

Closing communication from the President of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the President of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol for the silence procedures

Excellencies, distinguished Party representatives,

Further to the opening communication of 3 December 2024 on the silence procedures for six budget-related draft decisions, for the period 3 December, 7 a.m. Eastern Standard Time, to 6 December 2024, 7 a.m. Eastern Standard Time, it is our honour and pleasure to announce that the silence procedures have concluded without any objections during the specified time period. Through their silence, Parties expressed their agreement to the adoption of the decisions submitted to them. Accordingly, the following decisions are considered adopted by the respective bodies:

Budget for the biennium 2025–2026

- Decision 16/28: administration of the Convention and budget for the trust funds
- Decision CP-11/11: administration of the Protocol and budget for the trust funds
- Decision NP-5/12: administration of the Protocol and budget for the trust funds

Costs of the in-person resumed sessions

- Decision 16/29: costs of convening an in-person resumed session of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention
- Decision CP-11/12: costs of convening an in-person resumed session of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol
- Decision NP-5/13: costs of convening an in-person resumed session of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol

The present communication and the aforementioned decisions will also shortly be published on the website of the Convention.

Please note that a factual error in paragraph 3 of document CBD/COP/16/L.36 has been corrected in the final version of decision 16/29, replacing “Special Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention and its Protocols” with “Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating the Participation of Parties in the Convention Process”. This aligns with the purpose, stated in the decision, of supporting the participation of delegates from eligible countries in the in-person resumed sessions of the meetings.

The outcome of the silence procedures will be reflected in the respective reports of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, and the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, which will be submitted for adoption at the in-person meetings, in February 2025.

Following separate requests from the representatives of Canada and the Russian Federation during the period of the silence procedures, the following respective observations from the two delegations will be reflected in the final report of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention:

Canada

Canada would like to make the following observation with respect to paragraph 7 of document CBD/COP/16/L.35/Part.A: as the host country of the CBD Secretariat, Canada reiterates its commitment to the CBD Secretariat, including to make every effort to facilitate the access of the Secretariat to conference and meeting facilities in Canada, consistent with longstanding practice to minimize conference expenses by holding meetings in the CBD Secretariat's host city and with the agreement between the Government of Canada and the Secretariat concerning the headquarters of the Secretariat.

Russian Federation

Russian Federation would like to share deep concern expressed by a number of Parties in paragraph 20 of the document CBD/COP/16/L.35/Part.A concerning the ability to pay their contributions to the Convention and its Protocols easily and timely. There are various impediments which are not limited only to technical or communication challenges as mentioned in this paragraph. There are other significant challenges, including policies of the financial institutions used by the United Nations Environment Programme, timely submission of the invoices to the Party by the Secretariat of the Convention and other challenges. All challenges Parties face while paying their contributions should be seriously taken and options to resolve them considered and facilitated by the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the United Nations Environment Programme and, where relevant, by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

The collective effort of all the Parties to ensure that the budget-related decisions are adopted in a timely manner is very much appreciated.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

(Signed) María Susana **Muhamad González**

President of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol

(Signed) Nneka **Nicholas**

President of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol