



Convention on Biological Diversity

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**Subsidiary Body on Scientific,
Technical and Technological Advice**
Twenty-seventh meeting
Panama City, 20–24 October 2025
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
**Organizational matters: election of officers,
adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

Scenario note**

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 14 of its decision [16/25](#), the Conference of the Parties 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. Pursuant to decision [16/25](#), the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body decided at a meeting held in April 2025 to prepare, with the support of the Secretariat, the present scenario note.
3. The arrangements for the present meeting are described in sections II and III below, while updates to the proposed organization of work are provided in section IV and the annex.¹

II. Meeting arrangements

4. The meeting will be held in person at the Atlapa Convention Center, in Panama City, and is open to representatives of Parties and accredited observer organizations duly registered for the meeting. Details of logistical arrangements are provided in an information note for participants,² which will be updated as necessary.
5. The rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties apply mutatis mutandis to the proceedings of the Subsidiary Body, in accordance with paragraph 5 of its consolidated modus operandi,³ except for rule 18, on credentials.

* [CBD/SBSTTA/27/1](#).

** The present note was issued after the deadline of 8 September 2025 for documents for the present meeting as a result of the modalities for the early submission of statements, as described in paragraph 14, being agreed by the Bureau after the deadline.

¹ The original proposed organization of work was issued as annex I to the annotated provisional agenda

([CBD/SBSTTA/27/1/Add.1/Rev.1](#)).

² Available at www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-27.

³ Decision [VIII/10](#), annex III.

III. Plenary and informal consultations

6. 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;⁴

(b) Contact group sessions, with flexible seating arrangements to facilitate negotiations among Parties. The contact group sessions will be held in English only and open to all Party delegations. The participation of a reasonable number of observers will also be facilitated, at the discretion of the chair or co-chairs of the contact groups, while giving priority to Party delegates. These sessions will not be live-streamed.

7. Except for the first day, each day will be divided into three session periods (see annex). Each session period will be allocated to either one plenary session or no more than two contact group sessions. Contact group sessions will not be held in parallel with plenary sessions.

8. 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.

9. Regional meetings and meetings of the Bureau will be convened following established practice. Regional meetings are scheduled for 19 October 2025.

10. All documents for the meeting will be made available online.⁵ Meeting announcements will be displayed on monitors at the venue and on the website in a timely manner during the meeting.

IV. Organization of work

1. General comments

11. The meeting of the Subsidiary Body will start at 10 a.m. on 20 October 2025, with an opening plenary session. The plenary session is expected to include opening statements from the Chair of the Subsidiary Body and the Executive Secretary.

12. All agenda items will be considered in plenary session. After the first reading of statements on the substantive items in plenary, the Chair may establish contact groups for those items that are deemed to require additional consideration.

13. Under agenda item 2, the Subsidiary Body is expected to elect five new members to serve on its Bureau, as detailed in paragraph 6 of the annotated provisional agenda, approve the provisional agenda and adopt the organization of work.

14. 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, as appropriate, relevant ways and means to facilitate early preparations for meetings, including the early submission of statements. Pursuant to the request, on 18 September 2025, the Bureau approved pilot modalities for the early submission of statements, to be implemented on a trial basis for agenda items 9 (biodiversity and agriculture) and 10 (biodiversity and health). As indicated in notification No. [2025-120](#) of 23 September 2025, Parties and observers registered for the present meeting may submit written

⁴ <https://webtv.un.org/>.

⁵ At www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-27.

statements for the two agenda items, on a voluntary and informal basis, by means of a designated online portal or by email. The modalities are described in detail in the annex to the notification.

15. For substantive agenda items, the following preliminary approach for the meeting proceedings was discussed by the Bureau at its meeting held in April 2025:

(a) For agenda items 3 to 8, the Subsidiary Body is expected to undertake a full first reading of the agenda 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 agenda items, before conference room papers are prepared;

(b) For agenda items 9 and 10, the Subsidiary Body is expected to undertake an abbreviated first reading of the items, depending on the outcome of the early submission of statement process referred to in paragraph 14 above.

2. Consideration of conference room papers and draft recommendations

16. All conference room papers and draft recommendations are expected to be considered in the plenary sessions scheduled from 22 to 24 October. The schedule may however be adjusted according to progress made during the meeting.

3. Closing plenary session

17. The closing plenary session is expected to be held on 24 October and will comprise items 11 (other matters), 12 (adoption of the report) and 13 (closure of the meeting).

Annex

Proposed organization of work*

<i>Date</i>	<i>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</i>	<i>3–6 p.m.</i>	<i>7.30–10.30 p.m.</i>
Monday 20 October 2025	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: global review of collective progress in the implementation of 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. Biodiversity and climate change Item 6. Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: (a) Strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work under the Convention in the context of the Framework; (b) Strategic review of and updates to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity; (c) Areas of potential further work. Item 7. Risk assessment and risk management	–
Tuesday 21 October 2025	Item 8. Invasive alien species Item 9. Biodiversity and agriculture Item 10. Biodiversity and health	Pending matters	Contact group sessions, as needed
Wednesday 22 October 2025	Consideration of conference room papers	Consideration of conference room papers	Contact group sessions, as needed
Thursday 23 October 2025	Consideration of conference room papers	Consideration of conference room papers	Contact group sessions, as needed
Friday 24 October 2025	Pending matters	Item 11. Other matters Item 12. Adoption of the report Item 13. Closure of the meeting	n/a

* Minor updates were made to the original proposed organization of work contained in the annotated provisional agenda ([CBD/SBSTTA/27/1/Add.1/Rev.1](#)). Depending on needs and progress made, plenary sessions on the consideration of conference room papers may be suspended to allow for the convening of contact group(s).