



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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17 November 2021

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP  
ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL  
BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK  
Third meeting (resumed)

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON  
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL  
AND TECHNOLOGICAL  
ADVICE  
Twenty-fourth meeting  
(resumed)

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON  
IMPLEMENTATION  
Third meeting  
(resumed)

Geneva, Switzerland  
12-28 January 2022  
Agenda item 2

### **SCENARIO NOTE FOR THE RESUMED SESSIONS OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE, THE THIRD MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION AND THE THIRD MEETING OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

*Note by the Executive Secretary prepared in consultation with the Chairs of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice held the first part of its twenty-fourth meeting online from 3 May to 9 June 2021, and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation held the first part of its third meeting online from 16 May to 13 June 2021. The work of these bodies was facilitated by earlier informal sessions held in February and March 2021. While the subsidiary bodies addressed all items on their respective agendas, it had been previously agreed that they would finalize consideration of the agenda items at a later date through in-person sessions.

2. The Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework held the first part of its third meeting virtually from 23 August to 3 September 2021. The Working Group heard reports on progress since its second meeting, addressed the issue of digital sequence information on genetic resources, and undertook a text-based review of the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It had been decided that the Working Group would complete its work at a later date through an in-person session.

3. In October 2021, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice decided that the physical meetings of the resumed sessions of subsidiary bodies and the Working Group would be held from 12 to 28 January 2022 at the International Conference Centre Geneva in Geneva, Switzerland. The resumed sessions will allow the subsidiary bodies to complete their work, including the adoption of recommendations, and allow the

Working Group to further consider the outcomes of the first part of its third meeting. The recommendations of the three bodies would include draft decisions to be considered by the Conference of the Parties at the second part of its fifteenth meeting, which will reconvene in Kunming, China, from 25 April to 8 May 2022, and the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols at their respective meetings.

4. The present scenario note has been prepared to assist Parties, other Governments, and observers in their preparations for the meetings. The note should be considered together with the agendas of the respective bodies and reports emanating from the first part of the meetings. The present note addresses the modalities and organization of work of the meetings, including the proposed schedule. The subsidiary bodies and the Working Group adopted their agendas at the first part of their respective meetings. Accordingly, the agendas for all three bodies remain relevant for the second part of their respective meetings.

## II. MODALITIES

5. The meetings will be held primarily in person to allow the three bodies to complete their work and engage in full negotiations. The standard rules of procedure will apply. All Parties should be able to engage in the meetings on an equal basis, and, thus, any conditions that may be necessary in the light of the ongoing pandemic should be applied equally among Parties, as far as possible.

6. Accordingly, as far as possible, *interactive* participation (i.e. speaking in plenary sessions and contact groups) would be limited to those present in the meeting venue. However, taking into account the ongoing pandemic measures, Parties and observers are encouraged to limit the number of their representatives present physically in Geneva. To facilitate this, provision will be made to allow delegations from Parties and observers to follow the sessions of the meetings, both plenary and contact groups, virtually. Please note, however, that online participation will be limited to viewer mode only.

7. Every effort will be made to enable representatives from all Parties and all stakeholder groups to participate in person. However, there may be a few Parties for which travel of representatives to Geneva will not be possible because of travel restrictions. In the event that it is not possible for a Party to be represented physically in Geneva, full interactive virtual participation will be enabled following a special request to the Secretariat.

8. To ensure compliance with COVID measures and social distancing guidelines, the meeting venue capacity will be lower than in previous meetings. Thus, it will likely be necessary to limit the number of representatives on site at any one time to **six per Party** and **three per observer organization** (further limitations on the total number of representatives of observers may also become necessary depending on the demand). While there is no limit on the total size of delegations, Parties and observers may wish to take the potential limits to access to the conference venue itself into account in determining the size of their delegations physically present in Geneva. Early registration by Parties is requested to allow the Secretariat and the host Government to make any necessary arrangements.

9. Details of logistical arrangements are provided in an information note. The information note will be updated as necessary.

10. 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, subject to availability of funds provided for this purpose. Such funding will include costs related to any mandatory vaccination, testing and or other requirements to address the ongoing pandemic as needed.

11. Interpretation into all official languages of the United Nations will be provided for both in-person and virtual plenary meetings.

12. Regional meetings and meetings of the Bureaux will be convened following established practice.

### III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

13. The resumed sessions of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will be held concurrently over the two-and-a-half-week period to ensure coherence among the work of the three bodies and to ensure that sufficient time is available for the preparation of in-session documents (non-papers, conference room papers, and “limited” documents) and for their consideration.

14. A proposed timeline of the organization of work for the resumed sessions is annexed to the present document. The timeline is included to provide Parties, other Governments and observers with an overview of the three meetings together. The timeline of contact groups is subject to further refinement in the light of the progress of the meetings and guidance by the Chairs, Co-Chairs, and the two Bureaux.

15. On Wednesday, 12 January 2022, the resumed sessions will begin with a joint opening plenary session of the three bodies. The joint plenary session is expected to include statements from the Presidency of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, China, a representative of the Government of Switzerland, and the Executive Secretary. Provision will be made for general opening Statements by regional groups, covering the three meetings, as well as statements by major stakeholder groups insofar as time allows. It is not envisaged that other Parties and observers would make opening statements.

16. Each of the three bodies would then meet in turn, to establish their organization of work, including the establishment of contact groups and the resumption of contact groups established during the first part of each meeting, as necessary. It is not envisaged that further opening statements will be made during these sessions.

17. Subsequent sessions would be held where needed to complete the first reading under an agenda item. For example, provision will be provided for a first reading under item 8 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives).

18. Three sessions (of plenary or contact 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.<sup>1</sup>

19. Conference room papers (CRPs) will be considered in the normal way. Where significant work is expected to be needed, a contact group from the first part of the meeting will be reactivated with a view to minimizing the time needed in plenary for the formal review of CRPs.

20. Contact groups will be convened as needed. Contact group sessions will last up to three hours. Contact groups would be open to participation by all Parties, other Governments, and representatives of observers, unless otherwise decided by the co-chairs/leads of contact groups. Contact groups under the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may be held in parallel with contact groups under SBI, while avoiding parallel meetings of closely related issues. Contact groups under WG2020 will generally not be held in parallel with other sessions, unless otherwise decided by the meetings. In any case, no contact group will be held in parallel to a plenary session and no more than two contact group meetings will be held at any one time.

21. Contact groups would work on the basis of the documents emerging from the first part of their respective meetings. Regular updates would be made available to all participants in the contact group as necessary to ensure transparency. Sufficient time, as is the norm, would be provided between sessions of the group to allow for review of drafts and bilateral and group consultations.

22. The Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies and the Co-Chairs of the Working Group may also convene other types of informal groups, such as Friends of the Chair, and share modalities for their organization

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<sup>1</sup> During the first fourteen working days, provision is made for up to one session of plenary per day, if needed. In the final week, provision is made for up to two sessions of plenary per day. This ensures cost effective use of interpreters

with the Parties. Contact groups and other types of informal 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.

23. In general, L documents (i.e., draft recommendations already approved in plenary at the first part of the meetings) would be presented to the respective plenary for adoption in the normal way. As per usual practice, where there is a reasonable prospect of resolving brackets, informal consultations among Parties ahead of the formal consideration may be encouraged in advance of the formal consideration in plenary with a view to facilitating adoption of the recommendation. Any draft decisions contained in these recommendations would be referred to the Conference of the Parties, or the relevant meetings of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocol, as appropriate.

24. There will be opportunity for regional meetings prior to the opening of the meetings on the afternoon of 11 January, and each day from 13 January, from 9 to 9.55 a.m.

25. The proposed organization of work which has been developed jointly by the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies and the Co-Chairs of the Working Group is annexed to this scenario note. It has been developed taking into account an analysis by the respective Chairs and Co-chairs of the status of progress on each of the agenda items.

26. The organization of work is supplemented by addenda to the annotated agenda for each meeting, providing updates on the status of each agenda item (to be developed).

*Annex*

**DRAFT PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

Date	Morning session (10 am-1 pm)		Afternoon session (3 – 6 pm)		Evening session (7.30-10.30 pm)
Tue 11 Jan.	<b>Regional meetings</b>		<i>Bureau meeting</i>		
Wed 12 Jan.	<i>SBSTTA, SBI and WG2020 (Plenary)</i> Item 1. Joint opening	<i>SBSTTA (Plenary)</i> Item 2. Organization of work	<i>SBI (Plenary)</i> Item 2. Organization of work Item 6. Financial mechanism Item 5. Gender (introduction)	<i>WG2020 (Plenary)</i> Item 2. Organization of work Item 3. Update	[Reception]
Thu 13 Jan.	WG2020- Item-5. DSI		WG2020 GBF CG1 (Goals, Overall Structure, sections A to E)		<i>SBSTTA- Item 6. Marine (Conservation and sustainable use)</i> <i>SBI-Item 5. Gender</i>
Fri 14 Jan.	WG2020- Item-5. DSI		<i>SBSTTA- Item 7. Agriculture/Soils</i> <i>SBI-Item 7. Capacity-building/development</i>	<i>SBI-Item 9. Review mechanisms</i> <i>SBSTTA-Item 9. Health</i>	
Sat 15 Jan.	WG2020- GBF CG1 (Goals, Overall Structure, sections A to E)		<i>SBSTTA-Item 9. Health</i> <i>SBI-Item 6. Financial mechanism/ Resource mobilization</i>	<i>SBSTTA- Item 6. Marine (EBSAS)</i> <i>SBI-Item 9. Review mechanisms</i>	
Sun 16 Jan.	[No meetings]				

Date	Morning session (10 am-1 pm)	Afternoon session (3 – 6 pm)	Evening session (7.30-10.30 pm)
Mon 17 Jan.	<i>SBI (Plenary)</i> Item 8. Cooperation (first reading) Item 5. Communications (first reading) Item 7. NP (review of CRP) Item 11. Mainstreaming (Review of CRPs)	WG2020- Item 4. GBF CG2 (Targets 1-8)	<i>SBI-Item 7.</i> Capacity-building/development <i>SBSTTA- Item 3. GBF/Monitoring</i>
Tue 18 Jan.	<i>SBSTTA (Plenary)</i> Items 6,7,9 and 10 (Review of CRPs and L7)	WG2020- Item 4. GBF CG4 (Targets 14-21, sections H to K)	<i>SBI-Item 8. Cooperation/Synergies</i> <i>SBSTTA-Item 3. GBF/Monitoring</i>
Wed 19 Jan.	<i>SBI (Plenary)</i> Items 5. Gender; communications Item 5. CP Items 10 and 13. (Review of CRPs)	WG2020- Item 4. GBF CG3 (Targets 9-13)	<i>SBI-Item 6 Financial mechanism/Resource mobilization</i> <i>SBSTTA- Item 3. GBF/Monitoring</i>
Thu 20 Jan.	<i>WG2020 (Plenary)</i> Item 4. Stocktake: Review of outcomes of CG5 First reading of revised draft decision	WG2020-Item 4. GBF CG1 (Goals, overall structure, sections A to E)	<i>SBI-Item 6. Financial mechanism/Resource mobilization</i> <i>SBSTTA-Item 3. GBF/Monitoring</i>
Fri 21 Jan.	<i>SBSTTA (Plenary)</i> Items 3 and 6 (Review of CRPs and L3)	WG2020-Item 4. GBF CG2 (Targets 1-8)	<i>SBI-Item 5. Post-2020 CPB implementation plan</i> <i>Informal consultations or contact groups as needed</i>
Sat 22 Jan.	<i>SBI (Plenary)</i> Items 6 and 7 and 8 (Review of CRPs)	WG2020-Item 4. GBF CG4 (Targets 14-21, sections H to K)	<i>SBI-Item 9. Review mechanisms</i> <i>Informal consultations or contact groups as needed</i>
Sun 23 Jan.	[No meetings]		

Date	Morning session (10 am-1 pm)	Afternoon session (3 – 6 pm)	Evening session (7.30-10.30 pm)
Mon 24 Jan.	<i>SBSTTA (Plenary)</i> [Outstanding matters Adoption of L documents]	<i>SBI (Plenary)</i> [Outstanding matters] Item 9 (Review of CRPs) Adoption of L docs	WG2020-Item 4. GBF CG3 (Targets 9-13)
Tue 25 Jan.	WG2020-Item 4. GBF CG4 (Targets 14-21, sections H to K)	WG2020-Item 4. GBF CG2 (Targets 1-8)	WG2020-Item 4. GBF CG3 (Targets 9-13)
Wed 26 Jan.	<i>Informal consultations or contact groups or Plenary as needed</i>	<i>SBSTTA (Plenary)</i> Items 11,12 and 13. Other matters, Adoption of L docs, report and closing	<i>Informal consultations or contact groups as needed</i>
Thu 27 Jan.	<i>Informal consultations or contact groups or Plenary as needed</i>	<i>SBI (Plenary)</i> Items 15,16 and 17. Other matters, Adoption of L docs and report	<i>Informal consultations or contact groups as needed</i>
Fri 28 Jan.	<i>WG2020 (Plenary) Item 4. Review of outcomes of CGs</i>	<i>WG2020 (Plenary)</i> Items 6, 7 and 8. Other matters, Adoption of L docs, report and closing	<i>[no meeting]</i>

Key

Colour	Body
	SBSTTA Plenary
	SBI Plenary
	SBSTTA/SBI contact groups
	WG2020 Plenary
	WG2020 contact groups
Red Text	Flexible space