



Convention on Biological Diversity

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Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Twenty-eighth meeting

Nairobi, 27 July–1 August 2026

Item 2 of the provisional agenda**

Organizational matters: election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Scenario note

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 14 of its decision [16/25](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested its Bureau and the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to publish scenario notes for each intergovernmental meeting held under the Convention.
2. The present scenario note has been prepared by the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, pursuant to the decision.

II. Meeting arrangements

3. The meeting will be held in person and will be open to representatives of Parties and accredited observer organizations duly registered for the meeting. Details of logistical arrangements have been provided in an information note for participants.¹
4. In accordance with paragraph 5 of consolidated *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body,² the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of the Subsidiary Body, with the exception of rule 18, on credentials.

III. Plenary and contact groups

5. The meeting will be divided into:
 - (a) Plenary sessions, with formal seating and interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations. The plenary sessions will be open to all registered delegates and live-streamed on United Nations Web TV in the six official languages;³
 - (b) Contact group sessions, with flexible seating arrangements to facilitate negotiations among Parties, which will be held in English only and open to all Party delegations. The participation

* Reissued for technical reasons on 7 July 2026.

** [CBD/SBSTTA/28/1](#).

¹ See [www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-28](#), under “Other”.

² Decision [VIII/10](#), annex III.

³ <https://webtv.un.org/en>.

of a reasonable number of observers may be facilitated, at the discretion of the chair or co-chairs of the contact groups, while giving priority to Party delegates. The contact group sessions will not be live-streamed.

6. Each day will be divided into three session periods. Each period will be allocated to either one plenary session or one or two contact group sessions. Contact group sessions will not be held in parallel with plenary sessions.

7. In paragraph 7 of decision [16/25](#), the Conference of the Parties recognized the need to limit evening negotiating sessions to reasonable hours and recommended, unless otherwise agreed, that preferably no session be scheduled beyond 13 hours from the start of the first open-ended meeting of the day. Consequently, all evening sessions are expected to finish no later than 11 p.m., unless otherwise agreed by Parties.

8. Meetings of the Bureau and regional groups will be convened in accordance with established practice.

9. All documents for the meeting will be made available online.⁴ Meeting announcements will be displayed on monitors at the venue and on the meeting page of the Convention website in a timely manner during the meeting.

IV. Organization of work

A. General comments

10. The opening session of the meeting will include statements by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body and the Executive Secretary. The Chair will not open the floor to general opening statements by regional groups.

11. Under agenda item 2 (organizational matters), the Subsidiary Body will be invited to elect officers, adopt the provisional agenda and approve the organization of work.

12. All agenda items will be considered in plenary. After the first reading of the substantive items in plenary, conference room papers are expected to be produced for consideration at a subsequent plenary session. Where necessary, contact groups may be established to further consider the items before conference room papers are prepared.

13. The proposed scheduling of sessions is set out in annex I to the present note.

14. To ensure the efficient management of the proceedings, the Chair will limit interventions made on behalf of regions to four minutes, those by individual Parties to two minutes, those by indigenous peoples and local communities and major stakeholder groups to three minutes, and those by non-Parties and other observers to one minute, time permitting. If need be, the Chair may have a delegate's microphone turned off when the time limit for the intervention has been reached.

B. Early submission of statements

15. In paragraph 3 of decisions [16/25](#), [CP-11/5](#) and [NP-5/10](#), the Executive Secretary was requested, together with the Bureaux, to continue to explore and make use of relevant ways and means to facilitate early preparations for meetings, including the early submission of statements.

16. At its joint meeting with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties held on 10 June 2026, the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body agreed that the early submission of statements would be applied to all substantive agenda items of the present meeting.

17. Parties and observers registered for the meeting have therefore been invited, through notification No. [2026-055](#), to submit written statements on any of the agenda items, on a voluntary

⁴ At www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-28.

and informal basis, through a designated online portal or by email, by 8 p.m. Nairobi time (UTC + 3) on 26 July 2026.

18. The modalities for the early submission of statements are provided in annex II.

19. The approach described above is intended to streamline discussions in plenary, enable more focused and efficient contact group negotiations and facilitate the timely preparation of conference room papers.

C. Consideration of conference room papers and draft recommendations

20. All conference room papers and draft recommendations are to be considered in plenary.

D. Closing plenary session

21. Items 9 (other matters), 10 (adoption of the report) and 11 (closure of the meeting) will be considered during the closing plenary session.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work*

<i>Date</i>	<i>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</i>	<i>2.30–5.30 p.m.</i>	<i>7.30–10.30 p.m.</i>
Monday 27 July 2026	Item 1. Opening of the meeting Item 2. Organizational matters: election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work Item 3. Planning, monitoring, reporting and review: (a) Global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; (b) Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Item 4. Matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	Item 5. Synthetic biology Item 6. Sustainable wildlife management Item 7. Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: strategic review of and update to the programme of work on protected areas Item 8. Marine and coastal biodiversity	Contact group sessions (as needed)
Tuesday 28 July 2026	Contact group sessions	Contact group sessions	Contact group sessions (as needed)
Wednesday 29 July 2026	Contact group sessions	Contact group sessions	Contact group sessions (as needed)
Thursday 30 July 2026	Contact group sessions	Consideration of conference room papers	Contact group sessions (as needed)
Friday 31 July 2026	Contact group sessions	Consideration of conference room papers	Contact group sessions (as needed)
Saturday 1 August 2026	Consideration of conference room papers	Consideration of conference room papers	Item 9. Other matters Item 10. Adoption of the report Item 11. Closure of the meeting

* The holding of contact group sessions in a parallel or consecutive manner will be decided by the Bureau on the basis of an assessment of progress made at the meeting. Evening contact group sessions may be held consecutively, starting at 7.30 p.m.

Annex II

Modalities for the early submission of statements for the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the twenty-eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice*

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 3 of decision [16/25](#) of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the concurrent decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity 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 to the Convention on Biological Diversity,⁵ the Executive Secretary, together with the Bureaux, was requested to explore and make use of, as appropriate, relevant ways and means to facilitate early preparations for meetings, such as options for streamlining agendas, peer-reviewing documents in advance and the early submission of statements.
2. At their joint meeting held on 10 June 2026, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the SBSTTA Bureau agreed to implement modalities for the early submission of statements for SBI-7 and SBSTTA-28, building upon the experience related to the implementation of pilot modalities at the previous meeting of the Subsidiary Bodies. Based on the experience and feedback from Parties and observers, the modalities have been updated to improve efficiency, transparency, clarity and inclusiveness, while maintaining the Party-driven nature of intergovernmental meetings under the Convention and its Protocols.
3. The modalities constitute an informal and voluntary process, not intended to pre-empt any decisions of the Conference of the Parties. They are solely aimed at improving the efficiency of the CBD operations and meetings, including the early submission of statements.

II. Objectives of the modalities

4. The modalities are designed to facilitate effective preparation and communication among Parties and observers, allowing them to informally submit their positions or comments on draft recommendations contained in the relevant pre-session documents, in writing, prior to formal discussions.
5. The aim is to reduce the amount of time spent on the first reading of the respective agenda items, promote more focused and efficient deliberations, and support consensus-based decision-making during formal consideration at the meeting.
6. Such measures should be implemented in a manner that preserves the right of all Parties to intervene during meetings, including presenting or clarifying their views orally, providing textual proposals, responding to proposals made by others, or adjusting their positions in light of the evolving negotiations.
7. The modalities are intended to serve as one of the practical tools for the improvement of the effectiveness of meetings, while acknowledging that they will require continuous refinement based on the experience and feedback from Parties and observers.

* The present annex is being issued without formal editing.

⁵ Decisions [CP-11/5](#) and [NP-5/10](#), respectively.

III. Application of the modalities

8. The modalities will be applied on a voluntary basis to all substantive agenda items of SBI-7 and SBSTTA-28. Parties and observers are encouraged to use these modalities. Nevertheless participation is on a voluntary basis and does not affect the rights and prerogative of Parties under the rules of procedure to make oral interventions, submit proposals, present regional statements, participate fully in plenary and contact group discussions, or revise positions during the meeting. The modalities will be implemented in a manner that ensures inclusive and equitable participation.

IV. Process

A. Notification and submission of statements

9. In notification No. [2026-055](#) of 26 June 2026, the Secretariat invited and encouraged all Parties and observers registered for participation in the meeting concerned to submit statements, on a voluntary and informal basis, including textual proposals addressing the recommendations contained in the pre-session documents issued under the agenda items, by 8 p.m. Nairobi time (UTC + 3) on the day before the opening of the meeting concerned.

10. Submitters will be encouraged, where possible, to ensure that their statements clearly provide textual proposals, keep general comments concise and focused, and distinguish between general comments and specific textual proposals, as appropriate. A template of an early statement, which can be used on a voluntary basis, may be provided in the notification, for reference.

11. The notification will also contain guidelines on how to upload the statements online (or by email)⁶ in any of the six United Nations official languages. Submitters will be requested to include, on the first page of their statements, the name of country or organization, as appropriate, and the agenda item. Submissions sent by email will be treated as equivalent to submissions uploaded through the online portal.

12. The portal will include clear version control features identifying the most recent version of each submission. In line with the common practice relating to the submission of statements, only the latest version of a statement will be considered and will, therefore, supersede any earlier versions.

B. Publication of statements

13. The statements will be published *as is* without any editing or translation by the Secretariat. To enhance accessibility, once a statement has been published, the system will automatically initiate AI-assisted translations of the statement into the other five United Nations official languages. These translations will be uploaded for viewing, alongside the original statement. The AI-generated translations will be clearly identified as such and accompanied by a disclaimer regarding their accuracy. Only the original submitted version of the statement will be considered authoritative.

14. All statements uploaded on the online portal will be made available for viewing by all Parties and observers as follows: for Party statements, unless a Party explicitly requests that its submission be published immediately, these will be made available simultaneously after the deadline for the submission of statements and prior to the opening of the meeting; for observer statements, these will be made available upon upload.

⁶ The option to send statements by email will be made available for those Parties or observers that may encounter difficulties in uploading their statements on the online portal. The Secretariat would then make those statements available online.

V. Outcome of the process for the early submission of statements

A. Information documents

15. The Secretariat will prepare an information document for the agenda items under which statements were received during the informal process. The information document will contain a list of Parties and observers that submitted statements, as well as a link to the statement portal, and will be submitted at the meeting concerned,⁷ without prejudice to formal deliberations when the respective agenda items are considered.

B. Entry of statements on record

16. When the relevant agenda item is taken up for the first reading at the meeting, the Chair will provide guidance on the conduct of proceedings as to how early statements will be considered. The Chair will state that, unless there are any objections from Parties and observers listed in the information document and present at the meeting, their statements will be formally entered on the record of the meeting. Textual proposals contained in statements entered on the record should be considered in the preparation of conference room papers or non-papers. Lists of Parties and observers that submitted early statements will also be shown on slides during the meeting, for reference.

17. The Chair will request Parties that wish to do so, to express their support for statements submitted by particular observers. In practice, Parties supporting particular observer statements in their entirety will be requested to press the microphone button so that the Chair can read out their names from the speakers' list. Confirmation of partial support should only be requested if no Party supports a statement in its entirety. Statements submitted by indigenous peoples and local communities will be identified as such, recognizing their distinct status under Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention.

18. Parties and observers that submitted written statements during the informal process but wish to revise their statements or provide additional statements, may submit revised written statements and deliver oral statements in accordance with established meeting procedures.

19. As the early submission of written statements is intended to be a time-saving measure, Parties and observers that participate in this pilot will be encouraged not to deliver an oral statement during the first reading of the particular agenda item, except where necessary to make clarifications. This does not limit their right to make concise oral interventions to highlight priorities, respond to developments during the meeting, clarify proposals, or participate in plenary and contact group discussions. The Chair may guide and, where appropriate, limit repetition in order to ensure efficient use of time.

20. It is expected that Parties and observers that did not submit written statements during the early submission process, including regional groups, will have opportunities to submit their oral and written statements during the formal meeting in accordance with established meeting procedures. Oral statements made by observers would, as per normal procedure, require Party support. No Party will be disadvantaged for not participating in the early submission process.

C. Preparation of conference room papers

21. In accordance with normal meeting processes, the Chair will subsequently prepare a conference room paper. In the event that a contact group is established for a particular item, a non-paper, if needed for the concerned agenda item, would be prepared.

22. The conference room paper or non-paper will be based on any oral statements or interventions made during the first reading, as well as statements entered on record following the informal process

⁷ The information document will be posted in the morning of the first day of the meeting and introduced under the respective agenda item.

of early submission of statements, including any revised or additional statements submitted in accordance with established procedures.

23. Consistent with established meeting practice, conference room papers or non-papers are not intended to be a compilation of all proposals. Instead, they contain proposed compromise text, including alternative formulations where necessary, to facilitate consensus building. The Chair or co-chairs (in the case of contact groups) will provide, as appropriate, explanations on how submissions were reflected in the preparation of the conference room papers or non-papers.

D. Outcomes of the overall process

24. The experiences of Parties and observers related to the modalities will continue to be compiled and submitted to the Bureau for review, with a view to further improving the modalities for future meetings.
