

**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Distr.
GENERAL

26 January 2024






ENGLISH ONLY

TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON FINANCIAL REPORTING

Second meeting

Istanbul, Türkiye, 26 February – 1 March 2024

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1. Opening and Registration

The second meeting of the Technical Expert Group on Financial Reporting will be held in Istanbul, Türkiye from Monday, 26 February to Friday, 1 March 2024. The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 26 February, registration of CBD participants will take place at the venue between 9:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

2. Venue

The meeting will held at:

Istanbul Marriott Hotel Sisli

Abide-i Hürriyet Cad. No:142, Sisli

Istanbul, Türkiye, 34381

Tel: +90 212 375 01 00

Website: <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/istdt-istanbul-marriott-hotel-sisli/>

Hotel contact information: Reservation Office e-mail: reservation.marriottsisli@marriott.com

3. Working language of the meeting

The meeting will be held in English.

4. Meeting Documents



Documents will be made available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/FM-TEG-2024-01>

In order to minimize the environmental footprint of the meeting and in line with the UN policy towards greener meetings, participants are kindly reminded to bring their own copies of the documents, or to use paperless versions, as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the meeting. WIFI access will be provided.

5. General information on access to Istanbul

Istanbul is serviced by two airports; the (new) Istanbul International Airport (IST, IGA) (<https://istanbul-international-airport.com/>) on the European side which is about 40 kms from downtown and through the Sabiha Gökçen International Airport on the Asian side (<https://www.sabihagokcen.aero/>) which is about 43 km from downtown.

Airport transportation:

Options for transfers to and from the airport are as follows:

By taxi:

If you don't know Istanbul, taking a taxi is the best option. Taxis are readily available at the airport. Please make sure the taxi meter is on. A taxi from either the Istanbul Airport or Sabiha Gokcen to Marriott Hotel Sisli will cost approximately 600-750 TRY (USD 20-25).

Public airport shuttles:

There are public shuttle services available to and from both airports to Taksim Square, which is approximately 6 km from Marriott Hotel Sisli.

(Havabus – Sabiha Gokcen Airport and Havaist- new Istanbul Airport)

Havaist shuttles from/to new Istanbul Airport- Taksim Square: <http://www.hava.ist/>

Havabus shuttles from/to Sabiha Gokcen Airport- Taksim Square: <http://www.havabus.com/>

In-city transportation:

You can either use taxi or public transportation in the city.

Public transportation options for in-city travel are as follows:

- Link to public transportation routes: <https://iett.istanbul/>
- Istanbul Metro: <https://www.metro.istanbul/>

6. Visa information



Participants from countries listed in the **annex** below require an entry visa for Türkiye and are strongly advised to contact the nearest Turkish diplomatic or consular mission **as soon as possible** in order to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure. **Please note that airline companies will not allow boarding in the absence of a valid visa.**

Information on visa procedures and forms, including countries that may apply for an e-Visa is available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye at: <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/visa-information-for-foreigners.en.mfa>

The listing of Turkish diplomatic/consular missions abroad, is available on same website at the following direct link: <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkish-representations.en.mfa>

To facilitate the issuance of visas, the Secretariat will issue upon request invitation letters to be attached to the visa applications.

7. Health information

There are no travel restrictions related to COVID-19. Participants are requested to bring their own masks which are recommended following a recent exposure to COVID-19, when someone has, or suspect they have or is at high-risk of severe COVID-19, and for anyone in a crowded, enclosed, or poorly ventilated space.

Please contact a medical professional for any routine or recommended vaccinations or medication related to travel to Türkiye.

8. Hotel information

Participants are kindly reminded that they **must make their own hotel reservations and should do so as soon as possible**. Below please find a listing of recommended hotels in the vicinity of the venue (Istanbul Marriott Hotel Sisli).

Hotel Name	District	Website(s)
Fairmont Quasar Istanbul	Sisli	https://www.fairmont.com/istanbul/
Fraser Place Anthill Istanbul	Sisli	https://istanbul.frasershospitality.com/en
Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel	Sisli	https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/istmahi-hilton-istanbul
		https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/istbhhi-hilton-istanbul-bomonti-hotel-and-conference-center/
Marriott Hotel Sisli	Sisli	https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/istdt-istanbul-marriott-hotel-sisli
Radisson Blu Hotel	Sisli	https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-blu-istanbul-sisli

9. Payment of the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)

The DSA will be disbursed to funded participants on the first day of the meeting in the form of a prepaid credit card (Swiss Bankers card). **These funded participants are kindly requested to bring their passports and boarding passes on the first day of the meeting**. These will be copied and returned to participants during the meeting. It is advisable that participants have some cash at hand to cover expenses that may occur between their arrival and the moment at which they are provided with the prepaid credit card from which they will access their DSA. Please note that the funds can take up to 24 hours to be loaded on the cards.

IMPORTANT: If you were provided with a Swiss Bankers card for a previous meeting, please inform the Secretariat and bring it with you to the meeting (if it is still valid) so that it may be reused. Please make sure you remember the PIN, otherwise contact the bank to request that they reset the PIN.

Swiss Bankers Contacts:

Swiss Bankers Prepaid Services Ltd, Customer Service
(forgotten PIN numbers, card replacements or transaction claims)

Tel: +41-31 710 12 15

Email: info@swissbankers.ch

Opening hours:

Mon-Sun: 8.00-22.00 Swiss time. Closed on Swiss bank holidays.

10. Official language

The official language in Türkiye is Turkish: English is spoken in hotels and restaurants.

11. Weather and time zone information



In February, average temperatures in Istanbul range between +9°C in the daytime and +3°C at night. Please bring appropriate warm clothing for cool conditions. The current weather conditions may be found at <https://worldweather.wmo.int/en/city.html?cityId=47>.

The standard time zone for Istanbul for the meeting will be EEST (Eastern European Summer Time) which is GMT/UTC +3 hours.

12. Electricity

The electrical currents are 220 Volts, 50 Hertz and plugs are as shown below.



13. Currency



The currency in Türkiye is the Turkish lira (TRY, ₺). The current exchange rate as at 8 January 2024 is US \$1 = TRY 29.90 and € 1 = TRY 32.78 (source: www.xe.com, rates are subject to change).

It is recommended that you exchange your money at the banks, exchange offices and ATMs in the city. The exchange rate will be more reasonable than in the airport. However, you can expect to be able to pay with your credit or debit card in most places like hotels, malls, large stores, supermarkets, restaurants, some bars.

14. General Safety Rules for Travellers to Türkiye

In Istanbul, one must be vigilant, always remain alert and conscious of your surroundings when going about your activities. Caution should be exercised always and avoid large public gatherings. Some precautions are as follows:

- Stay alert in locations frequented by tourists/foreigners;
- Keep your passport, traveller's cheques, excess money and any other valuables to be locked in the hotel's safe.
- Always carry a copy of your passport and visa (if applicable).
- Do not walk on your own or take a taxi alone at night;
- Do not carry a lot of cash with you or wear expensive jewellery;
- Monitor local media for breaking events and be prepared to adjust your plans.

For more specific security advice both before and during the meeting, please check your national Foreign Office travel advisory for Türkiye.

15. Disclaimer

The CBD Secretariat disclaims all responsibility for medical, accident and travel insurance, for compensation for death or disability compensation, for loss of or damage to personal property and for any other loss that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation. In this context, it is strongly recommended to secure international medical, accident and travel insurance for the period of participation prior to departure.

Annex – Country Listing for Visas

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WHOSE CITIZENS REQUIRE VISAS IN ORDER TO ENTER TÜRKIYE AS VISITORS (AS LISTED ON THE WEB SITE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE)

Citizens of the following countries and territories require a visa to **visit** or **transit** Türkiye. Please check website for details:

A			
Afghanistan		Mozambique	V
Algeria		Myanmar	Vanuatu
Angola	G	N	Viet Nam
Antigua and Barbuda	Gabon	Namibia	Y
Armenia	Gambia	Nauru	Yemen
Australia	Ghana	Nepal	Z
B	Grenada	Niger	Zambia
Bahamas	Guinea	Nigeria	Zimbabwe
Bangladesh	Guinea-Bissau	P	
Barbados	Guyana	Pakistan	
Benin	H	Palau	
Bhutan	Haiti	Palestinian Authority	
Botswana	I	Papua New Guinea	
Burkina Faso	India	Philippines	
Burundi	Iraq	R	
C	J	Rwanda	
Cabo Verde	Jamaica	S	
Cambodia	K	Saint Lucia	
Cameroon	Kenya	Samoa	
Central African Republic	Kiribati	Sao Tomé e Príncipe	
Chad	Korea, Democratic	Senegal	
China	People's Republic	Sierra Leone	
Comoros	of	Solomon Islands	
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	L	Somalia	
Congo, Republic of the	Lao, People's Democratic	South Africa	
Cuba	Republic of	South Sudan	
D	Lesotho	Sri Lanka	
Djibouti	Liberia	Sudan	
Dominica	Libya	Suriname	
Dominican Republic	M	Syria	
E	Madagascar	T	
East Timor	Malawi	Tanzania, United Republic	
Egypt	Maldives	of	
Equatorial Guinea	Mali	Togo	
Eritrea	Marshall Islands	Tonga	
Eswatini	Mauritania	Tuvalu	
Ethiopia	Mauritius	U	
F	Mexico	Uganda	
Fiji	Micronesia, Federated	United States of America	
	States of	Uzbekistan	

