



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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**Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the  
Convention on Biological Diversity**  
Rome, 15 to 19 February 2026

**MINUTES OF THE BUREAU MEETINGS HELD DURING THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE  
SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION IN ROME**

1. The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties met a total of four times during the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-6). The Bureau meetings took place at headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome.

2. This note summarizes the proceedings of the Bureau meetings held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on 15 February 2026; and from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on 17, 18 and 19 February 2026.

3. The meetings were chaired by Mr. Jaime Gnecco, 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:

*Nagoya Protocol COP-MOP 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); Mr. Kumar Mambetaliev (Kyrgyzstan substitute for Uzbekistan for matters related to the Nagoya Protocol);

*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. Eliana Saissac (Argentina);

*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. Mher Margaryan, 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. 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; Mr. Markus Lehmann, Head of the Biodiversity Economy Transformation and Innovation Unit; Ms. Jillian Campbell, Head of the Monitoring, Review and National Reporting Unit; Mr. Erie Tamale, Head of the Capacity Building and Knowledge Management Unit; Ms. Elizabeth Bernhardt, Head of Communications and Awareness; Ms. Martine Christin, Officer-in-charge of Administration.

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 15 February 2026 was opened at 10:00 am local time by Mr. Jaime Gnecco, 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 SBI-6. He noted that SBI-6 would be an opportunity for delegations to follow-up on a series of issues and to facilitate actions on the ground, as this meeting would provide guidance to Parties on accelerating progress at all levels. The Chair highlighted that the year ahead would require effective cooperation and strategic guidance. He concluded by reiterating his support to the SBI Chair and the Parties to make this meeting a success.

7. The Executive Secretary also provided opening remarks and welcomed the Bureau members. She encouraged building on the same spirit of the resumed COP 16, which had taken place in the same place, one year earlier. The Executive Secretary expressed her appreciation to the COP 16 Presidency for their leadership and offered a warm welcome to the SBI Chair and the incoming COP17 Presidency team. She informed the Bureau that all pre-session documents had been posted on time, and as part of the efforts of making meetings more effective, informed the Bureau on the outcomes and feedback of six webinars that had been held for Parties in preparation for SBI-6. The Executive Secretary encouraged the Bureau to adhere to the revised time allocations for statements, as per their guidance and which was reflected in the Scenario note of the meeting. She also congratulated all those who participated in the Resource Mobilization workshop just ahead of the meeting and thanked the Governments of Germany and Belgium for their financial support towards the workshop. The Executive Secretary noted that the deadline to submit seventh national reports was 28 February and asked the Bureau to encourage their regions to submit their reports by the deadline, and if not possible, to submit as much information as possible. She concluded by providing information on the Functional Review and noted that the Secretariat was vigorously engaged in its implementation, despite the timing challenges of the process.

### **ITEM 2. Adoption of the Agenda**

8. The Chair introduced the provisional agenda with an addition requested by a Bureau member under Other Matters. The Bureau adopted the agenda as presented.

### **ITEM 3. Preparations for the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-6)**

9. The Chair invited the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, Ms. Clarissa Nina (Brazil), to take over chairing the discussion of the preparations for SBI-6.

10. The Chair of SBI began by thanking the COP Presidency for their leadership and the Secretariat for its support and hard work in preparing for the meeting, and noted, with appreciation, that meeting documents were made available in a timely manner. The SBI Chair highlighted the importance of SBI-6 with only four days to cover a lot of issues. She conveyed her appreciation to the Parties and regions who actively engaged in the preparatory process, including participating in the webinars and submitting

early statements. The SBI Chair emphasized the importance of remaining disciplined in plenary and, once again, requested Bureau members' support to submit advanced statements and shorten speaking times, reminding the Bureau that they agreed to limit interventions to four minutes for statements on behalf of regions, two minutes for individual Parties, three minutes for indigenous peoples and local communities and major groups, and one minute for non-Parties and other observers. She also informed the Bureau that the Secretariat had updated the code of conduct for meetings. The SBI Chair then provided a brief overview of the organization of work for the week and on the possible co-chairs for contact groups that may be needed. She informed the Bureau that the only one of the co-chairs for Financial Mechanism could attend the meeting (Ms. Inka Gnittke of Germany) but would only arrive on Wednesday.

11. The SBI Chair then invited the Senior Legal Officer of the Secretariat, Ms. Inonge Mweene, to provide a brief overview of the updated code of conduct for meetings.

12. At the invitation of the SBI Chair, the Secretary of the meeting, Mr. Asad Naqvi, informed the Bureau that the Secretariat had received 74 early submissions of statements, 32 from Parties, and noted that indigenous peoples and local communities had remained very active and that more submissions were expected by the end of the day.

13. The Bureau engaged in a brief discussion regarding the organization of work and the substantive matters for SBI-6. Members of the Bureau appreciated the leadership of the COP Presidency and the work of the SBI Chair and Secretariat in preparing for the meeting. They also noted with appreciation the efforts underway to make the meeting more effective and reiterated their full support to encourage their regions to implement them.

14. Regarding the submission of seventh national reports by the deadline, a Bureau member noted that there may be entire sub-regions that may not be able to submit by the deadline, which could compromise the scope of what is reflected in the global report. It was also highlighted that some countries, eligible for GEF support for the report, had not received the support yet, which was a critical constraint. In response to the issues brought forth by the Bureau on the submission of national reports by the deadline, the Secretariat acknowledged delays that some Parties have experienced. The Secretariat clarified that the deadline for national reports was needed as the timeline for the global report is also very tight, but that Parties could submit as much information as possible in their report and then they could add additional information or revise the report, if necessary. The sources of information for the global report are clearly elaborated in decision 16/32 and while the national reports are the primary source of information, the national reports will be complemented by other sources of information, including peer-reviewed information; however, having national reports is key to having a high-quality global report. The Secretariat mentioned that all national reports, even late ones, will be available online and could be a source of information for COP17. The Secretariat noted a helpdesk would be available throughout the SBI-6 meeting to assist Parties and remained available to hold calls with regions to further help identify ways to help Parties submit as much information, including after the meeting.

15. Regarding a request to extend the deadline of submission of early statements past 23:59 on 15 February, the Secretariat clarified that the priority for Parties should be those items that could need a contact group, and given the need to prepare the information note reporting on who submitted the statements ahead of the opening of the meeting, it would not be possible for the Secretariat to extend the deadline.

16. After a brief overview of key logistical information and an overview of the media activities by the Secretariat, the Chair handed the meeting back the Presidency for the following agenda item.

17. On 17 February 2026, the SBI Chair began by providing a summary of the proceedings of the first day of SBI-6, including getting through four substantive items, no establishment of contact groups and having three CRPs uploaded. The Chair then provided an overview of the work of the day, including the review of the CRP on item 3a. The Bureau thanked the Chair for the update and noted that there had been some confusion with the order of the statements when they were moved from uploaded to delivered on the conference website. A request was made to keep the statements in the uploaded section to avoid confusion. The Bureau noted that some confusion still remained in plenary on the delivery of statement and reiterated the need to be disciplined and to work together to ensure these effectiveness measures work.

The SBI Chair, once again, requested the Bureau to ask their regions to avoid taking the floor to repeat interventions already submitted, acknowledging that she could not stop Parties from taking the floor. A Bureau member acknowledged that some patience may be required as Parties adjusted to these new modalities. After a brief exchange on the work for the day, the Bureau was informed that two consecutive contact group sessions may take place in the evening from 7pm to 11pm, for 2 hours each.

18. On 18 February 2026, the SBI Chair began by providing a brief overview of the proceedings of the second day and recalled that two contact groups had been established, on item 7 (Cooperation) and on item 8 (ABS). The SBI Chair invited the Co-chairs of each item to provide feedback to the Bureau on their discussions. Moving forward, it was recommended that the contact group sessions end on time to avoid delaying the start of the next contact group and the order to be switched to ensure a fairness.

19. As per past practice, on 18 February 2026, the SBI Chair invited the following representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities to join the Bureau meeting and convey their views on the meeting:

- a. Ms. Lucy Mulenkei (Africa)
- b. Ms. Abigail Kitma (Asia)
- c. Mr. Onel Masardule (Latin America and the Caribbean)
- d. Ms. Ruth Spencer (Latin America and the Caribbean)
- e. Ms. Antonina Gorbunova (Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia)

20. The representatives thanked the Chair for the invitation and noted the importance of understanding how their text proposals were considered in non-papers and CRPs, as well as how observers could raise them in plenary. They also highlighted the issue of funding for participation and expressed concern regarding the status of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Facilitation of the Participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (VB Fund), especially for COP17. The representatives also reported that some of them encountered visa challenges in the Schengen countries.

21. Regarding the matter of text proposals for non-papers and CRPs, the Chair indicated that she would allow them to present an additional text but that it was not normal practice to have additional interventions by observers during the stage of considering CRP. Regarding the funding issue, the Secretariat acknowledged the difficult financial situation and assured the representatives that it continued its efforts to fundraise for the VB Fund.

22. On 19 February 2026, the last day of the meeting, after providing the summary of work of the previous day, the SBI Chair invited the co-chairs of the contact groups to report back to the Bureau on their discussions held the prior evening. On item 7 (Cooperation), the co-chair noted that the group had advanced what they could at this SBI meeting and the rest would be sent to COP in brackets. On item 8 (ABS) the co-chair noted that the group had been able to converge and find common agreement on several elements. She noted the process would remain distinct from digital sequencing information and that, after a small friends of the chair group had been formed during the contact group, a CRP was ready to be tabled in plenary for consideration of delegates. The co-chair thanked the Parties and the Secretariat for the good spirit of cooperation and their support. The SBI Chair thanked the co-chairs for their hard work and encouraged the Bureau to accelerate the pace as there was still much to cover. The Bureau acknowledged the need to work faster and to be clear on what has been agreed on. After a brief exchange on how to advance the work faster, the SBI Chair provided a plan on how to address the remaining items. The SBI Chair also asked for the Bureau's flexibility and understanding regarding the possibility of having some CRPs and L-docs only available in English in the last plenary, as there may not be time to issue translations if there are significant changes. The SBI Chair also requested Parties not take the floor to support other Parties' statements. The Bureau thanked the Chair for the proposed way forward and noted that priority should be given to those items that go to COP directly.

## **ITEM 8. Other Matters**

23. On 15 February 2026, a Bureau member noted concern regarding the size of the agenda for COP17 and the need to hold a longer-term discussion on how to streamline and improve the agendas. Some Bureau members noted initiatives such as the informal dialogue on Article 8(j) on the margins of SBI-7, with funding from Norway. The Bureau also underlined the need for Parties to demonstrate restraint in limiting unnecessary interventions. Other members indicated the need to hold more interregional discussions on substantive matters to identify areas of divergence going into COP. It was highlighted that approaches agreed by the Bureau, such as not focusing on preambular paragraphs, should be adequately communicated to the contact group co-chairs. After a brief exchange, the Secretariat was requested to look into organizing a dedicated meeting or retreat of the Bureau to discuss concrete actions that can be taken ahead of meeting in Nairobi.

24. In response to some of the streamlining matters raised by the Bureau, the Secretariat welcomed more discussion on finding innovative ways to streamline and make meetings more effective, including reviewing what other conventions practice. Some issues, aside from the global review, including aspects related to Article 8(j) and the Cali Fund, were highlighted as key discussions for COP17. The Bureau was reminded of the critical situation of the BZ funding for delegates to participate in the remaining meetings. The secretariat noted it was giving consideration to extending regional consultations by one day to ensure that regions can have adequate time to organize themselves. The Secretariat noted the agendas for COP 17, COP-MOP 12 and COP-MOP 6 were almost ready to be posted with more information on registration and side events to come shortly via a notification.

25. On 17 February 2026, under this agenda item, one Bureau member noted that many delegations were facing issues with the DSA cards, including expiration dates, fees and other constraints and requested the Secretariat look into the matter. Another Bureau member noted it would be a good opportunity for the Presidency to convene a closed-door meeting of the Bureau to discuss the matter of the appointment of the Executive Secretary, which the Presidency agreed to.

26. On 19 February 2026, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that after consulting with the Presidency, the next Bureau meeting would be held online on 16 April 2026, and that it would need to further consult with the Presidency and other Bureau members to explore if an in-person meeting is viable ahead of the meetings in Nairobi, noting that it may be difficult considering the international calendar and preparatory activities.

## **ITEM 9. Closure of the meeting**

27. The Chair thanked the Bureau and the Secretariat for the fruitful discussions and wished delegates safe travels back to their countries. The first Bureau meeting held on 15 February 2026 was closed at 12:15 p.m. and the last meeting held on 19 February 2026 was closed at 9:00 a.m.

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