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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION

Third meeting (resumed)

Venue and dates to be determined

Agenda item 9

MODUS OPERANDI OF THE OPEN-ENDED FORUM OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION FOR COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION

Note by the Executive Secretary

Addendum

1. In decision 14/29, the Conference of the Parties considered review mechanisms for the Convention and requested the Executive Secretary to prepare for and organize the testing of a Party-led review process, including through an open-ended forum to be held at the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. In the light of the postponement of the meeting, in close consultation with the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, a trial phase of an open-ended forum for review of implementation was implemented during the special virtual sessions of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in September 2020. Five Parties – Ethiopia, Finland, Guyana, Poland and Sri Lanka – presented their review reports and responded to questions posed by other Parties. The review reports were prepared according to guidance issued by the Secretariat of the Convention in notification [2020-002](#). A report on the session is provided in the report on the special virtual sessions.¹ A survey of participants was conducted to gauge the utility of the forum itself and of the modality used (a summary of the survey results can be found at the following link: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/trial-phase-survey.pdf>).
2. At the first part of its third meeting, held from 16 May to 13 June 2021, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation discussed options for an enhanced implementation, monitoring, reporting and review mechanism under the Convention, which included a country-by-country review. In considering the item, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on options to enhance planning, reporting and review mechanisms with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention (CBD/SBI/3/11). The Subsidiary Body established a contact group to address this item.
3. The outcome of the group's deliberations was reflected in a draft recommendation prepared by the Chair on options to enhance planning, reporting, and review mechanisms with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention (CBD/SBI/3/CRP.5). The Subsidiary Body decided to defer consideration of the draft recommendation until part II of the meeting. However, the modality of a country-by-country review was not discussed at any length in either the plenaries or the contact group sessions of the Subsidiary Body at the first part of its third meeting.
4. The draft recommendation, in paragraph 12, envisages the adoption of a modus operandi for an open-ended forum of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation as part of an enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review with a view to enhancing implementation of the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and refers to an annex which contains such a modus operandi. A footnote indicates that these are to be prepared in the light of further discussions,

¹ See [CBD/SBSTTA-SBI-SS/1/2](#), paras. 56-90.

including at the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, before the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This is also reflected in the list of intersessional work arising from part I of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body, annexed to the report on that meeting (CBD/SBI/3/20).

5. Accordingly, and to assist the Subsidiary Body in its further consideration of this matter, the Executive Secretary has prepared a revised modality for an open-ended forum of the Subsidiary Body for a country-by-country review of implementation. It was developed in the light of the experience and feedback from the trial phase of the open-ended forum of the Subsidiary Body and discussions held during part I of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body and part I of the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The revised modality is contained in the annex below.

Annex

MODUS OPERANDI OF THE OPEN-ENDED FORUM OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION FOR COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION

(Annex D to the draft decision contained in CBD/SBI/3/CRP.5)

I. OBJECTIVES

1. The main objectives of the country-by-country review are:
 - (a) To contribute to the review of implementation of the Convention, its Protocols, and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the national level, as a complement to the aggregate review that would be undertaken through a global stocktake on ambition and implementation;
 - (b) To facilitate peer learning and knowledge/experience sharing among Parties regarding implementation of the Convention, its Protocols, and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the national level;
 - (c) To identify strategic actions/solutions to overcome challenges in national implementation;
 - (d) To identify areas where enhanced support in the form of information/knowledge, expertise, capacity, resources, technologies or other means of implementation is needed;
 - (e) To increase transparency regarding actions undertaken by Parties and their effectiveness (outcomes, impacts, etc.).

II. PROPOSED MODUS OPERANDI

2. It is proposed that the country-by-country review be conducted in three phases (see figure) during each biennium.

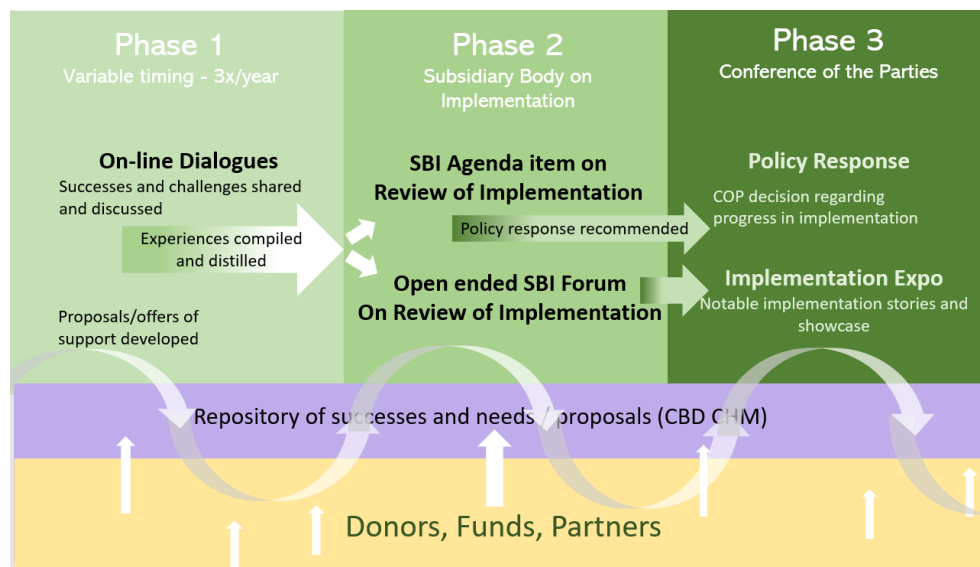


Figure. Schematic of country-by-country review

3. The first phase would consist of a series of online dialogues² in which a number of Parties³ would each present on various aspects of the implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action

² These dialogues and the [implementation support forum] proposed for phase 2 could be conducted virtually, in person or in hybrid form, subject to the availability of resources.

³ The exact number of Parties to present at each dialogue would be determined depending on the number of dialogues that would be held each year in order to allow each Party to present once in the decade.

plans (NBSAPs). The online dialogues would be held in a number of sessions ahead of each meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation with a view to all Parties having the opportunity to participate at least once during the decade. The online sessions would include a discussion of successes and challenges in order to clarify as much as possible the contributing factors, the measures of success and the lessons learned in the case of the successes, and the possible strategic actions, solutions or support that could be useful in the case of the challenges. This would be an opportunity for in-depth discussions on the effectiveness of measures implemented at the national level to achieve the goals and targets of the global biodiversity framework, and an opportunity to present, and/or to develop, well-elaborated proposals for capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and/or other support as needed. Experiences would be compiled and summarized.

4. The second phase would consist of an in-session open-ended forum on review of implementation to be held during the meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. During the open-ended forum, an aggregate summary of the successes and challenges discussed during the online dialogues would be presented and discussed. The aggregate summary of successes and challenges would be presented to the plenary of the Subsidiary Body under the agenda item on progress on implementation. This summary would complement or contribute to the initial stages of the global stocktakes on ambition and implementation, and the Subsidiary Body would recommend a global policy response from the Conference of the Parties as appropriate.

5. The third phase of the country-by-country review would consist of an implementation exhibition to be held on the margins of each meeting of the Conference of the Parties in the post-2020 period, featuring the implementation successes and the challenges that have either been resolved or show promise of being resolved. An international panel of experts, including experts nominated by Parties, would review the submissions to the exhibition and select cases which would be featured as notable stories about implementation of the Convention. These stories could also be submitted for consideration for related international biodiversity awards, such as the Equator Initiative and Midori Prize for Biodiversity.

6. All Parties would present their reviews to the online dialogues at least once in the decade.

7. All Parties would use their national reports, or other related reports, such as national reviews of implementation of NBSAPs or related strategies or plans, as a basis for this country-by-country review. No additional reports would need to be prepared for this purpose.

8. For those Parties that would like to participate in a more comprehensive and in-depth review, the voluntary peer-review (VPR) process on NBSAP revision and implementation, already in place and recognized in decision 14/29, would continue to be available, on a voluntary basis, subject to the continued availability of resources. The countries that have gone through the VPR process would have the opportunity to present their successes and challenges, and lessons learned through the VPR, to the online dialogues. As has been the practice until now, the review reports of the VPR processes would be presented to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Conference of the Parties as information documents and their findings would also contribute to the aggregate summary of the online discussions to be presented to the Subsidiary Body.

9. All relevant stakeholders and indigenous peoples and local communities would be encouraged to contribute to the country-by-country reviews, which are led by Parties. Inputs from stakeholders would be through a consultative national process depending on national circumstances.

10. The clearing-house mechanism of the Convention could support the country-by-country review by serving as a repository of successful implementation cases that are presented and discussed, and a repository of capacity development, technical and scientific cooperation and other specific needs expressed by Parties.⁴ Donors and partners could use the repository to better understand Party implementation support needs, and to tailor their support and respond to the needs.

⁴ Similar functionalities already exist under the Bio-Bridge Initiative databases and matchmaking platform powered by the clearing-house mechanism. Such databases could be repurposed and broadened to include enhanced functionalities regarding the expressed capacity development needs, opportunities and matches, and multiple sponsors.