



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
LIMITED

CBD/ExCOP/2/L.3
CBD/CP/ExMOP/1/L.3
CBD/NP/ExMOP/1/L.3
16 November 2010

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Second extraordinary meeting

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
SERVING AS THE MEETING OF
THE PARTIES TO THE
CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON
BIOSAFETY
First extraordinary meeting

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
SERVING AS THE MEETING OF
THE PARTIES TO THE NAGOYA
PROTOCOL ON ACCESS TO
GENETIC RESOURCES AND
THE FAIR AND EQUITABLE
SHARING OF BENEFITS
ARISING FROM THEIR
UTILIZATION
First extraordinary meeting

Montreal (Online), 16-19 November 2020

OPENING COMMUNICATION BY THE PRESIDENT

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

I would like to welcome all delegates to the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and extraordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols.

These meetings are convened following the expression of support by multiple Parties as notified by the Secretariat on 10 September 2020 (see [notification-2020-073](#)) for the purpose of considering and adopting an interim budget for the programme of work for 2021. Accordingly, I would like to draw the following to the attention of all representatives.

Item 1. Opening of the meetings

It is my pleasure to officially open, through this communication, the second extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the first extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, and the first extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.

Item 2. Organizational matters

Officers

The current Bureau serves as the Bureau for these extraordinary meetings in accordance with rule 21, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure.

Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agendas (CBD/ExCOP/2/1, CBD/CP/ExMOP/1/1, and CBD/NP/ExMOP/1/1) which were prepared and notified to Parties and observers earlier by the Executive Secretary, in accordance with rules 8 and 13 of the rules of procedure, are hereby adopted further to the explanation provided in paragraphs 11

and 12 of the annotated provisional agendas (CBD/ExCOP/2/1/Add.1, CBD/CP/ExMOP/1/1/Add.1 and CBD/NP/ExMOP/1/1/Add.1, respectively).

Organization of work

These extraordinary meetings are being held remotely through a written silence procedure as specified in paragraphs 13 and 14 of the annotated provisional agendas. A brief further explanation of the procedure is attached to the present communication.

Item 3. Report on the credentials of representatives to the second extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The Bureau would like to report, in accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure, that as of 12 November 2020, the representatives of 83 Parties to the Convention, 75 Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, and 56 Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, have submitted credentials that meet the requirements of rule 18 of the rules of procedure.

I would like to remind delegates to submit, if they have not yet done so, their credentials, as soon as possible and no later than 18 November 2020 at 1 p.m. Montreal time (UTC 6 p.m.). Delegates may send to the Secretariat a scanned copy of their credential that fulfil the requirements of rule 18 of the rules of procedure.

Item 4. Proposed interim budget for 2021

It is my pleasure to submit the enclosed draft decisions on the interim budget for 2021 for consideration and adoption by representatives. The draft decisions are the outcome of review and consultation by the informal group on the budget that was established under the guidance of the Bureau and notified to Parties and observers on 6 October 2020 ([notification-2020-079](#)). On behalf of the Bureau and on my own behalf, I would like to thank Ambassador Spencer Thomas of Grenada for efficiently coordinating and facilitating the work of the informal group.

The enclosed draft decisions are hereby placed under the silence procedure until 7 a.m. Montreal time (UTC 12 noon) on Thursday, 19 November 2020. Comments, if any, may be directed, by or through a head of delegation, to the Executive Secretary at executivesecretary@cbd.int.

Item 5. Adoption of the report

Further to paragraph 22 of the annotated provisional agendas, the present communication also constitutes an outline of the report on the extraordinary meetings. The report on each meeting (CBD/ExCOP/2/L.1, CBD/CP/ExMOP/1/L.1 and CBD/NP/ExMOP/1/L.1) will be circulated with my second communication that will be conveyed to delegates at the end of the 72 hours on Thursday, 19 November 2020, at 8 a.m. Montreal time (UTC 1 p.m.), at which time they will be considered adopted.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my solidarity with Parties and all delegates to these extraordinary meetings that are taking place at such extraordinarily challenging times, in their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Yasmine Fouad
President, Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on Biological Diversity

Enc.

1. Proposed interim budget for the programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, for the year 2021 (CBD/ExCOP/2/L.2)

2. Proposed interim budget for the programme of work of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, for the year 2021 (CBD/CP/ExMOP/1/L.2)
3. Proposed interim budget for the programme of work of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization, for the year 2021 (CBD/NP/ExMOP/1/L.2)
4. A brief description of the “silence procedure” (annexed)

Annex

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE “SILENCE PROCEDURE”

The “silence procedure”, which is also known as the “written procedure” or the “no objection procedure”, is a procedure that is used by certain United Nations bodies to adopt decisions, while not meeting in person. Where a plenary meeting is not practical, a draft decision is circulated in writing by the presiding officer of the body concerned under a silence procedure, usually lasting up to 72 hours. The use of a written silence procedure presupposes prior consultations or negotiations on the subject of the decision that is tabled for adoption. The presiding officer usually makes sure that no issues would arise or no objection would be made against the draft decision during the period of silence. If the silence is not broken, the decision is presumed adopted.

The second extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the first extraordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols will be held from 16 to 19 November 2020 to consider and adopt their respective interim budget for 2021. The meetings will be held remotely through a silence procedure.

In order to ensure a smooth adoption of the proposed interim budget by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the two Protocols at their extraordinary meetings, an informal group of representatives of Parties was established. The composition and operation of the informal group was informed by precedents and experience from previous relevant processes whereby budgets for the programme of work of the Secretariat were reviewed and finalized. Accordingly, the informal group, under the guidance of the Bureau, reviewed the budget proposed by the Executive Secretary and held a series of consultations between 12 October and 12 November 2020 through virtual means. The Group completed its work and submitted three sets of draft decisions to the President of the Conference of the Parties. The draft decisions on the interim budget for the year 2021 are expected to be adopted at the end of the 72 hours of silence on 19 November 2020.
