post-2020 process (IPBES and Fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook)
5. Options for possible elements of work to bring about a rapprochement of nature and culture
6. Sustainable Wildlife Management
7. Biodiversity and Climate Change
8. Technical and scientific cooperation
9. New and emerging issues
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report.
12. Closure of the meeting.

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR SBSTTA-24

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters: election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Agriculture and Biodiversity
4. Risk assessment
5. Synthetic Biology
6. Marine and coastal biodiversity
7. Invasive Alien Species
9. [post2020 global biodiversity framework]
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report.
12. Closure of the meeting.

ANNEX II

List of lead Bureau members for individual agenda items:

	Contact group	Bureau Lead	Bureau Support	SCBD lead
SBSTTA-23				
Wildlife	???	Marthin	Adams, Sigurdur, Ilham	Sarat
Climate		Adams	Norbert, Sigurdur	Annie
T&S coop		Sergiy	Adams	Erie
Health		Marina	Marthin	???
Post2020 evidence		Hesiquio	Norbert, Senka	Kieran
BD & Culture		Sigurdur	Senka, Oleg	John
N&E issues		SCBD	SBSTTA Chair	Sarat
SBSTTA-24				
Post2020 framework	??? (CoGR vs. all at plenary)	SBSTTA Chair		Jyoti
Risk		Sergiy		Marianela
SynBio		Sergiy		Marianela
Marine		Marina		Joseph
IAS		Oleg		Junko
IPBES		Senka		Kieran
Agriculture		Oleg		Caridad

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