



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

CBD/WG2020/3/L.1
1 September 2021

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP
ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL
BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK
Third meeting
Online, 23 August – 3 September 2021

DRAFT REPORT OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK ON ITS THIRD MEETING (PART I)

II. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION

1. Part I of the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework was held online from 23 August to 3 September 2021.

Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Parties and other Governments: [*to be completed*]

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The meeting was opened at 7 a.m. (Montreal time) on 23 August 2021 by Mr. Francis Ogwal (Uganda), on behalf of Mr. Basile van Havre (Canada) and on his own behalf, as Co-Chairs of the Working Group. He recalled that, since the previous meeting, in Rome, the world had been disrupted by the harrowing effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. He wished those suffering from COVID-19 a quick recovery and expressed his deepest condolences to those who had lost loved ones.

4. The meeting paused in memory of those that had been lost to the pandemic, and in particular for Mr. Neimatullo Safarov (Tajikistan), a long-time national focal point for the Convention, who had passed away during the current meeting.

5. Continuing his remarks, Mr. Ogwal said that the current segment of the third meeting would carry forward the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework on the basis of the work accomplished at the recent virtual meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Convention. He thanked the Executive Secretary and her staff for the preparations for the meeting and the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (the Bureau) for its continuing support and advice. Mr. van Havre added that the Working Group had experienced a number of challenges in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as working online, and also thanked the participants for their continued engagement in the process.

6. Opening statements were made by: Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (Egypt); Mr. Carlos Morales of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia; Mr. Zhao Yingmin, Vice-Minister of Ecology and Environment of China; and Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

7. Speaking on behalf of the President of the Conference of the Parties, Mr. Zedan expressed his solidarity with all who had lost loved ones or suffered hardship from the COVID-19 pandemic. The past year had witnessed a devastating global health crisis as well as a series of harrowing global climate events,

from droughts and floods to unstoppable wildfires. Immediate steps were needed to heal a broken relationship with nature and halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity; survival required urgent action. The first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework provided a road map for putting biodiversity on a path to recovery before the end of the current decade; that would motivate and unify all actors and help to develop an ambitious, robust and transformative global biodiversity framework as well as the momentum needed for its adoption at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. He thanked the Government of Colombia for hosting the current meeting and the Co-Chairs of the Working Group, and the Bureau, for their guidance in organizing it. While the first draft of the global biodiversity framework carried forward the work of the Convention and its Protocols, the Parties also needed to prepare a final draft for the Conference of Parties, but he was confident that the participants would advance that important work for a safer, more sustainable and equitable world, for the sake of future generations, and to achieve the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature.

8. Mr. Morales said that, as one of the most mega-diverse countries, Colombia continued to work in collaboration with all Parties in the design and implementation of robust commitments for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as for the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from access to and utilization of genetic resources. Such collaboration needed to be both constructive and creative in order to identify specific solutions, and much work remained to achieve sustainable consumption and production patterns. While he welcomed the inclusion of conservation and restoration targets, protecting 30 per cent and restoring 20 per cent of the planet might not be enough if the rest of the planet was not sustainably used. Reversing biodiversity loss by 2030, and addressing the current climate emergency, required transformative action and the engagement of all productive sectors to transition to a nature-positive economy that successfully closed the gap between the harmful and positive incentives. The elements related to sustainable value chains, food systems and the circular economy needed to be strengthened, requiring strong international and multilateral cooperation. While all countries had to agree to protect nature, agreement was also needed on a robust means of implementation, which would not be possible without empowering all stakeholders, including civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities, local governments, business, women and youth. Colombia was convinced of the importance of cooperation among governments and non-State actors to accomplish the 2050 vision, and would host a “pre-COP” on biodiversity to promote high-level political commitment for the adoption of a transformative global biodiversity framework at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

9. Mr. Zhao said that, as President of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, China, together with the international community, was eager to reach an ambitious and pragmatic post-2020 global biodiversity framework that balanced the three objectives of the Convention and took into consideration the attainability of targets and resources. The first draft of the framework provided a basis for further in-depth discussion of its structure, wording and quantitative values. China called on all Parties to maintain an open attitude, continue close communication, jointly find practical solutions and strive for consensus at the current meeting. Only two months remained until the opening of the first part of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Kunming. As host, China was making great efforts to prepare for the meeting, the first part of which would include a two-day high-level segment and the adoption of the Kunming Declaration as well as parallel events, such as the Ecological Civilization Forum. All Parties were invited to participate in order to inject political impetus into global biodiversity governance, foster political consensus and boost the confidence of the international community.

10. Ms. Mrema, noting that over 2,245 participants representing 137 countries and 212 observer organizations were registered for the meeting, thanked the Co-Chairs and the Bureau for their leadership in shaping the online segment of the meeting. She also thanked: the Governments of Canada, Poland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for providing financial support for the meeting; the Governments of Australia, Canada, the European Union, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, Slovakia, Sweden and Switzerland for facilitating the effective participation of developing countries and indigenous peoples and local communities; and the Government of Colombia for convening, on 30 August 2021, a high-level “pre-COP” event that would include a panel discussion among Heads of State and Government with a view to promoting an ambitious global biodiversity framework and building political momentum to ensure success at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The recent assessments by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) had unequivocally shown that there was not a moment to spare. A new course was urgently needed to ensure that actions in the coming decade were set on a sustainable path. The Working Group had before it the first draft of a new global biodiversity framework; while still a work in progress, it proposed 4 goals, 21 targets and 10 milestones that could bring the world closer to “living in harmony with nature” by 2050. Demonstrable progress towards a framework could galvanize urgent and transformative action by governments and all of society; an ambitious framework would allow the Parties to the Convention and stakeholders to develop ambitious national and regional goals and targets through their national strategies and action plans and facilitate the regular monitoring and review of progress at the global level.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

11. At the first plenary session of part I of the meeting, on 23 August 2021, the representative of the Secretariat introduced the provisional agenda for the meeting (CBD/WG2020/3/1), and the provisional annotated agenda (CBD/WG2020/3/1/Add.1), which had been prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Bureau. The Working Group adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organization of work.
3. Progress since the second meeting.
4. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
5. Digital sequence information on genetic resources.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report.
8. Closing statements.

B. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

12. At the first plenary session of part I of the meeting, on 23 August 2021, Mr. van Havre, Co-Chair of the Working Group, recalled that the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of Parties applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the meetings of the Working Group and that the Bureau of the Conference of Parties, serving as the Bureau of the Working Group, had designated Ms. Leina Al-Awadhi (Kuwait) as the Rapporteur for the meeting.

13. The Rapporteur, speaking on behalf of all the participants, congratulated the Co-Chairs of the Working Group and the members of the Bureau for their hard work in preparing for the online segment and wished them a successful meeting. She also thanked the Executive Secretary and her team for the preparations for the meeting, the Government of Colombia for hosting the meeting and the Parties that had provided funding for the meeting.

14. The Co-Chair explained that the Bureau had requested that the Co-Chairs, with the support of the Secretariat, propose an organization of work for the online segment of the meeting. The proposed organization of work had been considered and adjusted by the Bureau and was set out in the annex to the scenario note (CBD/WG2020/3/1/Add.2/Rev.2). The online segment would comprise a mixture of plenary sessions and contact group meetings. At the final plenary session, the Working Group would consider, under agenda item 4, a final report from the co-leads of each of the contact groups and take note of their work. Those outcomes would then be appended to the report on part I of the meeting so that discussion could continue when the meeting resumed. With respect to agenda item 5, the participants would receive a final report from the co-leads of the contact group on digital sequence information on genetic resources and consider the conference room paper resulting from their work. That final outcome would also be appended to the report of the meeting to inform the future work of the Working Group.

15. The Working Group adopted the organization of work as proposed by the Co-Chair.

ITEM 3. PROGRESS SINCE THE SECOND MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP

16. At the first plenary session of part I of the meeting, on 23 August 2021, the Working Group took up agenda item 3. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary providing an overview of the outcomes of the consultations conducted and other contributions received regarding the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework since the second meeting of the Working Group (CBD/WG2020/3/2).

17. No interventions were made under agenda item 3; however, a number of written statements were submitted and were made available on the meeting web page.

ITEM 4. POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

18. At the second plenary session of part I of the meeting, on 24 August 2021, the Working Group took up agenda item 4. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/WG2020/3/3) and two addenda setting out the proposed headline indicators of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/WG2020/3/3/Add.1) and the glossary for the first draft of the framework (CBD/WG2020/3/3/Add.2). The Working Group also had before it six information documents, setting out the proposed monitoring approach and headline, component and complementary indicators for the framework (CBD/WG2020/3/INF/2); one-pagers on the goals and targets of the first draft of the framework (CBD/WG2020/3/INF/3); the marine input to headline indicators of the draft framework (CBD/WG2020/3/INF/4); the access and benefit-sharing indicators proposed in the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/WG2020/3/INF/5); a synthesis of the Workshop on the Financial Sector and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD/POST2020/OM/2021/4/1); and the report of the third Global Thematic Dialogue for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD/POST2020/WS/2021/1/2).

19. Regional statements were made by the 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) and Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union and its member States).

20. Additional statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Bhutan, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, the Philippines (on behalf of the 10 member States of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) subregion), the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

21. The Working Group resumed its consideration of agenda item 4 at the third plenary session of part I of the meeting, on 25 August 2021.

22. Statements were made by representatives of Algeria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cameroon, China, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malawi, Namibia, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland and Zambia.

23. During the session, the representative of the Russian Federation asked that the following statement be included in the meeting report:

“In order for all countries to fully implement the framework, it is extremely important to make effective and full use of the Convention financial mechanism in accordance with article 21. All countries entitled to use Global Environment Facility funding under its rules must have full access to its resources as per the established rules and not on the basis of political decisions. The application of punitive conditions with respect to a number of countries threatens not only the use of the framework but the integrity of the very Convention itself, its content and the opportunity for full participation by all parties in its implementation.”

24. In addition to the statements by Parties presented orally, written statements were submitted by Antigua and Barbuda, Kenya (on behalf of the African Group) and Lebanon and made available on the meeting web page.
25. The United States of America also submitted a written statement that was made available on the meeting web page.
26. Statements were made by representatives of the CBD Women's Caucus, GYBN and IIFB.
27. In addition to the statements by observers presented orally, written statements submitted by the following entities were also made available on the meeting web page: 30X30 Ocean Alliance, African Wildlife Foundation, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Born Free Foundation, Brazilian Foundation for Sustainable Development, Campaign for Nature, Center for Biological Diversity, Coastal Oceans Research and Development in the Indian Ocean, Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, Conservation International, CropLife International, Defenders of Wildlife (also on behalf of the Born Free Foundation, Center for Biological Diversity, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, Environmental Investigation Agency, Fondation Franz Weber and Natural Resources Defense Council), ETC Group, Finance for Biodiversity Foundation, Global Forest Coalition, Global Youth Online Union, Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, International Chamber of Commerce, International Coral Reef Initiative, International Fertilizer Association, International Institute for Environment and Development, International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association, International University Network on Cultural and Biological Diversity, Natural Justice, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Sierra Club Canada Foundation, University of Cambridge Conservation Leadership Alumni Network, World Agroforestry Centre, Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia and Zoological Society of London.
28. The Working Group decided to establish four contact groups to allow in-depth discussion of the first draft: (a) contact group 1, led by Mr. Vinod Mathur (India) and Mr. Norbert Baerlocher (Switzerland), with the mandate to focus on the goals, milestones and mission for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and also the overall structure and sections A to E of the draft framework; (b) contact group 2, led by Ms. Teona Karchava (Georgia) and Mr. Alfred Oteng-Yeboah (Ghana), with the mandate to focus on targets 1 to 8, on "reducing threats for biodiversity"; (c) contact group 3, led by Ms. Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica) and Mr. Andrew Stott (United Kingdom), with the mandate to focus on targets 9 to 13, on "nature's contributions to people"; and (d) contact group 4, led by Ms. Anne Teller (European Union) and Mr. Jorge Murillo (Colombia), with the mandate to focus on targets 14 to 21 on "tools and solutions" and also on sections H to K of the draft framework.
29. At the fourth plenary session of part I of the meeting, on 31 August 2021, the Co-Leads of contact groups 1, 2 and 4, respectively Mr. Baerlocher, Ms. Karchava, and Ms. Teller, reported back to the Working Group on the progress made by the groups thus far. Each noted that they had adjusted the working modalities in light of experience from the earlier sessions in order to advance work and complete their mandates. Contact Group 1 had completed its work. In the interest of making the most of the limited time available, Parties were encouraged to submit their proposed amendments to the Secretariat in advance of the next meetings of the contact groups.
30. Following the reports by the co-leads of the contact groups, statements were made by representatives of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.
31. Statements were also made by representatives of the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity, Business for Nature and CBD Alliance.
32. Further statements were made by representatives of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, BirdLife International (on behalf of seven other entities), the Global Biodiversity Information Facility,

Imperial College London (also on behalf of Western Michigan University, Island Conservation, Alliance for Science – Cornell University, Advanced Conservation Strategies, the Institute on Ethics and Policy for Innovation – McMaster University, Public Research and Regulation Initiative and Ifakara Health Institute), the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (by pre-recorded video), the Missionary Society of Saint Columban, the New Wind Association, the Wildlife Conservation Society (on behalf of seven other entities), TRAFFIC International and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

33. At its fourth plenary session, on 31 August 2021, the Working Group also considered the “Draft elements of a possible decision operationalizing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework”, as appended to the annex to document CBD/WG2020/3/3.

34. Statements were made by representatives of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (on behalf of the African Group) and Germany (on behalf of the European Union and its member States).

35. Statements were also made by representatives of Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Peru, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Northern Ireland and Great Britain.

36. A statement was made by a representative of IIFB.

37. An additional statement was made by a representative of the World Wildlife Fund for Nature.

38. *[to be completed]*

ITEM 5. DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION ON GENETIC RESOURCES

39. At the first plenary session of part I of the meeting, on 23 August 2021, the Working Group took up agenda item 5. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on the matter (CBD/WG2020/3/4), setting out an overview of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources (DSI) and of the informal activities carried out at the request of the Co-Chairs, as well as proposed elements of a draft recommendation on the matter. It also had before it information document CBD/WG2020/3/INF/1 providing an update on discussions on the topic in relevant ongoing international processes and policy debates.

40. Mr. Christopher Lyal (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), one of the co-chairs of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, presented the outcomes of the group’s March 2020 meeting as set out in annex I to document CBD/WG2020/3/4. Notably, the group had defined three groups of genetic and biological information that it concluded could be considered as DSI, as well as a fourth category, “associated information”, including traditional knowledge, that the group did not consider as DSI; however, the group had also recalled the obligations under the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing and the Convention to share benefits from the utilization of traditional knowledge. The group had considered the potential implications arising from the three groups of DSI identified, particularly with respect to traceability; use of DSI and technologies enabled by DSI in life sciences research and innovation processes; the International Nucleotide Sequence Database Collaboration on open exchange and use of DSI; and measures governing access, benefit-sharing and compliance. The discussion on potential implications had been preliminary, with the group concluding that the implications depended on the benefit-sharing approach adopted. Finally, the group had discussed capacity-building, emphasizing its importance and suggesting that it be integrated in broader capacity-building initiatives and strategies. Key stakeholders for DSI-related capacity-building included not only those in research organizations but also those in government and regulatory bodies, and indigenous peoples and local communities.

41. The Co-Chair of the Working Group, assisted by a representative of the secretariat, made a presentation on the informal activities more fully described in document CBD/WG2020/3/4, which the Co-Chairs had undertaken in the light of the disruption by COVID-19 of the formal intersessional process provided for in decision 14/20. After briefly reviewing the elements of decision 14/20, the Co-Chair provided an overview of five information-sharing webinars on DSI held from December 2020 and April 2021. Notably, the third webinar had presented five archetype policy options for DSI as distilled from the

literature, and the fourth webinar had explored the criteria that could be used to evaluate those options; the content of the two webinars was set out in some detail in annex II to the document. In connection with the webinars, an online forum had been set up to allow sharing of information and views on the DSI policy options and evaluation criteria.

42. Regional statements were made by the representatives of Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union and its member States) and Malawi (on behalf of the African Group).

43. Additional statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

44. The Working Group resumed its consideration of agenda item 5 at the second plenary session of part I of the meeting, on 24 August 2021.

45. A statement was made by the representative of the United States.

46. Statements were also made by representatives of Bioversity International (on behalf of CGIAR), CBD Alliance (also on behalf of the CBD Women's Caucus), GYBN, IIFB and the International Chamber of Commerce.

47. In addition to the statements by observers presented orally, a written statement submitted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was made available on the meeting web page.

48. The Working Group agreed to establish a contact group, led by Ms. Lactitia Tshitwamulomoni (South Africa) and Mr. Gaute Voigt-Hanssen (Norway), to further consider the matter and prepare a draft recommendation.

49. At the fourth plenary session of part I of the meeting, on 31 August 2021, Ms. Tshitwamulomoni reported back on the outcome of the contact group, which had concluded its work. The contact group had prepared potential elements of a draft recommendation for the Conference of the Parties, for further consideration at the resumed sessions on the Working Group. The group had discussed areas of potential convergence and apparent divergence on DSI, and the co-leads had prepared a summary of those discussions. In line with its mandate, the group had also considered discussing possible linkages between DSI and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and referring proposals for specific elements of the framework to the relevant contact groups under item 4. In addition, there had been general support for intersessional work to: (a) invite the submission of new views on how to address DSI under the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol, based on but not limited to the information and elements contained document CBD/WG2020/3/4; and (b) update the analysis of possible policy approaches, options or modalities and undertake an assessment of those based on a set of existing criteria, with a view to identifying potential advantages and disadvantages of each. The establishment of a group of "friends of the co-leads" had been proposed to support the work on possible policy approaches, options and modalities; the co-leads were currently working with the Co-Chairs and the Bureau to refine that proposal and would report back to the Working Group at the next plenary.

50. *[to be completed]*

ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS

51. *[to be completed]*

ITEM 7. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

52. *[to be completed]*

ITEM 8. CLOSING STATEMENTS

53. *[to be completed]*