

**Convention on
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**MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**Fifth meeting
Montreal,
24 April 2016**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 on Sunday, 24 February 2016, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30, on the margins of the twentieth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in Montreal, Canada.
2. The meeting was attended by the following members of the Bureau: Mr. Andrew Bignell (New Zealand), Chair; Ms Prudence Galega (Cameroun); Ms. Eugenia Arguedas Montezuma (Costa Rica); Ms. Lourdes Coya de la Fuente (Cuba); Mr. Horst Korn (Germany); Mr. Endang Sukara (Indonesia); Mr. Niualuga Evaimalo Tavita (Samoa); Mr. Norbert Bärlocher (Switzerland); and Ms. Shirin Karryeva (Turkmenistan). Apologies had been received from Mr. Aleksandar Mijović (Montenegro) and Ms. Malta (Nopasika) Qwathekana (South Africa). Mr. Hesiquio Benítez Díaz (Mexico) participated on behalf of the incoming Presidency.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The meeting was opened by Mr Andrew Bignell, Chair of the Subsidiary Body. He welcomed participants to the meeting and recalled the previous meeting of the SBSTTA Bureau, held at the margins of the fourth Plenary of IPBES. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity also welcomed participants to the meeting and provided an overview of the issues related to the twentieth meeting of the SBSTTA. He noted that a workshop on monitoring marine biodiversity was being held in parallel to the Bureau meeting.
4. The Bureau reviewed the minutes from its previous meetings and agreed the agenda for its meeting.

ITEM 2. NOMNATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY

5. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body noted that each of the five regional groups will be invited to nominate a representative to serve on the Bureau for a term commencing at the end of the twentieth meeting and ending at the end of the twenty-second meeting of the Subsidiary Body, to replace the

members from Costa Rica, Germany, Indonesia, South Africa, and Turkmenistan. The chair encouraged members of the Bureau to consult with their regions as soon as possible so that new Bureau members could be identified. The chair also noted that his term would be ending after COP13 and therefore a new chair of SBSTTA would need to be identified. If the normal rotation is followed the next chair of SBSTTA would be from the Asia and Pacific region.

6. During the discussion of this item it was noted that one incentive for the early identification of new Bureau members is that it allows them to participate as observed at meetings of the SBSTTA Bureau during SBSTTA 20. The representative from Germany noted that a representative from Belgium would be replacing him on the Bureau. It was also noted that it should be ensured that nominees were available to participate in the activities of the Bureau during the period for which they are elected.

ITEM 3. PREPARATIONS FOR THE TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

7. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body noted the heavy agenda for the meeting and encouraged Bureau members, during their regional meetings, to encourage participants to be as efficient as possible in their deliberations.

8. The Secretariat provided an overview of the preparations for the meeting. The members of the Bureau discussed the preparations and identified those items that may require contact groups. These items include synthetic biology, ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, and ecosystem restoration. Regarding item 4, on marine and coastal biodiversity, it was noted that item 4.1 (ecologically or biologically significant marine areas) would be addressed separately from items 4.2 (specific work plan on biodiversity and acidification in cold-water areas), 4.3 (addressing impacts of marine debris and anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity) and 4.4 (marine spatial planning and training initiatives). Bureau members were requested to inform their regions of this approach.

9. It was also decided that, upon request from the Chair, members of the Bureau would assist the Chair of the Subsidiary Body by chairing specific sessions of the meeting. It was decided that Ms. Prudence Tangham Galega (Cameroun) would chair the Monday afternoon session. Tuesday morning's session would be chaired by Mr. Endang Sukara (Indonesia) while Tuesday evening's session would be chaired by Ms. Eugenia Arguedas Montezuma (Costa Rica). Ms. Shirin Karryeva (Turkmenistan) was requested to chair on Wednesday morning and Mr. Norbert Barlocher (Switzerland) would chair Wednesday afternoon. It was also decided that Lourdes Coya de la Fuente (Cuba) would act as Rapporteur for the meeting.

10. The Executive Secretary provided an overview of the funding situation for the meeting. With the funds received it was possible to fund approximately 90 participants to attend the meeting. This number is comparable with previous meetings. However the funding was received at a very late date. This created challenges for the organization of the meeting. If a similar situation was repeated for COP13 this would create challenges. Bureau Members were encouraged to bring this issue to the attention of their regional groups.

11. The link between SBSTTA and SBI were discussed. It was noted that some items are being considered in both meetings and that the boundaries between the work of SBSTTA and SBI is not always clear. While SBSTTA is to focus on scientific and technical issues, there will be a need to learn as the meeting progresses. Bureau members were encouraged to raise this issue within their region groups as needed.

12. It was decided that the SBSTTA Bureau would meet every morning, except Monday, at 8:00 am.

ITEM 4. OTHER MATTERS

13. It was noted that there were a large number of information documents for the meeting and this created challenges to participants' preparation. It was decided that the Secretariat would prepare some proposals on how this could be avoided at future meetings of the SBSTTA and to prepare a report for a future meeting of the SBSTTA Bureau following the twentieth meeting of the SBSTTA.

14. It was noted that there is often a mismatch between the amount of work requested of the Executive Secretary and the funding and time available. Over the longer term there is a need to consider how this could be addressed. Over the shorter term, during the coming intersessional period, there is a need to try and avoid the amount of additional work requested. Bureau members were encouraged to discuss this issue in their regions.

15. The need to start planning for the post 2020 strategy of the Convention on Biological Diversity was noted. The Secretariat provided an overview of some of the options being considered and noted that it would provide further information to the SBSTTA Bureau for its consideration as it was developed.

16. With regards to the IPBES work programme, it was noted that SBSTTA would need to give further thought to what requested it wished to send to the COP for its consideration.

ITEM 5. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

17. The meeting of the Bureau closed at 12:30 p.m. on 24 April 2016.
