



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,  
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE  
7h00 to 9h00 Montreal  
Via teleconference (Microsoft Teams)  
19 November 2021

### MINUTES

1. A meeting of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was held via teleconference on Friday 19 November 2021, from 7:00 to 9:00 (Montreal time).

The meeting was attended by the following members of the Bureau: Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz (Mexico), Chair, Ms. Marie-May Muzungaile (Seychelles), Mr. Moustafa Fouda (Egypt), Ms. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Mr. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine), Ms. Tatsiana Lipinskaya (Belarus), Mr. Adams Toussaint (Saint-Lucia), Ms. Helena Brown (Antigua & Barbuda), Ms. Marina von Weissenberg (Finland), Ms. Alison McMorro (Australia) and Mr. Andreas Schei (Norway). Apologies were received from Ms. Gwen Sisor (Palau), Mr. Larbi Sbai (Morocco), Ms. Kongchay Phimmakong (Lao People's Democratic Republic).

2. The meeting was supported by the following CDB Secretariat staff: Mr. Markus Lehmann (SBSTTA Secretary), Ms. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi, Ms. Jillian Campbell, Ms. Marianela Araya Quesada, Ms. Laetitia Sieffert, Ms. Sakhile Koketso, Mr. Joseph Appiott, Ms. Véronique Allain and Ms. Jacqueline Grekin.

#### 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The meeting was opened at 7:10 a.m. (Montreal time) on Friday 19 November 2021 by the SBSTTA Chair.

#### 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The SBSTTA Chair presented the agenda for the meeting and it was adopted without any changes.

### **3. UPDATE AND REVIEW OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE RESUMED MEETING OF SBSTTA-24**

6. The Chair invited the Secretariat to provide an update on the preparations for the resumed meeting of SBSTTA-24 (sub agenda items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4).

#### ***Documentation***

7. The Secretariat explained that the documents presented to the Bureau are for internal planning purposes and would not be circulated outside this forum in this shape and form. The supplementary annotations to the agenda is provided as a draft in order to facilitate discussions, with a view to finalize it as soon as possible. It contains only an update from the first part of SBSTTA-24, for each agenda item, and the way forward from that point.

8. Eight agenda items were addressed at the last meeting of SBSTTA-24 (in virtual mode held in May 2021) producing 6 L documents. Some agenda items are still in the CRP phase, such as on marine and coastal biodiversity and on Invasive Alien Species. There will be two new documents: the non-paper on biodiversity and health and the non-paper on the updated monitoring framework.

9. With the exception of the L document on agriculture (item 7), L documents would as a general rule not be reopened but taken up in the Plenary. If there is agreement among Parties about removing brackets contained in some documents, this could be reflected during the formal adoption process. On item 7 on agriculture, a contact group would be proposed to discuss the annex to the draft discussion, which has not yet been discussed during the first phase of the meeting.

10. There will be a need for the establishment of Contact Groups as per the planned organization of work. The bureau agreed that it would be useful to prepare terms of reference providing modalities for each contact group.

11. The Members of the SBSTTA Bureau agreed that it is clear where the Subsidiary Body stands and where progress can be made realistically.

#### ***Co-leads***

12. The bureau considered proposed co-leads for the Contact Groups (CGs) and Friends-of-the Chair (FoCs) based on a proposal by the chair. The result of this discussion is summarized below:

- Item 3 (monitoring framework): Andrew STOTT (United Kingdom) and Alfred OTENG YEBOAH (Ghana);
- Item 6 (marine and coastal biodiversity): Marie-May MUZUNGAILE (Seychelles) and Matthias STEITZ (Germany);
- Item 7 (agriculture and biodiversity): Adams TOUSSAINT (St. Lucia) and co-lead from a developed country to be identified;
- Item 9 (health and biodiversity): Helena JEFFEREY-BROWN (Antigua & Barbuda) and Marine VON WEISSENBERG (Finland).

#### ***State of play and way ahead***

13. The bureau reviewed the state of play and suggested way ahead for each agenda item, based on the draft organization of work and the draft supplementary annotations to the agenda, and agreed on changes and amendments as follows:

- On agenda item 3, the Chair noted the need and usefulness to add a paragraph to the draft recommendation contained in document L.3. welcoming the recent progress made in developing a post-2020 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. The Chair proposed, and the bureau agreed, that he would further consult with the Secretariat and propose introduction of such a paragraph during the consideration of this agenda item at the resumed meeting.

- After discussion and an assessment provided by Ms. Senka Barudanovic, the chair of the friends of the chair group on item 10 (invasive alien species), the Bureau concluded that a future meeting of the group is unlikely to be needed;
- The bureau also concluded that another session of the contact group on marine and coastal biodiversity could be useful to further consider CRP.2 on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, and decided to allocate the free slot, formerly reserved for the friends of the chair group on invasive alien species, to this additional session.

#### 4. OTHER MATTERS

14. The SBSTTA Chair reminded Bureau Members of the need to think of replacements for the members from the following countries: Finland, Laos, Morocco and Ukraine. Also, Helena JEFFEREY-BROWN (Antigua and Barbuda) requested for clarification about the end of her term as alternate for Nagoya Protocol for St. Lucia. Her replacement schedule would be clarified by the Secretariat. The SBSTTA Chair will also need to be replaced at the end of the upcoming COP-15 meeting. The next region to be chairing SBSTTA would be the Central and Eastern Europe region, and relevant bureau members were invited to identify a suitable candidate.

15. Bureau members raised a number of questions with regard to the overall logistical and organizational arrangements in Geneva, reflecting the pandemic situation. In its response, the Secretariat highlighted the evolving nature of the pandemic and the resulting difficulty in providing definite guidance at this stage. However, it was also noted that arrangements and modalities for on-site testing are currently being explored, and that on-site restrictions in delegation size are likely (due to a maximum number of delegates allowed inside the Conference Center in Geneva), and cautioned that travel arrangements should be made with this in mind. The Secretariat is following this issue closely with its Swiss counterparts and arrangements would be revisited in accordance with the pandemic situation.

16. A new Staff Member of the SCBD was introduced: Ms. Sakhile KOKETSO took office on 1 November 2021 as the new head of the Biodiversity Science, Policy and Governance Unit, where many of the issues under the remit of SBSTTA are being located. Ms. Koketso is replacing Mr. Sarat B. GIDDA who retired at the end of June 2021.

#### 5. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

17. The Bureau meeting was closed at 9:00 a.m.

#### ACTION POINTS

- identify co-lead for CG on agriculture from a developed country: Chair, Secretariat and Bureau members;
- draft GSPC paragraph for L.3 Document; Chair, Secretariat;
- prepare draft terms of reference for contact groups: Secretariat for approval by Chair and Bureau members;
- clarify replacement schedule for Bureau members from Antigua and Barbuda: Secretariat.

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