



Convention on Biological Diversity

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

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH 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 Zoom on 24 November 2022 at 6:00am EST to discuss 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:

Presidency: H.E. Mr. Huang Runqiu (China);

Africa: Mr. Melesse Maryo (Ethiopia);

Asia and the Pacific: Ms. Leina Al-Awadhi (Kuwait);

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

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);

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. Basile van Havre (Canada) and Mr. Francis Sabino 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;

COP Presidency: Dr. ZHOU Guomei, Dr. CUI Shuhong, Ms. CAI Lei, Mr. LIU Ning, Mr. XIA Yingxian, and Ms. ZHONG Jing.

Observers: Ms. Kelly Torck (Canada); Ms. Tara Shannon (Canada); Ms. Rita Khanna (India); Mr. Neville Ash (UNEP).

3. The Secretariat was represented by Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Executive Secretary; Mr. David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary; Ms. Jihyun Lee, Director, Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division; Mr. Wataru Suzuki, Global Coordinator, Japan Biodiversity Fund; Ms. Gudrun Fosse, Head,

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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; Mr. Worku Yifru, Senior Legal Officer; Ms. Li Gu, Programme Officer; Mr. David Ainsworth, Information Officer; Mr. Lijie Cai, Programme Officer; Ms. Kathryn Garforth, Programme Officer, and Ms. Simone Schiele (on loan by IPBES to assist Deputy Executive Secretary);

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The teleconference was opened on 24 November 2022 at 6:00 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 noting this was the last virtual meeting before meeting in-person at COP 15, he informed the Bureau that the events organized on the margins of the Climate COP28 in Egypt had been very successful. He invited the Executive Secretary to provide opening remarks.

5. The Executive Secretary welcomed the Bureau members and reassured them that all the preparations were in place for COP 15 and its concurrent meetings. She reported the overwhelming number for registration which totalled over 10,000 registrants and reported the number of tickets issued for funded delegates which were done in a timely manner. She highlighted that as delegates were preparing to travel, she hoped most of those who required visas had already submitted their applications, and thanked Canada in this regard for their support and help with visas.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. 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

7. 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 preparations for the meeting.

8. The Co-chairs provided a very brief presentation with the latest updates on the meeting and the documents. They highlighted some changes, including some changes regarding DSI and an information sessions to be held on DSI, as well as noted that as Dr. Mathur would not be able to join the COP, they were looking for a replacement for him for the contact group on Goals. The Co-chairs noted the glossary would soon be published and a number of documents were already posted. They introduced the concept of Indaba of the FOCs and as they had received some comments, they noted they needed more time to identify some members which would be finalized by 2 December.

9. In response to some questions by the Bureau, the Co-chairs assured the members of the Bureau that the Indaba would be open to observers and would try to find a solution to the rotation. The aim of the group was to make as much progress with a smaller group, otherwise it would be an extension of the plenary and there was a need to narrow down the speakers. The Bureau also noted the need for a flexible approach with this group and more clarity on how the group would operate. They also requested more details on the information session on DSI. The Co-chairs noted the comments from the Bureau and indicated they would send more information on the session on DSI as soon as they could.

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

10. The Chair informed the Bureau that they needed to identify the Chairs of the two Working Groups of COP 15. He noted these were usually drawn from among the Bureau members, and after some consultations

he would then be informing the Bureau on this and on the identification of potential chairs of contact groups. He then invited the Deputy Executive Secretary to provide a brief update on the organization of work and other matters.

11. Mr. David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary, began by informing the Bureau that a timetable for the opening ceremony of the Conference on 6 December would be sent to them soon and would include the participation of an indigenous Chief, representatives of Canada at various levels of Government, the Secretary General of the United Nations and representatives of China. He also informed the Bureau that there would be a short Bureau meeting that day and that the facilities for regional meetings would be open during the day. He also noted the opportunity for meetings of regional groups with the Secretary General.

12. He noted that on 7 December, there was a need for a very streamlined session with a short opening and short regional statements and observer groups, so that they could complete the organization of work, matters dealing with credentials, reports of the various subsidiary bodies and open the discussions on the budget. He highlighted that given all of this, the Bureau meeting to be held on 2 December was a very important one for the planning of WG2020-5 and the COP. He invited the Bureau to provide any other views or reflections on the possible scenarios for the agenda items. The Deputy Executive Secretary also highlighted that the Secretariat had funded two delegates from developing countries and saw good progress on visas. He also highlighted the Secretariat was looking for contributions to cover the gap in costing to cover the Working Group and COP, noting the very large costs that was being incurred by Canada.

13. At the invitation of the Chair, the representative of China provided a brief update on the status of the High-Level Segment including reporting the high number of ministers who had confirmed participation (over 100 at that stage) in Montreal. He noted the guidance note had been issued, that funding of ministers from eligible countries had gone quite smoothly and the order of speakers would soon be circulated.

14. The representative of Canada also provided brief remarks, including noting with appreciation the request of the Secretariat for Parties to help contribute with cost sharing for the meetings. She also highlighted the good collaboration with the planning between Canada, China and the Secretariat and reassured the Bureau they were working hard to provide a very successful event in Montreal.

15. A brief discussion ensued among the Bureau regarding logistical matters, including timing of statements, schedules of shuttles, and ministerial consultations. There was also a suggestion made by some Bureau members to have two Chairs for each Working Group at COP as a substitute, given the heavy volume of work. These issues were addressed by the Secretariat and the representative of Canada.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

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

ITEM 5. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

17. The Chair and the Executive Secretary thanked the Bureau and all participants for the discussions and wished them safe travels to Canada. The meeting was closed on 24 November 2022 at 7:20 a.m. EST.