



Convention on Biological Diversity

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL
AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION
Special virtual sessions
Online, 15-18 September 2020

PROGRAMME FOR THE SPECIAL VIRTUAL SESSIONS

Note by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. The twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation are due to be held in November 2020, having been rescheduled from May 2020 and then August 2020, due the COVID-19 pandemic. Further delays may be inevitable. In this context, and with a view to maintaining momentum ahead of the United Nations Biodiversity Summit and towards the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and to facilitating preparations for the meetings of the subsidiary bodies, a series of special virtual sessions of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation are being scheduled for 15 to 18 September 2020, as communicated on 17 July 2020 in notification 2020-050.
2. As announced in the notification, and as agreed by the Bureaux of the Conference of the Parties and of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the special sessions will include the launch of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, and the testing of a Party-led review process, through an open-ended forum, pursuant to decision [14/35](#).
3. The special sessions provide opportunities for the presentation of information and for statements by Parties and observers. No decisions or formal recommendations will be made at the special sessions, and statements made will be without prejudice to further statements at the regular sessions of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. Interpretation will be provided in all languages of the United Nations.
4. The meetings will be chaired by Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz (Mexico), Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and/or by Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist (Sweden), Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, their term of office extending until the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
5. The meetings will be held from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Montreal time (Eastern Daylight Time).
6. Registration will be open from 17 August 2020. Advance registration is required, and details of the different time zones and registration information will be issued in a notification shortly.
7. The sessions will also be webcast.
8. Further information on each constituent session is provided below.

I. LAUNCH OF THE FIFTH EDITION OF THE *GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK*

Special session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (15 September)

9. In decision 14/35, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, including a summary for policymakers, on the basis of an agreed plan and an indicative timetable. The timetable envisaged that the fifth edition of the Outlook would be launched at the opening of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, which was scheduled for May 2020 but postponed to August and then November 2020. Given the delay in convening the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the launch will take place virtually on 15 September to enable Parties and observers to make use of the report in the preparations for the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as well as other work related to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The report will be thus launched ahead of the United Nations Biodiversity Summit, which will be convened virtually by the President of the General Assembly on 30 September 2020.

10. The session will be opened by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice who will make opening remarks. Opening remarks will also be made by a representative of the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties and the Executive Secretary.

11. A presentation on the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* will be made by the Secretariat. Complementary presentations on the *Local Biodiversity Outlook* and the *Global Plant Conservation Report* will also be made. There will be opportunities for questions and answers.

12. Parties and observers will be invited to make interventions, starting with regional groups and major groups.

13. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will make final remarks and close the session.

II. TESTING OF A PARTY-LED REVIEW PROCESS, THROUGH AN OPEN-ENDED FORUM

Special session of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (16-17 September)

14. In decision 14/29, the Conference of the Parties considered review mechanisms for the Convention and requested the Executive Secretary to prepare for and organize the testing of a Party-led review process, including through an open-ended forum to be held at the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. Accordingly, arrangements have been developed, in close consultation with the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties as communicated in notifications 2020-002 and 2020-050.

15. From among the Parties that expressed an interest pursuant to notification 2020-002, five Parties, one from each region, will make presentations on their efforts to implement the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Selected questions, submitted by other Parties in advance of the meeting, will be answered by the five Parties; this will be followed by a short question-and-answer session.

16. The five Parties are: Ethiopia, Finland, Guyana, Poland and Sri Lanka. Each of the five Parties has prepared a review report, complementing their sixth national reports. The review reports are available at: <https://www.cbd.int/convention/mechanisms/trial-phase.shtml>.

17. The session will be opened on 16 September by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, who will make opening remarks. Opening remarks will also be made by a representative of the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties and the Executive Secretary.

18. Each of the five Parties will present their review report (15 minutes), each followed by questions posed by other Parties and answers provided by the Party under review (15 minutes). The session will continue on 17 September.

19. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation will make final remarks and close the session.

20. Feedback and insights on the trial phase of the Open-ended Forum will be presented to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation during agenda item 9 on review mechanisms, which is also expected to consider other options and elements to enhance review mechanisms as requested in the above-mentioned decision.

III. STRATEGY FOR RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Special session of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (17 September)

21. In decision [14/22](#), the Conference of the Parties affirmed that resource mobilization would be an integral part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and requested the Executive Secretary to contract a panel of experts to prepare reports on several issues related to the development of the resource mobilization component to help inform the work of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Conference of the Parties.

22. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation will open the session following the conclusion of the open-ended forum for the testing of the review process.

23. A presentation on the work of the panel on resource mobilization will be made by a member of the panel. A complementary presentation of the related documents before the Subsidiary Body on Implementation will be made by the Secretariat. There will be opportunities for questions and answers.

24. Parties and observers will be invited to make interventions, starting with regional groups and major groups.

25. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation will make final remarks and close the session.

IV. PREPARATION OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Special joint session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and Subsidiary Body on Implementation (18 September)

26. Further to decision 14/34 and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-fourth meeting and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting will address a number of issues of relevance to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In addition, the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, at its second meeting, made a number of requests to the subsidiary bodies and also invited the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Executive Secretary to prepare a number of documents. This session will provide an opportunity for the Co-Chairs, as well as the Chairs of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Executive Secretary to provide an update.

27. The session will be opened by a representative of the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties and co-chaired by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. They will each make opening remarks as will the Executive Secretary.

28. The Co-Chairs of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Mr. Francis Ogwal and Mr. Basile van Havre, will provide an update on the process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and present the updated zero draft.

29. Parties and observers will be invited to make interventions, starting with regional groups and major groups.

30. The Co-Chairs and the Chairs of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation will respond as necessary.

31. A representative of the Presidency of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be invited to make a statement.

32. The Chairs of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation will make final remarks and close the meeting.

Annex

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Dates	Meeting
Monday 14 September 2020 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. (Montreal time)	No meeting Testing of the virtual platform
Tuesday 15 September 2020 7 – 9 a.m. (Montreal time)	SBSTTA-24 special session: Launch of the fifth edition of <i>Global Biodiversity Outlook</i>
Wednesday 16 September 2020 7 – 9 a.m. (Montreal time)	SBI-3 special session: In-session review of implementation
Thursday 17 September 2020 7 – 9 a.m. (Montreal time)	SBI-3 special sessions: In-session review of implementation (<i>continued</i>) Report of the panel on resource mobilization
Friday 18 September 2020 7 – 9 a.m. (Montreal time)	Joint special session of SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3: Presentation of the updated draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework and related documents for the meetings
