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| **CONVENTION ON**  **BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY** |  | CBD/SBI/3/CRP.10  30 May 2021  ORIGINAL: ENGLISH |

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION

Third meeting

Online, 16 May-13 June 2021

Agenda item 10

Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its protocols

Draft recommendation submitted by the Chair

*The Subsidiary Body on Implementation*,

*Having considered* the note by the Executive Secretary,[[1]](#footnote-2) *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its tenth meeting, and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol at its fourth meeting, adopt decisions, respectively, along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties*,

*The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*,

*The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing*,

1. **Experience with concurrent meetings**

*Recalling* decisions XII/27, CP-7/9 and NP-1/12, XIII/26, CP-8/10 and NP-2/12, 14/32, CP‑9/8 and NP-3/10,

*Having reviewed* the experience in holding concurrently meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, using the criteria agreed earlier,

*Taking into account* the views of Parties and observers that participated in the concurrent meetings held in 2016 and 2018 as synthesized and presented in the notes by the Executive Secretary on the review of experience in holding concurrent meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and meetings of the Parties to the Protocols,[[2]](#footnote-3)

1. *Notes with satisfaction* that the concurrent meetings were overall considered to have allowed for increased integration among the Convention and its Protocols, and improved consultations, coordination and synergies among the respective national focal points;

2. *Notes* that most of the criteria were considered as being met or partially met, and that further improvements in the functioning of the concurrent meetings are desirable, in particular to improve the outcomes and effectiveness of the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols;

3. *Reiterates* the importance of ensuring the full and effective participation of representatives of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, in the concurrent meetings, and the importance, in particular, of ensuring adequate participation of representatives in meetings of the Parties to the protocols by making funding available for such participation, and, in this regard, *recalls* decision 14/37, paragraphs 36 to 46;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau, to further improve the planning and organization of future concurrent meetings on the basis of the experience gained to date and the views expressed by Parties and observers;

**B. Experience with virtual meetings**

*Recalling* decision XII/29, paragraph 2, in which the Executive Secretary was requested to explore ways to increase the efficiency of meetings, including convening meetings through virtual means, and further developments in that regard,

*Recognizing* the restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020, which rendered in-person meetings impracticable,

*Recognizing* the limitations of virtual meetings, such as the difficulties in participating in such meetings experienced by delegations with network and connectivity problems, in particular by developing country Parties, as well as indigenous peoples and local communities and observers, and by those delegations from countries in inconvenient time zones, but also the opportunities of holding meetings virtually as observed through the experience gained so far from the momentum created by holding meetings of the subsidiary bodies during the extended intersessional period, in particular the increased overall levels of participation in many sessions, as well as the potential environmental and financial benefits,

5. *Notes with appreciation* the expeditious adjustments and arrangements made by the Secretariat, and the understanding and flexibility demonstrated by presiding officers and participants, which allowed the convening of a number of meetings and consultations in a virtual setting in response to the limitations caused by the pandemic situation, notwithstanding the inconveniences arising from such a setting, and the limitations that were agreed with regard to decision-making;

6. *Agrees* that convening of formal meetings in a virtual setting, while important in terms of responding to the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, does not set a precedent for the future organization of similar meetings under the Convention;

7. *Calls upon* Parties and observers to remain flexible and to encourage their representatives to continue to participate in virtual meetings as long as in-person meetings cannot be held as a result of the pandemic situation, by enhancing capacities and making available technical and technological facilities that are necessary for their representatives to participate in these meetings effectively;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare an analysis of the experience gained and relevant studies available, especially within the United Nations system, in conducting virtual meetings and options for procedures for such meetings to address exceptional circumstances, and to submit it to the Subsidiary Body for consideration at its fourth meeting;

9. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to consider the analysis and options referred to in paragraph 8 above and to make recommendations to the governing bodies of the Convention and the Protocols for consideration at their next meeting.

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1. CBD/SBI/3/12. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. See [CBD/SBI/2/16/Add.1](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/2a4e/4a1b/9aa23008d4af76c6e2cf4de8/sbi-02-16-add1-en.pdf) and associated information notes ([CBD/SBI/2/INF/1](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/e896/e6a9/58e656fef046cec35bbbe6d7/sbi-02-inf-01-en.pdf) and [INF/2](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/28b9/9ae8/d4ee604de9dea40eca158d65/sbi-02-inf-02-en.pdf)). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)