



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE  
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
9 November 2022

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH 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 9 November 2022 at 7:00am EST to discuss the part II of the UN Biodiversity Conference and the fifth meeting of the Working Group of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

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, Ms. CAI Lei, Mr. LIU Ning, Mr. XIA Yingxian, and Ms. ZHONG Jing.

*Observer:* Ms. Tara Shannon (Canada) and Ms. Kelly Torck (Canada);

The Secretariat was represented by Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary, 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

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Mandivenyi, Head, Cartagena Protocol Unit; Mr. Neil Pratt, Officer-in-Charge, Implementation Support Division; Ms. Li Gu, Programme Officer; Mr. David Ainsworth, Information Officer;

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

3. The teleconference was opened on 9 November 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 informed the Bureau of some of his recent engagements as COP President including with the trilateral group, bilateral meetings with the Canadian minister and some technical exchanges with some Parties. He informed the Bureau that the Co-chairs had prepared a detailed scenario note for WG2020-5 and that in general, there was no objection to using the text of the informal group to serve as a blueprint in the negotiations. He then invited the Executive Secretary to deliver opening remarks.

4. The Executive Secretary welcomed the Bureau members and updated them on the Secretariat's final preparations for the WG2020-5 and COP. She noted the Co-chairs had been working hard intersessionally to update the regions to help ensure successful outcomes in December. She thanked the Government of China and Canada for their support and leadership and thanked the Secretariat staff for their ongoing hard work. The Executive Secretary noted a few important reminders to the Bureau including to encourage countries to apply for entry visas to Canada as soon as possible but no later than 10 November. She also highlighted that the financial situation for the BE was not ideal, with a gap of \$500,000 to cover conference costs, and she appealed to the Bureau members to consider making pledges to cover this gap. She informed that due to recent pledges to the BZ fund, the Secretariat could now fund two delegates from all eligible countries. She urged the Bureau to encourage their ministers to attend the High-Level Segment and to stay the additional days to participate in the final negotiations of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

### **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 organization of work and scenario note of the fifth meeting of the Working Group.

7. The Co-chairs provided a brief presentation and, starting with the organization of work, proposed to the Bureau that they would like to request to reserve time for bilateral consultations and to establish Friends of the Chairs. They advised they would spend one hour per each goal and target, and if no progress was achieved after that, to move on. They noted that the opening plenary would focus on consideration of the report of the Informal Group and the closing plenary would adopt the reports of the contact groups. Due to the limited capacity of some delegations, they proposed to only have two parallel sessions of contact groups, 14 in total. The Co-chairs then provided a brief overview of the sequencing of agenda items and in terms of the modus operandi, they highlighted that a strong small team of co-leads was fundamental for the process, and proposed to keep the current arrangements for the contact groups with minimal changes to the Co-leads. While presenting an overview of the schedule of the three days, they also presented the list of co-leads for the contact groups. The Co-chairs informed the Bureau of the regional briefings they held on the report of the Informal Group, and which was well received and supported. They recommended that the working group and the COP use both the technical rationale and streamlined text, which would be presented in the first plenary. In terms of guidance for the contact groups, they indicated that the report would be the basis and to allow requests to reintroduce elements. Regarding the lead negotiators of the Friends of the Chairs (FOCs), they proposed a small regionally balance group that would seek consensus and solution. The Co-chairs appealed to the Bureau for their support on these proposals.

8. Members of the Bureau thanked the Co-chairs for their presentation and overview, as well as their hard work in the past few weeks. Regarding some of the proposals made by the Chairs, members of the Bureau

noted that in terms of time allocation, flexibility had to be key as some items would require less time than others. Agreeing to the proposal of a group of lead negotiators for the FOCs, they stated a preference for a smaller group rather than a larger one. Members of the Bureau also agreed with keeping the opening plenary as short as possible with clear establishment of ground rules, given the short time available. They requested not to have two contact groups in parallel to the FOCs on DSI, as it would strain the delegations.

9. Based on several comments to the scenario note, the Co-chairs agreed to prepare a revised note to reflect the comments. They also welcomed the support for the lead of negotiators for the FOCs and indicated they would prepare a detailed proposal to be circulated to the Bureau shortly.

#### **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**

##### ***4.1 Organization of Work***

10. The Chair informed the Bureau that the organization of work for the second part of COP 15 and the concurrent meetings was now available to Parties, and that they would address how certain agenda items would be dealt with. He invited the Deputy Executive Secretary to provide an update in this regard.

11. Mr. David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary, began by noting the organization of work had been posted a while ago following the indications of the Bureau. Making reference to the timetable of parallel events and receptions circulated to the Bureau, he invited the Bureau to confirm the arrangements for the opening ceremony of the UN Biodiversity Conference and outlined the general approach. He then provided an update on the documents and noted that the majority of draft decisions were available on the website for each meeting. Very few documents were yet to be posted in the coming days, including the budget document, and naturally the report of the WG2020-5 which would contain the decision on the global biodiversity framework and DSI, and which would only come at the end of its meeting. On the document regarding envisioned scenarios, he highlighted the table indicated which items required full first readings, as well as indication of those items that would be expected to need a contact group. The Secretariat had examined some of the key outstanding issues and, in a very summarized form, proposed a way forward procedurally for each agenda item. The Deputy Executive Secretary also went into detail on several of the thematic agenda items and their status, including suggestions.

12. At the invitation of the Chair for comments from the Bureau, members of the Bureau expressed their appreciation for the tables and documents, which reflected their comments and concerns, and for the Secretariat's hard work in this regard. The Bureau's main concern was the incredibly heavy agenda and how to best to prioritize the work, including allocating proper time to the contact groups and FOCs that are not linked to the global biodiversity framework or DSI. If time was not sufficient, they would have to be bold and recommend postponing some of the work for COP 16. The Deputy Executive Secretary provided a general overview of how the items would be classified and the proposal of how to best deal with them, given the short time and numerous items.

##### ***4.2 Update on logistical arrangements***

13. Under this agenda item, the Deputy Executive Secretary urged the Bureau to apply for entry visas to Canada as soon as possible. He also noted that the Secretariat was now in a position to fund two delegated per eligible country and due to the approaching deadlines to process travel and without additional funds, it was unlikely that more delegates could be funded. After a request from a member of the Bureau, the Secretariat agreed to issue more information on the status of funding to all Parties.

##### ***4.3 Update on Associated Events***

14. Under this issue, the Deputy Executive Secretary and the representatives of China and Canada provided a brief update on the status of associated events, highlighting these would be a rich part of the Conference and complemented by a number of side-events and pavilions.

**ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS**

15. Under this agenda item, no other issues were raised by the Bureau.

**ITEM 5. CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

16. The Chair and the Executive Secretary offered brief closing remarks and thanked the Bureau and all participants for the fruitful meeting. The meeting was closed on 9 November 2022 at 9:40 a.m. EST.