



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

CBD/WG2020/3/1/Add.2/Rev.1
5 July 2021

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Third meeting

Online, 23 August – 3 September 2021

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

SCENARIO NOTE AND PROVISIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Co-Chairs

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Further to the agenda and annotations (CBD/WG2020/3/1 and Add.1), the present document provides the proposed organization of work for the third meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, scheduled to begin on 23 August 2021. The present document has been developed by the Co-Chairs with the support of the Executive Secretary and with the guidance of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties. The present document supersedes the scenario note issued earlier (CBD/WG2020/3/1/Add.2).

2. The overall approach for the organization of the formal online meeting of the Working Group follows those applied to the formal virtual meetings of the subsidiary bodies held in May and June 2021, taking into account also the experience of those sessions and the lessons learned.

3. The key principles governing the organization of formal online meetings of the Open-ended Working Group are as follows:

(a) The timing and modalities for organization of the meeting respond to the current extraordinary circumstances as related to the COVID-19 pandemic and do not set a precedent for the organization of similar meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity in the future;

(b) Sessions in a physical setting will be required to conclude any substantive agenda and to approve the final draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting;

(c) The timing and modalities for the organization of the meeting have been designed:

(i) Keeping in mind the time frame for preparations necessary to conduct the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the need for resumed sessions of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, technical and Technological Advice and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as well as of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in a physical setting at a later date;

(ii) To allow for full and effective participation of Parties as well as full engagement of all observers, by holding the meetings in a transparent, fair and inclusive manner;

* CBD/WG2020/3/1.

- (iii) To support the timely negotiation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- (d) Adoption of L documents/final documents will be deferred to the physical meeting of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, unless otherwise decided by the Working Group on the advice of the Bureau. However, the Working Group may request limited intersessional work within the mandate provided by decision 14/34, and taking into account constraints of time and availability of resources;
- (e) The standard rules of procedure will apply, and their application will be adapted as necessary for virtual settings.

II. MODALITIES FOR THE FORMAL ONLINE MEETING OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK IN 2021

A. Plenary sessions

4. Plenary sessions will be convened: (a) to open, adjourn and suspend the meeting, adopt the agenda and organization of work, elect the rapporteur and agree on the report on the meeting; (b) to complete the first reading of documents as needed and establish contact groups and (c) to allow for stocktaking or to review the progress of contact groups and to provide further guidance to their work, as appropriate.
5. Sessions will last three hours, with a 15-minute break approximately midway through each session. Only one plenary session will be held per day. Plenary sessions will normally be held from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., EDT (11:00 – 14:00 UTC).
6. All plenary sessions will be webcast, recorded and available on demand.
7. All requests for the floor by Parties will be heard for each agenda item. Statements by other Governments, stakeholder groups and other observers will also be heard as time allows.
8. The Presidency, the Executive Secretary, and a representative of the Government of Colombia and the Co-Chairs will make opening and closing statements.
9. There will be no general statements at the opening and closing sessions of the meeting.
10. Each agenda item will start with a short introduction of the item by the Co-Chairs or the Secretariat, followed by statements by regional groups, Parties, other Governments, major stakeholder groups and other observers (as appropriate and if time allows).
11. Statements on each agenda item by Parties and other Governments are limited to three minutes and five minutes for those made on behalf of a regional group. For major groups, statements are limited to four minutes and for other observers to two minutes (as time allows).
12. In the case that a participant is unable to make a statement in a particular session for technical reasons (such as poor connectivity) alternative arrangements will be made. Participants may also send pre-recorded statements and written submissions to the Secretariat prior to the meetings as backup in the case of unforeseeable connection problems during the informal meeting. Parties with a poor connection may also consider using the United Nations Country Office in their country subject to prior agreement. Parties, other Governments and observers planning to speak are encouraged to have a backup speaker.
13. All statements made in the first reading of a document, including written statements submitted within 12 hours after the first reading is completed, will be posted online, subject to the agreement of the Party or observer concerned.

B. Contact groups

14. On the basis of the results of the first reading, the Co-Chairs of the Working Group may establish contact groups and will clearly define the terms of reference and nominate co-leads of each contact group. It is envisaged that contact groups will be established as indicated in section III.

15. Sessions of contact groups will last up to three hours. One or two contact groups will meet per day as required but at different times of the day. No parallel sessions of two contact groups will be organized. Contact groups will be held from 7 to 10 a.m. and/or from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 and/or 15:00-18:00 UTC). The number of days with two contact groups will be limited.

16. Contact groups would be open to participation by all Parties, other Governments, and representatives of observers.

17. Contact groups would work on the basis of a “non-paper” or section of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Any new “non paper” will be available at least 36 hours prior to its consideration by the contact group. Regular updates would be made available to all participants in the contact group to ensure transparency and sufficient time would be provided between sessions of the group to allow for review of drafts and bilateral and group consultations. Where necessary, sections of the text under review may be shared interactively to facilitate resolution.

18. The Co-Chairs of the Working Group may also convene other types of informal groups, such as Friends of the Chair, and share modalities for their organization with the Parties.

19. Contact groups and other types of informal groups will work in English and, accordingly, non-papers considered at the meetings of the group will be in English. As per usual practice, the outcome of contact groups would be provided to plenary in all languages.

III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

20. The work of Working Group will be conducted through plenary sessions and contact groups. The proposed organization of work is annexed below.

21. As requested by the Working Group at its second meeting, in February 2020, the Working Group will have before it the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/WG2020/3/3) and a pre-session document on digital sequence information on genetic resources (DSI) (CBD/WG2020/3/4) and it will undertake the following:

(a) In plenary: Opening of the meeting, adoption of the agenda, organization of work and election of a rapporteur, and update from the Co-Chairs on progress since the second meeting of the Working Group;

(b) In plenary: First reading of the document containing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the document on digital sequence information on genetic resources to hear initial views from regional groups, Parties, other Governments, major stakeholders and observers, time permitting;

(c) In a contact group: Discussion on DSI on the basis of the information in the pre-session document, statements made in the first reading and/or a non-paper;

(d) In a contact group: Review, section by section, of the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and of the accompanying draft decision;

(e) In plenary: Provide updates at stocktaking plenaries;

(f) In plenary: Approve the report on the virtual session;

(g) In plenary: Suspend the meeting.

IV. OTHER MATTERS

Regional meetings

22. Appropriate online platforms for regional groups consultations, as requested by regions will be made available. Regions will need to advise the Secretariat on the time best suited for them. Regions are encouraged to hold preparatory regional meetings in the week prior to the session, in addition to any such regional meetings planned to be held in-session.

Meetings of the Bureau

23. Meetings of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties serving the third meeting of the Working Group will be held regularly to plan, assess progress and provide guidance to the Co-Chairs on the conduct of the meeting.

Participation of observers

24. Plenary sessions: Other Governments and major stakeholder groups will be given an opportunity to speak on all agenda items. Other observers will be provided an opportunity to speak as time allows. Where time is limited, the Co-Chairs will endeavour to ensure a balance among various categories of observers, taking into account also the relevance to the agenda item.

25. Contact groups: Observers would intervene at the discretion of the chair/co-chairs of the contact groups.

Helping to address technical connectivity issues

26. These limitations will be minimized by the following:

- (a) Parties may wish to attend the meeting from the United Nations Country Office in their country subject to prior arrangement being made with the Secretariat;
- (b) Additional provisions for prior training and testing opportunities, convenient for all time zones;
- (c) Advanced test of connectivity and equipment;
- (d) Daily testing of camera and headphones prior to each plenary session;
- (e) All reasonable measures to assist Parties that encounter any difficulties with connectivity and the use of the platform (through the Secretariat and platform technicians).

Timing of sessions

27. Taking into account the lessons learned from the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, the challenge of working across time zones will be minimized by using a time zone that limits inconvenience to most Parties, varying the timing and, above all, limiting the number of hours per day. When plenary sessions are held, no additional sessions will be held (with the exception of a one-hour stocktake on one day). Only one or two sessions of contact groups will be organized in any two-hour period, and the number of days with more than one contact group will be limited to three. Thus, the total time will be limited to three hours per day on most days, and never exceed six. In addition, no sessions will be held during the weekend.

Documentation

28. Relevant pre-session documentation, including the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, will be provided at least six weeks in advance of the meeting.

29. The list of pre-registered participants will be available to all registered participants at the beginning of the meeting.

Interactive platform

30. All official sessions will be held using the Interactio platform. Improvements to the platform have been made, and training sessions will be organized to ensure that all delegates are familiar with the use of the platform in advance of the meeting.

High-level event

31. The Government of Colombia will convene a high-level “pre-COP” event on 30 August 2021 comprising a panel discussion among Ministers and Heads of State and Government with a view to promoting the development of an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Invitations will be issued by the Government of Colombia in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties.¹

Side events/information sessions

32. No side events would be held during the formal virtual meeting. Information sessions may be held during the physical meetings of the Working Group held together with the resumed sessions of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

¹ Details will be provided by Colombia in due course.

Annex

PROVISIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Date	Time	Type of session	Agenda items
Monday 23 August	7 – 10 a.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 UTC)	Plenary	Items 1, 2, 3, Opening, organization of work and update Item 5. Digital sequence information on genetic resources – (<i>first reading</i>)
Tuesday 24 August	7 – 10 a.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 UTC)	Plenary	Item 4. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework (<i>first reading</i>)
Wednesday 25 August	7 – 10 a.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 UTC)	Contact group	Item 4. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework
	11 a.m.–2 p.m. EDT (15:00-18:00 UTC)	Contact group	Item 5. Digital sequence information on genetic resources
Thursday 26 August	7 – 10 a.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 UTC)	Contact group	Item 4. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework (<i>continued</i>)
	11 a.m. –2 p.m. EDT (15:00-18:00 UTC)	Contact group	Item 5. Digital sequence information on genetic resources (<i>continued</i>)
Friday 27 August	7 – 10 a.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 UTC)	Contact group	Item 4. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework (<i>continued</i>)
	11 a.m.– 2 p.m. (15:00-18:00 UTC)	Contact group	Item 5. Digital sequence information on genetic resources – (<i>conclusion</i>)
Monday 30 August	7 – 10 a.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 UTC)	Contact group	Item 4. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework (<i>continued</i>)
	TBD	High-level event	
Tuesday 31 August	7 – 10 a.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 UTC)	Contact group	Item 4. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework (<i>conclusion</i>)
	11 a.m. – 12 p.m. (15:00-16:00 UTC)	Plenary	Stocktake Item 6. Other matters
Wednesday 1 September	7 – 10 a.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 UTC)	Contact group	To be determined
Thursday 2 September	7 – 10 a.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 UTC)	Contact group	To be determined
Friday 3 September	7 – 10 a.m. EDT (11:00-14:00 UTC)	Plenary	Item 7. Review of the outcomes, approval of report and suspension of the meeting

Note: The sequence and order of contact groups are indicative and may change depending on discussions in plenary.