



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.: General
Date: 30 July 2025
English only

Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation

Fourth meeting

Online, 5 and 6 August 2025

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

Organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda*

Introduction

1. In paragraph 24 of decision [15/8](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity established an informal advisory group on technical and scientific cooperation to provide strategic advice on practical measures, tools and opportunities to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex III to the decision. It further specified in the same annex that the Group would provide advice and guidance to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to relevant bodies and stakeholders on, inter alia, ways and means to promote and facilitate technology transfer, capacity-building and development, knowledge management and the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
2. Through notification [2025-018](#) dated 14 February 2025, Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations were invited to nominate experts to be considered to serve on the Group for the period 2025–2027. In response, 39 nominations were received, including 17 from Parties and 22 from relevant organizations representing indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, United Nations entities, regional and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions. Based on the criteria set out in decision 15/8, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, selected 15 new experts to serve on the Group for a two-year term. In line with the operational procedures and modalities of the Group, 16 experts who expressed interest to continue were also selected to serve a second and final two-year mandate.
3. The Executive Secretary is convening the fourth meeting of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, which will be held online on 5 and 6 August 2025.

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

4. The meeting will be opened by the Executive Secretary, or her representative, at 8 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time - EST) on 5 August 2025.

* CBD/TSC/IAG/2025/1/1

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

Item 2

Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda

5. The Informal Advisory Group will be invited to adopt the provisional agenda of the meeting (CBD/TSC/IAG/2025/1/1).

(b) Organization of work

6. The Informal Advisory Group will be invited to adopt the proposed organization of work contained in annex I. The meeting will be conducted in English only.

(c) Election of officers

7. The Informal Advisory Group will be invited to elect from among its members two co-chairs and a rapporteur to serve for a two-year period.

Item 3

Workplan of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation for the intersessional period 2025/26

8. The Informal Advisory Group will be invited to consider for adoption a draft workplan for the intersessional period.

Item 4

Strategic issues and priorities for in-depth consideration

9. The Informal Advisory Group will be invited to consider and provide feedback and advice on various issues under the Convention and, as appropriate, its Protocols, including specific requests by the Conference of the Parties with respect to capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation ([decision 16/3](#)), as outlined below.

(a) Draft options to address the technological, technical and institutional capability gaps identified

10. Pursuant to the request contained in paragraph 6 of decision 16/3, the Informal Advisory Group will be invited to provide advice to the Executive Secretary on suitable options to further address the technological, technical and institutional capability gaps identified, with a focus on the targets and cross-cutting considerations of the Framework, including those related to the Protocols. The options will be submitted for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its sixth meeting in February 2026 and by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting in October 2026.

(b) Elements of the terms of reference for the independent evaluation of the relevance and effectiveness of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism

11. In response to the request contained in paragraph 7 of decision 16/3, the Informal Advisory Group will embark on the preparation of the draft terms of reference for the independent evaluation of the relevance and effectiveness of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, to be undertaken in 2029 in conjunction with the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The draft terms of reference will be submitted for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its sixth meeting and by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

12. To facilitate the above process, the Secretariat will present elements of the terms of reference for review and further development by the Group at its next meeting in September 2025.

(c) Identification and mapping of relevant initiatives and partnerships supporting capacity-building and development for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

13. Pursuant to paragraph 8 (b) of decision 16/3, the Secretariat will provide a short update on the ongoing process to identify and map relevant initiatives and partnerships supporting capacity-building and development for the implementation of the Framework and to make the information available through the central portal of the Clearing-house Mechanism. The Informal Advisory Group will be invited to provide advice and guidance.

Item 5

Technical and scientific cooperation mechanism

(a) Update on the operationalization of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism

14. In paragraph 25 of decision 15/8, the Conference of the Parties established a technical and scientific cooperation mechanism comprising a network of regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres coordinated by a global coordination entity. In paragraph 3 of decision 16/3, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the 18 entities and organizations that were selected by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to host the centres. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties decided that the global coordination entity will be hosted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and it adopted the modalities for operationalizing the entity.

15. The Secretariat will provide an update on progress made to operationalize the subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global coordination entity, and highlight the next steps.

(b) Draft guidance for developing the biennial workplans of the regional and subregional support centres

16. In paragraph 15 of decision 16/3, the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres are requested to develop, with the support of the global coordination entity and the Informal Advisory Group, a biennial workplan for the period 2025–2026, in line with the mandate specified in paragraph 26 of decision 15/8 and the guidance provided in document CBD/COP/16/INF/24, as updated by the Secretariat.

17. The Secretariat will provide an update on the status of support to the centres in the development of their biennial workplans and the preparation of the draft guidance.

Item 6

Other matters

18. Under this agenda item, the Informal Advisory Group members will have the opportunity to raise any other matters of relevance.

Item 7

Conclusions and recommendations

19. The Informal Advisory Group will be invited to consider general conclusions and recommendations, as prepared by the Co-Chairs with the support of the Secretariat on the basis of the discussions under the various agenda items.

Item 8

Closure of the meeting

20. The meeting is expected to close at 11 a.m. EST on 6 August 2025.

Annex

Proposed organization of work

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
Tuesday, 5 August 2025	
8–8.30 a.m.	Item 1. Opening of the meeting
	Item 2. Organizational matters: (a) Adoption of the agenda; (b) Organization of work; (c) Election of officers
8.30–9.30 a.m.	Item 3. Workplan of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation for the intersessional period 2025/26
9.30–10.30 a.m.	Item 4. Strategic issues and priorities in in-depth review (a). Draft options to further address the technological, technical and institutional capability gaps identified
10.30–11 a.m.	(b). Elements of the terms of reference for the independent evaluation of the relevance and effectiveness of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism
Wednesday, 6 August 2025	
8–9 a.m.	Item 4 (b). (<i>Continued</i>)
9–9.45 a.m.	Item 4 (<i>continued</i>) (c). Identification and mapping of relevant initiatives and partnerships supporting capacity-building and development for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
9.45–10 a.m.	Item 5. Technical and Scientific cooperation mechanism (a). Update on the operationalization of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism
10–10.45 a.m.	(b). Draft guidance for developing the biennial workplans of the selected regional and subregional support centres
10.45–11 a.m.	Item 6. Other matters
	Item 7. Conclusions and recommendations
	Item 8. Closure of the meeting