



# Convention on Biological Diversity

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

Fourth meeting

Rome, 23 February and 25-29 February 2020

### REPORT OF THE MEETING

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The fourth inter-sessional meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties since the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and concurrent meetings of the Protocols in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt 2018, was held on 23 February 2020, in the Canada Room at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy

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

*Presidency:* Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (Egypt);

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

*Asia and the Pacific:* Ms. Leina Al-Awadhi (Kuwait); Mr. Vinod Mathur (India);

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

*Latin America and the Caribbean:* Ms. Eugenia Montezuma (Costa Rica, representing His Excellency Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez)<sup>1</sup> and Mr. Joaquin Salzberg (Argentina, substitute for Costa Rica in 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 and Mr. Hesiquio Benitez (Mexico), Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters;

Mr. Francis Sabino Ogwal (Uganda) and Mr. Basile van Havre (Canada), Co-chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;

Observers: Ms. Zhu Baoying (China)<sup>2</sup>, COP 15 host representative; Mr. Neville Ash (UNEP)<sup>3</sup>;

Regrets were provided by Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda); and Mr. Dilovarsho Dustov (Tajikistan);

<sup>1</sup> H. E. Ms. Pamela Catillo, Vice Minister of Environment, was present from 25 to 27 February; H.E. Ambassador Federico Zamora was present from 28 to 29 February.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Sun Yangzhao was present from 26 to 28 February; Mr. Xia Yingxian was present on 29 February.

<sup>3</sup> Ms. Susan Gardener was present from 25 to 28 February.

3. Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Acting Executive Secretary, together with Mr. David Cooper (Deputy Executive Secretary), Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp (Director, Implementation Support Division), Mr. Alexander Shestakov (Director, Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division), Mr. Worku Yifru (Senior Legal Officer), Ms. Gudrun Fosse (Chief, Administration, Finance and Conference Services), Ms. Kathryn Garforth (Officer-in-Charge, Biosafety Unit) and Mr. David Ainsworth (Information Officer) were also present.

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

4. The meeting was opened at 9:10 a.m. on 23 February 2020 by Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, representing the President of the Conference of the Parties. Mr. Zedan welcomed the members of the Bureau and other participants. He recalled the teleconference of the Bureau held on 4 February 2020 in which the decision to move the second meeting of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020-2) from Kunming, China to Rome, Italy was discussed. He conveyed his appreciation to the Government of China for their efforts in preparing for WG2020-2 and to the Director General of FAO for accepting to host WG2020-2 at such short notice. Mr. Zedan also conveyed his deep appreciation to the Acting Executive Secretary and her team for the quick action to ensure the dates of WG2020-2 remained the same and for all logistical preparations associated with the change. Mr. Zedan reminded the Bureau members of the short time available for negotiations and regional groups encouraged to speak as a group to save time. He thanked the WG2020 Co-chairs for their commitment and dedication.

5. Ms. Mrema made brief opening remarks, thanking the COP Bureau, COP 15 Presidency and the staff for their support and hard work. She reminded the participants of the busy week ahead and how the thematic consultation that preceded the meeting contributed to the preparations. She urged the Bureau members to encourage, compromise and to show flexibility, with the aim of making progress during the WG2020-2. Ms. Mrema thanked her colleagues in the Secretariat for going the extra mile in keeping up with all the requests they were presented with.

6. Mr. Zedan assured the Acting Executive Secretary of the full support of the COP Presidency and the Bureau.

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

7. The Deputy Executive Secretary, upon the invitation of the Chair, introduced the provisional agenda and the annotations to the provisional agenda for its meeting prepared by the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Chair.

8. At the request of a Bureau member, it was agreed to consider an update on the communications strategy discussed under item 7, Other Matters.

9. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda as presented with this understanding.

#### **ITEM 3. PREPARATIONS FOR THE SECOND MEETING OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

10. The Secretariat introduced the documentation for the second meeting of the Working Group, which included the provisional agenda (CBD/WG2020/2/1) and the annotated provisional agenda (CBD/WG2020/2/1/add.1), a scenario note by the Co-chairs (CBD/WG2020/2/1/add.2), an overview of consultations that had been conducted and other contributions received regarding the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework since the second meeting of the Working Group (CBD/WG2020/2/2), the zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/WG2020/2/3), preliminary draft monitoring framework for the goals and preliminary draft monitoring framework for targets (CBD/WG2020/2/3/add.1), as well as a Glossary (CBD/WG2020/2/3/add.2).

11. The records of the Bureau teleconferences on 8 January, 4 and 17 February 2020 were made available to the Bureau and are annexed to the report of this meeting – Annex 1 of this report.

12. Mr. Basile van Havre and Mr. Francis Ogwal, Co-chairs of the Working Group, briefed the participants on their preparations. They explained a document that they distributed to the Bureau on the guidance for contact groups – Annex 2 of this report. The Chair then opened the floor for comments, and a detailed discussion was held on the above issues.<sup>4</sup>

13. The Bureau members agreed that it was important to allow delegates sufficient time to provide their general views on the zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. After Plenary on Monday morning, the WG2020 Co-chairs would then set-up the contact groups on the various issues giving guidance for each. It was agreed that the convening of contact groups in parallel should be avoided.

14. The COP Bureau members also agreed that during the opening plenary, regional groups would each have 6 minutes to deliver their statements, followed by 1 statement from each of the main stakeholder groups. Thereafter, regional groups would have 8 minutes to speak. If individual parties take the floor, they would have 4 mins each.

15. In addition, it was agreed that the reports from each contact group would be submitted to the plenary for its review.

16. As proposed by the Co-Chairs, it was agreed that the following delegates would serve as Co-Leads for the various contact groups:

- (a) Contact Group 1 (Goals): Rosemary Paterson (New Zealand) and Vinod Mathur (India)
- (b) Contact Group 2 (Targets 1- ): Wadzanayi Goredema-Mandivenyi (South Africa) and Gabriele Obermayr (Austria)
- (c) Contact Group 3 (Targets 1-): Anne Teller (European Union) and Jorge Murillo (Colombia)
- (d) Contact Group 4 (Targets 1- and sections E, F, G, and H of the draft): Charlotta Sörqvist (Sweden) and Teona Karchava (Georgia).

17. Upon the suggestion by the Chair, and taking into account the absence at WG2020-2 of Ms. Helena Jeffrey Brown, the Bureau member from Antigua and Barbuda, it was agreed that Ms. Leina Al-Awadhi would be the rapporteur of the meeting. This was welcomed by all Bureau members.

18. The Bureau met each morning, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., from 25 to 29 February 2020, to review progress in the meeting and to finalize the work plan for each day, including arrangements for plenary sessions and contact groups. Updates were provided by the Co-Chairs, the Co-Leads of the various contact groups, as appropriate, and the secretariat.

19. On 26 February, representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities participated in part of the Bureau meeting to exchange views with the members of the Bureau concerning the organization of the meetings. These included Mr. Aslak Holmberg- Artic, Ms. Yolanda Teran- Latin America and the Caribbean, Ms. Abigael Kitman – Asia, Ms. Lucy Mullenkei- Africa, Mr. Keneth Paul- North America, Ms. Polina Shulbaeva – Russia and Ms. Chrissy Grant- Pacific

20. At the meeting on 28 February 2020, the Co-Chairs presented scenarios for the work plan between WG2020-2 and WG2020-3 including a possible option to postpone WG2020-3 by one week. Following regional consultations, the Bureau agreed, on 29 February, that this would be a desirable scenario, subject to the agreement of the Government of Colombia. The Co-chairs proposed that WG2020-3 be held over six days.

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<sup>4</sup> The document presented by the Co-Chairs, revised following these discussions in the Bureau, is annexed to this report.

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

21. Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist, the Chairperson of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, introduced item 4 on preparations for the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 3).

22. Ms. Sörqvist was pleased to report that the preparations for the SBI were well underway in close coordination with the Secretariat.

23. It would have 17 agenda items. Pre-session documents would contain recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and/or to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing. The agenda and annotated agenda of SBI 3 were now available online. Approximately 18 documents, some with addenda, were being developed for the consideration by Parties and will be posted six weeks in advance as per the SBI rules. However, two documents, “Assessment and Review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol” and its addenda, and the “Draft Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol and Capacity-Building Action Plan (2021-2030)” would be delayed as they are dependent on the Compliance Committee and the Liaison Group meetings which would take place on 15-23 April 2020.

24. Ms. Sörqvist reminded the COP Bureau that SBI 3 was scheduled to take place over six days. It would include a trial phase of an Open-ended Forum for review of implementation on agenda item 9 (Mechanisms for reporting, assessment and review of implementation) scheduled for Wednesday afternoon, 27 May 2020. Following the notification on 6 January 2020 in which Parties were invited to express their interest in participating in this trial phase by 31 January 2020, the Secretariat had received expressions of interest from Africa, Asia and Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions. Ms. Sörqvist encouraged the WEOG region to also send in their expressions of interest to the Secretariat as soon as possible. Ms. Sörqvist would have bilateral discussions later this week to identify a facilitator for the forum.

25. At its meetings on 28 February 2020, Ms. Sörqvist informed the COP bureau that she had been successful in identifying two facilitators for the forum – Ms. Rosemary Patterson and Mr. Alfred Oteng-Yeboah.

#### **ITEM 5. UPDATE ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION, TENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL, AND THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL, AS WELL AS THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THESE MEETINGS (THE UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE 2020)**

26. At the invitation of the Chair, Ms. Zhu Baoying, the representative of COP-15 host, China, updated the Bureau on the progress in China’s preparations for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Protocols. Ms. Baoying informed the Bureau that the theme and logo of the COP had been launched during high-level events, with the participation of the Minister of Ecology and Environment of China in September 2019, and in January 2020 with the participation of the Acting Executive Secretary. In addition, the third site visit to the venue was held in January 2020 by a team from the Secretariat. She also informed the Bureau that the COP 15 dates of 15 to 28 October 2020 had been confirmed. The dates for the High-level Segment were still being finalized by the Government. Ms. Zhu noted that the various departments at the different levels of Government were showing great enthusiasm towards the hosting of COP 15.

27. Ms. Zhu explained China’s determination to fully participate in WG2020-2; the Deputy Permanent Representative of China to UNEP would participate in WG2020-2 and ensure productive discussions on the Zero draft. She also confirmed that the Government of China would take part in the remaining consultations and contribute to the finalization of the framework.

28. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the Government of China was making all efforts to fight the epidemic and would do their best to fulfil their obligations to ensure that COP 15 would take place as planned.

29. The Chair expressed his confidence that COP 15 would take place as planned.

30. The Acting Executive Secretary gave an update on her recent visit to Beijing and Kunming and expressed how impressed she was to find the facilities ready for the end of February meeting, including the training of over 400 volunteers, room signs and so. She reiterated that she looks forward to COP 15 and thanked China for all their efforts to not only fight the virus but in preparing for COP 15.

31. A Bureau member congratulated the Government of China on all the preparations and inquired on the dates for the High-Level Segment, to which the Acting Executive Secretary stated that they were still under discussion but would most probably be during the second week of COP.

32. The Acting Executive Secretary stated that the consultations on the Biodiversity Summit dates, scope and methodology, which would be held during the UN General Assembly in September 2020, were still being worked out by Italy and Costa Rica, the co-facilitators appointed by the President of the General Assembly. Discussions are also still ongoing on whether the outcome of the Summit will be a negotiated text or a report from the Chair.

33. The Deputy Executive Secretary reminded the Bureau of the list of items to be discussed at COP 15, which had been shared at the first meeting of the Bureau in March 2019. Intersessional discussions would be needed on the provisional agenda for COP 15, which would be circulated to the COP Bureau in the coming weeks. Thereafter, further discussions would be required on its annotations.

34. At the meeting of the Bureau on 29 February, Mr. Xia Yingxian, the representative of the COP 15 Presidency provided an update on the preparations for COP 15 reiterating the investment put into the planning and organization of COP 15 by both the federal and provincial governments. He confirmed the Government of China's commitment to the convening of COP 15 at the highest level and looked forward to welcoming all in China.

#### **ITEM 6. UPDATE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS**

35. The Secretariat provided a briefing on the status of the following voluntary trust funds: the Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BE) for the Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities for the Biennium 2019-2020, the Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BZ) for Facilitating Participation of Parties in the Convention Process for the 2019-2020 Biennium, and the Voluntary Trust Fund (VB) for Facilitating Participation of Indigenous People and Local Communities in the Convention Process for the 2019-2020 Biennium. Reference was made to the information document prepared for the Bureau meeting follow up on to COP decision 14/37 (CBD/COP/Bur/2020/1/2/INF/1)

36. The Secretariat briefed the COP Bureau that as of 31 December 2019, 88 countries had not paid pledges for 2018 and prior year for the Convention, 79 for the Cartagena Protocol and 56 for the Nagoya Protocol. This was reflected in Table 1 of the information documents.

37. The Secretariat also gave an update that USD 6,748,329 had been received by Parties for the BE Trust Fund Since the documentation had been compiled, the Secretariat had received confirmation of a pledge from Switzerland of USD 22,600 for the participation and organization of the AHTEG on Risk Assessment and Risk Management to be held in Montreal in March 2020.

38. The Secretariat also referred to Table 3 of the information document, with regards to the BZ Trust Fund, and stated that an amount of USD 1,126,216 had been received for travel of representatives of Parties from least developed countries and small island developing States. In its decision 14/37, the COP had requested the Executive Secretary to present a proposal for adoption at COP 15 to revise the structure and rules relating to the BZ Trust Fund in order to address the perennial problem of lack of predictable and sustainable funding, and to ensure that the fund was focused on providing funding for the countries that are most in need of assistance.

39. An update on the status of the Trust Fund for facilitating the participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the Convention process was provided, as demonstrated in Table 4 of the information document, showing that funds totalling USD \$306,000 had been received as of 14 February 2020.

40. With regards to other matters relating to COP decision 14/37, the Acting Executive Secretary confirmed that the Secretariat continued to work with the Government of Canada as host country with regard to the extension of the host country grant for the rent and associated costs of the Secretariat office space in Montreal, with the aim of finalizing it prior to the end of March 2020.

41. The Acting Executive Secretary also provided an update on the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) audit of the Secretariat that was requested by COP, which covered the period from January 2016 to May 2019. Table 5 of the information document provided details on audit recommendations 8 and 10, which are due on 1 March 2020 while the other recommendations and their status are annexed to this report. The COP Bureau was also informed that the UN Board of Auditors (from Chile) visited the Secretariat from 13 January to 5 February 2020 to review the mandate, structure and functions of the CBD Secretariat, such as the regulatory framework and the delegation of authority, the CBD programme of work and programmatic areas, as well as fund management and the use of consultants and individual contractors. The findings will be issued in a Management Letter and will be part of the audit of UNEP financial statements due to be published in the summer of 2020.

42. Lastly, in decision 14/37, the Secretariat note that COP approved an amount of USD 1,310,000 for two stand-alone extraordinary meetings of 5 days each plus 2 days extra for SBSTTA 23. Table 7 provides an overview of the expenses related to the three meetings of the WG2020. With the recent change in venue for WG2020-2, it is estimated that the additional costs for the Secretariat amounted to USD 527,000. This update was provided to the COP bureau at its meeting on 29 February 2020.

43. A Bureau member thanked the Secretariat for the information document and for making it available on the CBD website, and requested the Secretariat to also provide information on the amount of funds used in the BZ fund and the current remaining balance.

44. The Chair requested the Acting Executive Secretary to provide the COP Bureau with a quarterly update on the status of the audit recommendations.

45. At its meeting on 29 February 2020, the Acting Executive Secretary briefed the Bureau on the activities underway to prepare the budget for 2021-2022, including responding to audit recommendation and COP 14 requests for a result-based budget. She also proposed to have an informal consultation at the margins of SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3, where representatives would be invited to review a draft budget document. The Secretariat reminded the Bureau of the analysis carried out for SBI-2 on the future of the trust funds.

46. In response to the request made at the meeting on 23 February 2020, the Secretariat provided an update on the status of the BZ and VB funds indicating balance available and a call for additional funds to support participation for the upcoming meetings.

47. Two members conveyed their appreciation to the Secretariat for the update on the Budget preparations and welcomed the approach through an informal consultation.

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

48. Following a request from the Bureau member from Austria, the Secretariat's Information Officer, Mr. David Ainsworth, was invited to provide an update on the Communication Strategy for 2020.

49. Mr. Ainsworth highlighted the activities planned for the "super year" of biodiversity 2020, as well as the development of a strategy to accompany the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The latter would be a document prepared for SBI 3. The Bureau members were reminded that they had an opportunity to review the Communication Strategy for 2020 in November 2019, and thereafter it was discussed at an informal meeting with major actors at the margins

of SBSTTA-23. The document would be finalized in March 2020 before a communication meeting to be held in Berlin, after which the formal document would be unrolled.

50. Mr. Ainsworth also described the positive feedback received for the 2020 resolution campaign which had videos from the UN Secretary-General, the Executive Director of UNEP, and the Administrator of UNDP, among other prominent figures. He also informed about the fruitful discussions ongoing with UNEP for World Environment Day, which would focus this year on biodiversity, and the plans to hold the Champions of the Earth event at the margins of the High-Level Segment of COP 15. Following the release of the zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the launch of the COP 15 logo in early January 2020, the CBD had an increased attention from the media with over 350 million people reached.

51. A media briefing was convened on 21 February 2020, with the participation of the WG2020 Co-chairs, the Acting Executive Secretary and the Deputy Executive Secretary of CBD, as well as the Executive Secretary of IPBES, which resulted in the publication of media pieces on 24 January 2020 by Associated Press, Agence France-Presse and Thomson Reuters, among others. During the media briefing, a pre-launch of GBO-5 was presented and will culminate with the launch of GBO-5 at the margins of SBSTTA-24, during the Biodiversity Week, a week planned to commemorate the International Day for Biological Diversity with a number of activities.

52. The representative of UNEP suggested that information on the COVID-19 virus be made available to the participants of the meeting, taking into account the recent outbreak in Northern Italy.<sup>5</sup> An update was made by the Secretariat at the Bureau meeting on 26 February.

53. In response to a query from a Bureau member regarding clarification on the list of Parties represented at the recent workshop on EBSA, in particular the balance in participation of Parties and organizations, the Secretariat confirmed that the number of Parties was more than 50% of the total participation. The WG2020 Co-chairs ensured that there was regional balance at all the thematic consultations convened on the post-2020 process.

54. At the meeting on 28 February 2020, the representative from UNEP gave an update on the outcomes of the meeting of the Environment Management Group which met on 27 February 2020 at the margins of the WG2020-2. She confirmed the support and enthusiasm of the UN Agencies present at the EMG meeting in the post-2020 process and proposed the development of an action plan to assist the Parties in the implementation of the global biodiversity framework after its adoption at COP 15.

55. At the meeting on 28 February 2020, the representative from Africa presented a request from his region, to request the availability of translation at the daily regional group meetings to allow better participation of the francophone delegates. This was reiterated by the representatives from the CEE and GRULAC regions for their specific language requirements.

56. A request from a Bureau member to have the visa letters issued two months in advance of the upcoming meetings in Montreal, due to the processing time required for Canadian visas.

57. A Bureau member expressed her thanks to the Secretariat for their hard work with which she was impressed.

## **ITEM 8. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

58. The Chair thanked the Bureau members and other participants for their constructive engagement and valuable contributions to the work of the Bureau and closed the meeting of 23 February at 1:35 p.m. and the final meeting on 29 February 2020 at 10:25 a.m.

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<sup>5</sup> Subsequently, a message was circulated to all participants on 23 February 2020 and on 24, 27, 28 and 29 February, the Secretariat provided updates at the plenary sessions.

**Annex 1**

**FIRST TELECONFERENCE OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE  
OF THE PARTIES IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD**

**WG2020 Co-chairs' briefing on the Zero-Draft**

**8 January 2020, 7:15am EST**

**Participants**

*Presidency:* Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (Egypt);

*Africa:* Mr. Melesse Maryo (Ethiopia);

*Asia and the Pacific:* Mr. Vinod Mathur (India);

*Central and Eastern Europe:* Ms. Teona Karchava (Georgia);

*Latin America and the Caribbean:* Ms. Helena Jeffrey Brown (Antigua and Barbuda), and Mr. Joaquín Salzberg (Argentina, substitute for Costa Rica in matters related to the Nagoya Protocol);

*Western Europe and Others:* Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria), Ms. Rosemary Paterson (New Zealand), and 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; Mr. Francis Sabino Ogwal (Uganda) and Mr. Basile Van Havre (Canada), Co-chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;

*COP 15 Presidency:* Ms. Jing Xu (China); Ms. Zou Yeuyu (China);

*Secretariat:* Ms. Elizabeth Mrema (Acting Executive Secretary), Mr. David Cooper (Deputy Executive Secretary); Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp (Director of Implementation Support Division), Mr. Alexander Shestakov (Director of Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division).

**1. Key Points**

- Bureau members had comments and requested clarification on a number of issues. The Co-chairs responded to the comments and questions accordingly:
  - Mainstreaming: It was noted that many people have called for mainstreaming to have a prominent role in the Global Biodiversity Framework and some suggested that it should not be only be in the “Tools and Solutions” section, but that there should perhaps be a goal on mainstreaming. Some cautioned against linking mainstreaming to values which might give the idea it gives it a more economic perspective. The Co-chairs reminded the Bureau that as mentioned at the informal briefing at SBSTTA23, mainstreaming would be an overall approach, that is the reason why there is no actual target on mainstreaming. We introduced specific targets around mainstreaming in target 14. If there is a need to reinforce this, it was suggested to do so at WG2020-2.
  - Implementation, enabling, responsibility and accountability do not have action targets. The reasons for doing so is because thematic workshops have not happened yet on those elements and the Co-chairs do not want to prejudge outcomes. Action targets to be related to the elements of the goals, trying to keep some simplicity and avoid too many targets.
  - Area-based conservation measures and land-use measures: Co-chairs acknowledged that the structure might appear to be complex. The draft text is an attempt to cover many important areas with different numerical values for retaining ecosystems, protected areas,

areas for strict protection (the Co-chairs heard many Parties talking about land and sea and they often mentioned 30%). Co-chairs understand there are different categories and different ways to protect.

- The Co-Chairs have tried to reflect the written forms of restoration, oceans and ABCM consultations to the best of their abilities in the zero-draft. Some thematic consultations are still required to take place.
  - Access and benefit sharing: Some people have suggested that there is no clear relation to 3rd objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the draft. However, there are both goals and targets in this regard included in the draft text. The Co-Chairs would take into account the comment made regarding the “access” element not reflected sufficiently. Comment needs to be taken on in WG2020-2.
  - Meeting people’s needs: Co-chairs wanted to acknowledge the 2 sides to sustainable use: addressing unsustainable use (limiting impact on nature) and ensure nature meets people needs (food, shelter, mitigating disasters etc.).
  - Call for submissions are to ensure Parties and Co-chairs have reactions to the draft and shape the dialogue for the coming meetings.
  - Paris agreement: Co-Chairs felt that climate change was identified as pressure on nature and important to make a reference to the agreement. However, they acknowledge that there are already goals in those agreements. The IPBES Global Assessment had established that nature can provide a large portion of the solution to climate change and important to ensure there was some mention to this.
  - The Co-Chairs also emphasized that they wanted to ensure that the framework would be very relevant for other MEA’s and that many stakeholders could connect to this Global Biodiversity Framework. They would like to go beyond the CBD whilst at the same time making it relevant to CBD.
- The Co-Chairs then proceeded to brief the Bureau on the proposed organization of WG2020-2 indicating that they intended to minimize plenary and maximize contact groups and have single contact groups. There might be exceptions for limited technical issues to be addressed in parallel (max 2) contact groups. They proposed to circulate in advance a schedule that will guide participants in preparing, including a list of questions to guide the discussion. Bureau members indicated that it would be important to avoid parallel contact groups where possible.
  - For WG2020-2 Co-Chairs would encourage discussion on the overall approach, structure and concept of targets rather than the specifics content.
  - The Co-chairs indicated that they would elaborate more on details regarding timing later.
  - Regarding the organization of work at WG2020-2: need very clear vision of what the outcome is, the possibility of having questions is a good idea and should arrive to a common understanding on several elements.
  - Some members of the Bureau sought clarity on how the text and views would be captured during WG2020-2. Through text-based negotiation process or not? The Co-Chairs indicated that they had found the format used in the contact groups at SBSTTA to be useful. They found that with text people focus too much on which words are missing rather than concepts. The Bureau might want to give advice. The Co-Chairs wanted to make sure we have the best outcomes and will see accordingly best fit for negotiations.
  - Communication work: it was decided that it would be good to have an update on what is being done from the communications team at WG2020-2 and for the Bureau.
  - Bureau members enquired how would items not yet discussed in thematic consultations be covered? The Co-chairs indicated that issues for which there is a planned thematic workshop or consultation that has not yet been held, or for which inputs from SBSTTA or SBI are expected, would need to be addressed to allow for further discussion at WG2020-3. It would be important

to let the consultation process be completed, and also for SBSTTA and SBI to provide their inputs, and therefore discussions on these items should not be concluded at WG2020-2.

- In response to enquiries from Bureau members, the Co-chairs indicated that the list of future meetings would be updated.

Teleconference ended at 8:50am EST

## **SECOND TELECONFERENCE OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD**

### **Briefing on the relocation of the second meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework**

**4 February 2020, 8:00am EST**

#### **Participants**

*Presidency:* Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (Egypt)

*Africa:* Mr. Eric Okoree (Ghana);

*Asia and the Pacific:* Mr. Vinod Mathur (India);

*Central and Eastern Europe:* Ms. Teona Karchava (Georgia);

*Latin America and the Caribbean:* His Excellency Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez (Costa Rica), Ms. Helena Jeffrey Brown (Antigua and Barbuda), and Mr. Joaquín Salzberg (Argentina, substitute for Costa Rica in matters related to the Nagoya Protocol);

*Western Europe and Others:* Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria); and 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; Mr. Francis Sabino Ogwal (Uganda) and Mr. Basile Van Havre (Canada), Co-chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;

*COP 15 Presidency:* Mr. Liu Ning (China);

*Secretariat:* Ms. Elizabeth Maruma-Mrema, Acting Executive Secretary; Mr. David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary; and Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Director of Implementation Support Division.

*Regrets* were provided by Ms. Rosemary Paterson (New Zealand) and Mr. Melesse Maryo (Ethiopia)

#### **Key Points**

- The teleconference was opened by the Chair, Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, representative of the President of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Chair expressed sympathy for the ongoing health crisis that the Government of China is currently experiencing, as well as expressed his full appreciation to them for their efforts in the organization of the WG2020-2 and their agreement to relocate the meeting to another venue. He also thanked the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for accepting to host the second meeting of the WG2020. The Chair advised the Bureau that the dates for the WG2020-2 remained the same and highlighted the importance of this due to the busy year ahead, which is full of meetings and important events. He then invited the Acting Executive Secretary to provide the bureau with a briefing on the choice of alternative venue and implications.
- The Acting Executive Secretary also expressed her sympathies to the Government of China for the unfortunate situation regarding the Coronavirus outbreak and recognized the outstanding efforts of the Government of China, the Province of Yunnan and the City of Kunming regarding the preparations for the meeting. She noted that the priority was to ensure a successful COP 15 in Kunming and therefore it is important that the Post-2020 process and other preparations proceed without further disruption.

- She then indicated that the Secretariat has been working in close consultation with the focal points in China, the President of the COP Bureau, the Co-chairs, as well as WHO, UNDSS, UNEP and the UN Resident Coordinator in Beijing. Ms. Mrema emphasized the need to act as fast as possible in arranging an alternative venue in order to maintain the dates of the meeting. She informed the Bureau of the actions taken by the Secretariat in response to the situation including posting and updating the information note on the meeting website, issuing a notification regarding the new venue, and immediately reissuing funding and visa letters. The Secretariat also issued a call for financial contributions as this change in venue was unforeseen and has the possibility of affecting future meetings.
- In terms of the choice of venue, the Acting Executive Secretary advised the Bureau that the Secretariat had explored a number of UN facilities including Montreal, Nairobi, Rome and Geneva. Bangkok was not explored due to the proximity to the outbreak. Offers from the Governments of Switzerland and Costa Rica were also received and considered. The Secretariat established a series of criteria in order to select the optimal venue including a.) maintaining the same dates to avoid additional disruption to delegates and the need to re-register delegates, as well as to avoid delays in the Post-2020 process; b.) preference for a UN Venue as they are already equipped for intergovernmental meetings and no additional Host Government Agreement would be needed; c.) timely issuance of visas; and d.) travel time for participants. The Food and Agriculture Organization made its facilities available on the basis that the meeting would be considered a FAO meeting, which would have a reduced cost implication and enhanced protocol support for the issuance of visas.
- Members of the Bureau joined the Chair and the Acting Executive Secretary in expressing their sympathies and appreciation to the Government of China for their efforts in the preparation for the WG2020-2, as well as expressed support for a successful COP 15 in Kunming later this year.
- Members of the Bureau also expressed satisfaction with the quick action and decision made to relocate the venue of the WG2020-2. They thanked the Secretariat, Presidency and Co-chairs for ensuring the dates remained the same and noted satisfaction for the venue chosen in Rome. They also thanked the Governments of Switzerland and Costa Rica for offering to host the meeting. In addressing the issue of funding, the Bureau requested more information on the additional costs that will arise due to the relocation of WG2020-2.
- The representative of China thanked the Bureau for their sympathy and support and assured them that the Government of China is working very hard to control the situation, expecting that there should not be any problems for COP 15 in Kunming. He also indicated that they would be willing to host an additional meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group, if necessary. Finally, he requested support for the Chinese delegation's visa issuance to Italy for the upcoming WG2020-2.
- The Co-chairs of the Open-Ended Working Groups then briefed the Bureau on the ongoing preparations for the second meeting of the WG2020. They reported that they have been doing regional briefings and receiving very good feedback from the regions. They advised the Bureau of a briefing note that they are currently preparing and hope to circulate by the end of the week, and which will include several items on the WG2020-2. Upon the request of the Bureau on clarification of how the WG2020-2 was envisioned to unfold, the Co-chairs informed the Bureau that they are proposing to maximize the use of contact groups, having them in sequence rather than in parallel, and they expect four contact groups to take place. They would also like to call upon colleagues to chair the contacts groups as this helps with ownership of the process. Regarding the potential outcomes, they envision three possible outcomes: a.) an ideal outcome where there is consensus on the language; b.) one where there is some minor disagreement and more to discussion to be held expressed in bracketed text; and c.) significant disagreement between Parties in which case they would like to get a clear mandate to draft a subsequent version for WG2020-3. All these elements and details will be provided in the briefing note.

- The Bureau member from Ghana informed the Bureau of a meeting held last week by the Africa region negotiators to look at the zero draft and to study issues that needed further consideration. He indicated that a brief report has been sent to the Co-chairs.
- The Chair thanked the members of the Bureau for their comments, re-emphasized the support and solidarity with the Government of China, and requested the Secretariat to provide a cost breakdown for holding the WG2020-2 in Rome for the information of the Bureau. He also requested the Secretariat continue liaising with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to facilitate the issuance of visas and thanked the Acting Executive Secretary for the briefing.
- The Acting Executive Secretary indicated that the Secretariat will prepare more detailed information regarding the additional budget needed for the meeting in Rome. As cost implications are still coming in, she expects that by the time of the meeting, the Secretariat will have a better picture of the financial requirements. The note will be provided at the next meeting of the Bureau to be held right before the opening of WG2020-2.
- The teleconference ended at 9:45 a.m.

## **THIRD TELECONFERENCE OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD**

### **Briefing on the second meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020-2)**

**17 February 2020, 8:00am EST**

#### **Participants**

*Presidency:* Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (Egypt)

*Africa:* Mr. Eric Okoree (Ghana);

*Central and Eastern Europe:* Ms. Teona Karchava (Georgia);

*Latin America and the Caribbean:* Ms. Eugenia Arguedas (Costa Rica), and Mr. Joaquín Salzberg (Argentina, substitute for Costa Rica in matters related to the Nagoya Protocol);

*Western Europe and Others:* Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria); and 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 (SBI); Mr. Hesiquio Benitez (Mexico), Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA); Mr. Francis Sabino Ogwal (Uganda) and Mr. Basile Van Havre (Canada), Co-chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;

*Secretariat:* Mr. David Cooper (Deputy Executive Secretary); Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp (Director of Implementation Support Division)

*Regrets* were provided by Mr. Vinod Mathur (India) and Ms. Rosemary Paterson (New Zealand)

#### **Key Discussion Points**

- The teleconference was opened by the Chair, Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, representative of the President of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and gave the floor to Mr. Basile Van Havre, Co-chair of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
- The Co-chair provided a brief overview of the draft scenario note that had been circulated and suggested the note be made available to the participants as soon as possible. He indicated they plan to use the same format as in Nairobi in terms of timing of statements with the intention of maximizing the time for contact groups. He indicated that there is an expectation that the reports of the contact groups would be attached to the report of the meeting. In terms of the next steps, there are very important roles for SBSTTA and SBI and each would be discussing crucial elements (SBSTTA to work on indicators and SBI on means of implementation, capacity building, among others). Once this is done, the co-chairs would move to prepare the document for the third meeting of the WG2020.
- The WG2020-2 now has close to 1000 participants registered, and the Co-chair expressed confidence that they would be ready for the meeting.
- Bureau members provided comments and requested clarification on a number of issues. The Co-chairs and Secretariat responded to the points raised by members of the Bureau accordingly:
  - As suggested, the time for opening regional and group statements in plenary would be shortened to 5 minutes.

- The discussion of means of implementation and the sections on issues other than goals and targets would be difficult to schedule in advance full sessions for these, as we are still moving through the thematic consultations. There will be informal discussions during lunchtime, but these have to go through SBSTTA and SBI before it goes to the WG2020. This meeting should focus on the package of targets that came from the thematic consultations that took place in October, November and December.
- In terms of outcome, it will be necessary to have a mandate in order to create a new draft and this needs to be done through the report of the meeting. The reason there is a longer schedule on Friday and Saturday is to allow Parties to review the reports with more time.
- The scenario note would be revised with a view to clarify the timing and scope of the contact groups so that delegations would be well informed of the timing. The scope of the contact groups is outlined in the scenario note and are expected to be as follows: 1.) Goals, Mission and other cross cutting and coordination issues (e.g. decisions, gaps, and overlap between targets); 2.) Action targets related to threats; 3.) Action targets related to the sustainable use and 4.) Action targets related to solutions. But they agreed to not provide that level of detail in the general table.
- Regarding the future workplan for the post 2020 process, the Co-Chairs referred to document CBD/WG2020/2/2 supporting agenda item 3 and indicated that the workplan on the website would be updated.
- The Co-chairs agreed that there needs to be a very clear mandate coming from the WG2020 to SBSTTA and SBI, therefore the Bureau will need to discuss this in person next week.
- As for the lunchtime information sessions, these are informal in nature. In Nairobi there were a number of informal sessions and there were positive comments on this format, so it was included for this meeting. At the request of some Parties, an informal session on DSI was deemed useful so it was included for Tuesday.
- Per standard practice, rooms for regional consultations will be made available on Sunday prior to the start of the meeting, each morning, and as otherwise needed.
- The Secretariat reminded the Bureau that in terms of expected outcomes of the meeting, there were elements of a decision in the zero draft. The draft decision also makes reference to SBSTTA and SBI. The Secretariat noted a concern with the timetable of the plenaries and suggested to be prepared in the eventuality of a longer plenary on Tuesday. It envisions a possible request for a stock-taking plenary, as well as suggested an earlier start of the last plenary to allow more time to write the report.
- The teleconference ended at 9:10 a.m.

**Annex 2****CBD – P2020 – WG2020-2 - Guidance for Contact Group Co-Leads**

1. Negotiations in contact groups (CGs) will follow the regular CBD practice (a) Parties generally speak first; (b) observers can participate and intervene at the discretion of the Co-Leads; (c) any proposals from observers will be further considered only if supported by one or more Parties.
2. The outcome of each CG, their report, will be reviewed by plenary and subsequently annexed to the report of the WG2020-2.
3. Plenary meetings will review the outcomes of each CG, considering them with a view to ensure that they accurately and fairly reflect the discussions and the overall level of agreement/disagreement reached. It is not envisaged that the Plenary would further negotiate the outcomes of the CGs at this meeting (this will be done at WG2020-3).
4. At this WG2020-2 meeting, text-based-negotiations on the Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will only take place in CGs.
5. During negotiations, participants are encouraged to provide options in the case of divergent views. Such options will be captured in the outcome of the CG.
6. Negotiations should focus first on the substance, coverage and completeness of goals and targets, then focus on the numerical elements of goals and targets. There is no need to reach consensus on the numerical values at WG2020-2. This will be completed at WG2020-3, taking into account inputs from SBSTTA among others. Thus, Co-Leads may record suggestions on numerical values and/or language options issue but do not need to seek consensus, especially if there are significant disagreement.
7. When considering the goals/targets, delegates may wish to refer also to the elements and indicators in the draft monitoring framework CBD/WG2020/2/Add.1. To avoid unduly lengthy or over-complex target formulations, delegates may wish include specific elements or considerations in the elements.
8. The CGs should refrain from engaging in detailed discussions on the indicators, since this will be done at SBSTTA-24. Rather, participants should provide suggestions/options that can be captured in the report from the CG.
9. The CGs should focus their discussions on the goals/targets that will not be the subject of further development at the upcoming thematic workshops or at SBI-3 (see comments for CG-4).