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MEETING OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Online, 9 July 2020

**Annotated provisional agenda**

INTRODUCTION

1. In decision X/15, the Conference of the Parties adopted the mission, goals and objectives of the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2011-2020 and requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism, a work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In decision [XI/2](https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-11/cop-11-dec-02-en.pdf) B, paragraph 11, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the work programme ([UNEP/CBD/COP/11/31](https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-11/official/cop-11-31-en.pdf)) and decided to keep it under review to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, knowledge-sharing and information exchange.
2. In its subsequent decisions, the Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to implement various activities concerning the clearing-house mechanism, the web strategy for the Convention and its Protocols, technical and scientific cooperation and knowledge management in consultation with the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism (decisions [XII/2](https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-12/cop-12-dec-02-en.pdf) B, [XIII/23](https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-23-en.pdf), [14/24 B](https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-24-en.pdf) and [14/25](https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-25-en.pdf)).
3. At its meeting held in Montreal, Canada, from 17 to 19 June 2019, the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the above decisions and made various recommendations to the Executive Secretary ([CBD/CHM/IAC/2019/1/3](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/ea89/40c1/4e69bed6a842482c8b7262d9/chmiac-2019-01-03-en.pdf)).
4. The current meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee will further review the progress made pursuant to the above decisions and its recommendations and provide additional advice to the Executive Secretary, as appropriate. The Committee will also be invited to provide feedback on the relevant draft documents being prepared by the Executive Secretary for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The meeting will be opened at 5 a.m. (EDT) on Thursday, 9 July 2020.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. Adoption of the agenda

1. The Committee will adopt the agenda for the meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda (CBD/CHM/IAC/2020/1/1) prepared by the Executive Secretary.

2.2. Organization of work

1. The Committee will be invited to consider the proposed organization of work contained in annex I below.

ITEM 3. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION

1. The Committee will be invited to consider and provide feedback and advice on draft documents under preparation for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting with respect to knowledge management under the Convention and its Protocols (decision 14/25) and technical and scientific cooperation (decision 14/24 B).

3.1. Knowledge management under the Convention and its Protocols (decision 14/25)

1. In its decision 14/25, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to implement various tasks related to knowledge management under the Convention and its Protocols, in consultation with the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism. Specifically, in paragraph 4 (a) of the decision, the Executive Secretary was requested to continue to implement the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020[[1]](#footnote-1) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[[2]](#footnote-2) with the guidance of the Committee.
2. In paragraphs 4 (f) and 4 (g), the Executive Secretary was also requested to develop, in consultation with the Informal Advisory Committees to the clearing-house mechanism, the Biosafety Clearing-House and the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, a knowledge management component as a part of the preparatory process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The knowledge management component is intended to, inter alia, guide future developments of the clearing-house mechanism, the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and the Biosafety Clearing-House.
3. The Committee considered the above requests at its meeting in June 2019 and made various recommendations, including specific suggestions to improve the draft document on the knowledge management component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework prepared by the Executive Secretary. Following the meeting, the Executive Secretary has further elaborated the document, taking into account the recommendation of the Committee and input from other stakeholders. The updated version of the document will be made available for further review by the Committee under this sub-item. Upon review, the Committee may wish to provide additional advice to the Executive Secretary, as appropriate.

3.2. Technical and scientific cooperation (decision 14/24)

1. In decision 14/24 B, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with partners, to further promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, and to prepare proposals for an inclusive process to review and renew technical and scientific cooperation programmes and submit the proposals for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at their meetings prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In doing so, the Executive Secretary was requested to seek advice from the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-house Mechanism on matters relating to technical and scientific cooperation in accordance with Article 18 of the Convention for the duration of its current mandate (decision 14/24 B, para. 6).
2. Pursuant to the above requests, the Committee at its meeting held in June 2019 reviewed and provided comments on the initial draft proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework prepared by the Executive Secretary, which were updated and submitted to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-third meeting. In its recommendation 23/6, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice took note of the draft proposals and requested the Executive Secretary to further develop them, taking into account views and suggestions from Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and provide a preliminary compilation of relevant institutional arrangements and networks for technical and scientific cooperation relating to different thematic topics.
3. The Executive Secretary has further elaborated the proposals, taking into account the submissions received and input from the Thematic Consultation on Capacity-Building and Technical and Scientific Cooperation for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, held in Rome in March 2020.
4. Under this sub-item, the Committee will be invited to review the revised draft proposals and the preliminary compilation of relevant institutional arrangements and networks for technical and scientific cooperation relating to different thematic topics and provide advice to the Executive Secretary, as appropriate.
5. The Committee will also have before it the draft terms of reference of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation considered by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-third meeting and forwarded for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting.

ITEM 4. UPDATES ON STANDING ITEMS

1. The Committee will be invited to consider the items indicated below and provide the Executive Secretary with advice, as appropriate.

4.1. Award for national clearing-house mechanisms

1. In decision 12/2 B, paragraph 15, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to propose, in collaboration with the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism, a process to grant, at the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, subject to the availability of resources, an award to the Parties that have made the most significant progress in the establishment or further development of their national clearing-house mechanisms.
2. At the thirteenth and fourteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, awards were given to the best clearing-house mechanisms from among the submissions received by the Parties. The award recipients were chosen by the Awards Jury. Gold, silver or bronze status was awarded to the three best national clearing-house mechanisms in the categories of “existing” and “new”. In addition, for each round, certificates of excellence were awarded to those national clearing-houses that the jury felt had made an exceptional effort to develop and maintain a high-quality national clearing‑house.
3. At its meeting held in June 2019, the Committee reviewed the experience of the first and second round of awards. It advised the Executive Secretary to update the criteria issued for the second award process based on the feedback received from members of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism. It also advised that a virtual meeting of the clearing-house mechanism awards jury be convened before the end of October 2020 to select the Award winners.
4. Under this sub-item, the Committee will be invited to review the situation and provide the Executive Secretary with advice, as appropriate.

4.2. Support to national clearing-house mechanisms

1. In decision XIII/23, paragraph 12, the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties to continue their efforts to establish, sustain and further develop effective national clearing-house mechanisms in support of the implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
2. In decision XII/2 B, paragraph 15, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and partners to provide support for developing country Parties that were developing their national clearing-house mechanisms. In paragraph 16 of the same decision, it also invited Parties and donors to continue to provide financial support to establish and strengthen their national clearing-house mechanisms, including for content preparation, and for translation to facilitate the sharing of information and knowledge.
3. Under this item, the Secretariat will summarize the progress made in this regard, including an update on the ongoing development and promotion of the Bioland Tool.

4.3 Partners’ contributions to the clearing-house mechanism

1. To enhance its ability to provide the Executive Secretary with effective guidance on best practices and to recommend further development of the clearing-house mechanism, short presentations will be made by the partner members of the Committee and other relevant stakeholders regarding their contributions to the network and services of the clearing-house mechanism (decision X/15).

4.4 Updates on the work of the informal advisory committees to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and to the Biosafety Clearing-House

1. The Committee will hear a brief update on the relevant work of the Informal Advisory Committees to the Access and Benefit‑sharing Clearing-House and to the Biosafety Clearing-House to enhance the coordination and cross-referencing of ongoing advisory support and guidance provided by the three Committees.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

1. Under this item, the Committee may wish to consider any other matters, such as matters related to the operations of the Committee.

ITEM 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Committee will be invited to formulate general conclusions and recommendations based on the outcomes of the discussions on the various issues considered during the meeting.

ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

1. The meeting is expected to close at 7 a.m. (EDT) on Thursday, 9 July 2020.

*Annex I*

Proposed organization of work

| *Date/time* | Activity |
| --- | --- |
| *Thursday, 9 July 2020* |  |
| 5 a.m. (EDT) | 1. Opening of the meeting   Welcome remarks by the Chair and the Executive Secretary |
| 5.10 – 5.15 a.m. | 1. Organizational matters:    1. Adoption of the agenda;    2. Organization of work. |
| 5.15 – 5.45 a.m.  5:45 – 6:15 a.m. | 1. Issues for in-depth consideration:    1. Knowledge management under the Convention and its Protocols (decision 14/25);    2. Technical and scientific cooperation (decision 14/a4). |
| 6.15 – 6.20 a.m.  6.20 – 6.25 a.m.  6.25 – 6.40 a.m. | 1. Updates on standing items:   4.1 Award for national clearing-house mechanisms;  4.2 Support to national clearing-house mechanisms;  4.3 Partner’s contributions to the clearing-house mechanism;  4.4. Update on the work of the informal advisory committees to the Access and Benefit Sharing Clearing-House and the Biosafety Clearing-House. |
| 6.40 – 6.45 a.m.  6.45 – 7 a.m.  7 a.m. | 1. Additional issues. 2. Conclusions and recommendations. 3. Closure of the meeting. |
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*Annex II*

Provisional list of documents

Meeting documents

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| CBD/CHM/IAC/2020/1/1 | Provisional agenda |
| CBD/CHM/IAC/2020/1/1/Add.1 | Annotated provisional agenda |
| Draft knowledge management component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (decision 14/25) | |
| Revised draft proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post‑2020 global biodiversity framework (decision 14/24) | |
| Preliminary compilation of relevant institutional arrangements and networks for technical and scientific cooperation relating to different thematic topics | |
| Information documents |  |
| Draft terms of reference of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation (recommendation SBSTTA-23/6, annex II) | |
| CBD/CHM/IAC/2019/1/3 | Report on the meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Montreal, Canada, 17-19 June 2019) |

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1. Decision X/2, annex. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)