



Convention on Biological Diversity

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25 November 2020

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Second extraordinary meeting
(resumed session)

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
SERVING AS THE MEETING OF
THE PARTIES TO THE
CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON
BIOSAFETY
First extraordinary meeting
(resumed session)

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
SERVING AS THE MEETING OF
THE PARTIES TO THE NAGOYA
PROTOCOL ON ACCESS TO
GENETIC RESOURCES AND
THE FAIR AND EQUITABLE
SHARING OF BENEFITS
ARISING FROM THEIR
UTILIZATION
First extraordinary meeting
(resumed session)

Montreal (Online), 25-27 November 2020

OPENING COMMUNICATION BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE RESUMED SESSIONS

Excellencies, distinguished representatives,

I would like to welcome all delegates to the resumed session of the second extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the resumed session of the first extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the resumed session of the first extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.

These resumed sessions are convened further to my last communication (CBD/ExCOP/2/L.4, CBD/CP/ExMOP/1/L.4, and CBD/NP/ExMOP/1/L.4). As noted in the communication, the extraordinary meetings were suspended to allow consultations among Parties on the matter that caused the silence to be broken and the adoption of the decisions on the proposed interim budget for 2021 to be deferred. Accordingly, the necessary consultations, facilitated by the Presidency and the Bureau, were held over the last few days. In that context, I would like to specify the following:

Item 1. Opening of the meetings (resumed sessions)

I am pleased to officially open, through this communication, the resumed sessions of the second extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the first extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, and the first extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.

Item 2. Organizational matters

Organization of work

These resumed sessions of the extraordinary meetings are being held remotely through a written silence procedure from today, Wednesday, 25 November 2020 at 7 a.m. Montreal time (UTC 12 noon) to Friday, 27 November 2020 at 7 a.m. Montreal time (UTC 12 noon), for a silence period of 48 hours, as specified in my last communication.

Item 3. Report on the credentials of representatives of Parties

According to records compiled by the Secretariat, 136 Parties to the Convention, 119 Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and 92 Parties to the Nagoya Protocol are registered for the second extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the first extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the first extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.

The Bureau reviewed the credentials of representatives, through its designated credentials officer, Ms. Helena Brown, the Bureau member from Antigua and Barbuda, and wishes to report, in accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure, that, as of 23 November 2020, the representatives of 96 Parties to the Convention, 84 Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, and 64 Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, have submitted credentials that meet the requirements of rule 18 of the rules of procedure.

I would like to remind those representatives that have not yet submitted their credentials or not submitted valid credentials to do so as soon as possible and no later than 26 November 2020 at 1 p.m. Montreal time (UTC 6 p.m.). As indicated previously, representatives may send to the Secretariat a scanned copy of their credentials that fulfil the requirements of rule 18 of the rules of procedure.

Item 4. Proposed interim budget for 2021

Following consultations held in order to resolve the issue that caused the extraordinary meetings to be suspended, I am pleased to resubmit, with no change, the draft decisions on the interim budget for 2021 that are available on the webpage of the extraordinary meetings at this link: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/excop-2020> for consideration and adoption by representatives.

The representative of Brazil is making the following statement and is requesting that it be included in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on its second extraordinary meeting:

“The approval of the budget is without prejudice to the format and organization of work of negotiating sessions of the SBSTTA and SBI. We note that there is currently no consensus among CBD Parties on the convenience and feasibility of holding formal virtual meetings and negotiations”.

As stated in my opening communication issued on Monday last week, the draft decisions are the outcome of review and consultation by the informal group on the budget that was established under the guidance of the Bureau. On behalf of the Bureau and on my own behalf, I would like to thank, once again, Ambassador Spencer Thomas of Grenada for efficiently coordinating and facilitating the work of the informal group.

The draft decisions (CBD/ExCOP/2/L.2, CBD/CP/ExMOP/1/L.2 and CBD/NP/ExMOP/1/L.2) are hereby placed under the silence procedure until 7 a.m. Montreal time (UTC 12 noon) on Friday, 27 November 2020. Comments, if any, may be directed, by or through a head of delegation, to the Executive Secretary at executivesecretary@cbd.int.

Item 5. Adoption of the report

Further to paragraph 22 of the annotated provisional agendas, all my communications, including the current one, constitute an outline of the report on the extraordinary meetings, including the resumed sessions of these meetings. The report on each meeting (CBD/ExCOP/2/L.1, CBD/CP/ExMOP/1/L.1 and

CBD/NP/ExMOP/1/L.1) will be circulated with my last communication that will be conveyed to representatives at the end of the 48 hours on Friday, 27 November 2020, at 8 a.m. Montreal time (UTC 1 p.m.), at which time they will be considered adopted.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Yasmine **Fouad**
President, Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on Biological Diversity