

**INFORMAL SESSION FOR THE TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY
ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

17-19 and 24-26 February 2021

SCENARIO NOTE

Note by the Chair

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Further to the decision by the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to hold a six-day informal meeting of the Subsidiary Body, I would like to share the organization of work for the informal session scheduled to begin on 17 February 2021.

2. The virtual informal meeting in preparation for the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will contribute to maintaining momentum and to advancing the preparations for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It will include interventions on the pre-session documents for items on the agenda of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body similar to the first reading at formal meetings of the Subsidiary Body. Participants are encouraged to focus their interventions on comments on the draft recommendations set out in pre-session documents. There will be no negotiations at this session; thus, there will be no formal substantive outcomes, decisions or conference room papers from the meeting. However, there is an expectation that, when the formal meeting of the Subsidiary Body is held, to increase efficiency, Parties may refer to their statements at this informal session and only make additions if so needed. The recently adopted budget for the Convention has within it an accommodation for a six-day meeting.

3. Key elements of the meeting include:

(a) The meeting will include statements (equivalent to the first reading at a physical meeting) All statements will be recorded, and written submissions will be posted online. Participants may wish to send pre-recorded statements and written submissions to the Secretariat prior to the informal meeting as backup in the case of unforeseeable connection problems during the informal meeting;

(b) Together with the Chair of the Subsidiary Body, the Secretariat will prepare a short procedural report on the informal session, noting the Parties and observers making interventions;

(c) The list of all registered participants will be available to participants prior to the meeting;

(d) All sessions will last three hours per day and will be held from 7 to 10 a.m. Montreal time, with a 15-minute break approximately midway through each session;

(e) All requests for the floor by Parties will be heard for each agenda items during the online informal meeting. Statements by stakeholder groups will also be heard, as well as other observers as time allows;

(f) There will be a short opening session which will include short statements by the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties, the Chair and the Executive Secretary, but no keynote presentations;

(g) Each agenda item will start with regional and group statements after the introduction of the item by the Secretariat. However, there will be no regional or group statements during the opening or closing sessions of the informal meeting;

(h) As usual, statements on each agenda item from Parties and observers will follow previous approach and be limited to 5 minutes on behalf of the region/group and 3 minutes for individual interventions;

(i) There will be provision for an online platform consultation for regional groups, as requested by regions. Regions are encouraged to hold preparatory meetings in the week prior to the session. Regions will need to advise the Secretariat of the time best suited for them;

(j) Regular meetings of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body are expected to be held in order to assess progress. The Bureau will need to decide the frequency of these meetings;

(k) Individual sessions on agenda items will be chaired by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body or a member of the Bureau.

II. SUGGESTED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

4. Below is the proposed organization of work, agreed by the Bureau. Every attempt will be made to cover all agenda items during the informal meeting. However, this is dependent on the number of requests for the floor per agenda item.

| Date | SBSTTA-24 Agenda item | Notes |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| 17 February 2021 7-10 a.m. | Opening of the meeting | Statements by the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary and the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice |
| | 3. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework | Introduction by the Secretariat (up to 5 min) Statements |
| 18 February 2021 7-10 a.m. | 3. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework (<i>continued</i>) | Statements |
| | 4. Synthetic biology | Introduction by the Secretariat (up to 5 min) Statements |
| 19 February 2021 7-10 a.m. | 4. Synthetic biology (<i>continued</i>) | Statements |
| | 5. Risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms | Introduction by the Secretariat (up to 5 min) Statements |
| 24 February 2021 7-10 a.m. | 6. Marine and coastal biodiversity | Introduction by the Secretariat (up to 5 min) Statements |
| 25 February 2021 7-10 a.m. | 7. Biodiversity and agriculture | Introduction by the Secretariat (up to 5 min) Statements |
| | 10. Invasive alien species | Introduction by the Secretariat (up to 5 min) Statements |
| 26 February 2021 7-10 a.m. | 10. Invasive alien species (<i>continued</i>) | Statements |
| | 8. IPBES programme of work | Introduction by the Secretariat (up to 5 min) Statements |
| | Closing of the informal session | Statements from the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary and the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice |