



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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

07h00 to 8h30 Montreal time

Via teleconference (Microsoft Teams)

02 February 2022

### MINUTES

1. A meeting of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was held via teleconference on Wednesday 02 February 2022, from 7:00 to 8:15 (Montreal time).

2. 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), Mr. Larbi Sbai (Morocco), Mr. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine), Ms. Helena Brown (Antigua & Barbuda), Mr. Adams Toussaint (Saint-Lucia), Ms. Marina von Weissenberg (Finland), Ms. Alison McMorrow (Australia), Mr. Andreas Schei (Norway), Ms. Gwen Sisor (Palau). Apologies were received from Ms. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia-Herzegovina) and Ms. Kongchay Phimmakong (Lao People's Democratic Republic).

3. The meeting was supported by the following CDB Secretariat staff: Mr. Markus Lehmann (SBSTTA Secretary), Mr. David Cooper, Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Ms. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi, Ms. Jillian Campbell, Ms. Laetitia Sieffert, Ms. Jamal Annagylyjova, 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 Wednesday 02 February 2022 by the SBSTTA Chair who also mentioned that he looked forward to be able to meet in person the Members of the SBSTTA Bureau in Geneva.

#### 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

### **3. REFLECTIONS AND EXCHANGE ON THE WEBINAR SERIES ORGANIZED BY THE SCBD**

6. A series of webinars was organized by the SCBD on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. As regards SBSTTA-relevant webinars, the SBSTTA chair referred to the ones on marine and coastal biodiversity in the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework, to the scientific webinar – Update from the Scientific Community, and the webinar on the updated monitoring framework and associated information documents.

7. The SBSTTA Chair noted that these webinars were well attended and expressed his hope that as many SBSTTA Bureau members as possible participated in these webinars as they proved very useful to get familiar with the documents and the different discussions which will be forthcoming in Geneva. In the subsequent discussion, bureau members noted the high-level presentations given and agreed that the webinars were a good initiative for keeping the momentum going. It was suggested to continue this practice between the end of the Geneva meetings and COP-15. It was also recommended to plan more time for questions from the participants.

8. On the webinar on the monitoring framework, the SBSTTA Bureau from Finland noted the amount of technical material and number of pending issues to be addressed at the resumed meetings in Geneva, and a corresponding need to plan strategically. In his response, the SBSTTA chair noted that he had a planning meeting with the co-leads of the contact group on agenda item 3 and the Secretariat team and that an approach had been defined to make best use of the limited time, including by giving focus to the headline indicators, streamline the discussion by collecting views and preparing an updated draft for review at the final session of the contact group. He also noted that the support of technical resource persons such as from WCMC will be helpful.

### **4. PLANNING FOR THE RESUMED MEETING OF SBSTTA-24: REVIEW OF PLENARY SESSIONS**

9. Under this item, the SBSTTA chair provided a detailed briefing on the planned organization of work for the SBSTTA, focusing in particular on the programmes for the individual SBSTTA plenaries and evolution in every agenda item starting from non-papers, CRP or L documents. This briefing was based on the detailed organization of work that had been circulated to bureau members before, in line with the supplementary annotations to the agenda provided to document CBD/SBSTTA/24/1/ADD3. For agenda items that likely require the support of a contact group, the SBSTTA chair also informed about the status of the scheduled planning meetings with the co-leads of the corresponding contact groups and Secretariat teams.

10. Members of the SBSTTA Bureau noted the importance of highlighting in the opening plenary session that the re-opening of L documents should be avoided. Rather, Parties would be encouraged to engage and interact informally in order to explore opportunities for making progress on outstanding issues, and to present possible solutions found informally at the plenary when the relevant L document would be taken up for adoption, for consideration by the plenary and, if agreement can be reached within a reasonable timeframe, integration into the L document. Pleas to this effect will be made through appropriate channels. There will also be regular SBSTTA bureau meetings to help decide how to go about the unfolding of the sessions.

11. The SBSTTA Chair asked the Members of the Bureau to share with their region the importance to focus on technical and scientific elements and to consider the very limited time to address all documents, so that all can be well prepared.

*Co-leads*

12. The bureau confirmed the co-leads for the Contact Groups (CGs) as summarized below, expressing its appreciation to Mr. Norbert Baerlocher (Switzerland) for making himself available as co-lead for the contact group on item 7:

- 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). It was noted that Mr. STEITZ may not be available in the end and, if this is confirmed, that a replacement will be identified in the next 2 weeks;
- Item 7 (agriculture and biodiversity): Adams TOUSSAINT (St. Lucia) and Norbert BÄRLOCHER (Switzerland);
- Item 9 (health and biodiversity): Helena JEFFEREY-BROWN (Antigua and Barbuda) and Marina VON WEISSENBERG (Finland).

**5. OTHER MATTERS**

13. The SBSTTA Chair reiterated that there will be a need to replace the SBSTTA Bureau Members from Antigua and Barbuda, Finland, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mexico, Morocco and Ukraine; these new members will serve on the Bureau for a term commencing at the end of the twenty-fourth meeting and ending at the close of the twenty-sixth meeting.

14. The question was asked whether the newly elected SBSTTA Bureau Members could be allowed to be engaged in the current SBSTTA-24 meeting by attending for instance the regular Bureau meetings as ex-officio members? The Secretariat indicated that confirmation would be sought, and it was subsequently confirmed that this had been the practice in previous SBSTTA meetings and could be continued, with the possible exception of joint bureau meetings, due to room size and sanitary restrictions. One member from the CEE region confirmed that the CEE region is aware of the need to have representation from that region on the Bureau and to think also of a Chairperson from the CEE region.

15. About the agenda item on Health and biodiversity, the question was asked whether WHO will be involved in the discussions one way or another; WHO could be asked to act as resource organization to contribute to the discussions, in particular in the context of One Health. Confirmation would be sought by the Secretariat accordingly.

**6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

16. The SBSTTA Bureau meeting closed at 8h15 local Montréal time.

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