



Convention on Biological Diversity

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**Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on Biological Diversity
Second meeting
22 April 2025**

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF
THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE**

1. A meeting of the Bureau of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties was held online by videoconference on 22 April 2025 from 7:00 a.m. to 9.15 a.m. (GMT-4).

2. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the COP Bureau with an overview of the organization of work under the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) and provide a brief overview on the substantive preparations for the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (SB8J-1). Updates on the preparations for the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-27 and SBSTTA-28) and on logistical arrangements for the open-ended meetings of the Convention in the next biennium, were also provided to the Bureau.

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

COP 16 and COP-MOP 11 President: H.E. Ms. Lena Yanina Estrada Asito (Colombia);

COP-MOP 5 President: Ms. Nneka Nicholas (Antigua and Barbuda);

Africa: Ms. Joséphine Thérèse B. Eloundou (Cameroon);

Asia and the Pacific: Mr. Bilal Qtishat (Jordan), Ms. Ilham Mohamed (Maldives);

Eastern European States: Ms. Adla Kahrić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Ms. Ditta Greguss (Hungary, substitute for Bosnia and Herzegovina for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol), Mr. Jakhongir Talipov (Uzbekistan);

Latin America and the Caribbean: Ms. Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica), Mr. Jeremiah Edmund (Saint Lucia substitute for Jamaica for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol), Ms. Corina Sarli (Argentina);

Western Europe and Others: Mr. Eric Schauls (Luxembourg), Mr. Gaute Hanssen (Norway)

Ex-officio: Ms. Clarissa Souza Della Nina (Canada), Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation; Mr. Jean Bruno Mikissa (Gabon), Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

Observers: Mr. Davit Knyazyan (Representative from Armenia); and Mr. Neville Ash (United Nations Environment Programme)

COP Presidency: Ms. Paula Sanmiguel, Ms. Catalina Haydar, Ms. Ana Maria Garcia, Ms. Milagros Avila (Colombia);

4. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was represented by Ms. Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary; Ms. Jihyun Lee, Director of the Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division; Mr. Asad Naqvi, Director of the Implementation Support Division; Mr. Neil Pratt, Head, Stakeholder Engagement and Cooperation Unit; Ms. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi, Head, Biosafety Unit; Mr. Taukondjo Shikongo, Head ABS Unit; Ms. Fumiko Nakao, Principal Coordination Officer, Japan Biodiversity Fund; Mr. Olivier Rukundo, Head of the Peoples and Biodiversity Unit; Ms. Jillian Campbell, Head of the Monitoring, Review and National Reporting Unit; Ms. Inonge Mweene, Legal Officer for the Convention; Ms. Kathryn Garforth, Legal Officer for the Protocols; Mr. Q'Apaj Conde, Associate Programme Management Officer, the Peoples and Biodiversity Unit.

ITEM 1. Opening of the Meeting

5. The meeting was opened at 7:00 a.m. (GMT-4). The Executive Secretary welcomed the Bureau members wishing them a happy Earth Day. She also welcomed the newly appointed COP 16 President, Her Excellency Ms. Lena Estrada and stressed how the Convention has benefited from Colombia's strong leadership.

6. The COP President also welcomed all the Bureau members, and thanked the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat for their warm welcome in her new capacity. She indicated her full commitment in working closely with the Bureau members in steering the Convention's intergovernmental processes.

7. The Executive Secretary also expressed appreciation to the Bureau for their comments and support on various issues leading to this meeting before providing an overview of the main purpose of the meeting, including the consideration of SBI work and recalling that consideration on having one or two SBIs can be finalized through a follow up meeting to be held early May, with enough time to consult Parties in their respective regions.

8. The Executive Secretary presented the preparations for the International Day of Biological Diversity (IDB) 2025 under the theme "Harmony with nature and sustainable development" and requested messages on the theme of IDB 2025 from high-level representatives of Parties and relevant organizations by May 15 in one of the six official languages of the United Nations for publication on the IDB webpage.

9. The Executive Secretary also presented updates from the work on digital sequence information on genetic resources (DSI), informing its Steering Committee had been set up and it would be meeting virtually on 16-18 June and in person on 3-6 September. With regard to the nominations for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Allocation Methodology for the Cali Fund, she explained it was in the process of selecting technical experts from the nominations to form the group, however, only one nomination from the region of Eastern European States had been received and there were no nominations for representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities from the Arctic, Latin America and

Caribbean and the Pacific yet. The Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group would be comprised of the following technical experts: 15 nominated by Parties, 7 nominated by representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities from the seven sociocultural regions, and 4 nominated by relevant organizations. She invited nominations for the Eastern Europe States region, and the Arctic, Latin America and Caribbean and the Pacific socio-cultural regions by Wednesday 23rd April 2025.

10. Regarding the ongoing work on monitoring and reporting, the Executive Secretary noted that the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, with the support of the Secretariat, reviewed the nominations and selected experts, in accordance with the criteria provided in annex III to decision 16/32, with due regard to equitable regional representation, gender balance and representation of various areas of technical expertise. The list of selected experts to serve as AHSTAG members included 15 members from Parties and 10 members from observers.

11. Regarding the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Executive Secretary noted that the implementation of the outcomes was ongoing, with the Open-ended Online Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management running from 21 April–9 May 2025 and informing the Bureau that the Secretariat expected that an AHTEG would be established, and it would meet in the first half of July to fulfill its mandates and submit recommendations to SBSTTA 27. She also announced that the international training course on risk assessments of living modified organisms would be taking place in Brasilia, Brazil, from 2 to 6 June 2025. The Secretariat received 81 nominations for the 25 slots available. Finally, the twentieth meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was scheduled for 27 to 29 May 2025.

12. The Executive Secretary reminded the Bureau that the Secretariat has engaged the Management Consulting Team (MCT) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to undertake the Functional Review and informed them that their Terms of Reference were being finalized in the form of Proposal of Activities, and the Secretariat would share them by the end of April.

13. The Executive Secretary also provided an overview of her mission to Yerevan, Armenia and informed the Bureau that the preparations for COP17 are well underway; a venue has been selected, and logistics preparations were also moving forward.

ITEM 2. Adoption of the Agenda

14. The COP President invited the Bureau to adopt the provisional agenda for the meeting. The agenda was adopted without any changes.

ITEM 3. Organization of Work of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation

15. The COP President invited the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to Chair the next agenda item. The SBI Chair provided an overview on matters to be addressed by the SBI, including the potential of addressing some of these at a meeting held earlier (i.e. first quarter of 2026, 3-4 day meeting) than August 2026. She informed the Bureau that if two meetings were held in the present biennium, these would be the sixth and seventh meetings of SBI (SBI-6 and SBI-7), presenting potential list of matters that can be considered by the SBI-6 and the SBI-7.

16. The meeting of SBI in August 2026 would still need to be held with a duration of 6 to 8 days. Given the need for a meeting of SBI to be held in August 2026 after SBSTTA-28 in order to accommodate the global review, she said it is not considered feasible to hold an early meeting of SBI any later than March 2026. The Bureau members also noted the need to avoid any overlap of a possible early SBI meeting with the Holy month of Ramadan.

17. The Chair also shared some possible approaches for enhancing the effective management of SBI consideration, including advanced written submission of first reading statements, noting also similar discussion by the SBSTTA Bureau at its planning meeting held on 1-3 April 2025. It was also proposed to hold a Bureau retreat in early 2026, possibly after the early SBI meeting in the first quarter, to discuss and strategize for the organization of work of the August meeting.

18. The Bureau members then exchanged their preliminary views whether SBI should be organized in one or two meetings. It was noted that this decision would be taken at a follow-up meeting early in May 2025, after consultation with Parties in their respective regions.

19. The COP President thanked the SBI Chair and the Secretariat for their efforts in preparing for SBI. Based on the discussion, she proposed to meet again in early May 2025 to take a decision on this matter.

ITEM 4. First meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (SB8J-1)

20. The Secretariat provided an overview of the revised draft provisional agenda for SB8J-1, circulated prior to the meeting, and responded to the questions and comments submitted by Bureau members over the past few weeks. The Secretariat highlighted that SB8j-1 should address substantive tasks contained in the new programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions (PoW) and stressed that the link between the proposed agenda items and their contributions to support the implementation of the different elements/tasks of the new PoW would be clearly reflected in the annotations to the provisional agenda.

21. The Secretariat then provided clarifications on some specific comments on the proposed agenda items 3, 4, 5 and 6, as follows:

- a. agenda item 3: in-depth dialogue would focus on the theme “*mobilizing resources and means of implementation to support the full implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*”; and provide inputs contributing to the implementation of tasks contained in element 8 of the new PoW, which pertains to “Access, including direct access, to funding for indigenous peoples and local communities for the conservation restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity”.
- b. agenda item 4: would address Task 1.1 and Task 1.2, which are distinct, but also interrelated, hence the guidelines on indigenous and traditional territories would be considered as a package.
- c. Agenda item 5 on *modus operandi*: the plan was to link the discussions under this item to the implementation of task 6.1 which focuses on further developing the enhanced participation mechanisms used by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention.
- d. Agenda item 6: better to consider this agenda item in SB8J-2, thereby providing enough time to review the contributions made by IPLCs to NBSAPs.

22. In relation to Task 5.4, the Secretariat clarified that it would be covered by SB8j-1, noting that this will be a process discussion which will not involve substantive or technical discussions, as part of the overall process to support the implementation of the task.

23. The Secretariat also clarified on the contributions of IPLCs to the preparation of the first global report, including through coordination within the Secretariat. Regarding the issue of nominations of national focal points on Article 8j and ensuring quorum for SB8j-1, it was noted that notifications will be issued on a rolling basis, which serves as both a call and a reminder for Parties to nominate their Article 8(j) focal points. In addition to notifications, the Secretariat is also reaching out to individual Parties directly to follow up on the nomination process.

24. Following exchanges of views and clarifications by the Secretariat, the Bureau agreed that the Secretariat could proceed to finalise the agenda and publish it on the website and prepare its annotations.

ITEM 5. Updates on preparations for the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)

25. The SBSTTA Chair (Mr. Jean Bruno Mikissa) and the Secretariat (Ms. Jihyun Lee) provided an update on the outcomes of the meeting of the SBSTTA Bureau, held in person in Montreal from 1 to 3 April 2025, including the finalization of agenda items to be addressed by SBSTTA-27 and SBSTTA-28.

26. SBSTTA Bureau had its planning meeting in Montreal, from 1 to 3 April. The Meeting was joined by 13 Bureau members including 2 members joining online. At the meeting, the SBSTTA Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, reviewed and finalized the provisional agenda and the organization of work for the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth meetings of the SBSTTA. The provisional agenda for SBSTTA 27, scheduled for 20-24 October, were made available on the meeting webpage.

27. It was noted that priority in the forthcoming SBSTTA meetings would be given to the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as well as providing necessary scientific and technical tools and options that will enable Parties and partners to expedite their implementation activities.

28. The SBSTTA Bureau also discussed various ways that can enhance the effectiveness and efficiency, including the possible way to receive advanced submission of the first reading statements for a few items on pilot basis, as well as scientific and technical nature of the SBSTTA operation. The Bureau will continue its discussion in this regard based on a note from the Secretariat.

ITEM 6. Updates on the logistical arrangements for the open-ended meetings of the Convention and its Protocols.

29. The Secretariat provided an update on the logistical arrangements for the open-ended meetings of the Convention taking place this biennium. SBSTTA-27 will be held from 20 to 24 October 2025, back-to-back with SB8J-1, from 27 to 30 October 2025, and both will take place at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City, Panama. The agendas for these meetings, relevant documentation and the information note for participants will be made available on the webpages of the meetings in due course.

30. SBSTTA-27 and SB8J-1 will be preceded by regional consultations, on 19 October and 26 October 2025, respectively. Also, there will be an information workshop on recently completed IPBES assessments to take place on 18 October 2025.

31. Notifications for registration as well as requests for side-events for SBSTTA-27 and SB8J-1 on topics relevant to the agenda items will be also issued soon.

ITEM 7. Other Matters

32. Under this item, a question was raised on how the UN liquidity crisis may affect the Convention and its planned work. In response, the Executive Secretary clarified that the Convention activities are funded through the assessed contributions (core budget) and voluntary funds from individual donor Parties. The Convention does not receive funding from the UN Regular Budget and is therefore not directly affected by the liquidity crisis. She informed the Bureau that the UN Secretary-General has launched the UN80 Initiative to review work across the UN and mandates of many bodies to ensure efficiencies.

33. The Bureau also recalled the arrangements as set out in the “guidance for members of the bureau of the Conference of the Parties”, where it is highlighted that documents for the COP bureau meeting should be made available two weeks prior to the meeting (para 23) and requested the Secretariat to adhere to that practice.

ITEM 8. Closure of the Meeting

34. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was closed at 9:15 a.m.
