

Bern II – The second MEA consultation workshop on post-2020

Concept Note

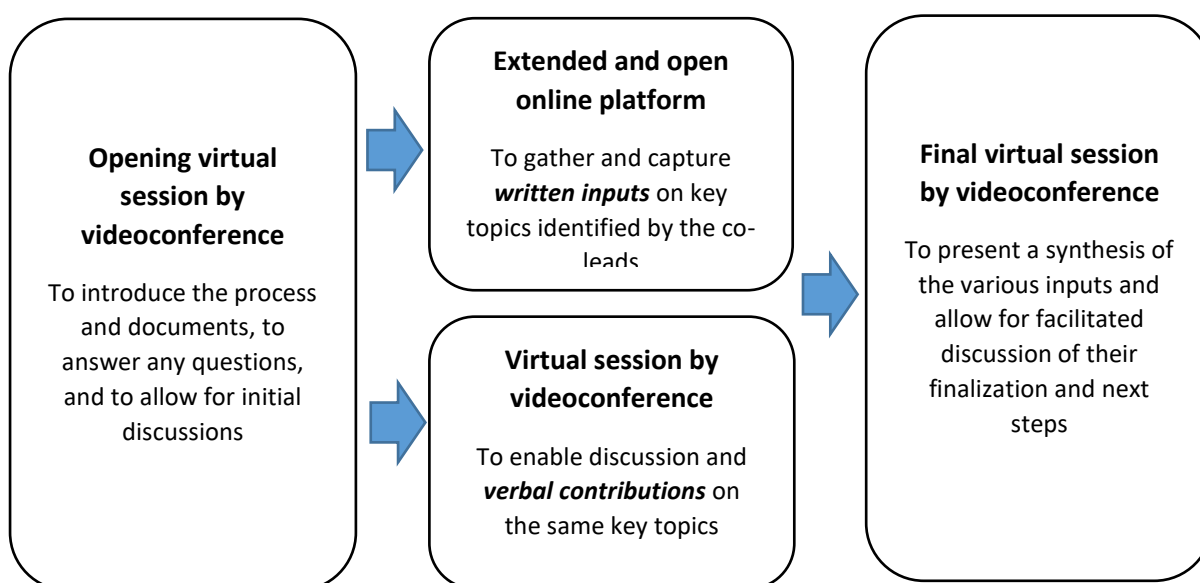
Originally the Bern II workshop was expected to bring participants together physically, and this remained the intention when online briefings took place first in March and then in September 2020. However, the decision has now been taken that this consultation should take place online so that there is no further significant delay.

Aim and objectives: The overall aim of the second consultation, previously agreed following a consultative process, is to strengthen cooperation among and coherent implementation of conventions with respect to biodiversity, by:

- a) Identifying concrete elements, including on common areas of work and cooperation among the conventions, that could be included in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and mechanisms for the monitoring and review of its implementation; and
- b) Identifying ways in which conventions other than the Convention on Biological Diversity can further contribute to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its operationalization.

Preparatory work: The first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework welcomed the offer of the Government of Switzerland to host a workshop as a follow-up to the Consultation Workshop of the Biodiversity-related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, held in Bern from 10 to 12 June 2019.¹ This follow-up consultation, now being conducted online, is being organized by UNEP with the support of UNEP-WCMC. Preparation has been guided by a steering committee that includes two invited co-leads for the workshop, Somaly Chan from Cambodia, and Anne Teller from the European Union. Background material for the consultation includes a broad-based [background document](#) prepared in May 2020 and a co-leads paper² available in September 2020 to help prioritize issues for discussion and provide concrete proposals for participants for consideration. Both documents were presented at the second online briefing, and the co-leads paper has been further updated based on the discussions. Based on the previous inputs and discussions, the Bern II online workshop has been designed to take place through the following process.

Overview of the process for Bern II: The following closely related online events will take place during January 2021.



¹ Paragraph 8, recommendation WG2020-1/1 (www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/wg2020-01/wg2020-01-rec-01-en.pdf)

² The Co-Lead's paper has been developed by the Co-Leads in their personal capacity in order to facilitate discussion at the Bern II consultation and subsequent follow up.

Sufficient time will be left ahead of the final virtual session to allow for summarisation of online submissions through the platform and discussion at the virtual session.

Further detail on the proposed process: The following sets out the broad outline of each part of the process, and what each aims to achieve.

1. The purpose of the **opening videoconference** is to set the scene and to explain the process, also allowing time for questions and initial discussion. The introductory webinar will include:
 - Opening remarks from the host of Bern II meeting (*Switzerland*)
 - Introduction to the aims and objective of the Bern II process (*UNEP*)
 - Update on post-2020 process including means of implementation (*SCBD, co-chairs*)
 - Explanation of the process that will be followed (*UNEP*)
 - Introduction to the background document (*UNEP-WCMC*)
 - Introduction to the co-leads paper and to topics that will be addressed through the online platform and during the next virtual session (co-leads)
 - Opportunity for questions and discussion
2. This would be followed by an **online platform** open for several days where written submissions would be made by participants across a number of discrete topics. The topics and how discussion will be focused and encouraged is addressed below under “choice of topics”. To maximise opportunity for input all topics will be open for feedback for the whole of the time the online platform is open, rather than starting a new topic on each day. This will allow participation independent of date and time zone, allowing participants to engage when their diaries allow. The intention is that it will be possible to provide submissions to the online platform in any UN language. Participants will receive some form of notification of new posts by email in order to keep them engaged.
3. During the online platform, one virtual **session by videoconference** will be convened (please refer to the timetable below). In part the aim of this session will be to provide an opportunity for participants to comment on and discuss some or all of the same issues being covered by the online platform, however the co-leads will also use this session to explore related issues further. Again, the topics are addressed below under “choice of topics”. As all inputs will be captured, there would be no need for participants to make the same comments through both this virtual session and the online platform.
4. The workshop will close with a **final virtual session by videoconference** where participants will have the opportunity to review and discuss what has come out of the contributions to the online platform and the virtual discussion on the topics. This session will be held a few days following closure of the online platform to allow for completion and circulation of a summary/synthesis of the contributions to the online platform and virtual discussion. The session will include:
 - Introduction to the session and what is expected from it (*co-leads*)
 - Presentation of the summary/synthesis of contributions (*UNEP-WCMC*)
 - Discussion (*facilitated by co-leads*)
 - Next steps, and conclusion of the meeting (*UNEP, co-chairs of the post-2020 OEWG*)

Copies of presentations will be made available after the virtual sessions, but recordings of sessions will not be made available. While sessions will be recorded, this is only to support development of summaries and reports and will be used for no other purpose.

Opportunities to streamline discussion: In order to streamline discussion, participants from each convention (and as appropriate clusters of conventions), will be encouraged to discuss the issues amongst themselves and present a coordinated input. This could be done in advance of the consultation, and participants have already been encouraged to do this following the second online briefing (drawing on the background document and the co-leads paper that were presented in that briefing). This will be further encouraged during the period of the consultation, in particular to consider the topics being addressed in the online platform and associated virtual session.

Timetable: The following sets out the timetable for the full range of sessions comprising the Bern II consultation:

	Activity
Monday 18 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening videoconference (2 hours, starting midday UTC/GMT) Opening of online platform for contributions on all topics
Tuesday 19 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online platform remains open for contributions on all topics
Wednesday 20 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online platform remains open for contributions on all topics
Thursday 21 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online platform remains open for contributions on all topics
Friday 22 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Videoconference on topics (2 hours starting midday UTC/GMT) Online platform remains open for contributions on all topics
Monday 25 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online platform remains open for contributions on all topics
Tuesday 26 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing of online platform for contributions on all topics
Wednesday 27 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No activity for participants
Thursday 28 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No activity for participants
Friday 29 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No activity for participants
Monday 1 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No activity for participants
Tuesday 2 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final videoconference (2 hrs starting midday UTC/GMT)

During the period between closure of the online platform and the final videoconference the Bern II coordination team will meet to review progress and the summary of contributions, and to complete planning for the final session.

Topics for the online platform and the virtual session on 22 January: Drawing on the co-leads paper (which itself draws on the background document, the original agenda for the Bern II workshop developed in consultation with secretariats and the discussions during the online briefings), the following five topics have been identified as valuable areas for discussion on how to increase cooperation. For each topic, the online platform will provide guiding questions to stimulate the contributions. The virtual session will aim to summarize the contributions received so far and to receive feedback from the participants.

The suggested topics are:

1. Topic 1 concerns **indicators and the monitoring framework** and opportunities for developing a more coordinated approach at global, regional and national levels. This could encompass issues ranging from common indicators to how to work together to improve use of indicators in reporting at all levels. It could also include consideration of build and maintain the necessary capacity.
2. Topic 2 concerns the **review of implementation and reporting** and opportunities for developing a more synergistic approach. This could encompass issues ranging from national reporting to development of a future global stocktake. In both cases this might include consideration of how reported information and knowledge from multiple sources including all relevant MEAs could be used in review of progress, as well as inputs global, regional and thematic assessments such as those produced by IPBES.
3. Topic 3 concerns **potential areas for cooperation on means of implementation**, specifically capacity development, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge management and resource mobilization.
4. Topic 4 concerns **implementing synergies at the national level**, relating to issues such as coordination amongst focal points and collaboration in the development and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans, and mainstreaming biodiversity into other sectors.
5. Topic 5 concerns **operationalization of the global biodiversity framework by conventions and processes** other than the CBD, and the steps that could be taken by the CBD and both other conventions and processes, as well as potential mechanisms for increasing cross-convention liaison and coordination.

Outputs of the consultation: A summary report of the meeting will be prepared, drawing on the material submitted and discussed. To the extent possible recommendations and follow up actions will be identified, based on discussion and agreement during the final session. The report will include as appropriate an opening section or an annex from the co-leads on the steps that need to be taken. As the primary aim of the Bern II consultation is to inform discussions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and related issues at the upcoming meetings of the CBD SBSTTA, SBI and WG2020, the report will be submitted as an information document to SBSTTA-24, SBI-3 and WG2020-3. All consultation documents and summaries of submissions will also be made directly available to the co-chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Participation: Participants in the consultation workshop have already been identified and were invited to participate in the two online briefings in 2020. These invitees comprise the representatives of Parties as previously nominated by chairs of MEA governing bodies, representatives from MEA Secretariats, and invited observers from international organizations and NGOs in a position to provide expert support to the meeting. In advance of the consultation, UNEP has checked with the chairs of the MEA governing bodies whether their lists of nominees need to be updated.

Contacts: If you have any inquiries, please contact the following focal points.

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www.unenvironment.org/events/workshop/postponed-bern-2-consultation-workshop-biodiversity-related-conventions-post-2020