



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. EST  
18 May 2021

**MINUTES OF THE TELECONFERENCE OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE  
PARTIES IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD HELD JOINTLY WITH THE BUREAU OF  
THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

1. A joint meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice was held by teleconference on 18 May 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);

*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); 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. Liu Ning (China) and Ms. Yueyu Zou (China), COP 15 host representatives; and Ms. Manuela Rios Serna and Mr. Sebastian Acosta (Colombia), WG2020 3 host representatives.

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

*Chair:* Mr. Hesiquio Benitez (Mexico);

*Asia and the Pacific:* Ms. Gwen Sisior (Palau);

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*Latin America and the Caribbean:* Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda, substitute for Saint Lucia on matters related to the Nagoya Protocol);

*Central and Eastern Europe:* Mr. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine);

*Western Europe and Others:* Ms. Alison McMorrow (Australia); Ms. Marina von Weissenberg (Finland); and Mr. Gaute Voigt-Hanssen (Norway, substitute for Australia on matters related to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols);

4. The Secretariat was represented by Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Executive Secretary; Mr. David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary; Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Director of Implementation Support Division; Mr. Alexander Shestakov, Director, Science, Society 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; and Ms. Catalina Santamaria, Senior Programme Officer.

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

5. The teleconference was opened on 18 May at 10:40 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 both Bureaux and extended his congratulations to both the Chairs of SBSTTA and SBI for the successful virtual meetings of the subsidiary bodies that had taken place so far. He also thanked the Secretariat for all their hard work.

6. The Executive Secretary also welcomed all the members of the COP and SBSTTA Bureaux. She noted satisfaction on how the first half of SBSTTA and SBI meetings had progressed and thanked the Parties, through their Bureaux, for their cooperation and flexibility.

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

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

### **ITEM 3. UPDATE FROM THE FORMAL SESSIONS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

8. The Chair invited Mr. Hesiquio Benitez, Chair of SBSTTA, and Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist, Chair of SBI, to provide the Bureaux with updates on progress in the ongoing meetings.

9. The Chair of SBSTTA began by noting the successful completion of the first cluster of plenaries of the formal virtual session of SBSTTA-24. He noted the items which had completed and started their first reading, as well as the contact groups that he had established. He also noted an initiative of the co-chairs of the contact group on item 3 to undertake an online survey on headline indicators and noted that the results would be integrated in the co-chairs' report of the contact group on item 3 to be presented in plenary the following week. The SBSTTA Chair further informed the Bureaux of the work done by the contact groups, the preparations of several CRPs, advice to the Co-chairs of the WG2020, and the summary report of the meeting. He noted that due to the dynamics of the first session and considering the shortage of time, they were considering some adjustments to the calendar. The priority included to complete elements on item 3 as they related to the advice to the WG2020. A report of these elements would go directly to the Co-chairs, separately from the CRPs, as L-docs would only be adopted in a physical meeting after the meeting of the WG2020. He noted a second priority was to complete the first reading of all agenda items and approve as many CRPs as possible. The SBSTTA Chair also thanked the four chairs of the two contact groups and the Secretariat for their great work and delivery of results of the contact groups.

10. Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist, Chair of SBI, informed the Bureaux that the third meeting of SBI had held its first three formal online sessions. She outlined the agendas that had completed the first reading and the contact groups that she had established. She further indicated that SBI plenary would reconvene on 28 May. The SBI Chair noted that there had been a rich discussion and most observers had had a chance to speak except for agenda item 9 for which there had been no time. She highlighted that Parties had been constructive in their interventions but that many of them reiterated what had been said in the informal

meetings. She finally requested the Bureaux to remind their regions to upload the statements ahead of delivery to assist the interpretation.

11. After the Chair opened the floor for comments or questions, members of the Bureaux engaged in an active discussion. They congratulated the Chairs of SBSTTA and SBI and thanked the Secretariat for their hard work in ensuring the success of the virtual sessions. Members of the Bureaux had a few questions, mainly regarding how requests for intersessional work would be treated. They noted that if L-documents would only be adopted at a later stage when a physical meeting would be possible, and given that this meeting would perhaps only take place right before COP 15, they needed clear indications on how to deal with any intersessional requests for work for the Executive Secretary or other organizations, especially given that some of these requests had financial implications. The representative of the Government of China also sought clarification regarding the decision of the physical meetings of SBSTTA and SBI taking place back-to-back with WG2020-3 or COP 15, as this had logistical implications for the hosts.

12. In response to this enquiry, the Chair of SBI, the Rapporteur of the SBI meeting (the representative from Ghana), and the Deputy Executive Secretary clarified any procedural requests for intersessional work would be noted in the report of each meeting. These requests would have to be within the timeframe of the existing mandates for the preparations for WG2020-3 and COP/COP-MOPs. Furthermore, the Deputy Executive Secretary, noting that the timeframe between the meetings and the WG2020-3 and COP/COP-MOPs was very short, suggested that requests should be practical and kept to a minimum. The interim report of the first virtual sessions of SBSTTA and SBI would be approved in the last plenary of the present virtual sessions of each meeting. Once the Parties would be able to meet in person, they would adopt the entire report.

13. Members of the Bureaux agreed to proceed in this manner and requested that delegates be informed of these approaches.

#### **ITEM 4. REFLECTIONS OF THE WG2020 CO-CHAIRS ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE FUTURE WORK OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

14. The Chair noted that the COP Bureau would be considering the work and agenda of the WG2020-3 at its future meeting on 30 May 2021. He then invited the Co-chairs of the WG2020 to take the floor.

15. The Co-chairs began by noting the good work that Parties had been doing in the sessions and that it was clear there was a lot of interest. They highlighted that in order to maximize the value of the negotiation that would take place at WG2020-3, it would be important to ensure that Draft One reflected the SBI and SBSTTA outcomes as fully as possible, which represented a larger amount of work than expected. The Co-chairs also noted that delegates and the Secretariat staff were fatigued after several weeks of intensive work, demonstrated by the declining attendance in recent sessions.

16. The Co-chairs further emphasized that the work on Draft One depended on the availability of the reports of the SBSTTA and SBI, anticipated after the closure of the SBI meeting on 13 June. They noted that if they were expected to attend both meetings, it was not possible for them to produce, in one week, a new draft that adequately addressed the outcomes of SBI and SBSTTA to be posted by 21 June. Furthermore, they noted that realistically, they would need at least two weeks after the 13 June to prepare Draft One, which meant an earliest publication date of 5 July 2021. They stated that in view of the rules of procedure and respecting that the 6-week consultation period was paramount, the Bureaux would need to consider the implications in terms of a later start date for the WG2020-3.

17. The representative of the Government of Colombia took the floor and informed the Bureaux that their government was looking into the modalities of the WG2020-3 and were thinking of proceeding virtually but were interested in holding a hybrid high-level event in Colombia to launch the process. They would be monitoring the pandemic situation and looking into possible dates and would inform the COP Bureau as appropriate.

18. The Chair then invited comments from the Bureaux. Members of the Bureaux noted the valid points made by the WG2020 Co-chairs and agreed with the suggestion to post Draft One by 5 July 2021. They noted that it would then be necessary to have a revised timetable from that point until COP to evaluate the timing for each milestone as they emphasized the importance of having sufficient time for Parties to review the documents. Some members of the Bureaux also highlighted that the modality of WG2020-3 was still a sensitive issue and taking from the lessons of the current online meetings, important considerations would need to be taken, and some Parties had difficulties to participate, and observers continued to experience limitations.

19. The Chair reassured the Bureaux that these discussions would be held in their meeting scheduled for 30 May in more detail and moved to the next agenda item.

#### **ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS**

20. Under this agenda item, there was a request from the Chair of SBSTTA to the Bureaux to request their regions for support in making efficient use of time in the remaining sessions of the meetings. He noted that the first readings were taking too long and therefore asked that Parties avoid repetition and to keep their interventions very focused.

21. Other members of the Bureaux expressed that the timings of the sessions were very inconvenient for the Asia-Pacific time zone, making their participation very difficult. They requested that consideration be given at least to the timings of the Bureaux meetings. The Chair agreed to look into other options for more suitable timings for the Bureau meetings.

#### **ITEM 6. CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

22. Noting that the SBI Chair did not have any further issues to address with the COP Bureau, the Chair thanked the Bureaux and all participants for the discussion and ended the meeting at 12:00 p.m. EST.