



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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**Subsidiary Body on Scientific,  
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**Twenty-eighth meeting**  
**Nairobi, 27 July–1 August 2026**  
Agenda item 3  
**Planning, monitoring, reporting and review**

### **Planning, monitoring, reporting and review**

#### **Recommendation submitted by the Chair**

*The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice*

*Invites* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, in line with decision [16/32](#) of 27 February 2025, to agree to the inclusion of the following provisions on the scientific, technical and technological aspects of the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework<sup>1</sup> in the draft decisions to be submitted for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting:

**A. Global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* that, in its decisions [15/4](#) and [15/6](#) of 19 December 2022, and [16/32](#) of 27 February 2025, the Conference of the Parties decided to conduct a global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at its seventeenth meeting and that the national reports and the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Framework are the primary sources of information for the global review,

*Recalling also* that, in decision [16/32](#), the Conference of the Parties also decided that the global review would draw upon relevant recommendations of the subsidiary bodies and working groups and, as relevant, the outcomes of the informal technical dialogue, [which has since been named the Kunming dialogue on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in support of the global review,] the outcomes of the subregional and regional dialogues on national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports, and the global analysis of information in national biodiversity strategies and action plans,

*Recognizing* that 129 Parties had submitted national reports in time for consideration in the preparation of global report, that is, by 8 March 2026, which had provided substantial evidence for preparing the global report,

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<sup>1</sup> Decision [15/4](#), annex.

*Recognizing also* that additional sources of information identified in decision [16/32](#), such as scientific literature and the deliverables of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, were used in the preparation of the global report, that those sources further strengthened the evidence base for the global report and that science played an important in the global review,

*Noting with concern* that there remain data and information gaps in the national reports, that not all Parties were able to submit national reports in time for them to be considered in the preparation of the global report and that, consequently, the experiences of some Parties, in particular small island developing States, are not well reflected in the global report,

*Noting with appreciation* the support provided to Parties for developing national biodiversity strategies and actions plans and national reports,

*Highlighting* that, for many developing country Parties, in particular small island developing States, there continues to be delays in the initiation of the Global Environment Facility support for developing national biodiversity strategies and actions plans and national reports, which had an impact on the timeliness and completeness of some national reports,<sup>2</sup> and recognizing that a range of factors may have contributed to delays,

*Recognizing* that the information and data gaps identified in the global report do not necessarily represent gaps in implementation of or a lack of commitment to the Framework,

*Stressing* that many Parties face institutional, technical, capacity and resource challenges in preparing national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports, in particular in relation to the use of the headline indicators in the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,<sup>3</sup> which contribute to the information gaps in the global report,

*Acknowledging* that, while there were methodological, scientific, technical and data limitations and time constraints related to the preparation of the first global report, the global report is the most definitive source of information on collective progress currently available, that it was developed through a Party-led process and that it provides a [sound] basis for the global review of implementation of the Framework,

*Also acknowledging* that the planning, monitoring, reporting and review mechanism, including future global reviews, could be further strengthened by taking into account the experiences and lessons learned in preparing the first global report and the seventh national reports,

*Expressing appreciation* for the work of the Ad Hoc Scientific and Technical Advisory Group for the Preparation of the Global Report on Collective Progress in the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in guiding the production of the first global report,

1. *Welcomes [with appreciation]* the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and notes its overarching messages and key messages;
2. *[Welcomes][Recognizes] with appreciation* that the Framework has generated unprecedented global engagement and has driven action, innovation, collaboration and learning;
3. *Also welcomes* the fact that Parties have taken actions across all 23 targets of the Framework showing that there are successful examples of implementation for every target of the Framework;
4. *Further welcomes* the fact that actors other than national Governments, namely, indigenous peoples and local communities, subnational governments, cities, and other local

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<sup>2</sup> The timing of disbursement and expenditure for the enabling activities projects funded by the Global Environment Facility is available in document [CBD/SBI/7/INF/17](#) and summarized in the global report.

<sup>3</sup> Decision [15/5](#), annex I.

authorities, intergovernmental organizations, other multilateral environment agreements, non-governmental organizations, women, youth, research organizations, the business and finance community and representatives of sectors related to or dependent on biodiversity have taken action to implement the Framework;<sup>4</sup>

5. *Highlights* the fact that, as indicated in the global report, the review had revealed both progress and gaps in implementation, in particular:

- (a) [Political will and ambition][Scope and coverage][Collective ambition]
  - (i) Parties have collectively set national targets that had a higher level of scope and coverage of Targets 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the Framework, an intermediate level of scope and coverage of Targets 2, 3, 6, 7, 12, 13, 17 and 21 and a lower level of scope and coverage of Targets 1, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22 and 23;
  - (ii) The consideration of marine, coastal and inland water ecosystems, issues related to the drivers of biodiversity loss and issues related to [section C of the Framework, in particular] whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, including participation, the engagement of actors other than national Governments, gender responsiveness, equitable governance and mainstreaming, has been less addressed in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national targets and national reports;
- (b) Action and implementation
  - (i) National targets associated with Targets 1, 2, 3, 8, 13, 20, 21 and 22 of the Framework were most frequently self-assessed by Parties as being on track, while national targets associated with Targets 6, 12, 15, 16, 18 and 19 were least frequently self-assessed by Parties as being on track; however, less than half of the national targets associated with any global target had been reported by Parties as on track;
  - (ii) While there were data and national monitoring capacity gaps that limited the ability to report national data and, thus, to aggregate them at the global level and conclusively track collective progress towards the global targets, indicators related to the targets of the Framework showed negative trends more commonly than positive ones;
- (c) Means of implementation
  - (i) Means of implementation remain below what is required for the full and effective implementation of the Framework, especially for developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them;
  - (ii) There has been some, albeit uneven, progress across Parties in domestic and international public finance, positive incentives for biodiversity, capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and technical and scientific cooperation since the adoption of the Framework;
  - (iii) Collectively, limited progress has been made in mobilizing and tracking private sector finance and positive incentives and in reducing incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity;
  - (iv) The availability of sufficient and timely means of implementation were identified as the most common barrier to implementation, especially by developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them;
- (d) Whole-of-government approaches
  - (i) Parties have made progress in strengthening environmental governance, including by engaging all levels of government and all sectors; however, gaps remain with regard to

<sup>4</sup> All references to “actors other than national Governments” are to be understood as described in paragraph 4 (in line with decisions [15/6](#) and [16/32](#)).

- policy coherence, mainstreaming biodiversity and its multiple values into national policy and engaging ministries beyond the environmental sector in implementation;
- (ii) Gaps remain with regard to progress towards Targets 1 and 14 of the Framework, which relate to integrated planning and mainstreaming and are most directly related to whole-of-government approaches, especially in relation to integrated spatial planning, integrating biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes and ensuring integration across all levels of government and sectors;
  - (e) Whole of society
    - (i) Actors other than national Governments are actively supporting the implementation of the Framework, but indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and persons with disabilities face challenges related to limited resources, technical capacities, access to information and knowledge and effective participation and coordination mechanisms;
    - (ii) Collectively, Parties have made progress in engaging actors other than national Governments in planning and implementation; however, many Parties reported challenges in accounting for the contributions of those actors in national implementation efforts;
    - (iii) While many Parties reported progress towards some elements of Targets 22 and 23 of the Framework, such as involving to a varying degree indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, persons with disabilities and other actors defined in those targets in biodiversity-related decision-making, issues related to the following were less well reflected in national targets: access to information and justice, rights over lands, territories, resources and traditional knowledge, or the protection of environmental human rights defenders or gender-responsive biodiversity governance;
  - (f) Data and knowledge
    - (i) Parties have demonstrated improvements to national monitoring and knowledge management systems, including accounting for traditional knowledge and collecting and using information from government agencies, scientific institutions, indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society and international sources, as reflected in the progress made towards Target 21 of the Framework;
    - (ii) A total of 116 Parties reported on at least one headline indicator; the headline indicators on protected area extent (3.1), Red List Index (A.3), international public funding (D.1) and domestic public funding (D.2), which are associated with Targets 3, 4 and 19 of the Framework, were the most reported headline indicators, and the indicators related to land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities (22.1), benefits from the sustainable use of wild species (9.1), index of coastal eutrophication (7.1) and monetary benefits received in accordance with applicable internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments (C.1), which are associated with Targets 7, 9 and 13, were the least reported indicators;
    - (iii) For 19 of the 23 Targets of the Framework, less than half of the reporting Parties submitted any data for a headline, component, complementary or national indicator; the targets with the most reported quantitative data were 1, 2, 3, 4 and 10, while Targets 8, 14, 16, 17, 20, 22 and 23 received the least;
    - (iv) The use of disaggregated indicator information, including by ecosystem type, sex, age, indigenous people and local community status or other relevant characteristics, was limited;

- (v) Reporting against the indicators and monitoring efforts have been negatively affected by gaps, challenges and barriers related to methodologies data availability and access, data fragmentation, technical and technological infrastructure, resource availability and capacity;

6. *Notes with deep concern* that, unless collective implementation is rapidly accelerated, including through enhanced international cooperation, improved actions and efforts and strengthened means of implementation, the 2030 targets and mission of the Framework will not be achieved, and stresses the imperative to address gaps, challenges and barriers in implementation to achieve the 2030 targets and mission;

[7. *Also notes with deep concern* that, if the 2030 targets and mission of the Framework are not achieved, its 2050 goals and vision may be at risk [unless the provision of means of implementation are rapidly accelerated];]

8. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, actors other than national Governments and the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres supporting the implementation of the Framework to make use of the information contained in global report and the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national targets and national reports in executing their respective mandates and competencies, where relevant;

9. *Urges* Parties to further develop and/or strengthen national monitoring and knowledge management systems to address the gaps in data and knowledge mentioned above and to improve evidenced-based decision-making and the tracking of national progress in the implementation of the Framework;

[10. *Encourages* Parties to ensure that the foundational data needed for implementing the monitoring framework, in particular national ecosystem maps, are in place to support the operationalization of the ecosystem-based headline indicators;]

11. [*Also encourages* Parties, and [requests][invites] the Global Environment Facility and invites other Governments and other organizations, to provide support for addressing the technical and financial challenges faced by Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, in improving their national monitoring and knowledge management systems [and foundational data needed for implementing and monitoring the Framework], including by enhancing the provision of adequate, predictable, accessible and timely financial resources, technology transfer [on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed][on mutually agreed terms], technical assistance and capacity-building and development to developing country Parties in order to enable the effective implementation of the monitoring framework and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;<sup>5</sup>]

12. *Invites* actors other than national Governments, the subregional and regional scientific and technical cooperation support centres, the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations to support the efforts of Parties to improve national monitoring and knowledge management systems;

13. *Encourages* Parties to make full use of existing mechanisms, tools and the subregional and regional scientific and technical cooperation support centres, capacity-building and development initiatives and plans, and enhanced regional cooperation, to strengthen monitoring and knowledge management systems;

- 14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

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<sup>5</sup> The part of the present paragraph related to the Global Environment Facility will be duplicated in the decision 17/-- on the financial mechanism to be adopted at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

(a) To make the information contained in the submitted national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national targets, national reports and commitments from actors other than national Governments more easily accessible;

(b) To make the findings from the global report easily accessible, including through the development of information dashboards on the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity;<sup>6</sup>

(c) To continue to coordinate and collaborate with relevant partners to provide capacity-building and development to Parties and actors other than national Governments aimed at improving national monitoring and knowledge management systems.

## **B. Further enhancing planning, monitoring, reporting and review mechanisms, including the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* its decisions [15/4](#), [15/5](#), [15/6](#) of 19 December 2022, [16/4](#) of 30 October 2024 and [16/31](#) and [16/32](#) of 27 February 2025,

*Noting* that there are still gaps related to the coverage, methodologies and metadata for existing indicators and the operationalization of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,<sup>7</sup>

1. *Notes* with concern that the methodological readiness of headline indicators listed in methodological statuses 1, 2 and 3 in document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/4](#)<sup>8</sup> remains low, which impedes national reporting;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the technical updates to the metadata for the headline indicators, as contained in document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/4](#) and the support provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its partners to the further development and operationalization of some headline indicators, as described in document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/8/Rev.1](#);

[3. *Agrees* to the inclusion of the additional component and complementary indicators contained in annex I to the present decision into the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, noting that their use in national reporting is optional and subject to national circumstances;]

[3.Alt. *Notes* the additional component and complementary indicators proposed in annex I to the present decision, noting that Parties may use them in national reporting and that their use is optional and subject to national circumstances;]

4. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider, at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, scientific and technical inputs relevant to the second global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework, specifically taking into account the need to address methodological, scientific, technical and data limitations in the first global review, including [further methodological development of headline indicators that remain at a low level of development and methodological readiness,] ways to reflect, among other inputs, the relevant deliverables of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in particular its second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, while recognizing that [the sources of information

<sup>6</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>7</sup> Decision [15/5](#), annex I.

<sup>8</sup> I.e. indicators B.1, C.1, C.2, D.3, 1.1, 7.2 (pesticide environment concentration), 9.1, 9.2, 15.1, 18.2, 21.1 and 22.1.

were agreed in paragraph 18 decision [16/32](#)] and that the eighth national reports remain the primary source of information for the second global review, and respecting the respective mandates of the Convention and the Platform;

5. *Emphasizes* the scientific and technical importance of maintaining comparability between the seventh and eighth national reports and the first and second global reports, as well as the need to ensure that any changes to the planning, monitoring, reporting and review mechanism provide continuity, do not disrupt the existing efforts of Parties to establish national monitoring [systems][mechanisms] and do not increase the reporting burden related to the indicators [for the eighth national report, while allowing for development in national monitoring [systems][mechanisms]];

6. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc technical expert group, with a mandate until the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to advise on the further operationalization of the monitoring framework, and in particular to support the eighth round of national reporting in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex II to the present decision;

7. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the outcomes of the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Further Operationalization of the Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework established pursuant to paragraph 6 above, for subsequent consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

8. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, building on its recommendation [1/3](#) and [1/5](#) of 30 October 2025, to provide advice on the integration of traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and community-based monitoring into the monitoring framework, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to submitting guidance for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) When further developing the functionality of the online reporting tool, to improve its functionality for indicator reporting and data entry [and extraction], ensuring that existing global data are available through the tool, and to identify and make other improvements to the tool, as needed;

(b) To collaborate with relevant partners, including the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres, the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, other United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and research organizations, including those addressing issues related to indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and the private sector, to support the further operationalization of the monitoring framework, including by supporting technical and scientific cooperation and capacity-building and development related to the use of the monitoring framework and the development of national biodiversity monitoring systems;

(c) To support the further development of the metadata for indicators under the guidance of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Further Operationalization of the Monitoring Framework;

(d) To keep the metadata for all headline and binary indicators under review, as necessary, in order to reflect methodological improvements, but without introducing substantive changes to methodology;

(e) To collect information from Parties related to subparagraphs 2 (a), (d) and (e) of annex II and to make this information available to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Further Operationalization of the Monitoring Framework for its consideration when undertaking its work;

(f) To identify potential collaborators for the development of headline indicators 1.1, [7.2 (pesticide environment concentration)] and 9.1;

(g) To encourage the partner organizations providing global data to ensure the timely update and validation of those data.

## Annex I

### Optional component and complementary indicators to be added to the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

| <i>Most relevant goal or target</i> | <i>Indicator type</i> | <i>Indicator</i>                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A                                   | Complementary         | Scorecard of genetic diversity in wild species                                                                                               |
| A                                   | Complementary         | Dendritic connectivity index                                                                                                                 |
| 4                                   | Complementary         | Number and list of tree and other woody plant species that have been included in in situ conservation programmes of forest genetic resources |
| 4                                   | Complementary         | Extent of lost farmed types of aquaculture species                                                                                           |
| 4                                   | Complementary         | Extent of populations of wild relatives of aquaculture species subject to conservation measures                                              |
| 4                                   | Complementary         | Extent of ex situ conservation for important farmed types of aquatic genetic resources                                                       |
| 4                                   | Complementary         | Extent of non-native species used in aquaculture posing a risk for native biodiversity                                                       |
| 7                                   | Complementary         | Levels and trends of mercury and mercury compounds in the environment and in humans due to anthropogenic emissions and releases              |
| 7                                   | Complementary         | Freshwater eutrophication index                                                                                                              |
| 11                                  | Complementary         | Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution                                                                             |
| 16                                  | Complementary         | Global environmental impacts of consumption indicator                                                                                        |
| 18                                  | Component             | Monetary value of agriculture-related market price support                                                                                   |
| 18                                  | Component             | Monetary value of agriculture-related non-exempt direct payments                                                                             |
| 18                                  | Component             | Monetary value of agriculture-related other product-specific support                                                                         |
| 18                                  | Component             | Monetary value of agriculture-related product-specific equivalent measurement of support                                                     |
| 18                                  | Component             | Monetary value of agriculture-related non-product-specific aggregated measurement of support                                                 |
| 19                                  | Complementary         | Biodiversity investment ratio                                                                                                                |

## Annex II

### **Terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Further Operationalization of the Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Further Operationalization of the Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework shall develop:

(a) Technical advice on the further development of the metadata of the headline indicators listed in methodological statuses 1, 2 and 3 in document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/4](#), as appropriate;

(b) Practical advice on the use and operationalization of the metadata for headline indicators in national monitoring and reporting processes, including on the use of disaggregation options;

2. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall work on the basis of decisions 15/4, 15/5, 15/6 of 19 December 2022, [16/4](#) of 30 October 2024, 16/31, 16/32 of 19 December 2022 and 17/--<sup>9</sup> and the metadata for the headline indicators<sup>10</sup> and take into account:

(a) The experience of Parties in preparing their seventh national reports, including the technical, capacity and resource gaps that they faced in using the monitoring framework;

(b) The review of the use of indicators in the seventh national reports;<sup>11</sup>

(c) Relevant findings from the global report of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework and lessons learned from its preparation;

(d) The reporting burden on Parties;

(e) The capacity, technical, institutional and financial needs of Parties and the specific challenges faced by developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them;

(f) Relevant findings of the methodological assessments on monitoring biodiversity and nature's contributions to people and on spatial planning and ecological connectivity being prepared by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

(g) The revised guidance on using the indicators of the monitoring framework developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.<sup>12</sup>

3. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall work with relevant organizations, including the regional and subregions technical and scientific support centres and organizations identified in table 1 of annex II to document [CBD/SBSTTA/26/2](#), as appropriate;

4. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall be composed of 30 technical experts nominated by Parties, including experts on statistics, biodiversity monitoring, national statistical and biodiversity information systems, data management and governance, capacity-building and development, regional cooperation, biodiversity finance, national reporting processes and relevant social and natural sciences, and up to 15 technical experts nominated by observer organizations and other relevant organizations. The Executive Secretary, in

<sup>9</sup> Decision on the global review to be adopted at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

<sup>10</sup> See CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/4 and [CBD/COP/16/INF/4](#).

<sup>11</sup> CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/11.

<sup>12</sup> [CBD/COP/16/INF/3/Rev.1](#).

consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, shall select experts from the nominations submitted by Parties and organizations with due regard to representation of various areas of technical expertise; ensuring balance in expertise on all aspects of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;<sup>13</sup> also taking into account geographical representation; the representation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth groups and major stakeholders; gender balance; the special conditions of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition; and the special situation of developing countries that are most environmentally vulnerable, such as those with arid and semi-arid zones, coastal and mountainous areas.

5. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall nominate two co-chairs from among the selected experts, with one from a developed country and one from a developing country;

6. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Co-Chairs of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities shall be invited to participate, ex officio, in the meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group;

7. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall also seek cooperation with and may also invite, as appropriate, other experts, including representatives of the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the organizations identified in table 1 of annex II to document [CBD/SBSTTA/26/2](#), to contribute their expertise and experiences on specific issues related to the terms of reference of the Expert Group and avoid duplication;

8. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall primarily conduct its work electronically and, subject to the availability of resources, also meet in person, if necessary.

9. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall be established and start its work immediately following approval by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting and report on its work to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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<sup>13</sup> Decision [15/4](#), annex.