



Convention on Biological Diversity

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION

Third meeting

Online, 16 May-13 June 2021 and

Geneva, Switzerland, 14-29 March 2022

Agenda item 10

RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION

3/13. Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation,

Having considered the note by the Executive Secretary,¹ *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its tenth meeting, and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol at its fourth meeting, adopt decisions, respectively, along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing,

A. Experience with concurrent meetings

Recalling decisions XII/27, CP-7/9 and NP-1/12, XIII/26, CP-8/10 and NP-2/12, 14/32, CP-9/8 and NP-3/10,

Having reviewed the experience in holding concurrently meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, using the criteria agreed earlier,

Taking into account the views of Parties and observers that participated in the concurrent meetings held in 2016 and 2018 as synthesized and presented in the notes by the Executive Secretary on the review of experience in holding concurrent meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and meetings of the Parties to the Protocols,²

1. *Notes with satisfaction* that the concurrent meetings were overall considered to have allowed for increased integration among the Convention and its Protocols, and improved consultations, coordination and synergies among the respective national focal points;

¹ CBD/SBI/3/12.

² See [CBD/SBI/2/16/Add.1](#) and associated information notes ([CBD/SBI/2/INF/1](#) and [INF/2](#)).

2. *Notes* that most of the criteria were considered as being met or partially met, and that further improvements in the functioning of the concurrent meetings are desirable, in particular to improve the outcomes and effectiveness of the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols;

3. *Reiterates* the importance of ensuring the full and effective participation of representatives of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, in the concurrent meetings, and the importance, in particular, of ensuring adequate participation of representatives in meetings of the Parties to the protocols by making funding available for such participation, and, in this regard, recalls decision 14/37, paragraphs 36 to 46;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau, to further improve the planning and organization of future concurrent meetings on the basis of the experience gained to date and the views expressed by Parties and observers;

B. Experience with virtual meetings

Recalling decision XII/29, paragraph 2, in which the Executive Secretary was requested to explore ways to increase the efficiency of meetings, including convening meetings through virtual means, and further developments in that regard,

Recognizing the restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020, which rendered in-person meetings impracticable,

5. *Notes* the expeditious adjustments and arrangements made by the Secretariat, and the understanding and flexibility demonstrated by presiding officers and participants, which allowed the convening of a number of meetings and consultations in a virtual setting in response to the limitations caused by the pandemic situation, notwithstanding the inconveniences arising from such a setting, and the limitations that were agreed with regard to decision-making;

[6. *Agrees* that convening of formal meetings in a virtual setting, while important in terms of responding to the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, does not set a precedent for the future organization of similar meetings under the Convention;]

[7. *Calls upon* Parties and observers to continue to participate in virtual and hybrid meetings that are held and encourages them to enhance capacities [and to make available technical and technological facilities] that are necessary for their representatives to participate in these meetings effectively;]

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to [compile] [and analyse] views from Parties, and relevant stakeholders, [and the experience and relevant studies available, especially within the United Nations system], in conducting virtual and hybrid meetings held in 2021 and 2022, [and prepare options for procedures for such meetings,] taking into account the specific challenges faced by delegations with network and connectivity problems, in particular by developing country Parties, as well as indigenous peoples and local communities and observers, and by those delegations from countries where meetings are scheduled at difficult times, [addressing issues about equity, participation and legitimacy]for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting;

9. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to consider the [compilation of views, analysis and options] referred to in paragraph 8 above and to make recommendations to the governing bodies of the Convention and the Protocols for consideration at their next meeting.

[C. Other areas to improve effectiveness

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with Parties, partners, stakeholders and relevant external experts, an analysis of options to further improve the effectiveness of meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including, inter alia, options to improve

negotiating processes, to better follow-up on previous decisions, to benefit from innovations in decision-making methods and technologies, and to improve the engagement of observers in processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to submit such analysis of options to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for its consideration at its fourth meeting.]
