



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.: General
16 December 2023

Original: English

**Subsidiary Body on Scientific,
Technical and Technological Advice
Twenty-sixth meeting**
Nairobi, 13–18 May 2024
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
**Organizational matters: election of officers,
adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

Annotated provisional agenda

Introduction

1. The twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will be held in Nairobi from 13 to 18 May 2024. Registration of participants will commence at 10 a.m. on 12 May 2024.
2. The Subsidiary Body was established under Article 25 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In addition, in its Article 27, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization provides that any subsidiary body established by or under the Convention may serve the Nagoya Protocol. Similarly, in its Article 30, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety provides that any subsidiary body established by or under the Convention may, upon a decision by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, serve the Cartagena Protocol.
3. The purpose of the present document is to facilitate preparations for the meeting by Parties and observers.

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

4. The meeting will be opened at 10 a.m. on 13 May 2024. Statements will be made by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body and the Executive Secretary.

Item 2

Organizational matters

Election of officers

5. Following the elections held at the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth meetings of the Subsidiary Body and the resumed second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, at which a new chair of the Subsidiary Body was elected, the composition of the Bureau for the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body is as follows: Senka Barudanović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Chair; Jean Bruno Mikissa (Gabon); Kenneth Uiseb (Namibia); Bilal Qtishat (Jordan); Jahidul Kabir (Bangladesh); Taulant Bino (Albania); Jan Plesnik (Czechia); Aria St. Louis (Grenada), with Francis

* CBD/SBSTTA/26/1.

Reyes Polanco (Dominican Republic) as substitute for the Nagoya Protocol; Mariela Cánepa Montalvo (Peru); Marina von Weissenberg (Finland); and Scott Wilson (Canada), with Jane Stratford (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) as substitute for the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols.

6. In order to ensure continuity through staggered terms of office within the Bureau, the Subsidiary Body will elect five new members to serve on the Bureau for a term commencing at the end of its twenty-sixth meeting and ending at the close of its twenty-eighth meeting, to replace the members from Czechia, Finland, Gabon, Jordan and Peru.

7. One of the Bureau members will be elected as rapporteur for the meeting on basis of a recommendation by the Bureau.

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

8. The provisional agenda for the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body has been prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau.¹

9. The Subsidiary Body will be invited to consider and adopt the provisional agenda and to approve the proposed organization of work (annex D).

10. All agenda items will be considered in plenary session. Selected agenda items will be introduced by a presentation of work carried out pursuant to decisions of the Conference of the Parties and taking into account experience gained at previous meetings of the Subsidiary Body.²

11. A list of pre-session documents for the meeting is provided in annex II.

Item 3

Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

12. By its decision [15/5](#), the Conference of the Parties adopted the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. In the same decision, it decided that, at its sixteenth meeting, it would consider a review of the monitoring framework in order to finish its development and the requirements for further work to fully implement and review the effectiveness of the monitoring framework. To that end, it also established an ad hoc technical expert group on indicators for the Framework, with a time-bound mandate until its sixteenth meeting. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators is tasked with providing technical advice on remaining and unresolved issues relating to the monitoring framework; guidance to Parties on the use of indicators in national planning and reporting; guidance on ways to fill temporal and spatial data gaps; and advice on existing capacity, gaps and needs. The Conference of the Parties requested that the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators, convene moderated online discussions on the monitoring framework.

13. In its decision [15/22](#), the Conference of the Parties welcomed the elements and tasks related to the Joint Programme of Work on the Links Between Biological and Cultural Diversity, as contained in annex to the decision. In task 2.a of that annex, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention, together with the Subsidiary Body, is tasked with reviewing and updating the traditional knowledge indicators³

¹ At its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties established the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and specified that the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice should carry out their respective functions taking into account their roles and functions with a view to ensuring complementarity in their work and avoiding overlap (see decision [XII/26](#), annex). This will be taken fully into account in the preparation for the various agenda items.

² Detailed plans will be developed in consultation with the Bureau and will be communicated to Parties well ahead of the meeting, together with the names of presenters and the scope of the presentations.

³ In decision [XIII/28](#), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following indicators for status and trends in the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity: (a) Trends in linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages; (b) Trends in land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous and local communities; (c) Trends in the practice of traditional

adopted in decision [XIII/28](#) and relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, in the light of the Framework and the ongoing work on biological and cultural diversity and human well-being.

14. In its decision [15/7](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to establish a technical expert group on the financial reporting elements in the monitoring framework.

15. At its twenty-fifth meeting, the Subsidiary Body reviewed the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators to date. In its recommendation [25/1](#), the Subsidiary Body requested the Executive Secretary to compile views received from Parties on the metadata for each indicator, in particular headline indicators that did not have an existing methodology, as well as on additional explanatory information on the list of binary indicator questions, including guidance on the methodologies that would be used to compile the global indicators based on the binary responses, the thresholds for responding to the questions and a glossary of key terms. It also requested the Executive Secretary to produce a summary of comments as a document for consideration at the present meeting.

16. The Subsidiary Body will have before it the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators, as well as the summary of the outcome from the twelfth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions regarding the adopted traditional knowledge indicators, the summary of the work of the Technical Expert Group on Financial Reporting and a summary of the online discussions on the monitoring framework. The Co-Chairs of the Expert Group on Indicators will also be invited to provide an update on the work of their group for the Subsidiary Body. The Subsidiary Body will also have before it a note by the Secretariat on the implications of the work of the Expert Group on Indicators, including draft conclusions and recommendations.

17. The Subsidiary Body will be invited to prepare recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

Item 4

Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

18. In its decision [15/4](#), the Conference of the Parties decided that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework should be used as a strategic plan for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, its bodies and its Secretariat over the period 2022–2030 and that, in that regard, the Framework should be used to better align and direct the work of the various bodies of the Convention and its Protocols, its Secretariat and its budget according to the goals and targets of the Framework.

19. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to conduct a strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work of the Convention in the context of the Framework to facilitate its implementation and, on the basis of that analysis, to prepare draft updates to those programmes of work for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as appropriate, at meetings held between the fifteenth and sixteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and to report on that work to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

20. At its twenty-fifth meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice took note of an initial rapid analysis of the programmes of work of the Convention and some of the related guidance, guidelines and tools prepared by the Secretariat and, in its recommendation [25/3](#), requested the Executive Secretary to undertake a comprehensive review and analysis of existing tools and guidance that could support the implementation of the targets and other elements of the Framework, in particular guidance on cross-cutting issues. In response, the Secretariat issued notification No. 2023-120, on 6 November 2023, in which it called for the submission of views and

occupations; and (d) Trends in the degree to which traditional knowledge and practices are respected through full integration, participation and safeguards in the national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.

information on such tools and guidance. In the same recommendation, the Subsidiary Body also requested the Executive Secretary to identify gaps and redundancies to support the implementation of the goals and targets of the Framework, in line with the mandates of the Convention, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body at its twenty-sixth meeting, with a view to addressing those gaps and potential needs for updates.

21. Also in the same recommendation, on the basis of the analysis of existing tools and guidance, the Subsidiary Body further requested the Executive Secretary to prepare technical advice, including, if appropriate, recommendations for the adjustment of work undertaken under the Convention, including the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties, programmes of work of the Convention and the programme of work, organization and budget of the Secretariat, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty sixth meeting and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting, as appropriate, and subsequent consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

22. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing the results of the activities referred to in paragraphs 20 and 21. Some results of the activities relevant to marine and coastal biodiversity will be also covered under item 8 (b) (conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity), and some results will be considered by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting

23. The Subsidiary Body will be invited to consider the information and to prepare recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

Item 5

Synthetic biology

24. In its decision [15/31](#), the Conference of the Parties established a process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology and agreed to start its work for one intersessional period . The process consists of the following steps: (a) information gathering; (b) compilation, organization and synthesis of information; (c) assessment; and (d) reporting on outcomes. To support the process, the Conference of Parties established a multidisciplinary ad hoc technical expert group, which was requested to:

(a) Identify and prioritize trends and issues regarding developments in synthetic biology that needed to be considered vis-à-vis the three objectives of the Convention;

(b) Identify capacity-building, technology transfer and knowledge-sharing needs on the basis of priorities determined by Parties on issues related to synthetic biology and in the light of the outcomes of the horizon scanning process;

(c) Prepare a report on the outcomes of its assessment to be submitted to the Subsidiary Body.

25. The Subsidiary Body will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing a summary of the intersessional activities related to agenda item 5, including a summary of the outcomes of the horizon-scanning process and the report of the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group meeting.

26. The Subsidiary Body will be invited to prepare recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting and, as appropriate, by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its eleventh meeting and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol at its fifth meeting.

Item 6**Risk assessment and risk management**

27. In its decision [CP-10/10](#), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol endorsed the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment to develop additional voluntary guidance materials to support case-by-case risk assessments of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives, in accordance with Annex III to the Cartagena Protocol. It was agreed that a specific focus of the material should be on engineered gene drive mosquitos, taking into account current experience with the organism, the type of gene drive and specific issues of risk assessment identified in annex I to decision [CP-9/13](#), including existing reports, general considerations on living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives and existing national and regional risk assessment experiences.

28. In addition to the development of additional voluntary guidance materials, Parties were invited to submit information on their needs and priorities for further guidance materials on specific topics on risk assessment of living modified organisms, including a rationale following the criteria set out in annex I to decision [CP-9/13](#).

29. The Subsidiary Body will have before it a note by the Secretariat drawing from the report of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment, the draft of the additional voluntary guidance materials and the list of prioritized topics on which further guidance materials on risk assessment may be needed.

30. The Subsidiary Body will be invited to prepare recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its eleventh meeting.

Item 7**Detection and identification of living modified organisms**

31. In its decision [CP-10/11](#), the Conference of the Parties serving as a meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol recognized the need for capacity-building activities on new detection techniques, as well as on detecting and identifying unauthorized living modified organisms. In addition, it requested the Executive Secretary to continue the work mandated under decision [CP- 9/11](#), including synthesizing the information submitted by Parties in response to paragraph 3 of the decision and facilitating the online discussions of the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms.

32. The Subsidiary Body will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing a compilation of the information submitted by Parties and a summary of the online discussions of the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms.

33. The Subsidiary Body will be invited to prepare recommendations for consideration by the Conference of Parties serving as a meeting of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its eleventh meeting regarding the need to update the *Training Manual on the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*.

Item 8**Marine and coastal biodiversity****(a) Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas: further work**

34. In its decision [15/26](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to convene an expert workshop to review the technical aspects of the modalities for modifying the descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and describing new areas and an expert workshop to review the legal issues pertaining to those modalities; to provide the outcomes of that work for discussion through virtual modalities and by the Informal Advisory Group on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas; and to provide the outcomes of that work to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and/or the Subsidiary Body

on Implementation, for consideration before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to adopting modalities for modifying the descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and for describing new areas at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

35. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to develop, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties: (a) draft terms of reference for a “relevant expert advisory body” in the context of modalities for modifying the descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and describing new areas; and (b) voluntary guidelines on peer-review processes for the description of areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and other relevant compatible and complementary scientific criteria.

36. The Subsidiary Body will have before it a note by the Secretariat providing a report on activities conducted pursuant to the aforementioned requests, including options for modifying the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and describing new areas.

37. The Subsidiary Body will be invited to consider the information and prepare recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

(b) Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity

38. In its decision [15/24](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to: (a) compile submissions from Parties, other Governments, subnational governments and relevant organizations in order to develop a strategic review and analysis of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and the programme of work on island biodiversity, with a view to supporting the implementation of the Framework; and (b) prepare draft updates to each of those programmes of work for consideration by the Subsidiary Body before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Further to those requests, the Secretariat requested the views and information mentioned above through a notification issued in November 2023 (see para. 21) and compiled them as inputs for the strategic review and analysis.

39. Also in its decision [15/24](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, upon adoption of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, to identify potential options for modalities for collaboration and cooperation with relevant global and regional organizations in the context of that instrument.

40. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to continue the cooperation among the Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Union for Conservation of Nature to support efforts to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in fisheries and aquaculture, and to compile and synthesize information on efforts for the identification and recognition of other effective area-based conservation measures and for the establishment and management of marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in marine and coastal areas.

41. Also in the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to continue to facilitate capacity-building activities under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative in order to support the implementation of the Framework, including its monitoring framework, with respect to marine, coastal and island biodiversity.

42. The Subsidiary Body will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing the results of the activities conducted pursuant to the aforementioned requests.

43. The Subsidiary Body will be invited to consider the information and prepare recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

Item 9**Biodiversity and health**

44. In its decision [15/29](#), the Conference of the Parties addressed matters related to the One Health approach and requested the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body and in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the Quadripartite cooperation on One Health to:

(a) Produce an updated version of the draft global action plan to mainstream biodiversity and health linkages into national policies, strategies, programmes and accounts and of the targeted messages on mainstreaming biodiversity for the health sector, recognizing the issues of equity, including through the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources;

(b) Invite Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other relevant stakeholders to review the updated version of the draft global action plan;

(c) Make the outcomes of that work available for consideration by the Subsidiary Body at a future meeting, with a view to making recommendations to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its sixteenth meeting.

45. The Subsidiary Body will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing an updated version of the global action plan and targeted messages, as well as a summary of activities undertaken further to decision [15/29](#).

46. The Subsidiary Body will be invited to prepare recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

Item 10**Other matters**

47. Under agenda item 10, participants will have an opportunity to raise other matters of relevance to the Subsidiary Body.

Item 11**Adoption of the report**

48. The Subsidiary Body will be invited to consider and adopt the report of the meeting. In accordance with established practice, it will also be invited to authorize the rapporteur to finalize the report after the meeting, with the guidance of the Chair and the assistance of the Secretariat.

Item 12**Closure of the meeting**

49. The meeting is expected to close at 6 p.m. on 18 May 2024.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work

<i>Date</i>	<i>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</i>	<i>3 p.m.–6 p.m.</i>
Monday 13 May 2024	<p>Item 1. Opening of the meeting</p> <p>Item 2. Organizational matters: election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work</p> <p>Item 3. Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</p> <p>Item 4. Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</p>	<p>Item 5. Synthetic biology</p> <p>Item 6. Risk assessment and risk management</p>
Tuesday 14 May 2024	<p>Item 7. Detection and identification of living modified organisms</p> <p>Item 8. Marine and coastal biodiversity:</p>	<p>Item 8 (<i>continued</i>):</p> <p>Item 9. Biodiversity and health</p>
Wednesday 15 May 2024	Consideration of conference room papers	Consideration of conference room papers
Thursday 16 May 2024	Consideration of conference room papers	Consideration of conference room papers
Friday 17 May 2024	Pending matters	Pending matters
Saturday 18 May 2024	Pending matters	<p>Item 10. Other matters</p> <p>Item 11. Adoption of the report</p> <p>Item 12. Closure of the meeting</p>

Annex II

List of working documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
CBD/SBSTTA/26/1	Provisional agenda	2
CBD/SBSTTA/26/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda	2
CBD/SBSTTA/26/2	Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	3
CBD/SBSTTA/26/3	Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	4
CBD/SBSTTA/26/4	Synthetic biology	5
CBD/SBSTTA/26/5	Risk assessment and risk management	6
CBD/SBSTTA/26/6	Detection and identification of living modified organisms	7
CBD/SBSTTA/26/7	Marine and coastal biodiversity	8
CBD/SBSTTA/26/7/Add.1	Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas: further work	8 (a)
CBD/SBSTTA/26/7/Add.2	Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity	8 (b)
CBD/SBSTTA/26/8	Biodiversity and health	9
