



# Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
Fifteenth meeting (part I)  
Online, 11–15 October 2021  
Agenda item 29

## DRAFT REPORT

### I. PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING

*Rapporteur:* Ms. Elvana Ramaj (Albania)

#### A. Background

1. Following the invitation of the Government of China and as decided by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in its decision [XIII/33](#), the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties was scheduled to be held in Kunming, China, from 15 to 28 October 2020, concurrently with the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the fourth meeting 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 the Benefits Arising from Their Utilization. Owing to the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, however, the meetings were postponed, initially until late May 2021 and then again as the pandemic persisted.

2. After extensive consultations and considering the challenges that the pandemic continued to pose for in-person meetings, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity had agreed, at its meeting held on 14 July 2021, to the holding of these meetings in two parts: the first part (part I) would be held online from 11 to 15 October 2021, and the second part (part II) would be held in person in Kunming, China, from 25 April to 8 May 2022. Part I of the meeting was held online.

#### B. Attendance

3. *[to be completed]*

#### C. Organizational matters

##### Item 1. Opening of the meeting

4. The fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties was opened at 3.15 p.m.<sup>1</sup> on 11 October 2021 by Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of Egypt and President of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, who delivered opening remarks. In her remarks, the outgoing President reviewed the main outcomes of the fourteenth meeting, as well as the subsequent work of the Convention carried out during the Egyptian Presidency. She noted the hardship and delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which had led to the need to conduct many meetings online. She thanked all who had worked to ensure that the processes of the Convention could continue and said that she looked forward to the development of an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

<sup>1</sup> All times shown in the present report are China Standard Time (UTC+8).

5. Ms. Fouad's intervention followed a video presentation prepared by the Government of China on the increase and migration of the Asian elephant population in Yunnan Province and a musical performance by two groups of indigenous artists from Yunnan.

6. The transfer of the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties was made by the Ambassador of Egypt to the People's Republic of China, Mr. Mohammed El Badry, on behalf of Ms. Yasmine Fouad. Mr. Runqiu Huang, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China, was elected by the Conference of the Parties by acclamation.

7. Opening statements were then made by Mr. Zheng Han, Vice-Premier of the Council of State of China; Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, on behalf of Ms. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (via video); Mr. Chengfa Ruan, Communist Party Secretary of Yunnan Province; and Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

8. Mr. Han said (*to be completed*)

9. Ms. Anderson called for ambition and action to ensure progress in making peace with nature, which the Secretary-General had called the defining task of the twenty-first century. The overall record of action, ambition and impact of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets was inadequate, and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework was an opportunity to chart a new course. Clear and tangible action was needed, and the momentum on the biodiversity agenda at the current conference would send a message to Governments at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference of a common, global purpose of delivering for people and the planet.

10. Mr. Chengfa said (*to be completed*)

11. Ms. Mrema noted the insufficient progress made in the past decade but welcomed the increasing engagement of non-State actors, which indicated a deep shift in awareness of the interconnected biodiversity, climate and health emergencies facing the world. The bold commitments made in the preceding few years in response to the urgent need for action had now to be translated into policies, actions and results. Participants were urged to work together to shape and deliver a bold, inclusive and ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework that catalysed the changes needed to reach the 2030 targets and 2050 vision build an ecological civilization and a shared future for all life on Earth.

12. General statements were made by representatives of Argentina (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (on behalf of the African Group), Georgia (on behalf of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe), Kuwait (on behalf of the Asia-Pacific region), New Zealand (on behalf of Australia, Canada, Iceland, Israel, Monaco, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America) and Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union and its member States).<sup>2</sup>

13. A statement was also made by the representative of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

14. Further statements were made by representatives of the CBD Women's Caucus, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), the International Indigenous Forum for Biodiversity (IIFB), the Hani People of Yunnan, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) (also on behalf of the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity (coordinated by Regions4 and the Government of Quebec), the Group of Leading Subnational Governments towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (coordinated by the Aichi Prefecture), the European Committee of the Regions and the Edinburgh Process partners) and the True Nature Conservation Association (also on behalf of Youth of China).

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<sup>2</sup> Statements made by representatives, where provided to the Secretariat, can be found at <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2021-2022/cop-15/documents>, as received from the Party or observer concerned.

## **Item 2. Organizational matters**

### **Adoption of the agenda**

15. At the first plenary session of part I of the meeting, on 11 October 2021, the Conference of the Parties adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Bureau (CBD/COP/15/1/Rev.1):

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters.
3. Report on the credentials of representatives to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
4. Pending issues.
5. Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
6. Reports of intersessional and regional preparatory meetings.
7. Administration of the Convention and budget for the trust funds.
8. Review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
9. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
10. Enhancing integration with respect to provisions related to Article 8(j) and related provisions.
11. Digital sequence information on genetic resources.
12. Resource mobilization and the financial mechanism.
13. Capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, knowledge management and communication.
14. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review.
15. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations.
16. Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors.
17. Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols.
18. Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties.
19. Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.
20. Marine and coastal biodiversity.
21. Invasive alien species.
22. Sustainable wildlife management.
23. Biodiversity and climate change.
24. Biodiversity and agriculture.
25. Biodiversity and health.
26. Nature and culture.
27. Synthetic biology.
28. Other matters.
29. Adoption of the report.
30. Closure of the meeting.

### **Organization of work**

16. At the first plenary session of the meeting, on 11 October 2021, the Conference of the Parties agreed to address items 1 to 4, 6, 7 and 28 to 30 during part I of the meeting, according to the schedule set out in annex I to the proposed organization of work (CBD/COP/15/1/Add.2). It was understood that all those

items would be addressed in plenary and that most would need to be further considered during part II of the meeting, at which time agenda items 5 and 8 to 27 would also be addressed and the Conference of the Parties might decide to establish working groups to support its work, in accordance with established practice.

### **Election of officers**

#### *Election of the President*

17. In accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure, at the opening plenary session of part I the meeting, on 11 October 2021, the Conference of the Parties elected, by acclamation, Mr. Runqiu Huang, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China, as President of its fifteenth meeting.

#### *Election of officers other than the President*

18. In accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure, 10 Vice-Presidents had been elected by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting to serve until the closure of the fifteenth meeting. Subsequently, two members of the Bureau had been replaced by the Parties concerned. The following representatives served as Vice-Presidents of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

Mr. Eric Okoree (Ghana)  
Mr. Melesse Maryo (Ethiopia)  
Mr. Vinod Mathur (India) (replacing Ms. Sujata Arora)  
Ms. Leina El-Awadhi (Kuwait)  
Ms. Teona Karchava (Georgia)  
Ms. Elvana Ramaj (Albania)  
Ms. Andrea Meza Murillo (Costa Rica) (replacing Ms. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez)  
Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda)  
Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria)  
Ms. Rosemary Paterson (New Zealand)

19. It was agreed that the election of officers under agenda item 2 would be further considered at part II of the meeting. Regional groups were invited to submit their nominations, preferably prior to part II of the meeting to enable newly elected members of the Bureau to attend, as observers, the Bureau meetings to be held during part II of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties and ensure a smooth transition between outgoing and incoming Bureau members.

20. As some of the work mandated by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting would continue until the closure of part II of the fifteenth meeting, Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (Egypt) was invited to remain a member of the Bureau, ex officio, as the representative of the Presidency of the fourteenth meeting.

21. At the opening plenary session of part I the meeting, on 11 October 2021, the Conference of the Parties agreed to elect Ms. Elvana Ramaj (Albania) as Rapporteur. Mr. Eric Okoree (Ghana) was elected as representative of the Bureau for the review of credentials.

#### *Election of officers of subsidiary bodies and other meetings*

22. At the opening plenary session of part I the meeting, on 11 October 2021, the Conference of the Parties agreed to postpone the elections of the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and of the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation until the end of part II of the meeting. The Conference of the Parties also agreed to maintain the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in office until the second part of the meeting.

**Item 3. Report on the credentials of representatives to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

23. Agenda item 3 was considered at the opening plenary session of part I the meeting, on 11 October 2021. In accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau was to examine and report on the credentials of delegations and, accordingly, the President informed the Conference of the Parties that the Bureau had designated Mr. Eric Okoree (Ghana), a Vice-President of the Bureau, to examine and report on credentials.

24. At the *[to be completed]* session of part I of the meeting, on *[to be completed]*, Mr. Okoree informed the Conference of the Parties that *[to be completed]* Parties were registered as attending the meeting. The Bureau had examined the credentials of the representatives of *[to be completed]* Parties that were attending the meeting. The credentials of *[to be completed]* delegations were in full compliance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure. Those of *[to be completed]* delegations did not fully comply with rule 18 and a further *[to be completed]* delegations had not presented their credentials to date.

**Item 4. Pending issues**

25. Agenda item 4 was considered at the *[to be completed]* session of the meeting, on *[to be completed]*. The only pending issue before the Conference of the Parties related to paragraph 1 of rule 40 of the rules of procedure and paragraphs 4 and 16 of the financial rules, which remained bracketed due to the lack of consensus among Parties concerning the majority required for decision-making on matters of substance.

26. *[to be completed]*

**II. REPORTS**

**Item 6. Reports of intersessional and regional preparatory meetings**

27. Agenda item 6 was considered at the *[to be completed]* session of part I of the meeting, on *[to be completed]*. In considering the item, the Conference of the Parties had before it the reports of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity on its eleventh meeting (CBD/WG8J/11/7), the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on its twenty-third meeting (CBD/SBSTTA/23/9) and the Open-ended Working Group on Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework on its first and second meetings (CBD/WG2020/1/5; CBD/WG2020/2/4).

28. The Conference of the Parties took note of the reports on intersessional meetings of subsidiary bodies and decided to consider the recommendations contained in the reports under the relevant agenda items at part II of the meeting.

29. *[to be completed]*

**III. ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET**

**Item 7. Administration of the Convention and budget for the trust funds**

30. Agenda item 7 was taken up at the opening plenary session of part I the meeting, on 11 October 2021.

31. In considering the item, the Conference of the Parties had before it an interim report of the Executive Secretary on the administration of the Convention, including the budget for the trust funds of the Convention, for its consideration (CBD/COP/15/3).

32. The Conference of the Parties decided to establish a contact group on the budget, with a mandate to review the matter and prepare a draft budget for the programme of work for 2022, for the consideration of the Parties. The contact group was chaired by Mr. Spencer Thomas (Grenada) and was open to all Parties. It would meet informally at the invitation of the chair, with meetings advertised in advance in the daily calendar of meetings.

33. At the *[to be completed]* plenary session, on *[to be completed]*, the Conference of the Parties heard an update on the work of the contact group on the budget.

34. *[to be completed]*.

#### **IV. FINAL MATTERS**

##### **Item 28. Other matters**

35. Agenda item 28 was taken up at the *[to be completed]* session of the meeting, on *[to be completed]*.

##### **Item 29. Adoption of the report**

36. The present report was adopted at the *[to be completed]* plenary session of the meeting, on *[to be completed]*, based on the draft report presented by the Rapporteur (CBD/COP/15/Part-1-L.1), on the understanding that it would be completed to reflect the full proceedings of the current meeting and that the full report would be considered and adopted at part II of the meeting.

##### **Item 30. Closure of the meeting**

37. At its *[to be completed]* session, on *[to be completed]*, the Conference of the Parties agreed to suspend its fifteenth meeting and resume it from 25 April to 8 May 2022, in Kunming, China.

38. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the first part of the meeting was formally closed at *[to be completed]* on *[to be completed]*.

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