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

Fifth meeting

Montreal, Canada, 3-5 December 2022

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

**SCENARIO NOTE FOR THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP
ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

Note by the Co-Chairs

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Further to the provisional agenda (CBD/WG2020/5/1) and the annotated provisional agenda (CBD/WG2020/5/1/Add.1), the present document provides the provisional organization of work for the fifth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The present document has been developed by the Co-Chairs with the support of the Executive Secretary and with the guidance of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties.

2. At the fourth meeting, the Open-Ended Working Group on Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework decided to convene the fifth meeting, immediately prior to the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Montreal, from 7 to 19 December 2022.

3. Likewise, at its fourth meeting, the Working Group agreed to convene a small, regionally balanced informal group from Parties to prepare proposals for a streamlined text for the framework, based on the technical observation and analysis of the text from the fourth meeting. This was necessary due to the state of the draft framework at the end of the fourth meeting. The report of the meeting of the Informal Group ([CBD/POST2020/OM/2022/1/2](#)), which was held in Montreal from 26 to 30 September, contains the results of technical observations and an analysis of the text of the draft framework resulting from the fourth meeting of the Working Group, as well as proposed streamlined text, which is easier to read and communicate. The different options and points of divergence are more clearly visible in the streamlined text. Further, the key outcomes of the meeting of the Informal Group are available in the six languages of the United Nations in document [CBD/WG2020/5/2](#).

4. The present scenario note has been prepared to assist Parties, other Governments and observers in their preparations for the fifth meeting of the Working Group. The note should be considered together with the provisional agenda and the annotated provisional agenda for this meeting, noted above. The present note outlines the objectives of the meeting and addresses the modalities and organization of work.

* CBD/WG2020/5/1.

II. MEETING OBJECTIVES

5. The objectives of the fifth meeting of the Working Group are to advance negotiations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and on digital sequence information on genetic resources, and to produce, as an outcome, a final draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as a final draft decision on digital sequence information on genetic resources, for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at part II of its fifteenth meeting.

6. It is the Co-Chairs' expectation that Parties and stakeholders will fully engage in the negotiations and build on the progress made during the fourth meeting of the Working Group in Nairobi, in June 2022, and will benefit from the work of the Informal Group, which prepared a streamlined draft text for the framework. It should be noted that, in view of limited time available at the fifth meeting of the Working Group, it would be practically necessary to focus on the key issues that remain to be resolved, particularly through collectively agreeing to work on the basis of the streamlined draft of the framework produced by the Informal Group, without prejudice to the positions of the Parties on various issues.

7. It is therefore suggested that at the fifth meeting of the Working Group priority would be given to the following:

(a) Sections of the framework that were not fully negotiated in the previous meetings of the Working Group;

(b) Remaining brackets in the sections, goals and targets, which may be resolved through further exchange of views and compromise solutions, in particular those elements that are not directly dependent on the considerations by the Conference of the Parties of draft decisions recommended by the two Subsidiary Bodies;

(c) Proposals for new targets that were presented at the fourth meeting of the Working Group and noted in its report. Parties are strongly encouraged, with a view to making as much progress as possible, not to bring in any new ideas, texts or brackets that were not reflected in the report of the fourth meeting of the Working Group;

(d) The draft decision on digital sequence information on genetic resources to be transmitted to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at part II of its fifteenth meeting.

8. Parties and stakeholders are therefore encouraged to focus on resolving differences, aiming for compromise text with concise language, and to refrain from adding any new ideas that would hinder producing a text of the framework that could be presented to the Conference of the Parties in a form that facilitates its finalization and adoption.

III. MODALITIES

9. The fifth meeting of the Working Group will be conducted in person to ensure that its work is completed and that participants are able to engage in full negotiations. The standard rules of procedure will apply.

10. In line with arrangements agreed by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, full interactive online access with speaker rights will be provided only as an exception and in the following circumstances:

(a) When a Party is unable to be represented in Montreal due to circumstances beyond its control. In such cases, the Secretariat will evaluate and grant online access with speaker rights on a case-by-case basis;

(b) When a Party representative is required to self-isolate due to testing positive to COVID-19. Such a delegate would have speaker access for the period they are in quarantine. Upon testing negative after a five-day isolation period, the speaker access would be removed;

(c) When a Party is represented, in Montreal, by only one delegate and sessions are held in parallel. Online speaker access should be used only when contact groups are held in parallel; only one delegate per Party will exercise speaker rights at any one time.

12. For representatives from developing countries, in particular the least-developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition, funding will be available to support two representatives per eligible Party.

13. Interpretation into all official languages of the United Nations will be provided at plenary sessions for both in-person participants and online participants, as described in paragraph 10 above.

14. In order to maximize time available for bilateral and informal consultations among Parties to work towards a compromise, there will be no side events or information sessions.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Agenda items 1, 2 and 3

15. The fifth meeting of the Working Group will be opened by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group at 10 a.m. on Saturday, 3 December 2022. In view of the limited time available for negotiations, no opening statements will be invited from regional groups, Parties or observers.

16. Under agenda item 2, the Working Group is expected to adopt the organization of work.

17. Under agenda item 3, the Working Group will hear reports from the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on intersessional work since the fourth meeting, including the work of the Informal Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework,¹ which held a face-to-face meeting in Montreal, Canada, from 26 to 30 September 2022.²

18. The Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies will also be invited to provide brief updates on the progress and outcomes of their intersessional work that are directly related to the development of post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including those on resource mobilization and the monitoring framework.

Plenary sessions, contact groups and other informal groups

19. Three sessions (of either plenary, contact groups, or friends of the Co-Chairs or co-leads groups) will be held each day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., from 3 to 6 p.m. and from 7.30 to 10.30 p.m.

20. An opening plenary session will be held on the first day of the meeting (3 December 2022), and a closing plenary session will be held on the last day of the meeting (5 December 2022) to review the outcomes of the contact groups and adopt the report of the meeting, as well as recommendations to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties including the draft text of the framework and the draft decision on digital sequence information on genetic resources.

21. As per usual practice, interventions during plenary sessions will be limited to a maximum of six minutes for regional groups, three minutes for individual Parties and three minutes for observers, insofar as time allows this.

22. It is envisaged that the same set of contact groups, in terms of the leadership and key focus, as established during the fourth meeting of the Working Group, will be established by the plenary, with some modifications as needed. Contact groups will be open to participation by all Parties. Other Governments and representatives of observers will also be able to participate in contact groups unless otherwise decided by the co-leads of the contact groups.

¹ See notification [2022-051, dated 23 August 2022](#).

² The report of this meeting was made available at <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/POST2020-OM-2022-01>. The key outcomes of the meeting of the Informal Group are available in the six languages of the United Nations in document CBD/WG2020/5/2.

23. Contact groups will be held in parallel, starting on the first day of the meeting. However, no contact groups will be held in parallel to a plenary session and no more than two contact group meetings will be held at any one time. Contact groups will work in English and, accordingly, non-papers considered at the meetings of the group will be in English. As per usual practice, the outcome of contact groups would be provided in all languages for consideration by the plenary as CRPs.

24. Co-Chairs/Co-leads may also decide to convene other types of informal groups, such as friends of the Co-Chairs/Co-leads groups, to advance their work on certain issues. Meetings of such groups may be held in parallel with each other, and in parallel with contact groups, as appropriate, while taking into account the constraints of small delegations.

25. Contact groups will be encouraged to establish time limits for discussion of each section, goal or target). If those discussions cannot be finalized within the allocated time, the co-leads may establish a group of friends of co-leads to address specific technical issues, or request the Co-Chairs of the Working Group to propose a way forward.

26. The Co-Chairs of the Working Group, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, may establish a group of friends of Co-Chairs, comprising a group of lead negotiators, to assist them in advancing the work of the Working Group.

Agenda item 4. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework

27. Under agenda item 4, the Working Group is expected to advance significantly the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at part II of its fifteenth meeting. The Co-Chairs will outline the proposed work to be completed during the meeting and establish contact groups as required in line with the approach set out in the previous section.

28. In view of the limited time and the urgency to facilitate efficient negotiation at this meeting, the Co-Chairs will invite Parties to use the outcome of the Informal Group, including the proposed streamlined text of the framework as well as the technical analysis of the draft text from the fourth meeting, as a basis for the work in the contact groups. This will be without prejudice to the position of Parties on the elements of the text. Thus, while Parties may wish to draw upon some elements of language from the report of the fourth meeting, they will be urged to avoid overburdening the streamlined text from the Informal Group. In order to facilitate the deliberations of the contact groups, co-leads may invite the members of the Informal Group to clarify any technical issues, and to explain the rationale behind the streamlines text, as necessary. Informal Group members may also be invited to brief the regional group meetings for the same purpose.

29. The Working group is encouraged to refer to the relevant indicators prepared by the Expert Workshop on the Monitoring Framework for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Workshop, to inform their consideration of the respective goals and targets.³

30. At the closure of the fourth meeting of the Working Group, the various parts of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework were at different stages of development. While some parts had been reviewed in depth, others had been partially discussed, and some had not been discussed at all. In order to advance all parts of the framework equally towards a final draft, to maximize the efficient use of time and to facilitate negotiations effectively, the contact groups will focus on the following:

(a) Sections of the framework that were not fully negotiated in the previous meetings of the Working Group: sections A, B, B.bis, D, E, H, I and K;

(b) Remaining brackets in the sections, goals and targets, which may be resolved through further exchange of views and compromise solutions (i.e., elements other than those that are directly

³ The indicators are listed in the tables annexed to the draft decision under agenda item 9B of the Conference of the Parties (see CBD/COP/15/2).

dependent on the consideration by the Conference of the Parties of related decisions and those critical elements that may be better addressed by the Conference of the Parties);

(c) Proposals for new targets that are noted in the report of the fourth meeting of the Working Group.

31. It should be noted that, through this prioritization, the time allocated for the fifth meeting of the Working Group will be used most efficiently for advancing the development of the framework, and that there will likely be some elements remaining to be resolved by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

Agenda item 5. Digital sequence information

32. Under agenda item 5 on digital sequence information on genetic resources, negotiations will build on the outcome produced by the fourth meeting of the Working Group, as well as the progress made by the Informal Co-Chairs' Advisory Group on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, as set out in document CBD/WG2020/5/3. The co-leads of the Informal Co-Chairs' Advisory Group will be invited to provide a brief report on the progress and outcomes of its work, including the application of the policy assessment framework to the assessment of policy options.

33. The Co-Chairs will establish a contact group to discuss the draft decision to be transmitted to the Conference of the Parties at part II of its fifteenth meeting, which may be further assisted by a friends of the co-leads group.

Regional meetings

34. There will be opportunity for regional meetings prior to the opening of the meetings for up to a half day on 2 December 2022, and on 3, 4 and 5 December, from 9 a.m. to 9.55 a.m.

Annex

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The following table provides an overview of the proposed organization of work. While it includes a greater level of detail for the first day of the meeting, for the latter days, the Co-Chairs will manage the overall time allocation in an adaptive manner, taking into account the key objectives of this meeting. As such, the proposed timing for contact groups is indicative only.

Date	Morning session (10 am-1 pm)		Afternoon session (3 – 6 pm)		Evening session (7.30- 10.30 pm)
Sat 3 Dec	Plenary Item 1. Opening of the meeting Item 2. Organization of work Item 3. Report from the Co-Chairs on intersessional work Item 4. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework Item 5. Digital sequence information on genetic resources	If time allows: CG-6 Sections A, B, Bbis and D	CG-6 (<i>continued</i>) Sections A, B, Bbis and D		CG-6 (<i>continued</i>) Sections A, B, Bbis and D
		CG-5 DSI	CG-4 Targets 17, 20, 21, 22 and new targets (as noted in the report of fourth meeting of the Working Group)		CG-4 (<i>continued</i>) Targets, 17, 20, 21, 22 and new targets
Sun 4 Dec	CG-6 Sections E, H, I and K		CG-6 (<i>continued</i>) Sections E, H, I and K		Bilateral/informal consultations or FoC
	CG-2 Targets 1, 4, 5 and 6		CG-2 Targets 1, 4, 5 and 6		FOC DSI
Mon 5 Dec	CG-1 Goals A, B and C		CG-5 DSI (maximum 1.5 hr)	Pending issues	Plenary Item 4. Post-2020 GBF/ Item 5. DSI

Date	Morning session (10 am-1 pm)	Afternoon session (3 – 6 pm)	Evening session (7.30- 10.30 pm)
	CG-4 Targets 14, 15 and 16	CG-3 Targets 9, 10 and 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of results from contact groups:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework○ draft decision on digital sequence information on genetic resources Items 6, 7 and 8. Other matters, adoption of L documents, report and closing
