



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.: Limited 1 November 2024

Original: English

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Sixteenth meeting Cali, Colombia, 21 October–1 November 2024 Agenda item 30

Draft proceedings of the meeting

Introduction

Adoption of the report

1. Background

- 1. Following the invitation of the Government of Colombia, the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was held in Cali, Colombia, from 21 October to 1 November 2024, 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.
- 2. The meeting was preceded by a ceremonial opening on 20 October 2024, consisting of a cultural presentation and statements 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]

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 three bodies 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 recommendation, the promotion of innovative measures and enhanced mainstreaming of biodiversity in all sectors. The meeting was an opportunity to review progress in implementation, diagnose the challenges and propose solutions, in particular for such difficult issues as digital sequence information, 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.
- 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 meeting was the largest yet, indicating greater acknowledgement that reversing biodiversity loss required urgent attention, and the high-level segment would carry unprecedented political capital, in large part thanks 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 the 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 on 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 for 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. Giving 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 agreement on key items: a work programme 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 sequencing and information, which was not only important for the Convention but would also 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.

Item 2

Organizational matters

10. The Conference of the Parties considered agenda item 2 at its 1st plenary session. It had before it a provisional agenda, an annotated provisional agenda and a proposed organization of work. 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 2.4

Election of the President

11. In accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at the 1st plenary session of the meeting, the Conference of the Parties elected, by acclamation, the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, Ms. Muhamad González, as President of its sixteenth meeting.

Election of the Vice-Presidents

12. 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 fifteenth meeting. Subsequently, one member of the Bureau had been replaced by the Party concerned. The following representatives served as Vice-Presidents of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

Khangeziwe Mabuza (Eswatini)⁵

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)

- 13. At its 1st plenary session, the Conference of the Parties agreed that Ms. Chan would act as Rapporteur for the meeting, as proposed by the Bureau.
- 14. Also in accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure, the Conference of the Parties, at its 3rd plenary session, on 30 October, elected the following representatives to serve as members of the Bureau for a term of office commencing upon the closure of the present meeting:

Joséphine Thérèse Babette Beyala Epse Eloundou (Cameroon)

Jonas Komi Anthé (Togo)

Bilal Qteshat (Jordan)

Illam Atho Mohamed (Maldives)

Adla Kahrić (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

² CBD/COP/16/1/Add.1.

¹ CBD/COP/16/1.

³ CBD/COP/16/1/Add.2.

⁴ CBD/COP/16/INF/2.

⁵ Replacing Hlobsile Sikhosana (Eswatini), who had been elected by the Conference of the Parties at the resumed second part of its fifteenth meeting.

Jakhongir Talipov (Uzbekistan)

Corina Sarli (Argentina)

Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica)

Gaute Hanssen (Norway)

Eric Schauls (Luxembourg)

Election of officers of subsidiary bodies and other meetings

- 15. 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.
- 16. Also at its 2nd plenary, 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

- 17. 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:⁶
 - 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.

-

⁶ CBD/COP/16/1.

- 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

18. 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. Accordingly, the Conference of the Parties 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

19. [to be completed]

First stocktake session

- 20. The 2nd plenary session of the meeting 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 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.
- 21. 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 Parties to the Protocol and represented at the meeting) and Russian Federation (also on behalf of Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), South Africa and United Arab Emirates).

Second stocktake session

22. The 3rd plenary session of the meeting 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.

⁷ CBD/COP/16/1/Add.2-CBD/CP/MOP/11/1/Add.2-CBD/NP/MOP/5/1/Add.2.

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

Item 3

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

- 24. At its 1st plenary session, the Conference of the Parties noted that, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Bureau had reviewed the list of observers admitted to the meeting⁸ 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.
- 25. Accordingly, 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.
- 26. 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.
- 27. At the 4th plenary session, on 31 October, the President reported that the report on credentials had been issued as information document CBD/COP/16/INF/41. In addition, 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 to the Convention.
- 28. The Conference of the Parties took note of, and approved, the report on credentials.

Item 4

Pending issues

- 29. Agenda item 4 was considered at the second plenary session of the meeting, on 15 October 2021. The only pending issue before the Conference of the Parties 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.
- 30. 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

31. The Conference of the Parties considered agenda item 5 at its 1st plenary session. It had before it a draft decision (CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1, item 5). An information document on the decision on the

-

⁸ CBD/COP/16/INF/39.

venue of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention had also been issued in relation to item 5.9

- 32. The Conference of the Parties noted that the seventeenth meeting was expected to be hosted by a party from the Eastern European States and, furthermore, that the Secretariat had received two offers to host 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.
- 33. At its 3rd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties heard presentations by the delegations of Armenia and Azerbaijan.
- 34. The Conference of the Parties agreed to hold a secret ballot on the matter.
- 35. 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 the information document, which contained information on the procedure for decision-taking on the venue of the seventeenth meeting.
- 36. At the invitation of the Chair, Joséphine Eloundou (Cameroon), Nenenteiti Teariki-Ruatu (Kiribati) and Jeremiah Edmund (Saint Lucia) acted as tellers.
- 37. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

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

- 38. Having obtained the required majority, Armenia was selected to host the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- 39. The Conference of the Parties agreed that the President would prepare a revised draft decision on the matter for its consideration.
- 40. [to be completed].

Item 6

Reports of intersessional and regional preparatory meetings

41. The Conference of the Parties considered agenda item 6 at its 1st plenary session. It had before it reports on intersessional work undertaken by various bodies since its fifteenth meeting, namely, the reports of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on its twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth meetings, ¹⁰ the reports of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on its fourth and fifth meetings, ¹¹ the report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on its twelfth meeting ¹² and the reports of the

⁹ CBD/COP/16/INF/42.

 $^{^{10}\,\}mbox{CBD/SBSTTA/25/13}$ and CBD/SBSTTA/26/9, respectively.

¹¹ CBD/SBI/4/17 and CBD/SBI/5/4, respectively.

¹² CBD/WG8J/12/8.

- 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.¹³
- 42. The Conference of the Parties then 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 Related Provisions of the Convention and of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources.
- 43. 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).
- 44. 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

- 45. The Conference of the Parties considered agenda item 7 at its 1st plenary session. It had before it two draft decisions (CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1, item 7, and CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1/Add.1, item 7) and notes by the Secretariat on the administration of the Convention and its Protocols for the biennium 2023–2024, the proposed budget for the programme of work of the Convention and its Protocols for the biennium 2025–2026, the requirements for the trust fund for additional voluntary contributions in support of approved activities and the functional review of the Secretariat.
- 46. 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.
- 47. The Conference of the Parties, also serving as the meetings of the Parties to its 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.
- 48. In addition, the Conference of the Parties, also serving as the meetings of the Parties to its 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 the appointment of future executive secretaries.
- 49. [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

50. The Conference of the Parties considered agenda item 8 at its 1st plenary session. It had before it a draft decision (CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1/Add.1, item 8), based on recommendation 5/1 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as well as a summary of the discussions held during the pilot

¹³ CBD/WGDSI/1/3 and CBD/WGDSI/2/3, respectively.

¹⁴ CBD/COP/16/3-CBD/CP/MOP/11/4-CBD/NP/MOP/5/4.

¹⁵ CBD/COP/16/4-CBD/CP/MOP/11/5-CBD/NP/MOP/5/5.

 $^{^{16}\,}CBD/COP/16/4/Add.1-CBD/CP/MOP/11/5/Add.1-CBD/NP/MOP/5/5/Add.1.$

¹⁷ CBD/COP/16/4/Add.2-CBD/CP/MOP/11/5/Add.2-CBD/NP/MOP/5/5/Add.2.

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.¹⁸

- 51. The Deputy Executive Secretariat provided updated information on the number of Parties that had submitted national targets.
- 52. The Conference of the Parties agreed that the President would prepare a draft decision for its consideration and facilitate informal consultations aimed at resolving the bracketed text.
- 53. At its 2nd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered a 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 revised version of the draft decision for its consideration at a later stage in the meeting.
- 54. [to be completed]

Item 14

Implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions

- 55. [to be completed from the Working Group I report]
- 56. At its 3rd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered three draft decisions submitted by the Chair of Working Group I.
- 57. The Conference of the Parties considered document CBD/COP/16/L.5, on the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030.
- 58. 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 of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- 59. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 16/xx.
- 60. The Conference of the Parties next considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.7, on the role of people of African descent in the implementation of the Convention.
- 61. 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.
- 62. The Conference of the Parties then considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.6, on the institutional arrangements for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work undertaken under the Convention.
- 63. 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.
- 64. A statement was also made by a representative of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.
- 65. [to be completed]

_

¹⁸ CBD/SBI/5/4, annex.

Item 19

Sustainable wildlife management

- 66. [to be completed from the Working Group II report]
- 67. 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.
- 68. 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.
- 69. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 16/xx.
- 70. Subsequently, the representatives of Argentina and Brazil expressed reservations with respect to paragraph 4 (h) of the decision.

Item 20

Marine and coastal biodiversity, and island biodiversity

- 71. [to be completed from the Working Group II report]
- 72. 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/xx.
- 73. Following the adoption of the decision, statements were made by representatives of the European Union and its member States and Greece.
- 74. The representative of the European Union and its member States, asking that his statement be put on record, said that the European Union and its member States wished to note that paragraph 5 of the annex to the decision on further work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, relating to the 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.
- 75. The representative of Greece, also asking that his statement be put on record, 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 annex I 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.

Item 23

Plant conservation

- 76. [to be completed from the Working Group II report]
- 77. At its 2nd plenary, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/16/L.3, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II.
- 78. 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.

- 79. 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 resume its consideration of those paragraphs at a later stage in the meeting, following informal discussions between the interested parties.
- 80. [to be completed]

Item 29

Other matters

81. [to be completed]

Item 30

Adoption of the report

82. [to be completed]

Item 31

Closure of the meeting

83. [to be completed]