



Convention on Biological Diversity

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**Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on Biological Diversity
Tenth meeting
9 July 2026
Videoconference**

**MINUTES OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

1. A meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties was held online by videoconference on 9 July 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (EST).

2. The main purpose of the meeting was for the Bureau to discuss preparations for the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-7) that will take place in Nairobi from 4 to 12 August 2026 and obtain agreement by the Bureau on the scenario note and organization of work, as well as the list of co-chairs for possible contact groups that may be established during the meeting.

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

COP 16 and COP-MOP 11 President Representative: Ms. Ana María García (Colombia);

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

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

Asia and the Pacific: no representative;

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);

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), Ms. Valentina Sierra (Uruguay, substitute for Argentina for matters related to the Cartagena 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: Ms. Catalina Haydar (COP 16 Presidency); Mr. Matías Castellano (Argentina); Mr. Mher Mermeryan, Mr. Davit Knyazyan (Representatives from Armenia as COP 17 incoming Presidency); 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; Ms. Fumiko Nakao, Principal Coordination Officer, Japan Biodiversity Fund; Ms. Inonge Mweene, Senior Legal Officer; Ms. Lucy Halogo, Head of Administration; Mr. Olivier Rukundo, Head of the Peoples and Biodiversity Unit; Ms. Jillian Campbell, Head of Planning, Monitoring and Knowledge Unit; Ms. Sandra Meehan, Senior Programme Assistant and Ms. Christine Estrada, Senior Programme Assistant.

ITEM 1. Opening of the Meeting

5. The meeting was opened at 9:00 a.m. (EDT) and chaired by the representative of the COP 16 President, Ms. Ana María García, from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia. After a warm welcome, the Chair highlighted the importance of this meeting to ensure that all elements were well in place so that the meeting of SBI-7 could unfold smoothly. She appealed to the participants of the meeting to actively engage in the discussions with a spirit of consensus and cooperation that normally characterizes the Bureau. The Chair invited the Executive Secretary, Ms. Astrid Shomaker, to also provide opening remarks.

6. The Executive Secretary also welcomed the Bureau members and highlighted that the Secretariat was getting ready to travel to Nairobi to service the upcoming SBSTTA and SBI meetings. She noted that three pre-session documents for SBI-7 had experienced delays in posting, aside from those that depended on other formal processes to be completed, providing some details on the pending documents. Regarding the administration and budget documents, the Executive Secretary noted that due to the closeness of the SBI-7 meeting with COP and overlapping posting deadlines, the Secretariat had opted for making a full document available for both SBI-7 and COP-17/COP-MOP-12/COP-MOP-6 and indicated these two documents would be available in English in the course of the following week. The Executive Secretary then highlighted a few other updates, including the events she carried out with the Minister of Environment of Armenia to promote COP 17 during London Climate Action Week and expressed her appreciation for the work of the informal Bureau task team on preparing draft Scenario Document for COP 17. She finalized by indicating that she would provide an update on the status of funding for delegates for COP 17 under Other Matters.

ITEM 2. Adoption of the Agenda

7. The Chair invited the Bureau to adopt the provisional agenda for the meeting. At the request of a Bureau member, an update on the Kunming Dialogue event was included under Other Matters. With this addition and there being no objections, the agenda was adopted.

ITEM 3. Preparations for the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-7)

8. The Chair invited the Chair of SBI, Ms. Clarissa Nina (Brazil), to preside over the discussion of this agenda item.

9. The Chair of SBI began by noting that overall preparations for SBI-7 were going well, including that the webinars on substantive agenda items and modalities for early submission of statements have been held, and that the side-event selection had been finalized and announced. The Chair, emphasizing that the agenda for SBI-7 was very heavy with many items containing sub-items, noted she would need the cooperation of all Parties to move efficiently and effectively through all items and chart a successful pathway to COP 17. She provided an overview of the key elements contained in the Scenario Note that had been previously circulated to the Bureau and indicated that, despite understandable participation challenges for some delegations, she proposed that the Bureau allowed parallel contact groups to take place so that progress could be expedited. She also drew attention to the list of co-chairs presented to the Bureau for approval. The SBI Secretary, Mr. Asad Naqvi, complemented the Chair's remarks and noted that it would be key for contact groups to be managed in an efficient manner. They also highlighted that statements by regions are not expected at the opening plenary.

10. The Bureau thanked the SBI Chair and Secretariat for the preparations and engaged in a brief discussion. A member of the Bureau noted that due to the delays in the posting of some documents, there was a possibility that some Parties may address this at the opening plenary and, citing decision 16/25, may request for some agenda items not to be addressed by the meeting. In response, other Bureau members requested that those Parties intending to reduce agenda items, indicate through their Bureau representatives which items they were going to be proposed to be removed from the SBI-7 agenda as soon as possible, as this had significant implications for the preparations of delegations. The Bureau also indicated it would be important that not too much time is taken up in plenary by this issue. A member of the Bureau was seeking clarification from the Secretariat regarding the role of SBI-7 on budget matters.

11. In response to this exchange, the Executive Secretary clarified that although the decision to remove some items from the agenda was a decision of the Parties, a lesson learned from this process was to avoid such close meetings of a subsidiary body with COP, as the overlap in preparation for the Secretariat was extremely burdensome. Furthermore, she clarified that the intention to make the full Budget document available to SBI-7 was to provide an opportunity for Parties to start familiarizing themselves with the Budget document, seek more information relating to budget matters by holding preliminary discussions at SBI-7, which will allow both the Secretariat and the Parties to prepare adequately, for consideration of budget matters by the COP 17. It will also offer an opportunity for providing any further information relating to budget, based on the outcomes from the meetings in Nairobi, in a timely manner. This way, the COP can dive directly into negotiations on budget matters and avoid losing any valuable time.

12. Several Bureau members welcomed the clarification and noted it would be very useful to obtain this explanation in writing so that it could be circulated to their respective regions. Accordingly, the Secretariat agreed to circulate an explanatory note via e-mail to the Bureau after the meeting.

13. The Bureau then addressed the issue of how contact groups would be organized and the list of candidates to serve as co-chairs for possible contact groups at SBI-7. Regarding the organization of contact groups, a Bureau member noted that it would have been useful to consult the co-chairs on how they would have wanted to manage the contact groups, but at this late stage that was no longer possible. No objections or alternate proposals were made to the Chair's initial indication to hold parallel contact groups during SBI-7. Regarding the list of co-chairs, it was noted that two of the candidates could not serve as co-chairs of certain items, therefore the Bureau agreed to approve the remaining candidates as proposed by the Secretariat and to approve the missing two ones via email, once the Secretariat identified substitutes. The Secretariat invited the Bureau to submit nominations from their region as soon as possible, and ideally before the end of the following day, given the urgency to finalize the list. The Bureau further highlighted that it was important for co-chairs to be better prepared on how they will manage their contact groups and to have clear mandates.

14. Further logistical updates were provided by the Secretariat to the Bureau, including informing that the co-chairs training would take place on 2 August, and the first Bureau meeting in Nairobi would take place on 3 August. The reception would take place on the evening of 3 August. A request was

made by the Bureau to ensure that the day off was free of any activity to ensure the delegates could fully rest and recover.

15. The SBI Chair thanked the Bureau members for their guidance and their constructive feedback. She indicated she would work with the Secretariat to finalize the preparations and handed the chairing of the meeting back to the Presidency.

ITEM 4. Other Matters

16. Under this agenda item, the Executive Secretary provided a brief update on the status of the BZ fund for COP. She informed the Bureau that as of the date, the combined BZ and VB funds were facing an estimated shortfall of \$2.6 million for 2026. The Executive Secretary recalled that the minimum estimated budget for participation to COP17, COP-MOP12, and NP-MOP6 meetings is approximately \$3 million across both funds. This estimate is based on funding three participants per eligible Party through the BZ Fund and two participants per eligible region through the VB Fund. She noted that with additional pledges from Ireland, the European Union and Switzerland, the funding gap was reduced to \$2.3 million. The Executive Secretary highlighted that the Secretariat would continue its outreach efforts with donors, including issuing a new fundraising letter to all Parties and for which she invited the COP 16 Presidency to co-sign, re-engaging with the GEF and World Bank, amid other efforts. She also made an appeal to eligible Parties with large delegations to refrain from requesting funding.

17. The Secretariat also provided a brief update on the Kunming Dialogue on Collective Progress in the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework that will take place in Kunming, China from 7 to 9 September 2026. The Bureau was informed that registration would soon start. In terms of substantive planning, a series of questions would be developed in the form of an outline and delegates would be informed as soon as possible. The ASHTAG members would be serving as moderators for the breakout discussions, with the Ministers of Environment of China and Canada moderating the broader sessions. Finally, it was clarified that the webinars on each of the topics would be held on the evenings of the dialogues and registration for these would open at a later date.

18. Regarding the hosting of COP 18, the Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that the Secretariat had been liaising with the Bureau members from GRULAC regarding invitations for offers to host COP 18 and its concurrent COP-MOP meetings. She noted that although no formal offer had been received, the Secretariat was following up with an informal expression of interest and should this not materialize in the near future, a call for expressions would be extended to all Parties to ensure COP 18 has viable hosting offers at the meeting of COP17. The Executive Secretary clarified that this invitation would be without prejudice to the regional rotation arrangement established under decision 13/33 and would be undertaken solely in light of the absence of offers from the GRULAC region.

19. The Chair thanked the Executive Secretary for the updates and moved on to close the meeting.

ITEM 6. Closure of the meeting

20. The Chair thanked the Secretariat and the Bureau for the discussions and reminded the Bureau that the next meeting would be convened in-person, in Nairobi, on 3 August 2026 ahead of the start of SBI-7. Wishing the participants safe travels, the Chair closed the meeting at 10:30am (EDT) on 9 July 2026.
