



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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### MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

First meeting

Mexico City, Mexico, 26 April 2017

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

#### INTRODUCTION

1. A meeting of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was held on Wednesday, 26 April 2017, from 9:00 to 13:00, at the Headquarters of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, (SEMARNAT). The meeting was preceded by a joint meeting of the Bureaux of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and of SBSTTA and held concurrently with a meeting of the Bureau of the COP.
2. The meeting was attended by the following members of the Bureau: Ms. Theresa Mundita Lim (Philippines), Chair; Mr. Hendrik Segers (Belgium); Ms. Eugenia Arguedas Montezuma (Costa Rica); Ms. Lourdes Coya de la Fuente (Cuba); Mr. Norbert Bärlocher (Switzerland); Mr. Samuel Dieme (Senegal) and Mr. Sergiy I. Gubar (Ukraine). Apologies were received from Ms. Prudence Galega (Cameroon); Mr. Yousef S. Al-Hafedh (Saudi Arabia) and Mr. Aleksandar Mijović (Montenegro).
3. A representative from the COP Presidency (Mexico) attended the meeting as an observer. The meeting was supported by Mr. Sarat Babu Gidda, Programme Officer, Conservation and Sustainable Use Unit. Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary, and Mr. David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary were present for the introductory part of the meeting.

#### ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The Chair of SBSTTA, Ms. Theresa Mundita Lim, welcomed participants to the meeting. In her some opening remarks, she noted the need to strive to narrow the gap between science and policy to deliver better, and to communicate scientific advice more timely and effectively to make implementation practical and realistic. The Chair assured her determination to pursue the goals of SBSTTA and facilitate implementation of requests made by the Conference of the Parties. Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary, in her opening remarks, underscored that the Convention was founded on the principle of science which remains true as the Convention puts science at the heart of its work to monitor and protect the vital ecosystems. She emphasized that as the Convention enters the final four years of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, more unified efforts are needed towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. She conveyed that she was optimistic that we would reach the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the implementation of the Strategic Plan and achieving the three objectives of our

Convention as well as reaching far beyond post-2020. The Executive Secretary welcomed the participants and expressed gratitude to the Bureau members for making themselves available at this time and to the Mexican Government for hosting the meeting.

## **ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

5. The agenda for the first meeting of the SBSTTA Bureau (contained in the document CBD/SBSTTA/Bur/2017/1/1) was adopted as presented with a suggestion that under the other matters, issues related to innovative approaches to improve the role of the Bureau including facilitating arriving at policy relevant recommendations and enhancing the visibility of SBSTTA would be discussed.

## **ITEMS 3 & 4. AGENDAS AND PREPARATIONS FOR SBSTTA 21 AND SBSTTA 22**

6. The Bureau noted that in accordance with decision XIII/32 on the budget of the Conference of Parties, SBSTTA 21 would be held from 11 to 14 December 2017 in conjunction with the tenth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and related articles which is to be held from 13 to 16 December 2017, and that SBSTTA 22 would be held from 2 to 7 July 2018, prior to the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to be held from 9 to 13 July 2018. One member expressed the view that it was unfortunate that SBSTTA 21 was allocated only three days – the same as the Working Group on Article 8(j). He noted that the permanent subsidiary body was established in the Convention text itself for providing scientific and technical advice.

7. Mr. Sarat Babu Gidda introduced the documents for consideration under this agenda item, in particular the draft provisional agendas for SBSTTA 21 and for SBSTTA 22 (provisional agendas annexed). He provided the rationale behind the distribution of items between the two SBSTTA meetings. More strategic issues arising from decisions XIII/1 and XIII/3 were proposed to be addressed by SBSTTA 21, so that ample time would be available ahead of the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, which would, where appropriate, consider the recommendations of SBSTTA. Items that require comprehensive preparations, sometimes including workshops and technical expert group meetings, were proposed to be addressed by SBSTTA 22. He also drew attention to the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties to 2020 which would have a bearing on the work of SBSTTA during the biennium.

8. The Bureau considered the documents, taking into account the rationale agreed with the draft provisional agendas for SBSTTA 21 and 22 (annex 1), and noted that there may be some adjustments to the annotated agendas following further discussions within the Secretariat. The following points emerged from the discussion:

- Although there is a need to distinguish between scientific and technical issues handled by SBSTTA and more political issues handled by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, sometimes it is difficult to draw the line clearly. SBSTTA should strive to provide policy-relevant recommendations rather than policy prescriptive ones.
- Agenda item 3 of SBSTTA 21 on scenarios for the 2050 Vision would focus on scientific and technical issues that may have a bearing on follow up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Since the Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 34 of decision XIII/1, had requested the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to consider the proposal for the follow up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 the recommendations from SBSTTA 21 on this item should be presented to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. This should be reflected in paragraph 14 of the draft annotated agenda of SBSTTA 21.
- Agenda item 8 of SBSTTA 21 on evaluation of effectiveness of policy instruments is also closely related to the preparations for post-2020, so it would be prudent to discuss this item in proximity (back to back) to agenda item 3 on scenarios for the 2050 Vision so that lessons learned on implementation will also feed into the preparatory process of post-2020. Accordingly, the

proposed organization of work (Annex 1 of the draft annotated agenda of SBSTTA 21) is to be amended.

- Agenda item 6 of SBSTTA 21 on mainstreaming gives an opportunity to discuss scientific and technical aspects well ahead of any subsequent discussions at the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

#### **ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS**

9. Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz, representative of the COP Bureau, made a presentation on the requests from COP 13, COP/MOP/2 of the Nagoya Protocol and COP/MOP 8 of the Cartagena Protocol to the SBI and SBSTTA and invited the attention to the agenda items allocated between SBSTTA 21 and 22. Bureau members appreciated the presentation and requested Mr. Benitez Diaz to share it with Bureau members.

10. Bureau discussed at length innovative approaches to improve the role of the Bureau including the profile of SBSTTA. The following points emerged from the discussion:

- Bureau members are to play more proactive role in reaching out to Parties in their respective regions and develop a vibrant communication channel including encouraging Parties to respond to notifications from the Secretariat;
- More interactive and participatory involvement of Bureau in each step of document preparation including not only seeking inputs from Parties in their respective regions, but making best attempts to get buy-in from Parties in arriving at policy-relevant recommendations;
- The Secretariat will have a stronger communication channel with the Bureau through the Chair and through regular teleconference calls for sharing information and seeking guidance for addressing challenges;
- Bureau members [and observers], as part of their proactive role, agreed to assist the Chair and the Secretariat voluntarily to follow-up on specific agenda items in SBSTTA 21 and SBSTTA 22, and subject to availability of funding, they shall be invited to participate in relevant inter-sessional workshops or technical meetings to facilitate the preparation and consideration of these agenda items (see Annex 2):.

11. It was agreed that Bureau members who could not attend the meeting could also volunteer for the other items that have not been taken up. The five new Bureau members who will be elected at the end of the SBSTTA 21 meeting may be requested to consider taking up any items for SBSTTA 22.

12. It was agreed that there was a need to work collectively to increase the profile of SBSTTA in particular, and the Convention in general, and to showcase the importance of SBSTTA in imparting strategic science-based inputs for achieving the objectives of the Convention, through *inter alia* identification of a specific theme for each meeting of the SBSTTA and to convey key messages through all available media. For example, biodiversity and health could be considered as a specific theme for SBSTTA 21. In addition, keynote presentations by eminent experts may also be considered to enhance the visibility of SBSTTA. The dynamics and details of these proposals will be subsequently discussed via teleconference.

13. As described in the annotated agenda of SBSTTA 20, the Subsidiary Body will elect five new members to serve on the Bureau for a term commencing at the end of the twenty-first meeting and ending

at the end of the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body, to replace the members from Switzerland, Cuba, Cameroon, Montenegro and Samoa. Members of the Bureau were invited to expedite discussions in their respective regions to identify suitable candidates and facilitate the timely election of officers.

**ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

14. The meeting of the Bureau was closed at 13:00 on 26 April 2017.

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## ANNEX I

### DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR SBSTTA-21

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters: election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Scenarios for the 2050 Vision for biodiversity, and links between the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. Sustainable wildlife management: Guidance for achieving a more sustainable bush meat sector.
5. Biodiversity and human health.
6. Mainstreaming of biodiversity into the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, and manufacturing and processing industry: Scientific and technical considerations and use of the programmes of work of the Convention.
7. Fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*.
8. Tools to evaluate the effectiveness of policy instruments for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
9. New and emerging issues.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report.
12. Closure of the meeting.

### DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR SBSTTA-22

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters: election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Digital sequence information on genetic resources.
4. Risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms.
5. Synthetic biology.
6. Updated scientific assessment of progress towards selected Aichi Biodiversity Targets and options to accelerate progress.
7. Protected areas and other measures for enhanced conservation and management.
8. Marine and coastal biodiversity: Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, Addressing anthropogenic underwater noise and marine debris, biodiversity in cold-water areas and Marine spatial planning.
9. Biodiversity and climate change: Ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
10. Invasive alien species.
11. Conservation and sustainable use of pollinators.
12. Second work programme of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.
13. Other matters.
14. Adoption of the report.
15. Closure of the meeting.

## ANNEX II

List of lead Bureau members for individual agenda items

### **SBSTTA 21**

#### *Agenda Item*

3. Scenarios for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity
4. Sustainable Wildlife Management: .bush meat
5. Biodiversity and Human health
6. Mainstreaming
7. GBO
8. Tools to evaluate effectiveness of policy

#### *Bureau Member*

**Ms. Lourdes Coya de la Fuente**  
**Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz**  
**Mr. Sergiy I. Gubar**  
**Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz**  
**Mr. Norbert Bärlocher**  
**Ms. Eugenia Arguedas Montezuma**

### **SBSTTA 22**

#### *Agenda Item No*

3. Digital Sequence Information
4. Risk Assessment and Risk Management of LMO
5. Synthetic Biology
7. Protected Areas
10. Invasive Alien Species
12. IPBES

#### *Bureau Member*

**Mr. Hendrik Segers**  
**Mr. Samuel Dieme**  
**Mr. Sergiy I. Gubar**  
**Ms. Eugenia Arguedas Montezuma**  
**Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz**  
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