



Convention on Biological Diversity

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Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Sixteenth meeting

Cali, Colombia, 21 October–1 November 2024

Online, 3–6 December 2024

Rome, 25–27 February 2025

Agenda item 30

Adoption of the report

Draft report of the meeting

I. Introduction

1. Background

1. The sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was held concurrently with the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties 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. The sixteenth meeting commenced in Cali, Colombia, on 21 October 2024 and had to be suspended on the morning of 2 November 2024, for lack of a quorum, before all items could be considered in plenary. As a result, a first resumed meeting was held online, under silence procedure, from 3 to 6 December 2024 to consider the budget-related decisions (see item 7 below), and a second resumed meeting was held in person in Rome from 25 to 27 February 2025 to consider all remaining items (see items 1–3, 7, 10, 11, 13 and 28–31 below).

2. The sixteenth meeting was preceded by a ceremonial opening, on 20 October 2024, consisting of a cultural presentation and statements¹ by the President of Colombia, Gustavo Petro Urrego; the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres; the Minister of Ecology and Environment of China and President of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Runqiu Huang; the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, María Susana Muhamad González; the Governor of the Department of Valle del Cauca, Dilian Francisca Toro Torres; and the Mayor of Cali, Álvaro Alejandro Eder Garcés.

2. Attendance

3. [to be completed]

¹ Statements made during the meeting and submitted in writing by participants are available at www.cbd.int/meetings/COP-16.

II. Proceedings

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

4. The 1st plenary session was held jointly with those of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, on 21 October 2024.
5. The President of the fifteenth meeting declared the meetings open at 9.30 a.m. In his remarks, he characterized the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as a new milestone for global biodiversity conservation. Its value lay not only in its ambitious goals and pragmatic solutions, but also in the strength and effectiveness of its implementation. Translating its commitments into practice would require stronger cooperation, rational allocation and effective use of resources, formulation and implementation of stringent laws and recommendations, the promotion of innovative measures and enhanced mainstreaming of biodiversity in all sectors. The sixteenth meeting offered an opportunity to review progress in implementation, diagnose challenges and propose solutions, in particular for such difficult issues as digital sequence information on genetic resources, implementation monitoring and resource mobilization. He called upon Parties to demonstrate the unity and flexibility needed to reach consensus on key issues, mobilize the needed resources and take practical action.
6. Opening remarks were delivered by the Executive Secretary of the Convention, Astrid Schomaker, and the incoming President of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia.
7. The Executive Secretary welcomed participants and thanked the many donors that had enabled representatives of developing country Parties and of indigenous peoples and local communities to participate in the meeting, which should build on the success of the previous meeting in delivering the Framework. The present meeting was the largest yet, reflecting a greater acknowledgement that reversing biodiversity loss required urgent attention, and the high-level segment would carry an unprecedented amount of political capital, thanks in large part to extensive diplomatic outreach by the Government of Colombia.
8. The present planetary crisis, including biodiversity loss, was contributing to human crises, such as conflict, displacement and deteriorating health, and action by Parties was thus critical for the future of humankind. Among the important steps to be taken at the meeting, four stood out: the alignment of national planning with the Framework, and the yardsticks that would be used to measure progress against its 23 targets; the recognition of the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in the institutional functioning of the Convention; resource mobilization and the pressing need for progress on means of implementation; and the operationalization of the multilateral mechanism for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including a global fund. It was urgent to resolve outstanding issues and adopt measures that would make unified action on biodiversity possible.
9. In her remarks, the incoming President underscored that the implementation of the Framework would require a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to protecting, conserving and restoring nature. Revolutionizing how humanity connected with nature and ecosystems was just as important as the energy transition and other global initiatives for creating a sense of common purpose, building peace and security and promoting multilateralism. In organizing the present meeting, the Government of Colombia had strived to create a political environment in which all stakeholders could foster the growing understanding that there was a new possibility for global governance built on transparency, a willingness to compromise, the recognition of common responsibility and the fulfilling of commitments. Given the urgency of the agenda for planetary recovery, Parties should focus on substantive issues, seek solutions and avoid becoming unduly preoccupied with negotiation methodology. The success of the meeting hinged on reaching agreement on the following key items:

a programme of work for indigenous peoples and local communities that recognized the value of their knowledge, experience and role at the front line of the biodiversity crisis; a decision on digital sequence information on genetic resources, which not only was important for the Convention but also would serve as an example in such related arenas as climate change; the mobilization of the financing and resources needed to achieve the targets of the Framework; a monitoring system based on agreed parameters; and a review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols, which would help to elevate the profile the Convention and the Framework and ensure that action was taken in a responsible and accountable manner.

Resumed meeting

10. The President opened the second resumed meeting at 10.10 a.m. on 25 February 2025, at the 7th plenary session.²

11. Opening remarks were made by the President, the Executive Secretary and the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Elizabeth Mrema, on behalf of the Secretary-General.

12. The President began her remarks by thanking delegates for reconvening for the second resumed meeting. She stressed the importance of the international public policy approved at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the subsequent work, both in Cali and since then, on what she characterized as humanity's most important purpose in the twenty-first century, namely, its collective capacity to sustain life on Earth. She called upon delegates to send stakeholders a message that, despite global tensions, limited fiscal space and armed conflict, it was possible to work collaboratively to honour life and nature, a value shared by all peoples of the world. Beyond the technical decisions, political decisions were required, to create the capacity needed, transcend outdated institutional structures and spark the creative capacity to imagine building something better. She acknowledged the high-level political engagement seen since the meeting in Cali, including in ministerial consultations, and urged delegates to seize the opportunity to shape a future where the means matched the ends, thereby demonstrating that multilateralism could deliver the solutions needed to address the crisis. Recalling the Inirida flower, which was the symbol of the sixteenth meeting and served as a reminder of resiliency and the potential to overcome obstacles, she invited delegates to muster their best efforts over the ensuing three days to achieve the meeting's goal of peace with nature.

13. The UNEP Deputy Executive Director said that, with biodiversity on the brink, the foundations of life were unravelling, but that the Framework was a plan to rescue humanity from a crisis of its own making. In Cali, delegates had made important strides towards making the Framework a reality, but much work remained to ensure that it could be implemented in full. With the world approaching dangerous tipping points, it was now imperative to agree on how biodiversity finance commitments would be honoured and how progress in implementing the Framework would be monitored. Success required accountability, and action demanded finance, and all Parties were urged to recognize that no one would win if the talks failed. No country was immune to the crisis, nor could any country address it on its own. Multilateralism was the only hope, and all Parties were called upon to do everything that they could to find common ground and seek solutions, as nature could not wait.

14. The Executive Secretary welcomed delegates to Rome and thanked them for adopting the budget under silence procedure, thus enabling the Secretariat to push forward with its many assigned tasks. She thanked the many donors that supported full participation in meetings, and in particular Austria, Finland, Germany and Japan for their additional contributions in 2025. The meeting in Cali had seen an unprecedented whole-of-society mobilization for biodiversity, and stakeholders were now looking to Parties to take decisions that mattered for their future. Among other things, Parties needed to finalize their national biodiversity strategies and action plans aligned with the Framework;

² The first resumed meeting, representing the 6th plenary session, was held online under silence procedure from 3 to 6 December 2024 (see item 7).

46 Parties had submitted their updated strategies and action plans to date, and she urged the others to accelerate their efforts. The work of the sixteenth meeting also had to be completed, which, she underscored, did not involve new commitments but rather agreeing on how commitments already made would be implemented. Since the meeting in Cali, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services had adopted two groundbreaking assessments that underscored the urgency of acting to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and spur transformative change while generating significant business opportunities. She therefore appealed to Parties to give the Framework a chance to reach its aims and, while acknowledging differing perspectives, responsibilities and capacities, to act in solidarity and send a clear message that multilateralism was the only way forward.

Item 2

Organizational matters

15. The Conference of the Parties considered agenda item 2 at its 1st plenary session. It had before it a provisional agenda,³ an annotated provisional agenda⁴ and a proposed organization of work.⁵ An information document on procedures for elections to fill the positions of vice-presidents of the Conference of the Parties and chairs of the intergovernmental subsidiary bodies had also been issued in relation to item 2.⁶

Election of the President

16. In accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure for its meetings, the Conference of the Parties elected, by acclamation, the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia as President of its sixteenth meeting.

Election of the Vice-Presidents

17. In accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure, 10 vice-presidents had been elected by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting to serve until the closure of the sixteenth meeting. Subsequently, one member of the Bureau had been replaced by the Party concerned. The following representatives served as Vice-Presidents of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

Khangeziwe Mabuza (Eswatini)⁷
Abderahmane Zino Izourar (Algeria)
Krishneel Nand (Fiji)
Somaly Chan (Cambodia)
Teona Karchava (Georgia)
Angela Lozan (Republic of Moldova)
Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica)
María Teresa Becerra Ramírez (Colombia)
Eric Schauls (Luxembourg)
Norbert Bärlocher (Switzerland)

18. The Conference of the Parties agreed that Ms. Chan would act as Rapporteur for the meeting, as proposed by the Bureau.

³ CBD/COP/16/1.

⁴ CBD/COP/16/1/Add.1.

⁵ CBD/COP/16/1/Add.2.

⁶ CBD/COP/16/INF/2.

⁷ Replacing Hlobosile Sikhosana (Eswatini), who had been elected by the Conference of the Parties at the resumed second part of its fifteenth meeting.

19. At its 3rd plenary session, on 30 October, in accordance with rule 21 of its rules of procedure, the Conference of the Parties elected the following representatives to serve as members of the Bureau for a term of office commencing upon the closure of the sixteenth meeting:

Joséphine Thérèse Babette Beyala Epse Eloundou (Cameroon)

Jonas Komi Anthé (Togo)

Bilal Qteshat (Jordan)

Illam Atho Mohamed (Maldives)

Adla Kahrić (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Jakhongir Talipov (Uzbekistan)

Corina Sarli (Argentina)

Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica)

Gaute Hanssen (Norway)

Eric Schauls (Luxembourg)

Election of officers of subsidiary bodies and other meetings

20. At its 2nd plenary session, on 25 October, the Conference of the Parties elected Jean Bruno Mikissa (Gabon) as Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, by acclamation, for a term of office extending until the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

21. At the same session, the Conference of the Parties elected Clarissa Souza Della Nina (Brazil) as Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, by acclamation, for a term of office extending until the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Adoption of the agenda

22. At its 1st plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters.
3. Report on the credentials of representatives to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
4. Pending issues.
5. Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
6. Reports of intersessional and regional preparatory meetings.
7. Administration of the Convention and budget for the trust funds.
8. Progress on the preparation of targets and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans by Parties in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
9. Digital sequence information on genetic resources.
10. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review.
11. Resource mobilization and financial mechanism.
12. Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management.

13. Cooperation with international organizations and bodies established under other conventions.
14. Implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions.
15. Communication, education and public awareness.
16. Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including implications for the programmes of work of the Convention.
17. Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors.
18. Diverse values of biodiversity.
19. Sustainable wildlife management.
20. Marine and coastal biodiversity, and island biodiversity.
21. Invasive alien species.
22. Biodiversity and health.
23. Plant conservation.
24. Synthetic biology.
25. Biodiversity and climate change.
26. Liability and redress (Article 14, paragraph 2).
27. Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols.
28. Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties.
29. Other matters.
30. Adoption of the report.
31. Closure of the meeting.

Organization of work

23. At its 1st plenary session, the Conference of the Parties agreed to organize its work as set out in annex III to the proposed organization of work. The Conference of the Parties consequently agreed to establish two working groups. Working Group I would be chaired by Charlotta Sörqvist (Sweden) and Working Group II by Hesiquio Benítez Díaz (Mexico).

Work of sessional working groups

24. Working Group I held six sessions between 21 October and 1 November 2024 and adopted its report⁸ on 1 November 2024.

25. Working Group II held 12 sessions between 21 October and 1 November 2024 and adopted its report⁹ on 1 November 2024.

First stocktake session

26. The 2nd plenary session of the Conference of the Parties served in part as a stocktake session held jointly with the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya

⁸ [CBD/COP/16/WG.I/L.1.](#)

⁹ [CBD/COP/16/WG.II/L.1.](#)

Protocol. During the stocktake session, the Chairs of Working Group I, Working Group II and the contact group on budgetary matters reported on the progress made to date.

27. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Fiji (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States represented at the meeting), Lao People's Democratic Republic (on behalf of the States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations represented at the meeting) and Russian Federation (also on behalf of Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), South Africa and the United Arab Emirates).

Second stocktake session

28. The 3rd plenary session of the Conference of the Parties served in part as a second stocktake session held jointly with the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. During the stocktake session, representatives heard a report from the President on the outcomes of the high-level segment, as well as reports by the Chairs of Working Group I, Working Group II and the contact group on budgetary matters on the progress made to date.

29. A statement was made by a representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (also on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, the Cook Islands, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Malaysia, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and the African States).

Heads of delegation session

30. On 1 November, following the posting of a number of draft decisions as non-papers, the President convened a closed session to hear the input of heads of delegation. The draft decisions in question were subsequently revised, taking into account the views that had been expressed.

First resumed meeting

31. Ahead of the first resumed meeting, the Secretariat issued an opening communication from the President¹⁰ and a scenario note¹¹ for the adoption under silence procedure of two budget-related draft decisions.¹² The result of the silence procedures is described under item 7 below.

Second resumed meeting

32. At its 7th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties had before it an annotated provisional agenda for all outstanding agenda items¹³ (items 10, 11, 13 and 28–31) and a proposed organization of work and scenario note,¹⁴ both of which had been prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau.

33. The Conference of the Parties approved the proposed scenario note, as set out in section II of document CBD/COP/16/1/Add.5, and the proposed organization of work, as set out in the annex to the same document.

Item 3

Report on the credentials of representatives to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

34. At its 1st plenary session, the Conference of the Parties noted that, in accordance with the relevant rules of its rules of procedure, the Bureau had reviewed the list of observers admitted to the

¹⁰ Available at www.cbd.int/documents/674de2301cbd9b9b1ed6a93c.

¹¹ [CBD/COP/16/1/Add.3](#).

¹² [CBD/COP/16/L.35/Part.A](#) and [CBD/COP/16/L.36](#).

¹³ [CBD/COP/16/1/Add.4](#).

¹⁴ [CBD/COP/16/1/Add.5](#).

meeting¹⁵ and would examine the credentials of delegations and report thereon at a later session. It also noted that the Bureau had designated Ms. Mabuza as its representative for the review of credentials.

35. At the 2nd plenary session, Ms. Mabuza reported that 173 Parties to the Convention were registered as attending the meeting. Representatives of 150 registered Parties had submitted credentials in full compliance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure, while representatives of 1 registered Party had submitted credentials that were not fully compliant. Representatives of 22 registered Parties had not yet submitted credentials.

36. At the 3rd plenary session, Ms. Mabuza reported that 180 Parties to the Convention were registered as attending the meeting. Representatives of 160 registered Parties had submitted credentials in full compliance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure, while representatives of 1 registered Party had submitted credentials that were not fully compliant. Representatives of 19 registered Parties had not yet submitted credentials.

37. At the 4th plenary session, on 31 October, the President said that the report on credentials had been issued as information document CBD/COP/16/INF/41. In addition, the representatives of Tajikistan had submitted fully compliant credentials, bringing the number of Parties that had submitted credentials in full compliance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure to 161 for the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

38. The Conference of the Parties took note of, and approved, the report on credentials.¹⁶

39. At the 9th plenary session, on 26 February 2025, Ms. Mabuza informed the Conference of the Parties that 153 Parties were registered as attending the second resumed meeting. Representatives of 139 registered Parties had submitted credentials in full compliance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure, while representatives of 14 registered Parties had not yet submitted credentials. The report on credentials for the second resumed meeting had been issued as information document [CBD/COP/16/INF/44](#).

40. The Conference of the Parties took note of, and approved, the report on credentials.

Item 4

Pending issues

41. The Conference of the Parties considered agenda item 4 at its 2nd plenary session. The only pending issue related to paragraph 1 of rule 40 of the rules of procedure and paragraphs 4 and 16 of the financial rules for the administration of the Trust Fund for the Convention, which remained bracketed owing to a lack of consensus among Parties concerning the majority required for decision-making on matters of substance.

42. The Conference of the Parties agreed to defer discussion of the issue to its seventeenth meeting.

Item 5

Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties

43. The Conference of the Parties considered agenda item 5 at its 1st plenary session. It had before it a draft decision.¹⁷

44. The Conference of the Parties noted that the seventeenth meeting was expected to be hosted by a Party from the Eastern European States and that the Secretariat had received two offers to host

¹⁵ CBD/COP/16/INF/39.

¹⁶ Belize, Tajikistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) submitted credentials after the report on credentials had been issued, and a revised report (CBD/COP/16/INF/41/Rev.1) was issued on 26 November with updated data.

¹⁷ CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1, item 5.

the meeting, both from Parties in that region. It was agreed that that regional group would hold consultations, with a view to reaching agreement on the matter.

45. At its 3rd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties heard presentations by the delegations of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

46. The Conference of the Parties agreed to hold a secret ballot on the matter.

47. At the 4th plenary session, a representative of the Secretariat outlined the balloting procedure, as stipulated in rule 46 of the rules of procedure, and drew attention to information document CBD/COP/16/INF/42, which contained information on the procedure for taking a decision on the venue of the seventeenth meeting.

48. At the invitation of the Chair, Ms. Eloundou (Cameroon), Nenenteiti Teariki-Ruatu (Kiribati) and Jeremiah Edmund (Saint Lucia) acted as tellers.

49. A vote was taken by secret ballot, with the following results:

Number of ballot papers: 131

Number of invalid ballots: 1

Number of valid ballots: 130

Abstentions: 7

Number of members present and voting: 123

Required majority: 62

Number of votes obtained:

Armenia: 65

Azerbaijan: 58

50. Having obtained the required majority, Armenia was selected to host the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

51. The Conference of the Parties agreed that the President would prepare a revised draft decision on the matter for its consideration.

52. At its 5th plenary session, on 1 November, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.28, submitted by the President, and adopted it as decision 16/27.

Item 6

Reports of intersessional and regional preparatory meetings

53. The Conference of the Parties considered agenda item 6 at its 1st plenary session. It had before it the following reports on intersessional work undertaken by various bodies since its fifteenth meeting: the reports of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on its twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth meetings,¹⁸ the reports of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on its fourth and fifth meetings,¹⁹ the report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on its twelfth meeting²⁰ and the reports of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources on its first and second meetings.²¹

¹⁸ CBD/SBSTTA/25/13 and CBD/SBSTTA/26/9, respectively.

¹⁹ CBD/SBI/4/17 and CBD/SBI/5/4, respectively.

²⁰ CBD/WG8J/12/8.

²¹ CBD/WGDSI/1/3 and CBD/WGDSI/2/3, respectively.

54. The Conference of the Parties heard oral reports from the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the representative of the Chair of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and of the Chair of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing.

55. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Democratic Republic of the Congo and Egypt (speaking in his capacity as Rapporteur of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fifth meeting).

56. The Conference of the Parties took note of the information provided and agreed to consider the recommendations of the subsidiary bodies in the working groups, under the relevant agenda items.

Item 7

Administration of the Convention and budget for the trust funds

57. The Conference of the Parties considered agenda item 7 at its 1st plenary session. It had before it two draft decisions²² and notes by the Secretariat on the administration of the Convention and its Protocols for the biennium 2023–2024,²³ the proposed budget for the programmes of work of the Convention and its Protocols for the biennium 2025–2026,²⁴ the requirements for the trust fund for additional voluntary contributions in support of approved activities²⁵ and the functional review of the Secretariat.²⁶

58. The Executive Secretary reported on the activities of the Secretariat and presented the proposed budget for the programmes of work of the Convention and its Protocols for the biennium 2025–2026.

59. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention, also serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols, established a contact group on budgetary matters, chaired by Charles Gbedemah (Ghana), with the mandate to consider the proposed budget for the biennium 2025–2026 in detail.

60. In addition, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, also serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols, established a group of friends of the President, facilitated by Mr. Gbedemah, to address the matters discussed by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in relation to the process for appointing future executive secretaries.

61. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties heard a report from the Chair of the contact group on budgetary matters, also in his capacity of facilitator of the group of friends of the President.

62. Owing to the loss of a quorum, however, discussions had to be suspended before they could be completed (see item 31 below).

63. From 3 to 6 December 2024, the Conference of the Parties held its 6th plenary session by means of an online resumed meeting to consider the adoption under silence procedure of draft decisions CBD/COP/16/L.35/Part.A²⁷ and CBD/COP/16/L.36, submitted by the President.²⁸

64. The silence procedures having concluded on 6 December without the Parties raising any objections during the period specified for breaking silence, the President issued a closing

²² CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1, item 7, and CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1/Add.1, item 7.

²³ CBD/COP/16/3-CBD/CP/MOP/11/4-CBD/NP/MOP/5/4.

²⁴ CBD/COP/16/4-CBD/CP/MOP/11/5-CBD/NP/MOP/5/5.

²⁵ CBD/COP/16/4/Add.1-CBD/CP/MOP/11/5/Add.1-CBD/NP/MOP/5/5/Add.1.

²⁶ CBD/COP/16/4/Add.2-CBD/CP/MOP/11/5/Add.2-CBD/NP/MOP/5/5/Add.2.

²⁷ Document CBD/COP/16/L.35 issued on 1 November was split into CBD/COP/16/L.35/Part.A and CBD/COP/16/L.35/Part.B to allow for the consideration and adoption of the former at the first resumed meeting, before the end of the budget year.

²⁸ All documents pertaining to the online resumed meeting are available at www.cbd.int/meetings/COP-16-R1.

communication informing the Parties that the two draft decisions were considered as adopted, as decisions 16/28 and 16/29, respectively.

65. At its [to be completed] plenary session, on [DATE], the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.35/Part.B, submitted by the President [to be completed]

Item 8

Progress on the preparation of targets and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans by Parties in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

66. The Conference of the Parties considered agenda item 8 at its 1st plenary session. It had before it a draft decision²⁹ based on recommendation 5/1 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and a summary of the discussions held during the pilot open-ended forum for voluntary country review of implementation at the fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body, prepared by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.³⁰

67. A representative of the Secretariat provided updated information on the number of Parties that had submitted national targets.

68. The Conference of the Parties agreed that the President would conduct informal consultations aimed at finding a solution for the bracketed text and prepare a revised draft decision for consideration at a later session.

69. At its 2nd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered a revised draft decision submitted by the President. It approved a portion of the text, as orally amended by the President, and agreed that the Secretariat would prepare a further revised version of the draft decision for consideration at a later session.

70. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.25, submitted by the President.

71. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina and European Union and its member States.

72. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 16/1.

Item 9

Digital sequence information on genetic resources

73. Working Group I considered agenda item 9 at its 1st session, on 21 October, in conjunction with item 14 of the agenda for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. It had before it a draft decision³¹ and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization regarding the adequate entity to receive and disburse the revenue generated by the mechanism established under decision 15/9.³² The reports of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources on its first and second meetings³³ and the report of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization on its third meeting³⁴ had also been made available as reference documents.

74. Working Group I agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Lacticia Tshitwamulomoni (South Africa) and William Lockhart (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), to prepare a revised draft decision on modalities for operationalizing the multilateral mechanism, using

²⁹ CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1/Add.1, item 8.

³⁰ CBD/SBI/5/4, annex.

³¹ CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1, item 9.

³² CBD/COP/16/5.

³³ CBD/WGDSI/1/3 and CBD/WGDSI/2/3, respectively.

³⁴ CBD/RM/AC/2024/2/2.

the draft decision contained in document CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1 as the basis for its work and taking into account the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization.

75. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered revised draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.32/Rev.1,³⁵ submitted by the President.

76. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union and its member States, Japan, India, Mexico, Norway, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

77. The Conference of the Parties adopted the revised draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 16/2.

78. Following the adoption of the decision, statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Panama and Peru.

79. In her statement, a representative of Argentina expressed a reservation with respect to companies utilizing digital sequence information on genetic resources under the purview of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture rather than that of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

80. A representative of Panama, supported by Peru, made a statement regarding the technical limitations faced by small delegations.

Item 10

Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review

81. Working Group I considered agenda item 10 at its 1st session. It had before it two draft decisions, one on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the other on mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review,³⁶ as well as elements of a draft decision on the pilot open-ended forum for voluntary country review of implementation conducted at the fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation,³⁷ to be taken into account when considering the second component of the agenda item. The following information documents had also been issued in relation to item 10: revised guidance on using the indicators of the monitoring framework;³⁸ revised guidance on needs related to implementing the monitoring framework;³⁹ a summary of proposed changes to the list of component and complimentary indicators of the monitoring framework;⁴⁰ and a report on indicator D.3 on private funding.⁴¹

82. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Democratic Republic of the Congo and Russian Federation.

83. Working Group I agreed to establish a single contact group, co-chaired by Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica) and Carolina Caceres (Canada), to address both components of agenda item 10 and arrive at a compromise text for the outstanding important elements and the bracketed text. Working Group I also agreed that the Co-Chairs could establish a group of friends of the Co-Chairs to provide them with support on particular issues, as needed.

³⁵ Document CB/COP/16/L.32 was issued on 1 November but was revised before being considered in plenary session following informal consultations.

³⁶ CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1, item 10.

³⁷ CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1/Add.1, item 10.

³⁸ CBD/COP/16/INF/3.

³⁹ CBD/COP/16/INF/4.

⁴⁰ CBD/COP/16/INF/5.

⁴¹ CBD/COP/16/INF/31.

Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

84. At its 6th session, on 1 November, Working Group I considered a revised draft decision submitted by the Chair following discussions in the contact group.

85. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union and its member States, Fiji, India, Japan, Mexico, Namibia (on behalf of the African States), New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom, Vanuatu and Zimbabwe.

86. Following the exchange of views, the Working Group approved the revised draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.26.

87. At its 8th plenary session, on 25 February 2025, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision [CBD/COP/16/L.26](#), submitted by the Chair of Working Group I.

88. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, European Union and its member States, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe (on behalf of the African States).

89. A statement was also made by a representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

90. The Conference of the Parties agreed that a small group of interested Parties, composed of representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, the European Union and its member States, Jordan, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom, would convene to resolve the outstanding issues.

91. At its 9th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties heard an oral report by a representative of the small group, including a text proposal agreed by the group.

92. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, European Union and its member States, India, Indonesia, Japan, Namibia, Panama, Russian Federation, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

93. The Conference of the Parties agreed that the President would prepare a revised draft decision for consideration at a later session.

94. [to be completed]

Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review

95. Working Group I, at its 6th session, agreed to that the outcome of the contact group would be incorporated into a text prepared by the President for transmission to the plenary session, as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.33.

96. At its 8th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision [CBD/COP/16/L.33](#), submitted by the President.

97. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union and its member States, Gabon, Georgia, Japan, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, South Africa (on behalf of the African States), Vanuatu (also on behalf of Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea and Samoa), United Kingdom and Zimbabwe.

98. The Conference of the Parties agreed that the President would consult with interested Parties to resolve the outstanding issues.

99. At its 9th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties heard a report from the President on the consultations held.

100. Statements were made by the representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Brazil, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, European Union and its member States, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, Mexico, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Vanuatu and Zimbabwe.

101. [to be completed]

Item 11

Resource mobilization and financial mechanism

102. Working Group I considered agenda item 11 at its 1st session. It had before it two draft decisions, one on resource mobilization and the other on the financial mechanism.⁴² It also had before it notes by the Secretariat on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization regarding the adequate entity to receive and disburse the revenue generated by the mechanism established under decision 15/9,⁴³ the financial mechanism,⁴⁴ consolidated previous guidance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF),⁴⁵ elements of advice on priorities of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals for consideration in the development of the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the ninth replenishment period of the GEF Trust Fund⁴⁶ and the report on the sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism,⁴⁷ as well as the report of the GEF Council for the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.⁴⁸ The following information documents had also been issued in relation to item 11: a submission from the Plurinational State of Bolivia regarding Target 19, paragraph (f), of the Framework;⁴⁹ the sixth quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism;⁵⁰ a resolution of the Standing Committee of the Convention on Migratory Species with regard to elements of advice concerning the funding of national priorities for the Convention on Migratory Species for the development of the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the ninth replenishment period of the GEF Trust Fund;⁵¹ and a note on the exploration of the biodiversity finance landscape.⁵²

Resource mobilization

103. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, European Union and its member States, Jordan, Malawi, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Uganda and Zimbabwe (on behalf of the African States).

104. Working Group I agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Patrick Luna (Brazil) and Ines Verleye (Belgium), to prepare a revised draft decision, using the draft decision on resource mobilization contained in document CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1 as a basis for its work and taking into consideration the submission by the Plurinational State of Bolivia regarding Target 19, paragraph (f), of the Framework.

105. Working Group I, at its 6th session, agreed that the outcome of the contact group would be incorporated into a text prepared by the President for transmission to the plenary session, as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.34.

⁴² CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1, item 11.

⁴³ CBD/COP/16/5.

⁴⁴ CBD/COP/16/6/Rev.1.

⁴⁵ CBD/COP/16/6/Add.1.

⁴⁶ CBD/COP/16/6/Add.2.

⁴⁷ CBD/COP/16/7.

⁴⁸ CBD/COP/16/8/Rev.1.

⁴⁹ CBD/COP/16/INF/8.

⁵⁰ CBD/COP/16/INF/25.

⁵¹ CBD/COP/16/INF/26.

⁵² CBD/COP/16/INF/32.

106. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties commenced its consideration of draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.34, submitted by the President.

107. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Egypt, European Union and its member States, Fiji, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, South Africa (on behalf of the African States), Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

108. Owing to the loss of a quorum, however, discussions had to be suspended before they could be completed (see item 31 below).

109. At its 7th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties resumed consideration of draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.34.

110. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil (one statement also on behalf of China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Russian Federation, South Africa and United Arab Emirates and another statement on behalf of the Group of Like-minded Megadiverse Countries), Burkina Faso, Canada, Cameroon, Chad, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, European Union and its member States, Fiji (on behalf of 14 Pacific small island developing States), Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland, Togo, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe (on behalf of the African States).

111. The Conference of the Parties agreed that the President would conduct informal consultations aimed at reaching a political understanding on how to move forward with paragraphs 19 to 25 of and annex II to the draft decision.

112. [to be completed]

Financial mechanism

113. At the 1st session of Working Group I, a representative of GEF presented the report of the GEF Council for the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

114. The independent evaluator presented his report on the sixth quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism.

115. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union and its member States, Guatemala, Japan and Seychelles.

116. Working Group I resumed its consideration of the matter at its 2nd session, on 22 October.

117. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Australia, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Fiji, India, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

118. Statements were also made by representatives of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and the Global Youth Biodiversity Network.

119. Working Group I established a contact group, co-chaired by Laura Bermúdez (Colombia) and Ladislav Miko (Czechia), to consider the draft decision on the financial mechanism contained in document CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1 and new elements arising from the comments made during the session by Parties and observers. The contact group was also requested to coordinate its discussions with those of the contact group on resource mobilization, given the interlinkages between them.

120. At its 6th session, Working Group I considered a revised draft decision submitted by the Chair following discussions in the contact group.
121. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Czechia, European Union and its member States, Fiji, Georgia, Japan, Norway, Peru, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe.
122. Working Group I approved the revised draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.31.
123. At its 8th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision [CBD/COP/16/L.31](#), submitted by the Chair of Working Group I.
124. The Conference of the Parties agreed that the penultimate preambular paragraph, paragraphs 17 and 36 to 38 of the draft decision and paragraph 9 (e) of annex I to the draft decision would be considered by the informal group discussing resource mobilization.
125. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Brazil, China, Cuba, Guatemala, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Maldives, Peru and Russian Federation.
126. At its 9th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties resumed its consideration of the draft decision.
127. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Bangladesh and Russian Federation.
128. The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo raised a point of order, pursuant to rule 33 of the rules of procedure.
129. The President did not grant the point of order.
130. The Conference of the Parties resumed its consideration of the draft decision.
131. A statement was made by the representative of China.
132. The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo appealed the ruling of the President.
133. The President called for a vote by a show of hands, in accordance with rules 33 and 46 of the rules of procedure.
134. The representative of Ghana requested a roll-call vote, in accordance with rule 46 of the rules of procedure.
135. A statement was made by the representative of Brazil.
136. The President suspended the session at 10.53 a.m. to allow for informal consultations.
137. The session resumed at 12.04 p.m.
138. The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo withdrew his appeal.
139. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Brazil, Egypt and Russian Federation.
140. The Conference of the Parties approved the draft decision, as orally amended, for adoption at a later session.
141. [to be completed]

Item 12

Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management

142. Working Group I considered agenda item 12 at its 2nd session. It had before it two draft decisions, one on capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer and the other on the clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management,⁵³ as well as a note by the Secretariat on further information relevant to the operationalization of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism.⁵⁴ The following information documents had also been issued in relation to item 12: guidance relevant to the subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres in the development of their workplans,⁵⁵ a progress report on the clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management, in response to decision 15/16⁵⁶ and a progress report on technical and scientific cooperation.⁵⁷

Capacity-building and development, and technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer

143. Working Group I agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Mukondi Matshusa (South Africa) and Holly Kelley-Weil (United Kingdom), with the mandate to clean the draft decision, including its annex II, focusing on finding a solution for the bracketed text.

144. At its 5th session, on 31 October, Working Group I considered a revised draft decision submitted by the Chair following discussions in the contact group.

145. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union and its member States, Norway, Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

146. Working Group I approved the revised draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.13.

147. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.13, submitted by the Chair of Working Group I.

148. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union and its member States, Norway, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Switzerland.

149. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 16/3.

Clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management

150. Working Group I agreed that the contact group established to address capacity-building and development, and technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer would also address the draft decision on the clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management, with the objective of submitting to the Working Group a clean text of the draft decision, agreed by consensus.

151. At its 5th session, Working Group I considered a revised draft decision submitted by the Chair following discussions in the contact group.

152. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union and its member States, Gabon, Guatemala, Japan, Norway, Peru, Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

⁵³ CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1, item 12.

⁵⁴ CBD/COP/16/9.

⁵⁵ CBD/COP/16/INF/24.

⁵⁶ CBD/COP/16/INF/33.

⁵⁷ CBD/COP/16/INF/38.

153. A statement was also made by a representative of GEF.
154. Working Group I approved the revised draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.16.
155. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.16, submitted by the Chair of Working Group I.
156. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union and its member States, Gabon, Japan, Peru, Russian Federation, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Zambia.
157. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 16/9.

Item 13

Cooperation with international organizations and bodies established under other conventions

158. Working Group I considered agenda item 13 at its 2nd session. It had before it a draft decision⁵⁸ and a note by the Secretariat on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations.⁵⁹ The following information documents had also been issued in relation to item 13: a report of FAO;⁶⁰ a progress report on the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030;⁶¹ a progress report on the implementation of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators;⁶² the progress report of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management for the period 2023–2024;⁶³ a report of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on its activities to support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols;⁶⁴ a progress report on the roll-out of the Data Reporting Tool for Multilateral Environmental Agreements;⁶⁵ a report by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);⁶⁶ the sixth joint workplan (2024–2030) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention);⁶⁷ a report on recent developments under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of relevance to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol;⁶⁸ a report on mercury pollution and biodiversity and the contribution of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to the Framework;⁶⁹ and a report on the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework by the Secretariat of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians.⁷⁰

159. Presentations were made by representatives of FAO, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia (also on behalf of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the Association

⁵⁸ CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1, item 13.

⁵⁹ CBD/COP/16/10/Rev.1.

⁶⁰ CBD/COP/16/INF/12.

⁶¹ CBD/COP/16/INF/13.

⁶² CBD/COP/16/INF/14.

⁶³ CBD/COP/16/INF/15.

⁶⁴ CBD/COP/16/INF/16.

⁶⁵ CBD/COP/16/INF/17.

⁶⁶ CBD/COP/16/INF/18.

⁶⁷ CBD/COP/16/INF/19.

⁶⁸ CBD/COP/16/INF/20.

⁶⁹ CBD/COP/16/INF/21.

⁷⁰ CBD/COP/16/INF/23.

française des parcs zoologiques, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo Foundation, the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the Zoological Society of London).

160. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Canada, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union and its member States, Guatemala, India, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Tonga, Uganda, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom.

161. Working Group I resumed its consideration of agenda item 13 at its 3rd session, on 28 October.

162. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Brazil, Cameroon, Guatemala, Kenya (on behalf of the African States), Kyrgyzstan, South Africa, Uganda and United Kingdom.

163. Statements were also made by representatives of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations Secretariat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, UNEP and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

164. Further statements were made by representatives of Alliance Bioversity International and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, the International Whaling Commission, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Nordic Genetic Resource Centre.

165. Working Group I agreed that the Chair would prepare a revised draft decision for consideration at a later session.

166. At its 6th session, Working Group I considered a revised draft decision submitted by the Chair.

167. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union and its member States, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Togo and United Kingdom.

168. A statement was also made by a representative of FAO.

169. Working Group I approved the revised draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.30.

170. At its [to be completed] plenary session, on [DATE], the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.30, submitted by the Chair of Working Group I [to be completed].

Item 14

Implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions

171. Working Group I considered agenda item 14 at its 1st session. It had before it four draft decisions: one on the in-depth dialogue on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention; two on the development of a new programme of work and institutional arrangements on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention; and a fourth on recommendations from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues pertaining to the Convention.⁷¹ The following information documents had also been issued in relation to item 14: a summary report on the informal dialogue on the new programme of work and institutional arrangements on Article 8(j) and other provisions;⁷² a submission from Brazil and Colombia in relation to item 14, on the role of people of African descent;⁷³ budget estimates for possible scenarios concerning institutional arrangements on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities;⁷⁴ and a note by

⁷¹ CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1, item 14.

⁷² CBD/COP/16/INF/30, annex.

⁷³ CBD/COP/16/INF/35.

⁷⁴ CBD/COP/16/INF/36.

the Secretariat on preparatory events of relevance to the proposed new programme of work and institutional arrangements for Article 8(j) and other provisions.⁷⁵

In-depth dialogue on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention

172. At its 1st session, Working Group I agreed to consider the draft decision at a later session.

173. At its 5th session, Working Group I considered the draft decision, submitted by the Chair, which was identical to the draft decision in document CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1.

174. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Guatemala and Norway.

175. Following the exchange of views, the Working Group approved the revised draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.14.

176. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.14, submitted by the Chair of Working Group I, and adopted it as decision 16/7.

Development of a new programme of work and institutional arrangements on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention

177. At the 1st session of Working Group I, statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (on behalf of the African States), European Union and its member States, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Russian Federation, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

178. Working Group I established a contact group, co-chaired by Pernilla Malmer (Sweden) and Lucy Mullenkei (Indigenous Information Network), to continue to discuss the new programme of work and institutional arrangements, with a view to finalizing it.

179. At its 4th session, on 30 October, Working Group I considered three draft decisions submitted by the Chair following discussions in the contact group: one on a new programme of work; another on institutional arrangements; and a third on the role of people of African descent in the implementation of the Framework.

a. Programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030

180. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, European Union and its member States, Gabon, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Mexico, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, South Africa, Togo, Uganda and Uruguay.

181. A statement was also made by a representative of OHCHR.

182. A further statement was made by a representative of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.

183. Following the exchange of views, the Working Group approved the draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.5.

184. At its 3rd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.5, submitted by the Chair of Working Group I.

185. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Chile, European Union and its member States, India, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, Togo and United Kingdom.

186. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 16/4.

⁷⁵ CBD/COP/16/INF/37.

b. Institutional arrangements for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work undertaken under the Convention on Biological Diversity

187. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Canada, Egypt, Guatemala, Jordan, Mexico and Russian Federation.

188. Working Group I approved the draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.6.

189. At its 3rd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.6, submitted by the Chair of Working Group I.

190. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Cook Islands, European Union and its member States, Fiji (also on behalf of Cook Islands, Kiribati, Palau, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Samoa and Vanuatu), Gabon, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sudan, Togo and Zimbabwe.

191. A statement was also made by a representative of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.

192. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties resumed its consideration of the draft decision.

193. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union and its member States, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, South Africa, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

194. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 16/5.

195. Following the adoption of the decision, statements were made by representatives of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (also on behalf of the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network).

c. Role of people of African descent, comprising collectives embodying traditional lifestyles, in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

196. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, European Union and its member States, Gabon, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Mexico, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, South Africa, Togo, Uganda and Uruguay.

197. A statement was also made by a representative of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.

198. Working Group I approved the draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.7.

199. At its 3rd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.7, submitted by the Chair of Working Group I.

200. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, European Union and its member States, Fiji, Guatemala, Mexico, Norway, Panama, South Africa, Togo, United Kingdom and Uruguay.

201. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties resumed its consideration of the draft decision.

202. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended during the 3rd plenary session, as decision 16/6.

203. Following the adoption of the decision, statements were made by representatives of Brazil and Colombia.

Recommendations from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

204. Working Group I agreed that the Chair would consult informally with Parties and prepare a draft decision for consideration at a later session.

205. At its 5th session, Working Group I considered the draft decision submitted by the Chair, which was identical to the draft decision in document CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1.

206. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Algeria, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (on behalf of the African States), European Union and its member States, Gabon, Guatemala, India, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, South Africa and Togo.

207. Working Group I approved the draft decision for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.15.

208. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.15, submitted by the Chair of Working Group I.

209. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Canada, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India and Togo.

210. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 16/8.

Item 15

Communication, education and public awareness

211. Working Group I considered agenda item 15 at its 3rd session. It had before it a draft decision.⁷⁶

212. Working Group I agreed to consider the draft decision, including its annex, at a later session.

213. At its 6th session, Working Group I considered the draft decision, submitted by the Chair, which was identical to the draft decision in document CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1.

214. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, European Union and its member States, Fiji, Israel, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Togo and United Kingdom.

215. Working Group I approved the draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.29.

216. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.29, submitted by the Chair of Working Group I.

217. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, European Union and its member States, Norway, Peru and Zambia.

218. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 16/10.

⁷⁶ CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1, item 15.

Item 16**Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including implications for the programmes of work of the Convention**

219. Working Group II considered agenda item 16 at its 1st session, on 21 October 2024. It had before it two draft decisions, one on scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Framework and the other on matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.⁷⁷ An information document containing updated information on the work of the Platform had also been issued in relation to item 16.⁷⁸

Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Framework

220. Working Group II agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Senka Barudanović (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Wataru Suzuki (Japan), with a mandate to address the text in brackets in paragraphs 1 (a), 1 (e), 2, 4 (b) and 4 (c) of the draft decision on scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Framework.

221. At its 11th session, on 31 October, Working Group II considered a revised draft decision submitted by the Chair.

222. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Chile, European Union and its member States, Guatemala, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and Uruguay.

223. Working Group II approved the revised draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.12.

224. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.12, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II.

225. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cook Islands, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, European Union and its member States, Fiji (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States), Iceland, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation and Uruguay.

226. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 16/12.

227. Following the adoption of the decision, a representative of Chile made a statement to encourage Parties to provide information on their experiences with respect to the conservation of fungal biodiversity in the context of the Plan of Action (2020–2030) for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity, in order for such information to inform the deliberations of the Conference of the Parties on that issue.

Matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

228. Working Group II agreed that the contact group established for the draft decision on scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Framework would also address the outstanding issues in the draft decision on matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

229. At its 11th session, Working Group II considered a revised draft decision submitted by the Chair following discussions in the contact group.

⁷⁷ Ibid., item 16.

⁷⁸ CBD/COP/16/INF/9.

230. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, European Union and its member States, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay.

231. Working Group II approved the revised draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.11.

232. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.11, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II, and adopted it as decision 16/11.

Item 17

Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors

233. Working Group II considered agenda item 17 at its 1st session. It had before it a draft decision.⁷⁹

234. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Brazil, Egypt and European Union and its member States.

235. Working Group II agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias (Brazil) and Sanne Kruid (Kingdom of the Netherlands), with the mandate to reach a compromise on the text in brackets in the draft decision and prepare a revised draft decision for consideration at a later session.

236. At its 7th session, on 28 October, Working Group II considered a revised draft decision submitted by the Chair.

237. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Ethiopia, European Union and its member States, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Togo, United Kingdom and Zambia.

238. Working Group II agreed that a small group of interested Parties would convene to resolve the outstanding issues and develop a revised text for consideration at a later session.

239. At its 8th session, on 28 October, Working Group II considered the revised draft decision, as orally amended by a representative of Japan following discussions in the small group.

240. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Ethiopia, European Union and its member States, Japan and Russian Federation.

241. Working Group II agreed that the Chair would conduct informal consultations with interested Parties, with a view to reaching a compromise on the bracketed text, and would subsequently prepare a further revised draft decision for consideration at a later session.

242. At its 9th session, on 30 October, Working Group II considered the further revised draft decision.

243. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Canada, European Union and its member States and Mexico.

244. Working Group II approved the further revised draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.9.

245. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.9, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II.

246. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: European Union and its member States and Mexico.

⁷⁹ CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1, item 17.

247. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 16/13.

Item 18

Diverse values of biodiversity

248. Working Group II considered agenda item 18 at its 1st session. It had before it a draft decision.⁸⁰

249. Working Group II agreed that the Chair would conduct informal consultations with Parties, as appropriate, and prepare a revised draft decision for consideration at a later session.

250. At its 10th session, on 31 October, Working Group II considered a revised draft decision submitted by the Chair following the informal consultations.

251. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, European Union and its member States, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and United Kingdom.

252. At its 12th session, on 1 November, Working Group II resumed its consideration of the revised draft decision.

253. A statement was made by a representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

254. Working Group II approved the revised draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.19.

255. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.19, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II, and adopted it as decision 16/14.

Item 19

Sustainable wildlife management

256. Working Group II considered agenda item 19 at its 1st session. It had before it a draft decision⁸¹ and a note by the Secretariat on existing guidance, tools and documents related to various areas of sustainable wildlife management and areas that might require complementary guidance.⁸² Information documents containing a gap analysis to identify areas not adequately covered by existing guidance developed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements and by competent intergovernmental organizations⁸³ and an additional analysis of available guidance, tools and documents related to various areas of sustainable wildlife management that might require complementary guidance⁸⁴ had also been issued in relation to item 19.

257. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Brazil, European Union and its member States, Japan, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe (on behalf of the African States).

258. A statement was also made by a representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management).

259. A further statement was made by a representative of the Wildlife Conservation Society.

260. Working Group II agreed that the Chair would conduct informal consultations with Parties on the outstanding issues in the draft decision, in particular in paragraph 5, with a view to preparing a revised draft decision for consideration at a later session.

⁸⁰ Ibid., item 18.

⁸¹ Ibid., item 19.

⁸² CBD/COP/16/11.

⁸³ CBD/COP/16/INF/6.

⁸⁴ CBD/COP/16/INF/7.

261. At its 4th session, on 24 October, Working Group II considered a revised draft decision submitted by the Chair.
262. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: European Union and its member States, Morocco, Norway and Russian Federation.
263. At its 5th session, on 24 October, Working Group II resumed its consideration of the revised draft decision.
264. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union and its member States, India, Japan, Madagascar, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, South Africa, Togo, United Kingdom, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
265. A statement was also made by a representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species.
266. A further statement was made by a representative of the Wildlife Conservation Society.
267. The Working Group approved the revised draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.2.
268. At its 2nd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.2, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II.
269. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union and its member States, Fiji, Guatemala, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, Vanuatu and Zimbabwe.
270. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 16/15.
271. Subsequently, the representatives of Argentina and Brazil expressed reservations with respect to paragraph 4 (h) of the decision, specifying that they dissociated themselves from the phrase “technological developments that result in unsustainable practices”.

Item 20

Marine and coastal biodiversity, and island biodiversity

272. Working Group II considered agenda item 20 at its 1st session. It had before it two draft decisions, one on further work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the other on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity and of island biodiversity.⁸⁵ An information document containing further information on the draft modalities for modifying the descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and describing new areas⁸⁶ had also been issued in relation to item 20.
273. Working Group II agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Erica Lucero (Argentina) and Gaute Hanssen (Norway), with a mandate to finalize the draft decisions by focusing on resolving areas of divergence, as reflected in the brackets throughout the draft decisions, and devote time to the consideration of the annex to the latter draft decision, which had not been discussed in detail by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

Further work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas

274. At its 9th session, Working Group II considered a revised draft decision submitted by the Chair following discussions in the contact group.

⁸⁵ CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1, item 20.

⁸⁶ CBD/COP/16/INF/11.

275. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Egypt, European Union and its member States, Israel, Peru, Russian Federation and Türkiye.

276. Working Group II approved the revised draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.8.

277. At its 2nd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.8, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II, and adopted it as decision 16/16.

278. During adoption, statements were made by representatives of the European Union and its member States and Greece.

279. The representative of the European Union and its member States noted that paragraph 5 of the annex, relating to the possibility of communicating an objection to the inclusion of a description or a modification in the repository or the information-sharing mechanism for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, owing to the existence of a claim or dispute relating to sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction involving an area included in the submission, was without prejudice to paragraph 3 of the decision.

280. The representative of Greece stressed the importance of respecting the sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction of coastal States, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea reflecting customary international law. In his view, that basic rule was not appropriately reflected in paragraph 5 of the annex to the decision, nor was the wording of the paragraph consistent with the relevant language and approach in other contexts. Furthermore, he underlined the stipulation in paragraph 3 of the decision that the modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the description of new areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas was strictly a scientific and technical exercise, and that any action or activity carried out on the basis of the decision shall be without prejudice to, and shall not be relied upon as a basis for, asserting or denying any claims to sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction, including in respect of any disputes relating thereto.

Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity and of island biodiversity

281. At its 9th session, Working Group II considered a revised draft decision submitted by the Chair following discussions in the contact group.

282. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, European Union and its member States, Iceland, India, Panama, Togo and United Kingdom.

283. At its 10th session, Working Group II resumed its consideration of the revised draft decision.

284. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cook Islands, European Union and its member States, Iceland, India, Israel, Japan, Maldives, Morocco, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Somalia, South Africa and United Kingdom.

285. Working Group II agreed that a small group of interested Parties would convene to resolve the outstanding issues and develop a further revised text for consideration at a later session.

286. At its 12th session, Working Group II considered the further revised draft decision.

287. The facilitator of the small group of interested Parties read out the amended text agreed on by the small group.

288. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Chile and Russian Federation.

289. The Working Group approved the further revised draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.17.

290. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.17, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II.

291. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Chile and Russian Federation.

292. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 16/17.

293. Following the adoption of the decision, statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Chile, Cook Islands (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States represented at the meeting and supported by Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Cabo Verde, Fiji, Iceland, Maldives, New Zealand, Panama, Saint Lucia and Seychelles) and European Union and its member States (supported by Fiji, Iceland, Norway and the United Kingdom).

294. The representative of the Cook Islands called for the establishment of a stand-alone agenda item on island biodiversity at future meetings of the Conference of the Parties. She noted that there were key issues under the topic of island biodiversity that were not related to marine and coastal biodiversity, and that deliberations under that agenda item had been focused on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and other matters and had not allowed for sufficient focus on island-specific issues.

295. The representative of the European Union and its member States expressed regret that Parties had been unable to reach a compromise text that highlighted the important link between the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. She noted that the European Union and its member States were committed to the swift ratification of the Agreement, and she urged Parties and other Governments to accelerate their efforts to ratify it.

296. The representative of Chile expressed support for the statement of the European Union, reaffirming the importance of recognizing the interlinkages between the Agreement and work under the Convention and the implementation of the Framework and calling for Parties and other Governments to accelerate their efforts to ratify the Agreement. She also expressed regret that the language of the decision did not include specific references to gender-responsiveness and human rights based-approaches.

Item 21

Invasive alien species

297. Working Group II considered agenda item 21 at its 1st session. It had before it a draft decision.⁸⁷ An information document on progress on requests to the Executive Secretary from decision 15/27 on invasive alien species⁸⁸ had also been issued in relation to agenda item 21.

298. Working Group II agreed that the Chair would prepare a revised draft decision for consideration at a later session.

299. At its 6th session, on 25 October, Working Group II considered a revised draft decision submitted by the Chair.

300. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cook Islands (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States represented at the meeting), Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, European Union and its member States, India, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Peru and Russian Federation.

301. At its 7th session, Working Group II resumed its consideration of the revised draft decision.

⁸⁷ CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1, item 21.

⁸⁸ CBD/COP/16/INF/28.

302. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, European Union and its member States, India, Israel, Kenya, Peru, Russian Federation, South Africa, Togo, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

303. A representative of the Russian Federation, requesting that her statement be put on record, stressed that all international online databases and other resources used for the purpose of the Convention and any other international instruments must provide open access for all, without any restriction.

304. At its 8th session, Working Group II resumed its consideration of the revised draft decision.

305. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: European Union and its member States and Russian Federation.

306. Working Group II approved the revised draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.4.

307. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.4, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II.

308. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union and its member States, Russian Federation and United Kingdom.

309. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 16/18.

310. During adoption, a representative of the European Union and its member States expressed a reservation with respect to the footnote regarding the inaccessibility of the Global Invasive Species Database in the Russian Federation and stipulated that the present report should include a mention of the relevant letter received from the institute that hosted the database.⁸⁹

Item 22

Biodiversity and health

311. Working Group II considered agenda item 22 at its 1st session. It had before it a draft decision.⁹⁰

312. Working Group II agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Barbara Engels (Germany) and Stanislas Mouba Alouna (Gabon), with a mandate to discuss the draft decision and its annexes, in particular annex I.

313. At its 8th session, Working Group II considered a revised draft decision submitted by the Chair following discussion in the contact group.

314. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Colombia, European Union and its member States, Guatemala, India, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Zimbabwe.

315. Working Group II agreed to establish an informal group, consisting of representatives of interested Parties, with the mandate to reach a compromise on the text in brackets in the revised draft decision and prepare a further revised draft decision for consideration at a later session.

316. At its 9th session, Working Group II considered the further revised draft decision, as orally amended by a representative of the Secretariat following discussion in the informal group.

⁸⁹ The letter is available at www.cbd.int/documents/679245aac5696622ab011931.

⁹⁰ CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1, item 22.

317. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, European Union and its member States, India, Israel, Japan, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Togo, United Kingdom and Uruguay.

318. Following the exchange of views, Working Group II approved the further revised draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.10.

319. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.10, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II.

320. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Israel, Switzerland and Togo.

321. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 16/19.

Item 23

Plant conservation

322. Working Group II considered agenda item 23 at its 1st session. It had before it a draft decision.⁹¹ An information document containing a draft guide to the updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, including suggested sources of indicators and monitoring framework,⁹² had also been issued in relation to item 23.

323. Working Group II agreed that the Chair would consult informally with Parties and prepare a revised draft decision for consideration at a later session.

324. At its 3rd session, on 23 October, Working Group II considered a revised draft decision submitted by the Chair.

325. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, European Union and its member States, Japan, Kenya, New Zealand, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Senegal (on behalf of the African States) and Turkmenistan.

326. Working Group II approved the revised draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.3.

327. At its 2nd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.3, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II.

328. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union and its member States, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, India, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, South Africa and Uganda.

329. Following the exchange of views, the Conference of the Parties approved the entire draft decision, except for paragraphs 17 and 17 alt under Target 17 in the annex to the draft decision, and agreed to resume its consideration of those paragraphs at a later session, following informal discussions among the interested Parties.

330. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties resumed its consideration of the draft decision.

331. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union and its member States and Panama.

332. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 16/20.

⁹¹ Ibid., item 23.

⁹² CBD/COP/16/INF/34, annex.

Item 24

Synthetic biology

333. Working Group II considered agenda item 24 at its 1st session. It had before it a draft decision.⁹³

334. Working Group II agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Martha Kandawa-Schulz (Namibia) and Marja Ruohonen-Lehto (Finland), with a mandate to discuss the draft decision, in particular the elements related to the thematic action plan in the context of synthetic biology; further work related to the outcomes of the horizon-scanning, monitoring and assessment process; and outstanding issues related to the work on synthetic biology under the Convention.

335. At its 12th session, Working Group II considered a revised draft decision submitted by the Chair following discussion in the contact group.

336. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union and its member States, Gabon, Guatemala, India, Israel, Kenya (on behalf of the African States), Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, South Africa, Togo and Türkiye.

337. Working Group II approved the revised draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.21.

338. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.21, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II, and adopted it as decision 16/21.

Item 25

Biodiversity and climate change

339. Working Group II considered agenda item 25 at its 1st session. It had before it a draft decision.⁹⁴ An information document containing the report of co-moderators on intersessional activities on biodiversity and climate change had also been issued in relation to item 25.⁹⁵

340. Working Group II agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Clarisse Kehler Siebert (Sweden) and Xiang Gao (China), with a mandate to reach a compromise on the outstanding issues in the draft decision and prepare a revised draft decision for consideration at a later session.

341. At its 11th session, Working Group II considered a revised draft decision submitted by the Chair following discussion in the contact group.

342. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, European Union and its member States, Fiji, Guatemala, India, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and United Kingdom.

343. At its 12th session, Working Group II resumed its consideration of the revised draft decision.

344. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Colombia, European Union and its member States, Fiji, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom and Uruguay.

345. Working Group II approved the revised draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.24.

⁹³ CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1, item 24.

⁹⁴ Ibid., item 25.

⁹⁵ CBD/COP/16/INF/29.

346. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.24, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II.

347. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union and its member States, Fiji, Guatemala, India, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

348. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 16/22.

349. During adoption, reservations were expressed by representatives of the following Parties: Norway, Peru, Philippines and Zambia.

350. A representative of Norway expressed a reservation with respect to the reference to the Paris Agreement, in footnote 4, noting that the Paris Agreement was an independent legal agreement.

351. The representatives of Peru and Zambia expressed a reservation with respect to the deletion, in paragraphs 4 and 11 of the decision, of the reference to the Ramsar Convention.

352. A representative of the Philippines expressed a reservation with respect to the deletion, in paragraph 19 of the decision, of the reference to loss and damage.

Item 26

Liability and redress (Article 14, paragraph 2)

353. Working Group I considered agenda item 26 at its 2nd session. It had before it a draft decision.⁹⁶ An information document containing a compilation of information submitted by Parties on recent developments relevant to liability and redress had also been issued in relation to item 26.⁹⁷

354. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Canada, European Union and its member States, Malawi and Uganda.

355. Working Group I agreed that the Chair would prepare a revised draft decision for consideration at a later session.

356. At its 3rd session, Working Group I considered a revised draft decision submitted by the Chair.

357. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia and Uganda.

358. At its 5th session, Working Group I considered a revised draft decision submitted by the Chair.

359. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania.

360. Working Group I approved the revised draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.18.

361. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.18, submitted by the Chair of Working Group I, and adopted it as decision 16/23.

Item 27

Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols

362. Working Group I considered agenda item 27 at its 3rd session, in conjunction with agenda item 10 of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and agenda item 12 of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

⁹⁶ CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1, item 26.

⁹⁷ CBD/COP/16/INF/10.

serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. It had before it three draft decisions: one on options to further improve the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols; another on procedures for convening virtual and hybrid meetings; and a third on a procedure for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest in expert groups.⁹⁸

363. The Chair established a group of friends of the Chair, facilitated by Joaquín Salzberg (Argentina), with the mandate to discuss and reach agreement on the first two draft decisions.

Options to further improve the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols

364. At its 5th session, Working Group I considered a draft decision submitted by the Chair following discussions in the group of friends of the Chair.

365. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Brazil, European Union and its member States, Russian Federation and United Kingdom.

366. Working Group I approved the draft decision for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.22.

367. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.22, submitted by the Chair of Working Group I, and adopted it as decision 16/25.

Procedures for convening virtual and hybrid meetings

368. At its 5th session, Working Group I considered a draft decision submitted by the Chair following discussions in the group of friends of the Chair.

369. A statement was made by a representative of Argentina.

370. Working Group I approved the draft decision for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.20.

371. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.20, submitted by the Chair of Working Group I, and adopted it as decision 16/24.

Procedure for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest in expert group

372. At its 5th session, Working Group I considered a draft decision submitted by the Chair.

373. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union and its member States, Guatemala, Norway and United Republic of Tanzania.

374. Working Group I approved the draft decision for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.27.

375. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.27, submitted by the Chair of Working Group I, and adopted it as decision 16/26.

Item 28

Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties

376. Working Group II considered agenda item 28 at its 12th session. It had before it a draft decision.⁹⁹

377. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Brazil, Canada, European Union and its member States and Switzerland.

⁹⁸ CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1, item 27.

⁹⁹ Ibid., item 28.

378. Working Group II approved the draft decision, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.23.

379. At its [to be completed] plenary session, on [DATE], the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.23, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II [to be completed].

Item 29

Other matters

380. [to be completed]

Item 30

Adoption of the report

381. [to be completed]

Item 31

Closure of the meeting

382. At the 5th plenary session, a roll call was held pursuant to a request from a representative of Panama to verify the number of Parties present and determine whether decisions could still be taken in accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure. As a quorum was not met, the President proposed to suspend the meeting.

383. The President subsequently suspended the meeting at 8.30 a.m. on 2 November 2024.

384. [to be completed]
