



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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### Subsidiary Body on Implementation

#### Fifth meeting

Cali, Colombia, 16–18 October 2024

Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*

#### Review of implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including means of implementation

### **Pilot open-ended forum for voluntary country review of implementation at the fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation**

Note by the Secretariat

## **I. Introduction**

1. The present note contains information on the open-ended forum for voluntary country review of implementation to be piloted by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fifth meeting. The note complements two documents submitted to the Subsidiary Body at its fourth meeting: document [CBD/SBI/4/4](#), in which the background to the development of the open-ended forum had been provided; and document [CBD/SBI/4/4/Add.1](#), which contained a proposal for the modus operandi for the forum. The latter document is also available as a reference document for the present meeting. Further information, including a timetable and programme, will be provided in a scenario note for the meeting.<sup>1</sup>

## **II. Background**

2. The Conference of the Parties set out four interrelated areas of work in the modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation:<sup>2</sup> (a) reviewing progress in implementation; (b) identifying strategic actions to enhance implementation on the basis of the review of progress and other information; (c) strengthening means of implementation; and (d) improving the effectiveness of processes and activities related to the operations of the Convention. The first of those areas is intended to include items related to the review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and related strategic plans. The items would include the review of progress in the provision of support for implementation; progress by Parties in the setting and achievement of their national targets and actions, and the outcomes of those actions; the progress of individual Parties; and the contribution of the national targets communicated by Parties towards the objectives of the Convention.

3. The modus operandi also provides that, upon a decision of the Conference of the Parties, the Subsidiary Body may establish an open-ended forum to further support the review of implementation

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\* CBD/SBI/5/1.

<sup>1</sup> CBD/SBI/5/1/Add.2.

<sup>2</sup> Decision XIII/25, annex.

of the Convention and related strategic plans, with a view to facilitating the exchange of information and experience among Parties.

4. In its decision [14/29](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to organize the testing of a Party-led review process through an open-ended forum. An initial trial was conducted at a special session of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation held online on 16 and 17 September 2020, when the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic prevented in-person meetings from being held. Five Parties from different regions volunteered to be reviewed on the basis of their preparation of review reports for presentation to the forum. The feedback from Parties and observers on the trial was mixed. Specifically, it was noted that the scope and content of the reports of the five Parties varied greatly, making it difficult to summarize and draw lessons; there was little discussion during the forum; and only five countries had been given space to share their experiences.<sup>3</sup>

5. Taking into account the experience of that review piloted by Parties, a revised modus operandi for an open-ended forum for voluntary country review of implementation was prepared for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at the second part of its third meeting, held in March 2022.<sup>4</sup> Parties submitted written comments on the revised modus operandi before and after the meeting.<sup>5</sup> Informal discussions on the modus operandi were held at a workshop convened before the fourth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, held in June 2022.

6. The further development and testing of an open-ended forum for voluntary country review was included as an element of the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision [15/6](#). In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to support the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in the further development and piloting of a modus operandi of the forum. Accordingly, taking into account the experiences and comments noted above, the Secretariat prepared a proposal for the modus operandi for consideration by the Subsidiary Body at its fourth meeting,<sup>6</sup> and the forum will be piloted on the basis of that proposed modus operandi at the present meeting.

7. At its fourth meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation adopted recommendation [4/2](#), which included some elements related to the open-ended forum for voluntary country review (specifically paragraphs 6 and 7 of the draft decision contained in the recommendation), with an indication that those elements would be reviewed at the present meeting.

### **III. Focus of the open-ended forum for voluntary country review at the fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation**

8. As indicated in document CBD/SBI/4/4/Add.1, the pilot open-ended forum for voluntary country review conducted at the present meeting will be focused on reviewing progress in the development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the setting of national targets.

9. In its decision [15/6](#), the Conference of the Parties recognized national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets, revised or updated in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its goals and targets, as the main vehicle for the implementation of the Framework. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested Parties to revise and update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and to submit them by the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It also requested Parties not in a position to do so by that time to communicate national targets reflecting, as applicable, all the goals and targets

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<sup>3</sup> The results of the analysis of a survey conducted after the pilot are available at [www.cbd.int/doc/nr/trial-phase-survey.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/trial-phase-survey.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> [CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.5](#).

<sup>5</sup> See notification No. [2022-018](#). All comments received are available at [www.cbd.int/sbi/review/submissions.shtml](http://www.cbd.int/sbi/review/submissions.shtml).

<sup>6</sup> [CBD/SBI/4/4/Add.1](#).

of the Framework, as a stand-alone submission, in advance of the full submission of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

10. The open-ended forum to be conducted by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at the present meeting will provide a first opportunity for Parties to exchange views, in an open-ended setting, on the development of national targets and national biodiversity strategies and actions plans aligned with the Framework since the adoption of the Framework. Specifically, the forum will, in line with the draft modus operandi set out in document [CBD/SBI/4/4/Add.1](#), provide an opportunity for Parties to reflect on progress made in the establishment of their national targets and the revision or updating of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, share experiences and identify possible strategic actions to take, moving forward. The arrangements will follow the modus operandi presented to the Subsidiary Body at its fourth meeting, adapted in the light of the experience of the dialogues on national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

11. The document on progress in national target setting and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans,<sup>7</sup> as well as the global analysis of information in national biodiversity strategies and action plans,<sup>8</sup> the analysis of national targets<sup>9</sup> and the summary of the outcomes from the dialogues on national biodiversity strategies and action plans,<sup>10</sup> will serve as background documents to facilitate discussions during the open-ended forum.

12. The forum will be divided into five sessions, comprising an opening session, a closing session and three thematic sessions, with themes identified on the basis of the experiences from the regional dialogues. Parties are expected to exchange information on progress made and share their experience on: (a) the implementation of the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches and the integration of the Protocols and other multilateral environmental agreements into national biodiversity strategies and action plans; (b) national target setting and the monitoring of national targets; and (c) means of implementation, including national biodiversity finance planning and national capacity-building and development planning.

13. The thematic sessions will be structured to support the exchange of information and identification of potential actions. For each thematic session, there will be a chair and a panel of representatives from Parties. The chairs will be identified by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and with due regard to regional and gender balance. The panellists will be selected from Parties, building on positive examples shared during the dialogues on national biodiversity strategies and action plans and in the national targets submitted by Parties, also ensuring regional and gender balance in the selection.

14. At the start of each thematic session, the chair will summarize the relevant findings contained in the addenda referred to in paragraph 10 above. The panel members will be invited to present national success stories, challenges and experiences related to the theme. The floor will then be open for discussion.

15. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, in consultation with the chairs of each thematic session, will prepare a summary of the main observations and conclusions from the discussions. The summary will be made available as a Chair's text.

16. The programme for the open-ended forum will be provided in the scenario note for the meeting. For each of the three thematic sessions, a set of indicative guiding questions will also be provided. Parties may wish to take those into account in their preparation for participating in the forum.

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<sup>7</sup> CBD/SBI/5/2.

<sup>8</sup> CBD/SBI/5/2/Add.1.

<sup>9</sup> CBD/SBI/5/2/Add.2.

<sup>10</sup> CBD/SBI/5/2/Add.3.

## IV. Recommendation

17. In the light of its experience in conducting the pilot open-ended forum for voluntary country review at its fifth meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation may wish to adopt a recommendation along the following lines.

*The Subsidiary Body on Implementation,*

*Welcoming* the views shared by Parties during the pilot open-ended forum for voluntary country review conducted at its fifth meeting,

*Welcoming also* the summary of the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on the pilot open-ended forum,

*Recommends* that, when considering at its sixteenth meeting the draft decision on the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review contained in recommendation 4/2 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, the Conference of the Parties include in its decision elements along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* its decisions XIII/25 of 9 December 2016, 14/29 of 29 November 2018 and 15/6 of 19 December 2022,

1. *Takes note* of the summary of the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on the pilot open-ended forum for voluntary country review of implementation conducted at the fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body;<sup>11</sup>

2. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to convene an open-ended forum for voluntary country review at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Requests* the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, with the support of the Executive Secretary and in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, to coordinate the convening of the open-ended forum referred to in paragraph 2 above, taking into account the experiences of the pilot open-ended forum convened at the fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body.

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<sup>11</sup> CBD/SBI/5/4, annex [xx].