



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
16, 28 May, and 2, 4, 11, 12, 13 June 2021

**MINUTES OF THE BUREAU TELECONFERENCES HELD DURING THE VIRTUAL THIRD
MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION (SBI 3)**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties met a total of seven times during the virtual meeting of SBI 3. The teleconferences took place via Microsoft Teams on 16 May (a), 28 May (b), 2 June (c), 4 June (d), 11 June (e), 12 June (f) and 13 June (g). The minutes of the joint session held with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) that took place on 18 May 2021 are provided separately.
2. This note summarizes the proceedings of the teleconferences held in the hour prior to plenary or contact group sessions of SBI 3 (6:00am-7:00am for the majority).
3. The following members of the Bureau and substitutes attended these teleconferences (in case that a person did not attend all the sessions, attendance is indicated by a, b, c, d, e, f, or g respectively):

Presidency: Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (Egypt, representing H.E. Minister Yasmine Fouad);

Africa: Mr. Eric Okoree (Ghana);

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

Latin America and the Caribbean: Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda)(a,b,c,d,e); Ms. Eugenia Arguedas (Costa Rica, representing H.E. Minister Andrea Meza Murillo)(a,c,d,g); Mr. Joaquín Salzberg (Argentina, substitute for Costa Rica for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol);

Central and Eastern Europe: Ms. Teona Karchava (Georgia); Ms. Elvana Ramaj (Albania)(b,c,e,g); Mr. Dilovarsho Dustov (Tajikistan, substitute for Georgia for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol)(b);

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. Hesiquio Benítez (Mexico), Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice(d), Mr. Basile van Havre (Canada) and Mr. Francis Ogwal (Uganda)(b,c,d,e), Co-chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;

Observers: Mr. Liu Ning (China)(a,b,d,e,f,g) and Ms. Yueyu Zou (China)(a,b,d,e,g), COP 15 host representatives; Mr. Neville Ash (UNEP)(a,b,c,e,f,g); Mr. Sebastian Costa (Colombia)(b,c), Ms. Manuela Rios (Colombia)(b), and Ms. Laura Juliana Arciniegas Rojas (Colombia)(c,d,e,f,g), WG2020 3 host representatives;

4. The Secretariat was represented by: Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Executive Secretary; Mr. David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary (a,b,d,e,f,g); Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Director, Implementation Support Division; Mr. Alexander Shestakov, Director, Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division (d); Ms. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi, Head, Biosafety Protocol Unit; Mr. Taukondjo Shikongo, Head, Nagoya Protocol Unit(b,c,d,e,f,g); Ms. Gudrun Fosse, Head of Administration, Finance and Commercial Services Division(a,d,e,f,g); Mr. Worku Yifru, Senior Legal Officer(a,b,d,e,f,g); Ms. Catalina Santamaria, Senior Programme Officer; Mr. Q”apaj Conde, Associate Programme Management Officer(a); Mr. Wataru Suzuki, Global Coordinator for the Japan Biodiversity Fund(b,c,d,e,f,g); Mr. Markus Lehmann, Senior Programme Management Officer(b,c,f); Ms. Jillian Campbell, Senior Programme Management Officer(b,c); Mr. Erie Tamale, Senior Programme Management Officer(b,c); Mr. Neil Pratt, Senior Programme Management Officer(c,f,g);

5. The main purpose of the teleconferences was to provide the Bureau with key updates on preparations for the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation as well to keep the Bureau informed on progress of the agenda items and respective contact groups. Members were also advised of logistical matters requiring attention, as well as any other matters calling for leadership and guidance from the Bureau.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE THIRD MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION

6. **On the 16 May 2021**, the first teleconference was opened by the Chair of the Bureau, Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, representative of the President of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in the hour preceding the opening and first session of the formal SBI 3 meeting. The Chair welcomed members of the Bureau and welcomed representatives of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) who were joining a brief part of the session.

7. The Executive Secretary also welcomed the Bureau members as well as the representatives of the IPLCs. She began by noting the successful start of the virtual meeting of SBSTTA that had taken place the previous week and highlighted that with the cooperation and good will of all Parties and observers, she trusted SBI and SBSTTA would carry out their work. She thanked the Parties for their cooperation and flexibility in adapting to the new way of working and thanked the Secretariat for the hard work done to support the Parties.

8. After receiving no objections, the Chair adopted the agenda and invited the Chair of SBI, Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist, to provide key updates on the preparation of the meeting. With the agreement from the Bureau, the Chair invited the representatives of the IPLCs to join the discussion under this item: Ms. Lucy Mulenkei (Africa), Ms. Yolanda Teran (Central and South America and the Caribbean), Ms. Polina Shulbaeva (Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia), Ms. Christine Grant (The Pacific), Ms. Viviana Figueroa (Central and South America and the Caribbean), Ms. Yeshing Upun (Central and South America and the Caribbean).

9. The SBI Chair welcomed the representatives of the IPLCs. She began by informing the Bureau that 1836 participants had registered to SBI 3, including from 128 Parties and 1 non-Party, and a total of 686 observers had registered from 194 observer organizations. She then invited the representatives of the IPLCs to take the floor.

10. The representatives of the IPLCs thanked the Bureau for the opportunity to join and after noting their commitment to work together to ensure a successful meeting, they highlighted a few points from their experience with the SBSTTA sessions for the Bureau’s consideration. Firstly, they noted that for some contact groups, IPLCs had not had the opportunity to speak, and due to connection difficulties, they requested if they could provide their statements not only in plenary but also in the contact groups. They also noted that for some contact groups, there had been no clarity on how IPLCs would obtain Party support

or how their proposed text would be included in the CRP. They highlighted that although they remain open and optimistic about finding solutions, the main issue was not having the opportunity to speak or intervene.

11. In response to the concerns from IPLCs, the Secretariat and the SBI Chair reassured them and the Bureau it would continue to look for ways to improve their participation and that of other observers, as much as they could, given the new virtual circumstances and rules of procedure.

12. After thanking the Bureau once again, the representatives of IPLCs left the teleconference.

13. The SBI Chair and members of the Bureau then proceeded to discuss several matters in preparation for SBI 3. Firstly, due to an inadvertent delay in the posting of the pre-session document, the Bureau agreed to address agenda item 8 on cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives on 11 June 2021 in order to give Parties enough time to review the document. The Bureau also discussed ways in which interventions from observers would be taken into consideration, including taking into consideration any written submission they uploaded 12 hours after a plenary session, as well as interventions during contact groups as long as Parties supported them. The SBI chair reminded that any significant points that Parties wish to be considered in CRPs or in the work of contact groups should be raised first in Plenary. The Bureau also noted that it would need to find a way to address requests for intersessional work that may arise, as the timing of the adoption of decisions by the meeting would not be completed before any intersessional work could be done.

14. **On 28 May 2021**, the Bureau reconvened for the second teleconference session. The SBI Chair informed the Bureau of the progress made in the meeting, including general participation, work of the three plenaries, the establishment of contact groups and CRPs that were being prepared at that point. The Bureau member from Georgia, as Co-chair of the contact group on item 6 on Resource Mobilization and Financial Mechanism provided a brief update on the work of the contact group, and the Secretariat provided updates on the work of the contact groups of item 7 on Capacity Building and item 9 on Post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

15. At the request of the SBI Chair, the Deputy Executive Secretary explained to the Bureau the various ways it could address the requests for intersessional work. He noted that the time for intersessional work was limited, in particular prior to WG2020-3. He noted that in the case that a draft decision referred to annexes such as terms or reference for groups, or references to templates for reporting or guidelines, the simplest way to note that this work would need to be done was by indicating a footnote in the appropriate place in the draft decision. In other cases where the requests were inputs to the Post2020 Cochairs or WG2020-3, this information would have to be transmitted to the Cochairs or the WG2020 under the authority of the SBI Chair. The Deputy Executive Secretary further noted that for any other issues that could not be accommodated by any of these two approaches, an entry could be included in the interim report of the meeting, bearing in mind however that the report is a procedural one. .

16. Some members noted the lack of balance of regional participation, especially for the contact groups, and requested the Secretariat to provide a breakdown of the participation for each of the sessions that had taken place. There was a brief discussion on technical difficulties experienced by some participants and the Secretariat reiterated its appreciation for feedback in order to continue improving the platform. Furthermore, the Bureau agreed to avoid scheduling midnight contact group sessions on days followed by an early morning session and reiterated the importance of having CRPs posted with sufficient time for Parties to review. Finally, there was a request to hold additional Bureau meetings in the coming days in order to discuss updates of the progress of work so the members could efficiently report back to their regions.

17. Members of the Bureau thanked the Deputy Executive Secretary for the explanation regarding intersessional work and requested the Secretariat to prepare a compilation of the requests from the various agenda items and how each was going to be dealt with.

18. The SBI Chair then informed the Bureau how she planned to organize the work for the following three days. Agreeing with the Chair's plan of work, members of the Bureau suggested the schedule to be updated and uploaded online as it had proven to be very useful to delegations.

19. **On 2 June 2021**, the Bureau met virtually for the third time during SBI 3. The SBI Chair began by noting that updates on the meeting, as well as the schedule of upcoming work, had been provided to the

Bureau in two emails. She highlighted the establishment of a Friends of Chair for agenda item 11 on mainstreaming and clarified that based on a request from a Bureau member at the last meeting, the contact group on agenda item 6 had been scheduled for 11pm-2:00am EST on 4 June 2021. She also noted this timing was chosen by the Bureau to provide some balance for the Asia Pacific region.

20. The Bureau began their discussion by thanking the SBI Chair and the Secretariat for their hard work to ensure the smooth running of the meeting. After an extensive discussion on the fair balancing of time zones and at the request of a Bureau member to change the timing and date of the contact group on item 6, mainly due to a concern on the low participation levels during that time slot and given the importance of the discussion of that agenda item, the Bureau agreed to hold the contact group session on item 6 on 9 June 2021 from 12:00pm to 3:00pm EST.

21. The SBI Chair proceeded to make a proposal to hold additional Bureau meetings daily at 6:00am EST, just before the plenary sessions, on 11, 12 and 13 June to keep abreast of progress. She also asked the Bureau for feedback regarding the request in plenary to put a bracket around the whole CRP 2. Furthermore, the SBI Chair reminded the Bureau that they were working in a new setting and Parties needed to be flexible and adaptable to changed circumstances. She urged the Bureau to inform their regions they should not go back to paragraphs that had already been agreed to as it had happened a few times in the last plenary.

22. The Bureau agreed with the proposal of the Chair for their daily meetings before plenary. Regarding the bracketing of whole documents, some members of the Bureau made an appeal to make progress and avoid bracketing whole documents as the understanding was that the adoption of documents would only happen in a physical meeting and, accordingly, there would be an opportunity to discuss any issues again. It was also suggested that any work that was done in the contact groups should not be opened to avoid hampering progress. However, some Bureau members, noting, lower participation from developing countries in some session, explained reason for bracketing entire documents was to provide opportunity for some Parties who had not been able to take part in the discussion of the document to do so at a later stage, noting that making changes at a CRP stage was not the same as making changes at the L-doc stage, and they highlighted that the intention was not to block progress.

23. **On 4, 11, 12 and 13 June 2021**, the Bureau reconvened briefly, as agreed, to discuss the daily progress of SBI-3. During these days, the SBI Chair would start by providing the Bureau with detailed information on the schedule of the meeting, key updates on the work of contact groups or friends of Chair, the preparation and consideration of CRPs, and brought to the attention of the Bureau any matter that needed their feedback and decision. Over these days, the Bureau agreed to defer the consideration of some of the CRPs until the resumed session of SBI-3 due to the short time that remained in the ongoing sessions. These included CRP 5(item 9), 15(item 6 on resource mobilization), 4(item 7 on knowledge management), 6(item 7 on evaluation of the strategic framework for capacity building/Nagoya Protocol), 13(item 7 on capacity building), 9(item 5 on post-2020), 10(item 10 on effectiveness of processes), 8(item 11 on engagement with subnational governments), and 16(item 11 on mainstreaming). To this effect, and to ensure clarity, the Bureau requested the Secretariat prepare a table of the list of CRPs of the meeting indicating the status of each, which could be then shared with Parties.

24. Regarding the way to address the request for intersessional work, it was made clear that some requests had been completed, while many other requests had been noted in footnotes in the CRPs. In the case of advice to the Co-chairs of the Post2020 global biodiversity framework, the Bureau agreed to have the SBI Chair make a general statement, which would be included in the report, and transmit the proceedings and outcomes of the SBI-3 to the Co-chairs.

25. For agenda item 8 on Cooperation, due to the short time Parties had had to review the pre-session document, the Bureau agreed to reopen this agenda item during the resumed session of the SBI-3 plenary, after which a CRP would be prepared based on comments received at that resumed session.

26. In the final session, the SBI Chair and Executive Secretary thanked the Bureau and the Secretariat for their support and hard work through the intense weeks of meetings.

OTHER MATTERS

27. The Bureau held additional discussions on 30 May, 2 and 4 June 2021 regarding the planning for WG2020-3 foreseen for the end of August. The minutes of these discussions are provided separately.

CLOSING OF THE MEETING

28. On behalf of the Bureau, the President of the Bureau, Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, thanked the SBI Chair for her leadership and the successful outcomes of the SBI-3 formal virtual session. He also thanked the Secretariat for the support and dedication in servicing the meeting. He closed the teleconferences on 13 June 2021 at 6:40am EST.