



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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

Third meeting

Chexbres, Switzerland, 6 March 2018

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

1. The third 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 6 March 2018, in Chexbres, Switzerland at the PreAlpina Hotel. The meeting preceded the second Bogis-Bossey Dialogue for Biodiversity which was held from 4 to 6 March 2018.

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

*Presidency:* Mr. Hesiquio Benitez (representing Minister Rafael Pacchiano Alamán, COP President, Government of Mexico), Chair of the meeting,

*Africa:* Mr. Samuel Ndayiragije (Burundi), Mr. Mohamed Ali Ben Temessek (Tunisia),

*Asia and the Pacific:* Mr. Monyrak Meng (Cambodia),

*Latin America and the Caribbean:* 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. Gilles Seutin (Canada), Mr. Hayo Haanstra (Netherlands), 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), Ms. Clarissa Nina (Brazil), and Ms. Gwendalyn Sisor (Palau).

3. Also present, as observers were Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (COP 14 host representative), Ms. Jing Xin and Ms. Gu Li (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. Catalina Santamaria (Special Advisor to the Executive Secretary), Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp (Head of the Implementation Support Division), Mr. Alexander

Shestakov (incoming Head of the Science and Policy Support Division), and Ms. Christine Estrada (Programme Management Assistant).

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

5. The meeting was opened at 3.00 p.m. by the Chair, Mr. Hesiquio Benitez on behalf of the Government of Mexico and representing the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties. He expressed condolences on the passing of the Bureau member from Mauritania (substitute for Tunisia for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol), Mr. Cheikh Mohamed El Abd, and of Mr. Olivier de Munck, Programme Officer, Clearing-House Mechanism of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. A moment of silence was observed by all participants in their memory.

6. The Executive Secretary, Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, also made brief introductory remarks, thanking the Bureau members for their active participation and contributions shared over the last three days. She invited the Bureau to think about possible ways to bring the transformation agenda to the formal process of the Convention either at SBI or SBSTTA.

7. The Bureau noted with satisfaction that the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress had entered into force the previous day.

8. The Chair then invited all participants to introduce themselves in a tour de table.

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

9. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/COP/Bur/2018/3/1) after adding two additional items: the next agenda at UNEA-3 and the next steps to the Bogis-Bossey Dialogue, to be addressed under agenda item 6 (Other Matters).

### **ITEM 3. UPDATE ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES, THE NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL, THE THIRD MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL AND THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT**

10. At the invitation of the Chair, the Secretariat provided a brief overview of the agendas for the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the concurrent meetings of the Cartagena Protocol (CP/MOP) and Nagoya Protocol (NP/MOP). He clarified that most of the agenda items that will go to the COP would be discussed by the intersessional meetings, and therefore there was an attempt to keep the annotations to the COP agenda relatively concise, and the number of documents was minimal. As for the agendas of the CP/MOP and the NP/MOP, only a few items would go through the intersessional meetings, therefore the annotated agendas for these meetings were more elaborate, and the number of documents larger. The Secretariat also noted that it envisioned updating the annotations to the agendas following SBSTTA 22 and SBI -2 in the light of the outcomes of those meetings.

11. The Chair noted that the task of the Bureau was to approve the agendas for the COP, the CP/MOP and the NP/MOP and to provide comments on the annotations for those meetings. He trusted that there were no missing mandates in the agendas. He then suggested the Bureau go through each agenda one by one with brief comments.

12. In response to requests from members of the Bureau, the Secretariat provided clarification on a number of issues:

(a) The outcomes of SBSTTA's review of the IPBES assessments would be considered under one agenda, along with other scientific assessments, while the future work programme for IPBES would be considered under a different agenda item;

(b) Under the item on mainstreaming, the COP could consider a recommendation on the new sectors to be examined at COP 14 (energy & mining, infrastructure and manufacturing and processing, as well as health), as well as a progress report on the sectors examined at COP 13.

13. The Chair noted that the issue of Liability and Redress would be addressed by COP and requested the Secretariat to provide more information on what might be achieved under this item, noting that little progress had been made under the Convention to date on this issue. In this context, the Secretariat noted the last decision of the COP on the item and what is expected at COP 14. More specific information is expected to be provided at the next meeting of the Bureau.

14. Members of the Bureau also noted that sufficient time should be given to the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Convention.

15. The Bureau considered a preliminary draft of the organization of work for the COP, the CP/MOP and the NP/MOP, noting the desirability of (i) considering related matters across the three instruments in an integrated way; (ii) clustering the items that relate to each Protocol together to avoid that the experts for each body would have to be present for a longer time than necessary; and (iii) avoiding, as far as possible, that items related to either of the Protocols would be considered simultaneously by the two Working Groups. The Bureau also noted that there were some unavoidable trade-offs between these objectives.

16. Regarding documentation for issues that relate to the Convention and the Protocols, the Bureau encouraged an integrated approach where possible, while noting that the three instruments are distinct legal instruments. The Bureau recognized that a case by case approach would be taken with respect to documentation.

17. The Chair recalled that in Cancun a number of decisions were adopted at the end of the first week, and, assuming that good progress is made at SBSTTA and SBI, expressed the hope that COP 14 would be similarly efficient in terms of taking decisions. The Bureau noted the advantages of adopting some decisions during the first week, to avoid too many decisions being left open towards the end of the meeting and to facilitate an even more press coverage of the outcomes. The Secretariat noted that, as for COP 13, after SBSTTA 22 and SBI 2, it would prepare an analysis of draft decisions with a view to identifying issues that may be completed during the first week and those that may require more time to help the Bureau in preparing for the COP, the CP/MOP and the NP/MOP.

18. Following questions from members of the Bureau, the Secretariat noted the usual practice of holding only two contact groups concurrently for each of the two Working Groups of the COP, the CP/MOP and the NP/MOP. Contact groups would not be held concurrently with sessions of the respective Working Group.

19. The Bureau approved the agendas for COP 14, CP/MOP 9 and the NP/MOP 3. The Chair invited the Bureau members to submit any further comments they may have on the annotations in writing to the Secretariat, as soon as possible within the next two weeks.

20. At the invitation of the Chair, the representative of the Government of Egypt provided a succinct overview of the preparations for the UN Biodiversity Conference, in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 2018 (COP 14, CP/MOP 9 and NP/MOP 3 and related meetings). The Government of Egypt provided a presentation to the Bureau on the preparations for the High-Level Segment, the Africa High-Level Ministerial Summit, the logistical advances for the COP, as well as presented the official COP logo and a promotional video. The Bureau congratulated the Government of Egypt on the advances made.

#### **ITEM 4. UPDATE ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE SECOND MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION**

21. The Chair of SBI 2 and the Secretariat provided a brief overview on the preparations for SBI 2.

22. The Secretariat provided an overview and reminded the Bureau that some documents were already available for peer review, inviting the Bureau members to encourage Parties in their respective regions to provide feedback on these documents. The Chair also encouraged the Bureau to advise their respective regions to participate in the peer review of the documents.

23. Noting the short time between the July meetings of SBSTTA and SBI, and the meetings of the COP, the CP/MOP and the NP/MOP in November, the Bureau noted that mandates for additional intersessional work should be avoided.

## **ITEM 5: REPORT ON CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE VOLUNTARY FUNDS FOR APPROVED ACTIVITIES AND FOR FACILITATING PARTICIPATION**

24. At the invitation of the Chair, the Secretariat provided an overview of the status of the voluntary funds for approved activities and for facilitating participation to the official meetings.
25. The Bureau reiterated the serious limitations that the lack of appropriate funding can cause and noted that the situation needed to be improved. The Secretariat indicated that it would follow up with potential donors in this regard.

## **ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS**

### *The role of the UN Environment Assembly and Cooperation with UN Environment*

26. The Bureau sought clarification from representative of UNEP on the status and process of the themes for the next UNEA and how it could effectively use this meeting as a stepping stone for the preparation of COP 15 and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The representative of UNEP indicated that two themes would be considered by the 142nd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its upcoming meeting in April: Sustainable Consumption and Promoting the Environmental Solutions to Challenges. He indicated that even though UNEA 3 had suggested that biodiversity be considered as one of the potential themes, this would likely not be the case. The Bureau noted that the themes could still be relevant to biodiversity and the need for transformational change in consumption patterns.
27. The Bureau noted that the occasion of UNEA 4 could still be used to convene Ministers of the Environment, perhaps on the margins of the meeting, to further consultations on the preparation of COP 15 and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and urged the Secretariat to explore such options.
28. The Bureau also urged the Secretariat to find ways to further collaborate with UNEP in preparation for COP 14. The representative of UNEP agreed to convey the messages from the Bureau to UNEP's Executive Office and to proactively explore further collaboration. He also indicated that it may be possible to waive the project support costs for voluntary funds used to support participation of developing countries in COP 14 and related meetings.

### *Follow up to the Bogis-Bossey Dialogues*

29. Bureau members expressed their satisfaction with the discussions during the second Bogis-Bossey Dialogue for Biodiversity which had preceded the meeting of the Bureau. The Bureau reflected on ways to bring the ideas discussed at the Dialogue to all Parties. It was agreed that a meeting should be held in conjunction with the upcoming meetings of SBSTTA and SBI in Montreal. Specifically it was agreed to explore the possibility of holding a meeting between the SBSTTA and SBI with keynote speakers who had contributed to the Dialogue in Chexbres.
30. It was also agreed that relevant issues arising from the Bogis-Bossey Dialogues be reflected, as appropriate, in the documentation for SBI 2.

## **ITEM 7: CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

31. The Chair thanked the participants for the valuable discussions and closed the meeting at 6.30 p.m.