



Convention on Biological Diversity

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Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review

Modus operandi for the Open-ended Forum for Voluntary Country Review

Note by the Secretariat

I. Objectives and considerations

1. The objectives of the Open-ended Forum for Voluntary Country Review under the Subsidiary Body on Implementation are:

- (a) To review the progress made by Parties on the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans as a contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
- (b) To promote national implementation through peer-to-peer learning and sharing of experiences, including facilitating the identification of strategic actions and solutions for overcoming challenges in national implementation;
- (c) To provide an opportunity for open discussion on actions taken by Parties and the effectiveness of those actions in terms of outcomes and impacts;
- (d) To identify best practices, challenges and where enhanced information/knowledge, expertise, capacity, financial resources, technologies or other means of implementation are needed;
- (e) To contribute to the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, to be conducted by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth and nineteenth meetings;
- (f) To provide information on the gaps in means of implementation which can inform the implementation of related decisions of the Conference of the Parties, in particular on resource mobilization (decision 15/7) and capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation (decision 15/8).

2. All Parties will be invited to participate in the Forum, with the understanding that it will be facilitative, non-punitive and not overly burdensome and aimed at assisting them in achieving the objectives of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. In order for the Forum to contribute most effectively to the enhanced mechanism for planning, monitoring, reporting and review, the topics of discussion at the Forum and its preparatory phase should take into account the

* CBD/SBI/4/1.

timing of the specific elements of the mechanism. In decision 15/6, the following sequence was outlined: submission of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets, by the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; global analysis of information in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets, at the sixteenth meeting and at each subsequent meeting of the Conference of the Parties; preparation of the seventh and eighth national reports by February 2026 and June 2029, respectively; and global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework at the seventeenth and nineteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The Forum should foster open dialogue and mutual support among Parties on challenges, achievements and opportunities which are specific to the current stage of implementation and the timing of the review mechanism elements listed above.

II. Modus operandi for the Open-ended Forum for Voluntary Country Review

3. The Forum will be conducted biennially during a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. The Forum will be overseen by the Advisory Committee for the Global Review of Collective Progress in the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework¹ under the overall leadership of the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

4. The Forum will be preceded by a preparatory phase which will consist of in-country preparation with respect to compiling experiences, lessons learned, challenges and any other relevant information to be shared, followed by regional dialogues for sharing experiences and lessons learned, including challenges and successes. The regional dialogues will aim at identifying common challenges and opportunities which will serve as an input for the Forum.

5. The Forum will be held at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation under its agenda item on review of implementation and will include panel discussions for presentation of the findings arising from the regional dialogues. The conclusions drawn from the discussions will be addressed by the Subsidiary Body in its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

6. For each biennium, the Forum and its preparatory process will focus on one or more of the elements of the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review. The relevant timings, as established in decision 15/6, are summarized in the table below.

Timing of elements of planning, monitoring, reporting and review

2023–2024: prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties	<p>Revision and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the setting of national targets, aligned with the Framework, by the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</p> <p>Global analysis of information in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets, at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</p>
2025–2026: prior to the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties	<p>National reporting, including on indicators in the monitoring framework, by 28 February 2026.</p> <p>Global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</p> <p>Global analysis of information in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets, at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</p>

¹ The terms of reference of the Advisory Committee are provided in annex III of the draft decision contained in sect. III of document CBD/SBI/4/4.

2027–2028: prior to the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties	<p>Addressing of relevant findings from the global review with respect to national implementation.</p> <p>Global analysis of information in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets, at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</p>
2029–2030: prior to the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties	<p>National reporting, including on indicators in the monitoring framework, by 30 June 2029.</p> <p>Global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework, at the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</p> <p>Global analysis of information in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets, at the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</p> <p>Implications for the post-2030 strategic plan.</p>

7. The first element of the preparatory phase will be the preparation of countries for their participation in the regional or subregional dialogues, in accordance with the modus operandi for the Forum and guidance provided by the Advisory Committee. This would involve internal consultations within countries for the purpose of identifying challenges and lessons learned, which could be shared during the dialogue, and preparing a presentation in this regard. Countries should use their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national reports or other related reports, such as national reviews of implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related strategies or plans, as a basis for their inputs.

8. Countries that have undergone a voluntary peer review or other reviews, such as a national assessment of implementation, an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development environmental performance review, a review by their national audit office or any other such review, could use information gathered under these processes as the basis for their inputs into the preparatory phase.

9. National preparation will be followed by a series of facilitative regional and subregional dialogues in which each country will provide a presentation on various aspects of the progress, outcomes and learning associated with the development, implementation, monitoring and/or review of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Parties will be invited to present concrete examples and experiences based on their recent or ongoing efforts. The dialogues, which will be structured to facilitate in-depth dialogue among Parties, will include a discussion of successes and challenges in order to clarify as thoroughly as possible the contributing factors, the measures of success and the lessons learned in the context of the successes and possible strategic actions, solutions or support that could be useful in the context of the challenges. This will offer an opportunity both for in-depth discussions on the effectiveness of measures implemented at the national level to achieve the goals and targets of the Framework and for presenting and/or developing well-elaborated requests and proposals for capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and/or other support, as needed. Representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities and women's and youth groups will be invited to participate in these dialogues. The dialogues will be held either online or in person during the intersessional period and will provide all Parties with an opportunity to participate in at least one regional or subregional dialogue. Experiences and lessons learned from each region will be compiled and summarized with a view to informing the work of the Forum.

10. A Party that wishes to participate in a more comprehensive and more in-depth review may utilize the modality of the voluntary peer review of its national biodiversity strategy and action plan, including its revision and implementation, as recognized in decisions 14/29 and 15/6 of the Conference of the Parties, subject to the availability of resources.

11. The Forum will be held in plenary at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. It will be organized by the Secretariat under the guidance of the Advisory Committee for the Global Review of Collective Progress in the Implementation of the Framework and under the overall leadership of the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.
 12. During the Forum, a panel of representatives of each region/subregion will present a summary of the discussions held at the dialogue of their region/subregion and any common requests for implementation support agreed on at the dialogue. Representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities and youth and women's groups will be invited to make a presentation, summarizing their participation in all of the regional/subregional dialogues. The series of presentations will be followed by questions and discussions in which all Parties and observers will have the opportunity to participate. The moderators will then summarize the discussion and conclusions in order to support the Subsidiary Body in developing elements of a recommendation for submission to the Conference of the Parties under its agenda item on the review of implementation.
 13. The process will be open to the full and effective participation and engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities and all stakeholders, in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
 14. This modus operandi will be kept under review by the Conference of the Parties and modified as necessary, with a view to maximizing its effectiveness in achieving its objectives while imposing a minimal burden on Parties. Its functioning will be subject to the availability of resources.
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