

ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE CONTACT GROUPS ON AGENDA ITEM 4

NOTE BY THE CO-LEADS OF THE CONTACT GROUPS

1. The contact groups were established by the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at the end of the plenary session on item 4 on Tuesday 24 August. The contact groups are tasked to review the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as per the following schedule.

CG #	Task	Co-leads
1	Goals and Milestones; Overall structure; Sections A to E	Mr. Vinod Mathur (India) Mr. Norbert Baerlocher (Switzerland)
2	Targets 1-8 Reducing threats for biodiversity	Ms. Teona Karchava (Georgia) Mr. Alfred Oteng-Yeboah (Ghana)
3	Targets 9-13 Nature's contributions to people	Ms. Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica) Mr. Andrew Stott (United Kingdom)
4	Targets 14-21 Tools and solutions; Sections H to K	Ms. Anne Teller (European Union) Mr. Jorge Murillo (Colombia)

Mandate

2. 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), bearing in mind the allocation of tasks as presented in the table above. The co-leads will document this discussion in the text highlighting, inter alia, (a) points of convergence; (b) points of divergence that need further discussion; (c) specific proposed textual suggestions or amendments, and, as appropriate, (d) overall general 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. The mandate of the contact groups remains subject to review by the Bureau.

Documentation

3. In accordance with the above and in consultation with the Co-Chairs of Open-ended Working Group and the Bureau, the co-leads of the respective contact group will prepare a non-paper bearing in mind the rule to give delegates a minimum of 36 hours to review the draft, and release it at an opportune time for further review by the contact group.

4. It is expected that the work of the contact groups will advance the text of the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for negotiations. Thus, the co-leads' texts, resulting from the work of contact groups, will be compiled and annexed to the report of the first session of the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, and will form the basis for the text-based negotiations that will take place at the resumed, second session of the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.

Modalities

5. Each contact group will have **two three-hour sessions** (or, where necessary, a maximum of **three sessions**). Given the complexity of the issues and the volume of text to be reviewed, it is imperative to use the limited time available in the most efficient way.

6. Interaction and collaboration among delegates will be very important to facilitate constructive dialogue, though particularly challenging in an online setting. It is therefore important to provide the opportunity to all to participate but ensure they are well prepared in advance and disciplined during the discussions.

7. The modalities below are recalled with these points in mind:

(a) Given the limited amount of time available for the “first reading” of agenda item 4, in the plenary session on Tuesday 24 August, delegations are expected at this stage to provide overall observations on the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and raise any major issues, while detailed comments on the individual elements of the framework, including on the draft goals and targets, are deferred to the contact groups;

(b) Delegates will thus be able to introduce new textual suggestions, when a certain element is considered for the first time by the contact group. However, delegates will be kindly requested to refrain from introducing further new textual suggestions, in the subsequent readings of the same element in the later sessions of the contact group;

(c) The co-leads will attempt to make as much progress as possible by reflecting all options during the present virtual sessions and prepare text as a basis for the in person negotiations that will take place at the resumed session. However, the co-leads may also attempt to already address and resolve issues that appear uncontroversial during this first session, while recognizing that the text will be finalized only at the resumed session;

(d) With the previous points in mind, delegates are strongly encouraged to make short, concise, and targeted interventions, and, in particular in the case of disagreement with the existing draft text, complement their general expression of disagreement by providing concrete and specific textual proposals addressing the element under consideration;

(e) Focussed interventions by observers will be allowed at the discretion of the co-leads. Proposals made by observers need to be supported by at least one Party in order to be further considered. In this context, it is important that these proposals would have been made available by observers in their online statements or amendments, submitted during the time allowed for uploading documents during the plenary, to allow Parties to be informed before the contact group meeting.

Organization of work

7. While it is anticipated that the contact groups will address the sections under its responsibility mostly in sequential order, the co-leads may suggest departing from this general rule as appropriate. Co-leads may also give room for general statements covering an entire section, before addressing specific goals or targets. In this context, it is recalled that contact group 1 is also tasked to look at the structure of the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework as a whole.

8. As noted in the modalities above, the co-leads of contact groups hope to be able to finalize, at minimum, the first reading of the sections under consideration, i.e., to get an overview, through a first discussion, on the issues that are contentious and need more reflection and joint work, and the associated textual changes or amendments proposed. The co-leads hope to already make some progress and achieve agreement on (relatively) non-contentious changes proposed.

9. The co-leads of each contact group will complement the above by issuing a succinct guidance document that will further specify the envisaged organization of work and that will provide a set of guiding questions, tailored to the tasks at hand.
