

**NOTIFICATION**  
**Pilot modalities for the early submission of statements for SBSTTA 27**

Dear Sir or Madam,

In decision [16/25](#), paragraph 3, and the concurrent COP-MOP decisions [CP-11/5](#) and [NP-5/10](#), the Executive Secretary, together with the Bureaux, was requested to explore ways to facilitate early preparations for meetings, including the early submission of statements.

At its meeting in April 2025, the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) noted the heavy workload of SBSTTA at its twenty-seventh meeting (SBSTTA 27) and discussed modalities to increase the effectiveness of the meeting. The Bureau approved pilot modalities for the early submission of statements for SBSTTA 27 (“the modalities”) at its meeting on 18 September 2025.

The modalities will be implemented on a trial basis for the SBSTTA-27 agenda items on: (a) Biodiversity and agriculture (item 9); and (b) Biodiversity and health (item 10). The details of the modalities are attached to this notification in annex I.

Accordingly, I would like to invite and encourage Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations to participate in this pilot, on a voluntary and informal basis.

Parties and observers registered for SBSTTA 27 may submit written statements on these agenda items, in any of the six official languages of the United Nations, by **19 October 2025 at 11.59 p.m.** (Panama time). Submitters are requested to include, on the first page of their statements, the name of the country or organization, as appropriate, and the agenda item. Statements for these agenda items will be published online as received.

To upload statements, please use the meeting credentials code provided in your Priority Pass, which you will receive upon registration. Kindly upload statements through the following link: [SBSTTA-27 - Documents](#). For further guidance, kindly refer to annex II. Alternatively, early submission of statements can be sent by e-mail to [statements@cbd.int](mailto:statements@cbd.int) with a copy to [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int). Kindly indicate the agenda item to which your statement refers in the subject line of the e-mail.

We will revert to the standard procedure for the uploading and publishing of statements for all other agenda items.

The experience with these pilot modalities will be reviewed through a survey at SBSTTA 27 and reported to the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on implementation for further consideration in line with decision [16/25](#) and related decisions.

Please accept, Sir, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Astrid Schomaker  
Executive Secretary

Enclosures

To: CBD national focal points, Cartagena Protocol focal points, ABS focal points, SBSTTA focal points, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations

## Annex I

### PILOT

#### **MODALITIES FOR THE EARLY SUBMISSION OF STATEMENTS FOR SBSTTA 27**

##### **Introduction**

1. In decision 16/25, paragraph 3, and the concurrent COP-MOP decisions CP-11/5 and NP-5/10, the Executive Secretary, together with the Bureaux, was requested to explore and make use of, as appropriate, relevant ways and means to facilitate early preparations for meetings, such as options for streamlining agendas, peer-reviewing documents in advance and the early submission of statements.

2. At its meeting held from 1 to 3 April 2025, the SBSTTA Bureau noted the need to find ways to manage the heavy workload for SBSTTA 27 and SBSTTA 28 and suggested that statements could be submitted prior to the opening of the SBSTTA meeting as a time-saving measure, as per decision 16/25. Bureau members suggested the possibility of applying this modality to one or two agenda items as pilots at SBSTTA 27 and requested that the Secretariat develop options to enable a trial on this modality for SBSTTA 27, to be further discussed by the Bureau. The Bureau agreed on the modalities at its meeting held on 18 September 2025.

##### **Status of the modalities**

3. The modalities for the early submission of statements for SBSTTA 27 (“the modalities”) have been prepared taking into account that, pursuant to paragraph 15 of decision 16/25 (and decisions CP-11/5 and NP-5/10) early submission of statements is also part of the broad range of issues listed under annex II to SBI recommendation 4/12, which will be considered in the development of options to further improve the effectiveness of the Convention and the Protocols, for a decision by COP 17, upon a recommendation of SBI-6.

4. In this context, the modalities constitute an informal and voluntary process, on a trial basis, not intended to pre-empt the decision of COP 17 on matters related to the early submission of statements.

##### **Objectives of the modalities**

5. The modalities are designed to facilitate effective communication and preparation among Parties and observers, allowing them to informally submit their positions or comments on draft recommendations contained in the pre-session document, in writing prior to formal discussions. This is with a view to exploring whether such an approach can

reduce the amount of time spent on the first reading of an item during formal consideration of the relevant agenda items at SBSTTA 27.

### **Application of the modalities**

6. The modalities will be applied on a trial basis to the SBSTTA 27 agenda items<sup>1</sup> relating to:

- (a) Biodiversity and agriculture (agenda item 9); and
- (b) Biodiversity and health (agenda item 10).

### **Process**

7. The Secretariat will issue a notification, as well as information in the SBSTTA 27 Scenario Note, inviting and encouraging all Parties and observers who are registered for SBSTTA 27 to submit statements, on a voluntary and informal basis, addressing the recommendations in the pre-session documents issued under the above agenda items, by 19 October 2025, 23:59 Panama time.

8. The notification will contain guidelines on how to upload the statements online (or by email<sup>2</sup>) in any of the six United Nations languages. The statements will be published *as is* without any editing or translation by the Secretariat. Parties and observers may submit statements in any of the UN languages. All statements published on the online portal will be available for viewing by all Parties and observers.

9. In the notification, submitters will be requested to include, on the first page of their statements, the name of the country or organization, as appropriate, and the agenda item. Additionally, the statements portal will include a drop-down menu for submitters to fill in the name of the country or organization, and will also contain two separate submission boxes, one for each agenda item.

### **Outcome of the process for the early submission of statements**

#### ***Information documents***

10. The Secretariat will prepare an information document for each agenda item under which statements were received during the informal process. The information document will contain a list of Parties and observers that submitted statements, as well as a link to the

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<sup>1</sup> See the provisional agenda for SBSTTA 27 at <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-27>

<sup>2</sup> The option to send statements by email could be made available for those Parties or observers that may encounter difficulties in uploading their statements on the online portal. The Secretariat would then make those statements available online.

statements portal, and will be submitted to SBSTTA 27, without prejudice to formal deliberations when the respective agenda items are considered.

### ***Entry of statements on record***

11. When the relevant agenda item is taken up for first reading during SBSTTA 27, the Chair can state that unless there are any objections from Parties and observers listed in the information document, their statements will be formally entered on the record. The Chair can also request Parties that wish to do so, to express their support of statements submitted by specific observers.

12. Parties and observers that submitted written statements during the informal process, but wish to revise their statements, will be at liberty to do so in accordance with established meeting procedures. As the early submission of written statements is intended to be a time-saving measure, Parties and observers that participate in this pilot may, if they so wish, consider not delivering an oral statement during the first reading of the particular agenda item at SBSTTA 27.

13. It is acknowledged that Parties and observers that did not submit written statements during the informal process will submit their written and oral statements during the formal meeting as per established meeting procedures.

### ***Preparation of conference room paper***

14. In accordance with normal meeting processes, the Chair, with the agreement of the meeting, and support of the Secretariat, can subsequently prepare a conference room paper (CRP), for each relevant agenda item. The CRP will be based on the statements submitted during the formal meeting, including those entered on record after the informal process, and any oral statements or interventions made during the first reading.

15. If the need arises, the Chair could establish a contact group. However, since the selected items are not expected to be very contentious, the expectation is that a CRP could be created right away.

### ***Outcomes of the overall process***

16. This pilot is being conducted pursuant to the request to the Bureaux in paragraph 3 of decisions 16/25, CP-11/5 and NP-5/10. In this regard, the experiences of the Parties with the proposed system would be compiled, following a survey conducted at SBSTTA 27, and incorporated into the study outcomes of options to further improve the effectiveness of meetings under the Convention and the Protocols (paragraph 15 of the decisions) for further consideration by SBI-6.

## Annex II

Meeting credentials code on the Priority Pass and the statement uploading portal at <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-27>

The screenshot displays the website for the SBSTTA-27 meeting. On the left, a 'PRIORITY PASS' section contains a table with meeting details and a barcode. A yellow callout points to the barcode with the text: 'Where to find the Priority-Pass code (e.g. ABCDE-12345)'. In the center, a 'Statement Submission SBSTTA-27' modal form is open. A red box highlights the 'Priority-Pass Code' field, which contains 'ABCDE-12345'. A yellow callout points to this field with the text: 'Upload statement'. Below the code field, the 'Agenda Item' is set to '9 - Biodiversity and agriculture'. A yellow callout points to this dropdown menu with the text: 'Agenda item drop down'. The form also includes fields for 'File', 'Region', 'Language', and a CAPTCHA. On the right side of the website, there is a 'Statement' upload button and a list of documents.

MEETING	VENUE	DATES
SA-WS-2025-01	PANAMA CITY, PANAMA	18 Oct 2025
Workshop on the assessments adopted by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in 2024 and forthcoming assessments		
SBSTTA-27	PANAMA CITY, PANAMA	20-24 Oct 2025
Twenty-seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice		
SBSTJ-01	PANAMA CITY, PANAMA	27-30 Oct 2025
First meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities		

SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Statement Submission SBSTTA-27

Priority-Pass Code: ABCDE-12345

File: Browse... No file selected.

Agenda Item: 9 - Biodiversity and agriculture

Region: [Dropdown]

Language: English

☐ I'm not a robot

Submit Close

Statement Info links Sort By No document selected