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Subsidiary Body on Implementation

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Item 9 of the provisional agenda*

Review of the effectiveness of the processes under the Convention and its Protocols

Options for further improving the effectiveness of meetings under the Convention and its Protocols**

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Conference of the Parties 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, in decisions [16/25](#), [CP-11/5](#) and [NP-5/10](#), respectively, adopted several measures to improve the effectiveness of meetings under the Convention and its Protocols.

2. In the same decisions, the Executive Secretary was requested to enable consultations with Parties, Bureau members, partners and stakeholders, with the support of qualified external experts, as appropriate, to continue to develop options for further improving the effectiveness of meetings under the Convention and its Protocols and to submit such proposals for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its sixth meeting, with a view to developing draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocols, taking into account recommendation [4/12](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, including the compilation of submissions contained in annex II to the recommendation.

3. Accordingly, the present document contains an overview of the implementation of the measures adopted in decisions [16/25](#), [CP-11/5](#) and [NP-5/10](#) (sect. II), information on the views received from Parties and observers in response to notifications Nos. [2025-112](#) and [2025-124](#) on options to further improve the effectiveness of meetings under the Convention and its Protocols (sect. III), information on relevant measures in other multilateral environmental agreements and United Nations processes (sect. IV), an update on the decision-tracking tool under the Convention (sect. V) and some elements of proposed recommendations for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (sect. VI).

* [CBD/SBI/6/1](#).

** The present document is being issued without formal editing.

II. Overview of the implementation of decisions 16/25, CP-11/5 and NP-5/10

4. Following the adoption, in November 2024, of decisions [16/25](#), [CP-11/5](#) and [NP-5/10](#) on options to improve the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols, the Secretariat has taken several steps to implement the decisions, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as appropriate. The actions taken include the following:

5. Scenario notes, with detailed organization of work, were prepared for the twenty-seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice ([CBD/SBSTTA/27/1/Add.2](#)) and the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities ([CBD/SB8J/1/1/Add.2/Rev.1](#)).¹ Furthermore, deadlines for the publication of documents were met for both meetings, in relation to the English language versions of the documents, with some minor delays encountered for the other official language versions;²

(a) A pool of prospective co-chairs of contact groups for each of the two subsidiary body meetings were identified in advance of the meetings. Training sessions on managing multilateral negotiations were carried out for the prospective co-chairs, online on 2 October 2025 and in-person in Panama City, on 17 October 2025, in coordination with the Centre for Multilateral Negotiations.³ Using a pool of prospective co-chairs for contact groups will continue to depend upon the pre-identified individuals being duly nominated and included by their Governments in their delegations and being present at the meeting;

(b) As the two subsidiary body meetings were held back-to-back in October 2025, a free day was scheduled between the two meetings. Similarly, for each of these meetings, no sessions were scheduled beyond 13 hours from the start of the first open-ended meeting of the day.⁴ Efforts were also made, to limit the number of sessions of contact groups held in parallel taking into account that only one delegate per eligible Party was funded.⁵ In a few instances, in particular for the twenty-seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, parallel sessions of contact groups had to be held in order to complete consideration of agenda items.

6. Under the guidance of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat is developing an online calendar of activities and actions expected in the course of 2026.⁶ Following the conclusion of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Protocols in February 2025, the Secretariat, through notifications Nos. [2025-075](#), [2025-063](#) and [2025-068](#), provided Parties with an overview of intersessional meetings for the 2025–2026 biennium.

7. Furthermore, planning tables were made available on the website of the Convention in preparation for the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,⁷ the sixth and seventh meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation,⁸ the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities,⁹ the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol,¹⁰ and the

¹ Decisions [16/25](#), [CP-11/5](#) and [NP-5/10](#), paras. 2 and 14.

² *Ibid.*, para. 13 (a).

³ *Ibid.*, paras. 8 and 9.

⁴ *Ibid.*, paras. 6 and 7.

⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 4.

⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 13 (c).

⁷ See www.cbd.int/sbstta/preparation.

⁸ See www.cbd.int/sbi/preparation.

⁹ See www.cbd.int/sb8j/preparation.

¹⁰ See bch.cbd.int/protocol/COPMOP12prep.shtml.

sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.¹¹

8. With regard to paragraph 5 of decisions [16/25](#), [CP-11/5](#) and [NP-5/10](#), the Secretariat conducted a survey to collect information on participation support mechanisms under other Multilateral Environment Agreements, to comply with decision [14/37](#), in which the Executive Secretary was requested to present a proposal to revise the structure and rules related to the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating the Participation of Parties in the Convention Process, and to report on progress in designing measures to raise the visibility of the Trust Fund and its attractiveness for donors, drawing on experience from similar trust funds in other international forums. The results of the survey will be provided in document [CBD/SBI/6/INF/9](#).

9. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with and under the guidance of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, will submit the requested proposal and report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its seventh meeting, for subsequent consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

10. As requested in paragraph 3 of decisions [16/25](#), [CP-11/5](#) and [NP-5/10](#), the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice agreed on pilot modalities for the early submission of statements to be applied to two agenda items of the twenty-seventh meeting of that Subsidiary Body. The details of the modalities were communicated to Parties and observers through notification No. [2025-120](#). The aim of the pilot was to determine whether written interventions submitted in advance could streamline discussions during the first reading of agenda items and enhance efficiency.

11. Following the implementation of the modalities at the meeting, an online survey was conducted by the Secretariat, from 23 October to 28 October 2025, to obtain views on the effectiveness of the modalities from Parties and observers registered for the meeting. A total of 32 survey responses were received following the meeting: 25 from Parties and 7 from observers. The detailed results of the survey will be provided in document [CBD/SBI/6/INF/10](#). The results of the survey were also reported to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

12. In summary, respondents generally agreed that the pilot helped streamline the first readings of agenda items. Several Parties and observers described the pilot as efficient and time-saving, helping to avoid repetition and shorten plenary interventions. Some Party respondents indicated that early written statements were useful for certain agenda items but not suitable for all.

13. A few Party respondents highlighted that the early-submission process had limited use when many delegations preferred to intervene in plenary. They recommended broader participation of both Parties and observers to strengthen the modalities and its results. One Party respondent noted that group or regional statements were often only finalized shortly before meetings, making early submission difficult, and proposed that regional technical-support centres could help coordinate them. Some respondents reported technical challenges, such as temporary delays in uploading statements, unstable Internet connections, and time-zone and language challenges.

14. Feedback from the Secretariat staff involved in the pilot indicated that having access to statements earlier significantly facilitated the preparation of the conference room papers for the relevant agenda items. In particular, early access enabled the production of the conference room papers sooner than would have been feasible if all statements had been considered only after the first reading. While the total time required to develop the conference room paper was not substantially different, the key improvement was the faster progression of the conference room paper process following the first reading.

15. Early submission of statements also facilitated internal clearance, as well as editorial and translation services. During the first reading of one of the agenda items under the pilot, Parties and

¹¹ www.cbd.int/abs/cop-mop/prep.shtml.

observers generally maintained the intent expressed in their early statements, which proved especially helpful for the preparation of the conference room paper.

III. Submissions from Parties and observers on options to further improve the effectiveness of meetings under the Convention and its Protocols

16. In response to notifications Nos. [2025-112](#) and [2025-124](#) issued by the Executive Secretary on 4 September and 3 October 2025, respectively, three written submissions were received from Parties¹² and two from observer organizations representing indigenous peoples and local communities.¹³ The submissions are available online.¹⁴ Collectively, the submitters highlighted some challenges and opportunities, including options, related to agenda management, documentation, facilitation, inclusiveness, the use of digital tools and institutional coordination. The options arising from the submissions¹⁵ are set out below, along with relevant considerations.

1. Options on management of the agenda and length of draft decisions

(a) Submissions

17. Improvements suggested by submitters included the following:

(a) Two Parties proposed improving the management of meeting agendas, including through clustering or combining related items to reduce duplication between subsidiary bodies and governing bodies, and taking note of non-decision items without extended debate;

(b) One Party proposed limiting the length and redundancy of draft recommendations and decisions, including restricting preambular paragraphs to those strictly necessary and avoiding restatement of past decisions;

(c) One Party suggested that when an agenda item has already been addressed by a subsidiary body, first readings at meetings of the Conference of the Parties should be avoided, allowing work to proceed directly to negotiating text.

(b) Considerations

18. Streamlining of agendas is intended to, inter alia, reduce repetitive discussions. Although clustering related agenda items may likely allow better use of limited negotiating time, it should be done carefully, taking into consideration the compatibility of the agenda items that are proposed for clustering. Similarly, reducing the length of draft decisions, for clearer and more focused outcomes, requires the exercise of appropriate discipline in the drafting of recommendations presented in pre-session documents, as well as those arising from subsidiary body meetings. Overall, the efficient management of the agenda and length of draft decisions requires concerted efforts from the Secretariat, the Bureau, Parties and observers.

19. The Secretariat notes that in the long term, the strategic abandonment of dormant agenda items and the introduction of sunset measures for items that routinely fail to reach conclusion, could help prevent the indefinite repetition of unresolved issues and shift institutional attention towards outcome-oriented work. The benefit would be a more disciplined and results-focused agenda. However, sunset mechanisms may be sensitive where unresolved items relate to fundamental equity or sovereignty concerns, and their application would require clear procedural safeguards to ensure that substantively important matters are not closed prematurely.

¹² Canada, Mexico and Niger.

¹³ Aotearoa Indigenous Rights Trust (AIR Trust) and Nepal Indigenous Nationalities Preservation Association.

¹⁴ See www.cbd.int/notifications/2025-112.

¹⁵ Proposals which are already covered under decisions [16/24](#) and [16/25](#) and the concurrent decisions of the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols are not included in the present section.

2. Options on facilitation, training and conduct of meetings

(a) Submissions

20. Under this topic, suggestions from submitters included the following:

(a) One Party suggested piloting the use of professional facilitators, where appropriate, to assist chairs in managing complex or sensitive discussions;

(b) One observer proposed the inclusion of indigenous representatives among potential co-facilitators for items on traditional knowledge, access and benefit-sharing and rights-related matters;

(c) One Party expressed the need for consistent guidance on when and how to introduce new text, on the use of on-screen text in rooms and on the balance between Party-developed text and secretariat-prepared drafts;

(d) One Party was of the view that asking Parties to generate decision text from scratch may lengthen processes and preferred secretariat drafts built from early Party inputs.

(b) Considerations

21. The above proposals reflect the need to improve the predictability and quality of the conduct of meetings. The suggestion to pilot the use of professional facilitators indicates an interest in introducing specialized expertise, although such an approach may entail financial cost, questions about mandate and neutrality, and the need to ensure that facilitation remains under Party-led oversight. Divergent views on whether Parties or the Secretariat should generate initial draft text suggest differing understandings of efficiency and ownership. Enhanced guidance on the introduction of new text and the use of on-screen tools could improve consistency but may also require investments in training and technology.

3. Options on participation and inclusiveness

(a) Submissions

22. Issues highlighted by submitters included the following:

(a) One Party proposed the strengthening of financial and logistical support for developing countries, least developed countries and indigenous peoples and local communities, including a simplified meeting accreditation process and targeted assistance, taking into consideration that inclusiveness is a core element of effectiveness;

(b) One observer suggested that there should be meaningful engagement beyond attendance, including speaking rights for representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities in relevant contact groups;

(c) One observer also suggested that the Secretariat hold pre-meeting briefings with indigenous caucuses before governing and subsidiary body meetings and that time be allocated on agendas for caucus consultations;

(d) One Party noted that effectiveness should not only be understood in terms of efficiency but also in relation to fairness and equity;

(e) One observer indicated that effectiveness must also encompass respect for indigenous decision-making systems.

(b) Considerations

23. The submissions indicate that effective participation is conditioned not only by physical presence but also by the ability to engage meaningfully. Requests for strengthened financial and logistical support reflect persistent structural barriers that may disproportionately affect developing countries, least developed countries and indigenous peoples and local communities. The proposals for agenda time dedicated to caucus coordination and pre-meeting briefings may extend the

preparatory burden on the Secretariat and would require careful scheduling to avoid increasing the workload of small delegations. Enhancing inclusiveness therefore appears to involve both operational improvements and broader considerations of representation, support structures and negotiation culture. In particular, an inclusive negotiation culture requires the exercise of appropriate discipline in the conduct of the meeting and ensuring that speaking time limits are observed strictly. These issues, while central to legitimacy, may require continued attention and resources over multiple intersessional periods.

4. Options on the use of technology and innovation

(a) Submissions

24. Improvements proposed by submitters included the following:

(a) One Party and one observer proposed piloting collaborative online text tools, secure electronic systems for tabling textual proposals, real-time polling and other information and communications technology, ensuring equal access, security and confidentiality, with inclusive testing that involved users from indigenous peoples and local communities;

(b) One Party recommended systematically uploading submissions and official correspondence to the Biosafety Clearing-House and the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House mechanisms to enhance transparency and reduce inequalities in access to information;

(c) One observer suggested further enhancements to the decision-tracking tool and internal search functions.

(b) Considerations

25. The submissions above reflect considerable interest in using digital tools to enhance efficiency and transparency but also highlight unequal capacity to benefit from such innovations. Although collaborative online text tools, secure electronic submission systems and real-time polling could reduce plenary time and improve clarity, their effective use depends on stable connectivity, access to devices and the digital literacy of participants. Ensuring confidentiality and data security may also require investment in specialized platforms rather than reliance on commercially available tools. The interest in technological solutions therefore reflects potential benefits but also reveals persistent disparities that could be exacerbated if innovations are adopted without measures to ensure equitable access and adequate support for all users, including those from remote regions or institutions with limited digital infrastructure.

5. Options on institutional coordination and follow-up mechanisms

(a) Submissions

26. Proposals by submitters included the following:

(a) One Party proposed stronger coordination between the governing and subsidiary bodies, including clustering related items and establishing joint working groups where mandates intersect, in particular between the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols;

(b) One Party suggested the need for predictable and equitable financial arrangements to support regular participation of all focal points across the Convention and the Protocols, noting that different institutional locations may result in uneven access to resources. The Party expressed the view that without dedicated funding to support participation, the requisite technical expertise for discussions on issues under the respective bodies could be missing at relevant meetings. The same Party noted that there were challenges with the timely endorsement and transmission of national submissions and encouraged pragmatic Secretariat guidance to streamline domestic coordination while meeting deadlines;

(c) One observer proposed the reinforcement of conflict-of-interest management consistent with existing procedures and expanding expert disclosure to cover relationships relevant to indigenous rights, traditional knowledge and digital sequence information.

(b) Considerations

27. Submitters identified several structural issues relating to coordination, national-level processes and the integrity of expert engagement. Strengthening alignment between governing and subsidiary bodies may reduce duplication but would require clear mandates, sustained communication across bodies and careful management of cross-cutting agenda items. Proposals for predictable financial arrangements for focal points highlight disparities that affect representation, in particular in areas requiring specialized technical expertise. However, establishing dedicated budget lines may require consideration of resource allocation and long-term sustainability.

28. Challenges related to the endorsement of national submissions relate to domestic coordination matters that cannot be resolved by the Secretariat. Suggestions to reinforce conflict-of-interest procedures reflect a desire for increased transparency and could contribute to trust-building, although broadening disclosures may raise questions about scope, confidentiality and administrative burden. The proposals collectively demonstrate an interest in enhancing coherence and integrity within institutional processes while revealing potential implementation challenges that would require sustained attention and support.

IV. Review of relevant measures in other multilateral environmental agreements and United Nations processes

29. In accordance with paragraph 15 of decisions [16/25](#), [CP-11/5](#) and [NP-5/10](#), the Secretariat, with the assistance of a consultant, undertook a comparative review of practices applied in other multilateral environmental agreements and United Nations bodies aimed at improving the efficiency, coherence and inclusiveness of their meetings, as shown in annex I to the present document.

30. The information was collected from official reports and decisions adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention).

31. The experiences reviewed illustrate a range of procedural and institutional mechanisms that may be considered in the development of options to improve the management of meetings, as well as the quality of deliberations and outcomes.

32. Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, regular coordination meetings among presiding officers of meetings are convened to shape a common vision and identify priorities for forthcoming sessions, aiming towards better alignment of strategies for organizing the work of the governing and subsidiary bodies.¹⁶ The Global Stocktake established under Article 14 of the Paris Agreement provides a multi-year cycle for collecting information, conducting technical assessments and considering outputs, thus offering a structured and coordinated framework for assessing collective progress, and prevents fragmented discussions on implementation and progress.¹⁷

¹⁶ UNFCCC, *Approaches to and opportunities for increasing the efficiency of the UNFCCC process, including visualization of options for streamlining the agendas of the governing and subsidiary bodies*, Note by the secretariat, FCCC/SBI/2025/INF.6 (2025), para. 8 (a), available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2025_inf06.pdf

¹⁷ *Paris Agreement*, Article 14, para. 1, available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf; and decision 19/CMA.1, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/193408>.

33. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora has introduced limits on the length of working documents¹⁸ and advance submission deadlines to reduce translation delays, together with time limits for interventions, to shorten plenary discussions¹⁹ and a mechanism for the review of resolutions and decisions to remove obsolete items.²⁰

34. The Convention to Combat Desertification has adopted modalities that seek to ensure the active participation of civil society and youth.²¹ The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions aim to improve efficiency through joint meetings of their Conferences of the Parties and the adoption of joint decisions on cross-cutting issues, thereby enhancing coordination and coherence across the three conventions.²²

35. Under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Scientific Council has been restructured through the establishment of a smaller sessional committee. This reform intends to streamline the Council's work, enabling the consolidation of technical outputs and their more efficient submission to the Conference of the Parties.²³

36. The Ramsar Convention conducts a standing review of previous resolutions to identify and retire those that are outdated or redundant.²⁴ This "clean agenda" approach aims to reduce the accumulation of legacy decisions and increase efficiency in plenary deliberations.

37. Collectively, these examples indicate that coordination among presiding officers and the streamlining of agendas and documentation are measures that could be employed to enhance efficiency and transparency. Similarly, the regular review of decisions, together with broader participation, could support legitimacy and ownership of outcomes.

V. Update on the development of the decision-tracking tool under the Convention on Biological Diversity

38. In its decision [XII/28](#), the Conference of the Parties decided to discontinue the practice of retirement of decisions and replace the exercise with a new approach for the review of decisions or elements of decisions in a manner that supports implementation and creates a good basis for the preparation and adoption of new decisions. In that context, the Executive Secretary was requested to develop, by building on existing tools as appropriate, and maintain an online decision-tracking tool in the clearing-house mechanism with a view to supporting the review of existing decisions and improving the development and adoption of new decisions.²⁵

¹⁸ Similarly, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in paragraph 9 of decision [V/20](#), requested the Executive Secretary to limit the number of pre-session documents for any of its meetings, to keep them as short as feasible, if possible, less than 15 pages, and to include an executive summary in each. Furthermore, in paragraph 8 of decision [VIII/10](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in preparing for its meetings, to keep the number and length of documents to a minimum and to circulate documents to Parties as early as possible, preferably no later than three months in advance of meetings.

¹⁹ CITES, *Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties*, Rules 18.2, 19.7, 20.2 and 22, in document CoP19 Doc. 3 (Rev. 3), annex (2022), available at <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/E-CoP19-03-R3.pdf>.

²⁰ CITES, *Review of Resolutions and Decisions*, document SC78 Doc. 30, (2025), available at <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/SC/78/agenda/E-SC78-30.pdf>, CITES, *Review of Resolutions and Decisions*, document CoP19 Doc. 26, (2022), available at <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/COP/19/agenda/E-CoP19-26.pdf>, and CITES, *Proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties*, document CoP19 Doc. 27, (2022), available at <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/E-CoP19-27.pdf>.

²¹ UNCCD decision 5/COP.16, available at www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2025-03/5-cop16.pdf

²² BRS Conventions, *Overview of the Synergies Process*, available at www.brsmeas.org/Decisionmaking/Overview/SynergiesProcess. See also omnibus decisions Ex-1/1 and Ex-1/2 at www.brsmeas.org/Implementation/DecisionsandDocuments/Decisions/tabid/2616/language/en-US/Default.aspx.

²³ UNEP/CMS, *Consolidation of Resolutions – Scientific Council*, document COP12 Doc. 21.2.6 (2017), available at www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_cop12_res.12.4_scientific-council_e.pdf.

²⁴ Ramsar Convention, *Review of Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties*, document COP14 Doc. 5, paras. 6–10, (2022), available at www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/xiv.5_review_resolutions_e.pdf.

²⁵ Decision XII/28, paras. 1, 2 and 3 (a).

39. The Executive Secretary provided an update on the development of the decision-tracking tool in document [CBD/COP/15/INF/14](#). In subparagraph 29 (e) of its decision [15/6](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to further develop the tool to support the operationalization of the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review with a view to enhancing implementation of the Convention and of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. A further update on the development of the decision-tracking tool will be provided in document [CBD/SBI/6/INF/11](#).

VI. Recommendations

40. The Subsidiary Body may wish to adopt a recommendation²⁶ along the following lines:

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation

Recommends that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions [16/25](#), [CP-11/5](#) and [NP-5/10](#) of 1 November 2024,

Recognizing the need to further improve the effectiveness of meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity²⁷ and its Protocols,

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of measures to improve the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols, as described in document [CBD/SBI/6/9](#), takes note of the summary of submissions for improving the effectiveness of meetings contained in the same document, and notes the need to encourage more Parties to contribute to such improvement;

2. *Takes note* of the pilot on the early submission of statements carried out for the twenty-seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

3. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and observer organizations to continue to participate actively in the early submission process whenever used for subsidiary or governing body meetings;

4. *Requests* the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to continue to improve the modalities for the early submission of statements;

5. *Recommends* that, as much as possible, draft decisions submitted to the Conference of the Parties by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation or the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities not undergo a first reading during a meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to facilitate more efficient decision-making;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureaux:

(a) To organize, where possible, online pre-session briefings for Parties and observers on the agenda items and meeting procedures of subsidiary or governing bodies;

(b) To explore the use of technology that can expedite decision-making processes;

²⁶ The estimated extrabudgetary resource requirements for the activities outlined in the three draft recommendations are shown in the annex to the present document.

²⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

(c) To continue to explore mechanisms for streamlining agendas, with a view to reducing the duplication of work;

7. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To engage the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements in the further identification of best practices for improving the effectiveness of meetings;

(b) To further invite submissions from Parties and stakeholders on options to further improve the effectiveness of meetings under the Convention and its Protocols and to make the submissions available for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

41. The Subsidiary Body may also wish to adopt a recommendation along the following lines:

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation

Recommends that, at its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol,

Recognizing the need to ensure the integrity of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety²⁸ while pursuing efficiencies and the integration of processes with the Convention on Biological Diversity²⁹ and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization,³⁰

1. *Takes note* of decision 17/-- of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made with the decision-tracking tool developed further to decision [XII/28](#) of 17 October 2014 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as described in document [CBD/SBI/6/INF/11](#);

3. *Decides* that decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety should be included in the decision-tracking tool;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps in that regard, beginning with decisions of its tenth and eleventh meetings;

5. *Recalls* its decision [BS-VII/9](#) of 3 October 2014, by which it decided to hold its future ordinary meetings concurrently with the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in the same two-week period in which the meetings of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention were held;

6. *Reiterates* its call upon developed country Parties to increase their contributions to the relevant voluntary trust funds to ensure the full and effective participation of representatives of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, in the concurrent meetings, as well as of representatives of indigenous and local communities, in meetings held under the Convention and its Protocols;

7. *Notes* that chairs of groups considering matters under the Cartagena Protocol are to be selected from among the Parties to the Protocol.

²⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

42. The Subsidiary Body may further wish to adopt a recommendation along the following lines:

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation

Recommends that, at its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol,

Recognizing the need to ensure the integrity of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization³¹ while pursuing efficiencies and the integration of processes with the Convention on Biological Diversity³² and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,³³

1. *Takes note* of decision 17/-- of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;
2. *Welcomes* the progress made with the decision-tracking tool developed further to decision [XII/28](#) of 17 October 2014 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as described in document [CBD/SBI/6/INF/11](#);
3. *Decides* that decisions of the Conference of the Parties 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 should be included in the decision-tracking tool;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps in that regard, beginning with decisions of its fourth and fifth meetings;
5. *Recalls* its decision [NP-1/12](#) of 14 October 2014, by which it decided to hold its future ordinary meetings concurrently with the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety within a two-week period;
6. *Reiterates* its call upon developed country Parties to increase their contributions to the relevant voluntary trust funds to ensure the full and effective participation of representatives of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, as well as representatives of indigenous and local communities, in meetings held under the Convention and its Protocols;
7. *Notes* that chairs of groups considering matters under the Nagoya Protocol are to be selected from among the Parties to the Protocol.

³¹ Ibid., vol. 3008, No. 30619.

³² Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

³³ Ibid., vol. 2226, No. 30619.

Annex I

Measures applied to improve the effectiveness of meetings in multilateral environmental agreements and United Nations processes

<i>Convention</i>	<i>Measures applied</i>	<i>Decision/document (paragraph or rule)</i>	<i>Challenge intended to be addressed</i>	<i>Intended impact on meetings</i>	<i>Source</i>
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	Coordination mechanism among presiding officers	FCCC/SBI/2025/INF.6, para. 8 (a)	Duplication of agenda items; delays in adoption of agendas; limited coherence between bodies	Improved coordination; faster launch of work; reduced duplication; greater predictability of sessions	https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2025_inf06.pdf
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	Global Stocktake under Article 14 of the Paris Agreement as a structured cycle (information collection, technical assessment, outputs)	Decision 19/CMA.1 Paris Agreement, Article 14	Fragmented discussions on implementation and progress	Predictable, evidence-based deliberations; reduced redundancy; coherent multi-year planning	https://unfccc.int/documents/193408 https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_pari_s_agreement.pdf
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	Limits on the length of working documents, advance submission deadlines and page restrictions, together with time limits for interventions	Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, rules 18.2, 19.7, 20.2 and 22	Excessive documentation and translation challenges	Earlier preparation; timely translation; manageable agenda	https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/19/E19-CoP-Rules.pdf
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	Mechanism for the systematic review and repeal or revision of obsolete resolutions and decisions	SC78 Doc.30 CoP19 Doc. 26 CoP19 Doc. 27	Proliferation of outdated resolutions; repeated debates on settled matters	Reduced agenda volume; streamlined decisions	https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/SC78/agenda/E-SC78-30.pdf https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/CoP19/agenda/E-CoP19-26.pdf https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/E-CoP19-27.pdf

<i>Convention</i>	<i>Measures applied</i>	<i>Decision/document (paragraph or rule)</i>	<i>Challenge intended to be addressed</i>	<i>Intended impact on meetings</i>	<i>Source</i>
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa	Enhanced participation modalities for civil society and youth in processes of the Conference of the Parties	Decision 5/COP.16	Limited inclusiveness and representation in deliberations	Broader participation; improved legitimacy and ownership of outcomes	www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2025-03/5-cop16.pdf
Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions	Joint meetings of the Conference of the Parties with shared services and omnibus decisions for cross-cutting items	Omnibus decision Ex-1/1 Omnibus decision Ex-2/1	Duplication of agenda items and administrative costs	Unified discussion on cross-cutting issues; consistency in decisions	www.brsmeas.org/Implementation/DecisionsandDocuments/Decisions/tabid/2616/language/en-US/Default.aspx
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	Restructuring of the Scientific Council	Resolution 12.4, (2017)	Duplication of technical debates during COP plenary sessions	Consolidation of technical outputs prior to COP sessions, enabling shorter and more focused plenary discussions	www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_cop12_res.12.4_scientific-council_e.pdf
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat	Periodic review and retirement of previous resolutions	COP14 Doc. 5, paras. 6–10	Overcrowded agendas with legacy resolutions	“Clean” agenda; reduced plenary time; updated corpus of decisions	www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/xiv.5_review_resolutions_e.pdf

Annex II

Estimated extrabudgetary resource requirements

The table below has been prepared to show the estimated extrabudgetary resource requirements for the activities requested of the Secretariat, as outlined in the draft recommendation, in support of its consideration. The present annex is not part of the draft recommendation submitted for consideration by the Subsidiary Body.

Extrabudgetary resource requirements

(United States dollars)

<i>OP</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Meeting costs^a</i>	<i>Staff travel</i>	<i>Staff costs^b</i>	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>PSC (13 per cent)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Draft recommendation for the Conference of the Parties to the Convention							
6 (a)	Webinars with interpretation to brief Parties and observers on meeting agenda items and procedures.	20 000	–	–	20 000	2 600	22 600
6 (b)	Explore the use of technologies that can expedite decision-making processes.	–	–	27 000	27 000	3 510	30 510
Draft recommendation for the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol							
3	Compile, review and enter information in the decision-tracking tool in relation to the decisions adopted at the tenth and eleventh meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol	–	–	54 000	54 000	7 020	61 020
Draft recommendation for Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol							
3	Compile, review and enter information in the decision-tracking tool in relation to the decisions adopted at the fourth and fifth meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol	–	–	54 000	54 000	7 020	61 020
Total					155 000	20 150	175 150

Abbreviations: PSC, programme support costs; OP, operative paragraph of the recommendation or draft decision.

^a Interpretation costs.

^b Consultants, partners and additional staff.