



Convention on Biological Diversity

BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
8h00 to 10h00 Montreal
Via teleconference (Microsoft Teams)
7 April 2021

MINUTES

1. A meeting of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was held via teleconference on Wednesday 7 April 2021, 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. Larbi Sbai (Morocco), Mrs. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Mrs. Tatsiana Lipinskaya (Belarus), Mr. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine), Mr. Adams Toussaint (Saint-Lucia), Mrs. Helena Brown (Antigua & Barbuda), Ms. Gwen Sisior (Palau), Mrs. Marina von Weissenberg (Finland), Mrs. Alison McMorrow (Australia) and Mr. Gaute Voigt-Hanssen (Norway). Apologies were received from Mr. Moustafa Fouda (Egypt) and Mrs. Kongchay Phimmakong (Lao People's Democratic Republic).
3. The meeting was supported by the CDB Secretariat including Mr. Alexander Shestakov (Secretary of the SBSTTA Bureau), Mrs. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Mr. David Cooper, Mrs. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Mrs. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi, Mrs. Jillian Campbell and Mrs. Caridad Canales.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The meeting was opened at 8:00 a.m. (Montreal time) on Wednesday 7 April 2021 by the SBSTTA Chair.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The SBSTTA Chair presented the only agenda item for the meeting – organisation of the formal online meeting of SBSTTA-24.

3. ORGANISATION ON THE FORMAL ON-LINE MEETING OF SBSTTA-24

6. Upon request from the Chair, the CBD Secretariat introduced to the Bureau the draft scenario note developed jointly by the SBSTTA Chair, the SBI Chair and the Secretariat for the organisation and timeline for the twenty fourth meeting of the subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice (SBSTTA-24) shared with the Bureau on 5 April.

7. The SBSTTA Chair opened a discussion on the draft note. During this discussion Bureau members raised the following issues:

(a) Need to avoid organisation of a stand-alone subsequent physical meeting of SBSTTA to finalise and adopt L documents but rather do it back-to-back with the COP15. The SCBD also mentioned the possibility to do it together with the WG2020-3 if that meeting is organised as an in-person meeting;

(b) Reiterated the importance of participation of observers at the contact groups in line with the usual CBD practice;

(c) Attention to alternative ways and means for communicating messages to the meeting including backup options for speakers;

(d) Strong request to Parties and observers with wish to speak at the first reading session to avoid repetition of points previously raised and communicated during the informal session and focus only on new elements if needed. This may include reference to previously recorded statements and written submissions;

(e) Need to identify two co-chairs at least for the contact group on item 3 (Post 2020 GBF). It was also suggested that for other contact groups, due to logistics, it may be acceptable to have just one chair;

(f) For item 5 (Risk Assessment) based on the analysis of the submissions from the informal session to consider have Friends of the Chair group instead of a contact group;

(g) For agenda items which will require full first reading (items 8 IPBES and 9 Health) to follow the practice of chairing by Bureau members (Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz for item 8 and Mrs. Helena Brown for item 9). It was suggested that in a view of practicality and time saving all other sessions to be chaired by the SBSTTA Chair;

(h) Need to timely upload recordings of the meetings;

(i) Organisation of regional meetings during SBSTTA-24. The SCBD also reiterated the importance of informing the Secretariat in advance on the need to support the organisation of these meetings in case regions would require support from the Secretariat (including the platform);

(j) Need for regional statements during sessions on agenda items considered previously at the informal meetings. Sessions on items 8 and 9 with the first reading will start with the regional statements.

8. Bureau members also provide some specific comments to the text of the draft note to further reflected in the final version.

9. The Secretariat responded to several questions including on the organisation of registration (provided an overview of the approach to ensure secured meetings), number of microphones per delegation (4 to 9 between plenary sessions and contact groups), opportunity for interpretation during regional meetings (there are no opportunities for interpretation), consideration of CRP documents (follow the usual practice from physical meetings), language of contact group discussion and documents (English only).

10. The Bureau requested the SCBD:

(a) to update the draft note in line with suggestions and recommendations provided during the meeting;

(b) to develop a short note with detailed mandates for contact groups, for all agenda items, which may require those groups as per draft note with brief analysis of each item based on discussions at the informal SBSTTA meeting in February and make it available to the Bureau prior to the next meeting;

(c) suggestions for candidates for chairs for contact groups;

(d) to develop the organisation of work in a standard format (as usual attachment to the annotated agenda for the meeting).

11. The Secretariat would like to ask the Bureau to assist with communication to Parties on the following points:

(a) Remind Parties in the respective regions to avoid duplications in their statements, in particular if a statement on the first reading was already made at the informal sessions, while if necessary referring to those;

(b) Send a request as soon as possible for the use of the UN national office by Parties in need of more stable connectivity to join the meeting;

(c) Send a request for the organisation of regional meetings as soon as possible (but no later than 10 days in advance of the meeting) with identification of day and time required (please be mindful of the time differences).

6. OTHER MATTERS

12. The Bureau decided to organise its next meeting on 15 April 2021 to discuss the organisation of work of contact groups during SBSTTA-24 meeting and other elements in preparation for the meeting. Another meeting to be organised prior to the start day of SBSTTA-24 (29 April was mentioned as potential date for the meeting). The further meetings of the Bureau prior to and at the SBSTTA-24 formal meeting will be decided upon during the next meeting.

7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

13. The Bureau meeting closed at 10:00 hrs.

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