



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE  
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
29 June 2021

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

1. A teleconference session of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties was held via MS Teams on 29 June 2021 at 7:30am EST, to discuss the preparations of the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020 3) and the preparations for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the 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 2021).

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

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

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

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

*Latin America and the Caribbean:* Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda); Ms. Eugenia Montezuma (Costa Rica, representing H.E. Minister Meza Murillo); Mr. Joaquín Salzberg (Argentina, substitute for Costa Rica for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol);

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

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

*Observers:* Mr. Ciu Shuhong (China), Mr. Liu Ning (China), Ms. Guan Jing (China), Mr. Xia Feng, Director of Yunnan Environmental department, (China), COP 15 host representatives; Ms. Laura Juliana Rojas (Colombia) WG2020 3 host representative, and Mr. Neville Ash (UNEP).

3. The Secretariat was represented by Mr. David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary; Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Director of Implementation Support Division; Mr. Alexander Shestakov, Director, Science, Society

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and Sustainable Futures Division; Ms. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi, Head, Biosafety Protocol Unit; Mr. Taukondjo Shikongo, Head, Nagoya Protocol Unit; Mr. Wataru Suzuki, Global Coordinator for the Japan Biodiversity Fund; Mr. Worku Yifru, Senior Legal Officer; Ms. Gudrun Fosse, Head of Administration, Finance and Commercial Services Division; Ms. Catalina Santamaria, Senior Programme Officer; and Ms. Gu Li, Liaison Officer for COP 15. Ms. Chantal Robichaud joined for other matters when CBD Alliance were present.

4. The CBD Alliance was represented by Ms. Nele Marien, Mr. Gadir Lavadenz, Ms. Souparna Lahiri from Asia Pacific region, Ms. Ameyali Ramos for Latin America, Ms. Helena Paul for Europe and Ms. Miriam Mayet for Africa.

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

5. The teleconference was opened on 29 June at 7:35 a.m. EST by Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, representative of the President of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Chair welcomed the members of the Bureau.

6. On behalf of the Executive Secretary, the Deputy Executive Secretary welcomed the participants. He began by noting the critical time they were in regarding the negotiations leading up to COP 15 and the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. He emphasized the Secretariat is supporting the Co-chairs of the post-2020 process to make the first draft available by the 12 July deadline. The Deputy Executive Secretary also noted that as Parties considered that physical meetings would be necessary to complete the work of both subsidiary bodies as well as the working group, this would need to be taken into account when making the decision of the work, timing and modalities of the COP. He acknowledged the flexibility of the Government of China, as incoming hosts of COP15, and highlighted the importance of having a view of the full schedule or package in order to plan the road ahead with confidence.

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

7. The Chair introduced the provisional agenda for the Bureau session, and after no objections and changes from the Bureau, the provisional agenda was adopted.

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

8. The Chair invited the co-chairs of WG2020 to introduce the draft organization of work for WG2020 3, for the COP Bureau's consideration and approval. The Co-chairs highlighted key points of the document and requested guidance from the Bureau as to whether the meeting should be suspended or closed.

9. The representative of the Government of Colombia then provided the Bureau with an update regarding the High-Level event that her Government was planning at the margins of WG2020 3 and in order to provide political momentum and push for ambition in key elements of the global biodiversity framework. She noted that the event was foreseen to take place on the morning of 30 August 2021 in two parts. The first session would be at the level of Heads of State, in a hybrid modality, moderated by the President of Colombia. The second session would be at the level of ministers in a virtual format, that would facilitate the exchange of ideas on key issues like sustainable consumption, resource mobilizations and others. She noted that the President of Colombia was planning on issuing invitations to certain countries and would be accepting pre-recorded video messages from those Heads of State who could not attend. She noted that Heads of State would be encouraged to announce initiatives or commitments at this session.

10. The Bureau thanked the Co-chairs and Secretariat for the draft organization of work, as well as the Government of Colombia for the update on the High-Level event. The Bureau then engaged on discussions regarding several aspects of the preparations of WG2020 3. Regarding the question on whether to suspend or close the meeting, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that closing the meeting would not have any major implications for subsequent meetings, as the COP had stipulated that the working group could meet as many times as it needed prior to reaching COP 15. However, due to the issue of mandates and the uncertainty of whether COP 15 would be opened in October, the Bureau favored suspending WG2020 3.

11. The Bureau had further comments and requested clarification on some points of the document, including reconsidering the timing of the sessions to ensure a fair and balanced accommodation of the time zones amongst the Parties. The Co-chairs and the Secretariat agreed to address these points in a meeting after the Bureau's meeting next week, as they were fully focused on the drafting and preparation of the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

**ITEM 4. PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE 2021**

12. Under this agenda item, the Chair referred to the document circulated by the Secretariat that contained information on the various scenarios of COP 15 and invited the representative of the Government of China to provide the Bureau with new updates since the last meeting.

13. The representative of China highlighted the commitment of his Government to host COP 15 and the importance of maintaining momentum of the process. He noted that China supports scenario 3 which entails dividing COP into 2 phases: opening COP 15 in October 2021 in a mostly virtual format and reconvening physically in the spring of 2022. He noted that the first phase of COP could include an opening ceremony, a High-Level Segment that would issue the Kunming Declaration, discussion of other agenda items including budget consultations, and some associated events such as the Ecological Civilization Forum. He noted this first part could be in hybrid form where the international community participated virtually, and representatives of Embassies or diplomatic missions and international organizations already in China could participate physically in the meeting. As for the second phase of COP 15, he noted that the core task would be the negotiation of the post-2020 global framework, with a possible physical High-Level Segment to push forward the negotiations. He emphasized that the intervals between phase 1 and 2 should not be too long and would be adjusted according to the timetable of the Secretariat and the development of the pandemic.

14. The Bureau thanked the Government of China for this update and their continued flexibility in adapting to the challenging situation posed by the pandemic. The Bureau then engaged in an active discussion around this issue. The Bureau highlighted as a main concern how and when the work of the subsidiary bodies and WG2020 3 would be finalized in relation to the COP. It was noted that a sufficient period of time would be needed to enable SBSTTA-24, SBI-3 and WG2020-3 to complete their work. The Bureau also highlighted the importance of having a complete picture, including potential dates of the second phase of COP 15, in order to adequately make a decision. One member of the Bureau also requested more information on the procedural, budgetary and legal implications of scenario 3.

15. The Chair requested the Bureau to submit to the Secretariat all the pending questions or comments they had on this matter and asked the Secretariat, in close consultation with the Co-chairs and Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, to further develop the scenarios document to address the pending issues. The Bureau agreed to discuss this issue in a subsequent meeting following the Bureau's meeting next week, in order to allow the Secretariat and the Co-chairs to focus on the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

**ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS**

16. Following a request from the CBD Alliance members for a dialogue with the COP Bureau, their representatives were invited to join the COP Bureau meeting under this agenda item to discuss the procedures for the forthcoming meetings of WG2020-3 and COP-15 and share their views and suggestions for the said meetings.

17. The representatives of the CBD Alliance thanked the Bureau for the opportunity to join them in the meeting and highlighted their main concerns, including the modalities of the virtual meetings which hampered their effective participation. They highlighted concerns regarding the accountability and role of the Co-chairs and Parties, as well as the level of ambition of the negotiations which if rushed, could be compromised. In this regard, they requested the Bureau consider calling upon the Parties and the GEF and others to continue supporting implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets until a new framework was put in place.

18. The Chair, on behalf of the Bureau, as well as the Secretariat thanked the CBD Alliance representatives for their comments and feedback and assured them they would continue to work together in order to better their participation and accountability for the overall process. The CBD Alliance representatives then left the meeting.

19. The Chair then presented to the Bureau the proposed schedule of future meetings of the Bureau and no objections were made. No other issues were raised by the Bureau.

**ITEM 6. CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

20. The Chair thanked the Bureau and all participants for the discussion and closed the meeting on 29 June 2021 at 9:55 a.m. EST.