



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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**BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE  
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Second meeting

9.30 to 13.00

Montreal, Canada, 10 December 2017

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE  
PARTIES IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD**

1. The second inter-sessional meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties since the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Protocols in Cancun, Mexico, 2016, was held on 10 December 2017, in Montreal, Canada at the offices of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The meeting preceded the twenty-first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, which is being held on 11-14 December 2017, and the tenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is being held on 13-16 December 2017.

2. The meeting was attended by the following members of the COP Bureau and substitutes:

*Presidency:* Mr. Juan Antonio Mateos (representing Minister Rafael Pacchiano Alamán, COP President, Government of Mexico) and Chair of the meeting,

*Africa:* Mr. Samuel Ndayiragije (Burundi), Mr. Mohamed Ali Ben Temessek (Tunisia), Mr. Cheikh Mohammed El Abd (Mauritania, substitute for Tunisia for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol),

*Asia and the Pacific:* Ms. Gwendalyn Sisior (Palau), Mr. Monyrak Meng (Cambodia),

*Central and Eastern Europe:* Mr. Sergei Melnov (Belarus),

*Latin America and the Caribbean:* Ms. Clarissa Nina (Brazil), Mr. Luciano Donadio Linares (Argentina, substitute for Brazil in matters related to the Nagoya Protocol), Mr. Randolph Edmead (Saint Kitts and Nevis), Ms. Marina Hernández (Dominican Republic, substitute for Saint Kitts and Nevis for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol),

*Western Europe and Others:* Mr. Basil van Havre (Canada), Ms. Tone Solhaug (Norway, substitute for Canada for matters related to the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol), and

*Ex-officio:* Mr. Francis Sabino Ogwal (Uganda, Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation).

Regrets were sent by Ms. Elvana Ramaj (Albania) and Mr. Hayo Haanstra (Netherlands).

3. Also present, as observers, were Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (COP 14 host representative), Ms. Jing Xin (COP 15 host representative), and Mr. Andreas Obrecht (UNEP).
4. The Secretariat was represented by Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer (Executive Secretary), Mr. David Cooper (Deputy Executive Secretary), Ms. Amy Fraenkel (Head of Division, Mainstreaming, Cooperation and Outreach), Mr. Worku Damena Yifru (Senior Legal Officer), Ms. Valerie Normand (Senior Programme Officer, Access & Benefit Sharing), Mr. John Scott (Acting Senior Programme Officer, Traditional Knowledge), and Mr. Ide Ahmed (Budget and Finance Officer).

### **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

5. The meeting was opened at 9.40 a.m. by Mr. Juan Antonio Mateos, on behalf of the Government of Mexico and representing the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties. He noted that the Bureau's main task would be to review that all is in order for the tenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions. The Bureau would also review preparations for the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as well as the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the meetings of the two Protocols.
6. Mr. Mateos further noted that the Bureau's first meeting in Mexico last April had laid the foundations for its work for the biennium and that the current meeting would build on this work. On behalf of Minister Pacchiano, he reiterated the commitment of the COP Presidency to promote the Cancun Declaration and the other outcomes of the UN Biodiversity Conference in other fora, such as FAO and the United Nations Environment Assembly.
7. The Executive Secretary, Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, also made brief introductory remarks, welcoming participants. She reiterated her commitment to raise the political profile of the Convention, highlighting some of the activities she has engaged in this regard. She thanked the Governments of Mexico, Egypt and China for their commitment in promoting the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and laying out the foundation for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
8. Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer announced that the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress will enter into force on 5 March 2018, following the latest deposit of Japan's instrument earlier in the week.

### **ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

9. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (CBD/COP/Bur/2017/2/1), noting also the annotations (CBD/COP/Bur/2017/2/1/Add.1).

### **ITEM 3. PREPARATIONS FOR THE TENTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON ARTICLE 8(j) AND RELATED PROVISIONS**

10. The Chair also noted that, in accordance with established practice, the President of the Conference of the Parties or his representative will chair the Working Group, and the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties will serve as the Bureau of the meeting. In this regard, Minister Rafael Pacchiano, COP 13 President, designated Vice-Minister Cuauhtémoc Ochoa Fernández from Mexico to represent him as Chair of the WG8J meeting. The Bureau designated Mr. Sergei Melnov of Belarus as Rapporteur for the meeting.
11. The Chair proposed that, as in past meetings of the Working Group, the representatives of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities would be invited to designate seven representatives to act as "Friends of the Bureau", one of whom would act as a Co-chair of the Working Group and others as Co-chairs of contact groups, as needed. The Friends of the Bureau would participate in meetings of the Bureau throughout the week.
12. With the agreement of the Bureau, the Chair invited the representatives of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to join the discussion under agenda item 2. The representatives are: Ms. Polina Shulbaeva (Eastern, Central Europe and the Caucasus), Mr. Aslak Holmberg (Arctic), Ms. Lucy Mullenkei (Africa), Ms. Chrissy Grant (Pacific), Ms. June Cadalig Batang-ay (Asia) and Ms. Yeshing Upún (Latin

America and the Caribbean).<sup>1</sup> The representative from North America would be designated at a later stage.

13. The Chair welcomed the representatives of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, highlighting the importance of their participation and contributions in the discussions under the Convention. After a round of introductions from the Bureau members and the representatives of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, the Chair invited the Secretariat to provide an overview of the provisional agenda for the tenth meeting of WG8J.

14. The Secretariat referred to the provisional agenda for the tenth meeting of the Working Group (CBD/WG8J/10/1) as well as the annotations to the provisional agenda, including the proposed organization of work (CBD/WG8J/10/1/Add.1). The Secretariat provided further information on each of the agenda items and the related preparatory work, and noted that some of the items might require contact groups. The Secretariat expressed regrets for the delay for the posting of the documentation on resource mobilization, noting that the funding in order to prepare this documentation could not arrive sooner. The Secretariat noted that item 6 related to resource mobilization would be also addressed at the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

15. The Bureau acknowledged that the documents prepared for the meeting provided a good basis for the deliberations. Bureau members noted that the Rutzolijirisaxik Voluntary Guidelines (item 3) and the Glossary of terms (item 4) had been under discussion by the Working Group and the Conference of the Parties for a number of years, and expressed the view that work might be completed at this session of the Working Group with a view for their consideration for adoption at COP 14. The Bureau considered that contact groups might be needed for some items, such as agenda items 3, 4 and 7. While noting the value the perspectives of the Working Group on item 6, Bureau members noted that this item would be finalized at the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

16. The Chair proceeded to inform the Bureau that it would hold daily meetings from 8.00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. starting Thursday, 14 December 2017 at the Palais de Congrès.

#### **ITEM 4. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2018 UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE (THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES, THE CONCURRENT MEETINGS OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA AND NAGOYA PROTOCOLS AND THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT)**

17. Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, Coordinator of COP 14 and related meetings, provided the Bureau with an update on the preparations for the UN Biodiversity Conference. He informed the Bureau that the Host Country Agreement had been finalized and signed. He provided an overview of the meetings that would take place around the Conference. He proposed “Investing in Biodiversity for People and the Planet” as the theme for the Conference, with the High-Level Segment focussing on the issue of mainstreaming biodiversity in the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, and health. He noted that COP 14 would adopt the roadmap for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and, in this context, noted the possibility of encouraging voluntary commitments in advance by Parties. He outlined the parallel events and forums that would take place during the UN Biodiversity Conference and informed the Bureau that in terms of logistical preparations, a series of committees had been established to address all the different preparations. He announced that the official venue for the COP would be the Maritim Jolie Ville International Congress Center and that additional facilities were being constructed to fully meet the needs of the Conference. He also informed the Bureau that the COP website would be ready by February or March. Finally, he reiterated Egypt’s political commitment and informed the Bureau of the several events they have attended, such as UNEA and the meeting of the Ministers of Environment of Arab countries, in which they have made efforts to raise the political profile of the Convention.

18. The Executive Secretary reported that it had undertaken two missions to the host country, including visits of the site of the UN Biodiversity Conference, and also had held detailed discussions on preparations for the UN Biodiversity Conference with the representative of the host country.

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<sup>1</sup> Ms. Yeshing Upun was subsequently designated as the Co-chair of the Working Group, representing indigenous peoples.

19. The Bureau congratulated Egypt on the preparations for the UN Biodiversity Conference and looked forward to a successful event.
20. Bureau members noted that Ministers of Environment and of other sectors need to be given a clear role and a convincing reason to attend the High-Level Segment. Noting that the issue of mainstreaming in each of the sectors mentioned is very broad, the Bureau recommended a focus on specific issues and priorities. The issue of financing participation of Ministers was also raised.
21. In responding to the issues raised, Mr Zedan, emphasized that Egypt would make efforts to engage other ministers from other sectors, including through a letter from the Prime Minister of Egypt to his counterparts in order to offer increased political support. He welcomed suggestions from the Bureau on the format and ways in which ministers could be best engaged during the High-Level Segment. He also highlighted that it was very important to ensure continuity between COP 13, COP 14 and COP 15.
22. The Chair concluded the discussion on this item by emphasizing the need for increased political buy-in from the different sectors and in regard to the continuity of mainstreaming, he informed the Bureau that Mexico plans to convene a national consultation among the sectors involved in COP 13 to review progress and to prepare for COP 14.
23. Concerning the agendas for COP 14, MOP 9 of the Cartagena Protocol and MOP 3 of the Nagoya Protocol, the Secretariat referred to the documents made available at the previous Bureau meeting containing preliminary lists of the items to be addressed by these bodies, in line with previous decisions. The Secretariat noted the challenges presented by the large number of items to be addressed and invited the Bureau to provide general directions on how to manage them.
24. Bureau members highlighted the need for continuity from COP 13 on the issue of mainstreaming and recommended that the agenda for COP 14 offer opportunities for Parties to report on the progress made in the sectors of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism.
25. The Bureau also highlighted the importance of continuity from COP 13, through COP 14 to COP-15, and, in this regard, welcomed the ongoing coordination among Mexico, Egypt and China as the present and future presidencies of the Conference of the Parties.

#### **ITEM 5: PREPARATIONS FOR THE SECOND MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION**

26. The Chair invited Mr. Francis Ogwal, the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI), to provide an overview of the agenda items expected at the second meeting of SBI.
27. Mr. Ogwal noted that the second meeting of SBI would take place in early July 2018, back-to-back with SBSTTA 22. He highlighted that this would be an important meeting with a heavy agenda, reminding the Bureau that the main purpose of SBI is to keep under review implementation of the Convention. This second meeting would be important in that it will be the last chance to take action to accelerate implementation and achieve the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. He also noted that SBI 2 will also make recommendations to COP on a process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. He thanked the Secretariat for preparing and distributing a discussion note on the topic and urged the Bureau members to encourage Parties in their regions to comment on the note, to provide inputs on the development of the process, noting that a very small number of Parties responded to the Secretariat's invitation. He further highlighted other issues on the agenda of SBI 2, including capacity-building, national reporting and the effectiveness of the processes under the Convention, as well as the continuation of the discussions on mainstreaming, building on the work of SBSTTA-21. He concluded by noting that SBI will also address specific matters referred to it by the Nagoya Protocol, such as the need for a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism and issues related to specialized international access and benefit-sharing instruments. He then invited the Secretariat to offer further input.
28. The Secretariat noted that some draft papers for SBI 2 were already available for review<sup>2</sup> and encouraged the Bureau to bring these documents to the attention of their regions. The Secretariat further

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<sup>2</sup> These papers include those relating to the post-2020 framework (item 16), and on the experience of organizing concurrent meetings (item 15), and are available at: <https://www.cbd.int/SBSTTA22-sbi2/review.shtml>

noted that significant preparatory work was already underway, such that a number of additional documents would be available for review early next year. Under the agenda item on the Review of the effectiveness of the processes under the Convention and its Protocols (item 15), the Secretariat noted that it would issue a notification to invite views on this issue. It also noted that, under this item, there would be an opportunity to consider potential improvements to its expert processes. It also advised the Bureau that it will be inviting Parties to contribute case studies and best practices on the topic of mainstreaming in the sectors addressed by COP 14. Finally, the Secretariat clarified that the assessments of the progress of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets made by SBSTTA would be based on indicators and scientific literature and complement the review by SBI which is based on national reports and NBSAPs.

29. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation suggested that a political leader or champion be invited to deliver opening remarks at its second meeting, which could assist in providing political momentum to the process, and invited suggestions from Bureau members. The Bureau and the Executive Secretary welcomed this suggestion.

#### **ITEM 6. REPORT ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE VOLUNTARY FUNDS FOR APPROVED ACTIVITIES (BE) AND PARTICIPATION (BZ)**

30. The Secretariat provided a briefing to the Bureau on the status of the following voluntary trust funds: the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for the Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities for the Biennium 2016-2017, the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating Participation of Parties in the Convention Process for the 2016-2017 Biennium, and the Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating Participation of Indigenous People and Local Communities in the Convention Process for the 2016-2017 Biennium.

31. The Chair noted that the Secretariat would remain available during the following week for any clarifications or comments the Bureau may have on this topic.

#### **ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS**

32. The Executive Secretary briefed the Bureau on the “Bogis-Bossey Dialogue for Transformational Change on Biodiversity” that took place on 12-14 November 2017 and thanked the Government of Switzerland for its support. She highlighted that the main idea behind the meeting was to invite a wide range of perspectives and insights from people who are not usually part of the biodiversity conversations, on opportunities and approaches to accelerate implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. She noted that the meeting covered a range of topics including application of systems thinking and transformation management, communication, impact investment and finance, as well as use of big data. In particular, she noted that the transitions approach could provide a very useful way of looking at the challenges and opportunities ahead in the last three years to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and as preparations for the post-2020 begin. She reported that the meeting surpassed expectation and had very positive results with very lively discussions. In addition, a number of participants made concrete commitments to support the Convention’s work and to raise the political profile of the Convention. She advised that the executive summary will be made available as an information document at SBSTTA, and that the full report would be circulated once it is finalized. Finally, she announced that Switzerland had agreed to host and fund additional meetings in order to consider some of these ideas to further discussions on accelerating implementation and to advance the post-2020 framework. She noted that the second meeting, which will be more closely modelled in the format of previous “Friends of the CBD” meetings, is being planned for the beginning of March 2018.

33. The Bureau expressed appreciation and support to the Executive Secretary for taking this initiative. Bureau members noted that although it is the Parties who make the decisions on the steps forward, they welcome the opportunity to consider views and inputs from other groups on innovative approaches.

34. Finally, the Executive Secretary noted some issues in regard to the administrative arrangement with the United Nations Environment Programme, more specifically with regard to the length of time required to hire staff, which currently is approximately 300 days. Noting that this poses great challenges in the delivery of work of the Secretariat, she informed the Bureau that she is seeking alternative solutions with the Executive Director of UN Environment.

**ITEM 8: CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

35. The Chair thanked the participants for the valuable discussions and closed the meeting at 13.00 p.m. on 10 December 2017.

36. Following the meeting, an informal working lunch was held with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, jointly facilitated by Mr. Mateos and Ms. Theresa Mundita Lim, Chair of SBSTTA. On this occasion, the members of both Bureaux underlined the importance of securing sufficient funding for the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing states.