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OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP
ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL
BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Third meeting

Online, 23 August – 3 September 2021

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

OVERVIEW OF THE CONSULTATIONS CONDUCTED AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED REGARDING THE PREPARATION OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK SINCE THE SECOND MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In decision [14/34](#), the Conference of the Parties set out the process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The process called for consultations including but not limited to online discussion forums and global, regional and thematic workshops. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties and invited other Governments and stakeholders to “actively engage and contribute to the process of developing a robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework in order to foster strong ownership of the framework to be agreed and strong support for its immediate implementation. Pursuant to this decision, several consultation processes have been undertaken or initiated by the Secretariat and the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in collaboration with various partners. The consultation processes undertaken to date have benefited from the support of many Parties and organizations, including Austria, Australia, Brazil, Canada, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Serbia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Uruguay, as well as the African Union, the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

2. The first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework was held in Nairobi from 27 to 30 August 2019.¹ Pursuant to a request from the Working Group, a zero draft² of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, was prepared and discussed at the second meeting of the Working Group, held in Rome from 24 to 29 February 2020.³ An updated zero draft⁴ was published on 17 August 2020, taking into account the outcomes of the second meeting of the Working Group.

* CBD/WG2020/3/1.

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/WG2020-01>.

² [CBD/WG/2020/2/3](#).

³ <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/WG2020-02>.

⁴ [CBD/POST2020/PREP/2/1](#).

3. The present document, prepared in collaboration with the Co-Chairs, provides an overview of the work undertaken by the Secretariat and the Co-Chairs since the second meeting of the Working Group.
4. Section II provides information on the written submissions received in response to notifications. Section III provides information on the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and the second edition of the *Local Biodiversity Outlooks*. Section IV provides information on the meetings of the subsidiary bodies under the Convention. Section V provides information on the consultation meetings and other events organized by the Secretariat and its partners. Section VI provides information on relevant webinars on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework organized by the Secretariat and the Co-Chairs. Section VII provides an overview of special virtual sessions and relevant information briefings relevant to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework organized under the guidance of the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies. Section VIII provides information on the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity. Section IX provides an overview of relevant meetings facilitated by Parties and other organizations.
5. The Secretariat and Co-Chairs will continue to organize events in the lead-up to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as relevant and appropriate, to keep Parties and observers informed and to maintain momentum.

II. SUBMISSIONS OF VIEWS AND PEER REVIEW

6. At its first meeting, the Working Group invited Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders to submit to the Executive Secretary proposals on the structure of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.⁵ General submissions on the zero draft and updated zero draft have been received on a rolling basis. Further, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, requested the Executive Secretary to invite Parties and observer to participate in the review process of several draft documents related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The submissions and peer review comments received in response to these invitations are compiled at <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/submissions> along with the earlier submissions received.

III. GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK AND LOCAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOKS

7. In decision [14/35](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, including a summary for policymakers.⁶ The *Outlook* was launched on 15 September 2020 during the joint special virtual sessions of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. The report synthesizes comprehensive evidence of the growing biodiversity crisis and the urgent need for action and outlines eight major transitions needed to reach new targets by 2030, and the route to achieve the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature. The *Outlook* offers an integrated overview of the achievements and shortfalls of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, examines causes of biodiversity and ecosystem change, the implications for people, and policy options based on programmes worldwide that demonstrate successful approaches. The report also examines the essential links between biodiversity and other global agendas, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁷ and the Paris Agreement.⁸

8. In its decision [XIII/29](#), the Conference of the Parties, requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments and indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant partners, to prepare a second edition of the *Local Biodiversity Outlooks: Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Contributions to the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020*.⁹ The *Local Biodiversity Outlooks* was launched on 16 September 2020 during the special virtual sessions of the

⁵ See [CBD/WG/2020/1/5](#), sect. I, para. 3.

⁶ See <https://www.cbd.int/gbo5>

⁷ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

⁸ Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, No. 54113).

⁹ See <https://www.cbd.int/gbo5/local-biodiversity-outlooks-2>

Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. The report complements the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* by showcasing many local initiatives being led by indigenous peoples and local communities that contribute significantly to the successful implementation of the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The report also outlines the aspirations and ambitions of indigenous peoples and local communities for the new global framework for biodiversity.

IV. MEETINGS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES UNDER THE CONVENTION

9. Two virtual informal sessions were held from 17 to 26 February and 8 to 14 March 2021 in preparation for the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, respectively. Due to their informal nature, the sessions were not negotiations and did not lead to formal substantive outcomes or decisions, but they reduced the time needed for the first formal readings of texts under agenda items, which took into account and built upon statements and submissions made during the informal sessions.

10. The formal online sessions of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation were held from 3 May to 13 June 2021. During the meetings, priority was given to items directly related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the work of the third meeting of the Working Group to allow for the timely development of a high-quality framework. This included item 3 of the agenda of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and item 5 of the agenda of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as other items of the agenda of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation that were relevant for the preparation of the framework, such as item 6 on resource mobilization and the financial mechanism, item 7 on capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge management, and communication, item 9 on mechanisms for reporting, assessment, and review of implementation, and item 11 on mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors and other strategic actions to enhance implementation. The Chairs of the two subsidiary bodies have conveyed the outcomes of these meetings to the Co-Chairs of the Working Group.

V. CONSULTATION MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE SECRETARIAT AND ITS PARTNERS

11. Since the second meeting of the Working Group, the Secretariat, in collaboration with its partners and under the guidance of the Co-Chairs, has organized several meetings related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. These meetings were:

(a) Thematic Consultation on Capacity-building and Technical and Scientific Cooperation for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Rome, 1-2 March 2020;¹⁰

(b) Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, Montreal, Canada, 17-20 March 2020;¹¹

(c) Fourteenth meeting of the Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, online, 20-23 April 2020;¹²

(d) Thematic Consultation on the Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, online, including a first webinar on 27 July 2020, an online survey from

¹⁰ <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/POST2020-WS-2020-02>

¹¹ <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/DSI-AHTEG-2020-01>

¹² <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/CP-LG-2020-01>

27 July to 17 August 2020, an online forum from 7 to 11 September 2020, and a second webinar from 6 to 8 October 2020;¹³

(e) Second Global Thematic Dialogue for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, online, 1-3 December 2020;¹⁴

(f) Eleventh meeting of the Biosafety Clearing House Informal Advisory Committee (BCH-IAC), online, 1-4 December 2020.¹⁵

VI. WEBINARS ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

12. To provide further information on key elements of and issues related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the Secretariat and the Co-Chairs have organized several webinars. Webinars convened are the following:

(a) Information briefing on a draft outline of a new gender plan of action for the post-2020 period, online, 12 August 2020;

(b) Webinars on the long-term approach to mainstreaming biodiversity and the role of subnational governments and local authorities in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, online, 23 September 2020 and 7 October 2020;¹⁶

(c) Webinar on Regional Seas Programmes and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, online, 1 October 2020;¹⁷

(d) Understanding digital sequence information on genetic resources: a technical overview of its production, distribution and use, online, 1 December 2020;¹⁸

(e) Process and recent outcomes related to digital sequence information on genetic resources under the Convention on Biological Diversity, online, 9 December 2020;¹⁹

(f) Stakeholder Open Webinar – Exploring Linkages Between Climate Change and Biodiversity for the Development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, online, 12 January 2021;²⁰

(g) Policy Options for Access and Benefit-sharing and Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, online, 11 February 2021;²¹

(h) Stakeholder Open Webinar – Sustainable Agriculture, Food Systems Transition, and Nature: Linkages to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity, online, 23 March 2021;²²

(i) Fifth Science-Policy Forum for Biodiversity and the Eighth International Conference on Sustainability Science, online, 13-23 April 2021;²³

¹³ <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/POST2020-WS-2020-04>

¹⁵ <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/BCH-IAC-11>

¹⁶ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2020/ntf-2020-072-localauthority-en.pdf>

¹⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2020/ntf-2020-076-post2020-en.pdf>

¹⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/article/dsi-webinar-series-2020>

¹⁹ <https://www.cbd.int/article/dsi-webinar-series-2020>

²⁰ This webinar marked the first in a series of stakeholder open webinars organized by the Co-Chairs with support from the Secretariat to informally explore with Parties and stakeholders key concepts and issues for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (see <https://www.cbd.int/article/stakeholder-open-webinar-climate-2021>).

²¹ <https://www.cbd.int/article/dsi-webinar-series-2020>

²² <https://www.cbd.int/article/stakeholder-open-webinar-agrifood-2021>

²³ <https://science4biodiversity.org/>

(j) Webinar and Discussion Forum on Criteria to Consider Policy Options on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, online, 21 April 2021 (webinar), 21 April to 2 May 2021 (forum);²⁴

(k) Online workshop – The Financial Sector and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, online, 17-18 June 2021.²⁵

VII. SPECIAL VIRTUAL SESSIONS AND RELEVANT INFORMATION BRIEFINGS ORGANIZED UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES

13. Prior to the informal and formal sessions of twenty-fourth meeting the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and of the third meeting Subsidiary Body on Implementation, the Secretariat, under the guidance of the Chairs of the two subsidiary bodies, convened special virtual sessions of the subsidiary bodies to provide relevant information and keep up momentum in the post-2020 process:

(a) Special joint virtual sessions of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, 15-18 September 2020, including special sessions on the launch of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, online, 15 September 2020, and the launch of the second edition of the *Local Biodiversity Outlooks*, online, 16 September 2020, and on the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, online, 18 September 2020;²⁶

(b) Special virtual session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on Biodiversity, One Health and COVID-19, online, 15-16 December 2020.²⁷

14. Furthermore, a series of information webinars were organized under the guidance of the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies to provide relevant Parties and other stakeholders with information on the post-2020 process and facilitate discussions at the subsidiary body meetings. Webinars convened are the following:

(a) Webinar on SBSTTA-24 agenda item 3 (post-2020 global biodiversity framework) for Asia and the Pacific, online, 2 July 2020;

(b) Webinar on SBSTTA-24 agenda item 3 (post-2020 global biodiversity framework) the Americas, online, 3 July 2020;

(c) Webinar on SBSTTA-24 agenda item 3 (post-2020 global biodiversity framework) for Western, Central and Eastern Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, online, 7 July 2020;

(d) Briefing webinar 1 on SBI-3 agenda item 5 relating to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, online, 19 January 2021;²⁸

(e) Briefing webinar 2 on SBI-3 agenda item 9 on enhancing reporting and review mechanisms with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention, of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, online, 21 January 2021;²⁹

(f) Briefing webinar 3 on SBSTTA-24 agenda item 3 on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: scientific and technical information to support the review of the updated goals and targets, and related indicators and baselines, online, 26 January 2021;³⁰

²⁴ <https://www.cbd.int/article/dsi-webinar-series-2020>

²⁵ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2021/ntf-2021-029-financial-en.pdf>

²⁶ <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-SBI-SS-01>

²⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-SBI-SS-02>

²⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBI-OM-2021-01>

²⁹ <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBI-OM-2021-02>

³⁰ <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-OM-2021-01>

(g) Briefing webinar 4 (part 1) on SBSTTA-24 agenda items 4, 5 and 6: 4 (synthetic biology), 5 (risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms), and 6 (marine and coastal biodiversity), online, 28 January 2021;³¹

(h) Briefing webinar 4 (part 2) on SBSTTA-24 agenda items 7 (biodiversity and agriculture), 8 (programme of work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services), 9 (biodiversity and health) and 10 (invasive alien species), 2 February 2021.³²

VIII. UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT ON BIODIVERSITY

15. The United Nations Summit on Biodiversity was convened by the President of the General Assembly on 30 September 2020 at the level of Heads of State and Government under the theme of “urgent action on biodiversity for sustainable development.”³³ Further to General Assembly resolution 74/269, the Summit provided a unique opportunity to demonstrate ambition to accelerate action on biodiversity for sustainable development, providing critical momentum to the development and eventual adoption of an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework.³⁴ The Summit was held online and consisted of an opening segment, a plenary segment for general discussion, two leaders’ dialogues on “Addressing biodiversity loss and mainstreaming biodiversity for sustainable development” and “Harnessing science, technology and innovation, capacity-building, access and benefit-sharing, financing and partnerships for biodiversity”, and a brief closing segment. Two spillover events were organized by the President of the General Assembly to accommodate statements of Member States. As an initiative of the President of the General Assembly, the Summit also provided an online platform “Voices for Nature”, which featured statements, messages and commitments from a wider range of stakeholders.

IX. CONSULTATIONS AND MEETINGS FACILITATED BY PARTIES AND OTHERS

16. Through decision 14/34, Parties and others were encouraged to facilitate dialogues on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to make the results of these dialogues available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and other appropriate means. Dialogues and meetings convened since the second meeting of the Working Group include:

(a) The Edinburgh Process for Subnational and Local Governments on the Development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework,³⁵ online, from 30 April 2020 to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the related 7th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments;³⁶

(b) Capacity-building trainings for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, two series of global workshops, online, 18-27 September 2020 and 6-15 November 2020;³⁷

³¹ <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-OM-2021-02>

³² <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-OM-2021-03>

³³ <https://www.un.org/pga/75/united-nations-summit-on-biodiversity/>

³⁴ The official summary report can be accessed here: <https://www.un.org/pga/75/wp-content/uploads/sites/100/2020/11/Summary-Biodiversity-Summit-4-November-clearedFINAL-002.pdf>

³⁵ This online consultative process replaced the Workshop of Subnational, Regional and Local Governments on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom, 1-3 April 2020, which could not be held in a physical setting due to the global pandemic.

³⁶ Organized by the Scottish Government and partners, <https://www.gov.scot/publications/global-biodiversity-framework-edinburgh-process---information/>, www.biodiversityworkshop2020.scot, and <https://subnationaladvocacyfornature.org/>

³⁷ Organized by the Global Youth Biodiversity Network with the support of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund, <https://4post2020bd.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/EN-Welcome-Package-2020.pdf>

- (c) Digital Dialogue - ABS beyond 2020: Emerging issues for business, online, 5 November 2020;³⁸
- (d) Online exchange on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and Sustainable Food Systems, online, 26 November 2020;³⁹
- (e) Expert Workshop on integrating gender-specific indicators in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, online, 17 December 2020;
- (f) Workshop of Biodiversity-related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Bern II), online, 18 January to 2 February 2021;⁴⁰
- (g) Online workshop on trade and biodiversity for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, online, 24 March 2021;⁴¹
- (h) Transforming agri-food systems for biodiversity and sustainable development, online, 13 April 2021.⁴²

³⁸ Organized by UEBT Union for Ethical Biobased Trade in collaboration with the ABS Capacity Development Initiative. <https://www.ethicalbiobasedtrade.org/sourcing-with-respect-uebt-digital-dialogues-2020/2020/11/5/abs-beyond-2020-emerging-issues-for-business>

³⁹ Co-convened by Costa Rica, Switzerland, WWF, the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT.

⁴⁰ Organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Government of Switzerland, this consultation was held in a virtual setting. The original workshop was to have been held in Bern in March 2020 and was postponed because of the global pandemic. <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/workshop/bern-ii-consultation-workshop-biodiversity-related-conventions-post-2020-global>, <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/workshop/bern-ii-consultation-workshop-biodiversity-related-conventions-post-2020-global> and <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/brc-ws>

⁴¹ Organized by the UNCTAD Biobased Trade programme. <https://unctad.org/meeting/online-workshop-trade-and-biodiversity-post-2020-global-biodiversity-framework>

⁴² Organized by Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework EU Support. <https://4post2020bd.net/agri-food-systems-webinar/>