



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

Distr.  
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/Bur/2022/6/2

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE  
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
13 October 2022

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTH 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 videoconference on 13 October 2022 at 7:00am EST to discuss preparations for the second part 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.

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

*COP President:* Minister Huang Runqiu (China)

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

*Asia and the Pacific:* Ms. Leina Al-Awadhi (Kuwait); 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 (GBF); Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (Egypt), Representative of COP 14 Presidency.

*COP Presidency:* Dr. ZHOU Guomei, Dr. CUI Shuhong, Mr. LIU Ning,

*Observer:* Ms. Kelly Torck (Canada);

The Secretariat was represented by Mr. David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary; Ms. Jihyun Lee, Director of Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division; Mr. Wataru Suzuki, Global Coordinator, Japan Biodiversity Fund, Ms. Gudrun Fosse, Head of Administration Division; Mr. Taukondjo Shikongo, Head, Nagoya Protocol Unit; Ms. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi, Head, Cartagena Protocol Unit; Mr. Neil Pratt,

/...

Officer-in-Charge, Implementation Support Division; Ms. Li Gu, Programme Officer; Mr. David Ainsworth, Information Officer; Ms. Kathryn Garforth, Programme Officer;

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

3. The teleconference was opened on 13 October 2022 at 7:00 a.m. EST by the Minister of Ecology and Environment, Mr. Huang Runqiu, President of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties who chaired the Bureau meeting. The Chair welcomed the Bureau Members and provided them with a brief update on the recent preparations and activities undertaken by the Government of China, including work with the trilateral group, preparations for the high-level segment as well as the virtual event China hosted during the United Nations General Assembly. He noted he had had recent exchanges with other ministers and would continue to make efforts to build consensus towards the post-2020 process. He also informed the meeting that the Executive Secretary was unable to be present in the Bureau meeting due to her ongoing mission to the IUCN Leaders Forum which was held in Jeju, Republic of Korea and invited the Deputy Executive Secretary to provide welcome remarks.

4. The Deputy Executive Secretary welcomed the Bureau members and complemented the update provided by the Chair. He noted that important advanced on the logistics side had been achieved, and thanked the Government of Canada for their support. He also noted advances on the substantive side, including preparations for negotiations with the meeting of the Informal Group held successfully by the Co-chairs of the Working Group. He thanked the Co-chairs and all the members of the Informal Group for their hard work and for the progress made. The Deputy Executive Secretary highlighted the ongoing high-level political work including holding many bilateral meetings with ministers and the Secretary General of the United Nations who was engaged in the process. Other intersessional work, such as on digital sequencing information (DSI), was also ongoing. He reminded the Bureau that visa applications needed to be submitted early and urged participants to register as soon as possible to facilitate the logistical preparations and to ensure credentials were in order. In terms of funding, he informed the Bureau that although there had been some recent pledges, there was still a gap of approximately US 1 million for the organization of the meeting. Regarding the funding for delegates from eligible countries, thanks to recent contributions including from Sweden and the United Kingdom, the Secretariat could now fund approximately 160 delegates, two from least developing countries and small islands developing States and one from developing countries or economies in transition. The Deputy Executive Secretary reaffirmed the Secretariat's continued support and will continue to work closely to finalize preparations for the meetings.

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

5. The Chair introduced the provisional agenda for the meeting. There being no objections, the agenda was adopted.

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

6. Under this agenda item, the Chair invited the Co-Chairs of WG2020, Mr. Francis Ogwal and Mr. Basile Van Havre to provide an update on the recent meeting of the Informal Group that was held last month in Montreal as well as any updates on the preparation of the fifth meeting of the Working Group.

7. The Co-chairs began by providing a brief presentation on the outcomes of the Informal Group meeting held in the last week of September. They indicated they had engaged in a number of preparatory webinars and discussions with indigenous peoples and local communities and other experts prior to the meeting. The Co-chairs thanked the Bureau members and the Secretariat for their support and noted the meeting had been held successfully over the five days. They noted that the Informal Group found the compilation of short information notes very useful and proposed to make it available to Parties ahead of the WG2020-5. The Co-chairs noted that the Informal Group had gone as far as it could to propose a shorter text which was easier to read and which clarified the choices that were available. It was indicated that some sections had been difficult to complete before the SBSTTA and SBI related items were resolved and therefore it would be advantageous to schedule these early during COP to address them. The Co-chairs indicated that the

Informal Group had asked them to draft section Bbis and to revise the theory of change. They informed the Bureau that the report of the meeting, including a possible streamlined text of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework taking into account the meeting outcomes, was expected to be posted by 22 October. For next steps, they noted a series of regional briefing webinars to update Parties on the outcomes and discussions of the Informal Group meeting.

8. Regarding the WG2020-5, the Co-chairs noted that the objective would be for Parties to consider and work on the streamlined text to try to best resolve the remaining brackets. There would be text-based negotiations in the contact groups, focusing on those who have the potential to be addressed quickly first. They noted the work on digital sequencing information would continue and the details of the contact groups, as well as the organization of work, would be developed in the coming days. Lastly, they indicated that they had been engaging various events and meetings, for example AMCEN and UNGA, raising the profile of the process and meetings.

9. The Bureau members thanked and congratulated the Co-chairs on the successful meeting of the Informal Group. Participants agreed that the meeting had a good atmosphere and had been very constructive, which resulted in good progress on the text. They also thanked the Secretariat for the good support offered during the meeting. Members of the Bureau noted they looked forward to the organization of work for the WG2020-5 as soon as possible and that Parties should make the best use of time ahead of the meeting for informal consultations, therefore stressed the importance of the regional briefings to explain the outcomes to Parties who did not attend. The importance of making space for informal bilateral consultations during the WG2020-5 meeting was highlighted. A member of the Bureau also highlighted that it would be important that sections of the text that had not yet been discussed in Nairobi and Geneva needed to be prioritized early in the meeting.

10. The Chair thanked the Co-chairs and the members of the Informal Group for the progress and outcomes of the meeting, and urged the Bureau members to encourage Parties from their regions to welcome the outcomes and conduct negotiations on the basis of this streamlined text.

**ITEM 4. PREPARATIONS FOR 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**

11. The Chair introduced the draft organization of work for the second part 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 that had been previously circulated to the Bureau and invited the Deputy Executive Secretary to provide further information.

12. The Deputy Executive Secretary presented the document to the members of the Bureau and reminded them that the agendas for the COP and MOPs had been adopted at part one of the meeting held last October and that the annotated agendas had been completed and recently posted. He also noted that the compilation of draft decisions coming from SBSTTA, SBI and WG8J was being drafted and would include some updated annexes relating to the intersessional work, as well as new draft decisions on the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols. The Deputy Executive Secretary then provided an overview of the calendar days of the COP which included a general view of the parallel events, as well as an indicative breakdown on the composition of the days, which included COP and working group plenaries and/or contact groups. He highlighted the need to be flexible but that it would be useful to schedule the first few days. He continued to inform the Bureau that the first stock-taking plenary would aim to adopt some early decisions and that the second stock-taking plenary would include ministerial participation to assist with the final stages of the negotiations. He noted that the Bureau would need to balance the time devoted to the different agenda items, mentioning there were a series of considerations that would need to be taken into account such as the concurrence of the COP and MOPs, the clustering of Protocol items and the integration, as much as possible, of issues of the COP and the Protocols.

13. The Bureau thanked the Deputy Executive Secretary and the Secretariat for the good document and expressed appreciation that it reflected their previous comments and suggestions. Members of the Bureau

noted the current document provided a more efficient way of working during the COP and provided additional suggestions and comments. Broadly, members of the Bureau welcomed the establishment of two working groups and stressed the need to ensure balance of items for each; they also requested to find ways to save time on first readings, including by finding online ways to do this. They suggested ensuring priority is given to items of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as ensuring good sequencing of issues and avoiding closely related contact groups to run in parallel, for example on DSI and synthetic biology, as some of the experts were the same for both issues. The Bureau also requested that the organization of work be posted as soon as possible as some Parties were waiting for this to organize the composition of their delegations and register, and asked to see a final version of the organization of work before it is posted. Regarding time management, the Bureau stressed the importance of reducing any unnecessary time spent in plenary on speeches or welcome statements. They highlighted the importance of also providing time for informal discussions which would be crucial in advancing negotiations. Furthermore, some members of the Bureau indicated they should be ready to make some difficult decisions regarding some items that might not be able to be addressed or adopted at COP as priority will be given to items related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. A member of the Bureau noted the challenge that some smaller delegations would face when four contact groups are running in parallel, especially if only two eligible delegates were being funded to the COP; a further request was made to ensure no more than 4 contact groups ran in parallel. The Bureau reiterated the need to replicate the modality used in Geneva and Nairobi where limited online access was given to Parties under certain conditions, to allow for virtual participation. Members of the Bureau also indicated the importance of ensuring that there is priority seating for Parties in the contact groups, as this caused a challenge in Nairobi. They also suggested chairs of contact groups need to be given certain parameters and orientation on how to manage the contact groups effectively.

14. The Deputy Executive Secretary thanked the Bureau for their comments and answered many of the questions posed by members of the Bureau. He welcomed any further written comments by the Bureau in the following days and indicated the Secretariat would proceed to finalize the document as soon as possible with a view to make it available to Parties in the coming days.

#### ***4.2 Inter-sessional preparatory work for Part 2 of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and related meetings***

15. Under this agenda item, the Chair invited the Chair of SBSTTA, Mr. Hesiquio Benitez to provide the Bureau with any updates under SBSTTA.

16. The Chair of SBSTTA provided a brief update on indicators for the monitoring framework for the post 2020 GBF and on marine and coastal biodiversity and EBSA. He informed the Bureau that the Secretariat would be publishing the Monitoring Framework as an annex to the draft decision. In addition, the Secretariat was reviewing a list of components and complementary indicators to ensure that the indicators suggested during SBSTTA-24 were captured in an adequate level. He noted that he would be organizing a webinar on the monitoring framework. Regarding marine, the Chair of SBSTTA informed the participants that an online discussion forum on the issue of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) had been held from 14 to 21 September 2022 and had been facilitated by Mr. Janos Henniscke and Ms. Marie-May Muzunguile. He noted the report was being currently finalized and would be made available to inform the deliberations of COP on this issue.

17. After thanking the Chair of SBSTTA for his update, the Chair of the Bureau meeting invited the Chair of SBI, Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist to provide any updates under SBI. Ms. Sörqvist provided the participants of the meeting with a brief update on the areas of mainstreaming, resource mobilization, the financial mechanism, technical and scientific cooperation, and an enhanced mechanism for planning, monitoring, review and reporting. On mainstreaming, she noted that the Secretariat was finalizing the compilation of reviews received which would be published shortly. On resource mobilization, she informed the Bureau that a second round of consultations would be held on 19 October and 20 October 2022 and would focus on the concepts reflected in the section of the SBI recommendation entitled “Additional elements on resource mobilization”. On the financial mechanism, she indicated that a pre-session document, concerning guidance to the GEF, was being finalized by the Secretariat for publication for COP and that the report of the GEF Council to the COP had already been published. Furthermore, she indicated that the Secretariat was reviewing the first draft report of the review of technical and scientific cooperation programmes submitted

by the consultants. It was expected that the final report would be completed and published by the third week of October. Lastly, regarding the mechanism for planning, monitoring, review and reporting, she noted that Section J of the draft GBF had been discussed by the Informal Group on the post-2020 GBF at its recent meeting in Montreal. She also noted that the Secretariat had been working on developing the Online Reporting Tool for the 7th National Report, including its utilization to collect the information proposed in the national targets template contained an annex to the draft decision based on analysis, the Secretariat would propose revisions to the various annexes.

18. The Chair and Bureau thanked the Chairs of SBSTTA and SBI for their updates and provided no further comments.

### **4.3 Update on High-level Segment**

19. Under this issue, the Chair invited Dr. Cui Shuhong, representative from the Government of China to provide an update on the preparations for the High-Level Segment(HLS).

20. Dr. Cui indicated that the tripartite mechanism between the Secretariat, and the Governments of Canada and China had been working smoothly to ensure the preparations were going well. He informed the participants that invitations to the HLS had been dispatched mid September and the Secretariat and China had already received a good number of enquiries and confirmations from delegations. On logistical arrangements, he noted that the banquet events, as well as other logistical aspects such as conference bags and other details, were being arranged. Finally, he noted the Secretariat and China were working closely to refine the HLS agenda.

21. The Deputy Executive Secretary complemented the update provided by Dr. Cui and indicated that many receptions were being planned during the HLS, including a welcome reception by China on the first day of the HLS, a reception by Canada on the second, and one by Turkiye on the third day. He urged all Bureau members to include their ministers in the list of credentials as part of the delegations to enable participation of ministers in the negotiations. He further clarified that the HLS would be an opportunity for ministers to deliver national statements. He highlighted that ministers would be encouraged to make commitments and announce actions to support the implementation of the post-2020 GBF. Ministers would also have the opportunity to participate in many parallel high-level side-events, as well as in the stock-taking plenary where China would perhaps call on some ministers to assist on the negotiation of remaining issues.

### **4.4 Update on logistical arrangements**

22. Under this agenda item, the Deputy Executive Secretary provided an overview of the financial situation of the conference. He noted that currently there was approximately a \$ 1 million gap in funding including a \$485,000 deficit for the organization of WG2020-4 in Nairobi. Regarding the BZ fund, he noted that although the hope was to fund 3 delegates from eligible countries, this would require approximately \$ 4 million and the Secretariat had only received \$ 1.9 million and thanked the Netherlands, Japan, Switzerland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Austria and Czech Republic for their pledges. He indicated with these funds, approximately 160 delegates could be funded, two per least developing countries and small island developing States, and one delegate from other eligible countries. If two delegates per country were to be funded for all developing countries, the deficit would be of only approximately \$725,000. He indicated the Secretariat had prioritized those who did not have large delegations, and as the room for maneuver was reduced, he called on the Bureau to make further contributions to the BZ fund in the coming days to ensure at least 2 delegates per eligible country could be funded.

23. The representative from the Government of Canada also provided a brief update. She noted that the Government of Canada was working closely with the Secretariat to ensure all preparations were in place. She urged the Bureau members to apply for visas as soon as possible to ensure they are issued in a timely manner.

24. The Bureau thanked the Secretariat and the Governments of Canada and China for the good collaboration and for the smooth preparations for the meetings. A member of the Bureau noted the difficulty some delegates are facing in some Canadian consular offices with regards to priority when applying for the

visas and urged for the Government of Canada to communicate to all missions the importance of giving priority to COP delegates. On funding, members of the Bureau agreed it was important and urgent that more contributions are given to fill the funding gaps for the conference and for the participation of eligible delegates, emphasizing the difficulties that small delegations would endure in keeping up with the heavy COP agenda. To this end, a member of the Bureau requested the Secretariat provide them with details in writing of the funding gaps along with the pledges made thus far. On the aspect of travel and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, it was clarified that the Secretariat was trying to fund one or two additional female representatives to ensure gender balance.

#### **4.5 Update on high-level political engagement on the preparation of COP 15**

25. On this issue, the Chair informed the Bureau that China would play a leading role to facilitate momentum of the process. He noted that in addition to the HLS, China would have to play an important role in the adoption of the GBF and in this regard, they had been communicating with some high-level representatives of regions and Parties.

26. The Deputy Executive Secretary further complemented the Chair and noted that ongoing efforts were being made to engage leaders and ministers. He informed the participants that the Secretariat was in regular communication with the Executive Office of the Secretary General who was committed to the process and the COP. Responding to a question from the Bureau on a possible Heads of Government and State (HoGS) event, the Deputy Executive Secretary noted that part one of the COP had featured a short leaders opening organized by China, but as the Secretariat had received increasing interest by a number of countries, media and civil society on the participation of leaders, there were ongoing discussions with Canada and China to explore possible ways of providing an opportunity for the engagement of HoGS.

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

27. Under this agenda item, the Chair invited the Bureau to address any other issues.

28. A member of the Bureau asked if the date of the next bureau meeting could be announced and that the documents for this meeting be circulated well ahead of time. In response, the Deputy Executive Secretary indicated that a Bureau meeting would be organized in early November. Furthermore, an in-person Bureau meeting was planned for 2 December 2022 with daily meeting during the meetings.

### **ITEM 5. CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

29. The Chair offered a brief summary of the discussions and thanked the Bureau and all participants for the fruitful meeting. The meeting was closed on 13 October 2022 at 10:30 a.m. EST.