



# Convention on Biological Diversity

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP  
ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL  
BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Third meeting

Online, 23 August – 3 September 2021

Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*\*

## REVISED SCENARIO NOTE AND PROVISIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WORK

*Note by the Co-Chairs*

### I. INTRODUCTION

1. Further to the agenda and annotations (CBD/WG2020/3/1 and Add.1), the present document provides the provisional organization of work for the first part of the third meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020-3), scheduled to be held online from 23 August to 3 September 2021. The present document has been developed by the Co-Chairs with the support of the Executive Secretary and with the guidance of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties. The present document supersedes the previously revised scenario note (CBD/WG2020/3/1/Add.2/Rev.1).

2. The overall approach for the organization of the first part of the WG2020-3 meeting follows those applied to the formal virtual meetings of the subsidiary bodies held in May and June 2021, taking into account also the experience of those sessions and the lessons learned.

3. The key principles governing the organization of formal online meetings of the Open-ended Working Group are as follows:

(a) The timing and modalities for organization of the meeting respond to the current extraordinary circumstances as related to the COVID-19 pandemic and do not set a precedent for the organization of similar meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity in the future;

(b) Sessions in a physical setting will be required to conclude any substantive agenda and to approve the final draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting;

(c) The timing and modalities for the organization of the meeting have been designed:

(i) Keeping in mind the time frame for preparations necessary to conduct the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the need for resumed sessions of 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 of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in a physical setting at a later date;

(ii) To allow for full and effective participation of Parties as well as full engagement of all observers, by holding the meetings in a transparent, fair and inclusive manner;

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\*\* CBD/WG2020/3/1.

- (iii) To support the timely negotiation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- (d) Adoption of L documents/final documents will be deferred to the physical meeting of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, unless otherwise decided by the Working Group on the advice of the Bureau. However, the Working Group may request limited intersessional work within the mandate provided by decision 14/34, and taking into account constraints of time and availability of resources;
- (e) The standard rules of procedure will apply, and their application will be adapted as necessary for virtual settings.

## **II. MODALITIES FOR THE FIRST PART OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

### **A. Plenary sessions**

4. Plenary sessions will be convened: (a) to open, adjourn and suspend the meeting, adopt the agenda and organization of work, elect the rapporteur and agree on the report on the meeting; (b) to complete the first reading of documents as needed and establish contact groups and (c) to allow for stocktaking or to review the progress of contact groups and to provide further guidance to their work, as appropriate.
5. Sessions will last three hours, with a 15-minute break approximately midway through each session. Only one plenary session will be held per day. Plenary sessions will normally be held from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., EDT (11:00 – 14:00 UTC).
6. All plenary sessions will be webcast, recorded and available on demand.
7. All requests for the floor by Parties will be heard for each agenda item. Statements by other Governments, stakeholder groups and other observers will also be heard as time allows.
8. The Presidency, the Executive Secretary, and a representative of the Government of Colombia and the Co-Chairs will make opening and closing statements.
9. There will be no general statements at the opening and closing sessions of the meeting.
10. Each agenda item will start with a short introduction of the item by the Co-Chairs or the Secretariat, followed by statements by regional groups, Parties, other Governments, major stakeholder groups and other observers (as appropriate and if time allows).
11. Statements on each agenda item by Parties and other Governments are limited to three minutes and five minutes for those made on behalf of a regional group. For major stakeholder groups, statements are limited to four minutes and for other observers to two minutes (as time allows).
12. In the case that a participant is unable to make a statement in a particular session for technical reasons (such as poor connectivity) alternative arrangements will be made. Participants may also send pre-recorded statements and written submissions to the Secretariat prior to the meetings as backup in the case of unforeseeable connection problems during the informal meeting. Parties with a poor connection may also consider using the United Nations Country Office in their country subject to prior agreement. Parties, other Governments and observers planning to speak are encouraged to have a backup speaker.
13. All statements made in the first reading of a document, including written statements submitted within 12 hours after the first reading is completed, will be posted online, subject to the agreement of the Party or observer concerned.

### **B. Contact groups**

14. On the basis of the results of the first reading, the Co-Chairs of the Working Group may establish contact groups and will clearly define the terms of reference and nominate Co-Leads of each contact group.

It is envisaged that contact groups will be established as indicated in section III, subject to review by the Bureau.

15. Sessions of contact groups will last up to three hours. One or two contact groups will meet per day as required but at different times of the day. No parallel sessions of two contact groups will be organized. Contact groups will usually be held from 7 to 10 a.m. and/or from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 and/or 15:00-18:00 UTC).

16. Contact groups would be open to participation by all Parties, other Governments, and representatives of observers.

17. Contact groups would work on the basis of a “non-paper” or section of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Any new “non paper” will be available at least 36 hours prior to its consideration by the contact group. Regular updates would be made available to all participants in the contact group to ensure transparency and sufficient time would be provided between sessions of the group to allow for review of drafts and bilateral and group consultations. Where necessary, sections of the text under review may be shared interactively to facilitate resolution.

18. The Co-Chairs of the Working Group may also convene other types of informal groups, such as Friends of the Chair, and share modalities for their organization with the Parties.

19. Contact groups and other types of informal groups will work in English and, accordingly, non-papers considered at the meetings of the group will be in English. As per usual practice, the outcome of contact groups would be provided to plenary in all languages.

### **III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

20. The work of the Open-ended Working Group will be conducted through plenary sessions and contact groups. Annex I contains a proposed schedule for the meetings of the plenary and contact groups. This schedule is provided as an illustration and will be adjusted as each contact group progresses in its discussion.

21. As requested by the Working Group at its second meeting, in February 2020, the Working Group will have before it the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/WG2020/3/3) and a pre-session document on digital sequence information on genetic resources (CBD/WG2020/3/4) and it will undertake the following:

(a) In plenary: Opening of the meeting, adoption of the agenda, organization of work and election of a rapporteur, and update from the Co-Chairs on progress since the second meeting of the Working Group;

(b) In plenary: First reading of the document containing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the document on digital sequence information on genetic resources to hear initial views from regional groups, Parties, other Governments, major stakeholder groups and observers, time permitting;

(c) In a contact group: Discussion on digital sequence information on genetic resources on the basis of the information in the pre-session document, statements made in the first reading and/or a non-paper;

(d) In a contact group: Review, section by section, of the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and of the accompanying draft decision;

(e) In plenary: Provide updates at stocktaking plenaries;

(f) In plenary: Approve the report on the virtual session;

(g) In plenary: Suspend the meeting.

### **A. First draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**

22. Parties and observers will have the opportunity for a first reading of the first draft of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/WG2020/3/3) during the plenary session(s) on 24 August 2021. At this time, delegations are expected to provide overall observations on the first draft and raise any major issues. Parties and observers may also refer to the addenda to this document as appropriate. It is proposed, however, that detailed comments on the individual elements of the framework, including on the draft goals and targets, be deferred to the contact groups. Note also, that it is proposed that a separate opportunity for a first reading of the elements of the draft decision on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/WG2020/3/3, appendix) be held at the plenary on 31 August 2021 (see point C, below).

23. The contact groups are expected to examine the text of the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in detail on the basis of the text in the pre-session document (CBD/WG2020/3/3). To facilitate the work, it is proposed that four contact groups be established for this purpose, focusing on different sections of the framework. However, only one group would meet at any one time. The mandate of the contact groups remains subject to review by the Bureau.

24. In contact groups, Parties are expected to engage in a detailed review of the text of the First Draft of the Framework. Focussed interventions by observers will be allowed at the discretion of the Co-Leads. Proposed changes will be reflected in the text which will be annexed to the overall report of the first part of the third meeting of the Working Group and may indicate alternatives or lack of consensus. Any additional overall comments on the text as well as recommendations for focussed further work or areas where consultations among Parties and observers may be useful before the second part of the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group reconvenes in person, may also be noted in the report of the Co-Leads.

25. While it is not anticipated that the contact groups will complete all work during this first part of the Working Group meeting, the contact groups are encouraged to advance on this item to the extent that time permits. The Co-Leads will provide a progress report to the plenary on 31 August 2021 and a final report to the plenary on 3 September 2021, before the meeting of the Working Group is suspended. The outcomes of the work of the contact group will be compiled into an annex to the overall report of the first part of the meeting.

### **B. Digital sequence information on genetic resources**

26. Parties and observers will have the opportunity for a first reading of the pre-session document on digital sequence information (CBD/WG2020/3/4) during the plenary session(s) on 23 August 2021. At this time, delegations are expected to provide observations on the document and to make proposals for the draft recommendation, making use, as appropriate, of the “elements of a recommendation” provided in section IV of the document.

27. A contact group will be established to develop a draft recommendation on this matter.

28. The contact group will work on the basis of a non-paper. However, if necessary, a first meeting of the contact group may be held prior to the preparation of the non-paper. The non-paper will be prepared on the basis of, interventions made during the first reading (and, possibly, during the first meeting of the contact group), as well as the “elements of a recommendation” provided in section IV of the document, as appropriate.

29. The contact group Co-Leads will report back to the plenary on 31 August 2021 and, as necessary, on September 3. The outcomes of the work of the contact group will be annexed to the overall report of the first part of the meeting, and any recommendations for focused further work or areas where consultations among Parties and observers may be useful before the second part of the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group reconvenes in person, may also be noted.

### **C. Draft elements of a possible decision operationalizing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**

30. The pre-session document (CBD/WG2020/3/3) contains an appendix with draft elements of a possible decision operationalizing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. While an earlier version

was presented to the Working Group at its first meeting alongside the zero draft, the Working Group has not yet reviewed a draft. Accordingly, it is proposed that Parties and observers have an opportunity to provide their views on the draft decision at the plenary session on 31 August 2021.

31. However, since the draft decision refers to draft decisions being developed under the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, and given that the two subsidiary bodies will only be able to finalize their recommendations for draft decisions at their resumed sessions, it is expected that the Working Group will also wish to review this draft decision at its resumed session, which is expected to be held concurrently with those of the subsidiary bodies, in person, currently scheduled for January 2022.

#### **IV. OTHER MATTERS**

##### **A. Regional meetings**

32. Appropriate online platforms for regional group consultations, as requested by regions will be made available. Regions will need to advise the Secretariat on the time best suited for them. Regions are encouraged to hold preparatory regional meetings in the week prior to the session, in addition to any such regional meetings planned to be held in-session.

##### **B. Meetings of the Bureau**

33. Meetings of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties serving the third meeting of the Working Group will be held regularly to plan, assess progress and provide guidance to the Co-Chairs on the conduct of the meeting.

##### **C. Participation of observers**

34. Plenary sessions: Other Governments and major stakeholder groups will be given an opportunity to speak on all agenda items. Other observers will be provided an opportunity to speak as time allows. Where time is limited, the Co-Chairs will endeavour to ensure a balance among various categories of observers, taking into account also the relevance to the agenda item.

35. Contact groups: Observers would intervene at the discretion of the Co-Leads of the contact groups.

##### **D. Helping to address technical connectivity issues**

36. These limitations will be minimized by the following:

- (a) Parties may wish to attend the meeting from the United Nations Country Office in their country subject to prior arrangement being made with the Secretariat;
- (b) Additional provisions for prior training and testing opportunities, convenient for all time zones;
- (c) Advance testing of connectivity and equipment;
- (d) Daily testing of camera and headphones prior to each plenary session;
- (e) All reasonable measures to assist Parties that encounter any difficulties with connectivity and the use of the platform (through the Secretariat and platform technicians).

##### **E. Timing of sessions**

37. Taking into account the lessons learned from the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, the challenge of working across time zones will be minimized by using a time zone that limits inconvenience to most Parties, varying the timing and, above all, limiting the number of hours per day. When plenary sessions are held, no additional sessions will be held (with the exception of a one-hour stocktake on one day). Only one or two sessions of contact groups will be organized in any two-hour period, and the number of days with more than one contact group will be limited to three. Thus, the total time will

be limited to three hours per day on most days, and never exceed six. In addition, no sessions will be held during the weekend.

#### **F. Documentation**

38. Relevant pre-session documentation, including the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, has been provided at least six weeks in advance of the meeting.

39. The list of pre-registered participants will be available to all registered participants at the beginning of the meeting.

#### **G. Interactive platform**

40. All official sessions will be held using the Interactio platform. Improvements to the platform have been made, and training sessions will be organized before each plenary session to ensure that all delegates are familiar with the use of the platform in advance of the meeting.

#### **H. High-level event**

41. The Government of Colombia will convene a high-level “pre-COP” event on 30 August 2021 comprising a panel discussion among Ministers and Heads of State and Government with a view to promoting the development of an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Invitations will be issued by the Government of Colombia in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties.<sup>1</sup> More information will be provided through the [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int) website.

#### **I. Side events/information sessions**

42. No side events would be held during the formal virtual meeting. Information sessions may be held during the physical meetings of the Working Group held together with the resumed sessions of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> Details will be provided by Colombia in due course.

*Annex I***PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF WORK**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Agenda items</i>	<i>Contact group Co-Leads</i>	<i>Secretariat leads</i>
Monday 23 August	7 – 10 a.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 UTC)	Plenary	Items 1, 2, 3, Opening, organization of work and update  Item 5. Digital sequence information on genetic resources – <i>(first reading)</i>		
Tuesday 24 August	7 – 10 a.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 UTC)	Plenary	Item 4. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework <i>(first reading)</i>		
Wednesday 25 August	7 – 10 a.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 UTC)	CG1	Item 4. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Goals and Milestones; Overall structure; Sections A to E)	Mr. Vinod Mathur (India) Ms. Rosemary Paterson (New Zealand)	Ms. Wadzi Mandivenyi
	11 a.m.–2 p.m. EDT (15:00-18:00 UTC)	CG5	Item 5. Digital sequence information on genetic resources	Ms. Lactitia Tshitwamulomoni (South Africa) Mr. Gaute Voigt-Hanssen (Norway)	Mr. Taukandjo Shikongo Ms. Charlotte Germain-Aubrey
Thursday 26 August	7 – 10 a.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 UTC)	CG2	Item 4. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Targets 1-8 Reducing threats for biodiversity)	Ms. Teona Karchava (Georgia) Mr. Alfred Oteng-Yeboah (Ghana)	Mr. Neil Pratt
	11 a.m. –2 p.m. EDT (15:00-18:00 UTC)	CG5	Item 5. Digital sequence information on genetic resources <i>(continued)</i>	Ms. Lactitia Tshitwamulomoni (South Africa) Mr. Gaute Voigt-Hanssen (Norway)	Mr. Taukandjo Shikongo Ms. Charlotte Germain-Aubrey
Friday 27 August	7 – 10 a.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 UTC)	CG4	Item 4. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Targets 14-21 Tools and solutions; Sections H to K)	Ms. Anne Teller (European Union) Mr. Jorge Murillo (Colombia)	Mr. Erie Tamale Mr. Markus Lehmann-Kleineidam
	11 a.m.– 2 p.m. EDT (15:00-18:00 UTC)	CG5	Item 5. Digital sequence information on genetic resources – <i>(conclusion)</i>	Ms. Lactitia Tshitwamulomoni (South Africa) Mr. Gaute Voigt-Hanssen (Norway)	Mr. Taukandjo Shikongo Ms. Charlotte Germain-Aubrey

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Agenda items</i>	<i>Contact group Co-Leads</i>	<i>Secretariat leads</i>
Monday 30 August	7 – 10 a.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 UTC)	CG4	Item 4. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Targets 14-21 Tools and solutions; Sections H to K)	Ms. Anne Teller (European Union) Mr. Jorge Murillo (Colombia)	Mr. Erie Tamale Mr. Markus Lehmann-Kleineidam
	10 a.m. – 3 p.m. EDT (14:00-19:00 UTC)	High-level event			
Tuesday 31 August	7 – 10 a.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 UTC)	CG1	Item 4. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Goals and milestones; Overall structure; Sections A to E)	Mr. Vinod Mathur (India) Ms. Rosemary Paterson (New Zealand)	Ms. Wadzi Mandivenyi
	11 a.m. – 2 p.m. EDT (15:00-18:00 UTC)	Plenary	Stocktake Draft COP decision Item 6. Other matters		
Wednesday 1 September	7 – 10 a.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 UTC)	CG2	Item 4. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Targets 1-8 Reducing threats for biodiversity)	Ms. Teona Karchava (Georgia) Mr. Alfred Oteng-Yeboah (Ghana)	Mr. Neil Pratt
	11 a.m. – 2 p.m. EDT (15:00-18:00 UTC)	CG3	Item 4. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Targets 9-13 Nature's contributions to people)	Ms. Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica) Mr. Andrew Stott (United Kingdom)	Ms. Jillian Campbell
Thursday 2 September	7 – 10 a.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 UTC)	CG4	Item 4. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Targets 14-21 Tools and solutions; Sections H to K)	Ms. Anne Teller (European Union) Mr. Jorge Murillo (Colombia)	Mr. Erie Tamale Mr. Markus Lehmann-Kleineidam
	11 a.m. – 2 p.m. EDT (15:00-18:00 UTC)	CG3	Item 4. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Targets 9-13 Nature's contributions to people)	Ms. Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica) Mr. Andrew Stott (United Kingdom)	Ms. Jillian Campbell
Friday 3 September	7 – 10 a.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 UTC)	Plenary	Item 7. Review of the outcomes, approval of report and suspension of the meeting		

*Note:* The sequence and order of contact groups are indicative and may change depending on discussions in plenary.