



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.: Limited
26 October 2024

Original: English

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Sixteenth meeting

Cali, Colombia, 21 October–1 November 2024

Agenda item 27

Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols Working Group I

Procedure for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest in expert groups

Draft decision submitted by the Chair of Working Group I

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 14/33 of 29 November 2018,

Having reviewed the report of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹ on the implementation of the procedure for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest in expert groups,²

Taking into account the effective use of the procedure for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest³ in the selection of experts to serve in technical expert groups convened in processes under the Convention and its Protocols,

1. *Approves* the following amendments to the interest disclosure form contained in the appendix to the procedure:

(a) In the declaration sentence, at the end of the form, the following text is inserted: “If selected as a member of the expert group, I undertake to carry out my duties and responsibilities with all objectivity and, in the event that a potential conflict of interest is established, I undertake to recuse myself from relevant discussions or decision-making, as appropriate”;

(b) A “Name or description of the expert group” field is added at the beginning of the interest disclosure form, above the “Name” field, and a “Job title” field is added after the “Current employer” field;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to integrate the amendments referred to in paragraph 1 above into the interest disclosure form contained in the appendix to the annex to decision 14/33 and replace the original form contained in that decision with the amended version;

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

² CBD/SBI/4/11/Add.1.

³ Decision 14/33, annex.

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to take measures, as appropriate, to enhance the application of the procedure, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice or the Conference of the Parties, including by:

[(a) Reviewing, for accuracy, the information provided in the interest disclosure forms submitted by nominated experts;]

(b) Without prejudice to item (b) of paragraph 4.4 of the procedure, disclosing to other members of the expert group and at the beginning of any meeting of an expert group significant interests that have been declared by a particular member[or revealed by other reliable sources];

(c) Publishing a summary of all declarations made and actions taken to manage any actual or potential conflicts of interest in the report on a meeting and any other outcome of work or product of an expert group;

[4. *Decides* to review periodically the procedure and requests the Executive Secretary to prepare a report on the implementation of the procedure and, if necessary, to propose updates and amendments to the procedure for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;]

[5. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to consider the report and any proposed amendments referred to in paragraph 4 above and to submit a recommendation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth meeting.]
