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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION

Third meeting
Informal virtual session
8–12 and 14 March 2021

REPORT ON THE INFORMAL SESSION IN PREPARATION FOR THE THIRD MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION

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INTRODUCTION

1. Due to the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties decided, in December 2020, to hold a virtual informal session of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in preparation for the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body in order to maintain momentum towards, and advance preparations for, the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The informal session was held online from 8 to 12 March and on 14 March 2021 to consider the topics covered by items 3 to 7 and 9 to 14 of the provisional agenda for the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body.

2. One three-hour online session was held each day, from 12:00 to 15:00 Universal Time Coordinated (UTC) (7 a.m. – 10 a.m. Montreal time). No negotiations took place during the informal session and consequently no formal substantive outcomes, decisions or conference room papers were produced; however, it was expected that the discussions at the formal session of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body would build on the statements made during the informal session, on the understanding that those statements were provisional and without prejudice to any subsequent statements made at the formal meeting of the Subsidiary Body.

I. OPENING OF THE INFORMAL SESSION

3. The informal session was opened at 12:00 (UTC) (7 a.m. Montreal time) on Monday, 8 March 2021, by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body, Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist (Sweden), who welcomed the participants and expressed the hope that they, and those close to them, were healthy and safe. She expressed her condolences to those that had lost loved ones during the pandemic and called for a moment of silence to remember those lost. She then invited Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (Egypt) to address the informal meeting on behalf of the President of the Conference of the Parties.

4. Mr. Zedan welcomed the participants to the informal session and expressed his solidarity with them during the extraordinary time of the pandemic. The current informal session would advance preparations for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and would be an important step towards developing an ambitious and transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework. He stressed the importance of resource mobilization: to achieve a high level of ambition for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature, it was important to be equally ambitious when defining and mobilizing the required resources. The challenge for the international community was to match its goals with adequate means to implement them, and the informal session would begin the work needed to make a recommendation on that vital issue.

5. Mr. Zedan thanked the Chair of the Subsidiary Body and all members of the Bureau for their leadership in preparing for the informal session, and expressed the hope that the current deliberations would stimulate the sharing of thoughts and ideas in advance of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which was ultimately aimed at the adoption of a global biodiversity framework for the post-2020 period.

6. Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, also welcomed participants to the informal session, and thanked the Governments of Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for providing the financial resources to cover the additional costs of the virtual session, for which over 1,830 people from 130 countries had registered. Noting that the session was starting on International Women's Day, she said that the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature would not be achieved without the full and effective engagement of women and girls.

7. Complementary implementation of the Convention and its Protocols was important for ensuring that benefits were unlocked and flowed to all stakeholders, thus creating the enabling environment for conservation and sustainable utilization of resources. The Subsidiary Body had been established to review progress in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, assess improvements that could support their implementation and measure success in achieving their targets. Its third meeting was an opportunity to move ahead on those important undertakings.

8. The substantive matters to be considered during the informal session consisted of a review of the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, including the implementation of the 2015–2020 Gender Plan of Action; assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, with a view to strengthening implementation; the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, with input sought on a range of elements, including the post-2020 implementation plan and capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol and the post-2020 gender and communication plans; resource mobilization and the financial mechanism; capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge management and communication, a multi-faceted item that entailed consideration of various means of strengthening those aspects in the post-2020 period; mechanisms for reporting, assessment and review, and options for enhancing them to strengthen implementation; the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols, including the holding of concurrent meetings; mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors and other strategic actions to enhance implementation, which would entail consideration of a draft long-term approach to mainstreaming and ways of further leveraging the engagement of subnational and local governments in the implementation of the Convention, its Protocols and the post-2020 framework; and key provisions of the Nagoya Protocol, including consideration of a possible global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism. Finally, the Secretariat would provide an update on its activities and the status of the trust funds under the Convention and its Protocols.

9. Ms. Izabella Teixeira, co-chair of the International Resource Panel, Senior Fellow at the Brazilian Centre for International Relations and former Minister of Environment of Brazil, also delivered opening remarks, in recognition of the fact that the informal session was starting on International Women’s Day. It was important, she said, to discuss the relevance of women’s leadership in achieving the Convention’s objectives, particularly in the context of the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the deepening inequalities exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic had brought forward the debate about the future; opportunities for a new future had to be considered, and strong, inclusive leadership was needed to bring everyone on board for a better relationship between humankind and nature.

10. The International Resource Panel recognized the importance of advancing women’s leadership, enabling equitable decision-making and ensuring equal access to natural resources. The Panel was working to clarify, with science, the need for natural resource management approaches in acknowledging, understanding and addressing the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss. As the link between sustainable, inclusive prosperity and the protection of the natural world, natural resource management involved turning the drivers of biodiversity loss into opportunities to make active protection, restoration and regeneration of biodiversity a key driver of inclusive, sustainable socioeconomic development. Global biodiversity governance should therefore focus on the drivers of biodiversity loss, taking a natural resource management approach based on four principles: know the real impact (value-chain transparency); plan together (integrated landscape planning); grow with nature (nature-based and circular solutions); and value nature (nature’s benefits). Such an approach could only succeed with the full and effective engagement of women and girls, whose critical role had to be clearly reflected in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

11. The new gender plan of action also had an important political role to play, being an opportunity to establish a common set of goals and actions to address the inequalities inherent in how the business of biodiversity, and biodiversity protection, was conducted, and to give women a more central role in decision-making at all levels of biodiversity governance, ensuring that women from indigenous and local communities had a voice. COVID-19 had made it clear that decisions to halt the biodiversity loss could not be postponed; it was time to be ambitious, and to ensure that women had their place at the table.

12. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body then provided additional information on the organization of the work of the informal session. The informal session was intended to maintain momentum and advance preparations for the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and the primary focus would be on hearing interventions on pre-session documents for the agenda items under the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body. Interventions would be made as for the first reading of the working documents at in-person meetings of the Subsidiary Body, and

participants were encouraged to focus their interventions on the draft recommendations set out in the pre-session documents. There would be no negotiations at the informal session and no formal substantive outcomes, decisions or conference room papers produced. There was an expectation, however, that, at the formal session of the Subsidiary Body, the Parties would refer to the statements made at the informal session and only make additions to them as needed; however, as the session was informal, Parties retained the right to change or add to their views during the formal session of the Subsidiary Body.

13. All statements delivered during the informal session would be recorded, with the webcast made public on the Convention website.¹ Statements submitted in writing would also be made available on that web page unless indicated otherwise by the party concerned, and a procedural report would be prepared listing the Parties and observers that had made oral statements during the informal session or submitted written statements to the Secretariat.

14. With respect to the consideration of agenda items, item 8 of the provisional agenda for the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body would not be discussed during the informal session because the recently convened consultation workshop of biodiversity-related conventions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Bern II) had only recently concluded and its outcomes could not be included in the working documents for the informal session. The co-leads of the Bern II workshop would, however, provide a short briefing on the outcomes of that workshop during the consideration of item 5 of the provisional agenda. Also under item 5, the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework would make a presentation on the input needed from the Subsidiary Body for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which was also of relevance to the topics under items 6, 7, 9 and 11 of the provisional agenda.

15. At the invitation of the Chair, a representative of the Secretariat explained an online application that had been developed to facilitate the submission of statements to the web page of the meeting. Participants were asked to use that tool instead of emailing their statements to the Secretariat, although the Secretariat would continue to monitor the email address “statements@cbd.int” for submissions. No provision had been made for regional or group statements during the opening or closing segments of the informal session; instead, regional statements would be heard on each topic following the Secretariat’s introduction of the topic.

II. REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011–2020 (ITEM 3 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRD MEETING)

16. The topic of the review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 was considered during the first segment of the informal session, on 8 March 2021. The available background documents were a note by the Executive Secretary on the topic (CBD/SBI/3/2), supported by four addendums: an update on progress in revising/updating and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets (CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.1); an analysis of the contribution of targets established by Parties and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.2); a review of implementation of the 2015–2020 Gender Plan of Action (CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.3); and a note on the progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 18 on traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use of biodiversity (CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.4). Documents CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.1 and Add.2 had been made available for peer review and had been finalized in the light of the comments received.

17. Regional statements were made by representatives of Argentina (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (on behalf of the African Group), Georgia (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European countries), Indonesia (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)) and Portugal (on behalf of the European Union and its member States).

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/sbstta24-sbi3/sbstta-24-prep-03/documents>.

18. Statements were also made by representatives of Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Indonesia, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda and the United Kingdom.
19. Additional statements were made by representatives of the CBD Alliance, the CBD Women's Caucus, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) (also on behalf of the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network).
20. A statement was made by a representative of the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies.
21. A statement was also made by a representative of Third World Network (TWN).
22. In addition to the statements by observers presented orally, a statement by the Global Forest Coalition (GFC), an observer organization, could not be delivered due to limited time but was made available on the meeting web page.

III. ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY (ITEM 4 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRD MEETING)

23. The topic of assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was considered during the second segment of the informal session, on 9 March 2021. The available background documents were a note by the Executive Secretary on the topic (CBD/SBI/3/3) and an analysis of information for the assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol and final evaluation of the strategic plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011–2020 (CBD/SBI/3/3/Add.1).
24. Regional statements were made by representatives of Belarus (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European countries), Malawi (on behalf of the African Group) and Portugal (on behalf of the European Union and its member States).
25. Statements were also made by representatives of Brazil, China, Colombia, Ecuador, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Norway, Thailand, Uganda and the United Kingdom.
26. Statements were also made by representatives of the CBD Women's Caucus and IIFB.
27. A statement was also made by the representative of TWN.

IV. POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK (ITEM 5 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRD MEETING)

28. The topic of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework was introduced during the second segment of the informal session, on 9 March 2021. In addition to overarching issues, the topic covered the specific issues of the implementation plan and capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; the gender plan of action for the post-2020 period; proposals for the date, venue and periodicity of upcoming meetings; and the communications plan for the post-2020 period.
29. The Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Mr. Francis Ogwal (Uganda) and Mr. Basile van Havre (Canada), made a presentation on the input needed from the Subsidiary Body for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as set out in the annex to the overview of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework process (CBD/SBI/3/4). Participants were asked to take the questions set out in the annex into account when considering the topics addressed in items 6, 7, 9 and 11 of the provisional agenda for the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body.
30. At the fifth segment of the informal session, on 12 March 2021, Ms. Anne Teller (European Union), also speaking on behalf of her co-chair, Ms. Somaly Chan (Cambodia), made a presentation on the Bern II consultation workshop, the outcomes of which were relevant to the post-2020 framework, as well as several

other items of the provisional agenda for the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body. The text of the presentation was made available on the meeting web page.

Post-2020 implementation plan and capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol

31. The subtopic of the implementation plan and capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol was considered during the second segment of the informal session, on 9 March 2021. The background document for the subtopic was a note by the Executive Secretary on the implementation plan and capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol (CBD/SBI/3/18).

32. Regional statements were made by representatives of Belarus (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European countries), Portugal (on behalf of the European Union and its member States) and South Africa (on behalf of the African Group).

33. Statements were also made by representatives of Brazil, China and New Zealand.

34. In addition to the statements by Parties presented orally, a written statement by Canada was made available on the meeting web page.

35. A statement was made by the representative of GBYN.

36. A statement was also made by the representative of TWN.

37. In addition to the statements by observers presented orally, a statement by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), an observer organization, could not be delivered due to limited time but was made available on the meeting web page.

Other issues related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

38. The subtopic of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework was considered during the fifth segment of the informal session, on 12 March 2021. The background documents for the subtopic were notes by the Executive Secretary on an overview of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework process (CBD/SBI/3/4); communications for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBI/3/4/Add.1); and a draft outline of a post-2020 gender plan of action (CBD/SBI/3/4/Add.2).

39. Regional statements were made by representatives of Costa Rica (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group), Portugal (on behalf of the European Union and its member States), Georgia (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European countries) and South Africa (on behalf of the African Group).

40. Statements were also made by representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

41. In addition to the statements by Parties presented orally, a written statement by Nigeria was made available on the meeting web page.

42. Statements were also made by representatives of the CBD Alliance, the CBD Women's Caucus, GYBN and IIFB.

43. A statement was also made by the representative of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

44. In addition to the statements by observers presented orally, statements by the following observer organizations could not be delivered due to limited time but were made available on the meeting web page: Avaaz, GFC, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

V. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM (ITEM 6 OF THE AGENDA FOR THE THIRD MEETING)

45. The topics of resource mobilization and the financial mechanism were considered during the second segment of the informal session, on 9 March 2021.

46. The available background documents for the resource mobilization component were a note by the Executive Secretary summarizing work undertaken on the topic (CBD/SBI/3/5); a synthesis of the evaluation and review of the strategy for resource mobilization and Aichi Biodiversity Target 20 (CBD/SBI/3/5/Add.1), with the full evaluation and review available in an information document (CBD/SBI/3/INF/2); the preliminary report on estimating the resources needed for implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBI/3/5/Add.2), with supplementary technical information provided in an accompanying information document (CBD/SBI/3/INF/5); and the contribution of the Panel of Experts on Resource Mobilization to the draft resource mobilization component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBI/3/5/Add.3).
47. The available background documents for the financial mechanism component were: a note by the Executive Secretary on the topic (CBD/SBI/3/6); the preliminary report of the Global Environment Facility (CBD/SBI/3/6/Add.1); the interim report on the assessment of the amount of funds needed for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols during the eighth replenishment period of the Trust Fund of the Global Environment Facility (CBD/SBI/3/6/Add.2); and a note by the Executive Secretary presenting elements of advice from biodiversity-related conventions pursuant to paragraph 9 of decision XIII/21 (CBD/SBI/3/6/Add.3). Additional information was contained in the following information documents: the preliminary report of the Global Environment Facility, projects and programmes approved during the reporting period (CBD/SBI/3/INF/7); the submissions received from biodiversity-related conventions pursuant to paragraph 9 of decision XIII/21 (CBD/SBI/3/INF/23); the interim report on the full assessment of funding necessary and available for implementation of the Convention for the eighth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility (July 2022 to June 2026) (CBD/SBI/3/INF/24); and a planning note for the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund: participation, work plan and proposed timetable (GEF/R.8/Rev 01).
48. A representative of the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, Mr. Gustavo Fonseca, made a presentation on the preliminary report of the Global Environment Facility (CBD/SBI/3/6/Add.1). The text of Mr. Fonseca's presentation was made available on the meeting web page.
49. Regional statements were made by representatives of Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group), Portugal (on behalf of the European Union and its member States), Georgia (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European countries) and Kenya (on behalf of the African Group).
50. Statements were also made by representatives of Australia, Japan and New Zealand.
51. Consideration of the topic resumed during the third segment of the informal session, on 10 March 2021.
52. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, Uganda and the United Kingdom.
53. In addition to the statements by Parties presented orally, a written statement by the Sudan was made available on the meeting web page.
54. Statements were made by representatives of the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments (coordinated by Regions4 and the Government of Quebec) (also on behalf of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, the Group of Leading Subnational Governments towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the European Committee of the Regions and the Edinburgh Process partners), the CBD Alliance, the CBD Women's Caucus, GYBN and IIFB.
55. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the World Bank Group.
56. A further statement was made by The Nature Conservancy (also on behalf of Birdlife International, Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)).
57. In addition to the statements by observers presented orally, a written statement by GFC, an observer organization, was prepared but could not be delivered due to limited time.

**VI. CAPACITY-BUILDING, TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION,
TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION
(ITEM 7 OF THE AGENDA FOR THE THIRD MEETING)**

58. The topics of capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge management and communication were considered during the third segment of the informal session, on 10 March 2021. The available background documents included a note by the Executive Secretary on capacity development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer (CBD/SBI/3/7), with an addendum containing the draft long-term strategic framework for capacity development to support implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.1) and an addendum setting out proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation programmes in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.2); a note by the Executive Secretary on knowledge management and the clearing-house mechanism (CBD/SBI/3/8), with an addendum on the knowledge management component of the knowledge management component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBI/3/8/Add.1); a note by the Executive Secretary on communication (CBD/SBI/3/9); and a note by the Executive Secretary on the evaluation of the strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (CBD/SBI/3/16), with the full evaluation report set out in information document CBD/SBI/3/INF/1. Other information documents for the topic were a note by the Executive Secretary on the DaRT data reporting tool for multilateral environmental agreements (CBD/SBI/3/INF/8); a report of the study to inform the preparation of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020 (CBD/SBI/3/INF/9); a preliminary final report on the implementation of the short-term action plan (2017–2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols (CBD/SBI/3/INF/14); proposals for an inclusive process to review and renew technical and scientific cooperation programmes (CBD/SBI/3/INF/15); options for institutional mechanisms to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation under the Convention (CBD/SBI/3/INF/16); and a preliminary list of relevant institutional arrangements and networks facilitating technical and scientific cooperation at the global, regional and subregional levels (CBD/SBI/3/INF/17).

59. Regional statements were made by representatives of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (on behalf of the African Group), Georgia (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European countries), Portugal (on behalf of the European Union and its member States) and Singapore (on behalf of ASEAN).

60. Statements were also made by representatives of Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, China, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Japan, Malawi, Norway, Panama, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

61. In addition to the statements by Parties presented orally, a written statement by Comoros was made available on the meeting web page.

62. Consideration of the topic resumed at the fourth segment of the informal session, on 11 March 2021.

63. Statements were made by representatives of the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments for Biodiversity (coordinated by Regions4 and the Government of Quebec) (also on behalf of the European Committee of the Regions, the Group of Leading Subnational Governments towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and the Edinburgh Process partners), the CBD Alliance, the CBD Women’s Caucus, GBYN and IIFB.

64. Statements were also made by representatives of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, IUCN and United Nations University.

65. In addition to the statements by observers presented orally, a written statement by the International Tropical Timber Organization, an observer organization, was prepared but could not be delivered due to limited time.

**VII. MECHANISMS FOR REPORTING, ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION
(ITEM 9 OF THE AGENDA FOR THE THIRD MEETING)**

66. The topic of mechanisms for reporting, assessment and review of implementation was considered during the fourth segment of the informal session, on 11 March 2021. The available background documents included a note by the Executive Secretary on options to enhance planning, reporting and review mechanisms with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention (CBD/SBI/3/11); national reporting under the Convention and its Protocols (CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.1); options for enhancing synergies on national reporting among biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions (CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.2); further information and draft template for the submission of national commitments/contributions to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.3/Rev.1); and the results of the survey to evaluate the use by Parties of the online reporting tools for the sixth national report (CBD/SBI/3/INF/3).

67. Regional statements were made by representatives of Egypt (on behalf of the African Group), Georgia (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European countries) and Portugal (on behalf of the European Union and its member States).

68. Statements were also made by representatives of Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

69. Additional statements were made by representatives of the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments (coordinated by Regions4 and the Government of Quebec) (also on behalf of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, the Group of Leading Subnational Governments towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the European Committee of the Regions and the Edinburgh Process partners), the CBD Alliance, the CBD Women's Caucus, GYBN and IIFB.

70. A statement was also made by the representative of the Business for Nature coalition.

71. In addition to the statements by observers presented orally, written statements by the following observer organizations were prepared but could not be delivered due to limited time: Client Earth (also on behalf of BirdLife International, Conservation International, Greenpeace International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF) and TWN.

**VIII. REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROCESSES UNDER THE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS
(ITEM 10 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRD MEETING)**

72. The topic of the review of the effectiveness of the processes under the Convention and its Protocols was taken up during the sixth segment of the informal session, on 14 March 2021. As a background document, the Executive Secretary had prepared a note on the topic (CBD/SBI/3/12).

73. Regional statements were made by representatives of Egypt (on behalf of the African Group) and Portugal (on behalf of the European Union and its member States).

74. Statements were made by representatives of the Argentina, Chile, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

75. In addition to the statements by Parties presented orally, a written statement by Uganda was made available on the meeting web page.

76. Statements were also made by representatives of GYBN and IIFB.

77. A further statement was made by a representative of TWN.

**IX. MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY WITHIN AND ACROSS SECTORS AND OTHER STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ENHANCE IMPLEMENTATION
(ITEM 11 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRD MEETING)**

78. The topic of mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors and other strategic actions to enhance implementation was taken up during the fourth segment of the informal session, on 11 March 2021. The available background documents were: a document setting out a proposed long-term approach to mainstreaming developed by the Informal Advisory Group on Mainstreaming of Biodiversity (CBD/SBI/3/13); an addendum to that document with the proposed action plan for the long-term approach (CBD/SBI/3/13/Add.1); an information document containing a compilation of the relevant sources of information used in the development of the action plan (CBD/SBI/3/INF/21); and an associated report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on progress on mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors (CBD/SBI/3/INF/6).

79. Ms. Theresa Mundita Lim (Philippines), the chair of the Informal Advisory Group on Mainstreaming of Biodiversity, made a statement on the proposed long-term approach to mainstreaming.

80. A representative of the United Kingdom then introduced three documents arising from a submission by the Government of the United Kingdom concerning the engagement of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities and the outcomes of the Edinburgh Process for Subnational and Local Governments on the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The documents consisted of a note by the Executive Secretary on the outcomes of the Edinburgh Process, including a recommendation for a decision by the Conference of the Parties on the engagement of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities and an update to the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011–2020) (CBD/SBI/3/19); an information document presenting the results of the consultation on the Plan of Action (CBD/SBI/3/INF/26); and an information document presenting the Edinburgh Declaration for subnational governments, cities and local authorities on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBI/3/INF/25).

81. Regional statements were made by representatives of Morocco (on behalf of the African Group) and the Philippines (on behalf of ASEAN).

82. Consideration of the topic resumed during the fifth segment of the informal session, on 12 March 2021.

83. Regional statements were made by representatives of Georgia (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European countries) and Portugal (on behalf of the European Union and its member States).

84. Statements were also made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Japan, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

85. Consideration of the topic resumed during the sixth segment of the informal session, on 14 March 2021.

86. Statements were made by representatives of the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments for Biodiversity (coordinated by Regions4 and the Government of Quebec) (also on behalf of the European Committee of the Regions, the Group of Leading Subnational Governments towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and the Edinburgh Process partners), the CBD Alliance, GYBN and IIFB.

87. Statements by the following observer organizations could not be delivered due to limited time but were made available on the meeting web page: ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Avaaz, Business for Nature, CBD Women's Caucus, FAO, Global Forest Coalition, The Nature Conservancy (also on behalf of BirdLife International, Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

**X. SPECIALIZED INTERNATIONAL ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING INSTRUMENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF ARTICLE 4, PARAGRAPH 4, OF THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL
(ITEM 12 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRD MEETING)**

88. The topic of specialized international access and benefit-sharing instruments in the context of article 4, paragraph 4, of the Nagoya Protocol was taken up during the fifth segment of the informal session, on 12 March 2021. As a background document, the Executive Secretary had prepared a note on the topic (CBD/SBI/3/14).

89. Regional statements were made by representatives of Belarus (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European countries), Portugal (on behalf of the European Union and its member States) and Malawi (on behalf of the African Group).

90. A statement was also made by the representative of Japan.

91. Consideration of the topic resumed at the sixth segment of the informal session, on 14 March 2021.

92. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, China, Norway, Switzerland, Togo, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

93. A statement was made by a representative of IIFB.

94. A statement was also made by a representative of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

95. A further statement was made by a representative of TWN.

**XI. GLOBAL MULTILATERAL BENEFIT-SHARING MECHANISM (ARTICLE 10 OF THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL)
(ITEM 13 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRD MEETING)**

96. The topic of a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism (Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol) was considered during the sixth segment of the informal session, on 14 March 2021. The available background documents were a note by the Executive Secretary on the topic (CBD/SBI/3/15) and a note by the Executive Secretary on a study to identify specific cases of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that occur in transboundary situations or for which it is not possible to grant or obtain prior informed consent (CBD/SBI/3/15/Add.1).

97. Regional statements were made by representatives of Belarus (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European countries), Portugal (on behalf of the European Union and its member States) and South Africa (on behalf of the African Group).

98. Statements were also made by representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

99. A further statement was made by the representative of IIFB.

100. In addition to the statements by observers presented orally, a written statement by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, an observer, was prepared but could not be delivered due to limited time.

**XII. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(ITEM 14 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRD MEETING)**

101. The representative of the Secretariat informed the participants that, in the light of the delay in holding the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat had prepared an update on the financial and administrative matters of the Secretariat covering the period from January 2019 to August 2020 (CBD/SBI/3/17). Updated information to the end of December 2020 would be made available to the Parties ahead of the formal session of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body, following the closure of accounts for the year 2020.

XIII. CLOSURE OF THE INFORMAL SESSION

102. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared the informal session closed at 14:55 (UTC) (10.55 a.m. Montreal Time) on Sunday, 14 March 2021.
