UN environment programme

CBD/COP/17/INF/30

Distr.: General
29 October 2026

English only

Convention on Biological Diversity

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Seventeenth meeting
Yerevan, 19–30 October 2026
Agenda item 5
Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties

Decision on the venue of the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity*

Note by the Secretariat

I. Background

1. At its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will be invited to take a decision on the date and venue of its eighteenth meeting.

2. Rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties provides that the meetings of the Conference of the Parties are to take place at the seat of the Secretariat, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise or other appropriate arrangements are made by the Secretariat in consultation with the Parties.

3. In line with established practice, a meeting of the Conference of the Parties is held at a venue decided at the previous meeting. To that end, Parties represented at a meeting may make an offer to host the following meeting. The offer is generally welcomed by acclamation by other Parties before being formally adopted in a decision.

4. With regard to voting, rule 39 of the rules of procedure provides the following:

> 1. Except as provided for in paragraph 2 of this rule, each Party shall have one vote.
>
> 2. Regional economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States which are Parties. Such organizations shall not exercise their right to vote if their member States exercise theirs, and vice versa.

5. With regard to the required majority, the selection of the venue is a procedural matter, as it relates to the conduct of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, which means that, in the absence of consensus, the Conference of the Parties may make a decision by a majority vote of the Parties present and voting, in accordance with rule 40, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure. In addition, rule 40, paragraph 5, provides that, for the purposes of the rules of procedure, the phrase

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

"Parties present and voting" means Parties present at the session at which voting takes place and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Parties abstaining from voting are considered as not voting.

6. Only delegates with valid credentials signed by their Head of State, Head of Government or minister for foreign affairs may participate in the voting on the decision on the venue of the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. As at 28 October 2026, 148 Party delegations had submitted valid credentials.

7. With regard to the quorum required to take decisions, rule 30 of the rules of procedure provides that the President may declare a session of the meeting open and permit the debate to proceed if at least one third of the Parties to the Convention are present, and have any decisions taken when representatives of at least two thirds of the Parties are present. There are 196 Parties to the Convention and, accordingly, 131 Parties need to be present to take any decision.

8. With regard to voting, rule 46 of the rules of procedure provides the following:

> Voting, except for election, shall normally be by show of hands. A roll-call vote shall be taken if one is requested by any Party. It shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Parties participating in the meeting, beginning with the Party whose name is drawn by lot by the President. However, if at any time a Party requests a secret ballot, that shall be the method of voting on the issue in question. Even if no request is made for a secret ballot, the President may make a ruling that the decision on the venue of the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties should be taken by secret ballot, which is more advisable.

9. The other alternative is for Parties to vote by show of hands or roll call for each offer individually, in which case the country that obtains the highest number of votes and a majority of the votes of Parties present and voting is declared the country selected to host the eighteenth meeting.

10. Should there be a vote by secret ballot, the procedure described below should be followed.

II. Balloting procedure for the conduct of the vote

11. Upon commencement of balloting, the Conference Officers will first distribute the ballot papers to the delegations that have submitted credentials and are sitting behind their nameplates. Each delegation will receive one ballot paper.

12. The names of the countries that have offered to host the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be printed on the ballot papers. Delegates may only complete the ballot papers that have been distributed. They will be requested to put a tick or a cross in the box next to one of the countries printed on the ballot paper. There may not be more than one checked box.

13. Accordingly, delegates can:

(a) Mark the box for one country that has offered to host the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; or

(b) Leave their ballot blank.

14. A blank ballot paper will be considered an abstention. The ballot will be considered invalid if delegates have marked the boxes for more than one country listed on the ballot paper or if they have written down the name of a country that has not offered to host the eighteenth meeting. If a ballot paper contains any notations other than a vote in favour of any of the two countries, the notations will be disregarded.

15. Ballot papers must be filled out clearly. If a mistake is made in the process of filling out the ballot paper, the delegation in question must immediately request a new ballot paper from the

Secretariat staff at the front of the meeting room. After the ballot papers are collected and the presiding officer has announced that the balloting is closed, the meeting will be suspended to allow time for the counting of the ballots.

16. The presiding officer will propose three representatives from three Parties to serve as Tellers, whose role will be to monitor the election and certify the results. The Secretariat will assist in identifying the Tellers from the representatives of Parties, noting that the Tellers may not be from the countries that have made an offer or from their regional groups. The Tellers, assisted by the Secretariat, will count the ballots, and the presiding officer will announce the results.

17. In accordance with rule 40, paragraph 2, of the rule of procedure, the majority required is a majority of the Parties present and voting.

18. Pursuant to rule 48 of the rules of procedure, no representative may interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting. All delegates are also required to remain at their seats so that the voting process may proceed in an orderly manner. Ballots will only be distributed at the seats of Parties.

19. Once the results have been tallied and the Tellers have certified the results, they will be communicated to the President, as presiding officer. The meeting will be resumed for the results to be announced and to declare the result of the vote.