



Convention on Biological Diversity

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19 November 2020

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CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Second extraordinary meeting

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

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

Montreal (Online), 16-19 November 2020

COMMUNICATION BY THE PRESIDENT

Excellencies, distinguished representatives,

I would like to welcome all representatives to this session of the second extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the first extraordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols.

Through this communication on this day, I was hoping to announce that the silence had not been broken, and, thus, the decision on the interim budget for year 2021 was adopted.

However, due to a comment that was submitted by the Government of Brazil seeking the insertion of footnotes in the draft decisions (CBD/ExCOP/2/L.2, CBD/CP/ExMOP/1/L.2 and CBD/NP/ExMOP/1/L.2), it was not possible to move forward. The comment constituted an objection to the adoption of these decisions by the respective bodies.

Therefore, after consulting with members of the Bureau, I have decided to suspend the meetings in order to have more time for consultations among Parties. The resumed session of the meetings will be held next week from 25 November 2020 at 7 a.m. Montreal time (UTC 12 noon) to 27 November 2020 at 8 a.m. Montreal time (UTC 1 p.m.), this time for a silence period of 48 hours.

The nominations of representatives of Parties and credentials received for the purpose of the extraordinary meetings will be maintained unless withdrawn or changed by the Parties concerned. I urge those Parties that have not done so yet to submit their credentials as soon as possible but no later than 24 November 2020.

I am looking forward to the consultations in the next few days with a view to resolving the issue.

I would like to remind Parties that a failure to adopt a budget before the end of 2020 would result in a complete cessation of the Secretariat's operations starting on 1 January 2021 due to lack of authorization required under the financial rules. The financial and legal implications of any resultant breach of contracts may imply additional financial liability on the Parties.

CBD/ExCOP/2/L.4
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My next communication will be issued to representatives who will be taking part in the resumed session of the extraordinary meetings on Wednesday 25 November 2020 at 7 a.m. Montreal time (UTC 12 noon).

I would like to express my gratitude to all representatives who are paying attention and making contributions to this important process, and to my colleagues in the Bureau for their cooperation and tireless efforts to make these extraordinary meetings, which are being held in such extraordinary times and format, a success.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

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