Agenda item 19
Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols
Working Group I

Options for further improving the effectiveness of meetings under the Convention and its Protocols

Non-paper

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 16/25 of 1 November 2024,

Recognizing the need to further improve the effectiveness of meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] and its Protocols and ensure inclusiveness, transparency and equity, taking into account the needs of developing country Parties,

Reiterating the important role of technology in supporting the efficiency and effectiveness of meetings, without prejudice to decision-making by consensus,

[*Reaffirming* the importance of securing funding to allow for [more than one delegate][at least two delegates] for each developing country Party to participate and engage effectively in meetings,]

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of measures to improve the effectiveness of processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, as described in document CBD/SBI/6/9, takes note of the summary of submissions for improving the effectiveness of meetings contained in the same document, and notes the need to encourage more Parties to contribute to such improvement;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the pilot on the early submission of statements carried out for the twenty-seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and the application of the modalities for such submissions on a trial basis at subsequent meetings of the subsidiary bodies, as well as identified challenges, benefits and experiences associated with the use of the pilot to improve the efficiency of meetings;

3. *Takes note* of General Assembly resolution 79/318 of 18 July 2025 and the efforts of the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations in order to keep pace with a changing world and to make it fit for present and future challenges;

[4. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and women, youth and other relevant organizations to continue to participate actively in the early submission process whenever used for subsidiary or governing body meetings, [and explore ways for the online submissions to be][provided that online submissions are] translated and made available in the six official languages of the United Nations, subject to the availability of resources;]

[5. *Requests* the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice:

(a) To continue to improve the modalities for the early submission of statements;

(b) To apply the modalities on a voluntary basis to all the agenda items of future meetings of the subsidiary and governing bodies of the Convention and its Protocols;]

6. *Encourages* Parties to cooperate in streamlining meeting agendas and decisions;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and, as appropriate, in consultation with the Bureaux:

[1] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

(a) To hold, where possible, online briefing sessions for Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other stakeholders on the agenda items ahead of intergovernmental meetings held under the Convention and its Protocols, providing the overall context, an overview of the main agenda items and a summary of past discussions and outcomes;

[(b) To develop and make available briefing materials on applicable meeting procedures of the subsidiary and governing bodies of the Convention and its Protocols;]

[(c) To prepare an analysis of the possible use of technological tools for expediting decision-making processes;]

(d) To finalize the decision-tracking tool and make it fully operational to clearly track the implementation status of decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureaux, as appropriate:

(a) To streamline the agendas of meetings, including through the possible reduction of the number of agenda items, with a view to ensuring focus on matters requiring consideration by Parties;

(b) To continue to explore and make use of, as appropriate, relevant ways to improve the effectiveness of the processes under the Convention and its Protocols, taking into account relevant practices under other multilateral environmental agreements and United Nations processes, as summarized in annex I to document CBD/SBI/6/9, as well as the responses to relevant notifications of the Secretariat of the Convention and decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

(c) To invite submissions from Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other stakeholders on options to further improve the effectiveness of meetings under the Convention and its Protocols specifically with regard to the engagement of observers, and to pilot the options and lessons learned in the intersessional period leading to the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

[(d) To continue to facilitate training sessions on the management of multilateral negotiations for representatives identified to serve as chairs of subsidiary bodies and working and contact groups or as facilitators for friends of the chair groups;]

9. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To fully implement paragraph 13 (a) of decision 16/25 and to limit the number and length of working documents, while ensuring that all the information required for decision-making is included therein and made available in the six official languages of the United Nations;

(b) To report on the outcomes of the work requested in paragraphs 7 to 9 of the present decision and submit a draft analysis of options to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at [its eighth meeting][a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties];

[10. *Decides* to establish a Party-driven process to further improve the effectiveness of the processes and meetings under the Convention and its Protocols;]

[10. alt *Requests* the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to consider measures for the further improvement of processes under the Convention and its Protocols, with the support of external experts, as necessary;]

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