



## Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.  
GENERAL

CBD/Bureau/Joint/2019/1/2  
12 April 2019

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

JOINT MEETING OF THE BUREAUX OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
AND THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,  
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

First meeting<sup>1</sup>

Nairobi, Kenya, 15 March 2019

### REPORT OF THE MEETING

#### INTRODUCTION

1. A joint meeting of the Bureaux of the Conference of the Parties and of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice was held on 15 and 17 March 2019 at the UN Environment headquarters, in Nairobi, Kenya. Formal separate meetings of each Bureau were held on 16 March 2019 at the same venue.

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

*Presidency:* H.E. Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister (Egypt), accompanied by Dr. Hamdallah Zedan

*Africa:* Mr. Melesse Maryo (Ethiopia), Mr. Eric Okoree (Ghana)

*Asia and the Pacific:* Ms. Leina El-Awadhi (Kuwait)

*Central and Eastern Europe:* Ms. Teona Karchava (Georgia), Ms. Elvana Ramaj (Albania)

*Latin America and the Caribbean:* H.E. Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez (Costa Rica), Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda), and Mr. Francisco Lopez Achaval (Argentina, representing Mr. Luciano Donadio Linares, substitute for Costa Rica for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol)

*Western Europe and Others:* Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria), Ms. Rosemary Paterson (New Zealand), Ms. Marie Haraldstad (Norway, substitute for New Zealand for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol)

*Ex-officio:* Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist (Sweden), Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation

*Observers:* Mr. Francis Sabino Ogwal (Uganda) and Basile van Havre (Canada), Co-chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework, Ms. Zou Yueye (China), COP-15 host representative

Regrets were provided by Ms. Sujata Arora (India), Mr. Dilosharvo Dustov (Tajikistan, substitute for Georgia for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol),

3. The meeting was attended by the following members of the SBSTTA Bureau and substitutes:

---

<sup>1</sup> The Bureaux of the COP and SBSTTA will hold a final joint session on 17 March 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room 13 at the UN Environment headquarters.

*Chair:* Mr. Hesiquio Benitez (Mexico)

*Africa:* Mr. Larbi Sbai (Morocco), Mr. Marthin Kasaona (Namibia)

*Asia and the Pacific:* Ms. Ilham Atho Mohamed (Maldives)

*Central and Eastern Europe:* Ms. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Mr. Sergiy Gubar (Ukraine), Mr. Oleg Borodin (Belarus, substitute for Ukraine for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol)

*Latin America and the Caribbean:* Mr. Adams Toussaint (Saint Lucia)

*Western Europe and Others:* Mrs. Marina von Weissenberg (Finland), Mr. Sigurdur Thrainsson (Iceland), Mr. Norbert Bärlocher (Switzerland, substitute for Iceland for matters related to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols)

Regrets were provided by: Mr. Moustafa Fouda (Egypt, substitute for Morocco for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol), Ms. Kongchay Phimmakomg (Lao People's Democratic Republic) and Mr. Byoung-Yoon Lee (Republic of Korea, substitute for Maldives for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol)

4. Also present, as observers, were Mr. Neville Ash and Mr. Mamadou Kane (UNEP).

5. The Secretariat was represented by Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer (Executive Secretary) Mr. David Cooper (Deputy Executive Secretary), Mr. Alexander Shestakov (Director), Mr. Erie Tamale (Senior Programme Officer) and Mr. Thomas Deleuil (Legal Officer).

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

6. The meeting was opened and chaired by Her Excellency Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of the Environment of Egypt and President of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties at 3:15 p.m. on 15 March 2019. She welcomed members of both Bureaux and observers and offered condolences to those affected by the Ethiopian airline crash and the attacks in Christchurch, New Zealand. A minute of silence was observed.

7. The President expressed her gratitude and pride at what had been achieved by the Parties at COP 14, noting that we were at a critical stage for biodiversity and had the responsibility to deliver a landmark post-2020 agreement. She highlighted the launching of the *Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People*<sup>2</sup>, and thanked the Secretariat for having launched the web page to record stakeholders' commitments. She noted that the joint meeting provided an opportunity for members of both Bureaux to gain an overview of the work programme for the Convention and the Protocols over the biennium, with a focus on the post-2020 process, and to provide appropriate guidance to the Secretariat. Further, the President indicated that given the high expectations regarding the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, we need an inclusive process and to bring new ideas to the table. New commitments are necessary, not only financial but political commitments as well.

8. The Executive Secretary thanked the Minister for her leadership at COP 14, and also for organizing the Ministerial Roundtable during UNEA 4, which had raised the profile of biodiversity and the Convention, noting also the presence of the Deputy Secretary General and the Executive Director-designate of UNEP at the event. She noted that multiple scientific assessments highlighted the urgency of action on biodiversity and the critical importance of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. She further underlined the strong need for awareness and engagement at all levels, especially at the political level, and welcomed the One Planet Summit organized by French President Emmanuel Macron on 14 March, noting President Macron's strong commitment to include biodiversity together with climate change and oceans on the political agenda of G7, hosted by France. Together with Canada's Nature Champions Summit planned for April in Montreal, this can represent a momentous change to leverage biodiversity in the international agenda, beyond CBD

---

<sup>2</sup> Originally launched as the *Sharm El-Sheikh to Beijing Action Agenda for Nature and People*.

9. Mr. Hesiquio Benitez, SBSTTA Chair, underscored the importance of ensuring that the bodies under the Convention work together in a coherent and complementary manner.
10. Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist, SBI Chair, also noted the critical importance of the period between now and 2020, the opportunity we have to make a real change and the need to organize our work in the best way possible to deliver this.
11. All participants in the meeting introduced themselves in a *tour de table*.
12. Later in the meeting, Ms. Inger Andersen, IUCN Director-General and UNEP Executive Director-designate, addressed the meeting. She noted that we have a one-time opportunity to deliver an effective policy framework for the next 10 years with SMARTer targets. She highlighted the challenge of protecting biodiversity while at the same time providing enough food, energy and water for a growing population and the need to engage ministries of finance and of sectors such as agriculture so that all stakeholders, at technical and decision-making levels, understand and address the matter. She indicated that UNEP would further integrate biodiversity into its other work programmes and would proactively support the post-2020 process.
13. H.E. Dr. Yasmine Fouad chaired the meeting until 5 p.m., when she had to leave to return to Cairo. Mr. Hamdallah Zedan chaired the remainder of the meeting, as well as the joint meeting on Sunday, 17 March morning.

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

14. The Bureaux adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (CBD/Bureau/Joint/2019/1/1).

## **ITEM 3. OVERVIEW OF THE WORK PLAN OF THE BIENNIUM, FOCUSING ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE POST-2020 PROCESS**

15. The Executive Secretary outlined the main outcomes of the UN Biodiversity Conference, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt 2018 (including the decisions of the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the 3rd 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, as well as the outcome of the high-level segment, and, as appropriate, other parallel events). In her presentation, she made an overview of the resulting work programme for the biennium, including the preparatory process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. She noted the very large number of meetings already planned for the biennium. It was also noted that the volume of work in this biennium is much larger than before given the establishment of the OEWG as an additional subsidiary body to prepare the post-2020, and the high number of additional meetings and documents that the Secretariat has to prepare; at the same time no additional human resources had been allocated to the Secretariat, and thus its capacity is overstretched.
16. The Executive Secretary noted that the formal negotiations would be undertaken through the Open-Ended Working Group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as through other intersessional intergovernmental subsidiary bodies for the preparatory process (WG8J, SBSTTA and SBI). These negotiations would be informed, on the one hand by inputs from Parties and observers by way of submissions and through regional and thematic consultations, and on the other hand through evidence provided through the national reports and scientific assessments, including GBO 5. National voluntary contributions and the *Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda* would help to catalyse action in support of the future framework while the High-Level Panel and events, such as the Nature Summit at the UN General Assembly 2020, would enhance political awareness and ambition. The Executive Secretary noted that the web platform for the Action Agenda is available on the CBD website at: <https://www.cbd.int/action-agenda/>. Bureau members were encouraged to invite Parties and other stakeholders in their respective regions to start populating the platform with voluntary contributions. Regarding the High-Level Panel, the Executive Secretary asked the Bureaux's guidance on the form and

purpose of the High-Level Panel, its composition, and also funding sources, given that this activity has not been budgeted at COP 14.

17. The Co-chairs of the Working Group for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework presented an overview of their work and presented their views concerning the future process, some ideas for a possible structure of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and a tentative schedule of meetings of the Working Group. They proposed to hold four meetings of the Working Group and to establish sub-groups as necessary to conduct negotiations. Members of the Bureaux expressed their appreciation to the Co-chairs for their work and for the presentation. They also expressed their appreciation to Norway and Switzerland for providing funding support for thematic consultations on the evidence base and on synergies among conventions, respectively. Finally, they noted that the work to be undertaken by the Secretariat during the biennium was going to be “enormous” and underlined the need to “take care about each other in this process.”

18. Regarding the preparatory process, the following points were noted:

(a) A logical roadmap for the preparation of the framework is needed to ensure that a complete final draft can be prepared in time for COP 15, and in this regard there is a need to engage expertise in strategic planning;

(b) Additional meetings of the OEWG may be required early in the biennium. However, the need to have a balanced approach regarding the number of meetings of the OEWG was emphasized, taking into account the capacity constraints of the Secretariat which has to manage a very heavy agenda already and service all CBD processes and subsidiary bodies. Further, it also noted the funding constraints (Parties approved budget only for two OEWG meetings) and also the human resources constraints and the limited capacity of some Parties. Bureau members expressed the view that each OEWG session would need to be carefully calibrated against precise negotiations objectives. The need for efficient sequencing of meetings held under and outside of the CBD was further noted;

(c) Other intersessional intergovernmental subsidiary bodies (WG8J, SBSTTA and SBI) have a complementary role to that of the OEWG on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. While some tasks had already been allocated by COP,<sup>3</sup> some flexibility would be needed in allocating tasks among the various bodies. The Chairs of SBSTTA and SBI reaffirmed their willingness to help and highlighted the need to work together in a coherent and complementary manner to respond to COP requests in the best way possible;

(d) The thematic consultations are as important as the regional consultations. It was suggested that it would be good to have thematic consultative workshops on all the five main drivers of biodiversity loss, in addition to consultations on the key means of implementation, such as resource mobilization and capacity-building;

(e) The need to have the relevant discussion papers ready by the time actual negotiations start;

(f) The need for flexibility during the process.

(g) The need to undertake a gap analysis and to use the review of implementation of the current Strategic Plan to identify what worked, what did not, and why;

(h) Clear and effective communication to all stakeholders is important. We need to effectively engage the public, youth and other stakeholders, speaking with one voice, to raise the profile of the CBD agenda without creating uncertainty. We also need to talk to people outside the CBD process – need to know what the public thinks;

(i) Effective engagement of and closer linkages with other biodiversity-related conventions are crucial. The engagement should go beyond simply participating in other conventions’ COP and meetings. Those conventions will play an essential part both in the preparation and implementation of the post-2020 framework. The thematic meeting hosted by Switzerland on synergies among conventions should thus be used to develop such greater engagement with the biodiversity-related conventions;

---

<sup>3</sup> A summary is provided in CBD/post2020/prep/1.

(j) The need to reach consensus on the content of the draft framework, as much as possible, prior to COP 15 so that Parties will not have to decide on all matters during the COP 15 meeting itself. This point was underlined by the representative of China, incoming COP 15 Presidency.

19. Regarding the design of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the following points were noted:

- (a) The need for a structure of the framework that makes it easy to follow and communicate;
- (b) The need to distinguish clearly between 2050 Vision, mission, objectives, targets and indicators. We need systematic process of identifying and defining concrete targets;
- (c) The need for a phased approach and clarity on what we wish to achieve during each phase, e.g. “back casting” from the 2050 Vision, with milestones for 2030;
- (d) The new framework should facilitate mainstreaming and should include elements to address the root causes of biodiversity loss. Bureaux members noted that the post-2020 is an opportunity to build a narrative on nature and not only on technical issues to be negotiated. It is an occasion to link nature with other organizations and frameworks under negotiations such as chemicals and plastic pollutions, agriculture, waste managements;
- (e) The framework needs to be science-based and should be informed by scenarios (including the conclusions of SBSTTA in this respect);
- (f) The framework should include effective means of implementation, including capacity-building and resource mobilization; we need a systematic assessment of the resources required;
- (g) The message from COP 14 is clear in that we are not expected to do “more of the same” in designing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, that we have a unique opportunity to “think outside the box”.

20. The Secretariat also made available preliminary lists of items for the provisional agendas for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, and the 4th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, as well as draft agendas and annotations for the meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, and the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions. The two Bureaux formally considered the agendas for the intersessional meetings at their respective meetings on 16 March.

#### **ITEM 4. OTHER MATTERS**

21. On Sunday, March 17, the Executive Secretary made a presentation on activities of the Secretariat during the first two years of her mandate, focussing on efforts to raise awareness and promote high-level political and business engagement in the work of the Convention. The presentation was accompanied by a written report that was made available to the members of the Bureaux.

22. The report sparked a vivid discussion and was very well received. The Bureaux members congratulated the Executive Secretary on the richness of achievements and noted with appreciation that the report is very helpful in providing a synthetic overview of the activity, noting that the pro-active initiative of the Executive Secretary should be replicated by other MEAs. One Bureau member, appreciating the high quality of the document, inquired whether a consultant was hired to produce the activity report and wanted to know how much it cost. The Executive Secretary clarified that she wrote the report herself and colleagues in the Secretariat helped edit it in professional graphics, thus, it had no costs to the budget. Bureau members asked to be provided with a copy of the report, to share with their constituencies.

#### **ITEM 5. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

23. The meeting closed at 5:30 p.m. The Bureaux of the COP and SBSTTA will hold a final joint session on the morning of 17 March 2019.