



Convention on Biological Diversity

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

Third meeting (teleconference)
20 May 2020

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

INTRODUCTION

1. A meeting via teleconference of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was held on Wednesday 20 May 2020, from 8:00 to 10:00 (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. Moustafa Fouda (Egypt), Mr. Larbi Sbai (Morocco), Mr. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine), Mrs. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Mr. Dzmitry Lukashanets (Belarus), Mr. Adams Toussaint (Saint-Lucia), Mrs. Helena Brown (Antigua & Barbuda), Mrs. Kongchay Phimmakong (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Ms. Gwen Sisor (Palau), Mrs. Marina von Weissenberg (Finland), Mrs. Tia Stevens (Australia) and Mr. Gaute Voigt-Hanssen (Norway).
3. The meeting was supported by the CDB Secretariat including Mr. Alexander Shestakov, Mrs. Véronique Allain and Mrs. Caridad Canales.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The Chair of SBSTTA opened the meeting and presented the key points for discussion.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA FOR MEETING

5. The SBSTTA Chair presented an agenda for the meeting, which was adopted as proposed.

ITEM 3. PROVISIONAL TIMING FOR THE ORGANISATION OF THE SBSTTA-24 MEETING

6. The Secretariat provided an update on the different options available in terms of time and venue for the SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3 meetings. An alternative venue is available in Quebec city for the last two

weeks of October. The decision will be made based on the position taken by the Canadian government and the government of Quebec, the guidance provided by UNEP and ICAO (as the leading UN agency in Montreal) and the situation in most of countries Parties to the Convention, in terms of opening the borders and allowing travel for their representatives.

ITEM 4. SBSTTA-24

Update on the progress of preparation for the pre-session documents

7. The Chair proposed to consider progress on the preparation for SBSTTA-24 by each agenda item and invited the Secretariat to provide an update:

(a) **Item 3 (Post2020 global biodiversity framework)**. The Secretariat informed the Bureau on progress in developing the pre-session and information documents, on the completion of the work by the OEWG co-chairs on the draft updated language for goals and targets, which will influence the development of the SBSTTA pre-session documents. The Secretariat explained the suggested plan for the development of SBSTTA documents for this agenda item developed jointly with the OEWG co-chairs and in consultations with the SBSTTA Chair. The anticipated timeline for publication of the draft documents for peer review is proposed for the week of 25 May 2020 and the SBSTTA Bureau members will be able to see it 5 days in advance of its publication for peer review. The Secretariat informed about plans to organize a series of webinars (with participation of OEWG co-chairs) for all regions and time zones within 10 days after publication of the draft documents on-line. The OEWG co-chairs developed a scenario note to describe the process on developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework towards COP-15 including expectations from SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3. The Bureau requested to share the scenario note with its members;

(b) **Item 4 (Synthetic Biology)**. The draft document is ready and the document will be published mid-June 2020;

(c) **Item 5 (Risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms)**. Work is in progress and the draft document will be sent to the Bureau early June 2020;

(d) **Item 6. (Marine and Coastal biodiversity)**. Pre-session document is at the final stage of editing and will be published by the end of the month. The Secretariat is looking for options on a key note presenter on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity;

(e) **Item 7. (Biodiversity and Agriculture)**. Draft pre-session document is completed and sent to editors. Expected to be published early June;

(f) **Item 8. (IPBES programme of work)**. Work in progress and document will be ready in June;

(g) **Item 9. (Biodiversity and Health)**. Work in progress.

(h) **Item 10. (Invasive alien species)**. The draft pre-session document is at the final stage of internal review.

Organisation of virtual regional preparatory meetings

8. The Secretariat submitted to the Bureau the idea of organizing preparatory on-line meetings (webinars) to introduce the different SBSTTA agenda items. Two options were offered: 1) general information webinars organized based on time zones, for Parties and all interested stakeholders for each agenda item and 2) regional consultations organized by region (and potentially subregion) for Parties only. These webinars may be organized in August and September 2020. It is suggested to have webinars in English as there are no funding for providing translation/interpretation.

9. The Bureau members discussed those options and provided the following comments and suggestions:

- (a) Further explore options for having webinars in various languages;
- (b) Consider combination of general information sessions followed by regional consultations;
- (c) Consider option for recording presentations on each agenda item and post it on the CBD website for all interested to have access at any time;
- (d) Ensure consistency with potential webinars for SBI including timing;
- (e) Regional consultation sessions may be longer than 3 days or being organized for shorter sessions but in 2 days.

10. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare a concept note for the organization of webinars to be considered at the next meeting of the Bureau.

Criteria for the selection of posters

- 11. The Bureau considered the criteria as suggested by the Secretariat and approved them (annex 1).
- 12. The Bureau decided to publish all posters on the CBD website.
- 13. The Bureau decided to include the topic on consequences of COVID-19, links between zoonosis and biodiversity and role of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the prevention of future pandemics.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

14. The Bureau agreed to continue virtual meetings on a monthly basis and to conduct the next meeting on Wednesday 17 June 2020.

ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

15. The teleconference was closed at 10:00 (Montreal time) on 20 May 2020.

Annex 1

POSTER SESSION – SBSTTA-24

Thematic topic

1. Theme for the poster session – Health and Biodiversity. Will address one of the elements of the SBSTTA-24 agenda to support delegates in their discussions during the meeting and will include posters on zoonosis and role of biodiversity in preventing future pandemics.

Applications and selection process

1. Application process to be open for all Parties and observers.
2. Requirements for application, including poster summary, and invitation for application will be issued by the SCBD as per usual procedures and previous experience.
3. The SCBD staff will collect all proposals and prepare the list of preliminary selected posters. The list of selected posters and all applications received will be provided to the Bureau for consideration and decision on the list of posters accepted.
4. The SCBD and the Bureau will use the following criteria for assessing the applications for posters:
 - (a) relevance to the identified element of the SBSTTA-24 agenda and topics determined by the Bureau;
 - (b) regional balance;
 - (c) representation of different sectors (governments, IPLC, international organisation, business, academia, NGO and etc.);
 - (d) balance in positions (in particular, for sensitive and controversial topics).

Partners

1. The SCBD will invite CBD Scientific Partners to support the organisation of the poster session including distribution of information about the application process; identify applicants; support the SCBD in assessment of the applications received.

Time of the session

1. All posters will be installed on Sunday preceding the opening of SBSTTA and will be available for display from the first day of the meeting.
2. The Poster session will be opened for all participants on Monday, right after the afternoon plenary session and before the formal reception (18:00-19:00). Authors of the posters will be available next to their posters to provide necessary comments for all meeting participants.

3. All posters will be available throughout the entire meeting. May allocate special time, reflected in the agenda and on the usual running screens with agenda, for authors to be next to their posters during the week at lunch time.

Information support for the session

1. Include information on poster session in agenda and into choreography with reminders to be articulated by chairs of sessions to invite participants to attend poster session.
2. The SCBD will prepare information document compiling summaries of all accepted posters to be available with all other information documents at SBSTTA-24 webpage.
3. The SCBD will publish all posters on the CBD website.