

**Convention on
Biological Diversity**






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ENGLISH ONLY

AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON RISK ASSESSMENT
 Second meeting
 Montreal, Canada, 27 February –1 March 2024

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1. Opening and Registration

The second meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment will be held in Montreal, Canada from Tuesday, 27 February to Friday, 1 March 2024. The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 27 February 2024, and registration of CBD participants will take place at the venue between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

2. Venue

The meeting will held at:

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

8th Floor Conference Room (Suite 800)

413 St-Jacques Street West

Montréal, Québec

Canada, H2Y 1N9

Tel: +1-514-288-2220

Fax: +1-514-288-6588

Metro station Square-Victoria, line no. 2 (Orange)

Please note that access to the 8th floor is restricted. CBD staff will assist with accessing the 8th floor at key times. However, in case of need, kindly announce your presence to our receptionist on the **6th floor (Suite 620)**, and they will arrange for your access to the 8th floor.

3. Working language of the meeting

The meeting will be held in English.

4. Meeting Documents



Documents will be made available at:

<https://www.cbd.int/meetings/CP-RA-AHTEG-2024-01>

In order to minimize the environmental footprint of the meeting and in line with the UN policy towards greener meetings, participants are kindly reminded to bring their own copies of the documents, or to use paperless versions, as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the meeting. WIFI access will be provided.

5. General information on access to Montreal

Montreal is serviced by Montreal-Trudeau International Airport (15 km from downtown). Taxis and a bus (No. 747) are available at the airport. The information on rates is as follows.

Bus:	One way trip
Montreal-Trudeau Airport/Downtown (several locations) STM Express bus No. 747 (runs 24 hrs a day)	CAD \$11 (Fares can be purchased from one of the automated dispensers at the international arrivals level. The \$11 fare can also be paid in cash with exact change in coins only on board the bus and is valid for bus and metro for 24 hours. More information: https://www.stm.info/en/info/networks/bus/shuttle/747-yul-montreal-trudeau-airport-downtown-shuttle Customers will be able to use the Chrono or Transit mobile apps and a credit card to purchase one or more digital fares to and from Montréal-Trudeau airport. Customers must then activate the fare and show it to the driver for visual validation when boarding the 747 within 120 minutes of activating the fare.
Taxis: Montreal-Trudeau to Downtown	Fixed rates: CAD \$48.40 for arrivals from 5AM to 11PM and CAD \$55.65 for arrivals from 11PM to 5AM More information: https://www.admtl.com/en/access/taxis-limousines

6. Visa information



Participants from countries listed in the **annex** below require a visa which requires biometrics (photo and fingerprints) for entry into Canada and are strongly advised to contact the nearest Canadian diplomatic or consular mission **as soon as possible** in order to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure. **Please note that airline companies will not allow boarding in the absence of a valid visa.**

Information on visa procedures for entry into Canada, including online visa application can be found on the web site of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp>

Information on the list of relevant Canadian diplomatic/consular missions abroad can be found at the following link: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/offices/apply-where.asp>.

Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) from visa exempt countries

Travelers from visa-exempt countries must obtain an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) to fly to or transit through Canada. If you have a valid eTA, you will not be required to provide biometrics. Travelers are required to have an eTA before they can board a flight to Canada. Exceptions include U.S. citizens and travelers with a valid Canadian visa. Canadian citizens, including dual citizens, and Canadian permanent residents cannot apply for an eTA.

Applying for the eTA is an online process which takes only a few minutes to complete. The eTA will be valid for 5 years or upon expiry of your passport. There is a fee of CAN \$7.00 for the electronic travel authorization (eTA).

The eTA link is as follows: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp>

Countries requiring Visa and Biometrics

All countries requiring a visa must also provide biometrics are listed in the annex below, information on Biometrics can be found at the following link: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/biometrics.asp>.

On-line visa application:

Anyone can apply online for a visa to enter Canada. However, you are required to provide biometrics and still need to present yourself at a Visa Application Centre to provide this information. An application will not go forward without the biometric information. The CIC will send you a biometric instruction letter by email through your MyCIC account when they receive your application. Read and print this letter and bring it, along with your passport or other travel document, to a visa application centre (VAC) to give your biometrics. Find your closest VAC.

Important: Please continuously check your MyCIC visa application account for any incoming e-mails, queries, requests for more information, and responses from the visa office.

Please submit your visa application as early as possible to allow sufficient time to process your request. You can verify approximate visa processing times for your country at the following link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/check-processing-times.html>

To facilitate the issuance of visas, the Secretariat will issue, upon request, invitation letters to be attached to the visa applications.

7. Health information

Proof of COVID-19 vaccinations, pre-boarding testing, and using the ArriveCAN App are not required for all travellers. However, using the ArriveCAN App may save time at the border/customs and carrying proof of vaccination is recommended in case of need. The ArriveCAN App link is as follows: <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/services/arrivecan.html>

While COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted in Canada, as per guidelines updated June 2023, the WHO continues to recommend the use of masks by the public in specific situations, masks are recommended following a recent exposure to COVID-19, when someone has or suspects they have COVID-19 or is at high-risk, and for anyone in a crowded, enclosed, or poorly ventilated space. Participants are requested to bring their own masks.

Further details on COVID-19 recommendations for travel are available at: <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid>.

8. Hotel information

Participants are kindly reminded that they **must make their own hotel reservations and should do so as soon as possible.**

The listing of hotels with preferential rates located in the vicinity of the CBD Secretariat and ICAO or close to a Metro (subway) station can be found at the following link: <http://www.icao.int/Meetings/Pages/List-Of-Hotels.aspx>. Please note that rates are subject to blackout dates where the preferential rates cannot be applied.

Further information on hotels in Montreal is available on the web site of Tourisme Montreal at the following link: <https://www.mtl.org/en/Accommodations>

9. Payment of the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)

The DSA will be disbursed to funded participants on the first day of the meeting in the form of a prepaid credit card (Swiss Bankers card). **These funded participants are kindly requested to bring their passports and boarding passes on the first day of the meeting.** These will be copied and returned to participants during the meeting. It is advisable that participants have some cash at hand to cover expenses that may occur between their arrival and the moment at which they are provided with the prepaid credit card from which they will access their DSA. Please note that the funds can take up to 24 hours to be loaded on the cards.

IMPORTANT: If you were provided with a Swiss Bankers card for a previous meeting, please inform the Secretariat and bring it with you to the meeting (if it is still valid) so that it may be reused. Please make sure you remember the PIN, otherwise contact the bank to request that they reset the PIN.

Swiss Bankers Contacts:

Swiss Bankers Prepaid Services Ltd, Customer Service
(forgotten PIN numbers, card replacements or transaction claims)

Tel: +41-31 710 12 15

Email: info@swissbankers.ch

Opening hours:

Mon-Sun: 8.00-22.00 Swiss time. Closed on Swiss bank holidays.

10. Official languages

There are two official languages in Canada: English and French. French is the official language of Quebec; however, English is widely spoken in Montreal.

11. Weather and time zone information



In February, average temperatures in Montreal range between -4°C in the daytime and -15°C at night. Please bring appropriate winter clothing, such as hat, scarf, gloves, winter coat and boots for cold conditions. The current weather conditions may be found at <http://worldweather.wmo.int/en/city.html?cityId=634>.

The standard time zone for Montreal is EST (Eastern Standard Time) which is GMT/UTC -5 hours.

12. Electricity

The electrical currents are 120 Volts, 60 Hertz and plugs are as shown below.



13. Currency

The currency in Canada is the Canadian Dollar (CAD \$). The current exchange rate as of 12 December 2023 is USD \$1 = CAD \$1.36 and €1 = CAD \$1.46 (source: www.xe.com, rates are subject to change).

Currency exchange facilities are readily available in banks and hotels.

14. Disclaimer

The CBD Secretariat disclaims all responsibility for medical, accident and travel insurance, for compensation for death or disability compensation, for loss of or damage to personal property and for any other loss that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation. In this context, it is strongly recommended to secure international medical, accident and travel insurance for the period of participation prior to departure.

Annex – Country list for visas

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WHOSE CITIZENS REQUIRE VISAS AND BIOMETRICS IN ORDER TO ENTER CANADA AS VISITORS (AS LISTED ON THE WEBSITE OF IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND CITIZENSHIP CANADA)

Citizens of the following countries and territories require a visa and biometrics (photo and fingerprints) to **visit** or **transit** Canada:

A	E (cont'd)	M	S (cont'd)
Afghanistan	Equatorial Guinea	Madagascar	Sao Tomé e Príncipe
Albania	Eritrea	Malawi	Saudi Arabia
Algeria	Eswatini	Malaysia	Senegal
Angola	Ethiopia	Maldives	Serbia
Antigua and Barbuda		Mali	Seychelles
Argentina	F	Marshall Islands	Sierra Leone
Armenia	Fiji	Mauritania	Somalia
Azerbaijan	G	Mauritius	South Africa
	Gabon	Micronesia, Fed. States of	South Sudan
B	Gambia, the	Moldova	Sri Lanka
Bahrain	Georgia	Mongolia	Sudan
Bangladesh	Ghana	Montenegro	Suriname
Belarus	Grenada	Morocco	Syrian Arab Republic
Belize	Guatemala	Mozambique	
Benin	Guinea	Myanmar	T
Bhutan	Guinea-Bissau		Tajikistan
Bolivia	Guyana	N	Tanzania, United Republic of
Bosnia and Herzegovina		Namibia	Thailand
Botswana	H	Nauru	Togo
Brazil	Haiti	Nepal	Tonga
Burkina Faso	Honduras	Nicaragua	Trinidad and Tobago
Burundi		Niger	Tunisia
	I	Nigeria	Türkiye
C	India	North Macedonia	Turkmenistan
Cabo Verde	Indonesia	O	Tuvalu
Cambodia	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Oman	
Cameroon	Iraq	P	U
Central African Republic	Israel	Pakistan	Uganda
Chad		Palau	Ukraine
China	J	Palestinian Authority	Uruguay
Colombia	Jamaica	Panama	Uzbekistan
Comoros	Jordan	Paraguay	
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	K	Peru	V
Congo, Republic of the	Kazakhstan	Philippines	Vanuatu
Costa Rica	Kenya		Venezuela
Côte d'Ivoire	Kiribati	Q	Viet Nam
Cuba	Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	Qatar	
D	Kuwait	R	Y
Djibouti	Kyrgyzstan	Russian Federation	Yemen
Dominica		Rwanda	
Dominican Republic	L		Z
	Lao, People's Democratic Republic of	S	Zambia
E	Lebanon	Saints Kitts and Nevis	Zimbabwe
East Timor	Lesotho	Saint Lucia	
Ecuador	Liberia	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
Egypt	Libya		
El Salvador			

