



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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

Via teleconference
25 March 2020

**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 via teleconference on Wednesday 25 March 2020, from 8 to 10.45 (Montreal time).
2. The meeting was attended by the following members of the Bureau: Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz (Mexico), Chair, Mrs. Marie-May Muzungaile (Seychelles), Mr. Larbi Sbai (Morocco), Mr. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine), Mrs. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Mr. Dzmitry Lukashanets (Belarus), Adams Toussaint (Saint-Lucia), Helena Brown (Antigua and Barbuda), Mrs. Marina von Weissenberg (Finland), Mrs. Tia Stevens (Australia) and Mr. Gaute Voigt-Hanssen (Norway). Apologies were received from Mr. Moustafa Fouda (Egypt), Ms. Gwen Sisor (Palau) and Mrs. Kongchay Phimmakong (Lao People's Democratic Republic).
3. The meeting was supported by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including Mrs. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Acting Executive Secretary, Mr. David Cooper, Mr. Alexander Shestakov, Mr. Sarat Babu Gidda, Mrs. Caridad Canales, Mr. Joseph Appiott and Mrs. Veronique Allain.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The Chair of SBSTTA, Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz, welcomed participants, in particular Mr. Dzmitry Lukashanets (Belarus), new member of the Bureau replacing Mr. Oleg Borodin, and Mr. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine) to their first meeting of the Bureau. The Chair of SBSTTA presented key points for discussion.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING

5. The Chair presented an agenda for the meeting. It was adopted with the addition of an element on update from the latest meeting of the COP Bureau (23 March 2020) to be provided by the Secretariat.

**ITEM 3. OUTCOMES AND FOLLOW-UP FROM THE SECOND MEETING OF
THE WORKING GROUP ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY
FRAMEWORK**

6. The Chair invited the Secretariat to provide an overview of the outcomes of the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020). The focus was on recommendations of the Working Group with specific requests to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the preparation of documents to be made available prior the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body:

(a) To carry out a scientific and technical review of the updated goals and targets, and related indicators and baselines, of the draft global biodiversity framework, as well as the revised appendices to the framework, and to provide advice to the Working Group at its third meeting;

(b) The Co-Chairs of the Working Group and the Executive Secretary, under the oversight of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body and of the Conference of the Parties, to prepare a document, updating those elements of the draft framework that were reviewed by the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at its second meeting, taking into account the annex to the report on the meeting and the submissions received in response to notification 2019-108, and to make it available at least six weeks before the twenty-fourth meeting of SBSTTA;

(c) The Co-Chairs of the Working Group and the Executive Secretary to update the tables in the appendices to the draft framework in the light of the outcomes of the second meeting of WG2020, and taking into account the submissions received in response to notification 2019-108, for consideration by the SBSTTA at its twenty-fourth meeting;

(d) The Executive Secretary, building on the document referred to in paragraph (b) above, to provide scientific and technical information to support the review by SBSTTA, including an analysis of the linkages between the proposed goals, targets and monitoring framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Sustainable Development Goals within the scope of the Convention, and to make this information and analysis available six weeks before the twenty-fourth meeting of SBSTTA.

7. Based on these elements, the Secretariat will adjust the draft annotated agenda for the twenty-fourth meeting of SBSTTA and organize the development of pre-session and information documents in coordination with the Co-Chairs of WG2020. The Co-Chairs, in consultation with the Chair of SBSTTA and the Secretariat, will develop the plan for the preparation of pre-session document for this agenda item.

8. The Acting Executive Secretary provided an update on key discussion points from the COP Bureau meeting on 23 March. This included new provisional dates and venue for the organization of the twenty-fourth meeting of SBSTTA. Due to the unavailability of a venue in Montreal, it was suggested to hold the meeting in Ottawa from 25 to 30 August 2020. To allow sufficient time for Parties and observers to prepare for the meeting, the Acting Executive Secretary committed to making all documents available by early June 2020. All planned small meetings, including the AHTEG on Risk Assessment and Risk Management of Living Modified Organisms, will be held as virtual meetings. Larger meetings, such as the Thematic Workshop on Sustainable Use and the Bern-2 meeting, were cancelled to allow time to find ways to meet remotely. In preparation for Bern-2, two webinars were held on 23 and 25 March.

ITEM 4. TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY

9. The Chair proposed to consider the progress in preparation for SBSTTA-24 for each agenda item and the Secretariat was invited to provide an update (details on deadlines and other organizational elements are provided in annex I):

(a) *Item 3 (Post-2020 global biodiversity framework)*. The Secretariat informed the Bureau of ongoing consultations between the Co-Chairs of WG2020, the Chair of SBSTTA and the Secretariat on organization of work, including the schedule for the preparation of documents for this agenda item, bearing in mind the request of the WG2020 at its second meeting to make those documents available at least six weeks before the meeting. The entire Bureau expressed an interest seeing the proposed plan and the drafts. The plan for preparation of documents would be agreed by the Co-Chairs by the end of the week of 30 March. Accordingly, the Secretariat would adjust the draft annotated agenda for the meeting;

(b) *Item 4 (Synthetic biology)*. Initial draft is ready, in process of being completed;

(c) *Item 5 (Risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms)*. Completion of the document is pending outcomes of the AHTEG meeting;

(d) *Item 6 (Marine and coastal biodiversity)*. The Secretariat explained the organization of the draft pre-session documents and in particular the way forward and the rationale for numerous annexes. The

Bureau requested the Secretariat to explore options for a general keynote presentation on marine biodiversity for the opening of this agenda item at the twenty-fourth meeting of SBSTTA;

(e) *Item 7. (Biodiversity and agriculture)*. Draft pre-session document, as updated based on received peer-review submissions, to be submitted to the Bureau in the week of 30 March, with the exception of the soil report summary which is pending final delivery by FAO. The Bureau discussed the opportunity and the possibility to issue the draft plan of action for a second round of peer review. The Bureau needs to decide on the way forward by the end of the first week of April;

(f) *Item 8. (IPBES programme of work)*. The first compilation of modalities used to date within the Convention to develop requests to IPBES and for working with IPBES outcomes is done. The input by CBD to the IPBES programme of work is pending the outcome of COP-15;

(g) *Item 9. (Biodiversity and health)*. The Secretariat is in the process of advertising a project position for the Biodiversity and Health post. A colleague from WHO is working on preparing materials for the SBSTTA document providing the progress report as requested by COP-14. As a number of health-related meetings have been postponed or cancelled (for example, the regional capacity-building workshop for the SEAR region and the next meeting of the Inter-agency Liaison Group). The pre-session document will include elements related to (a) key elements for the global action plan to mainstream biodiversity and health, (b) a report on dialogues on biodiversity-health approaches with partners to support developing strategies; (c) targeted messaging;

(h) *Item 10. (Invasive alien species)*. The draft pre-session document earlier presented to the Bureau and for peer review is now being finalized, based on comments received. The whole report of the AHTEG will be issued as an information document. Key substantive elements from the report are incorporated into the text of the pre-session document.

10. The Secretariat informed the Bureau of the situation with the side events application process. The side-event registration system is open on the CBD website and will remain open until new dates are finalized for the twenty-fourth meeting of SBSTTA. The Secretariat will adjust the deadline for applications according to the new dates which will stay open until at least six weeks before the meeting (to allow time for the selection and allocation of the side events and so that organizers can make their arrangements for their side event). The Bureau also requested the Secretariat to provide a link to the side events application system from the SBSTTA-24 web page.

11. The Bureau discussed the organization of the display of posters at SBSTTA-24. It recognized the overall value of the poster session at SBSTTA-23 and supported the organization of a poster session at SBSTTA-24, while identifying options for improving the organization and visibility of the poster session. The Bureau agreed to provide ideas for topic(s) to focus the poster session on crucial elements of the SBSTTA-24 agenda. The Bureau would also provide advice and suggestions on how to make the poster session more effective. One suggestion includes opportunities to prepare the compilation of all posters' summaries and issue them as an information document. The Secretariat, based on contributions from Bureau members, was requested to provide suggestions for the organization of the poster session to be considered by the Bureau at its next meeting.

~~12.~~ The Bureau decided to continue consultations on candidates to co-chair the contact groups anticipated for items 3, 4, 5 and 6 and to further consider the issue at its next meeting.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

13. The Bureau agreed to conduct virtual meetings more often (at least for the period from end of March 2020 until early June) and to organize its next meeting in 3-4 weeks. The Secretariat will provide suggestions for dates.

14. The Bureau may wish to consider the following items for the agenda for its next meeting:

- (a) Update on progress in the preparation of pre-session documents;
- (b) Organization of the poster session;

- (c) Candidates to co-chair contact groups.

ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

- 15. The teleconference was closed at 10.45 (Montreal time) on 25 March 2020.

Annex I

ALLOCATION OF ROLES OF BUREAU MEMBERS IN LEADING VARIOUS AGENDA ITEMS AND CHAIRING SPECIFIC SESSIONS AT THE SBSTTA-24

Agenda item	Session	Agenda item leads	Session chair	Document status	Provisional date for posting
3. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework	Tuesday afternoon	Hesiquio Marina Senka	Marina	Planning is under consultations between WG2020 Co-Chairs, SBSTTA Chair, SCBD	6 weeks before SBSTTA meeting
4. Synthetic biology	Wednesday morning	Adams Gaute	Gaute	Preliminary draft document is ready	Last week of May
5. Risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms		Gwen Gaute		Pending outcomes of the AHTEG	Last week of May
6. Marine and coastal biodiversity	Wednesday afternoon	Marina Marie-May Larbi	Marie-May	Draft document is ready and under editing and translation	Week April 6
7. Biodiversity and agriculture	Thursday morning	Tia Adams	Adams	Main document and action plan are ready. Summary soil biodiversity report pending FAO delivery.	Pending Bureau decision on second peer review
8. IPBES programme of work		Hesiquio Senka		Compilation of existing modalities and experience with providing input to IPBES and working with IPBES products	Last week of May
9. Biodiversity and health	Thursday afternoon	Helena Marina	Helena	Areas to be covered by pre-session paper are identified	First week of June
10. Invasive alien species		Marie-May Gwen		Update based on received comments from peer-review	Third week of April