



Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Fifteenth meeting, resumed part II
Nairobi, 19 and 20 October 2023
Agenda item 2

ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

Introduction

1. Following the invitation of the Government of China, and as decided by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in its decision [XIII/33](#), the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties was scheduled to be held in Kunming, China, in October 2020. The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety 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 were due to be held concurrently with the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. However, owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the meetings were postponed.
2. Further to the agreement to hold the meetings in two parts, and taking into account the imperative of holding the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties before the end of 2022, the first part of the three meetings was held in a hybrid format, both online and in person in Kunming, from 11 to 15 October 2021. The second part was held in person in Montreal, Canada, from 7 to 19 December 2022; however, owing to procedural hurdles, the second part was suspended before the consideration of some agenda items could be completed.
3. Further to the decision of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties at its meeting held on 31 July 2023, the resumed second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be held on 19 and 20 October 2023, in Nairobi, back-to-back with the twenty-fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
4. The agenda of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties¹ was adopted at the first part of the meeting. The present document contains annotations to the agenda items that will be addressed at the resumed second part, namely, those that were either not considered or completed at the first or second part.

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

5. The resumed second part of the meeting will start at 3 p.m. on 19 October 2023.
6. The President of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties or his representative will open the meeting.

¹ CBD/COP/15/1/Rev.1.

7. The Acting Executive Secretary will address the participants and describe the purpose of the meeting.

8. The opening of the resumed second part of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the resumed second part of 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 resumed second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Item 2. Organizational matters

Officers

9. The President of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Minister of Ecology and Environment of China, Runqiu Huang, will continue to serve through the resumed second part and until a new president is elected at the opening of the sixteenth meeting. In accordance with rule 21 of its rules of procedure, the Conference of the Parties, at its fourteenth meeting, elected 10 vice-presidents from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting for a term of office commencing upon the closure of the fourteenth meeting and ending at the closure of the fifteenth meeting. Three Bureau members were subsequently replaced, while one position is vacant pending the naming of a replacement. Accordingly, the Bureau comprises the following members, in addition to its President:

- Eric Okoree (Ghana)
- Melesse Maryo (Ethiopia)
- Raghu Kumar Kodali (India)²
- Leina El-Awadhi (Kuwait)
- Teona Karchava (Georgia)
- Klodiana Marika (Albania)³
- Eugenia Arguedas Montezuma (Costa Rica)⁴
- Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda)
- Gabriele Obermayr (Austria)
- New Zealand (vacant)⁵

Agenda

10. As indicated in paragraph 4, the provisional agenda was adopted at the first part of the fifteenth meeting. The Conference of the Parties completed the consideration of agenda items 4 and 6 to 27 at the first and second parts of its fifteenth meeting but did not complete consideration of agenda item 2 as regards the election of officers. As a consequence of holding a resumed meeting, agenda items 1 and 3 remain relevant. In addition, further to the withdrawal of the previously designated host of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a new host country needs to be identified. Lastly, agenda items 28 to 30

² Sujata Arora (India) was elected at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and subsequently replaced by Vinod Mathur, then Naresh Pal Gangwar, then Raghu Kumar Kodali.

³ Elvana Ramaj (Albania) was elected at the fourteenth meeting and subsequently replaced by Klodiana Marika.

⁴ Carlos Manuel Rodríguez (Costa Rica) was elected at the fourteenth meeting and subsequently replaced by Andrea Meza Murillo and then Eugenia Argüedas Montezuma.

⁵ Following her retirement from the Government of New Zealand, Ms. Paterson has resigned from the Bureau. In the interim, pending the naming of a replacement by New Zealand (further to rule 24 of the rules of procedure), Marie Haraldstad (Norway), who serves on the Bureau as a substitute for New Zealand for matters concerning the Nagoya Protocol, has provided assistance in communicating information to the region.

have not been considered by the Conference of the Parties. Items 1 to 3, 5 and 28 to 30 will therefore need to be considered at the present meeting.

Organization of work

11. The Conference of the Parties will be invited to consider and adopt the proposed organization of work contained in annex II. Given the limited number and procedural nature of the items to be addressed, it is proposed that all work be conducted in plenary session.

12. Interpretation will be available for the plenary sessions.

Rapporteur

13. At the opening plenary session of the first part of the meeting, held on 11 October 2021, the Conference of the Parties agreed to elect Elvana Ramaj (Albania) as Rapporteur for the meeting. Following Ms. Ramaj's subsequent departure from the Bureau, a new rapporteur will be proposed by the Bureau for election by the Conference of the Parties.

Elections

14. At the resumed second part of its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties will elect new vice-presidents for the Bureau. Their terms of office will commence upon the closure of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and end at the closure of its sixteenth meeting, in accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure.

15. Rule 26 of the rules of procedure provides that the chair of any subsidiary body is to 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 commence upon the closure of the fifteenth meeting and end at the closure of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

16. According to the established regional rotation, it is expected that the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will be elected from the Eastern European States and that the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation will be elected from the Asia-Pacific States.

17. Further information on the procedures for the election of officers will be provided in information document CBD/COP/15/INF/28, and the Secretariat will provide a briefing on the election process before the date of election.

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

18. Rule 18 of the rules of procedure provides the following:

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 if possible 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 the representative of the Executive Secretary. The credentials shall be issued either 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.

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

20. In order to assist Parties in complying with the provision of rule 18, the Executive Secretary issued notification [No. 2023-081](#) and has made available sample formats of appropriate credentials.⁶ As specified in the notification, Parties that had already submitted valid credentials for their representatives for participation in the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in December 2022 may confirm, through a note verbale, that the credentials remain valid for the purpose of the present meeting. As also explained in the notification, such a note verbale should be issued by a senior official in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Party concerned and should make specific reference to the credentials submitted for the meeting held in December 2022.

21. Parties that had not submitted valid credentials for the meeting held in December 2022 will need to submit credentials to be able to participate in decision-making during the present meeting. Parties that will be sending new representatives to the present meeting will need to submit credentials for them.

22. The original credentials or note verbale, as applicable, must be submitted to the Secretariat as soon as possible, preferably by 6 October and no later than 15 October 2023.

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

24. At the opening plenary session of the first part of the meeting, Eric Okoree (Ghana) was elected as representative of the Bureau for the review of credentials.

Item 5. Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties

25. In accordance with rule 4, paragraph 2, of its rules of procedure, the Conference of the Parties decides at each ordinary meeting on the date and duration of the next ordinary meeting. Also in accordance with rule 4, ordinary meetings are to be held every two years. In its decision [XIII/33](#), the Conference of the Parties decided that its sixteenth meeting (together with the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol) would be held in Türkiye. However, on 25 July 2023, Türkiye informed the Secretariat of its decision to withdraw from hosting and presiding over the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties owing to a force majeure situation caused by the earthquakes that occurred in February 2023. The information was communicated to the Parties through notification No. 2023-82 of 31 July 2023.

26. An update on the matter will be provided to the Conference of the Parties at the present meeting.

VII. FINAL MATTERS

Item 28. Other matters

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

Item 29. Adoption of the report

28. The Conference of the Parties will be invited to consider and adopt the draft report of the second part of its fifteenth meeting, to be prepared by the Rapporteur on the basis of document CBD/COP/15/Part-II/L.1/Rev.1, as completed to take into account the proceedings of the resumed second part of its fifteenth meeting.

29. Together, the reports of the first part⁷ and the second part of the meeting will constitute the proceedings of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

⁶ See www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-15/cop-credentials-template-en.docx.

⁷ CBD/COP/15/4.

30. The Conference of the Parties may also wish to annex to its proceedings the outcomes of the high-level segment of its meeting and of other events held in conjunction with its fifteenth meeting. In accordance with established practice, it may wish to authorize the Rapporteur to complete the final report after the meeting, with the guidance of the President and assistance from the Secretariat.

Item 30. Closure of the meeting

31. It is expected that the resumed second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be closed by 1 p.m. on 20 October 2023.

Annex I

A. Working documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Item</i>
CBD/COP/15/1/Rev.1	Provisional agenda	2
CBD/COP/15/1/Add.5	Annotations to the agenda	2
CBD/COP/15/4	Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on its fifteenth meeting (part I)	29
CBD/COP/15/Part-II/L.1/Rev.1	Draft report of the meeting	29

B. Information documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Item</i>
CBD/COP/15/INF/27	Admission of qualified bodies and agencies to the resumed second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and concurrent meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols	3
CBD/COP/15/INF/28	Procedures for elections to fill the positions of Vice-Presidents of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation	2

Annex II

**PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK AT THE RESUMED SECOND PART OF
THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO
THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Agenda items</i>			
Thursday, 19 October (3–6 p.m.)	CBD	CP	NP	
	1	1	1	Opening of the meeting
	2	2	2	Organizational matters (organization of work)
	3	3	3	Report on the credentials of representatives of Parties
	5	n/a	n/a	Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties
	n/a	5	5	Report of the Compliance Committee
	2	2	2	Organizational matters (election of officers)
Friday, 20 October (10 a.m.–1 p.m.)	CBD	CP	NP	
	28	18	17	Other matters
	29	19	18	Adoption of the report
	30	20	19	Closure of the meeting

Abbreviations: CBD, Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; CP: Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; NP: 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.

Note: The columns on items under the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols are included for information purposes and for ease of reference.