



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE  
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
19 June and 21-26 June 2022  
Nairobi, Kenya

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
HELD DURING THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON  
THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

1. A meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties was held in person in Nairobi, Kenya, on 19 and 21 June 2022 to continue its considerations on the preparations for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and its concurrent meetings (COP 15). Further sessions were held daily from 22 to 26 June 2022 to oversee the proceedings of the Fourth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020-4).
2. The meeting was attended by the following members of the COP Bureau and substitutes:
  - Representative of the COP President:* Vice-Minister Zhao Yingmin (China) (connected virtually on 19 June) and Dr. Zhou Guomei;
  - Africa:* Mr. Melesse Maryo (Ethiopia); Mr. Eric Okoree (Ghana);
  - Asia and the Pacific:* Ms. Leina Al-Awadhi (Kuwait); Mr. Vinod Mathur for Mr. Shri Naresh Pal Gangwar (India);
  - Latin America and the Caribbean:* Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda); Ms. Eugenia Arguedas Montezuma (Costa Rica); 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);
  - 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 (connected virtually on 19 June); 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; Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (Egypt), representative of COP 14 Presidency; Ms. Catherine Steward and Mr. Paul Halucha (connected virtually on 19 June), Ms. Tara Shannon and Ms. Kelly Torck (from 21 June onwards), representatives of Canada, host of the second part of COP 15;

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*COP Presidency:* Dr. Cui Shuhong (connected virtually on 19 June), Mr. Liu Ning, Mr. Xia Yingxian;

*Observers:* Ms. Inger Andersen (attended on 19 June), Mrs. Patricia Kamezi-Mbote, Mr. Neville Ash, and Mr. Mamadou Kane, representatives of UNEP;

3. The Secretariat was represented by Mrs. Elizabeth Mrema, Executive Secretary; Mr. David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary; Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Director of Implementation Support Division; Ms. Jihyun Lee, Director of Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division; Mr. Worku Yifru, Senior Legal Officer; Ms. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi, Head, Biosafety Protocol Unit; Mr. Taukondjo Shikongo, Head, Nagoya Protocol Unit; and Mr. David Ainsworth, Information Officer.

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

4. The meeting, held on the premises of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, was opened on 19 June 2022 at 14:00 by the Vice-Minister of Ecology and Environment of China, Mr. Zhao Yingmin, representative of the President of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, who joined virtually to chair the discussion on the COP 15 preparations. The Chair welcomed all Bureau members and expressed appreciation to the Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Inger Andersen, and the representatives of Canada, who were joining virtually, for attending the meeting. He highlighted the importance of maintaining political momentum for the second part of COP 15 and noted that this meeting was of great importance as it would address the arrangements for the second part of COP 15 as well as the preparations for WG2020-4. The Chair invited Ms. Andersen to provide opening remarks.

5. The Executive Director welcomed the Bureau to Nairobi, global capital of all environmental matters. She expressed great appreciation to the Government of China for its leadership in navigating this lengthy process and for the successful hosting of the first part of COP 15. Recognizing that the complexities of the pandemic were still posing challenges, Ms. Andersen noted that the international community was moving ahead with their work and therefore it was necessary to hold COP 15 in 2022. She highlighted the critical importance of making a prompt decision with respect to the relocation and dates of COP 15 so the Working Group could focus on its work and not be distracted with logistical aspects. Noting that there were other offers on the table on the possible location of the conference, Ms. Andersen assured the Bureau that COP 15 would be held while upholding of the basic principles, rules and regulations of the United Nations. She noted that, under the basic principles of UN rules, the host Government of any UN entity has a duty to host meetings as needed without political or substantial involvement in the affairs of the entity.

6. At the invitation of the Chair, the Executive Secretary provided opening remarks. She welcomed the participation of the Vice-Minister and of all Bureau members in Nairobi, on the eve of an important milestone on the road to COP 15. Regarding the date and venue of COP 15, the Executive Secretary urged the Bureau to make a decision as soon as possible. She noted that consultations with the host government of the seat of the Secretariat were still ongoing and that more details would be provided in the coming days. Regarding the logistical preparations for WG2020-4, the Executive Secretary acknowledged the difficulties and anxiety that funded delegates faced due to the issuance of tickets at the very last minute due to lack of capacity of the travel agency. Expressing regret on the situation, she noted that the Secretariat would look into the matter to avoid such situations in the future. The Executive Secretary encouraged Parties to work together as much as possible in order to reach a clean, concise and ambitious document by the end of the WG2020-4, and wish them fruitful discussions in the week ahead.

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

7. The Chair introduced the provisional agenda for the meeting, noting the discussions would begin with the arrangements for the second part of COP 15 and would be followed by the preparations for WG2020-4. He informed the Bureau that he would chair the first discussion, and Ms. Zhou Guomei would chair the rest of the meeting. There being no objections from the Bureau members, the agenda was adopted.

## **ITEM 3. PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONCURRENT MEETINGS: PART TWO OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES, THE TENTH MEETING**

**OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL AND THE FOURTH MEETING OF  
THE PARTIES TO THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL**

8. Under this agenda item, the Chair noted that due to the ongoing pandemic situation, China was considering the possibility of holding the second part of COP 15 outside of China. He noted the Bureau had previously agreed that if this was the case, China would remain COP President and the identity and theme of the conference would remain the same. He invited Mr. Cui, representative of the organizing team in China, to provide an update on the ongoing consultations of options.

9. Mr. Cui began by thanking the Bureau for their guidance. He highlighted the large efforts made by the Government of China, as well as the province of Yunnan and the city of Kunming, in the preparation of COP 15. He reported that China had evaluated whether the second part of COP 15 could take place in Kunming and had concluded that China would not be in a position to host the second part of the conference in 2022. Therefore, China agreed to hold the meeting in another international location this year under the Presidency of China, maintaining the theme and logo of COP 15. Mr. Cui noted they would work closely with the Secretariat and the Bureau to adopt an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework, highlighting that China is willing to provide financial support to ministers of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDs) to the High-Level Segment of the second part of COP.

10. At the invitation of the Chair, the Deputy Executive Secretary indicated that, responding to the Bureau's request to look into options for the possible relocation of the conference, including Montreal as seat of the Secretariat, the Government of Canada had been requested to explore holding COP 15 in Montreal this year. The Deputy Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that options in Bonn and Nairobi had also been explored. He highlighted that Canada had indicated its openness to provide the location on Montreal in the first half of December, with some further details to be resolved. He thanked the Governments of China and Canada for the close collaboration and for the efforts made over the intense consultations in the last few days. He noted the Secretariat looked forward to good progress next week and to a successful COP later this year.

11. At the invitation of the Chair, the representatives of the Government of Canada took the floor. They noted with appreciation the collaborative discussions that had to be undertaken in such a short timeline. They assured the Bureau that Canada was working diligently to finalize the decision and would hold further discussions with the Government of China over the next 24 hours. The Canadian representatives noted the importance of having coordinated communication on the final decision of the Bureau regarding the date and venue of COP 15.

12. Acknowledging the very difficult task, the Bureau thanked the Government of China, the Government of Canada and the Secretariat for the great efforts done in order to respond to their request. They, once again, expressed appreciation to the Government of China for their flexibility, leadership and for their continued commitment to fund the participation of ministers from LDCs and SIDs to the new location of COP 15. The Bureau supported the relocation of the second part of COP 15 to Montreal in early December 2022, and reiterated that such relocation would not affect the role of the Presidency of COP 15. The Bureau accepted Canada as an ex-officio member of the Bureau so that regular updates on the preparations could be provided to the Bureau. They considered that it was important for the announcement to be made in Nairobi, preferably at the opening session on 21 June, and therefore the Bureau looked forward to a final confirmation during the next 24 hours, as indicated by Canada. The Bureau also underlined the importance of announcing the dates of the High-Level Segment as soon as possible in order to engage ministers.

13. On 21 June 2022, a special meeting of the Bureau was called to follow up on this matter. The Chair invited representatives of the Government of China and Canada to inform the Bureau of the outcomes of their discussions in the last 24 hours. Thanking the Bureau for their support and patience, the representative of the Government of Canada confirmed that they had reached an agreement with China and confirmed Montreal as the location for the second part of COP 15 from 5 to 17 December 2022. The representative from the Government of China also thanked the Bureau for their support, and, acknowledging this had not been an easy decision for their government, they welcomed the endorsement of the Bureau to maintain the theme and logo of COP 15, as well as China's Presidency.

14. The Bureau congratulated both countries for reaching a conclusion on the date and venue, and expressed their deep appreciation to the Governments of Canada and China, as well as the Secretariat, for the efforts carried out. The Chair thanked the Bureau for their guidance and confirmed that an announcement would be made in the opening plenary of the Working Group to inform Parties, and that a notification to all Parties would be issued at the same time.

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

15. Under this agenda item, at the meeting on 19 June, the Chair invited the Co-Chairs of the WG2020-4 to provide the Bureau with an overview of the agenda items and organization of work for the meeting.

16. The Co-Chairs of the Working Group began by providing an overview of the agenda items in sequence and followed with an outline of the organization of work for the first two days indicating the need to maintain flexibility for the remainder of the week. The Co-Chairs thanked Ms. Leina Al-Awadhi from Kuwait for agreeing to continue as rapporteur. The Co-Chairs noted that the Chairs of SBSTTA and SBI would be delivering reports to the Parties on the relevant outcomes of SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3, respectively, as well as relevant intersessional work of these bodies. The Co-Chairs noted that they had been working very closely with the co-leads of the various contact groups. They drew the Bureau's attention on a new important information document on new scientific advice. They noted that there would be an opportunity later in the week to take stock of the document as a whole and also advised that the draft decision for COP 15 would be considered in a first reading during the stocktaking plenary. Regarding expectations of the meeting, the Co-Chairs noted that Parties would need to work towards a compromise, with lots of flexibility, in order to have a simple text that ministers would be in a good position to finalize. On DSI, they noted that further work had been achieved in Geneva and informed the Bureau that the Working Group was expected to prepare a recommendation for COP 15 on this matter.

17. Members of the Bureau began by thanking UNEP for hosting the meeting of the Working Group and for the warm welcome to Nairobi. They also thanked the Co-Chairs for the presentation provided regarding the substance and how Parties would work during the WG2020-4. The Bureau highlighted it would be important to have clarity on how the contact groups would work and on the nature of a decision on DSI. Members of the Bureau briefly discussed ways to avoid clashes between contact groups and the friends of the Chair (FOCs). The Bureau agreed to meet daily starting 22 June, at 8:00 a.m., for the duration of the meeting to evaluate progress of the proceedings.

18. From 22 to 26 June, the Bureau met each day to receive an update of progress from the Co-Chairs, and, as appropriate, the co-leads of the various contact groups, as well as to update the schedule of sessions for the meeting.

19. On 22 June, as per normal practice, the Bureau invited representatives from the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) to address the meeting. The representatives included Ms. Lucy Mullenkei, Mr. Ramiro Batzin, Mr. Aslak Holmberg, Ms. Abigail Kitma, Mr. Gladman Chibememe and Ms. Polina Shulbaeva. The IPLC representatives, expressing appreciation for the invitation, noted that although the Working Group was working well, clear procedures were needed in order to work fast and succinctly.. Regarding the discussions of the Working Group, they requested access to the contact groups and FOCs so they could contribute and be informed of the issues. The IPLC representatives informed of their difficulties with the travel agency and requested increased funding for their participation, especially for COP. They expressed concern that an overloaded COP agenda would hinder the ability to discuss key issues. The representatives thanked the Bureau for the arrangements made on the relocation of COP 15 and asked that information regarding participation, especially regarding visas, be issued at least four months ahead of the meetings so that they could prepare adequately. They also enquired and noted the importance of having an IPLC day at COP.

20. The Co-Chairs and the Bureau thanked the IPLC representatives for their inputs and advised that the procedure for contact groups remained the same as in prior meeting, with participation and contributions of IPLCs left to the discretion of the Co-lead.

21. The Secretariat also thanked the IPLC representatives and indicated that the funding available for IPLC representatives at COP 15 was quite good. It was confirmed that the Nature Summit would be held as planned and the Secretariat would work closely with them and the Presidency to determine the best way forward. The Secretariat also assured the IPLC representatives that the information for participation for COP 15 would be worked on promptly with the Government of Canada.

22. At its meetings on 24 and 25 June, the Bureau expressed concern on the slow pace of negotiations and suggested to the Co-Chairs and co-leads to exercise judgment and avoid spending too much time on issues that were not going to be resolved in Nairobi, and to focus on cleaning up text as much as possible. They encouraged the co-leads to form small informal groups as much as possible, and encouraged each other's region to work as collaboratively as possible in order to make progress. In line with the general approach at the Geneva meetings, the Bureau decided not to enable a hybrid modality for the FOCs due to the informal nature of these negotiations, as well as logistical complexities.

23. At their 24 June meeting, the Co-Chairs presented to the Bureau an overall summary of progress for each agenda item, which would then be presented to the Parties in the stocktaking plenary. The Co-Chairs indicated the status of discussions reflected in the table sent a clear message that change was needed and that the pace needed to be accelerated.

24. Each day, the Secretariat reported on the positive cases of COVID, which totaled 14 for the entire meeting.

25. On 25 and 26 June, the Co-Chairs noted that, although progress had been made by the Working Group, it was clear that it would not reach the final stage of producing a concise and easy to communicate document that was to be sent to the COP later this year. The Bureau exchanged ideas of what could be done, including making the best use of the last days in Nairobi, forming a small drafting group, and the possibility of a further informal or formal meeting in the days ahead of COP 15.

26. After further consultations with their regions, noting that more details on mandate and exact modality would need to be discussed, the Bureau, at its meeting in the afternoon of 26 June, agreed with a proposal for stepwise intersessional work that involves various levels of engagement (political and technical) and includes the creation of an informal, "lighter touch", single small group comprising the Co-Chairs, co-leads and a limited number of other experts from regions, nominated by the respective Bureau members, with a view to provide regional balance. The group, overseen by the Bureau, would attempt to provide advice on how Parties might refine the text with a view to it being suitable for final negotiations. The importance of transparency, inclusiveness and legitimacy of the process was emphasized.

27. Further to the availability of resources, the Bureau agreed to holding a fifth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group in the days immediately before COP in order to receive and work on the outcomes of the small group, which would then send its outcomes to the COP. Members of the Bureau also highlighted the importance of having the Co-Chairs and co-leads reach out to Parties and regions during the intersessional period to attempt to resolve differences. They also reiterated the importance of the early political engagement of ministers, including around other international meetings and during the High-Level Segment.

28. It was agreed to present these proposals to the plenary.

29. The Co-Chairs were also asked to prepare, together with the Secretariat, a written proposal for further consideration by the Bureau outlining the key aspects of this intersessional roadmap, including the composition, mandate and expected outcomes of the informal small group.

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

30. Under this agenda item, the Bureau thanked the Secretariat for looking into the travel agency and late ticketing matter and for the assistance provided to delegates with visas.

31. The Executive Secretary also reminded the Bureau of the importance of early nominations for the meetings, in order to avoid delays.

**ITEM 5. CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

32. On 26 June, at their final session, the Chair thanked the Bureau for their guidance and their inputs, and the Secretariat for the support throughout the week. She noted that although more was needed to be done, she was confident the second part of COP 15 would be successful. Wishing them safe travels back home, she noted the Secretariat would announce the date and time of the next teleconference of the Bureau in due course.

33. The Executive Secretary also offered closing remarks. Thanking the Bureau for their support, she highlighted that although progress had been made, there was still a long way to go. She noted that the financial resources for WG2020-5 had to be received by September in order to ensure it would take place, and urged the Co-Chairs to have a plan and proposal to the Bureau in case the funds could not be raised. The Executive Secretary thanked her team for all the hard work done through the week to support the meeting.

34. The last meeting of the Bureau was closed on 26 June 2022 at 5:30 p.m.