



Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Fifteenth meeting
Kunming, China, 11-15 October 2021
and 25 April to 8 May 2022
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. Following the invitation of the Government of China and as decided by the Conference of the Parties in its decision [XIII/33](#), the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties was scheduled to be held in Kunming, China, from 15-28 October 2020. The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CP/MOP-10) and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from Their Utilization (NP/MOP-4) were due to be held concurrently with fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the meetings were postponed until the period 17-30 May 2021. Since the pandemic continued, the dates of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols were further postponed and are now scheduled to be held from 11 to 24 October 2021, in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China.
2. After extensive consultations and considering the challenges that the pandemic situation still poses to convene an in-person meeting of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Protocols, the Bureau agreed, at its meeting held on 14 July 2021, to the holding of these meetings in two parts: the first part (Part I), to be held online from 11 to 15 October 2021, and the second part (Part II) to be held in person in Kunming, China, from 25 April to 8 May 2022. Part I of the meeting, while being convened virtually, will also include a limited presence of delegates in Kunming, China. The Bureau, the host country and the Secretariat will keep under review the pandemic situation with a view to making alternative arrangements in the case that the modality and timing of Part II of the meeting, which is scheduled to be held in person in Kunming, China, cease to be feasible.
3. The Bureau considered and finalized the provisional the agenda for the meeting (CBD/COP/15/1/Rev.1) at its meeting, held online, of 26 April 2021. It also reviewed the preliminary draft annotations. The annotations to the agenda for the agenda items to be addressed at Part I of the meeting were subsequently finalized by the Executive Secretary, taking into account the comments of the Bureau at that meeting, and are presented in the present document. The annotations to the agenda for the agenda items to be addressed at Part II of the meeting will be completed and updated in the light of the outcomes of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, and a further meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

* CBD/COP/15/1/Rev.1.

4. The provisional agenda and the annotations have been prepared in line with the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2020, adopted in decision [XII/31](#), the process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, adopted in decision [14/34](#), and developments in the pandemic situation which significantly influenced the organization of work of the meeting.

5. The following agenda items are to be addressed at Part I of the meeting: item 1 (opening of the meeting); 2 (organizational matters); 3 (report on credentials of representatives of Parties); 4 (pending issues), 6 (reports on intersessional and regional preparatory meetings); 7 (administration of the Convention and Protocols and budgets for the trust funds); 28 (other matters); 29 (adoption of the report); and 30 (closure of the meeting). With the exception of items 1 and 4, it is expected that these items will need to be further considered at Part II of the meeting. The following agenda items would also be addressed at Part II the meeting: agenda items 5 and 8 to 27.

6. In accordance with rule 6 of the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat has notified the United Nations, its specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as any State not party to the Convention, of this meeting, so that they may be represented as observers.

7. In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure, the Secretariat has issued notifications to those bodies and agencies, whether governmental or non-governmental, qualified in fields relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, which have informed the Secretariat of their wish to be represented at the meeting, so that they may be represented as observers. A list of such bodies will be made available to the Conference of the Parties for information.

8. High-level ministerial segments will be organized by the host country during the two parts of the meeting in consultation with the Secretariat and the Bureau. The high-level segment planned for the first part of the meeting during will be held on 12 and 13 October 2021.

9. In accordance with established practice, the Executive Secretary will prepare a compilation of the draft decisions that would be proposed by subsidiary bodies at intersessional meetings or developed by the Executive Secretary in the light of earlier decisions and recommendations (CBD/COP/15/2) and will prepare a summary of the financial implications of draft decisions and make that compilation and a summary available six weeks prior to the resumed session (part II) of the meeting.

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

10. The opening ceremony will take place at 3 p.m. (local time, Kunming) on Monday, 11 October 2021. The opening of the meeting will continue immediately afterwards.

11. The meeting will be opened by the President of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties or her representative. At the opening session, the Conference will hear a welcoming address by representatives of the Government of China and the local authorities.

12. The Executive Secretary will address the meeting and highlight the main issues before the Conference of the Parties.

13. Representatives of regional groups, indigenous peoples and local communities and a limited number of other groups may also make statements.

14. The opening of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol will be held in conjunction with the opening of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.¹

¹ See CBD/COP/15/1/Add.2.

Item 2. Organizational matters

Election of the President

15. It is expected that, at the opening session, the President of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, or her representative, will call for the election of a representative of the host country as President of the fifteenth meeting. The term of office of the President will begin immediately following his or her election at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and will end with the election of a successor at the sixteenth meeting.

Election of officers other than the President

16. In accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure (as adopted by decision [I/1](#) and amended by decision V/20), in addition to the President, 10 vice-presidents, one of whom acts as Rapporteur, are to be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting. The term of office of the vice-presidents will commence upon the closure of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and end at the closure of the sixteenth meeting. At its fourteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties elected 10 vice-presidents from the following countries for a term of office commencing upon the closure of its fourteenth meeting and ending at the closure of its fifteenth meeting:

| | Bureau members | Substitute members (for Protocols) |
|----|--|---|
| 1 | Mr. Eric Okoree (Ghana) | |
| 2 | Mr. Melesse Maryo (Ethiopia) | |
| 3 | Ms. Sujata Arora (India) later replaced by Vinod Mathur (India) | |
| 4 | Ms. Leina El-Awadhi (Kuwait) | |
| 5 | Ms. Teona Karchava (Georgia) | Mr. Dilovarsho Dustov (Tajikistan), substitute for Nagoya Protocol matters |
| 6 | Ms. Elvana Ramaj (Albania) | |
| 7 | Ms. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez (Costa Rica) later replaced by Ms. Andrea Meza Murillo (Costa Rica) | Mr. Joaquin Salzberg (Argentina), substitute for Nagoya Protocol matters |
| 8 | Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda) | |
| 9 | Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria) | |
| 10 | Ms. Rosemary Paterson (New Zealand) | Ms. Marie Haraldstad (Norway), substitute for Nagoya Protocol matters |

17. Regional groups are called upon to submit their nominations, preferably prior to Part II of the meeting in 2022. Early nominations would allow the newly elected members of the Bureau to attend, as observers, the Bureau meetings to be held during Part II of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in order to ensure a smooth transition between outgoing and incoming Bureau members.

18. Where necessary, substitute officers will be elected by the Conference of the Parties serving as the tenth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Conference of the Parties serving as the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol during the second part of the meetings in 2022.

Election of officers of subsidiary bodies and other meetings

19. Rule 26 of the rules of procedure provides that the chairperson of any subsidiary body shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties. The Conference of the Parties will therefore need to elect the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, to preside over the respective bodies for a term of office that will begin at the end of the fifteenth meeting and extend until the end of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. According to the established regional rotation, it is expected that the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice would be elected from the Central and Eastern Europe

region, while the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation would be elected from the Asian and Pacific region.

20. The election of these officers will take place at Part II of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties next year. The current Chairs will remain in office until the end of Part II of the meeting. The Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework are also expected to remain in office until the second part of the meeting.

Adoption of the agenda

21. The provisional agenda (CBD/COP/15/1) has been approved by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties. It was prepared by the Executive Secretary, in accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure, with the guidance of the Bureau, and taking into account the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2020, contained in decision [XII/31](#), and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

22. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt the agenda of its meeting, pursuant to the rules of procedure, on the basis of the provisional agenda set forth in document CBD/COP/15/1/Rev.1.

Organization of work

23. Part I of the meeting is expected to address all of its items in plenary. In accordance with established practice, the Conference of the Parties may wish to establish two working groups to support the work of the plenary at the second part of its meeting. If the two working groups are established, the Conference of the Parties would need to elect a chairperson or co-chairpersons for each at the commencement of Part II of its meeting.

24. As decided by the Conference of the Parties in decision [XII/27](#), paragraph 3, and agreed by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol in decision [BS-VII/9](#), paragraph 1, as well as by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol in decision [NP-1/12](#), paragraph 1, ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties are held within a two-week period that includes the meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. Thus, it is envisaged that the two working groups would also address issues related to the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol, as may be referred to the working groups by the respective meetings of the Parties.

25. The proposed organization of work for Part I of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the concurrent meetings of the Protocols is contained in document CBD/COP/15/1/Add.2. This document will be updated and made available at least six weeks prior to the start of Part II of the meeting in 2022. The update will include, as usual, the proposed division of responsibilities between the plenary and the two working groups.

Item 3. Report on the credentials of representatives to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

26. Rule 18 of the rules of procedure states that:

“The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary of the Conference of the Parties or the representative of the Executive Secretary not later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the meeting. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Executive Secretary or his representative. The credentials shall be issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization.”

27. Rule 19 provides that “the Bureau of any meeting shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Conference of the Parties for decision”.

28. In order to assist Parties in fulfilling the requirements of rule 18, the Executive Secretary will issue a notification and distribute to national focal points sample formats of appropriate credentials.

29. The Conference of the Parties will be invited to consider and adopt the report on credentials submitted to it by the Bureau.

Item 4. Pending issues

30. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted the rules of procedure for its meetings in decision [I/1](#), with the exception of rule 40, paragraph 1, relating to the taking of substantive decisions. The Conference of the Parties has considered this outstanding matter at its subsequent meetings but without resolving it conclusively. At the third meeting, consensus was reached concerning some, but not all, of the text in brackets.

31. In decision [I/6](#), the Conference of the Parties adopted the financial rules for the administration of the Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity. Paragraphs 4 and 16 of these rules contain bracketed text. Paragraph 4 deals with the scale of assessments for the apportionment of contributions by Parties to the Trust Fund. Paragraph 16 deals with the adoption of decisions regarding the Trust Fund. The paragraphs have been considered at subsequent meetings of the Conference of the Parties but without any agreement. The text therefore remains bracketed.

32. Since it is not expected that this matter can be resolved at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, it will be suggested that its consideration be postponed to a future meeting.

II. REPORTS

Item 6. Reports of intersessional and regional preparatory meetings

33. Under this item, the President will inform the Conference of the Parties of the meetings of subsidiary bodies held during the intersessional period and the corresponding reports, on the understanding that the substantive issues arising therein will be taken up under the appropriate agenda item.

34. The reports that will be presented at Part I of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties include the following:

(a) Eleventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/WG8J/11/7);

(b) Twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (CBD/SBSTTA/23/9);

(c) First, second and third meetings of the Open-ended Working Group on Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD/WG2020/1/5, CBD/WG2020/2/4).

35. The Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will report on the progress of the work in preparing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The meeting of the Conference of the Parties is expected to take note of the report and to provide guidance to the Co-Chairs to complete the preparation by the Working Group, of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and submit their final report and recommendation at the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties next year.

36. The reports of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on its twenty-fourth meeting and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on its third meeting will be presented to the Conference of the Parties at the second part of its meeting, in 2022.

37. The regional groups may wish to report to the Conference of the Parties on the results of any regional preparatory meetings to be held prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

III. ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET

Item 7. Administration of the Convention and budget for the trust funds

38. The Conference of the Parties will have before it an interim report of the Executive Secretary on the administration of the Convention, including the budget for the trust funds of the Convention, for its consideration. During Part I of the meeting, in October 2021, the Conference of the Parties will be invited to consider and adopt an interim budget for 2022.

39. The plenary may wish to establish, during Part I of its meeting, a contact group on the budget to consider the proposed interim budget for 2022 and submit its recommendation to the Conference of the Parties, anticipating that the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, at their first plenary sessions, would also refer consideration of the budgets for their programmes of work to this contact group.

VII. FINAL MATTERS

Item 28. Other matters

40. The Conference of the Parties may wish to consider other matters raised and accepted for discussion, in accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure and paragraph 7 of decision [IV/16](#).

41. Under this agenda item, the President is expected to inform the plenary about the outcome of the high-level segment held on 12 and 13 October 2021.

Item 29. Adoption of the report

42. The Conference of the Parties will be invited to consider and adopt the report on the work of the first part of its meeting on the basis of the draft report prepared by the Rapporteur.

43. During the second part of its meeting next year, the Conference of the Parties will be invited to consider and adopt supplemental report on the basis of a draft that will be prepared by the Rapporteur and the reports of the two working groups, reflecting the proceedings of the second and in-person part of its meeting. The reports of the two parts of the meeting will together constitute the proceedings of the meeting.

44. The Conference of the Parties may also wish to annex to its report the outcomes of the high-level segments of its meeting, and other events organized in conjunction with its meeting. In accordance with established practice, the Conference of the Parties may wish to authorize the Rapporteur to complete the final report after the meeting, with the guidance of the President and assistance of the Secretariat.

Item 30. Closure of the meeting

45. It is expected that the President will suspend the meeting by 5 p.m. on Friday (Kunming time) on 15 October 2021 and that the meeting will be resumed for its in-person part (Part II), to be held from 25 April to 8 May 2022, in Kunming, China. Thus, the meeting will be formally closed at the conclusion of Part II of the meeting, on 8 May 2022.
