



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY
BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
ICAO Meeting room (4th floor)
24 November 2019

**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 24 November 2019, from 8 to 10 a.m. at the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal, Canada.
2. The meeting was attended by the following members of the Bureau: Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz (Mexico), Chair, Mrs. Marina von Weissenberg (Finland), Mr. Sigurdur Thrainsson (Iceland), Mr. Norbert Bärlocher (Switzerland), Mr. Larbi Sbai (Morocco), Mr. Martin Kaukaha Kasaona (Namibia), Mrs. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Mr. Sergiy I. Gubar (Ukraine), Mr. Oleg Borodin (Belarus), Mr. Adams Toussaint (Saint-Lucia), Mrs. Ilham Atho Mohamed (Maldives), Mrs. Helena Brown (Antigua and Barbuda), Mr. Moustafa Fouda (Egypt), Mrs. Kongchay Phimmakong (Lao People's Democratic Republic) and Mr. Byoung Yoon Lee (Republic of Korea).
3. The meeting was serviced by Mr. Sarat Babu Gidda, Senior Programme Officer, and Mrs. Caridad Canales, Programme Officer, of the Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division. Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Acting Executive Secretary, opened the meeting, emphasizing the fact that the year 2020 would be a super year for biodiversity.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The Chair of SBSTTA, Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz, welcomed participants to the meeting and gave an overview of the preparations for the twenty-third meeting of SBSTTA, inter alia, on the status of participation from Parties and observers, the overview of the different agenda items and the related documents, details of the different keynote addresses, the need for possible contact groups and Friends of the Chair meetings together with their respective Chairs, and on the status of side events.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The agenda for the meeting of the SBSTTA Bureau was adopted as presented.

ITEM 3. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

6. There was a good exchange of information between the Co-Chairs and the Bureau to ensure that scientific and political negotiations were held together. The view of the SBSTTA Bureau was that there were expectations that the scientific validity of the issues proposed in the first draft of the post-2020 global

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biodiversity framework would continue to be presented at the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020) (February 2020) and then further on at the third meeting of the Working Group.

7. The discussions started with an overview of agenda item 3 (Informing the scientific and technical evidence base for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework) which would now include an intervention by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group. The Deputy Executive Secretary explained the mandate and rationale behind agenda item 3 coming from the Conference of the Parties and from the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and presented the documentation prepared for that agenda item. The agenda item would have two components:

(a) Evidence base (IPBES): presentations with a first round of comments on IPBES findings;

(b) Co-Chairs' presentation and introduction to document CBD/SBSTTA/23/2/Add.4 (Informing the scientific and technical evidence base for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework - observations on potential elements for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework): in the afternoon, the Co-Chairs of WG2020 would make a presentation followed by comments (ideally these two would be done on Monday, the first day of the twenty-third meeting of SBSTTA).

8. There would be a contact group on agenda item 3 to work from Tuesday night onwards (second day of the twenty-third meeting of SBSTTA). (Ann Taylor from the European Union and Jorge Murillo from Colombia will be asked to be co-chairs.) There would be a couple of sessions of this contact group and a non-paper would be prepared. The Co-Chairs of WG2020 highlighted that this was not a negotiation and that these discussions would focus on the scientific evidence. The results of the contact group's discussions were to be incorporated into a conference room paper. The input would be a non-paper (based on comments from the floor).

9. The Co-Chair of WG2020 mentioned that some of the procedural rules established for SBSTTA, as a subsidiary body of the Convention, might be difficult to comply with, given the limited time to negotiate and to adopt the framework (for example, a 90-day period for documents). The importance of transformational change and what it meant was also highlighted. The Chair of SBSTTA recognized these time constraints, and the Bureau would be using its adaptative management skills and allow for flexibility in terms of timing for producing the documents. It was also highlighted that the success of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework relied on basing this on the best available scientific evidence.

10. A question was raised on the time of interventions – the Chair of SBSTTA responded that three minutes would be allocated for individual countries and six minutes for groupings. The Co-Chair of WG2020 raised the issue of compliance for three-minute interventions and underlined that some Parties had not attended the workshop on the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* (GBO), so that all presentations in the first segment would cover the summaries of what was presented on Saturday, 23 November 2019. The presentations are all complimentary.

11. The Bureau member from Saint Lucia raised the issue that even though the idea was not to go into negotiations, countries already had issues that they were willing to accept and some “red lines” that they were not willing to accept. The Co-Chairs of WG2020 reiterated the spirit of maintaining open channels and the willingness to compromise. The Chair of SBSTTA raised again the issue of the need for contact groups to be established, only if it was really needed.

12. The Bureau member from Switzerland suggested that the Bureau should provide clear advice on what was going to be its role. The Chair of SBSTTA reiterated that the Working Group requested advice from SBSTTA. The following approach was suggested: the CBD Secretariat would capture in a document the issues on which there was an agreement and those on which there was no agreement. This document would then be presented to the Co-Chairs of the Working Group. The Chair of SBSTTA confirmed that documents 1 to 3 on agenda item 3 responded to a request by the Conference of the Parties, and that document 4 responded to the request by the Working Group and the views would then be captured.

13. The Bureau member from Finland asked whether PowerPoint presentations would be used to introduce the different agenda items, similarly to what was done during the GBO workshop. For agenda item 4 on climate change, the video to be shown would be in French but there would be translation, and a transcript would be available.

14. Agenda item 5 (Nature and culture) – the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Article 8(j) would present on that item and provide an overview of the outcomes of the discussions held during the week before and during the meeting of the Working Group (WG8J). The Chair of SBSTTA confirmed that it was important to reiterate that discussions had already been held and that a document would be ready for Parties to read. If SBSTTA had additional points, it could recommend that they be considered by the Conference of the Parties and, if there were any other issues, they would be noted.

15. The Bureau member from Switzerland raised the concern of the availability of resources for addressing these issues (nature and culture), particularly the recent recommendation of working on indigenous languages (given these might be not relevant to some countries). The issue was mainly not to undertake issues that would impose more work on the CBD Secretariat and might compromise its ability to deliver its mandate.

16. The Chair of SBSTTA reiterated the need for having more discipline and to follow the *modus operandi* and ensure that decisions that were adopted were really meaningful and within the mandate. The Acting Executive Secretary stated that we needed clear guidance from Parties and the Bureau on what it meant to have a decision adopted by Parties but with no resources allocated (does this decision really need to be put forward?). The Bureau member from Switzerland answered that there was a need to discuss more strategically the prioritization of what were the resources available and what was the mandate.

17. The Bureau member from Bosnia and Herzegovina confirmed that the cooperation with UNESCO should continue in the same manner as it had been successful in the past.

18. The Bureau member from Saint Lucia intervened on agenda item 4, asking whether there would be a contact group on climate change. There might be some difficulties, especially with island States, where a two-degree increase mattered, and, especially, when responses to climate change might have an adverse effect on biodiversity. The Chair of SBSTTA reiterated the hope that there would be no need for a contact group, and the Bureau member from Finland said that the European Union would have many comments but it would be to improve the recommendation in general.

19. On agenda item 6, sustainable wildlife management, no controversial issues were envisaged. There would be two keynote presentations, and the Chair for this agenda item would be the Bureau member from Maldives. The Bureau member from Namibia stated that the keynote addresses needed to remain factual and science-based. After each keynote address, there would be time for a round of questions.

20. On agenda item 8, ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), there should be no contentious issues, but there would be issues raised by the European Union block and the United Kingdom. However, it was not envisaged to have a contact group. The Chair of SBSTTA would have to make it clear that the difficult issues raised at COP would not be discussed during this meeting of SBSTTA but, rather, at the twenty-fourth meeting of SBSTTA.

ITEM 4. ELECTIONS OF NEW BUREAU MEMBERS AND THE RAPPORTEUR

21. The Bureau member from Bosnia and Herzegovina requested the Secretariat to contact Ukraine as there was no clarity on a replacement on the Bureau.

22. The Bureau member from Iceland confirmed that, by the first day of the twenty-third meeting of SBSTTA, a decision could be made. The Bureau member from Saint Lucia confirmed the same.

23. The Bureau members from the Asia-Pacific region would also try to have the name of a replacement.

24. The Chair of SBSTTA confirmed that if new members were identified early in the week of the twenty-third meeting of SBSTTA, they would already be able to attend the daily morning Bureau meetings.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

25. The Bureau member from Finland noted that the concept of nature's contribution to people (which is the terminology used by IPBES) was a specific concept for IPBES, and, yet, there was another terminology for the Convention.

ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

26. The meeting of the Bureau was closed at 10 a.m. on 23 November 2019.
