



Convention on Biological Diversity

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Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Panama City, 26 to 30 October 2025

MINUTES OF THE BUREAU MEETINGS HELD DURING 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 IN PANAMA CITY

1. The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties met a total of four times during 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). The Bureau meetings took place at the Atlapa Convention Centre in Panama City.

2. This note summarizes the proceedings of the Bureau meetings held from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on 26 October 2025; and from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on 28, 29 and 30 October 2025.

3. The meetings were chaired by Ms. Daniela Durán González, representative of the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, Ms. Irene Vélez Torres, the COP 16 President. The following members of the Bureau attended the above meetings:

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

Africa: Ms. Joséphine Thérèse B. Eloundou (Cameroon); Mr. Jonas Anthé (Togo);

Asia and the Pacific: Mr. Belal Qtishat (Jordan); Mr. Midhath Rasheed (Maldives);

Eastern European States: Ms. Adla Kahrić (Bosnia and Herzegovina);

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

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

Ex-officio: Ms. Clarissa Nina (Brazil), 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. Aram Meymaryan, Mr. Davit Knyazyan and Mr. Davit Manukyan (Representatives from Armenia as COP 17 incoming hosts); Mr. Neville Ash (United Nations Environment Programme);

4. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was represented by Ms. Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary; Ms. Jihyun Lee, Deputy Executive Secretary; Mr. Asad Naqvi, Director of the Implementation Support Division; Ms. Sakhile Silitshena, Director of the Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division; Ms. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi, Head, Biosafety Unit; Mr. Taukondjo Shikongo, Head ABS Unit; Mr. Olivier Rukundo, Head of the Peoples and Biodiversity Unit; Ms. Inonge Mweene, Senior Legal Officer for the Convention; Ms. Elizabeth Bernhardt, Head of Communications and Awareness; Ms. Maria Morgado, Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary; Mr. Q’apaj Conde, Programme Officer; Ms. Christine Estrada, Senior Programme Assistant; Ms. Gisela Talamas, Programme Assistant and Ms. Imane Sednoui, Senior Staff Assistant.

5. The main purpose of the Bureau meetings was to provide guidance to the presiding officers and Secretariat on the preparations and conduct of the meeting.

ITEM 1. Opening of the Meeting

6. The first Bureau meeting held on 26 October 2025 was opened at 10:00 am local time by Ms. Daniela Durán González, who chaired the meeting on behalf of Her Excellency, Ms. Irene Vélez Torres, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia and COP 16 President. The Chair welcomed the Bureau members and thanked them and the Secretariat for the preparations carried out for SB8J-1. She reiterated the commitment of the COP 16 Presidency for a successful first meeting of this new subsidiary body established at COP 16 in Cali and expressed the readiness of the Presidency team to work with the Bureau and all Parties and support the process to achieve the best outcomes for the meeting.

7. The Executive Secretary also provided opening remarks and in welcoming the Bureau members, expressed solidarity with the Bureau member from Jamaica who was unable to travel due to the hurricane situation unfolding in her country, but who joined the meeting online. The Executive Secretary highlighted the important work and role of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and stressed the importance of ensuring effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities. She extended a warm welcome to the Armenian representatives in the meeting and concluded by thanking the Bureau for its guidance and advice during all preparations in the lead up to this first meeting of the SB8(j).

ITEM 2. Adoption of the Agenda

8. The Chair introduced the provisional agenda, and the Bureau adopted it as presented.

ITEM 3. 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)

9. On 26 October 2025, the Chair invited the Secretary of the meeting, Mr. Olivier Rukundo, to provide an overview of the substantive and logistical preparations for the meeting.

10. The Secretary of SB8J-1 noted that the intention was to proceed in the same manner as detailed in the organization of work and scenario note. He informed the Bureau that, in accordance with decision 16/5 which decided to apply mutatis mutandis the consolidated modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and established procedures and practices of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on an interim basis, the indigenous caucus had elected Ms. Gunn-Britt Retter (Arctic region) as Co-chair for the meeting, and elected the following six representatives to serve as “Friends of the Bureau” and which would be presented to plenary the following day: Ms. Jennifer Corpuz (Asia region), Ms. Christine T. Grant (Pacific region), Mr. Alexey Tsykarev (Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia

region), Ms. Rochelle Diver (North America region), Ms. Lucy Mulenkei (Africa region) and Mr. Ramiro Batzin (Central and South America and the Caribbean region).

11. The Bureau engaged in a brief discussion relating to the criteria used by the International Indigenous Forum for Biodiversity (IIFB), to select these representatives and invited the Co-chairs of IIFB, Ms. Lucy Mulenkei and Mr. Ramiro Batzin, to join the Bureau meeting to provide further information on the process used for the election of the Friends of the Bureau. Some Bureau members emphasized the importance of including representatives of local communities amongst the Friends of the Bureau. One member of the Bureau also enquired on the participation of subregions in the election process and highlighted the importance of ensuring that subregions were included in the process. The Co-chairs of IIFB took the floor to clarify that each of the seven sociocultural regions have their regional coordinators, and each region organizes the selection of their representatives independently. Though it was pointed out that there are difficulties in some regions due to a lack of proper representation, the Co-chairs indicated that the process was transparent and fully participatory.

12. The Bureau then deliberated on the involvement of the Friends of the Bureau during the meeting. It was agreed that the Friends of the Bureau should be present in all the meetings of the Bureau during the week of the meeting.

13. The Bureau elected Mr. Jonas Anthe (Togo) to serve as rapporteur of the meeting.

14. On 28 October 2025, after a brief recap of the proceedings of the previous day, which included the establishment of one contact group on item 4 and one on item 5a and b, the Chair invited the Bureau for their views on the proceedings. The Chair also invited the co-chairs of the contact group on item 4 on *modus operandi*, Ms. Pernilla Malmer (Sweden) and Ms. Lucy Mulenkei (representative from indigenous peoples and local communities from the African region) to brief the Bureau on the outcomes of the first contact group meeting. The co-chairs reported that progress was slow, and the divergence was mainly concentrated on section four of the document. Noting that it would be difficult to resolve the divergent view in this meeting, the co-chairs indicated they would aim to consolidate as many views and streamline the text as much as possible. After emphasizing that views were too divergent on section four, the Bureau agreed with the Chair's proposal to conduct informal consultations with a small group of Parties that day, which would include an information session offered by IIFB to clarify any questions. Depending on progress made during the informal consultations, the contact group would then be called either later in the evening, or the following day.

15. On 29 October 2025, the Chair reported back to the Bureau on the advances made in plenary the previous day and invited the co-chairs of the contact group on item 4 to report back on the informal consultations. The co-chairs noted that the information session took longer than planned and they needed more time to resolve some difficult issues. The Chair then invited the co-chairs of the contact group on item 5a and b, Ms. Sikeade Egbuwalo (Nigeria) and Ms. Jennifer Corpuz (representative from indigenous peoples and local communities from the Asia region) to provide an overview of their deliberations. The co-chair present indicated there had been good spirit and willingness to compromise and the contact group managed to advance significantly and would need only a few more hours to resolve the rest. The Bureau then agreed with the Chair's proposal to have further informal consultations and a contact group on item 4 in the morning, to finalize the reading of agenda item 7 in the afternoon, have a short contact group on item 5a and b in the evening and a plenary session at night from 9:30 pm to 11:00 pm.

16. On 30 October 2025, the Chair welcomed the Bureau to the final day of deliberations and after hearing reports back from the co-chairs of the contact group on item 4 and the co-chairs of the contact group on item 5a and b, the Chair proposed that the morning work should include a short contact group on item 5a and b from 10:00 am to 11:00 am and plenary from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. The Bureau also agreed to move the lunchtime side-events to 3:00 p.m. to ensure they would not be impacted by the plenary.

17. The Bureau discussed the possibility of holding informal consultations on item 4 in the intersessional period ahead of COP 17 and noted that any intersessional activity should be inclusive and open to all Parties and indigenous peoples and local communities.

ITEM 8. Other Matters

18. No other issues were brought up under this agenda item.

ITEM 9. Closure of the meeting

19. The first Bureau meeting held on 26 October 2025 was closed at 11:45 a.m. and the last meeting held on 30 October 2025 was closed at 8:45 a.m.
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